

Pleasanton Weekly

Housing Element
adoption expedited

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Welcome to *what's next* in cardiovascular care.

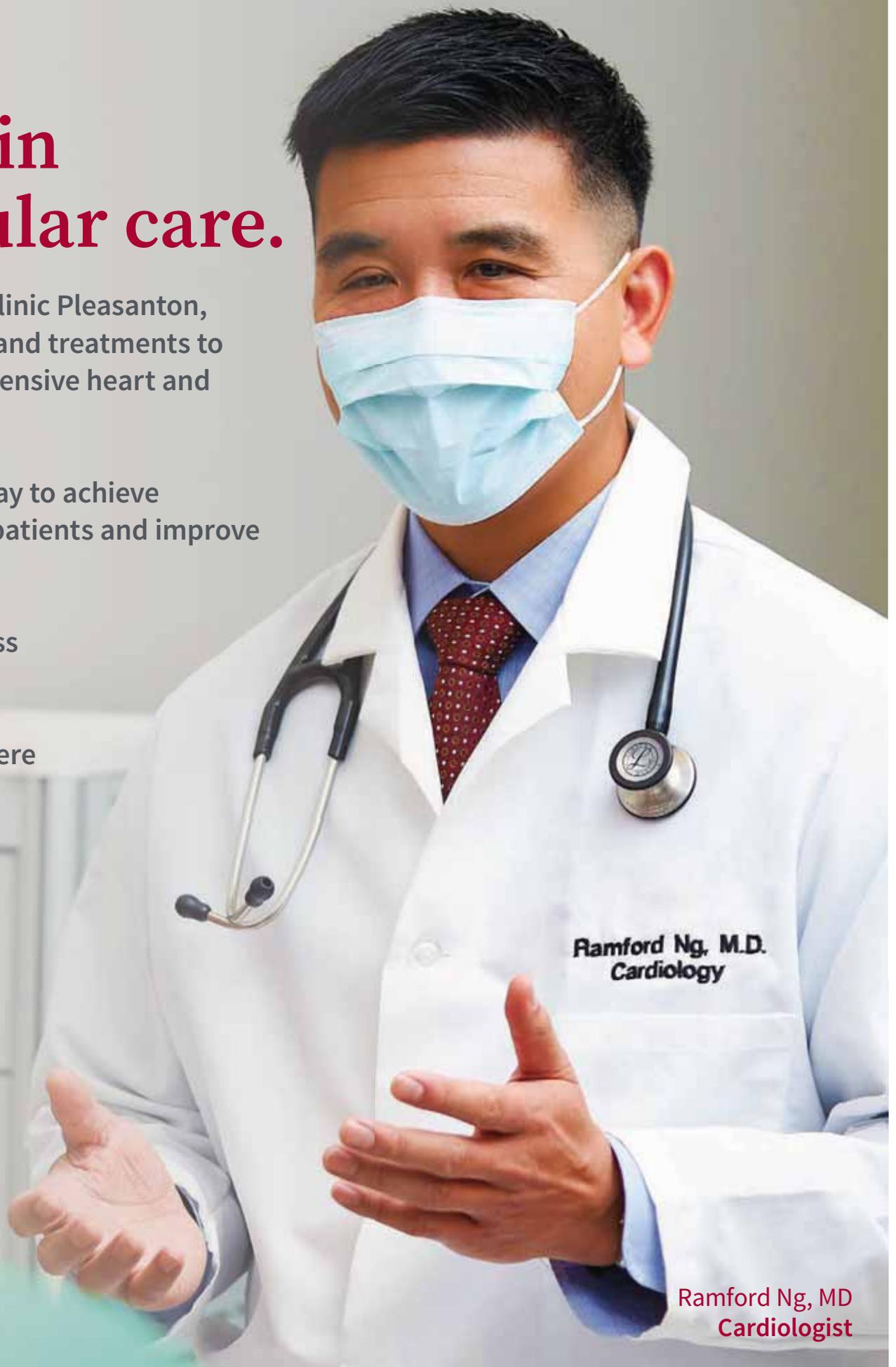
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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Questionable actions

Questionable actions at recent municipal meetings might have gone unnoticed if not for astute and curious readers.

First, the Pleasanton City Council had a salary and health benefits increase as part of a "consent calendar."

The council's agenda says, "Items listed on the consent calendar are considered routine in nature and may be enacted by one motion." In other words, there might be a dozen items and all are voted on at once. Items that often fall in consent calendars are authorization to pay vendors and personnel changes -- things we rely on staff to make happen but still require council approval.

Vice mayor Valerie Arkin wanted to continue two items concerning council pay and health benefits from the Oct. 18 consent agenda to a meeting after the Nov. 8 election "so we don't politicize that more than we need to," she said.

Mayor Karla Brown and councilmember Julie Testa didn't have any concern about postponing a vote. Councilmembers Kathy Narum and Jack Balch questioned waiting.

It turns out that voting that night, waiting until after the election or even January was a moot point, though. Arkin apparently thought anything done before January would be effective in January.

However, as city attorney Dan Sodergren told Arkin, "The sitting council can't set their own salaries" and nothing concerning pay for councilmembers would take effect until December 2024.

The item was continued to the Nov. 1 meeting, and the discussion was extremely tense. I won't rehash the statements made by Brown, nor will I delve into the rude, demeaning way she spoke to Balch (not the first time).

To me, putting a pay raise on a consent calendar, which doesn't get much -- if any -- public scrutiny, isn't appropriate and smacks of, well, sneakiness.

The second example of a questionable action involves the San Ramon Planning Department staff and the city's planning commission.

City staff sent a letter on Oct. 17 to the applicant of the proposed Marketplace development, Southern California-based TRC Retail, concerning the development of 40 single-family condos and four junior accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The letter stated "there are no identified

inconsistencies with objective standards or criteria..."

Planning Commissioner Eric Wallis said the staff did not follow the planning commission's direction and did not have the authority to send a letter that, under the Housing Accountability law, basically waived the rights of the city to deny the project and ask for revisions.

"At the (Oct. 4) hearing, it was discussed that this project did not comply with our city General Plan for the issue of dwelling units per acre density or, because the way it was set up, it was not a mixed use project as described in our zoning ordinance," Wallis said.

"Staff was given really clear directions that a letter was to be written to the applicant identifying these deficiencies in the project to allow the applicant to respond about those deficiencies but retain our city's rights to consider the project in light of those deficiencies," he continued. "That was specifically said at the meeting."

"You can get further information," a city attorney's office staff member said, "but you can't use (those issues) as a basis for denying the project."

In other words, the letter sent by staff, with the blessing of staff city attorney Martin Lysons, has waived the city's rights to deny the Marketplace project and ask for revisions.

"At its Oct. 4 meeting, the commission raised concerns with aspects of the project design as well as potential consistency with certain General Plan policies," Debbie Chamberlain, the city's Community Development Director, told me. "The commission's General Plan comments were not objective under the SB 330 definition, and as such did not form a proper basis for an inconsistency determination."

"Our intent was to preserve our right to raise these issues and potentially deny the application based on what we all felt were objective (standards)," said Gary Alpert, chair of the Planning Commission. "And now that the letter was written the way it was ... we've lost that right."

San Ramon city staff "kneecapped" the planning commission and waived the city's rights to deny the project or even ask for revisions.

It doesn't seem fair to residents and disrespectful to the Planning Commissioners. But I'd bet the owners and managers of Marketplace Center and Bishop Ranch are happy. ■

About the Cover

The Ballistic United/Get On The Bus team competed in the recent League America Festival. Pleasanton resident Tim Ryerson, GM of Ballistic United, founded "Get on the Bus" to give children who might not be able to the chance to play soccer while also learning valuable life skills. Photo courtesy Ballistic United. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXIII, Number 45

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What were you most grateful for this past Thanksgiving?



Dianne Fuentes
Public relations

I'm most grateful for finally having reached an age and stage of my life where I feel totally comfortable in my own skin, and not at all self-conscious, walking into a crowded room full of strangers. I just expect them all to like me. And most often they do. It's such a liberating feeling.



Pushparaj Shanmugam
Engineer

My family, of course, which is my most tremendous source of joy. And aside from that, having a great relationship with my company's (Intuit's) founder, Scott Cook.



Nishant Swaroop
Product manager

I'm so grateful to have a steady, stable job during these uncertain times. It is such a relief to know I can financially support myself, meet my needs, and live my normal life, notwithstanding the pandemic and all of the inflation it has caused, and the negative consequences it has had upon so many others.



Deepak Kumar
Product manager

I am most grateful for family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and anyone else who has made a positive contribution to my life. I've learned and benefitted so much from all of them and am so happy to be able to pass all of that knowledge and good will on to my children.



Riley Eadson
Barback

I'm most grateful for my middle finger. I almost lost it recently when I was bitten by a dog. As that great song goes, "You often don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." I totally get that now. Really.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Wreaths for vets

The effort is underway for Wreaths Across Pleasanton, which aims later this month to place holiday wreaths at the burial place of every military veteran interred at Pioneer Cemetery on Sunol Boulevard — in line with the program happening at more than 1,000 locations nationwide.

Local organizers are recruiting volunteers to help assemble the estimated 600 wreaths and boughs, using tree cutting donated by area Christmas tree lots, between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday (Dec. 11) in Centennial Park at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Volunteers can help for just an hour or two, or stay the whole time until the project is done.

Wreath placement day is set for Dec. 17 starting at 10 a.m., with the ceremony beginning at noon; volunteers are also needed for that day. To learn more, visit www.wreathscrosspleasanton.org.

New dispatcher

The Pleasanton Police Department recently welcomed Cindy Tran as its newest police dispatcher.

“I’ve seen how individuals in law enforcement can have a positive influence on others,” Tran said, “and I want to help give back to the community.”

An alum of Yerba Buena High School in San Jose and California State University Stanislaus, Tran had worked for the San Leandro Police Department since 2019. She is a self-proclaimed foodie and in her spare time, she enjoys trying new restaurants with her family.

\$1 million mark

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, based in the Tri-Valley, recently celebrated achieving the milestone of distributing more than \$1 million in grants to cancer patients in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The nonprofit founded in 2008 provides funds to help cancer patients access complementary therapies to alleviate side effects of chemotherapy and radiation, such as acupuncture, acupressure, guided/visual imagery, deep breathing meditation and therapeutic massage.

The \$1 million milestone represents 2,000 grants, or approximately 14,000 sessions of healing therapies for the foundation’s beneficiaries.

The grants are available to anyone residing in Alameda or Contra Costa counties who has undergone chemotherapy or radiation for cancer within the past 18 months, regardless of age, gender, household income, type of cancer or stage of cancer. To learn more, visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org. ■

‘Emerging concern’: Council to expedite Housing Element adoption

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council and city staff have committed themselves to an aggressive December meeting schedule in order to adopt the city’s new Housing Element by the statutory deadline of Jan. 31.

Staff told the council at the Nov. 15 meeting that while the original plan was to make use of the 120-day grace period — as it is allowed per state law — and adopt the Housing Element by April of next year, there are now concerns that doing so could have certain consequences.

“The reason for the scheduled

amendments are principally about some recent developments that have occurred in Southern California and an emerging concern ... about the so-called ‘builder’s remedy,’” Pleasanton community development director Ellen Clark said.

Clark said the builder’s remedy is a longstanding provision of the Housing Accountability Act that has been seldomly used since it went into effect in 1990 because “it was so confusingly written that no developer ever really wanted to rely on it.”

She said the provision essentially states that when a city doesn’t have a certified Housing Element,

developers can use that to submit project applications. Such a situation could exist on paper for cities who opt to use the grace period because technically their 2023-31 Housing Element would not be adopted as of Jan. 31.

“The fact that you are consistent with the General Plan, with the zoning, ceases to matter,” Clark said. “So it potentially gives developers a fairly broad hand to submit applications, whether or not they actually comply with the zoning or the General Plan that we might have in place. The window for that is not having an adopted compliant

Housing Element in place.”

She noted that some cities in Southern California whose Housing Element had not been adopted within the requisite timeframe and have seen numerous project applications being submitted under the builder’s remedy are challenging those applications in court.

