

# Pleasanton Weekly

The ghosts of downtown

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## 'Live and Local'

Focus on Bay Area performers for new season at the Firehouse

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# SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS



## Fellow Pleasanton Seniors:

*We are writing this letter to urge you to support Measure I.*

We have all called Pleasanton home for decades, and this community has been part of the fabric of our families for the majority of our lives. We have taught, coached, served, and worked in our community, hoping to be the best possible stewards of something that has always been near and dear to us. Our Pleasanton schools have educated generations of families and have been central to what has made this community so desirable to live in. And each of us believe it is the responsibility of a vibrant community to advocate for our teachers and students and the places they educate and go to learn in every day. While academic standards have risen and our teachers and students continue to perform at a very high level, our local school facilities are outdated and long overdue for repairs and major upgrades.

School bond measures cannot legally be used for anything else other than to improve school facilities and infrastructure. Significant safeguards are built into Measure I— 100 percent of funds stay local and support Pleasanton school facilities and technology upgrades. Independent Citizens' Oversight, mandatory audits, and public reports will ensure proper spending. Importantly, Measure I also qualifies our community to receive state matching funds when they become available, leveraging our local dollars further.

The benefits of strong, successful Pleasanton public schools are clear to us and anyone who has ever called this community 'home'. We have all seen our property values rise in large part because of the quality of local public education. You don't need to have school aged children to know our current facilities have not been updated in many years or that our community has only passed one school bond measure in the past 25 years. Now is the time to support our schools. Our teachers and students deserve better. This will enrich their lives and these facilities can be something our entire community can be proud of. Join us in voting YES on Measure I—for our community, our Pleasanton, our home.

Sincerely,

*Kay and Charles Huff*

*Barbara and Steve Pittl*

*Roz and David Wright*

*Carolyn and Ken Mano*

*Nancy and Greg Thome*

*Joanie and Jimmy Fields*

*Sandra and Brad Hirst*

*Joyce and Bob Shapiro*

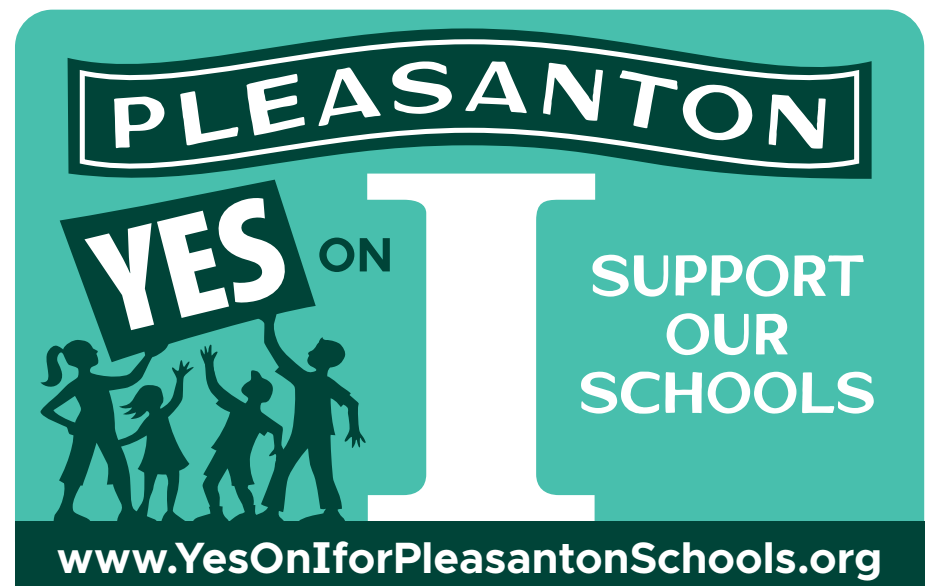
**Election Day is November 8th**

Vote by MAIL starting the week of October 10th.

Ad paid for by Committee for PUSD Students—Yes On I. FPPC #1423382

### Measure I will:

- ▶ **CONTINUE** repairs to deteriorating plumbing, roofs, outdated electrical wiring, HVAC, and ensure school drinking water remains safe.
- ▶ **IMPROVE** physical education areas, classrooms, play equipment, performing arts facilities, kitchens and multi-use facilities for student health, safety, and well-being.
- ▶ **MODERNIZE** classrooms for career technical education/workforce development programs.
- ▶ **MAKE** classrooms, science labs and school facilities safe and accessible for students, including those with disabilities.
- ▶ **PROVIDE** quality classrooms and school facilities for transitional kindergarten and improve alternative high school facilities.



# AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

## A grain of salt

What happened with the cheer/stunt team at California High School last school year has bothered me for several months.

The way I see it, 28 teen girls were thrown under the bus to justify a school district's large expenditure for personnel who would not have a role in the classroom. However, that's not the only vexing aspect of this.

Last May, the California High School cheer and stunt team came under fire when "Black Bay Area" posted an image of a varsity cheerleader posing with a Black cosmetology mannequin. The text with the photo read "All white cheer squad with black mannequin head as the varsity team mascot," the cheer team's handle and "This is in San Ramon! Mind you they haven't had a black girl on the varsity team since 2019 & it was only 1 girl! This year they have no black girls on the varsity except the mascot the black doll head name (sic) Kareem."

Soon after images were posted on social media platforms Instagram and TikTok, they went viral.

Outrage and indignation ensued, albeit predicated on false information. Then the district basically confirmed and perpetuated the claim of racism when San Ramon Valley Unified School District Superintendent John Malloy did not give the correct information but told broadcast news outlets, "We don't accept (what happened) and we understand it's wrong. We understand it's harming some members in the community ... that is not OK."

An email sent to the district's parents and stakeholders said the team "has a mascot that has had a hurtful racist impact, and we are deeply troubled by the harm that this situation has caused both in our school community and beyond. The mascot, which is a dark-skinned head that would be used in a cosmetology class, is intolerable for its offensive and racist implications."

The girls were harassed and threatened incessantly, both online and on campus.

Sacrificing children to achieve an agenda goal is wrong. But I'm also bothered that so many people never questioned the post, its origin, the district's statements — anything. Even intelligent, fair-minded people I respect never thought to look at the post, compare it to a photo of the real mascot or refer to anything

except the soundbites provided by the district.

The photo was manipulated, and the "offensive and racist implications" were manufactured, just as the audience was manipulated and the outrage manufactured.

I understand the mannequin's skin tone isn't porcelain white, nor is its hair blonde. However, it's obvious the skin tone on the mannequin in the photo was darkened with editing software. When the photo is enlarged, you can see the added color bleeds onto the hand of the girl holding the doll.

The team is not "all-white"; at the time of the controversy, six of the members identified as African American. And the mannequin's name, which is stamped on the back of the neck, is "Karine," not "Kareem."

Karine had been the team's unofficial mascot for years, and no one has ever — ever — filed a complaint, or even commented on it.

The cheerleaders' parents, who demanded Malloy be fired for not correcting the bad information and allowing the students to be bullied, believe the post was fabricated in revenge by an unidentified "disgruntled mother" of an African American student who didn't make the final roster.

The angry parents attended the June 7 SRVUSD board meeting and spoke during public comment about their fear for their daughters' safety. Malloy responded that he and his cabinet were fully aware of everything the parents said about the photo being manipulated, the team not being "all white," the name discrepancy and the history of the mascot.

At the same meeting, the board approved hiring 15 "equity liaisons" at a cost of \$2 million.

Much to my chagrin, a few weeks ago I was talking with a district employee who had no idea the mannequin in the social media post was a different color than the actual unofficial mascot, or that the inflammatory wording on the post was inaccurate.

It's disheartening that so many people immediately thought the worst of these teens without so much as questioning the origin of and motives behind the post and subsequent statements. Information in situations like this — situations that can cause harm and life-altering problems for 28 young people as well as further divide a community — should be taken with a very considerable grain of salt. ■

### About the Cover

The Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton has unveiled its 2022-23 performance schedule, with a theme of "Live and Local" this season. Photo by Chuck Deckert. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIII, Number 37

# NEW PLEASANTON LISTING



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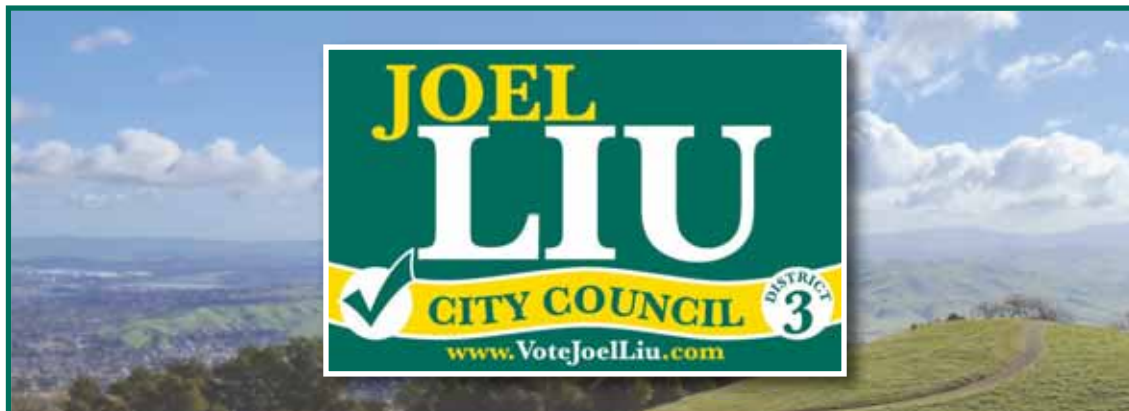
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Paid for by Joel Liu for City Council 2022 FPPC #1448272



# 29th Annual Halloween Spirit Run




Start & Finish in Downtown Pleasanton  
5K/10K Entry Includes Long Sleeve T-shirt

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 - 8:00 AM**

5K/10K Fun Run/Walk Kid's Challenge (ages 2-8)

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\*For the first 750 to register



**spiritrun.pleasantonrotary.org**

# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

**When you think of your closest friends, what is one quality or characteristic they all have in common?**



**Julie Rakosi**  
*Human resources*

I'd have to say that all of my closest friends are incredibly good listeners. We might not talk every day or see each other every week, but we know that we have each other's backs and are there to support one another through the good times and bad, no matter what.



**Sam Patel**  
*Pharmacist*

Kindness, for sure. All of my good friends are kind, polite and respectful toward one another and just everyone, generally. I thoroughly enjoy spending time with these people.



**Areli Tucker**  
*Preschool teacher*

Loyalty. You really know who your true friends are when you're going through a difficult time. I like knowing that my true friends will stay by my side and stick with me not just during the good times, but during the bad times too.



**Vicky Caro**  
*Security*

My closest friends are all very kind, compassionate and loving. They're all extraordinarily supportive, and I truly value their presence in my life.



**Alan Moore**  
*Engineer*

My closest friends are all very honest and authentic. They genuinely care about and are interested in what's going on in one another's lives. And of course it goes both ways. I truly care about them, as well.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### 1st anniversary

In honor of LivermoreVine.com's first year providing local news to the city of Livermore and the greater Tri-Valley region, the team behind the site is hosting a happy hour celebration.

The Livermore Vine journalists will be at Pennyweight Craft Brewing next Friday (Oct. 14) evening to connect with readers and raise a glass to a successful first year. They will also have appetizers and free promotional merchandise, or "swag", to give away during the event.

Some of the highlights of Livermore Vine's first year include being named the first-ever media sponsor for the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce and most recently, hosting public forums for the first time with candidates for mayor, City Council and school board ahead of the Nov. 8 election.

The event is free and guests can drop by anytime between 5-7 p.m. Friday. Pennyweight Craft Brewing is located at 2455 Railroad Ave. in Livermore.

### Weekend on Main

The Pleasanton Downtown Association's First Weekend on Main program is back, with Main Street closed to vehicular traffic from today at 5 p.m. through Sunday at 9 p.m. for increased foot and bicycle traffic in the heart of downtown.

The theme for this weekend will be "Hot Rod Row", featuring more than 70 local hot rod groups parking their vehicles downtown from 2-6 p.m. Saturday. Earlier that day, visitors can check out the farmers' market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Diwali celebration will follow on Sunday, with businesses displaying diyas (lamps) and performers of traditional Indian music and dance at the Museum on Main at 7 p.m. To learn more, visit [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net).

### Life Sciences Summit

The Tri-Valley Life Sciences Summit returns next week for the first time since 2019, organized by Tri-Valley Ventures and Mirador Capital Partners and hosted at Veeva Systems (4280 Hacienda Drive in Pleasanton).

"The summit will open with an analysis of the life sciences in the Tri-Valley investment landscape. The keynote event is a fireside chat with Ben Hindson, CSO, co-founder, and president of 10x Genomics, discussing the various personal and company transitions going from 10x Genomics' foundation to its current state as a publicly traded company," organizers said.

The event will run from 5-8:30 p.m. next Thursday (Oct. 13). For more details, go to [startuptri-valley.org](http://startuptri-valley.org). ■

## PUSD trustees discuss new policy on sexual harassment at schools

Rollout has included onsite presentations, push to change culture of accountability

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

The Pleasanton school board recently received an update about how the district has been implementing its new sexual harassment procedures by increasing communication and changing the overall culture of accountability on campuses.

"I think the first step to fixing the culture that exists, at least the high school level, is recognizing that sexual harassment ... isn't just something that the monster under the bed does; it's something that people around you people you see in the hallways do," Student Trustee Annabelle Kim said during the Sept. 22 meeting.

"I think the sooner we realize that, the sooner we can fix it and the sooner we can address it," Kim added.

Over the summer, the trustees approved a new board policy aimed at looking ways to communicate with students how sexual harassment on campus will not be tolerated and

that all complaints will be thoroughly investigated.

Apart from documents being updated to match student and staff feedback that was added to the new policy, the district also created a 11-inch-by-17-inch poster with information on sexual harassment and steps on what to do if someone is experiencing anything. That poster will be hung throughout bathrooms and general areas throughout the schools.

Another way schools increased their communication efforts was when administrators facilitated in-person classroom presentations on sexual harassment for grades 6-12.

During the pandemic, Leslie Heller, director of student services and principal of Village High School, said a lot of students pointed out how the sexual harassment presentation didn't feel effective on getting the point across.

"They didn't feel that students were really taking them seriously or

paying attention as much as we felt that that topic ensued," Heller said.

So this year, principals like Jonathan Fey at Amador Valley High School, took a more hands on approach by visiting classrooms.

"I think one of the things that we pushed really hard and pushed home on with our students was this idea about commentary and that it doesn't matter if you know your audience, you don't know who's listening to you," Fey said.

On the topic of increased communication between students and administrators, Foothill High School principal Sebastian Bull said that Foothill will be pushing for its student advisory group to meet more frequently so students can continue to bring up their concerns.

But aside from communication, the policy also focuses on changing the culture around accountability.

"One of the bigger items too, in terms of accountability, is what's the

follow-up?" said Ed Diolazo, deputy superintendent of student support services. "What's the follow-up for the complainant or the victim and then what's the follow-up for the alleged offender in this whole process? That again is really important for us — to get back to the students so they know what we did as an administration based on this complaint."

The complaint process falls under administrative regulations and not the new board policy, which means that not much has changed in the procedures or repercussions for when someone files a complaint.

All complaints must go through the Title IX office and will be investigated alongside school resource officers to ensure the complaint falls under sexual harassment and not anything more physically serious like abuse or battery, which falls under a different board policy that involves

See **HARASSMENT** on Page 10



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Sunol Glen School, which is on Main Street in Sunol and was built in 1925, currently has no ADA-accessible ramps for the front entrance, meaning those with disabilities must go around the entire building to the ramp in the back.