But nonetheless, she said that Pleasanton and the other neighboring cities in the Bay Area that were intending to use the grace period are all shifting gears to adopt their Housing Elements sooner rather than later.

See HOUSING on Page 10



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fire Station No. 3 on Santa Rita Road was rebuilt to modernize the facility. The fire station is now more safe and efficient for firefighters and has features that will help reduce response times.

Rebuilt Fire Station No. 3 helps reflect modern firefighter workforce

Faster opening garage doors and new fuel station to quicken response times

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

When Aaron Lacey, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department deputy chief of administration, looked back on his time working at the recently rebuilt Fire Station No. 3, one of his first comments was on the prison-like showers.

“It was the gym, then it was a shower in the restrooms,” he said. “It was like a big gang shower ... it did not meet the modern 21st century fire service.”

But that all changed as city officials and roughly 80 Pleasanton

residents celebrated the completion of the station’s rebuild on Nov. 18. The project included demolishing the original one-story building, located on 3200 Santa Rita Road, and creating a new two-story building with modern firefighter tools and amenities, gender neutral bathrooms and private dorm rooms.

“The former fire station had some challenges and we wanted to ensure health and safety for our firefighter personnel, but also provide components and

essential upgrades that are required for a fire station to operate successfully,” Mayor Karla Brown told the crowd of residents and staff who gathered inside the main garage area of the station.

According to the city, staff identified the need to replace the old station in 2016 after a study reported “deteriorating physical condition of the building as well as its inability to deliver services expected of a modern fire department.”

See FIRE STATION on Page 9

Price set to become first Black Alameda DA

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Civil rights attorney Pamela Price will be sworn in as the first Black district attorney in Alameda County on Jan. 3 following a close election race that first had her trailing behind her challenger and longtime county prosecutor Terry Wiley.

Price, who will be only the second woman after outgoing DA Nancy O’Malley to helm the office, defeated Wiley, the county’s chief deputy DA, by more than 6% of the vote, according to the latest election numbers from the county.

Price will also serve as the county’s DA for six years instead of four following the passage of California Assembly Bill 759, which was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in September.

“This is a significant moment in Alameda County’s history. The voters have ushered in change in the county sheriff’s office and now the DA’s office,” Price said in the news release from her campaign. “The next six years of my term will be full of meaningful changes to reform the criminal justice system.”

Price was referring to change in the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office because Cmdr. Yesenia Sanchez defeated the incumbent



Pamela Price

See PRICE on Page 10



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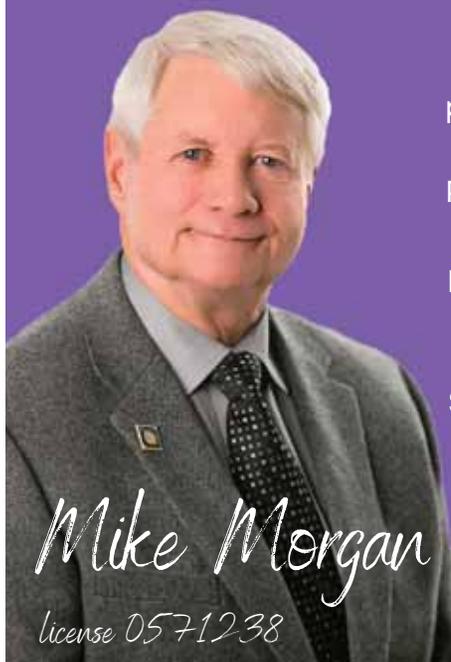
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Sunol residents elect new school trustees, pass \$10.9 million bond

Oversight for bond spending will be a key priority for new board members

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Big changes are coming to the Sunol Glen Unified School District after Sunolians not only voted in a mostly new Board of Trustees, but also passed a \$10.9 million general obligation bond that will help restore the small town's only school.

Sunol residents had to choose three candidates this election cycle to fill all three positions in the school board — two full-term seats and one short-term.

Current Trustee Ryan Jergensen, the only incumbent running, will be returning as one of the full-term trustees after receiving 40.08% (287 votes), according to the Nov. 21 election results report from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office — the final major tally update expected from the county.

The other two sitting trustees, Liz Monti-Hall and Mike Picard, did not seek reelection.

Jergensen will be joined on the dais by Linda Hurley, a 39-year Sunol resident and former teacher and nurse, and corporate attorney Peter "Ted" Romo, husband of former Trustee Denise Kent-Romo, who resigned one year into her second full term because of health issues.

"I am pleased with the results of the election this year," Jergensen said. "We will have three board members who are going to work together to support the students at Sunol Glen — all of the students! Every child deserves to be encouraged and taught in a safe and supportive environment."

Jergensen, a father of five, moved from Fremont to Sunol back in 2016 and said that because four of his children currently attend the TK-8 district's lone school, he has a vested interest in contributing to make any positive difference at the school.

"The students are my primary focus," he said. "I will continue to strive to support the good work of the great team that we have working and volunteering in the school. They carry a great weight and do



Linda Hurley



Ryan Jergensen



Peter Romo

invaluable work. I will endeavor to support and represent all those living, working, and who are generally a part of this unique community regardless of who they voted for."

Jergensen was appointed by the district in 2021 to replace Kent-Romo, who served from 2016 to 2021.

According to the registrar of voters, because of timing and standards policies, Jergensen was not allowed to complete the remaining three years on the former trustee's term on short-term appointment, which is why the seat was on the ballot separately this November.

Peter "Ted" Romo, who moved to Sunol a little over 10 years ago with his wife and is currently working as a corporate attorney at Apple, received 31.98% (229 votes).

With 25 years of legal experience, his wife being a previous board member and two children who attended Sunol Glen School, Romo said he has the familiarity and experience needed for the job.

He said that similar to Jergensen, he was pleased with the outcome of the election, but was also excited about Measure J passing as well.

Measure J is the \$10.9 million general obligation bond that the district has placed on the Nov. 8 ballot. The bond passed with 59.62% (316 votes) of Sunol residents voting in favor and 40.38% (214 votes) of residents voting against it.

With Sunol being a small town, the number of "No" votes that were needed to keep the bond passing was 24.

The bond will utilize a tax rate

of \$52.10 per \$100,000 of assessed value for property owners to fund a priority list of projects. The district 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.

"I am pleased that a majority of the community has voted to pledge support to repairing and updating the aging facilities to keep a safe, modernized historical school in good repair," Jergensen said. "With Measure J we can preserve this gem of our community. Having safe, comfortable facilities does affect the learning environment and confidence of our students."

The school 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 problems like wood rot, necessary seismic updates and outdated electrical and plumbing systems.

"It is great to see that the community has rallied behind the Sunol Glen School and is taking an active role in supporting its continued excellence into the future," Romo said. "Mike Picard, Ryan Jergensen and Molly Barnes all deserve tremendous credit and thanks for all their hard work in getting the word out on the need for the bond and for getting it across the finish line. I look forward to working with each of them, and engaging with the Sunol community, in making a great school even better."

Business owner James Lowder was the third candidate for the full-term seat but fell short by a slim margin of 30 votes as he finished with 27.93% (200 votes).

Lowder did not want to provide

See **SUNOL** on Page 9

Caltrans to begin overnight shutdowns for parts of I-680 in Tri-Valley

Caltrans is scheduled to close a portion of northbound Interstate 680 overnight beginning in December, the agency announced.

Interstate 680 will be closed overnight from the I-680/Highway 84 junction to the Sunol Boulevard exit in Alameda County.

All lanes of northbound I-680 will be closed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday, December through April.

Caltrans said the work is part of a "major" improvement project

that will repave I-680 and replace entire sections of the roadway. The work will take place on I-680 between Koopman Road in Sunol and Acosta Boulevard in San Ramon.

California Highway Patrol officers will be on hand to guide motorists, along with advisory signs.

Several detours will be in place. Motorists coming from the South Bay will be advised to take I-880/Highway 238/I-580 instead of I-680.

For closures between the Koopman Road and Sunol

Boulevard interchanges, take the Paloma Way exit on I-680, then take Pleasanton Sunol Road and re-enter northbound I-680 at Sunol Boulevard.

For closures between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue, take the Sunol exit on I-680, then take Valley Avenue to Bernal Avenue and re-enter the freeway at Bernal Avenue.

Motorists can also take Highway 84 to I-580. ■

— Bay City News

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DSRSD incumbents retain seats

By NICOLE GONZALES

The incumbents running to retain their seats on the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) board are showing substantial leads as of Nov. 23, the final major tally update expected from Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

DSRSD, a regional agency that provides water, wastewater and recycled water services to Dublin and parts of San Ramon, as well as sewer service to Pleasanton by contract, has a board of five elected, nonpartisan positions, each with four-year terms.



Ann Marie Johnson



Arun Goel

This year voters saw two board seats up for grabs, Divisions 2 and 5. Incumbents for each division both sought reelection and were challenged by one opponent

respectively.

In DSRSD Division 2, incumbent Ann Marie Johnson holds a comfortable advantage over challenger Jim Brady, 57.63% to 42.37%.

Johnson was originally elected to the DSRSD board in 2018.

“Elections are healthy. I enjoyed the (Pleasanton Weekly) candidate forum and opportunity to discuss water issues with constituents,” Johnson said. “Our meetings at DSRSD are open. I hope the public continues to be engaged as we deal with the drought.”

Because this position exists in

two counties, Contra Costa and Alameda, it represents a larger group of voters in the region. Services are provided to not only parts of the Tri-Valley, but other nearby East Bay areas.

For Division 5, a shortened term, incumbent Arun Goel (67.60%) leads challenger Seema Badar (32.40%).

Goel, a former Dublin City Council member, was appointed for the seat in 2020 after a lack of candidates.

“It is my honor to announce that I have formally been elected

for the role of DSRSD Director-Division 5. I am deeply appreciative to the community for their continued support,” he said. “In the coming years I plan to focus my efforts to ensure the future of our water.”

“I look forward to engaging and working with the community to establish conservation, resiliency, and redundancy of our water infrastructure. It is my goal to continue to help deliver policy and the necessary infrastructure in the Tri-Valley and beyond,” he added.

The next election cycle in 2024 will see several seats up for grabs. These include Divisions 1, 3 and 5. ■

SUNOL

Continued from Page 6

any comments.

The other seat on the board this election season was for the two-year position that former teacher and nurse Hurley managed to secure after a tight race against challenger and information technology manager Chris Bobertz.

At the end of Election Night, the race was being decided by just two votes with Hurley getting 72 votes and Bobertz getting 70 in the small

district. Since then, the numbers didn't change much until the Nov. 21 update, which had Hurley at 52.74% (250 votes) to Bobertz's 47.26% (224).

Bobertz said that even with only 474 votes between him and Hurley, it was still a decent turnout of voters given the size of Sunol.

“Not specifically the outcome I was hoping for, but I'm not too terribly worried about it,” Bobertz said. “I know the community within the School will be sure to make their voices and opinions heard

regardless of who is sitting on the board. I only hope for the experience of the kids that attend Sunol Glen to be the best that it can be.”

Hurley said she is also grateful for the support and will do her best to represent the community, but she also had a more analytical view on Measure J passing.

“With the passing of Measure J, it will be important to implement a Bond Oversight Committee and to carefully use those monies to best restore our buildings to a safe and beautiful condition that will be

enjoyed for years to come,” Hurley said. “Because I understand the bond money is not available to us for one year, we will not be able to address the new roof this upcoming summer when the children will be out of school.”

She said that because of this, she has connected with a number of Sunolians who hope to raise enough money to redo the roof this summer by fundraising — that way the district wouldn't have to use that portion of the bond money.

“The bond salesman has stated

that we would only pay for what we use so if we are able to come up with the funds to take care of at least some of the expenses required to address the school's needs, then the community will not have to pay two plus times the amount of money used to restore our school,” Hurley said.

She said that she also plans on being, “transparent in the decisions and expenditures concerning the school so that our community can be informed and would welcome their input in how their money is being spent.” ■

FIRE STATION

Continued from Page 5

But, as with most things, construction was delayed because of the pandemic.

“I will say if you're considering building a fire station, I would highly recommend you not launch that project as the global pandemic begins,” LPFD Chief Joe Testa said during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “It has been a journey for everyone involved.”

However, the project quickly got back on track when the city awarded the construction contract to Mar Con Builders in August 2020, which led to last year's temporary relocation of the Fire Station No. 3 staff so work could get underway.

The total cost, including design, demolition of the old building, constructing and then removing the temporary station, and constructing and outfitting the new station was approximately \$9 million, according to the city.

During a walkthrough of the new facility, Lacey, who had worked at the old station for seven years, said that while the seismic and structural problems with the building were a main component of the rebuild, it really boiled down to fitting the modern day firefighter.

He said they are a growing diverse group of people who represent their communities and provide essential services — so the least they deserve is a facility that can properly serve them.

“The original station had more cubicle living,” Lacey said. “So it wasn't



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Joe Testa, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department chief, talks to the crowd about the new features of rebuilt Fire Station No. 3.

private dormitory rooms, everything was kind of an open floor plan.”

He said the bathrooms were the same way, making it a problem for women who had to use a shower in what was called the “company officer bathroom,” which was secluded from the main showers.

“When I first got hired here, it was like going into your typical 1970s college gymnasium,” Lacey said. “It didn't match the 21st century fire service.”

The gender neutral bathrooms with individual showers are just some of the new amenities that the 12 firefighters who work and live at the station can enjoy on the little spare time they get in between their long shifts.

Lacey said that everything from the refurbished day room, modernized kitchen and renovated gym helps create an area where these

first responders can call their second home.

“In the fire service, we always say, the fire department is like a home away from home,” Lacey said. “We call each other brothers and sisters because it's like a second family. A lot of these firefighters spend more time with their co-workers than they do with their own family.”

Other main components of the rebuild that Lacey also pointed out were the several safety aspects such as the negative pressure fan that helps suck out the exhaust that is produced by the massive fire truck that carries a 100 foot aerial ladder.

When that truck pulls out after responding to a call, the exhaust in the garage gets sucked into a ventilation system and gets released through the roof. That type of ventilation system is present throughout the facility to help minimize the chance of any smoke-related hazards in the air — something that firefighters don't need more in their lungs.

“We're exposed to carcinogens,” Lacey said. “(There is a) high probability that most firefighters are more susceptible to different types of cancer. So if we can make our facilities as safe and as possible for our employees and our workforce, that's our goal.”

On the operations side of the improvements, one of the biggest things that Lacey and city officials pointed to was the replacement of the sliding garage doors with new bifold doors. The reasoning is that the sliding doors take longer to open, meaning the bifold doors, which open horizontally, will lead to increased

response time.

“Our response times will be reduced, our overall personnel are in a modern facility, which helps them do their job more effectively,” City Manager Gerry Beaudin said at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Another big improvement was a fuel cell for the firetruck, which means the truck does not have to travel outside of its service district to refuel anymore.

While the old station did have one before, Lacey said it had some environmental issues, which put it out of service.

“Our goal in the fire service is to always have our operational units within their district at all times,” Lacey said. “The older station didn't have a fuel station so it would cause our unit to leave its district all across town on either side in order to get fuel.”

The station floor plan also reduces response times by centralizing the apparatus bay entrance, which is now easily accessible from anywhere in the two-story station. The second story is accessed by either stairs or the newly built elevator, which Lacey said is a step away from the traditional pole.

He actually said that most fire departments are moving away from the iconic pole that people are used to seeing firefighters on because of related injuries.

Other site improvements for the new station include: parking for personnel and the public; an emergency generator; sustainable landscape and irrigation systems; and a solar reflective roof to help mitigate heat gain in the summer.

“Pleasanton is the ‘City of Planned Progress’, and we want to diversify our workforce. We want our workforce to match the communities that we serve and the older station wasn't a facility that supported that mission,” Lacey said. “I think the city of Pleasanton has done a terrific job with making diversity, equity inclusion a top priority in the city and they put their money where their mouth is.” ■



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PRICE

Continued from Page 5

Sheriff-Coroner, Greg Ahern, in the June 7 primary election.

According to Price's news release, she had called Wiley on Nov. 20 where he proceeded to concede the race and pledge his support for a smooth transition of power.

"I look forward to a smooth transition and know the office has professionals who are hopeful the long-awaited change of reform would come to fix racial, gender and socio-economic disparities and double standards," Price said. "I appreciate the call from Mr. Wiley and his offer to aid in the transition. I look forward to speaking with Ms. O'Malley as soon as possible. At the end of the day, we all want the same goal and understand how important it is to have a full faith transition."

During this transitional period, Price has assembled a team of, "award-winning attorneys with expertise in criminal justice, respected community leaders and representatives" to help begin establishing changes and goals for the future.

According to the Nov. 21 election results report from the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office — the final major tally update expected from the county — Price had 53.14% (228,721 votes) to Wiley's 46.86% (201,676 votes). The margin of votes is now 27,045,

according to the update from the county.

The total tally of voter turnout countywide as of now is 53.23%, including vote-by-mail ballots received before Election Day and votes cast in-person, according to the county's election data. The total number of ballots cast is reported to be 495,599.

While the next results update won't be until closer to Dec. 8, which is when the county must officially certify the election, the vast majority of the ballots have been counted, according to a county spokesperson.

According to the county, 32,000 out of the nearly 500,000 ballots in the county were cast in person and were counted on Election Night. The rest were mail-in ballots that were processed since that Tuesday.

The Nov. 21 update from the county included the bulk of the remaining votes but there are another 2,500 that need signatures cured across Alameda County.

This runoff election for the district attorney seat was a significant one for voters as it was the first time in decades that residents elected someone who wasn't an incumbent originally appointed to the position.

The district attorney oversees more than 150 attorneys whose job is to prosecute all criminal, civil and juvenile cases in the county. They also set policy on jail and prison time and how much

incarceration time should be given for cases related to drug use or mental illness.

They also investigate and decide whether or not to criminally charge law enforcement officers accused of misconduct.

The contest was wide open this year after O'Malley announced in 2021 she would be stepping down when her current third term in office ends after this year. O'Malley had not faced an opponent in re-election until 2018, when Price unsuccessfully challenged.

Wiley and Price were the front-runners during a close primary race in June, which ended with Price in the lead with 43.23% of the vote among four on the ballot.

Wiley then took a slim lead over Price on Election Night at 51.68% to 48.32%. The following Monday night's election results update showed Wiley maintaining a lead with 51.52% of votes to Price's 48.48%.

But Price had remained hopeful, which paid off when she took her first lead on Nov. 15 and since then, every update has strengthened her lead until she officially declared victory once the county updated its numbers with a significant bulk of ballots on Nov. 20.

"I want to thank my family and everyone who supported me in my campaign, including my volunteers and everyone who voted for me. Although I expected a different result, I'm grateful for everyone's support," Wiley told the Weekly

in a statement. "I congratulate Pamela Price on becoming Alameda County's first-ever African American District Attorney. I look forward to working with Pamela in her transition to District Attorney."

He added that while he saw his goals and ideals aligning more with residents in Alameda County who wanted a change in the office, the fact that he has been a part of the office for several decades now might have played a part in voters swaying with Price instead of him.

He said that in terms of the transition, he plans to help Price get her footing in what he calls a very complex agency so that they can continue to serve the people of the county that he loves.

Price has run her own civil rights litigation practice for roughly three decades and has advocated throughout her campaign for criminal justice reform by creating a justice system that offers solutions to reducing crime other than incarceration.

Some of those solutions include jail diversion and restorative justice programs for young offenders.

"There are so many layers of changes needed and it will take time to turn the wheels of justice in the right direction, but I am confident that our ideas, plans and principles will be the guideposts in that journey of change," Price said.

Price launched her campaign almost two years ago and had engaged a broad coalition of community groups and leaders who

supported Price and her goal of wanting to fix what she considered a broken system.

She said that this election was about implementing significant change in how justice works in the county.

"The double standards and racial disparities were palpable to the voters and they could see the old approach has not led us to greater public safety," Price said. "They did not trust the status quo to change itself, and real public safety requires public trust."

Throughout her campaign, she had garnered endorsements from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Mar Monte, Smart Justice and California Nurses Association as well as a long list of democratic clubs, justice focused organizations and worker's unions.

"I am so grateful to my amazing campaign team, my campaign manager and our communications director who worked tirelessly to make sure voters understood what was really and truthfully at stake in this race," Price said. "I am so thankful for every vote I received. We will use it as fuel to drive the change the county so desperately needs." ■

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HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

The city's Housing Element is revised every eight years under state law and requires the council to identify adequate sites through the General Plan and zoning process for future residential development.

Staff have been working on the housing update since 2021 and are now in the final stages of adopting it along with finalizing — now in an also expedited timeline — the Stoneridge Shopping Center redevelopment framework and any objective design standards that would apply to housing developments.

The Stoneridge Mall property is just one out of 25 sites that the city has listed for potential redevelopment in order to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 5,965 new units. The mall was selected as a site to develop 900 to 1,400 high-density housing units.

Since the council approved the framework concept in August, the city's Planning Commission held a joint meeting with the community on Sept. 26 and has also been working with a professional services team to develop conceptual alternatives to the redevelopment design.

Staff was previously working under that grace period with the intent on having a framework

for the mall redevelopment done around the same time as adoption of the Housing Element in April. The framework was meant to gather community input, outline allowed land-uses and provide initial policy guidance and conceptual planning for the mall property.

But now, Clark highlighted the separate and joint back-to-back meetings the City Council, Planning Commission and Housing Commission in December where they will have to make key decisions regarding the framework.

Councilmember Kathy Narum asked about the mall property owners and how they felt about the accelerated time frame to which Clark said staff have been meeting with them as a group and individually frequently to talk about all the different development alternatives.

"We won't know until we get to the end, whether or not the plan that is recommended is one that everybody wholeheartedly supports but one of our approaches has been to try and get as close to that as we can," Clark said.

She added that balancing the important attributes the community wants to see at the site as well as what the mall property owners want is going to be key in developing that space.

"I think there's actually a very

strong convergence of those ideas, in terms of really a good shared vision for success, for longevity, for economic vitality, for just revitalization at the mall, that I think everybody agrees are really important," Clark said.

However, one thing she wanted to make clear is that work on the framework, as well as for the Housing Element, will not be done at the end of January.

She said regarding the framework, there will still be things to fine-tune such as finances or any big picture plans and for the Housing Element, there is still more review needed after Jan. 31.

Clark clarified that when the council adopts its Housing Element in January, it will not be officially certified by the state Department of Housing and Community Development. The reason for this is the HCD will have a few months to review the city's adopted Housing Element for a second time so it can provide any additional comments about the city's plans.

HCD officials already discussed its preliminary comments with city staff in two separate meetings and have provided formal comments to the city on Nov. 14. Once the city adopts the Housing Element in January, it will submit it to the HCD with the intent of receiving preliminary certification, which is

allowed by state law.

Councilmember Julie Testa questioned if staff might have to compromise any plans the city had because of the rush, but Clark said that because of the extra time after January to fine-tune and because the council already approved the initial element draft, there shouldn't be any issues.

"There may be a couple of other issues that we want you to focus on but I think for the Housing Element itself, I don't foresee compromise," Clark said. "It will require decisions to be made in a timely manner."

The council's schedule in December includes a community meeting and a separate joint City Council and Planning Commission work session to review conceptual alternatives and provide direction on concepts to incorporate into the Housing Element.

Clark said this will also be a time to possibly trim the sites list after they bring back the HCD and the environmental analysis of all the sites to the council for review.

Staff will then bring the Housing Element along with the Stoneridge framework and any objective design standards back to the council for final adoption at a special meeting on Jan. 26. The date is still up in the air as Clark pointed out staff are trying to make sure that date works for everyone. ■

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman dies in car crash on Thanksgiving Day outside Livermore

A Fremont woman died on Thanksgiving afternoon after the car she was a passenger in tried to pass slower vehicles but crashed head-on into an oncoming sedan in unincorporated Livermore, according to authorities.

The victim was 30-year-old Sreeja Nagirimadugu, according to the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

Loved ones said Nagirimadugu had moved to the United States just over a month ago to join her husband who was already here working — he was seriously injured in the crash too and remains hospitalized, according to the GoFundMe page created to support the family.