## \$10.9M school bond in Sunol

Measure J funds would fix roofs, ADA access, general infrastructure

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

It's been 23 years since Sunol residents passed the 1999 school bond measure, which added more portables and helped expand the once only elementary school, to a K-8 school.

But now that residents are in the final years of paying those obligations off, stakeholders of the district are asking for another bond

to address some big-ticket items like replacing roofs and updating the otherwise outdated school — projects they say aren't feasible without bond funds.

"Still being a resident here I would hate to see this place just go to waste," said Mike Picard, president of the Sunol Glen Unified School District Board of Trustees. "I mean, it's so beautiful and now

is our time to fix it up before it starts crumbling in front of our eyes."

Measure J is the \$10.9 million general obligation bond that the district has placed on the Nov. 8 ballot. If more than 55% of Sunol residents vote in favor of Measure J, it would utilize a tax rate of

See **SUNOL BOND** on Page 9

## Lab's role in asteroid targeting mission

Effect of direct hit to be determined over next months

By **TIM HUNT**

There are about 200 people around the world walking around with smiles plastered on their faces these days.

They're the team that hit a football-field-sized asteroid last week with a space craft the size of a vending machine that flew 7 million miles to nail the asteroid head-on. For comparison, the moon is 250,000 miles away. The so-called DART mission was launched last November.

Here in the Livermore Valley, a team of five Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees celebrated along with their colleagues and then got really busy. Their task now is to gather what data they can from the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes as well as the DART craft before it collided with the asteroid and develop simulations about the properties of the asteroid and the effect of the impact

See **ASTEROID** on Page 6

# Amador's underwater robotics club places second internationally

Only high school team to earn spot in competition against universities

By NICOLE GONZALES

The Amador Valley High School underwater robotics club, AVBotz, recently achieved recognition in an international autonomous submarine competition, placing second out of 39 collegiate competitors from across the globe.

AVBotz constructed their submarine to compete in the annual RoboSub competition, an international contest held at the University of Maryland that features robotics teams from various institutions. Among college competitors such as Duke University, Cornell University and Carnegie Mellon University — AVBotz were the only high school in the competition.

"The students met every single day during summer break, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to work on their autonomous submarine," club president Justin Yu told the Weekly. "The team faced multiple obstacles, including broken parts and organizational challenges, some of which almost ruined their chances of going to competition."

For the competition, each group must construct their custom autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) and perform challenges underwater to place in the semi-final

and final rounds.

Throughout the process, the team grappled with technical malfunctions, broken parts and logistical obstacles. "The team had to deal with a flooded camera, broken motors, faulty sensors and other old components that urgently needed to be fixed," Yu said.

Despite facing a last-minute failure of three of the submarine's thrusters, worth an estimated \$4,200, group members were able to find a solution to the faulty parts. They decided to run on six thrusters instead of eight only two days before the team was set to compete.

While in Maryland for the competition, the robotics club continued to work admittedly on the performance of their robot. After final tweaks and improvements, the team was primed for success.

As the team faced competition challenges, they made it through to the semifinal round where they ranked fifth out of 24 total challengers.

According to the team, at the competition their autonomous submarine was meant to grab and drop objects, shoot torpedoes through a specific target, touch a buoy and pass through a gate. As well as surfacing

in a designated spot.

"For me, the most memorable part of the trip was when the diver lifted his head out of the water and exclaimed 'two hits,' signifying that we were successful in dropping two markers into the bin," Craig Wang, vice president of software, said in a statement to the Weekly. "When we heard that, we immediately roared in the context of years of work and several sleepless nights of fixing issues with the AUV."

In the final round, AVBotz placed second out of all other teams, taking home a \$3,000 prize and finishing narrowly behind the champion, the National University of Singapore.

In the wake of the strong result, Yu said he encourages interested students to join or connect with the club — "The club always needs talent, so we're always looking for people interested in the club. If that sounds like you, please contact us and apply." ■



COURTESY JUSTIN YU

Members of the award-winning AVBotz underwater robotics club troubleshoot issues with their submarine device.

## ASTEROID

Continued from Page 5

on changing the orbit.

That taps into the lab's formidable computing power.

The technological achievement is hard to understate. In an interview last week, Kathryn Kumamoto shared that the team could not see the actual asteroid they were aiming for.

"This was incredible. The first trial of trying to hit an asteroid in space and we hit it dead-on. For the first planetary defense mission that NASA has ever run, this was a huge success," she said.

The worldwide team knew the asteroid, Dimorphos, was there because the light from the larger asteroid, Didymos, it was orbiting about changed. The first actual picture they saw was before impact.

For those charged with navigating the 7 million miles over about 10 months, the home stretch was even more challenging. Kumamoto said because the space craft was operating autonomously for the last four hours, a long time when it's moving at 14,000 mph. For the final few minutes, the thrusters were shut down so no change of direction was possible.

The effect of the direct hit on Sept. 26 will be determined over the next few months. The goal was to slow the asteroid so gravity will draw it closer to the big asteroid. It's a pilot test to see if such a collision can protect the earth should another asteroid be hazardedly close.

Paul Miller, now the acting division leader for the lab's design physics division, started working on planetary defense programs in 2011.

He assembled a team and spent three years working to model the

disruption of asteroids by using either kinetic impacts or nuclear weapons. After that time, the federal National Nuclear Security Agency approved continuing the work using regular funding. That work led to a NNSA Award of Excellence in 2015 and to the development of additional capabilities.

The lab's specific role in DART involves the simulations to determine the properties of the asteroid and the materials that make it up as well as modeling the effect of the impact. Doing that involves using the visual data from the space telescopes to run the simulations. Other teams are using the photos that DART took before crashing to model the actual shape of the asteroid.

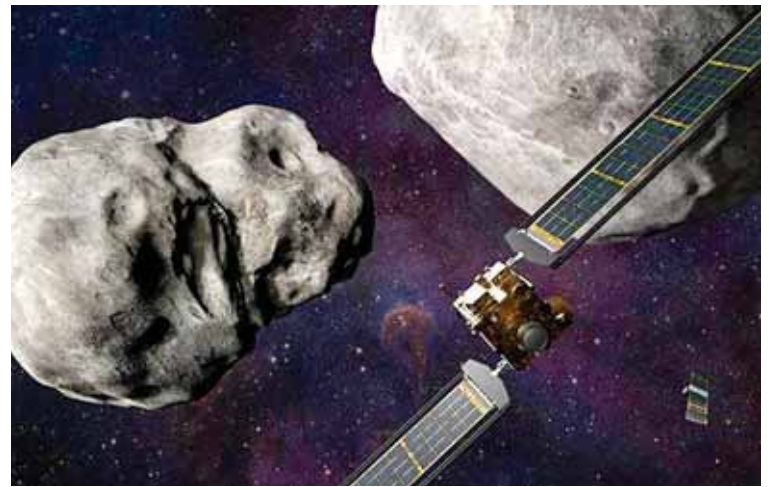
Kumamoto said they've been awash in data since the collision and she expected the modeling to get started within a couple of weeks. The first simulation is scheduled to be presented in November before which she anticipates the lab team will run about 1,000 simulations. She is a geoscientist who previously

was working at Oxford University on the decay of rocks over centuries before shifting to what happens immediately after impact. She is originally from the Bay Area.

In a press release, she said, "We don't have a lot of data on the properties of asteroids, like their strength or density, but these properties can have a large effect on the magnitude of the deflection we would get from a kinetic impact. DART is thus a two-fold opportunity, to both demonstrate that we can actually deflect an asteroid in space and get more data on the properties of asteroids that will help us prepare for potential future impacts."

It's that analysis of the properties that Kumamoto and the lab team will be working on for the next couple of years.

There's a follow-up mission from the European Space Agency in two years that will send a space craft to observe the asteroid and gather data. There's no capability planned to gather physical samples of the asteroid. ■

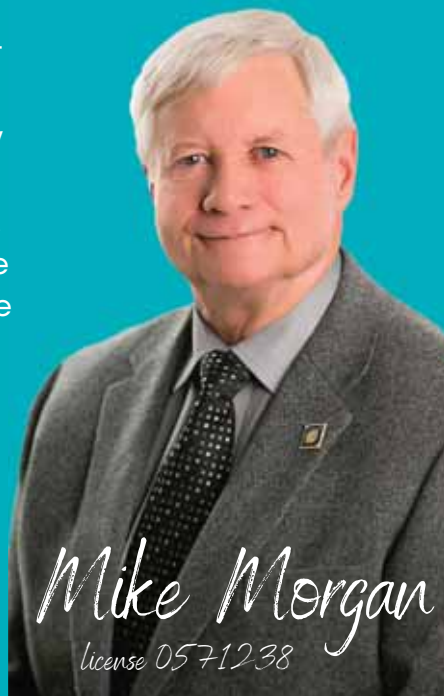


NASA/JOHNS HOPKINS APL/STEVE GRIBBEN

Illustration of NASA's DART spacecraft and the Italian Space Agency's LICIACube prior to impact at the Didymos binary system.

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# Sunset Development buys Chevron Park; energy giant to still keep HQ in San Ramon

Chevron leases smaller space in Bishop Ranch for future offices as part of corporate downsizing

By JEREMY WALSH

San Ramon's largest corporate resident is staying in the city for the foreseeable future, with Chevron Corp. signing a new lease to move its global headquarters into Bishop Ranch while also selling its namesake corporate park down the road back to Sunset Development to keep the 92-acre property in local hands.

The international energy giant made waves locally earlier this summer by announcing plans to sell its Chevron Park complex off Bollinger Canyon Road, and shift some offices elsewhere in San Ramon while also giving employees the option to relocate to Texas.

Chevron committed to continuing its San Ramon presence long-term by inking a lease for nearly 400,000 square feet in BR 2600 to house its global headquarters, officials with Sunset Development, which owns and operates the evolving Bishop Ranch area, announced on Sept. 28.

Sunset Development in turn is also acquiring the 1.3-million-square-foot Chevron Park campus, with plans to incorporate the

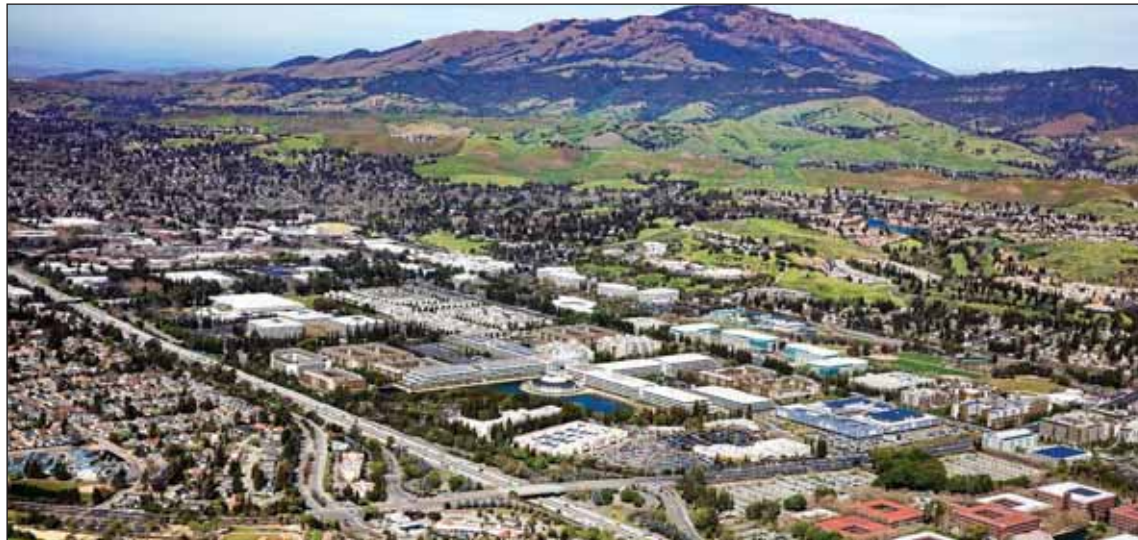
property among its 600-acre mixed-use downtown redevelopment of Bishop Ranch.

Terms of both transactions were not disclosed.

"It's exciting to reacquire this important piece of land from our largest- and longest-standing customer we started with over 40 years ago. This parcel is at the gateway to Bishop Ranch and will be a key part of our planning as we create a distinct California community," said Alex Mehran Jr., CEO of Sunset Development.

"We have now reacquired the two largest parcels which were sold to Chevron and PacBell when my father and grandfather started Bishop Ranch in 1978," Mehran added. "Chevron has been a key partner in developing Bishop Ranch and we are excited to work with them on their evolving needs. It's thrilling to be leading Bishop Ranch as these original deals turnover and the land and buildings are redeveloped for the next generation."

Sunset is in the process of redeveloping its Bishop Ranch land from a business park into a community center and residential neighborhood



Aerial view of Bishop Ranch in San Ramon.

J. LAUREN PR & MARKETING

with thousands of homes, a \$5 billion mixed-use and walkable area that San Ramon leaders hope will finally give the city a true downtown.

The development firm's plans for the Chevron Park property were not immediately clear.

Meanwhile, Chevron is now leasing space in BR 2600 with work in the queue to remodel the office spaces by late next year to accommodate

up to 2,000 employees.

"Just as Chevron continually strives to evolve our operating model, we also seek to optimize our real estate portfolio," said Mary Boroughs, president of Chevron Environment Management and Real Estate Company.

"Moving our headquarters to a new, modern leased space nearby provides the opportunity to create

an improved employee experience in a more contemporary environment," Boroughs added. "We look forward to working with Sunset and (architect) NBBJ to create a space that will inspire innovation, reinforce our culture, facilitate connections, enhance well-being and build a more inclusive and collaborative community for our San Ramon workforce." ■

CREEKVIEW

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# County's Measure D aims to allow more flexibilities for wineries

Opponents raise concerns about 'wine factories' replacing open space in Livermore

By CIERRA BAILEY

Alameda County voters will decide whether to amend the "Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands" initiative known as Measure D, which was initially passed by voters in 2000 and has recently undergone a review of its effectiveness at balancing open space preservation and agriculture, particularly in the Livermore Valley.

Earlier this year, the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) prepared a 20-year report analyzing Measure D and as a result, recommended text changes to the county's planning documents — including the East County Area Plan — to allow more flexibility for the size and location of buildings and expand permitted wine country visitor-serving uses.

The amendments to the original voter-approved initiative are also headed to the Nov. 8 general election ballot as Measure D.

Proponents of Measure D include county supervisors Nate Miley and Richard Valle along with Tri-Valley Conservancy board chair Lori Souza, the original Measure D's co-author Dick Schneider and grassroots organizer Diana Hanna, who are all signatories on the ballot argument in favor of the measure.

"The current update of the original Measure D continues the moratorium on development in protected areas but allows for limited and essential agriculture and equestrian improvements. The original proponents of Measure D urge your support," the argument reads.

The argument lists what Measure D will do if approved by voters such as continuing to prohibit uncontrolled development in areas in Alameda County

designated as protected open space and agricultural areas and prohibiting any structure on ridgelines or hilltops or where they will project above a ridgeline or hilltop, as viewed from public roads, trails, parks and other public viewpoints.

The measure would allow ranchers and equestrian facilities to provide more space for covered corrals, practice areas for people learning to ride horses and performance areas. It would also allow expanded storage, processing and retail facilities for wineries, olive presses, etc. to serve the public, according to the argument.

Additionally, the amended Measure D would still require any changes in the overall general plan for the protected areas to be approved by voters.

The argument against Measure D, as well as the ensuing rebuttal to the proponents' statement, were submitted by the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association.