"Sreeja was an exemplary individual known for her hard work, responsibility, love for her family and passion to explore the world. Sreeja worked in India for over 8 years before moving to the USA last month to start married life here in USA," Praveen Kasireddy wrote on the GoFundMe page.

"Her death is a tragic loss to her family, friends, colleagues, and anyone who has met her or known her. She has left family and friends in great sorrow," Kasireddy added.

The circumstances of the collision, which also injured two other people in the other vehicle, remain under investigation by the California Highway Patrol's Dublin office.

The situation occurred at about 12:45 p.m. Nov. 24 on Altamont Pass Road in unincorporated Livermore, about three quarters of a mile east of the Greenville Road intersection, according to the CHP.

Nagirimadugu was the lone passenger in a Honda Civic traveling eastbound at 40 to 50 mph when it came upon slower-moving traffic and the driver opted to cross the solid double-yellow lines in an attempt to pass, according to the CHP. But while traveling in the opposite direction in the westbound lane, the Civic collided head-on with an oncoming Toyota Prius driving about 40 to 50 mph in its correct lane.

Nagirimadugu died in the crash while the Civic's driver sustained serious injuries.

The CHP did not confirm the name of the driver, but the GoFundMe page identified Nagirimadugu's husband Revanth as the other occupant. He remained hospitalized and is "making slow progress in recovery," according to the GoFundMe. The couple had wed earlier this year.

The driver and 13-year-old passenger in the Prius sustained minor to moderate injuries and were taken to area hospitals for treatment, according to the CHP.

The crash remains under investigation. The CHP said officers do not think alcohol was a factor. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision can contact CHP-Dublin at 925-828-0466.

The GoFundMe drive had raised nearly \$40,000 as of Tuesday morning to support Nagirimadugu's family, including for costs associated with transferring her remains to India.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- Cities, counties, school districts and law enforcement agencies across the state, including the Pleasanton Police Department, will soon receive their share of millions of dollars in state funding to crack down on the illegal sale of tobacco to minors, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced last week.

The California Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program — funded by a state tobacco tax — is distributing \$18.6 million to 41 local government programs to inform, investigate and penalize tobacco retailers who sell products to youth under the age of 21.

Since 2017, the program has handed out \$170 million in grants to governments via a competitive application process.

The grant program hopes to not only curb retailers disregarding federal tobacco laws, but to ultimately

mitigate the next generation from being addicted to tobacco.

"Every day, thousands of young Californians will smoke their first cigarette," Bonta said. "Tobacco manufacturers and retailers bear much of the blame, often directly encouraging the growing underage market for their products. The California Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program provides critical funds to prevent these illegal sales and reduce youth tobacco use in our communities."

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an advocacy organization made up of public health officials, tobacco use is the number one preventable killer in the United States, and it is responsible for more deaths than alcohol, car accidents, murder, suicides, illegal drugs and AIDS combined. And in California, over 400,000 children are estimated to die prematurely from smoking.

The grant program will support recipients in instructing local tobacco retailers on federal laws, ensuring their licensing is in compliance and prosecute those who sell tobacco products to young people, including on the internet.

In the Bay Area, the recipients include the health services departments of Sonoma and Contra Costa counties, Fremont High School in Santa Clara County, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, and the police departments of Piedmont,

Pleasanton, San Pablo and Calistoga.

—Olivia Wynkoop, BCN Foundation

- The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office recently announced felony and misdemeanor charges filed against an unlicensed contractor for allegedly defrauding multiple victims in the county.

Modesto resident Adan Contreras Rivas, 41, is being held on \$600,000 bail in the Martinez Detention Facility on 38 charges, including those for financial elder abuse, theft by false pretense, theft with specified priors, and violations related to his fraudulent contracting practices.

Authorities have investigated Rivas since June, when initial accusations were reported by a Walnut Creek resident. Rivas was arrested in Morgan Hill on Nov. 8, when he was operating under the name "Gutierrez Tree Services".

He has also used other business names like "New View Tree Care". Prosecutors said in a statement that Rivas allegedly posed as a licensed contractor in the landscaping and paver industry and took thousands of dollars from unsuspecting consumers.

According to the DA's office, his alleged victims fit a particular profile: often elderly and residing in affluent neighborhoods in Walnut Creek and Concord. Investigators believe there are more victims around Contra Costa County.

—Tony Hicks / BCN Foundation

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 23

Theft

- 1:13 a.m. on the 7400 block of Muirwood Court; catalytic converter theft
- 7:07 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Fraud

- 9:46 a.m. on the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 1:48 p.m. on the 4700 block of Hopyard Road

Warrant arrest

- 3:04 p.m. on Valley and Bernal avenues
- 6:58 p.m. on the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Nov. 22

Warrant arrest

- 9:04 a.m. on the 6500 block of Lansing Court

Theft

- 9:37 a.m. on the 3300 block of Smoketree Commons Drive; theft from auto
- 9:45 a.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure

Fraud

- 10:41 a.m. on the 6700 block of Koll Center Parkway

Nov. 21

Theft

- 7:41 a.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; catalytic converter theft
- 9:24 a.m. on the 3200 block of Omega Circle; catalytic converter theft
- 9:43 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

Embezzlement

- 11:48 a.m. on the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard

Domestic battery

- 9:20 p.m. on Hacienda Drive
- 10:52 p.m. on Valley Avenue

Nov. 20

Domestic battery

- 12:41 a.m. on Vineyard Avenue

Drug violation

- 2:19 p.m. on Johnson and Commerce drives

Theft

- 4:00 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:21 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 11:25 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Judi Mellberg

August 21, 1948 – November 28, 2022

A fourth-generation female born in Oakland California, a resident of Napa for 6 years and Pleasanton for 38 years, Judi passed away at The Berkshire from complications of Lewy Body Dementia. Judi was a graduate of Holy Names College with an Elementary school teaching credential. She taught for the Diocese of Oakland for 18 years and the City of Pleasanton pre-school system for another decade. She was involved with East Bay Girls Scouts, Pleasanton RADD and The Discovery Shop of Pleasanton. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Bill, Daughter Caitlin, Son-in law Brady Mitchell and three granddaughters. Brother's Steve Tague of Kingman, AZ and Mike Tague of Brentwood, California and their families visited Judi often, including a family reunion at The Berkshire. Celebration of Life, December 18, 2PM at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. The family wishes to thank the compassionate staff of The Berkshire, Collabria Care of Napa, and prefer that all memorials be directed to the Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road, S.W., Lilburn, GA 30047.

PAID OBITUARY

Milton Harold Elm

September 19, 1932 – November 15, 2022

Milton was born in San Francisco on September 19, 1932 to Edna Gillogley Elm and Harold C.F. Elm. He attended St. Paul's Grammar School in San Francisco through eighth grade. His family moved to Santa Rosa where he attended and graduated from Santa Rosa High School in 1951. He graduated from Santa Rosa Jr. College in 1954. He worked for Pacific Bell for 36 years, retiring at the level of senior engineer in 1991. Milt joined the Naval Reserve in 1949 after 35 years of service as a Chief Petty Officer. Milton retired as an Alameda County Reserve Deputy Sheriff after 50 years of service. He spent many years as a gun range safety officer. He was active in his parish of St. Augustine for 57 years. He served as a Sacristan, Communion Minister, and Altar Server at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. A true and faithful servant of the Lord.



Milton is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen and children: Michael Elm (Teresa); Sharon Frazier (Hie); Chris Elm; David Elm (Cynthia); Maria Bird (Frank); Stephen Elm; Daniel Elm and Sister in law Patricia Haley. He is also survived by grandchildren: Xander Elm, Larry and Chris Frazier; Emily Hart; Jessica Elm; Christian, Lauren, Elise, Conner and Winter Bryant Elm; Alyssa Bird, and great grandchild Lotus Hart.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

On December 2, 2022 there will be a visitation at 6PM, followed by a Vigil Service at 7PM at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street Pleasanton. A Funeral Mass will be held December 3, at 10AM at St. Augustine's Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton California.

PAID OBITUARY

Get on the Bus

Helping more and more kids experience the joys of soccer

By DENNIS MILLER

Tim Ryerson has put together a nice run working with and building youth soccer in the United States.

The Pleasanton resident and general manager of the Ballistic United Soccer Club also spent time in Maryland with the Ellicott City Soccer Club after graduating from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

He was helping grow the game of soccer providing incredible opportunities for the youth of today, combining not just soccer skills but life lessons as well.

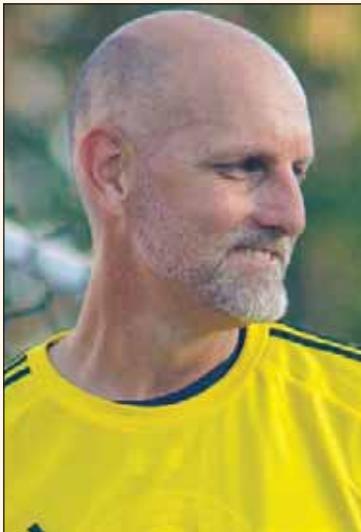
But there was something missing.

"I was looking at areas of Maryland where I couldn't reach kids," Ryerson explained. "Either they couldn't afford it, or they couldn't get (to practice)."

From this came the idea for "Get on the Bus," whose premise is straightforward.

Kids at targeted schools apply and are selected based on need and merit to receive, completely free to them:

- Homework help/study hall with certified teachers and paraeducators.
- A healthy snack and themed life lessons.
- Transportation by bus to and from the soccer field to participate in a recreational soccer program.
- Top-notch coaching by licensed youth coaches following U.S. Soccer age appropriate guidelines.



COURTESY OF BALLISTIC UNITED
Tim Ryerson is the General Manager of Ballistic United and the founder of Get On The Bus.

- All soccer apparel — jerseys, shorts, socks, shin guards, cleats, and a soccer ball!

Once again, all this is free for the kids.

The entire movement got a boost four years ago when the United States did not qualify for the 2018 World Cup. At that point U.S. Soccer was looking for a way to innovate to grow the game — how to find kids the game of soccer was not reaching.

U.S. Soccer created grants for youth organizations to get more kids into the sport.

Out of it came the growth of GOTB.

Ryerson's vision came to life initially on the East Coast.

This was on target with what Ryerson was doing with GOTB and Ellicott City became the inaugural GOTB chapter.

"We piloted this in Maryland," Ryerson said. "And it is still funded by Ellicott City members, sponsors, and partners."

With a solid pilot program successfully underway, it was next about getting grants from U.S. Soccer to launch the next one and spread the path for kids across the country to deserving youth.

What started as an idea from one club was about to blossom into an ever-growing movement to help children in need.

"Nevada was the first, then Northern California," Ryerson said. "We now have nine across the country with six more planned."

The main qualifier from U.S. Soccer was that the program had to be used at only Tier One schools. A Tier One school helps disadvantaged students meet state academic content and performance standards.

There happened to be one such school located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Ryerson had played soccer for UNLV and his brother Rich was the head coach of the UNLV team at that time.

From there, with Ryerson involved in Ballistic, it was natural to find a Pleasanton school to become



Girls from the Valley View Get On The Bus program represent the Pleasanton Rage in a game at the Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton.

involved with GOTB. The lone Tier One school in Pleasanton is Valley View Elementary School.

"This was supposed to go live with Valley View in the fall of 2020," Ryerson said. "Then COVID hit, and it got canceled."

Ryerson, through his partnerships with California Youth Soccer Association-North, Ballistic United and the Pleasanton Rage, kept the plans together and it finally launched this August.

The school, the families, and the students at Valley View embraced the program immediately.

"Oh my God — it has been a dream come true," said Rosa Isela Torre, a Pleasanton Unified School District parent liaison that is assigned to Valley View. "We have been asking for something like this; the parents have been asking for their kids."

Spend one Wednesday afternoon at Valley View watching the program, and it's easy to see the impact. The smile the kids have during all parts of the program shows the need for something like GOTB.

"The kids know their routine every Wednesday," said Torre. "They get the discipline and self-esteem to be part of the program."

In this inaugural season for Valley View, the groups were comprised of fourth and fifth graders that had no

formal soccer experience.

The students are selected by the school to participate.

There are a boys' team and a girls' team, with coaches coming from both Ballistic and the Rage. They come to the multipurpose



Boys from the Valley View Get On The Bus program competed for Ballistic United in the 2022 USYS League America Festival in Pleasanton.