Both statements cite concerns about the potential growth of the county's larger wineries into "wine factories." The rebuttal to the argument in favor of the measure specifically names Livermore-based Wente and Darcie Kent vineyards as "Big Wineries."

"Huge factories in scenic parts of Alameda County are bad. Measure D would permit such destructive industrial expansion with ugly pipes and storage tanks," the argument against the measure reads.

Citing the measure's environmental impact report, the taxpayers' association states in its argument that Measure D would allow a handful of larger wineries to triple in size. Although Measure D is separate from Livermore's Measure P, the argument

also references the sewer line extension project that aims to help revitalize the city's wine economy.

"Larger wineries use more taxpayer-subsidized freshwater and produce more wastewater. This is the reason why Big Wineries want to hook up to our public sewer system and have you to pay their bill. The county is gifting \$6,500,000 of your tax dollars to extend sewer lines several miles to Big Wineries. Small property owners right next to city limits are left out," the argument reads.

The group's argument against Measure D also makes a comparison to other Bay Area wine regions, noting that "Napa County and Sonoma County 'Wine Country' have ordinances that restrict vineyards on hillsides and near arroyos and creeks. But Alameda County and Measure D do not embrace these commonsense protections."

In their rebuttal, the supporters of Measure D argued that the "opponents of Measure D are well known opponents of important issues. They write ballot arguments against measures they know nothing about, including this one, to bring attention to their organization at public expense."

In addition to reiterating the terms of Measure D outlined in the argument in favor of the measure, the proponents' rebuttal also states that, "There are no factories planned, there are no corporate land barons, there is no public giveaway of funds, no authorization for construction in sensitive spaces."

The measure will be on the ballot for all voters in Alameda County, including Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol in the Tri-Valley. ■

## Livermore council shows support for gun buyback event

Police to offer \$100 gift cards in exchange for firearms

The Livermore City Council last week endorsed a police-organized gun buyback program that would give gun owners \$100 gift cards in exchange for firearms with no questions asked.

The event would likely be hosted by a local faith-based organization and occur in October or November. The city would provide \$10,000 in buyback funding for the first event. Livermore police would handle

the weapons, which would be destroyed in a timely fashion, unless the gun is determined to be evidence in a crime.

City staff suggested the event give police the authority to go up to \$200 per weapon, based on whether it has the capacity for high-capacity destruction.

Staff also suggested capping payouts for individual weapons at three per person. Additional weapons

would still be accepted without payment.

The police suggested gift cards be for groceries or gasoline. Any firearm would be accepted; however payment would only be made for firearms that appear to be in operable condition.

Anyone would be eligible to turn in weapons, with no residency restrictions. ■

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation



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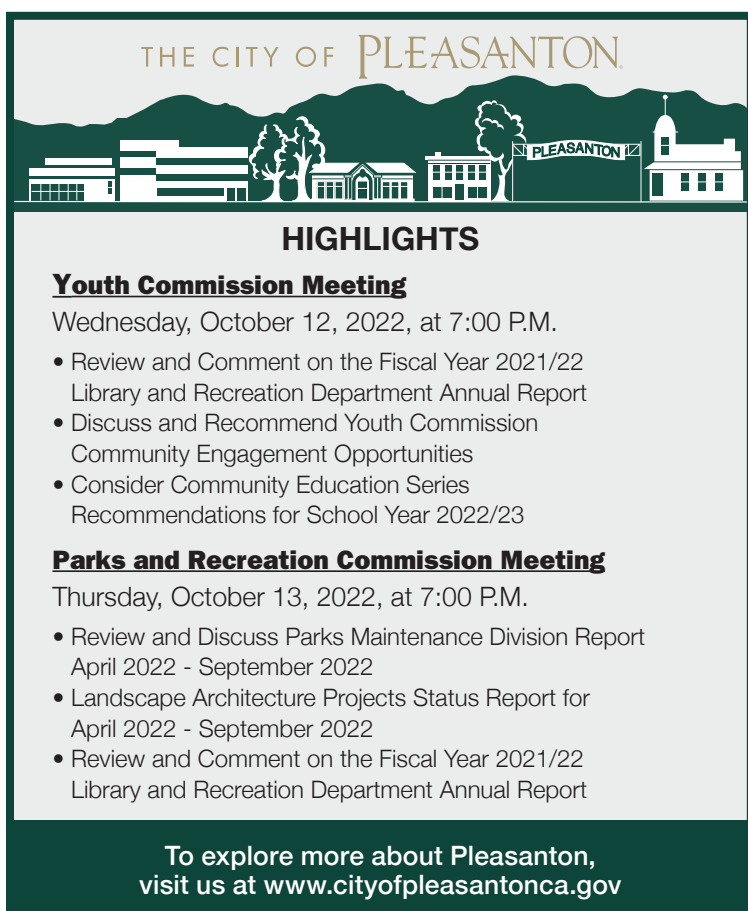


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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Youth Commission Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.

- Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report
- Discuss and Recommend Youth Commission Community Engagement Opportunities
- Consider Community Education Series Recommendations for School Year 2022/23

**Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**  
Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.

- Review and Discuss Parks Maintenance Division Report April 2022 - September 2022
- Landscape Architecture Projects Status Report for April 2022 - September 2022
- Review and Comment on the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Library and Recreation Department Annual Report

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CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Left: Lowell Hoxie, director of maintenance and operations for SGUSD, talks about the old windows in the main building classrooms that need to be upgraded. Right: School Board President Mike Picard talks about the wood rot and the seismic upgrades that will be addressed if Measure J passes in November.

## SUNOL BOND

Continued from Page 5

\$52.10 per \$100,000 of assessed value for property owners to fund the different projects.

Sunol is the third school district in the Tri-Valley seeking to pass a bond in the amount of for facility repairs and upgrades. The other two school districts are Pleasanton, which is asking for \$395 million in bond dollars, and Livermore, which is seeking \$450 million.

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

“To improve the quality of education facilities; make safety and security improvements; renovate electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems; repair/replace leaky roofs; and construct a technology, engineering, and math lab; shall Sunol Glen Unified School District’s measure be adopted authorizing the issuance of \$10,900,000 of bonds at legal interest rates, generating on average \$614,500 annually while bonds are outstanding, at rates of approximately 5.2 cents per \$100 assessed value, with annual audits, citizens’ oversight, and no money for salaries?”

During a walkthrough of the district’s lone school, Sunol Glen School located near downtown Sunol, Picard told the Weekly last Friday that the school has been kept clean and well-maintained throughout the years, which paints the picture that everything is alright. But he said that most of the issues lie in facilities’ infrastructure, which hasn’t been upgraded for decades.

Picard said if the bond passes, the school has a priority list of projects and will start with replacing the roofs of some of the older buildings like the main one and then will focus on making accessible ramps and entrances to the buildings and bathrooms.

“In the main building we’re concerned with asbestos, lead paint, you know, things that were prevalent in those times,” Picard said. “So when we start scratching the surface, that’s why the estimate is so high. We might run into some problems, so we don’t want to run out of money.”

The school itself was built in 1925 and since then, things have been added and patched up along the way, but that has only acted as a bandage to the bigger problem for things like wood rot, seismic updates needs and outdated electrical and plumbing systems.

“The trouble is you just keep patching, patching, patching ... like the roof,” said Lowell Hoxie, director of maintenance and operations for the district. “Yeah, we did a little section here, we did a little section there, but no, we need to take the roof off and just redo the whole thing.”

Hoxie said it’s been a while since he’s known that the school has needed significant repairs like the ceiling felt in the main building which he said is about 40 to 50 years old — he said the average lifespan of felt is 30 years.

“Just patching doesn’t work ... you’re just chasing leaks all the time,” he said.

Apart from the plaster falling off the ceiling the bond money will aim to fund constructing more ADA-accessible entrances for the main building doors, the auditorium and the bathroom stalls and entrances.

Right now, there is no way for anyone in a wheelchair to get on the school’s auditorium stage with access being limited to a small and narrow staircase and on top of that, the only ramp to get into the main building is at the back of the school.

“Whether it’s my grandma who wants to come and watch my kids’ graduation or we hire somebody who’s got mobility issues or a kid who comes to school here has issues, it’s not right,” Picard said in regards to the lack of accessibility at the school.

Picard said the bond will also address the cafeteria, which doesn’t have any up to code air vents or fire extinguishing system for the oven areas in the kitchen, meaning they can’t really cook food in there.

Other big items in the bond list will be; upgrading the portables in the back of the school, one of which is 40 years old, according to Hoxie; improving the schools’ overall safety with more fencing and better door

locking hardware; and updating the fire sprinkler system — the school currently has the exposed tubes running outside of the ceiling rather than inside.

But, much like the other school bonds in Alameda County, the bond is facing opposition from the local Libertarian Party.

Elizabeth Stump, vice chair of the Libertarian Party of Alameda County, signed the opposing statements to the bond that argue how residents shouldn’t be forced to pay more taxes and that the district is providing vague reasons in the bond language as to why it needs the money.

“The Measure J in Sunol Glen fails to meet the most basic requirements of a Proposition 39 school bond,” Stump told the Weekly. “The first requirement is that the school district draft a list of ‘specific projects’ for the bond before submitting the measure to the voters. The district drafted only a vague list which fails to include capital improvement projects.”

She also said that most of the projects that the district has listed are minor repair projects that can be patched up and that asking for a multimillion-dollar bond through taxes is unnecessary.

“The proponents’ arguments are misleading,” Stump said. “They argue, ‘The tax rate will not increase.’ The tax rate might not increase but the tax amount of the residential property taxes will greatly increase to pay off the bond.”

She also expressed concern over how the money will be spent and was untrusting of the school board keeping the money local.

However, Picard said that because residents are almost done paying off the previous 1999 bond, they will realistically see no change in the tax rate that they have already been paying for several years.

The district did attempt to pass a bond in March 2020, the \$9.5 million Measure O, which Picard said was for the same repairs but it was also going to fund the construction of a new multipurpose room. Measure O earned a slight majority (50.56%) but fell short of the required 55% threshold among the

449 participating voters.

After taking some polls from residents in the wake of Measure O’s defeat, Picard said officials found they did not want a multipurpose room and so the district decided to scale back and wait for the next election cycle so that it’s easier to sell because of the fact that residents won’t have to pay for two bonds at the same time.

“Measure J will not increase the current annual tax rate,” according to the district website. “Instead, it will extend the old bond program that expires next year and will maintain the estimated tax rate that property owners are currently paying.”

Picard said that any opposition to the bond comes from people who aren’t part of the Sunol community and guaranteed that all the money will go to these projects that he said are well planned out and necessary to continue serving the community.

“If somebody needs something, we’re neighbors, we help each other out,” Picard said. “Our school is kind of at the center of our community. It’s a place for the public to gather, it’s a place for kids to come to school. All the kids from Sunol, who come here, they’re owed from us, a safe place, a safe environment and the best learning experience they can have.” ■

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# PUSD staff update board on successful 2022 summer programs

94% pass rate recorded among high school students, per recap data

By Christian Trujano

Pleasanton Unified School District saw a huge success in this year's summer programs including a 94% pass rate for high school students, staff said during a report to the school board last month.

Apart from data on the high schoolers, the 2022 summer programs update provided the board insight on how all three levels of education served a disproportionately high level of traditionally marginalized students.

Jamie Mather, coordinator of summer programs, intercession and extended learning for the district, said 433 elementary, 177 middle and 558 high school students took part in the summer classes.

"These are our students who need some extra support and some academic intervention to be able to meet grade level standards, and specifically at the high school level, hit the credits needed for graduation," Mather told the Board of Trustees on Sept. 22.

He said that in total, the district typically serves over 1,000 students from preschool through the end of

high school and even those in adult transition programs.

"We really had an opportunity to serve some of our students who are in need of academic support, academic intervention, and also our students in special education who are eligible for extended school year," said Ed Diolazo, deputy superintendent of student support services.

At the elementary school level, Athena Duran, elementary principal of summer programs and vice principal of Amador Valley High School, reported to the board that the focus was on intervention for math and English.

Malcolm Norrington, secondary principal of summer programs and Foothill High School vice principal, said that was the same for middle school, but for high school students it was an opportunity to improve their grades.

"There's a lot of research that shows that summer gaps can be really difficult for children, especially for struggling students," Trustee Kelly Mokashi said. "So having these types of programs to benefit our students, they are of tremendous value."

Norrington said that these students, as well as the other education levels, were some of their most marginalized students in PUSD and it was nice to see their hard work pay off with 94% of them passing.

Mather also said that the district also saw a lot of success in its Positive Behavior Intervention and Support System, which is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional and mental health.

"It is important that we provide all of these extra services for our students who go to summer school, because as we saw, they're disproportionately from members of some of our more marginalized communities," Mather said. "Whether it be

low socioeconomic status, Latinx, emerging bilingual, these are the populations that can oftentimes use a little extra support and it's good that we're able to give it to them during summer school and identify during summer school."

One of the questions that Board Vice President Steve Maher asked was how the district could bring that to 100% of students passing, to which Norrington said that maybe one way is to move away from Amador due to the distractions from the surrounding area.

"We're on a campus like Amador in the summer and there's so much going on but again, we would have to look at those that didn't pass and reasons why because we did

everything we could to keep students in school," Norrington said.

The update also included information on the extended school year programs.

Mather said the purpose of the extended school year program was to reinforce and maintain a student's individualized education program (IEP) goals so students with special needs don't fall back during summer.

"We provide services to maintain progress on those goals, not to necessarily move forward," Mather said. "We just don't want a lot of regression during the summer."

He added that they also improved the walk-in services they provided for those who need specific help on one issue.

"Walk-in services meant that a student really just needs one specific IEP service during the summer, they might need speech and language pathology or something similar, and they can literally walk onto campus and get that," Mather said. ■

## HARASSMENT

Continued from Page 5

police intervention.

However, if a student is found in violation of sexual harassment, then according to board policy they can get anything from parent and police intervention, to suspension or expulsion, depending on the severity of the situation.

"With student discipline, it can be very gray. So there are a lot of possible consequences," Heller said. "It does depend on each situation, but we just wanted to be very clear that we do have consequences when a student is found to be in violation of our education code that is determined to be sexual harassment."

One of the big questions that Kim asked was about that complaint process, and specifically how the district was planning on building a deeper trust with students so that they feel comfortable speaking up in the first place.

"A lot of students don't want to

report that in the first place if they don't have concrete video evidence, which in a lot of sexual harassment cases there's not," Kim said.

Heller said that one of the things that has changed in the reporting process is that administrators and those investigating the claim will be checking in on the person who filed the report once the whole process is done. Even if they don't necessarily find anyone at fault after due process investigation, district staff said they want to continue supporting the complainant after the investigation ends to build better relationships with students so they are more comfortable seeking help in the future.

"We still would not be able to share with them what kind of discipline that happened, however, we would be able to document their report, and we would be able to document the parties that were involved, so that we, at least as a school site, would have more information about what we're seeing," Heller said.

"It also might create a trusting

relationship between a student and a site administrator," Heller added. "Even if the outcome is not necessarily a discipline outcome, it would at least be an opportunity for education, and an opportunity for students to find a trusted adult on campus that they would feel comfortable coming to in the future."

Trustee Mary Jo Carreon also said she wanted to see more data, but with how current students are feeling about the new sexual harassment policies and whether or not it is making any difference.

She also wanted to see more presentations on showing students what to do in these situations where students see sexual harassment happening to others.

That feeling of wanting to show students how to help those in need rather than be a bystander was also shared with Trustee Joan Laursen.

"Those of us of a certain age have experienced a great deal of sexual harassment in our lives, and it's not something new," Laursen said. "It is a cultural thing, it is a norm, it is a peer pressure thing and if you as a peer, or you as a teacher, or a staff member, tolerate and just let it go, nothing changes."

PUSD does start teaching children in fourth and fifth grade about sexual harassment in order to prevent future issues. But even with these new policies and practices being implemented, staff and administrators continued to double down on the support for all students and said that the best way they can help, is if students continue to come to them for help.

"Oftentimes, they may not want to come into the office, which I know is a scary thing in general, but there are a lot of trusted adults," Bull said. "So whether it be a teacher or counselor, they can talk to you, and then that teacher counselor will pass on information to us and then we can follow up from there." ■

## Harm Ottens

September 2, 1934 – September 6, 2022

Harm Ottens, a beloved long time resident of Pleasanton, died on September 6, 2022 in Bend, Oregon at the age of 88. Harm, also known as Dutch, was born in Onnen, The Netherlands on September 2, 1934, the son of Aldert and Bouwina Ottens.



In 1955, at the age of 21, he immigrated to the United States. He was a cook in the Dutch military, then at Fort Ord in Monterey California for the U.S. Army Officers Club, where he eventually became a proud citizen.

He was sponsored by his sister, Janna, and her husband Jannes Takens. He worked at the Meadowlark Dairy for a short time, and then became a bartender, most notably at Castlewood Country Club and Hap's Restaurant. He was a regular golfer, loved soccer, and always had a series of jokes to share with anyone willing to listen. In later years, he and his wife Carol established and ran "Carol's Guest Home" a home for the elderly. Of course, Harm was the cook, something he thoroughly loved. He was also the one that prepared turkeys for our large Thanksgiving dinners that typically sat 30 – 40 people.

Harm was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years Carol, his parents Aldert and Bouwina Ottens, his sister Janna (Jannes) Takens, and his brother Bey (Fenny) Ottens.

Harm is survived by his son Michael (Nancy), Charles Perkins, and Pamela (Curtis) Boggs.

A private celebration of life will be held for the immediate family.

PAID OBITUARY

## TAKE US ALONG



**Trip of a lifetime:** It was a long-awaited vacation on the Rocky Mountaineer "Passage to the West" tour for Pleasanton and Livermore residents Ann Weiss, Barbara Schulz, Dana and Sue Green, Debbie Gerughty, John Schulz, Katie Freccero, and John and Nancy Moffat. Together they spent two days aboard the luxurious Rocky Mountaineer train enjoying the Gold Leaf Package where they were treated like royalty. In all, their nine-day tour started in Vancouver with time spent in Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary.

# POLICE BULLETIN

## Livermore PD named Agency of the Year

The Livermore Police Department was honored recently by its peers as the 2022 Agency of the Year for the California Narcotics Officers' Association Region 1.

The organization in particular lauded the Tri-Valley police agency for its efforts on collaborative training courses that helped educate more than 100 officers from dozens of law enforcement departments from Mendocino to Monterey counties.

"We are honored to receive the prestigious Agency of the Year Award from the California Narcotics Officers Association," Livermore Police Chief Jeramy Young told the Weekly. "The recognition means a lot to the department and underscores our commitment to law enforcement training. The training allows us to provide the highest level of service and public safety to our community."

Livermore police representatives accepted the award during the CNOA Region 1 gala at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville on Sept. 23.

Region 1 chairwoman Faye Maloney said Livermore PD was "well deserving and a stellar choice ... for all the continued support and dedication to training of law enforcement officers and the betterment of the community in our region."

"Sergeant Keith Tse has been a great resource in all our trainings that have been held at your agency and we have heard nothing but praises about the staff and the location. This entices more students to attend vital and relevant law enforcement training," Maloney stated in a letter to the department.

—Jeremy Walsh

## In other news

• A Vallejo man who teaches guitar lessons across the Tri-Valley was arrested by officers from the San Ramon Police Department last week on allegations of sexual abuse involving a child in a San Ramon home.

Rex Lee Bell, 69, was taken into custody by SRPD on the afternoon of Sept. 29 and is facing a total of 20 counts. These consist of nine counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under 14 years old, along with nine counts of enhancement for prior sex convictions and two counts of sex offender violation.

Bell is a registered sex offender, who was convicted for sexual misconduct involving two 13-year-old girls in 2008, according to police.

Police said they executed a search warrant at Bell's residence to gain additional evidence, following the arrest.

"The San Ramon Police Department is committed to protecting our community and remains vigilant in taking swift action against those who would seek to victimize children," SRPD officials said in a press release.

Bell is a longtime guitar instructor in the Bay Area, and describes himself as the owner and lead instructor of the business Guitar Confidence, which offers private lessons in more than 30 cities across the region.

He is currently being held in the Martinez Detention Facility, with bail set at \$9,950,000.

"As an agency focused on community safety, we are concerned there may be additional victims based on Bell's business practices and his activity with children," SRPD officials said.

Police are asking anyone with additional information to contact Det. Brady McKinney at [bmckinney@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:bmckinney@sanramon.ca.gov) or Lt. Tami Williams at [twilliams@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:twilliams@sanramon.ca.gov).

—Jeanita Lyman

• A prison guard indicted in February for allegedly abusing an inmate of an all-female prison in Dublin is facing more charges that he did the same to two other inmates.

John Russell Bellhouse was indicted by a federal grand jury for alleged sexual abuse charges against two additional female inmates, according to an announcement from U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds on Sept. 29.

Bellhouse was a correctional officer and, in earlier stories, was described as having been a prison safety administrator.

"The additional charges unsealed today demonstrate the priority the Department of Justice has placed on prosecuting cases of sexual misconduct by Bureau of Prison employees," said Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. "We have no tolerance for correction officers who betray the trust placed in them to safely and humanely care for those in their custody."

The grand jury originally charged Bellhouse, 39, formerly of Pleasanton, on Feb. 17 in an indictment that alleged Bellhouse committed sexual abuse against a female prison ward between February and October 2020.

Prosecutors said that for the new indictments, one of these contacts is alleged to have occurred between October and December 2020 and the other on Oct. 22, 2020.

The indictment is part of an ongoing investigation that has ensnared several former workers at the prison, including some leaders.

Former chaplain with the Federal Bureau of Prisons James Theodore Highhouse pleaded guilty Feb. 23 to

five felonies for abusing an inmate sexually and then lying to federal agents.

Former associate warden Ray Garcia was indicted in August on seven counts of sexually abusive conduct towards three female prisoners and lying to government agents about it.

Former correctional officer Ross Klinger was arrested June 30, 2021, on suspicion of abusing an inmate sexually.

Another former correctional officer, Enrique Chavez, was charged in March with two counts of abusive sexual contact against an inmate.

"The safety, security, and integrity of federal prisons are of the utmost importance, and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General will continue to aggressively pursue allegations of abuse at FCI Dublin and across the BOP," said Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz.

A jury trial is currently set for June 5, 2023, in U.S. District Court in Oakland. ■

—Bay City News Service



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## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Sept. 30

#### Theft

- 7:28 a.m., 2400 block of Via De Los Milagros; auto theft
- 9:12 a.m. on the 2300 block of Gloria Court
- 9:36 a.m. on the 5800 block of Sterling Greens Circle
- 6:33 p.m. on the 1300 block of Brookline Loop

#### Warrant arrest

- 12:07 p.m. on the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### Sept. 29

#### Warrant arrest

- 8:23 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Theft

- 10:43 a.m., 4800 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft
- 1:51 p.m. on the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Fraud

- 4:06 p.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

### Sept. 28

#### Theft

- 12:21 a.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 9:04 a.m., 2700 block of Huff Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 9:29 a.m. on the 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard

- 2:44 p.m. on the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

- 4:08 p.m., 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; catalytic converter theft

- 4:32 p.m. on the 5100 block of Black Avenue

- 5:28 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Drug violation

- 9:05 a.m. at Owens and Chabot drives

#### Fraud

- 9:51 a.m. on the 7000 block of Via Quito

#### Domestic battery

- 2:27 p.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

- 5:05 p.m. on the 8500 block of Clubhouse Drive

### Sept. 27

#### Warrant arrest

- 8:22 a.m. at Owens and Hacienda drives

- 10:21 a.m. on the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

#### Theft

- 12:37 p.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

- 12:52 p.m. on the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

#### Domestic battery

- 5:50 p.m. on Andrews Drive

### Sept. 26

#### DUI

- 6:17 a.m. on the 000 block of West Neal Street

#### Theft

- 9:22 a.m., 5700 block of Gibraltar Drive; bicycle theft

- 7:43 p.m. on the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

#### Warrant arrest

- 10:27 a.m. at Valley Avenue and Boulder Street

- 12:47 p.m. at Rosewood Drive and Santa Rita Road

- 1:48 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

#### Graffiti offense

- 11:29 a.m. at Owens Drive and Hopyard Road

- 11:30 a.m. on the 500 block of Main Street

#### Assault/battery

- 6:56 p.m. on the 5000 block of Hummingbird Road

### Sept. 25

#### Theft

- 9:16 a.m. on the 7400 block of Muirwood Court

## Mary Safreno

November 18, 1931 – August 28, 2022

Mary Marie Safreno passed away peacefully early in the morning on Sunday, August 28nd. She was almost 91 years old. She was kind and humble and focused on the health and well-being of her family until she passed. Mary was born in the East Bay Area and raised by her Aunt Gloria and Uncle Tony in Hayward with her sisters Betty and Ellie. She attended Hayward High School. In 1953, she met Douglas, her husband of 65 years until his death in 2018. She lived in Pleasanton for 69 years, almost entirely at the same home that they purchased and expanded over the years.



Mary had a very sharp mind and was the center piece of several sizeable businesses in the Pleasanton area, keeping the books and managing the back office. With Douglas, they went on to purchase, develop and own commercial real estate in Pleasanton. She was always working on something—her businesses, their real estate, her family, their home—she was not comfortable resting and worked from the moment she woke in the morning until she went to bed. She also was actively involved in several Pleasanton communities, including St. Augustine Catholic Church, Pleasanton public schools and 4H. Mary and Douglas spent a great deal of time developing a summer home on an island in the Sacramento Delta. The island was a substantial and challenging undertaking which brought great recreational rewards to her family and friends. She loved the outdoors and her gardens. She was well-versed in every type of flower and vegetable that grows in Northern California and passed this knowledge on to her children. Despite being core to virtually every activity where she was involved, she never wanted credit for her enormous efforts. She was extremely humble.

Mary's greatest joy involved her family. She never lost her smile when talking about her children, grandchildren and their spouses. She and Douglas had three children, Lynda, Casey and Ty, a son-in-law, Erik, and two daughters-in-law, Lisa and Trudie, all of whom visited with her over the years up until now. Mary also has eight grandchildren, Diva, Ana, Ella, Douglas, Steven, Dina, Neill and Wade, and one great-grandchild, Gwen, with whom she visited in late August. She also has two grand-son-in-laws, Tyler, married to Diva, and Sam, married to Ana. She will be deeply missed.

PAID OBITUARY



## FOCUS ON BAY AREA PERFORMERS

By JEREMY WALSH

**T**he theater doors have opened at the Firehouse Arts Center for a new season that promises to be “the most diverse and unique set of performances and shows to date” for the city-operated entertainment venue in downtown Pleasanton.

It will also be its most Bay Area-centric lineup to date.

The 2022-23 schedule, which formally kicked off last weekend with Oakland-based MJ’s Brass Boppers, is chock full of singers, comedians, actors, musicians and other entertainers from across the Bay, including Pleasanton natives Jeff Bordes, Solomon Alber and Lauryn Marie, the Pleasanton Youth Theater Company, local teen improv troupe Creatures of Impulse and Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre’s spring musical — all in addition to other returning favorites who’ve awed Firehouse audiences before.

“We have a fantastic re-emergence season in 2022-23, and I hope patrons will come along for the ride and try something new with us,” Mark Duncanson, recreation supervisor for the city of Pleasanton, told the Weekly.

A leading organizer for the Firehouse’s annual scheduling process, and a longtime performer and director himself, Duncanson said he’s excited that the behind-the-scenes efforts have led to an inspired lineup that offers “truly something for everyone” at the intimate 220-seat venue on Railroad Avenue.

“I’m deeply involved with planning the acts for the season. I consider quite a bit starting with the audience we’ve grown since opening in 2010. I aim to nurture our returning audience while attracting new audiences,” he said.

“As I stay in contact with all our artists from initial ask, booking, and performance, I’m constantly reflecting on the season, learning from our audiences and artists and I get reinvigorated at our lineup,” Duncanson added. “I’m in a position to bring joy to artists and patrons. I get to be in the room when art is shared and appreciated. I’m able to welcome back returning favorites and introduce new artists to new patrons.”

The Firehouse continues to hit the ground running on its new season, with a slate of shows this fall that exemplify its “Live and Local” theme.

Oakland native Eve Marie Shahoian performs “Take Me to the World & Company” tonight, featuring songs from the musical theater, jazz standards and original arrangements.

“Girls Night Out ... and Guys Too! An Evening of Music & Comedy” follows on Saturday night (Oct. 8), a comedy cabaret with Tielle Baker and pianist Joe Simiele along with rising stars of the San Francisco comedy circuit. Comedian Joe Klocek, another favorite of San Francisco clubs, will follow at the Firehouse next Friday (Oct. 14).

“The Magic of Andy Amyx” will come to the Pleasanton stage on Oct. 20. The standup magician is known for “elegant sleight of hand and manipulation with amazing feats of illusion, comedy and audience participation,” according to Firehouse officials.

Another highlight of the month will be “Loving Janis”, with Bay Area singers Kyra Gordon and Mimi Fox performing the music of American folk and rock legends Janis Joplin and Janis Ian in a narrative concert.

“This current version of ‘Loving Janis’ reimagined is the culmination of a collaboration, mentorship and chemistry that developed between Kyra and Mimi,” promoters for the Oct. 22 show said. “The connection and interpretation between them has resulted in a concert which takes the audience through the fascinating careers of both amazing Janises.”

While acknowledging he’s looking forward to seeing so many of the acts perform (“it’s tough to call out just one because I’m such a nerd for everyone we book,” he said), Duncanson is particularly excited for “Loving Janis” and finally being able to book Gordon at the Firehouse.

“I’ve known Kyra since about 2011 when she was performing with Bay Area improv hip-hop group The Freeze. Kyra is an accomplished singer-songwriter, pianist and all-around wonderful person,” he told the Weekly.

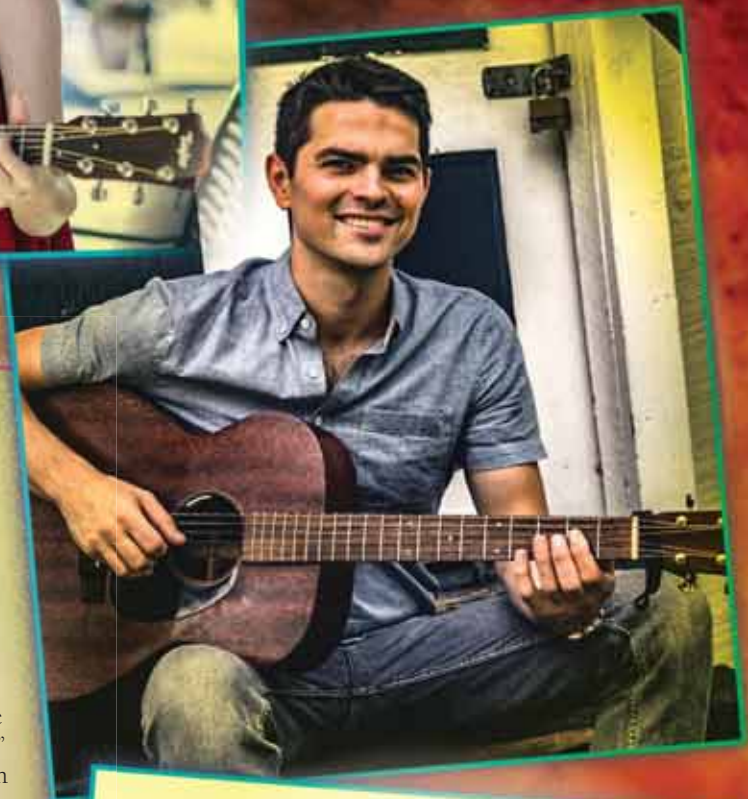
Duncanson also plays a key role in a premiere show in November, the “Back to School Special” with Pleasanton Youth Theater Company performers produced by the Firehouse and hosted by Duncanson and Kimberly MacLean on Nov. 12.