COURTESY OF CAL NORTH YOUTH SOCCER



The Ballistic United/Get On The Bus team



COURTESY OF CAL NORTH YOUTH SOCCER
in the 2022 USYS League America Festival

Following their time inside, the two teams head to the field for soccer practice, meeting up with the certified coaches.

The joy and excitement of the kids is evident — there wasn't one student that didn't have a smile on their face. It was about having fun while getting the chance to play organized soccer.

On Saturdays they play in recreational leagues of the respective clubs, and even competed in a tournament in October at the Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton.

Because everything took place at Valley View, there was no need for a bus service, but Ryerson found an event for the kids to "get on the bus".

"We did get a bus and take 52 people to an Oakland Roots game," Ryerson said, of the United Soccer League (USL) Championship Division team. "It was like a big field trip."

Initially it was to be a fall-only program at Valley View, but it went over so well, the program was extended.

"All of the kids will play in the Winter Rec league, and we will cover all of it as well," Ryerson said.

Ryerson's group has grown GOTB nationwide with grants for the program being secured from U.S. Soccer for schools in Nevada, California, Connecticut, Tennessee and Oregon, with Ryerson looking to secure more and continue to build.

There are nine chapters right now, with six more, including Sacramento, Los Angeles and more in the Central Valley on the horizon.

"We have served 1,200 kids so far," said Ryerson. "It has blown up since we came out of COVID. We have a goal of 10,000 by the 2026 World Cup, which is taking place

room after school where they spend time getting help on their homework, followed by life lessons and skills, and of course nutritious snacks.

Homework and life lessons come from Torre and other volunteers.



COURTESY OF CAL NORTH YOUTH SOCCER

The boys and girls from the Valley View Get On The Bus program get ready to march in the Opening Day Soccer Parade on Main Street in Pleasanton.

in the United States, Canada and Mexico."

As far as Pleasanton is concerned, Ryerson, BUSC and Rage want to expand to other schools in town, but with Valley View as the lone Tier One school, there will be no grants from U.S. Soccer.

Still, there remains a need. "Everyone thinks Pleasanton is a town where people can afford anything," Ryerson said. "But there are a lot of students and schools that could use the help."

Which is why Ryerson and the GOTB program along with local partners like Ballistic and Pleasanton Rage are set on raising funds so

more disadvantaged students in Pleasanton can be helped and given more of a chance to succeed.

It's that helpful of a program. There are a couple of other elementary schools targeted and perhaps one middle school. That leaves the two local youth soccer clubs to raise the funds for the much needed programs.

"The plan would be to get the kids that need this from other schools involved," Ryerson said. "We would be able to pick them up from their schools and bus them to Valley View and back."

Ballistic United board president Scott McMillin has been a

proponent for getting new kids exposed to the program.

"We are working on raising the funds so other schools can participate," McMillin said. "We want everyone to be able to play if they want to play, regardless of (skill) level or age."

But it's more than just donations the group needs.

"There are other ways to get involved, like even dropping off the snacks after school," Ryerson said. "There is always something you can do to help."

Those interested in donating or getting involved, check out the website at www.gotbsoccer.org. ■



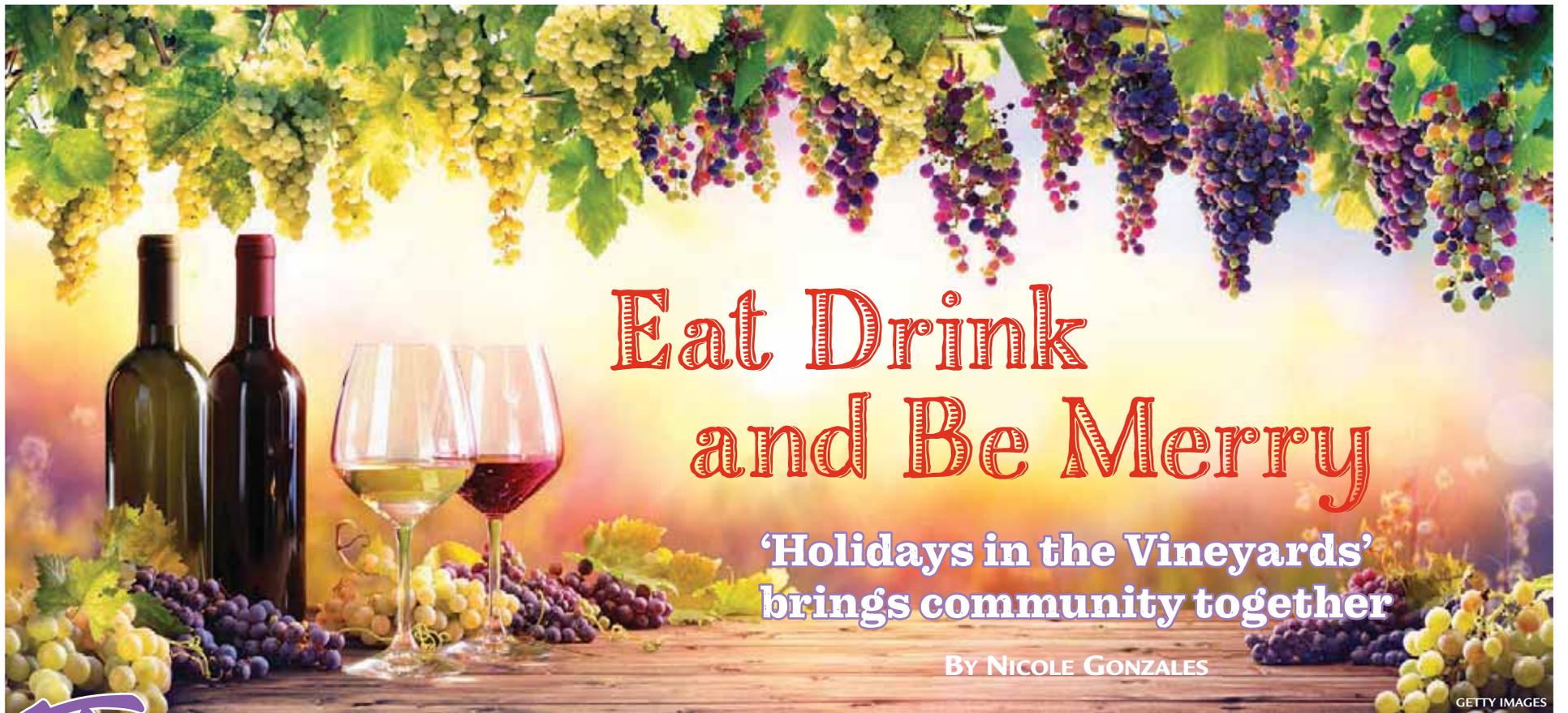
COURTESY OF CAL NORTH YOUTH SOCCER

poses for a team photo before a game in the League America Festival.



COURTESY OF CAL NORTH YOUTH SOCCER

The Girls from the Pleasanton Rage/Get On The Bus team prepare for a game in the League America Festival. Credit Cal North Youth Soccer.



Eat Drink and Be Merry

**'Holidays in the Vineyards'
brings community together**

BY NICOLE GONZALES

GETTY IMAGES

The Livermore Valley Wine Community will be hosting its annual wine, music and holiday shopping event this weekend.

With more than 20 winemakers participating, "Holidays in the Vineyards" offers a spirited, festive experience for wine enthusiasts in the Tri-Valley.

"We have hosted Holidays in the Vineyards for over 35 years. This event brings the community together with holiday cheer displayed at our award-winning wineries. It is truly a holiday tradition that is dear to locals and travelers from all over the Bay Area," said Brandi Lombardi, interim executive director of the wine organization.

Each winery will be providing its own selection of live music, food, art vendors and wine tasting this weekend from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday (Dec. 3) and Sunday (Dec. 4).

Admission is free for visitors; however, tasting costs may vary by winery, according to event organizers.

"We hope that the community will use this opportunity to shop locally and enjoy a weekend of festive holiday cheer while experiencing the best wine and hospitality our region

has to offer," Lombardi said.

This year, the organization has teamed up with Pacific States Petroleum to hold a holiday toy drive. At the event, organizers will be collecting donations for Toys for Tots. "Our participation and purpose with the 'Toys for Tots' is to make a direct impact within our community by providing a toy to local children that would otherwise not have a holiday present," said Pacific States General Manager Jason Edwards.

All toys from the collection will be dispersed to children in the area by local U.S. Marines, said Edwards. The fuel company has pledged to match toy donations up to \$20,000 received by the wineries.

"The partnership between Pacific States Petroleum, Inc. and the Livermore Valley Wine Community is an important relationship that builds partnership and camaraderie with business owners, wine growers, families and friends of the community in which we work and live," Edwards said, reflecting on Tri-Valley businesses.

Rhonda Wood, winemaker and operator of Wood Family Vineyards in Livermore, will be participating in the weekend event. She explained that this is an opportunity



GETTY IMAGES

There will be wine, food and music at each participating winery during this weekend's Holiday in the Vineyards event. Below: While raising a glass with friends, guests can shop for the holidays.

for residents to celebrate the season's festivities while also getting to taste wine and shop for gifts.

Wood said she feels a strong appreciation for the organization and events such as this one that have helped grow not only her business but relationships with other winery owners and connoisseurs.

"We love being a part of the Livermore Wine community. In the start of our venture, in the late '90s, we had the support and advice from many winemakers and owners, this had huge benefits to me as a winemaker," Wood said. "We strive to make award-winning wines at Wood Family Vineyards, and I am enthusiastic to encourage, support, and help other winemakers to do the same."

She added, "I love and am proud to revel in our successes as the Livermore Wine community and enjoy the comradeship of other

winemakers, winery owners and their teams and together support Livermore wineries."

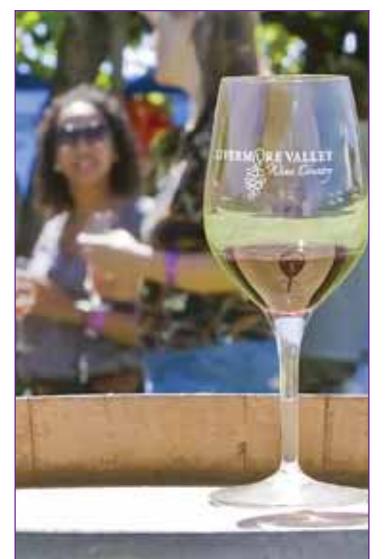
For Wood, the best part of Holiday in the Vineyards is seeing folks in their holiday sweaters or "blinged-out shirts."

She told the Weekly, "laughing and celebrating the season with family and friends, all the while, supporting local shops" is what Holidays in the Vineyards is for.

Lombardi shared similar sentiments.

"Our visitors should expect to come ready to experience holiday cheer and hospitality, that is what the holiday season should be all about," she said. "We will have wine tastings, special holiday vendors, live music and a variety of opportunities to complete your Christmas list with gifts from wine country."

For more information about the



COURTESY LWVC

Livermore Valley Wine Community and Holidays in the Vineyards, visit lvwine.org. ■



COURTESY LWVC

Visitors will be able to enjoy award-winning wines among the vines this weekend at the Livermore Valley Wine Community's annual holiday event.

Notes on the Valley: Baharat banana bread with molasses butter

By **MONITH ILAVARASAN**

In light of the holiday season, I'm going to share a go-to recipe I have for banana bread. I got into cooking about six years ago and really got into baking during the pandemic.

I've come a long way from college where my diet consisted of microwaved chicken nuggets (for protein) and microwaved frozen vegetables (for health).

A few years ago my partner and I were visiting some of her friends in Denver. Her friend's boyfriend at the time (now husband) was a chef at a fancy sushi restaurant and their house was littered with different cookbooks. As my partner and her friend caught up, I picked one up at random and started looking at it. The book was "Shaya", by Alon Shaya.

There were many recipes in the book that caught my eye. The chef who wrote that particular cookbook had an interesting combination of Jewish, Eastern European, Italian and Cajun influence. One particular recipe for banana bread caught my eye, but before I could snap a pic we had to head out. I completely forgot about the recipe after that.