CHUCK DECKERT

Above: Mark Duncanson, city recreation supervisor, stands on the Firehouse Theater stage where the acts he worked hard to book will perform this season.

# E AND LOCAL

## OR NEW SEASON AT THE FIREHOUSE



“Relive those angst-filled, awkward and beautiful moments live onstage as people like you read actual diary entries, school papers, notes or simply recount moments from their younger years. Cut with music and the occasional live reenactment from professional improv performers, this evening is poised to make you laugh, cry and cringe,” Firehouse officials said.

Young performers from the Tri-Valley are a big part of programming at the Firehouse this season.

PYTC also has “Elf the Musical Jr.” in December, Disney’s “Frozen Kids” in January, “Honk Jr.” in March and April and “Spamalot” from its summer drama camps in July.

Creatures of Impulse, the city of Pleasanton’s award-winning teen improv group, has five shows on the calendar: “Nightmares” (Oct. 27-29), “Holiday Shorts” (Nov. 29, Dec. 1-2), “Face-Off” (Feb. 23-25), “Puppets of Impulse” (May 18-20) and the annual “Tri-Valley High: The Series” (July).

The High School Music Collaborative has a collection of performances on the docket, including its “Villains” cabaret in November and “Holiday Youth Music Festival” in December.

The marquee theater production this season will be Tri-Valley Rep’s rendition of the musical adaptation of “Where the Mountain Meets the Moon” composed and written by Bay Area resident Min Kahng. Tickets will go on sale soon for the annual musical, set for April 29 to May 14.

The rest of the 2022-23 lineup includes an eclectic range of solo and group performers.

Amador Valley High School graduate Jeff Bordes, a trumpeter and jazz composer, will play his hometown’s main stage twice — “Jeff Bordes and Friends: A Jazzy Christmas” is set for Dec. 17 and “Jeff Bordes and Friends’ Mardi Gras Celebration” is Feb. 18.

Other Dons on the docket include Logan Kane as part of electro-jazz group Dolphin Hyperspace on Feb. 3, Solomon Alber & The Jazz Androids” on March 4 and Lauryn Marie on March 10.

Tri-Valley band CaliCeltic will help celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on March 17.

More notable Bay Area and Northern California acts coming to the Firehouse include TOaG Quartet playing original Black American music on Nov. 18, Improv Playhouse of San Francisco on Jan. 13, indie singer-songwriter Emily Zisman on Feb. 17, alt pop punk rock group Until Further Notice on March 3 and “The Tall Blonde at the Callback” starring Susan Tonkin on April 20.

There are tribute shows for famed performers such as Elvis Presley, Patsy Cline, Glen Campbell and Billie Holiday, returning favorites like the Golden Follies holiday revue and We Banjo 3, reflective programs like “A Broadway Celebration with Deborah Del Mastro” and “Deep River: The Flow of Negro Spirituals Through Time”, and the Firehouse Short Film Festival.

“We are also very lucky to have singer-songwriter and LGBTQ+ activist Ryan Cassata on our calendar,” Duncanson said of the April 21 concert. “I was lucky enough to have Ryan perform during the summer of 2011 and have gotten to know him, his music and his heart, and can’t wait to have him perform as part of our presenting season.”

Reflecting on the new season on the whole, Duncanson said it represents an entertaining mix of the new and the familiar for Pleasanton audiences.

“We’re excited to help our patrons discover new artists at the Firehouse; to remember how it felt to hear their favorite artists for the first time,” he said in a city press release. “We also aim to be a venue that opens doors for emerging artists. There’s such a unique energy when new artists and new audiences find each other in an intimate venue like the Firehouse. In the same respect, the Firehouse offers a fresh and close-up perspective with our returning artists.”

“If something looks fun, sounds interesting, or you just want to know more — buy some tickets and experience art with us,” Duncanson added. “This isn’t just a performing arts venue, we aim to be a community center for the arts.”

To see the full schedule, purchase tickets and learn more, visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org). ■

COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

Performers at the Firehouse this season include (clockwise from far-left): Mimi Fox and Kyra Gordon in “Loving Janis”, Stella Heath’s tribute to Billie Holiday, magician Andy Amyx, “Happy Birthday Elvis” with Jim Anderson, MJ’s Brass Boppers, Joni Morris’ tribute to Patsy Cline, Lauryn Marie, Andy Kahrs’ tribute to Glen Campbell and Jeff Bordes.

## ArtWalk celebrating community, art and culture

'Family-friendly day of art' with live music and interactive booths in heart of downtown Livermore

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Artists, residents and art lovers alike are set to fill the downtown Livermore area with foot traffic, live music and various forms of visual art in celebration of community and culture this weekend.

Livermore Valley Arts will be hosting its 21st ArtWalk festival, a one-day event meant to celebrate the artistic community of Livermore and the surrounding cities. ArtWalk features over 200 local makers showcasing handmade artwork, live music and other forms of entertainment.

The event is free for the public to attend and takes place on Saturday (Oct. 8), from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Bankhead Theater Lobby, Bankhead Plaza, McLeod Street, Stockmen's Park and Livermorium Park.

"ArtWalk is an inclusive event that really has the art community coming together to bring our best face forward," said Anne Giancola, visual arts and education manager of Livermore Valley Arts.

"All of the Tri-Valley art associations will have a booth at Livermorium: Livermore Artists Association, Pleasanton Art League, Dublin Arts Collective and Alliance for the Visual Arts," Giancola said. "The fact that all of the area art organizations are a part of the festival shows that there is a deep sense of collaboration and community. The visual arts are strong and doing well in the Tri-Valley."

Giancola told the Weekly the festival was founded by artist Linda Ryan 21 years ago to "spotlight the visual

arts of Livermore and at the same time bring foot traffic to the downtown area."

This year, Livermore Valley Arts organizers expect around 4,000 visitors on the day of the event.

"We get a wide call for artists out in the spring of each year," Giancola said, noting that the organization does not disqualify artists for participation based on location. "We welcome artists from the Central Valley, Fremont, San Jose and the 680 corridor and beyond."

Ozell Hudson, a Texas native turned Livermore resident, is one of the artists showcasing his work at the event. Hudson specializes in portrait and figurative fine art paintings, using oil and acrylic mediums on canvas.

"One of the reasons why I continue to participate in the ArtWalk is because I want the Livermore area to be known for its visual fine art," Hudson said. "I want to raise visibility for visual arts in the Tri-Valley and I want to be a part of it."

Hudson enjoys the environment the ArtWalk has to offer and the greater Tri-Valley visual fine arts scene.

"I like interacting with the people, just meeting them and chatting with them," he said. "We are situated in the right place, we have the wineries, we have the performing arts. This area is known for its fine wine and its arts, whether it's visual or performing."

"I like to do portraiture and figurative art," Hudson said.

Most of his work has reflected



Visual fine artist Ozell Hudson is shown standing near one of his pieces. Hudson's art work will be showcased at the upcoming 21st ArtWalk festival.

this style of art; however, he has previously worked with sculptures. "Usually what inspires me is people. Everyone has a different character about them and everyone has their own story."

Hudson's artwork will be featured in the Livermorium Park at this year's ArtWalk.

"ArtWalk is a day to dive deep into the visual arts from the community," Giancola said. "We know that ArtWalk is an event important to the community and we welcome

visitors from further around to appreciate the quality of the art offered. LVA is proud to support this event because of its close alignment with their mission to offer a broad range of arts opportunities and experiences to engage our diverse community."

Other activities at the festival include live music, interactive art booths and face painting.

"Look for artist demonstrations throughout the event, shop for unique and hand done works or try

your chances at a raffle for the hand-painted wine barrels in the Bankhead," Giancola said. "There is live music throughout the different parks of ArtWalk for everyone to enjoy as they peruse the art. There are interactive art booths at McLeod Street where people of all ages can try out art supplies, make a collage, color a parachute, create an art project, and work on a group banner mural."

For more information about the ArtWalk festival, visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

## Ghost Walk returning to downtown Pleasanton

Museum program highlights historically spooky side of Main Street

BY JEREMY WALSH

Downtown Pleasanton will get into the Halloween spirit this month — or, just maybe, the spirits are there all the time? — as the Museum on Main welcomes back its annual Ghost Walk series.

The two-hour guided tours along Pleasanton's most haunted sites along Main Street will take place in person next weekend (Oct. 14 and 15), as well as the following Friday and Saturday. A virtual alternative will also be offered, on the Saturday before Halloween.

"Ghost Walk has successfully brought the haunted side of Pleasanton to 'life' through the stories and experiences collected over the years from psychics, ghost hunters and downtown merchants and workers," said Rachel Brickell, the museum's new director of education.

It is a unique experience, more spooky than scary, with lots of atmosphere and no jump scares. We are thrilled to provide both in-person and virtual options again this year for our community," Brickell added.

The in-person tours will go off at 30-minute intervals between 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 14, 15, 21 and 22, led by a team of "ghost hosts" while visiting 10 haunted locations around downtown.

At each stop, actors including members of the local Creatures of Impulse teen improv troupe will be portraying the ghosts, bringing their stories and Pleasanton history to life, according to museum officials.

"The improv students have been a wonderful addition to Ghost Walk. They bring so much energy to the program and we can't wait to share this year's talent with

participants," incoming Executive Director Sarah Schaefer said.

The virtual Ghost Walk will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 29 via the web platform BigMarker, spotlighting "the stories and histories of nine haunted locations downtown and share evidence of the paranormal that was captured on recent Ghost Walks and in paranormal investigations," officials said.

The in-person walks will take place rain or shine, so attendees are urged to dress appropriately — and costumes are encouraged.

The Ghost Walks sell out every year, so museum officials recommend people buy their tickets for the in-person tours as early as possible. To register for either option, visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org) or call 925-462-2766. ■



The popular Ghost Walk series is back later this month.



“Marks Left by the Years”, hand-cut and woven giclee prints by Kiana Honarmand, now featured in the Firehouse Arts Center Lobby.

## ‘Tapestry of Remembrance’ in Firehouse lobby

Photo collages inspired by Persian rugs of artist’s homeland

By JEREMY WALSH

An intricate visual representation of cultural comfort pieces, through photo collages, is at the center of the new solo art exhibition in the lobby of the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Opening last week and running into November, “Tapestry of Remembrance” showcases the talents of Iranian immigrant and Bay Area artist Kiana Honarmand, who combines her use of digital fabrication tools and traditional craft methods to explore themes of memory, yearning and familial history with collages reminiscent of Persian rugs of her homeland, according to Firehouse officials.

“Tapestry of Remembrance” harkens to a bygone life in Iran through visual and physical means of recollection and creation to eternalize these past memories for the future. This series embodies my experience as an Iranian immigrant,” Honarmand said in a statement.

“While being separated by thousands of miles and facing challenging visa restrictions, life is snapshots of virtual celebrations and farewells to people and places I may never see again,” she added.

Firehouse officials noted that the photo collage series was developed in concept during the COVID-19 pandemic as the artist faced a locked-down world and “efforts to remember past experiences whilst creating new memories in a

quarantined environment.”

“The intentional deconstruction and reconstruction process of the photographs reflect self-realization in the complex nature of identity as an artist, a woman of color, and an immigrant in these uncertain times,” according to the exhibit description. “Cut by hand and woven together, the photographs create new images as an attempt to visually remember an earlier life that is fading from memory and only exists as snapshots frozen in time.”

Creating with a method inspired by the rugs of her youth and her family was a deeply personal and fulfilling artistic experience for Honarmand.

“Reflecting on my past, generations of women wove Persian rugs to support their families, and I belong to their legacy. Their hands labored meticulously over small knots on looms creating elaborate patterns,” she said.

“The echoes of those intricate motions are woven into the fabric of my existence,” Honarmand added. “Inspired by these patterns created by my ancestors, ‘Tapestry of Remembrance’ gives a tangible voice to the distortion of memories through one’s life and the preceding generations.”

The lobby exhibition, which celebrated its opening reception last weekend, will continue through Nov. 5. The Firehouse is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton. ■



“Bloated”, a painted silk piece by Susan Helmer, is among the artwork on display in “Shape, Form and Color: Modern Expressionism” in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead.

## ‘Modern Expressionism’ on display at Bankhead gallery

Artists depict world as it feels, rather than how it looks

By JEREMY WALSH

The latest art exhibit in downtown Livermore offers a modern perspective on one of the most popular artistic movements of the last century.

“Shape, Form and Color: Modern Expressionism” in the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater features artworks from 21st-century artists, both global and local, drawn to the style of the early 1900s — plus two special featured pieces from late artistic legends Joan Miro and Alexander Calder, on loan from a private collection.

Expressionism, made famous by classic artists like Henri Matisse, Edvard Munch, Wassily Kandinsky and Vincent van Gogh, relies on exaggerations and distortions to depict the world as it feels to the artist, rather than strictly how it looks, according to gallery officials.

“Rather than trying to accurately represent the world as artists had been doing since the Renaissance, they sought to express their emotional attitude towards themselves and the outside world through distortion, exaggeration, simplification, and through the use of striking, highly intense, non-naturalistic colors, and jarring, vigorous brushwork,

with paint application tending to be generous and highly textured,” gallery officials said.

“Additionally, some Expressionists used their artworks to critique political and social causes, which helped carry the emotional significance present in their works beyond traditional artistic society,” they added.

Modern-day artists on display in the new showing include Jessica Copeman and Susan Helmer.

“Shape, Form, and Color: Modern Expressionism” began its run this week and continues to Dec. 4. The gallery is open on Thursdays to Sundays from 1-5 p.m., as well as around performances at the Bankhead Theater. A free opening reception is scheduled for Nov. 12 from 1-3:30 p.m.

Also in the gallery during this time, the Founders Room at the Bankhead is featuring a solo exhibition of contemporary art by Ghada Jamal, a Lebanese painter and professor whose works have been on display around the world.

For more information on the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, go to [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org) or visit the venue at 2400 First Street in Livermore. ■



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## How to make the setting a character in your stories

Author Carroll to speak to Writers Club

Bay Area mystery author Glenda Carroll is set to talk about how to make the setting play a key role in stories at the Tri-Valley Writers Chapter of the California Writers Club meeting next weekend.

Carroll will focus her presentation through the lens of her process writing the Trisha Carson mystery books, which are set in the Bay Area.

“Glenda is almost always in, on or under water — and writing about it,” local chapter officials said. “She swims, surfs and sails ... Her three Trisha Carson thrillers all involve open water swimming, leveraging her experience as the open water chair for Pacific Masters Swimming for five years and as the point person for more than 25 open water swims ranging in length from 500 yards to 10K each season.”

Carroll’s presentation, entitled “How the SF Bay Area Became a Character in the Trisha Carson Mysteries”, is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. next Saturday (Oct. 15) at the Four Points by Sheraton on Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. The deadline to make a paid reservation is next Friday. Visit [trivalleywriters.org](http://trivalleywriters.org) for more details. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



Hear from Bay Area mystery writer Glenda Carroll on Oct. 15.

TVWC

## The Lettermen tradition continues at the Bankhead

Trio hope to bring their energetic love song renditions for old and new fans alike

By Christian Trujano

The Lettermen, an American pop vocal trio, are coming to Livermore next week — they are hoping to electrify the audience with their energetic arrangements of old and new love songs.

The latest lineup of the famed harmonic trio will be performing next Friday (Oct. 14) at the Bankhead Theater stage in downtown Livermore at 8 p.m.

Originally formed in 1959, The Lettermen were primarily known for their 1961 hit single “The Way You Look Tonight,” but over the years they solidified their spot in the music world by performing light renditions of close-harmony pop songs.

More specifically, love songs, according to Donovan Tea — the second longest-tenured member in the 60-year history of the group.

“The Lettermen have always primarily done love songs, and excuse the cliché, but love never goes out of style,” Tea told the Weekly. “So love songs never go out of style. It doesn’t matter what genre it is; if it’s a love song, it’s going to touch you in a certain way.”

Tea first joined the trio in 1984 and has been performing ever since. All of the founding members have either died or retired — there have been a total of 17 singers throughout the span of the group.

Currently, the rest of the trio is made up of Bobby Poynton, who started from 1990-95 and then came back in 2011, and Rob Gulack who replaced one of The Lettermen founders, Tony Butala.

But for those who might be



LVA

The Lettermen’s latest lineup will perform the generational group’s greatest hits, and more, at the Bankhead Theater next Friday.

expecting some sort of slow, love song-centered show, Tea said they should think again.

“We move on stage, we have banter on stage,” Tea said. “It’s a very entertaining show. We promise you that you will laugh — you may cry some happy tears — but you’ll definitely walk out the door feeling like you’ve got your money’s worth.”

He added that because the group is treated more of a trio of soloists, rather than just one soloist with backup singers, that it adds that much more dynamic to the songs and the show.

Some of what fans can expect from the October show is what Tea described as “Lettermen-ized” renditions of new and old songs.

He said they’re going to take songs from musicians like Elton John and Elvis Presley, and even songs from movies like the 2017 movie, “The Greatest Showman” starring Hugh Jackman, and add their own style.

Tea added that while the group does take some credit for their songs,

most of the credit goes to their music arranger and producer Justin Avery.

“You can be a great vocal group, you can be a great soloist, but the arrangements that you do can make or break the song as far as whether it’s popular or a hit or not. And we have the best vocal arranger since 1965, which was Capitol Records,” Tea said.

He added that he wants to put on a good show because music is the “tonic for humanity,” and with everything going on in the world right now, it’s good for everyone, young or old, to take a break.

“It goes across any age group ... we even see teenagers in our audience,” Tea said. “Sometimes they’ve been dragged there and they’ll come up to the autograph tables and say ‘I had no idea. I was prepared to just fall asleep and hate this whole thing.’ And then we’ll go to their area next year and they’ll bring friends of theirs. Music just has no boundaries.”

For tickets and more information, visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

## Good insects v. bad insects in your home garden

Club’s speaker to help residents recognize the difference

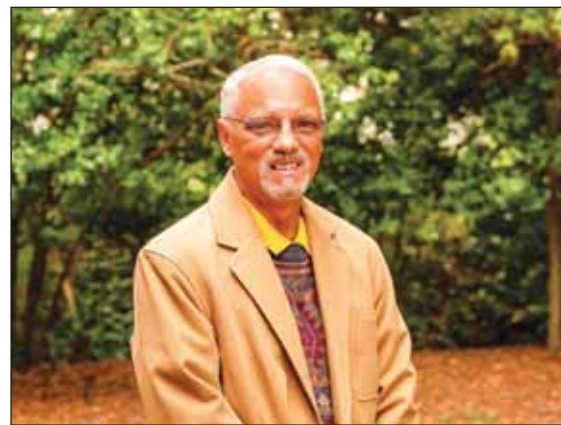
The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club’s upcoming meeting is set to get to the bottom of a question on the minds of many locals with a green thumb: “Good insects and bad ones — how do I tell the difference?”

Entomology expert Vernard Lewis, Ph.D., will be the guest speaker for the topic next Thursday (Oct. 13).

“There are at least 30,000 species of insects in California, and with new technology, that number will increase. So, just what is a pest, how do I know the difference, and what do I do?” club officials said, setting the stage for Lewis’ presentation.

“This presentation will start with the many wonders of insect diversity and beauty,” they added. “Next, how humans perceive and define ‘pest.’ Finally, using field-collected pictures and props, the difficulty in correctly identifying a pest and the damage they cause in and around our homes.”

Lewis, an emeritus faculty member at the University of California at Berkeley and a member of the National Pest Management Hall of Fame, will address those topics plus answer attendees’ pressing questions on their home insect problems.



LAVGC

Entomologist Vernard Lewis is the guest speaker at next week’s garden club meeting.

The Zoom-based meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 13). For more information, visit [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org). ■

—Jeremy Walsh



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### Vote Yes on school bond measures in Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol

Residents in three Tri-Valley communities find themselves with the opportunity to decide the future of their schools' facilities for decades to come on their Nov. 8 ballots.

Pleasanton voters will vote Yes or No on a proposed \$395 million bond, Measure I. In Livermore, Measure G asks for \$450 million in bonding capacity for the school district. And Measure J in Sunol is a \$10.9 million bond. Approval is required from 55% of ballots in each case.

As we debated these bond proposals internally, a common thread connected our conclusions.

First and foremost, the measures must aim to address demonstrated facility needs in the district. The set of projects should be imperative to complete for the education and safety of students in the near- and long-term — because these bond measures come with major property tax obligations that have real impacts on homeowners in their communities, especially in the current economic climate.

Second, it must be accepted that there is effectively no other option to accomplish any high-dollar school building project, let alone a group of them around a district, than a local bond measure given how school funding works in the state of California. And finally, we must trust that the district has the staff and policy framework in place to advance the projects efficiently and responsibly while remaining subject to true citizen oversight.

After consideration of pro and con arguments in the voter guides and comments from the associated Yes and No groups and other stakeholders, we see all three bond measures as hitting those vital marks.

We recommend Yes on Measure I in Pleasanton, Yes on Measure G in Livermore and Yes on Measure J in Sunol.

#### Measure I

Pleasanton Unified School District is asking voters to approve a new bond for the third time in seven years — \$270 million Measure II passed in November 2016 while \$323 million Measure M failed in March 2020.

Measure I, which would establish \$395 million bonding capacity for PUSD, would utilize a tax rate of \$100,000 of assessed valuation for Pleasanton property owners to pay off the resulting debt over time. It aims to become only the second school bond adopted by Pleasanton voters in 25 years.

Although we supported Measure M 2-1/2 years ago, we acknowledged at the time that nonspecific catch-all

language in the resolution (rather than naming actual site projects) could come back to bite the district. That misstep no doubt contributed to Measure M receiving only 52.40% Yes, short of the 55% threshold.

We're happy to see the Measure I proponents learned the lesson this time around.

Between the ballot materials and public messaging, there are clear commitments to direct bond-generated funding toward important projects such as new gym and theater buildings at both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools and new classrooms at Vintage Hills Elementary School, in addition to other infrastructure improvements.

These marquee projects are all ones the community should be able to get behind — and just a drop in the bucket in terms of the roughly \$1 billion facilities needs reported by PUSD.

The safety and maintenance concerns at the generations-old small gym and theater at Amador alone should be stark enough to inspire support to fix by any tangible means.

We concur with what we've heard from stakeholders during this campaign: the quality of some of these facilities are truly embarrassing for a district as standout academically as Pleasanton Unified. But more importantly, they present actual problems for staff and inhibit the student experience.

And we respectfully disagree with the No on I contention that this bond measure, at this \$395 million amount, is not necessary now.

It is important for the district to be able to lock in such a significant bonding capacity and move forward with these projects as soon as possible. Construction costs will only go up from here, as will the level of deterioration at the campuses, if Measure I is not passed this November.

Not to mention the fact local bond measures are the only mechanism K-12 districts really have to accomplish large construction projects, given the way the state education funding system functions, the large percentage of the general fund that goes toward employee salaries, benefits and pensions, and the inadequate rates for developer fees to actually address enrollment growth.

The district administration is also in a much more stable position than in March 2020, and especially so compared to 2017 and 2018 when superintendent and cabinet turnover contributed mightily to Measure II's slow rollout. Under Superintendent David Haglund and Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services, PUSD has the plans

in place to hit the ground running with Measure I projects.

And the top-priority items are substantial needs based on the current student and staff experience at these schools. Unlike what happened with the district's decision to call off a 10th elementary school for now, a major project in the 2016 bond measure that proved no longer necessary in the immediate due to COVID-19 pandemic effects on enrollment, the needs outlined in Measure I have been longstanding and won't be going away as populations may change.

Now is the time to move forward on these imperative projects. The \$395 million bond is the only way PUSD can accomplish that. Vote Yes on Measure I.

#### Measure G

Voters in the greater Livermore Valley face the question of approving a \$450 million bond, Measure G, to advance key projects from Phase 2 of the Facilities Master Plan for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. It aims to build on the work completed in Phase 1 under the \$245 million bond in 2016.

Centering around five large-scale school renovations, in addition to ongoing infrastructure upgrades districtwide, Measure G would cost approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for properties within LVJUSD boundaries annually for the duration of the bond debt repayment period.

We do note, with derision, that the ballot question casts the cost as "approximately 6 cents per \$100" — perhaps a way to save on the word count, or a cynical attempt to make the amounts look more favorable at a glance. Either way, no Livermore property taxpayer looks at a bill with hundreds of dollars in valuation; this rate should be on the ballot in a more recognizable, more realistic presentation.

But no matter how the tax rate is listed, the bond capacity of \$450 million is clearly a significant chunk that would go a long way toward bringing more and more Livermore facilities into the 21st century.

And necessary, we might add.

The Measure G project list is ambitious at a glance, but it wisely remains grounded in fulfilling actual academic-facility needs of students and staff in Livermore.

Of course the classroom and administration buildings at Granada High School and the classroom building with student union and courtyard at Livermore High stand out, but the bond would also achieve vital transformations at Marylin Avenue Elementary, Rancho Las Positas

Elementary and Junction Avenue TK-8 schools.

Those are in addition to key improvements to safety, security, technology and classroom furniture districtwide.

All of these goals are needed to truly enhance the modern student experience in LVJUSD, and like it or not, a school bond measure is the only tangible option available to local districts in California to accomplish even a single necessary campus renovation, let alone five.

Buoying our confidence in Measure G in 2022 is what we've seen from the district in recent years in completing key projects under the 2016 Measure J bond. Just look at the exquisite athletic facilities at Granada and Livermore highs, for example; it's like day and night when compared to neighboring Pleasanton.

We acknowledge the anti-Measure G arguments put forth by members of the Alameda County Taxpayers' Association and Alameda County Libertarian Party.

It's difficult to view them in any way other than just repeating vague criticisms and claims centered around their main contention -- they seem to just oppose all new tax increases effectively on principle, and will sling any and every argument or allegation at the wall hoping to bolster their biased perspective.

None of them stick with us.

Livermore schools must have the funding to continue evolving in the 2020s and beyond. Vote Yes on Measure G.

#### Measure J

Sunol Glen Unified School District has returned to the ballot proposing a \$10.9 million bond to pay for a range of construction upgrades to the K-8 campus on Main Street in Sunol, including safety improvements and better accessibility; roof, electrical, plumbing and HVAC repairs; cafeteria modernization; and a STEM lab for students.

Measure J calls for a tax rate of \$52.10 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation of properties within the SGUSD boundaries to cover the resulting bond debt. (We can't help but snicker, though, at the district absurdly using "5.2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation" in their ballot language; they should have been more upfront in framing the rate based around actual property values.)

This seeks to be the first bond measure for Sunol since 1999, the tax from which is beginning to wind down. SGUSD did try to pass \$9.5 million Measure O in March 2020, but it failed to clear the 55% threshold with 50.56% Yes, 49.44% No

— an even narrower margin when comparing the actual vote count of 227 to 222.

District leaders and stakeholders think they've found the solution to pass their bond this time around: take out the high-dollar multipurpose room proposed in 2020 in favor of comprehensive infrastructure improvements and STEM facilities in 2022.

The need is clear if you visit the 97-year-old campus in Sunol. Many maintenance projects are decades behind because of a lack of funding, and those detrimental conditions will only worsen from here.

Students and staff in SGUSD, and really the Sunol community at-large, deserve for their school facilities to be brought into the 21st century. All of the work outlined in the ballot statement and resolution are critical projects that will tangibly enhance the academic experience at the campus.

And as you've heard us say over and over in recent election cycles: A local bond measure is the only concrete way districts can ensure their facilities projects get funded and come to fruition.

We are not swayed by the anti-Measure J arguments put forth by the Alameda County Libertarian Party, which contend the district's project list is too vague. Ironically the group relies on primarily vague platitudes as the basis for those criticisms in the Sunol arguments — similar talking points we've seen from them in opposition statements for other school bond measures.

They also question whether all of the projects would justifiably add up to \$10 million-plus. We can't help but wonder if they're aware of how much deferred school maintenance projects cost for supplies and labor in 2022, not to mention the cafeteria and tech lab aspects.

Vote Yes on Measure J to better modernize Sunol Glen School, finally. ■

## LETTERS

### Nibert for District 1

I am supporting Jeff Nibert for City Council in District 1. Jeff is a person of integrity and is respectful and kind.

As I have seen him in action on the Planning Commission, he asks questions, researches the issues, listens to the community and makes thoughtful decisions. He has advocated for controlled growth

See **LETTERS** on Page 18

LETTERS

Continued from Page 17

and will fight back regarding unfunded housing mandates from the state. Jeff will protect our historic downtown and will advocate for continuing our award-winning academics in our schools.

Jeff believes in a safe community and truly cares about keeping Pleasanton a great place to live, work, and play. Jeff has lived in Pleasanton for 35 years and his three children attended Pleasanton schools. Jeff is not taking developer donations so he will be an independent voice on the council with major decisions.

Please join me in voting for Jeff Nibert for the Pleasanton City Council in District 1. Visit [www.voteJeffNibert.com](http://www.voteJeffNibert.com).

—Valerie Arkin,  
Vice mayor of Pleasanton

**Joel will be good for this environment**

Joel can listen. Joel can collaborate. And, Joel can help drive a sustainable Pleasanton. I've had

a chance to know Joel these past few months and found him to be a good listener who understands the needs of the community.

When he doesn't have all the details about a subject, he researches the topic, talks with knowledgeable people, and then makes an informed decision. We can't expect someone to be an expert in every subject but we do want someone who can listen then decide on what is best for Pleasanton. I have seen Joel do this.

I also like Joel's environmental focus. We have a serious issue with water, and we need someone who understands the technical aspects to solve this problem. Joel is the chair of the Committee on Energy and the Environment for Pleasanton and has a Ph.D. in engineering so has proved the ability to manage public groups and drive complex solutions to complex problems.

This was demonstrated by his involvement with the city's Climate Action Plan. He is now leading the committee through a city-wide installation of EV charging stations.