A few months later my birthday

arrived and my partner had gotten me that exact cookbook as a present. She said she knew I loved it when I completely stopped contributing to the conversation and just silently read for an hour. It was rude, but at least it gave her a clear idea for a gift.

I immediately wanted to make the banana bread, but the recipe called for some ingredients I had never used before. Those ingredients were labneh, baharat and orange blossom water. I was fretting about where to find them and asked my mom if she had ever heard of those ingredients. She said to try out Sahara market in Dublin, a nearby middle eastern grocery store.

Below is a recipe for the banana bread with a few personal modifications. I omitted the orange blossom water as I found the taste a bit too strong and chemical-y for my liking, but please feel free to include it if you want to try it out. I highly recommend finding some baharat, it truly makes all the difference. In a pinch you can use pumpkin pie spice (found at your local Safeway), but it's more expensive and doesn't taste as good in my opinion.



MONITH ILAVARASAN

Baharat Banana Bread with Molasses Butter can be a tasty source of comfort over the holidays.

The original recipe was a bit scant on instructions. I added some more detail based on my past experience of making it. I also converted the cup measurements to grams as I found it gave a far more

consistent outcome. I recommend using weight measurements, but cup measurements also work in a pinch.

Best of luck and I hope it provides you some comfort over the

holidays. Please let me know if you have some favorite recipes (holiday or otherwise) in an email. I would love to add them to my repertoire.

See **BAHARAT** on Page 17

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'Elf the Musical Jr.' comes to Amador Theater next weekend

By **CHRISTIAN TRUJANO**

Everyone's favorite candy spaghetti-eating elf is coming to Amador Theater as the Pleasanton Youth Theatre Company (PYTC) Main Stage casts will take the stage in "Elf the Musical Jr." beginning next weekend.

This is the first main stage show since the pandemic for PYTC, an in-house theater program for youth run by The City of Pleasanton.

Based on the 2003 holiday classic movie "Elf," starring Will Ferrell as Buddy the elf, the musical will follow

the orphaned child who found his way to Santa Claus' North Pole and his journey as an adult to New York City in search for his birth father and his true identity.

A total of 52 kids ages 10 to 18 have been split into two casts — the candy cane and gumdrop casts — and each cast will perform four times over two weekends, Dec. 9 - 11 and Dec. 16 - 18. Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

"I think people (are) really excited

to see this level of show," city library and recreation coordinator Jeff Zavattero told the Weekly. "Elf" is one of the beloved holiday classic Christmas movies and there's not really a lot of opportunities to see this show on stage throughout the Bay Area. So people sound like they've been really excited to bring one of their favorite stories to life on stage and see it in that medium."

Zavattero, who started working with the city in 2013 as a production assistant, said this is his first time overseeing the Pleasanton Youth Theatre Company — the program behind the musical. It is also the first time the Firehouse will produce a show without contracting outside help.

Zavattero said that while the Firehouse has put on a couple of smaller productions leading up to this holiday musical, this being the first main stage play since 2019 means a lot to the community and to the kids.

"We've offered, you know, during that time acting classes and some improv, but (the kids have) been really hungry for a full production," he said. "Now that we have the opportunity to bring it back to the Amador stage, they were ecstatic at the opportunity. They're excited to get back into the theater and we've

really put a great show together. I'm really excited for how it turns out."

One major piece of the production that Zavattero highlighted was the fact that the 2 p.m. Saturday performances will all be sensory-friendly performances.

"To accommodate those who are prone to sensory overload, we do sensory-friendly performances where we leave the house lights a bit higher, we change the dramatic lighting to be a bit more subdued and the volume level remains a bit consistent," he said.

He said the decision to do these types of performances came after talking to local groups about working with neurodiverse learners and finding ways to be more accommodating.

"It's been great because we've had participants come up to us and say, 'This is the first time my sister is able to see one of my shows because you're doing this,'" Zavattero said.

And for those who might be worried about seeing a different show, he said that the sensory-friendly version is still the real show, just with a few tweaks here and there to make it more inclusive for everybody.

Zavattero said people should make the time to see both casts as each one has their own unique takes and interpretations on the heartwarming holiday classic, which he said has meant

a lot to him as he continues to grow into his role within the program.

"I am really excited about where the program is going. The further we get, the closer we get back to the reality that we had before the pandemic hit. And I know it means a lot to the kids, but it means equally to me," Zavattero said.

"Elf" is a show that has, I think, two strong morals, one of which is it's never too late to grow. I think that applies to us because, as much as the kids are learning, I'm learning just as much about myself in this role, and myself as a director."

He said the second moral of the show is about finding your place in the world, and that is something that resonates with him when talking about theater.

"I think that's what theater is for a lot of people — finding who you are, trying out different things without judgment, going out there and sometimes making a fool of yourself on stage just to try something new," Zavattero said. "I think this is a welcoming environment for that, and I think this is a show that demonstrates that no matter who you are, you can find your place."

Tickets for the musical are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the Firehouse Arts Center website, firehousearts.org. ■

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



HIGHLIGHTS

City Council Meeting
 Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
 Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency due to COVID-19 and has issued Executive Order N-29-20 and approved AB 361 suspending provisions of the Brown Act allowing meetings via teleconferencing and members of the public to observe and offer comments telephonically or electronically. The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave., via video/teleconference and will be broadcast live on Channel 29 and at <https://www.tri-valleytv.org> and <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheCityofPleasanton>.

- Water Quality updates related to the City's Water Operations: Receive a presentation on Zone 7 Water Agency's groundwater modeling and PFAS contamination, affirm the current offline status of wells 5 and 6, and hold a public hearing and accept the City's 2022 public health goals report
- Presentation by Zone 7 Water Agency on Water Supply Study Update and proposed wholesale water rates, and adopt a resolution to pass-through Zone 7 rate increases for calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026

Human Services Commission Meeting
 Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Review and Approve the 2023 Human Services Commission Meeting Schedule
- Select Commission Chair and Vice Chair for 2023
- Review the Human Services Commission Public Hearing Process for the Community Development Block Grant Consolidation Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

Library Commission Meeting
 Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

- Receive Information about Updated Commissioner's Handbook
- Recommend City Council Approve First Amendment to Agreement with American Cemetery Maintenance and Burial Services for the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery
- Recommend City Council Approve Professional Services Agreement with Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society for Museum on Main Operations for a Total of \$109,800 Annually

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

Pleasanton ready for holiday parade — if weather holds

Pleasanton is set to host its annual Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony in downtown this Saturday evening — as long as the weather cooperates. The festivities are scheduled to include the procession down Main Street beginning at 5 p.m., followed by the tree lighting outside the Museum on Main at approximately 6:45 p.m. along with live holiday music, an appearance from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and shops and restaurants throughout downtown in the holiday spirit. The rainy forecast could put a damper on the occasion, as the parade would be canceled in the event of inclement weather. The city has set up a telephone hotline (925-931-5352) that will be updated each hour after 2:30 p.m. Saturday with the status of the parade. Visit www.hometownholiday.com.



CHUCK DECKERT



Holiday Boutique Peddler Shoppe

Thursday, December 8th

Pleasanton Senior Center Lobby

5353 Sunol Blvd Pleasanton 9am - 4pm

BAHARAT

Continued from Page 15

Baharat Banana Bread with Molasses Butter (Original recipe by Alon Shaya)

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened & divided
- 1 (200g) cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baharat
- 1 1/2 tsp poppy seeds
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp Morton kosher salt (if using Diamond Crystal kosher salt, double this amount)
- 1 cup (200g) light-brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup labneh or Greek yogurt (I now use greek yogurt exclusively and don't find a huge difference)

- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp orange blossom water (I leave this out, but worth a try.)
- 4 overripe bananas, roughly mashed (The more overripe, the better.)

— 1 tbsp carob or blackstrap molasses (any molasses available at your local grocery store should work fine)

Process

1. Heat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and line a 9 x 5 inch loaf pan with buttered parchment paper.
2. Whisk together the flour, baharat, 1 tsp poppy seeds, baking soda, and salt. Set the mixture aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream one stick of butter with the brown sugar. For this step, you can use a stand mixer (preferred) or an electric hand mixer (doable, but harder). You really want to run this for a while, until

the mixture becomes smooth, light and loses its graininess. The butter and sugar mixture will change color way more than you think, and it is worth taking some time here to get it right. There's actually some really cool science behind what happens when you cream butter & sugar together properly.

4. Once the mixture reaches the proper consistency, beat your eggs in one at a time. It is really important you go one at a time, waiting until the first egg is completely incorporated before adding the second one in. Rushing this step will result in the eggs not being properly mixed in.
5. After the eggs have been mixed in, add in your labneh/yogurt, vanilla extract, and orange blossom water (if using). Run the mixer until fully incorporated.

(Now you can take the bowl off the mixer or just put away your electric mixer, the rest can be done by hand.)

6. At this stage you will stir in the gloopy banana mixture by hand until incorporated. The mixture might look a bit curdled at this stage, but don't fear. It'll all even out once the flour is added.
7. Now you'll want to fold in your dry ingredients. It's pretty important that you don't beat or overstir your dry and wet ingredients. Over stirring will cause gluten to develop resulting in a tougher, gummier end product. We're going for a moist,



MONITH ILAVARSAN

Baharat banana bread will last a few days if wrapped well, but is usually gone before then. At left, a standing mixer is recommended to mix the butter and brown sugar.



melt in your mouth feel. I use a folding motion while turning the bowl. This allows me to incorporate the dry and the wet without too much agitation.

8. Now pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and sprinkle the remaining poppy seeds evenly over the top.
9. Bake for about 1 hour, rotating the pan after 30 minutes. If a knife doesn't come out clean after then, you'll want to bake for increments of 3-5 minutes while checking intermittently.
10. Let it cool completely in the pan before removing onto a wire rack.
11. While the cake is cooling, you can

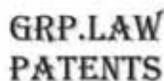
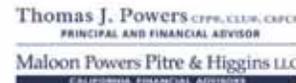
whip together the molasses butter.

12. Whip the remaining stick of butter you have with the molasses until it's light and airy. That's it, the topping is good to go.
13. Cut a slice, smear some butter on, and serve.
14. It lasts for a few days on the counter (if wrapped well) or a week in the fridge. Unfortunately, it usually finished long before then. Be sure to use slices of bread to barter for who does the dishes. ■

Editor's note: Monith Ilavarasan is a contributing writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact him about his "Notes on the Valley" blog, email milavarasan1@gmail.com.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Reflecting on 2022 football seasons for Amador and Foothill

Looking ahead, Falcons moving up to EBAL Mountain Division while Dons dropping to Valley

The 2022 East Bay Athletic League football season ended with some positive achievements from both Amador Valley and Foothill.

The Falcons vanquished the rest of the EBAL Valley Division for their second straight fall championship, and the Dons started to see the strength of their younger classes

toward the end of the season.

The contrast is looking to next year: The Dons have a lot more reasons to be excited than the Falcons.

By virtue of finishing at the bottom of the Mountain Division the last couple of years, the Dons will now be a member of the Valley Division.

Conversely, after winning the

Valley two straight seasons, the Falcons are now being moved up to the Mountain Division.

“We are going up — it’s been decided,” Foothill coach Greg Haubner said. “I am just hoping we have enough kids to compete in what has become the conference of champions.”

Haubner and the Falcons did take a run at staying in the Valley. At the postseason EBAL coaches meeting, Haubner asked for and received a vote of coaches to allow Foothill to stay in the Valley, where they belong from a competitive situation.

The final vote was 5-5, with all the Valley coaches voting on Foothill’s side and all five Mountain schools voting for Foothill to make the move up.

Hurting Haubner’s chances was that one of the Valley coaches did not even show up to the meeting, and that would have been the tie-breaking vote.

If it had passed, then it would have been sent to the EBAL athletic directors for a vote of approval. Word has it one Valley athletic director was going to vote against what his coach wanted, so it may have been a moot point.

This is not about Foothill looking for a way out. Declining numbers of players puts the Falcons in a precarious position.

It’s just a poor situation for the Foothill football players. One of the smaller schools in the EBAL, Foothill is already in danger of not having enough players for a freshman team next season.

“I could have a freshman team for maybe three games before having to drop the season to move up enough players to help us fill a roster,” Haubner said. “Then you would have kids forced to play varsity that are not physically ready.”