I am excited to see Joel on our City Council as he is someone who will add diversity of thought to Pleasanton and help solve our environmental issues. Vote Joel Liu for District 3.

—Bryan Gillette

**Vote Yes on Measure I**

Pleasanton isn't in danger of falling behind other communities in Alameda County when it comes to school facilities, we have already fallen behind. We're enjoying a reputation that our hard-working teachers and staff have preserved in crumbling facilities.

In 1978, Californians voted yes on the Jarvis Gann initiative — Prop 13. The result was a change to property tax assessments that allowed Californians, specifically longtime property owners, to be shielded from skyrocketing property values. It saves longtime property owners thousands of dollars each year.

One consequence of this initiative was that the funding for our schools was significantly reduced. Another consequence was that significant control over the allocation of property taxes was ceded to the state of California. This has led to underfunding of both curriculum and facilities maintenance in many communities, including Pleasanton.

Pleasanton voters have the opportunity to mitigate this negative impact on our community by redirecting a very small part of Prop 13 savings directly to our own children. Economic studies have shown that investments in school facilities generate a favorable rate of return for homeowners and other property owners. By voting Yes on Measure I to improve our school facilities, property owners are making a small investment

in the preservation of the value of their properties.

Vote Yes on Measure I because it is a good investment for property owners or vote Yes on Measure I because it is the right thing to do. In either case, vote Yes on Measure I!

—John Sensiba

**Reelect Julie Testa**

Bold! Vote for Julie Testa for reelection to the city of Pleasanton City Council for the 2022 November election because she is not afraid to stand up to do the right thing for our residents, which often requires her to make bold statements about complex issues.

Testa is a tireless advocate for maintaining local control; her bold stance on challenging state housing mandates and the RHNA numbers takes tenacity and courage. Testa voted yes to support SROs in Pleasanton, which as a PUSD trustee, I appreciate. Yet, she also understands that the city and the school district must continue to reevaluate and strengthen policies and processes to ensure the safety of youth and our residents is a top priority.

A fierce advocate for mental health awareness for our youth and adults, strategic, slow-growth housing planning, and concerns for potable water reuse are all other reasons to vote for Julie.

—Kelly Mokashi,  
PUSD trustee

**Utilize Stoneridge Mall for new schools**

I wanted to give you an option for a new poll or article for the newspaper.

Stoneridge Mall is declining, and we have two very large buildings where Sears and Nordstrom were located and are now empty. They would be perfect for two new schools and have enough square footage to support both classrooms as well as administration offices.

Additionally there is infrastructure already built-in for transportation with the Wheels bus going to the mall, and enough parking spots to support both students and parents and staff. Finally, the students will spend money at the food courts as well as stores, driving additional revenue for the mall.

I contacted the city planners and school board but have not heard anything back yet. It would be interesting to hear what the rest of the Pleasanton residents think of this idea.

Stop looking for new land and get creative with existing buildings that are underutilized.

We need schools more than movie theaters.

—Chelsey Langan

**Rodeo cruelties: State legislation needed**

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors recently voted to

outlaw the rodeo's non-sanctioned, brutal (and blatantly sexist) "wild cow milking contest." Kudos for that. Rodeo has almost nothing to do with ranching. It's mostly macho hype, an exercise in domination.

Note: The Hayward Area Recreation & Park District, which owns and operates the Rowell Ranch Rodeo grounds, two years ago abdicated their obligations to the animals and voted 4-1 not to make any changes in their animal welfare policy unless required to do so by either the Board of Supervisors or the State Legislature. They brought this on themselves.

Time for some much-needed statewide legislation. Most legislators decide in October/November upon which bills to carry in the next session.

Some possibilities: 1. Ban "wild cow milking"; 2. Ban "tie-down calf roping" (terrified babies); 3. Ban rodeo's use of flank straps; 4. Ban the Mexican charreada's brutal "steer tailing" event (already banned in Alameda and Contra Costa counties); 5. Amend state rodeo law, Penal Code 596.7, so as to require onsite veterinarians at all rodeos and charreadas. The current "on call vet" option isn't working, and animals are suffering accordingly.

—Eric Mills, coordinator, Action for Animals

**Marchand is the best choice for mayor**

I greatly appreciate our fellow citizens that volunteer to serve the community on the vital city advisory bodies that have a tremendous impact on our quality of life here in Livermore.

Service to the community in the form of participation on our various commissions and advisory groups is the typical path that a citizen follows to eventually make the decision to run for a seat on our elected city council.

As a result of years of serving the community on various commissions, members are usually well prepared to step into the critical role of a City Council member or mayor. John Marchand has been an elected public servant for many years and has what it takes to fulfill the role of mayor.

He has direct experience serving on numerous Tri-Valley and Bay Area boards and commissions on which he has built alliances that can advance Livermore's agenda. There are numerous challenges facing us here in Livermore and by having John Marchand's steady hand on the tiller we can keep our fine city moving forward.

—Barbara Brooks

**Vote for Nibert, Testa**

Predictably, the Pleasanton Weekly has endorsed City Council candidates who are most likely to allow excessive development in

Pleasanton — and Livermore.

The PW track record is to endorse candidates who support the PW's bias towards the interests of the Chamber of Commerce/developers (with the potential of billions of dollars of future construction). In the previous race for mayor the Pleasanton Weekly supported Jerry Pentin, who lost as mayor to Karla Brown by a large margin.

Pleasanton has a fragile slow-growth majority (3-2) on the City Council. We need Jeff Nibert (known for his knowledge of the issues, his fairness, and experience on the Planning Commission) and Julie Testa (proven record on the City Council of fighting to keep the small-town neighborhoods and preserve the historic downtown).

Both candidates will not take money from developers/builders. Both Nibert and Testa are longtime residents of Pleasanton, unlike candidate Dean Wallace (endorsed by the Pleasanton Weekly) who has been a resident for only one year.

Vote for Jeff Nibert and reelect Julie Testa to our City Council.

—George Reid

**Terry Wiley for DA**

Terry Wiley is a longtime veteran of the District Attorney's Office with a 93% conviction rate — a man who took on Oakland police corruption by prosecuting the "Riders" case. As an African American, he wants to root out racial bias with better training and supports the protection of Fourth Amendment rights for everyone. He's one of the good guys.

On the other hand, his opponent Pam Price is of the same ilk as Chesa Boudin and George Gascon. She wants to put violent criminals under 25 in "diversion" programs. Like Chesa, her pro-sanctuary city stance means not charging undocumented fentanyl and meth dealers because it puts them at risk for deportation. She wants to end gang enhancements as gang crimes grow and gangs target small business owners and do large-scale retail thefts.

She makes no mention of the recent spike in crimes against Asian and Pacific Islanders, while Wiley worked in the office that created a special response investigative unit for Asian hate crimes.

Price wants to create a department to second-guess rightful convictions and she's openly hostile towards police in a county where police and sheriff's offices can't attract enough candidates to fully staff up.

A pro-criminal, anti-police district attorney is the last thing Alameda County needs right now. With so many senseless murders, rising property crimes and spiking hate crimes against Asians, now's not the time to test these nonsensical theories that failed in San Francisco and are failing in LA and New York City. Vote for Terry!

—Frank Lynn

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### Amador girls' volleyball wins Dougherty Valley Tournament

Also: Middle school basketball is back in Pleasanton

The Amador Valley girls' volleyball team has been on a roll throughout the 2022 season and added a pair of wins last week.

Up first for the week was a 25-21, 25-3, 25-12 victory over Dublin. Katie O'Sullivan was the player of the game for the Dons with a dominating serving performance with 35 service points that included 14 aces. O'Sullivan added 7 digs.

Later in the week the Dons took down Carondelet 25-13, 25-17, 25-17. Sam Riter led the way with 11 digs, 3 aces, 3 kills and 33 assists.

The latest roll started a week earlier when Amador beat Granada in straight sets, followed by a riveting four-set win over Foothill.

Finally, Amador ended that week by taking the title of the Dougherty Valley Tournament, going 5-0 and beating Foothill once again — this time in the tournament final.

#### Foothill girls' volleyball

The Falcons recovered from a week where they dropped two matches against rival Amador, with a pair of wins.

First up was a 25-11, 25-10, 25-13 win over Granada. The highlights came from Tehya Williamson (14 service points, 10 digs), Sophia Burdick (6 kills, 1 block), and Maddy Snodgrass and Nisa Kincaid each with 4 kills.

Later in the week, the Falcons battled to a thrilling 19-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-23 win over Monte Vista.

The highlights in this win came from Paige Bennett (29 kills, 16 digs), Katie Salonga (49 assists, 13

digs), Kaycie Burdick (13 kills, 13 digs) and Lulu Hoenninger (6 kills, 4 blocks).

#### Middle school basketball is back

For the first time in what seems like years, Pleasanton Unified's middle schools — Harvest Park, Hart and Pleasanton Middle School — will be back in athletic action, facing off against each other.

Boys' basketball play kicks off next week as the three schools will send out teams from — sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Thanks to the hard work of Greg Dankwardt at Harvest Park, Willie Brown at Hart and Arly Hill at Pleasanton Middle, athletic competitions have become reality again.

There are two full courts at Harvest Park and Pleasanton Middle, with one court at Hart. The schedule for the month-long season is as follows:

- 6th grade: Monday (Oct. 10), Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday (Oct. 12), Pleasanton at Hart, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 17, Harvest Park at Hart, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 19, Harvest Park at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 24, Hart at Pleasanton; Oct. 25, Hart at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 26, Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 2, Pleasanton at Hart, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 3, Harvest Park at Hart.

- 7th grade: Tuesday (Oct. 11), Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Thursday (Oct. 13), Hart at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 18, Hart at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 20,

Harvest Park at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 25, Pleasanton at Hart, 4:45 p.m.; Oct. 26, Harvest Park at Hart, 4:45 p.m.; Oct. 27, Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 2, Hart at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 3, Hart at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.

- 8th grade: Tuesday (Oct. 11), Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Thursday (Oct. 13), Hart at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 18, Hart at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 20, Harvest Park at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 25, Pleasanton at Hart, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 26, Harvest Park at Hart, 3:30 p.m.; Oct. 27, Pleasanton at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 2, Hart at Pleasanton, 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 3, Hart at Harvest Park, 3:30 p.m.

Here is a chance to get out and see the future Amador Valley and Foothill stars while they are still in middle school.

There are two other sports set for the current season. Cross-country tryouts and practices begin this week, with the meets beginning the week of Oct. 17.

Girls' basketball starts the week of Oct. 24, with the games going off starting Nov. 14.

There are other sports set throughout the school year with golf, volleyball and track and field tentatively to take place in the spring.

The schools are also hoping to expand to face middle schools from other cities in the Tri-Valley. ■

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



KATIE MOE

The Amador Valley varsity girls' volleyball team celebrates after winning the Dougherty Valley Tournament.

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership for a Requester Publication is required and will be printed in the October 7, 2022 issue of this publication.

18. I certify that the information furnished on this form is true and complete. Peter Beller, Chief Financial Officer, Embarcadero Media

### Swim-a-thon raises \$10,000+ for Valley Humane Society

The Livermore Aquacowboys recently held a swim-a-thon and raised more than \$10,000 for the Valley Humane Society's Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center, a new facility set to open later this year to offer one-time, non-emergency procedures to shelter animals and community pets. The event was organized by coach Theresa Davis and her son Jack (shown here with a kitty and some of the donated funds). "We love animals and understand the companionship and comfort they provide to families," Jack Davis said. "We want all our local families to have access to pet care to keep their pets healthy and create more opportunities for shelter animals to find a home."



VHS

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

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.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

Public Hearing Notices  
Resolutions • Bid Notices  
Notices of Petition to Administer Estate  
Lien Sale • Trustee's Sale

**Deadline is Monday at noon.**

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

# Employment

## IT Technology Director, Data and Digital DevOps

Safeway Inc. hiring IT Technology Director, Data and Digital DevOps in Pleasanton, CA. 10% dom. & intl. travel. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: M. Haws.



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

## Product Security Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Product Security Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Perform security assessments of company products that may include vulnerability and risk assessments, threat analysis, and security code reviews to identify potential design and implementation vulnerabilities. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference Job#20637.1078

## Director, Global Operations & Corporate Planning

Omron Robotics & Safety Technologies, Inc. has an opening for Director, Global Operations & Corporate Planning in Pleasanton, CA. Prepare manufacturing & supply chain strategy to ensure growth, quality of products, & scalability at lower costs through competitive supply chain. Domestic & international travel required. Email resume to Sally.nguyen@omron.com & reference job #92.

## Systems Engineer II

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. has an opening in Pleasanton, California for a Systems Engineer II. Develop cost-effective, reliable, high-quality systems. Translate customer and business strategies into engineering design concepts and drive efficient product development with modern design control processes. To apply, email your resume to [jobapplicants@bio-rad.com](mailto:jobapplicants@bio-rad.com), with job ID indicated: (Job Ref.116.901.N).

## TECHNICAL LEAD, FULL-STACK ENGINEER

Revanche Therapeutics, Inc. (Pleasanton, CA) to help build & architect product platform; build systems that manage customers' sensitive data & holding the company to the highest standards for security & compliance; utilize GraphQL to form a schema team; enforce all mutations to be type-level to filter the GraphQL spec, & organize fields in a manner that follows GraphQL best practices; & provide guidance on new libraries in the React ecosystem. Master's in Computer Science or related & 2 yrs of exp. in the position offered or related. Must know (through academic training or work experience) Software development design; Implement scalable, fault-tolerant systems that are PCI compliant; Programming skills w/Java, Node.js & GraphQL; Relational databases & schema design; Automated testing, code quality & engineering best practices. Send resumes to [humanresources@revance.com](mailto:humanresources@revance.com)

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

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Halloween

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

**MUSEUM ON MAIN'S ANNUAL GHOST WALK** Tours begin at the museum and leave every thirty minutes. 6-8 p.m., Oct. 14-15; 21-22. The virtual Ghost Walk is 7:30 p.m., Oct. 29. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**GHOSTS OF DUBLIN** Brace for an evening of spooky fun and take a flashlight tour through the Pioneer Cemetery where Dublin's buried past comes alive. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Tickets \$15 for residents. 7:30-10:30 p.m., Oct. 21-22. Visit [dublin.ca.gov/1872/Ghosts-of-Dublin](http://dublin.ca.gov/1872/Ghosts-of-Dublin).

**PUMPKIN PATCH AND SPLASH** Bring family and friends to this Pool Pumpkin Patch and Splash event. Choose a pumpkin floating in the pool pumpkin patch, then carve or paint it. Registration fee includes entrance to the event and a pumpkin. 1-4 p.m., Oct. 22. Cost \$15. RSVP to 925-960-2400. Robert Livermore Aquatic Center.

**PUMPKIN CARVING SOCIAL** Carve a pumpkin with a fun and eerie group of Halloween co-carvers and wear a costume. Pumpkins, tools and refreshments included. 1:30-3:30 p.m., Oct. 28. \$22R/\$24/NR. Call 925-373-5700. Robert Livermore Community Center.

**HALLOWEEN BREW CRAWL** Stroll or crawl through haunted downtown Pleasanton and sip on craft brews and ciders while enjoying tasty bites along the way at over 25 downtown locations. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes. 4:30-8 p.m., Oct. 29. Visit [Tickets\\$50.visitpleasantondowntown.net](http://Tickets$50.visitpleasantondowntown.net).

**KIDZ TOWN HALLOWEEN HAYDAY** Livermore's tradition for families with children 5th grade and under includes a costume contest, Trick or Treating at participating downtown businesses and fun kids' games and activities. 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., Oct. 29. Stockmen's Park. Visit [livermoredowntown.com/events](http://livermoredowntown.com/events).

**HALLOWEEN PARADE AT DUBLIN LIBRARY** Pre-schoolers are invited to dress up in Halloween costumes for a non-spooky parade around the library where trick-or-treaters can collect small goodies. Free bags will be handed out for all participants. 11-11:45 a.m., Oct. 31. 200 Civic Plaza.

**G&M FARMS PUMPKIN PATCH** Harvest fun for all ages at G&M Farms Pumpkin Patch. Oct. 1-30, closed Mondays & Tuesdays. 487 East Airway Blvd. Visit [gmfarms.com](http://gmfarms.com).

**JOAN'S PUMPKIN PATCH** Joan's Farm and Pumpkin Patch officers a unique family experience in the



COURTESY LVA

## Dancing the night away

"A girl-power infused tap extravaganza" — that's how Livermore Valley Arts officials describe the dance show coming to the Bankhead Theater next week. Syncopated Ladies is a Los Angeles-based female tap dance troupe created by Emmy-nominated dancer and choreographer Chloe Arnold, protege of Debbie Allen. In addition to viral social media videos with views in the 100 millions, the group has worked with Beyoncé, competed on "So You Think You Can Dance" and performed their full-length concert at sold-out venues. Their show arrives in Livermore on Wednesday (Oct. 12) at 7:30 p.m. Visit [LivermoreArts.org](http://LivermoreArts.org) for tickets and other information.

Livermore countryside. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Oct. 1-30 Closed Mondays. 4351 Mines Road. Visit [joansfarm.com](http://joansfarm.com).

performing and narrating fairy tales and fables for young children. 3-4 p.m., Oct. 8. Dublin Library.

**BANKHEAD PRESENTS THE LETTERMEN** For more than 50 years The Lettermen have kept the meaning of harmony alive with their soft, romantic, harmonic blend of music which is as popular with their fans today as it was in 1961 when they recorded their first hit. 8 p.m., Oct. 14. Tickets \$70. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**PHONING IT IN-STARRING JOE KLOCEK** Joe Klocek's game show, Get It!? is becoming the next big thing. 8 p.m., Oct. 15. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS WINDSYNC** This dynamic wind quintet performs works from the traditional wind repertoire arrangements of other classic pieces and champions new compositions. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 15. Tickets \$55. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

**DLUX PUPPETS ALICE IN WONDERLAND** DLUX Puppets performs with remarkable puppetry and clever digital scenery the classic tale of Alice's journey in a fun musical adaptation for all ages. 3 p.m., Oct. 16. Tickets \$10-\$20. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

## Exhibits

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

## Entertainment

**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 East Coast premier in New York's Theater District performing songs from the musical theater genre, jazz standards and signature and newly released original music. 8 p.m., Oct. 7. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**GIRLS' NIGHT OUT** An evening of music and comedy featuring award winning theatre star Tielle Baker with Joe Simiele at Piano and S.F. Comedy Competition finalist Gina Stahl-Haven. 8 p.m., Oct. 8. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.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. 8-9 at the Bankhead Theater. Visit [livermorevalleyopera.com](http://livermorevalleyopera.com).

**TRI-VALLEY SYMPHONICS IN CONCERT** Symphonics is a high school musical storytelling group who visits libraries and schools throughout the Bay Area

**PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE** The Pleasanton Art League is hosting their last general meeting of the year with guest artist Yvette Head demonstrating her personal acrylic painting techniques developed over the years and sharing the abstract botanical style used in her work. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 10. This event is free and open to the public. Pleasanton Cultural Arts Building.

**THE BEAUTY OF LIFE'S JOURNEY** 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).

**MODERN EXPRESSIONISM EXHIBIT AT THE BANKHEAD** "Shape, Form, and Color: Modern Expressionism" is an exhibit around the depth and expanse of Surrealism featuring works by Alexander Calder and Joan Miro. Thursday-Sundays, 1-5 p.m., through Dec. 4.

## Talks

**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.

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING** "Good insects and bad ones: how do I tell the Difference?" is the topic of the next Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club presentation by Vernard Lewis, PhD., BCE, Emeritus UC Berkeley. 7 p.m., Oct. 13. Visit [lavgc.org](http://lavgc.org).

**ROSE GOTTEMOELLER: NUCLEAR WEAPONS AFTER UKRAINE** The Rae Dorough Speaker Series presents this presentation with Rose Gottemoeller, chief U.S. negotiator of the New START Treaty. Gottemoeller will talk about past success during crises and lay out her diplomatic roadmap for the future of nuclear arms control. 7:30 p.m., Oct. 13. Tickets \$10-\$40. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). Bankhead Theater.

**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).

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS: MOROCCO SAHARA ODYSSEY** John Didlake and Dennis Gately will present,

Morocco Sahara Odyssey, a slideshow of their 2017 15-day tour of Morocco with photos highlighting the country's beautiful landscapes and unique culture. 1:30 p.m., Oct. 13. The Livermore Civic Center Library.

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS** Glenda Carroll presents "How the SF Bay Area Became a Character in the Trisha Carson Mysteries" at the next Tri-Valley Writers meeting. Learn how to make the setting play a key role in stories. RSVP by Oct. 14 at [reservations@trivalleywriters.org](mailto:reservations@trivalleywriters.org). Event is 2 p.m., Oct. 15 at Four Points by Sheraton.

## Festivals & Fairs

**WEEKENDS ON MAIN** Every first weekend of the month enjoy street closures for roaming historical downtown Pleasanton, events and outdoor dining. Oct. 7-9. Visit [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net).

**ART WALK LIVERMORE** Over 200 artists will display their works on sidewalks, plazas, parks and galleries. Meet the artists and buy one-of-a-kind, original handmade treasures. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 8. Bankhead Plaza, McLeod St., Stockman's Park and Livermorium Park.

**DUBLIN HARVEST FAIR** 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

## PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

### Meet Lola

Lola is a volunteer favorite at the East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. She is super sweet, smart and loves to play fetch. She is 9 months old and currently weighs 50 pounds. She was surrendered when her previous family had to move and weren't able to take her. To learn more about adopting Lola, contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue via [tvar.org](http://tvar.org).

Century. 10 a.m to 2 p.m., Oct. 8. Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, 6600 Donlon Way.

**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).

**AIA DUSSERA DIWALI DHAMAKA** Dussera Diwali Dhaka Celebrates Diwali (Festival of Lights) with a Fireworks Display, Ravan Dahan and vendor booths featuring arts, crafts and clothing and Bollywood

dances. 12-11 p.m., Oct. 15. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Government

**PLEASANTON PLANNING COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is 7 p.m., Oct. 12. Visit [cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov).

**PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** Regular Board meetings of the Pleasanton Unified School District are scheduled the second and fourth Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Meetings of the Board are hybrid, in person and zoom. The next meeting is 6 p.m., Oct. 13. Visit [pleasantonusd.net](http://pleasantonusd.net).

Pleasanton Weekly

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## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Aug. 1-12 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and Aug. 22-Sept. 2 for San Ramon.

### Pleasanton

- 7750 Canyon Meadow Circle #B** D. Borkar to M. Cheng for \$670,000
- 4531 Carver Court** D. & E. Bay to M. & A. Mishra for \$1,610,000
- 4685 Del Valle Parkway** S. & J. Compton to Jayakar Family Trust for \$1,600,000
- 4285 Diavila Avenue** S. Yakovenko to Gupta Family Trust for \$1,600,000
- 1909 Fiorio Circle** Mahajan Living Trust to A. & K. Khambholja for \$1,270,000
- 4150 Francisco Street** Morton Trust to Siddannanavara Family Trust for \$1,425,000
- 2521 Glen Isle Avenue** Ward Trust to H. & S. Patle for \$1,360,000
- 973 Roselma Place** P. Spahr to S. & D. Lobo for \$1,705,000
- 2447 Via De Los Milagros** Hyden Living Trust to A. & D. Gulla for \$2,150,000
- 3847 Vineyard Avenue #G** T. Holubowsky to J. Dorsey for \$450,000
- 2167 Alexander Way** D. Morales to M. & S. Thomas for \$1,290,000
- 2667 Chocolate Street** T. Ono to P. & D. Mohan for \$1,500,000
- 676 Concord Place** H. Lo to M. & M. Everton for \$700,000
- 1832 Cortez Court** Fernandes Family Trust to N. Dave for \$1,282,000
- 1004 Crellin Road** Nevearez Trust to S. & R. Vinayak for \$1,435,000
- 2402 Crestline Road** Lortz Living Trust to C. Ng for \$1,280,000

- 4362 Diavila Avenue** A. & E. Amiri to S. & M. Jayanna for \$1,410,000
- 2409 Heatherlark Circle** D. Belavitch to S. & S. Chang for \$850,000
- 6804 Inglewood Court** Babbes Trust to T. & F. Zhang for \$1,539,000
- 3614 West Las Positas Boulevard** Stroth Family Trust to S. & M. Patel for \$1,500,000
- 3376 Ledgestone Court** Choudhary Trust to M. & S. Nangia for \$3,325,000
- 985 Riesling Drive** D. & S. Perelli-Minetti to Mederos Trust for \$1,200,000
- 6283 Roslin Court** S. & P. Ratnakar to Y. & D. Zhang for \$1,350,000
- 2240 Segundo Court #2** N. Kawadri to Y. & G. Carlucci for \$560,000
- 3364 Smoketree Commons Drive #D** Leung Family Trust to V. & A. Sattiraju for \$649,000
- 1123 Tiffany Lane** K. & J. Graves to Lutz Living Trust for \$1,150,000
- 6131 Via De Los Cerros** Minaki Trust to F. & S. Wang for \$1,728,000
- 1797 Via Di Salerno** Kamiya Trust to R. & G. Singh for \$3,750,000

### Livermore

- 119 Cameo Drive** Roberts Trust to E. & G. Filippini for \$1,100,000
- 2623 Chateau Way** Barton Family Trust to S. & C. Barker for \$1,439,000
- 342 Chris Common #101** A. Petersen to Olds Trust for \$435,000
- 707 Curlew Road** Schnur Family Trust to L. & J. Brick for \$1,125,000
- 1565 De Leon Way** M. & D. Wright to S. & P. Patil for \$1,320,000
- 333 Elvira Street** C. & J. Creighton to A. & A. Beeson for \$1,120,000

- 295 Fennel Way** N. Saifulrahman to A. & B. Pontes for \$1,060,000
- 968 Lambaren Avenue** D. & D. Triplett to H. & R. Akhter for \$775,000
- 2256 Lawson Circle** Sjoberg Trust to T. & J. Breon for \$1,600,000
- 196 Lloyd Street** Lewis Trust to M. & T. Turpel for \$1,050,000
- 2379 Norwood Road** Flores Trust to Av Homes LLC for \$1,075,000
- 2892 Patcham Common** A. & A. Beeson to S. Sabetan for \$900,000
- 1355 Rebecca Drive** Luis Living Trust to J. & B. Fujio for \$1,375,000
- 5252 Scenic Avenue** R. & K. Sanck to B. & C. Barnes for \$990,000
- 215 Silverstone Common** Dement Trust to P. & Y. Tekena for \$1,320,000
- 466 Stanford Court** Anderson Trust to H. & J. Gabrio for \$1,050,000
- 2701 Vernazza Drive** Robinson Family Trust to C. & A. Leon for \$2,050,000
- 226 Vista Street** L. & M. Lenchanko to L. Cailles for \$920,000
- 759 Wagoner Drive** Adams Living Trust to U. & S. Ghormade for \$905,000
- 1487 Aster Lane** J. & A. Purl to L. & X. Lin for \$1,275,000
- 1359 Boxwood Court** M. & R. Tolentino to S. & A. Thakur for \$1,199,000
- 2403 Decker Lane** Moy Family Trust to K. & J. Hernandez for \$1,475,000
- 210 Fennel Way** Diubaldo Family Trust to F. & W. Yang for \$1,150,000
- 271 Fennel Way** H. Jang to C. Stockett for \$1,010,000
- 867 Grace Street** Jeanne Trust to T. & N. Falk for \$850,000

- 207 Heligan Lane #11** A. Sample to Homelight Real Estate Li LLC for \$750,500
- 1122 Innsbruck Street** Martin Trust to J. & M. Palacio for \$1,200,000
- 4844 Maureen Circle** Felicitas Family Trust to Vital Family Trust for \$1,350,000
- 2571 Merlot Lane** Mihalka Living Trust to D. & T. Clark for \$2,000,000
- 1001 Murrieta Boulevard #116** J. Lamee to M. Ham for \$349,000
- 5922 Running Hills Avenue** C. Gonzalez to D. & K. Desai for \$1,025,000
- 3809 Stanford Way** S. & J. Butterworth to C. Cuppolett for \$900,000
- 2550 Superior Drive** Solbeck Family Trust to Cobb Living Trust for \$1,895,000
- 138 Teasel Common** B. Louka to S. & V. Gupta for \$970,000
- 892 Turino Street** E. & D. Managan to Harcombe Family Trust for \$1,665,000
- 926 Ventura Avenue** 926 Ventura Avenue LLC to R. Raguindin for \$880,000

### Dublin

- 3871 Camino Loop** F. Lim to Li Trust for \$1,045,000
- 8011 Crossridge Road** M. Ureta to N. & N. Yoritate for \$1,725,000
- 5501 De Marcus Boulevard #617** V. Turkar to D. & D. Diaz for \$644,000

Source: California REsource

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



**\$88M**  
volume in 2021  
**67**  
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**1845 Reliez Valley Road, Lafayette** Two houses on one lot...Situated on almost one-acre lot. Main house offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths plus a guest house (studio and full bath) Listed at \$1,848,888. Call Farida at 925.784.2524 for details or to request a showing.



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**6810 Langmuir Lane, Dublin**  
4 BD/2 BA, 1,305sf  
Solar owned, large yard, fruit trees.  
Priced to sell at \$999,999 -  
Call Farida at 925.784.2524 for  
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**4092 Moselle Court, Pleasanton**  
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## A Note From Alexis Venema...

**"What it takes to be an exceptional real estate agent is relationships, connections and understanding of your community."**

I'm fortunate - my career has always been relationship based. I was born and raised in Pleasanton. I have gone through the wonderful Pleasanton school system, participated in sports throughout my life, and volunteer within my community. I have nurtured many friendships over the years, staying in touch. My best niche in Pleasanton is my relationship with my friends' parents. They have raised their families in Pleasanton and are now ready for their next phase of life. Referrals from people I know is the highest compliment. Feedback I receive is that I am a great listener, authentic, share facts and knowledge, innovative, and work tirelessly for my clients.

As an industry expert and market leader, I believe personalized service is the greatest benefit I and my team can provide to our clients. Whether we are representing a buyer or a seller, we are dedicated to making real estate a custom fit from the moment we start marketing each home to the closing table. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the difference in our process, our results and our expertise.

Reach out anytime:  
Alexis Venema  
925.963.5446

**I have participated in multiple sales for both buyers and sellers totaling \$86 Million+ in 2020-2022!**



### 2974 Sorano Court, Ruby Hill Sold for \$3,930,000

💕 We recently sold our home of 20 years and selected Venema Homes. Both Alexis and Liz were easy to work with and had a great understanding of the market. One of the key benefits of working with Venema Homes is that they have a complete team that actively supports every step of the process from preparation to close. They outlined a plan which we followed closely, trusting their judgement. The team was on top of every element and when challenges arose, they were resolved quickly and painlessly. The result was great - 4 offers over asking price in 4 days and closure within a month. We had a great experience and would highly recommend Venema Homes. 💕

John and Diane, Sorano Sellers