Now the Falcons will be sent to compete against EBAL teams with up to twice as many players on their rosters, as well as players that are much bigger physically.

There is no competitive balance, and now the safety of the players is being brought into question.

If the numbers continue to drop at Foothill, a normal number of injuries could end with the Falcons close to not fielding a team in the

middle of the season.

How is that even close to what’s the best for the kids? It’s not, and it’s not a well thought out decision. This could ultimately lead to the demise of the Foothill football program.

If you follow local football, you know the Foothill schedule will be five straight weeks of playing San Ramon Valley, Monte Vista, California, Clayton Valley and of course De La Salle. Football is the one EBAL sport where a competitive imbalance is real, and the difference is getting bigger each season because of enrollment and a change of demographics.

Amador has had to play those schools in the Mountain for the last couple seasons, but in the Dons’ favor was the larger number of players that were physically able to match up.

Amador coach Danny Jones would seem to benefit from not having Foothill to compete with in the Valley race, but he voted to support Haubner and the Falcons.

“It might be better for us if Foothill is in the Mountain, but in the end, it’s about the kids,” Jones said. “Think about it — this year if we were both in the Valley, we would have met the last week of the season for the league title.”

Having been in the Mountain, Jones knows what the Falcons are in for with the move.

“You know where Foothill is — for that matter us as well,” Jones said. “But the Valley is where they belong. They just don’t have the numbers and

are one injury away from not being a very good team.”

No matter what happens moving forward, this past season will be a memorable one for the Falcons, especially their seniors.

“At the beginning of the season, I felt good,” Haubner said. “We had a good group of skill kids, but then we started losing kids to season-ending injuries.”

In the end the team lost six to seven starting positions for the season. It could have easily gone south, but the Falcons rallied to win their four league games, including a 38-30 thriller over Livermore, and a 28-22 overtime win against Dublin.

Haubner mentioned the play of Ryley Flynn, Jackson Brayden, Rory Grady, Conor Baesemann, Luke Havily, Kyle Trent and Jensen McMillin for rising to the occasion.

“These guys really stepped up,” praised Haubner. “Truth be told, we had an amazing supporting class.”

Haubner was also happy for his seniors.

“When they were freshmen, they couldn’t even finish their season because they didn’t have enough players,” Haubner said. “Then COVID hit, and they had to deal with that. I was so happy and so proud of them.” ■

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.

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COURTESY OF BRUCE BAESEMANN

Foothill, shown here in its first round NCS win over Vintage, is being forced into the Mountain Division of the EBAL starting next season.





Public Notice

FY 2023/24 Tri-Valley Virtual Grant Application Workshop via Zoom Scheduled on December 7th

The cities of Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton will co-sponsor a virtual Zoom application workshop for the following fiscal year 2023/24 grant programs:

- City of Dublin Human Services Grants
- City of Livermore Housing and Human Services Grants
- City of Pleasanton Housing and Human Services Grants
- City of Pleasanton Community Grants – Youth / Civic Arts

The virtual workshop is designed for non-profit and public organizations that serve Tri-Valley residents. The grant programs offered by the three cities provide funding for a wide variety of human services, community development, housing, youth, and civic arts projects and programs in the Tri-Valley. Most of the grants are focused on activities that benefit lower income residents.

In the next fiscal year (2023/24), the cities are estimating to collectively provide over \$1.71 million to projects and programs including: medical visits and health care access for the uninsured; child abuse prevention services; meals and supportive services for seniors; mental health care; substance abuse counseling; domestic violence and homeless shelters; rental assistance; fair housing counseling and tenant-landlord services; housing rehabilitation for low income homeowners; community cultural events; art projects and programs; and many more.

City staff will discuss the application processes at the virtual Zoom workshop. Attendance at the scheduled Zoom workshop is **mandatory** in order to apply for funding from the City of Dublin, City of Livermore and/or the City of Pleasanton, and pre-registration is required.

The virtual Zoom workshop is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

All attendees must register in advance for this Zoom meeting using this link:

<https://cityofpleasanton.zoom.us/j/82274647009?pwd=WnhUUHdmd0Ywek03UHJ0d1J1UEp1UT09>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the virtual Zoom meeting.

For questions regarding this workshop, please contact Steve Hernandez at 925-931-5007 or at shernandez@cityofpleasantonca.gov.



COURTESY OF BRUCE BAESEMANN

An effective stiff-arm for the Falcon runner to ward off a Vintage defender.

Performing Arts

GABBY MORENO QUARTET Latin Grammy winner Gaby Moreno brings her original blend of jazz, blues and 1960s rock & soul to the Bankhead Stage. 8 p.m., Dec. 2. Tickets \$35-\$65. Visit livermorearts.org.

HOLIDAY SHORTS Creatures of Impulse take audience suggestions to inspire holiday themed games, scenes, and improv fun. Dec. 1-2. Visit firehousearts.org.

SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH Join for the return of Sing-It-Yourself Messiah with the Valley Concert Chorale. Sing along with part 1 of Handel's Messiah plus the Halleluia Chorus. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2. Asbury United Methodist Church. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

FREE FAMILY CONCERT Livermore-Amador Symphony presents its seventh free-admission family concert at the Bankhead. There is no cost to attend, but tickets are required. Visit livermorearts.org/events/free-family-concert-2022. 3 p.m., Dec. 3.

HOLIDAY JOY-LIVERMORE AMADOR SYMPHONY Music celebrating the season at the Bankhead with holiday favorites including A Christmas Overture and Greensleeves. 8:15 p.m., Dec. 3. Visit livermorearts.org.

LIVERMORE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS PARADE Enjoy floats and performances by local businesses, bands, schools, clubs and more. A Livermore tradition not to be missed. 6-8:30 p.m., Dec. 3. Visit livermoredowntown.com.

PLEASANTON HOMETOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATION The City of Pleasanton Hometown Holiday Celebration begins with a parade of floats, marching bands, community groups and more. Tree lighting ceremony to follow in front of Museum on Main. 5 p.m., Dec. 3.

LIBRARY HOSTS ENCORE PLAYERS Encore Players, Livermore's community theatre group, presents "The Language of the Holidays: Cultural Traditions Around the World". 7-8 p.m., Dec. 8.

ELF THE MUSICAL JR. This production by the Pleasanton Youth Theatre Company stars Buddy, a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Dec. 9-11 & Dec. 16-18. Amador Theater. Visit firehousearts.org.

JAZZ AT INKLINGS Featuring guest artists Rachel Smith and Guido Fazio along with local talent the Matt Finders Trio. Free with limited seating. For reservations email info@pleasantonjazzsociety.com. 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 9. 533 Main St.

A VERY FOLLIES HOLIDAY Join The Golden Follies at the Firehouse

Arts Center as these talented and energetic senior performers brighten the holiday season. 2 p.m., Dec. 10. Visit firehousearts.org.

CHRISTMAS JOY Valley Concert Chorale's annual concert features joyous music for the holiday season including carols and a fun arrangement of Jingle Bells. The audience is invited to sing along. 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10-11. Visit valleyconcertchorale.org.

DIABLO WOMEN'S CHORALE Join the Diablo Women's Chorale, a lively social group of singers from around the East Bay, for "Bells and Noels" to ring in the holiday season with good cheer. 3 p.m., Dec. 10-11. Walnut Creek United Methodist Church. Visit diablowomenschorale.org/concert.

THE NUTCRACKER Valley Dance Theatre's full production of The Nutcracker, accompanied by the Valley Dance Theatre Pit Orchestra, entertains with elaborate sets, skilled dancers and beautiful costumes. Dec. 10-11; 16-18. Bankhead Theater. Visit livermorearts.org.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE NUTCRACKER SWEET The San Ramon Valley Dance Company puts a fun new spin on this timeless classic by incorporating multiple dance styles, storytelling and vignettes for a truly unique Nutcracker experience. 1 p.m. & 3:30 p.m., Dec. 11. Visit svrda.com.

HOLIDAY JAZZ JUBILEE Ring in the holidays again this year with the Magnolia Jazz Trio as the band performs renditions of upbeat holiday classics. Enjoy the concert with dessert and hot cocoa and compete in the festive sweater contest. 1-3 p.m., Dec. 13. \$2R/\$13/NR. Call 925-373-5700. Robert Livermore Community Center.

NUTCRACKER AT STONERIDGE En Pointe Dance Studio performs The Nutcracker at Stoneridge Shopping Center, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m., Dec. 17. Grand Court.

A JAZZY CHRISTMAS Jeff Bordes & Friends return to the Firehouse Arts Center for their annual holiday celebration. 8 p.m., Dec. 18. Visit firehousearts.org.

Museums & Exhibits

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. Bankhead Theater, 2400 1st St, Livermore.

CALIFORNIA PIONEER WOMEN ON DISPLAY Illuminating the hardships, joys and lives of female pioneers in California, "Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women" appears at Pleasanton's Museum on Main. On display through Dec. 30.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE MEMBERS' EXHIBIT The group's 15th annual Fall Members Show comes to the Harrington Gallery exhibiting a variety of 2D and 3D art including oils, acrylics, watercolor, linocut, pen and colored pencil, pastels, encaustic hot wax, fused glass and porcelain. Through Dec. 17. 444 Railroad Ave. Visit pal-art.com.

MUSEUM ON MAIN PRESCHOOL READING TIME Preschoolers (ages 2-5) and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main the second Wednesday of each month for books and crafts. Book reading begins at 10am with crafts immediately following. Sept. 14. Museum on Main Street, 603 Main St., Pleasanton.

Visual Arts

ELF THE MOVIE Buddy (Will Ferrell) was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. 6 p.m., Dec. 15. Visit firehousearts.org

DRIVE-IN HOLIDAY MOVIES Holiday movie nights coming to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. Dec. 16, Elf, Dec. 17, Night Before Christmas, Dec. 27, Frozen, Dec. 28, Hook. Gates open at 4:30 p.m. \$35. per vehicle. The food court will be open to purchase

PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

Meet Baby Angel

Baby Angel is proof that age is just a number! This darling, 9-1/2-year-old pit bull mix is super happy and charming, and she loves to go outside for long walks. The one and only Baby Angel has the perfect name; she is an absolute lovebug who can't help but win over everyone she meets with her super-sweet demeanor. Even though she's a big girl, she's gentle as can be with everyone she meets. Ready to meet her for yourself? Come visit her kennel at the East Bay SPCA today; go to eastbayspca.org.

fun meals and movie treats. Visit alamedaountyfair.com/drive-in-movies.

Family

DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY The 39th Annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display in Livermore begins 6:30 p.m. Dec. 2 through Jan. Visit casadelpomba.com.

HOLIDAY VILLAGE AT CARNEGIE PARK A magical evening of Holiday Cheer, like a Hallmark Christmas movie, only real. Holiday Shopping with local

vendors, food, fun and a visit from Santa 4-8 p.m., Dec. 2. Visit livermoredowntown.com.

KPFA HOLIDAY BENEFIT CRAFT FAIR Join for the 51st Annual KPFA Holiday Benefit Craft Fair to shop small and local all while supporting community funded KPFA radio. The Fair showcases over 150 artists & craftspeople. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 3-4. Visit alamedaountyfair.com.

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

Employment

Sr. Software Engineer

Safeway Inc. is hiring a Sr. Software Engineer (Backend devlpr, XPL, AEM, Microservices, Architecture & devlpt. & other backend services) in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. Subj. to backgrnd check. E.O.E. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com. Attn: R. Oliver

Staff Engineer

Safeway Inc. hiring Staff Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Must have legal right to work in U.S. EOE. Subj. to backg. check. Email resume to TA.Perm.Project@albertsons.com, Attn: M. Ferreira.

Data Integration Developer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Data Integration Developer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Design, and build the deployment and operation of technology architecture, solutions and software to capture, manage, store and utilize structured and unstructured data from internal and external sources. Interested candidates send resume to: J.Thurston@Workday, Inc, 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1392

CEO

CEO is sought by a grain merchant wholesaler in Pleasanton, CA: Min. Master's degree in Business Administration, finance or related AND 4 years of managerial experience in international trade are required. Send resume to [@6701 Koll Center Parkway, STE 250, Pleasanton, CA 94566.](mailto:Daemyung International Inc.)



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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

Virus Geeks
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 593018.
The following person doing business as: Virus Geeks, 5820 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, County of Alameda, is hereby registered by the following owner: Madrix Diagnostics, 5820 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588, CALIFORNIA. This business is conducted by Madrix Diagnostics, a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein May 13, 2022. Signature of Registrant: Francis Lee, Chief Executive Officer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 27, 2022. (Pleasanton Weekly, November 11, 18, 25, December 2, 2022.)

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

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

Deadline is Monday at noon.

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during October 3-7 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and October 24-28 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 4137 Amberwood Circle** Philip Trust to Yarlalagadda Family Trust for \$860,000
- 7936 Cherrywood Court** Silk Trust to L. & M. Jariwala for \$1,575,000
- 850 Gray Fox Circle** Calvey Trust to Scherbarth Family Trust for \$3,800,000
- 5238 Riverdale Court** Petersen Family Trust to K. & S. Muppidi for \$1,050,000
- 9 Roman Eagle Court** Sugasawara Living Trust to D. & M. Mane for \$2,375,000
- 583 Saint John Street** L. & C. Bailey to K. Calvey for \$1,115,000
- 1175 Shady Pond Lane** Chin Family Trust to M. Chau for \$3,189,000
- 7368 Stonedale Drive** Jones Living Trust to Gupta Family Trust for \$950,000
- 7014 Valley Trails Drive** K. Carlson to S. & B. Kalagi for \$1,375,000

Livermore

- 178 Barber Street** Beigarten Family Trust to V. & N. Vucha for \$1,252,000
- 76 Cameo Drive** Shay Family Trust to S. & S. Khanna for \$1,080,000
- 5650 Dresslar Circle** L. & M. Valladon to Sanders Living Trust for \$1,850,000
- 926 Flurry Drive** V. & U. Liao to Zheng & Wu Family Trust for \$1,030,000
- 165 Glacier Drive** A. & M. Clair to S. Knoeck for \$1,225,000

- 188 Heligan Lane #3** A. Fagiri to S. Choudhury for \$822,000
- 1392 Kathy Court** Heaton Family Trust to C. & A. Rafay for \$992,000
- 5291 Lilac Avenue** H. Schultz to Korycinski Family Trust for \$830,000
- 4827 Maureen Circle** T. & L. Rollins to Perata Trust for \$1,325,000
- 1318 North P Street** Doggett Trust to B. & N. Eldridge for \$876,000
- 2495 Rivers Bend Circle** Leidheisl Trust to Biro-Manley LLC for \$1,617,000
- 4994 Scenic Avenue** Volker Trust to N. Acheampong for \$650,000
- 76 Tamalpais Avenue** K. & L. Seagren to Goluba Family Trust for \$1,220,000
- 764 Tranquility Circle #4** C. Beckmann to N. & J. Bussani for \$850,000

Dublin

- 6927 Brighton Drive** X. Xiao to N. & J. Das for \$1,100,000
- 4056 Cassata Place** Z. Gu to M. & A. Gupta for \$1,695,000
- 3641 Dublin Boulevard** Y. Han to V. & R. Basna for \$835,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #429** Y. Li to Shilman Trust for \$680,000
- 3771 Finnian Way** J. Cohen to J. & V. Nguyen for \$835,000
- 7821 Galway Court** Foster Living Trust to N. & S. Gupta for \$2,920,000
- 6793 Hyde Court** O. Jones to S. & A. Datanagan for \$800,000
- 7420 Limerick Avenue** D. Usry to U. & K. Venkatrao for \$980,000

- 5131 Montiano Lane** Mosleh Trust to V. & K. Pamarthy for \$1,850,000
- 7430 Oxford Circle #72** K. Zhang to J. Takeda for \$815,000
- 4739 Perugia Street** Opendoor Property Trust I to A. & H. Bedi for \$850,000
- 4282 Sunset View Drive** Y. & H. Ezberci to J. & B. Vyas for \$1,650,000
- 7796 Tuscany Drive #22** K. Sperber to P. & M. Pandya for \$630,000
- 7627 Tuscany Drive #85** J. & D. Faubion to E. Yam for \$685,000
- 10713 Wallace Lane #72** M. Yousufi to A. & P. Chandak for \$975,000

- 5091 Campion Drive** Homelight Homes Inc to Johnson-Dang Trust for \$1,750,000
- 9074 Craydon Circle** J. Wilson to Miller Living Trust for \$375,000
- 2503 Paddock Drive** K. & A. Prior to L. & M. Cirelli for \$1,675,000
- 33 Playa Court** Nolan Family Trust to S. & R. Chaubey for \$1,545,000
- 7421 Sedgefield Avenue** G. Freed to Community Equity Group Inc for \$1,250,000
- 788 Via Palermo** Son Family Living Trust to A. & P. Mehrotra for \$2,335,000

Source: California REsource

San Ramon

- 460 Bollinger Canyon Lane #184** A. & M. Pandit to L. Gibson for \$660,000

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

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (October 3-7)

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$860,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,800,000
Average sales reported: \$1,375,000

Livermore (October 3-7)

Total sales reported: 14
Lowest sale reported: \$650,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000
Average sales reported: \$1,055,000

Dublin (October 3-7)

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$630,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,920,000
Average sales reported: \$850,000

San Ramon (October 24-28)

Total sales reported: 8
Lowest sale reported: \$375,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,335,000
Average sales reported: \$1,462,500

Source: California REsource



CONNECT TO Giving Back

Giving back to our community is one of our core values and is very important to us. We'd love to share ideas with you of ways to give back as a family.

Scan QR code to view our list of local organizations you can get involved with this holiday season!



View List

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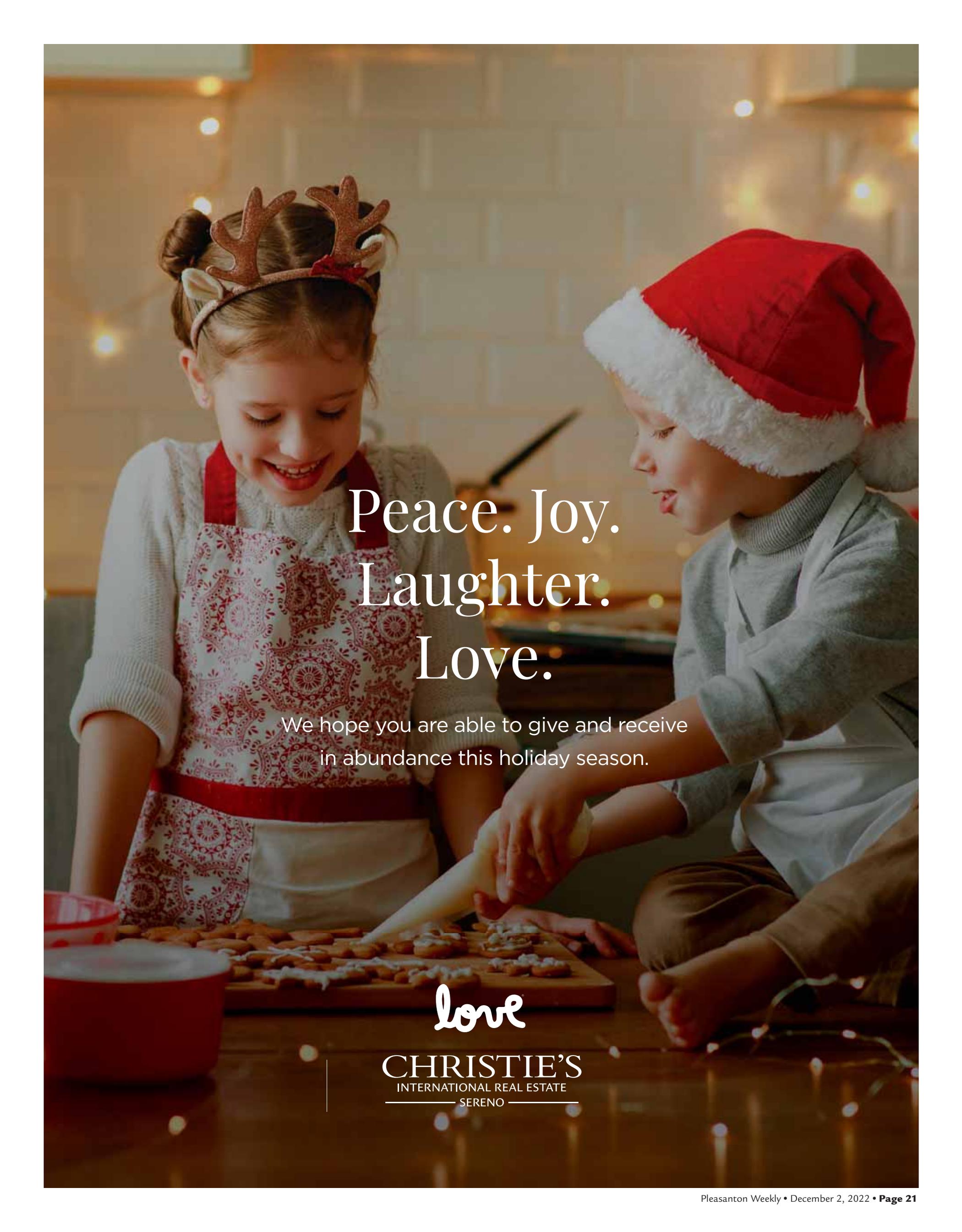


Happy holidays
 from the Pleasanton Weekly staff!

Here are some ideas to bring a warm and cozy feeling to your home this holiday season:

- Layer blankets and pillows
- Mix neutral colors with rich colors like burgundy, rust, plum and forest green
- Light some candles and a fire
- Create a foraged centerpiece and other decorations
- Fill a vase full of mums
- Hang a fall wreath

Pleasanton Weekly
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Peace. Joy.
Laughter.
Love.

We hope you are able to give and receive
in abundance this holiday season.

love

CHRISTIE'S
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Leaders of Luxury...

Liz & Alexis Have The Highest Home Sale In Keller Williams TV History!

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 FOUNDING MEMBER, KWTV
Happy Holidays!

With over 50 years of real estate experience and close to \$1 Billion in closed sales, we have had the privilege of representing some of the finest luxury homes Pleasanton has to offer. With a team of passionate realtor partners in pursuit of quality and detail, Liz and The Venema Homes Team have risen to the pinnacle of the luxury real estate market. The Venema Homes brand has evolved throughout the community and luxury arena. Sustaining high levels of customer service is a journey, not a destination. You will be pleasantly surprised by the difference in our process and our results. We look at each luxury property as a custom design.



9472 Blessing Drive Sold for \$4,850,000

“ Our family has lived in Pleasanton for over 20 years and decided to sell our beautiful home. Even though I am a real estate broker myself and in the homebuilding business, I knew I needed a professional team of real estate agents to handle the sale process. Our family has known Liz and Lexi Venema personally for many years and I have always respected Liz as a top agent in the Pleasanton market. It has been exciting to watch Lexi advance in this profession and team up with her mom. The two of them were a great team supporting all aspects of the sales process including pricing, staging, marketing and photography and ultimately finding us the perfect buyer. The process was almost flawless. I recommend the Venema team to anyone considering selling their home. ”

Layne Marceau, Seller



VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



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7959 Foothill Knolls, Pleasanton



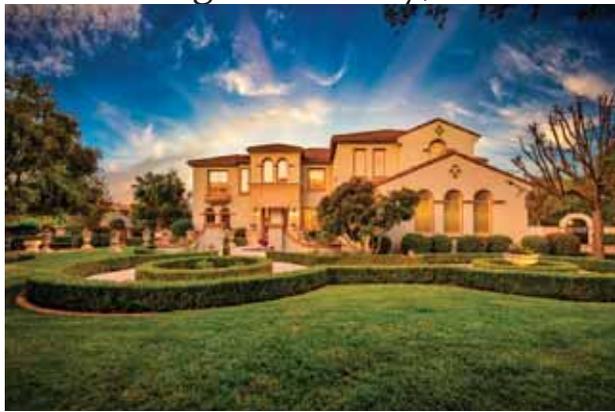
12400 Morgan Territory, Livermore



337 Yearling Court, Pleasanton



1034 Germano Way, Ruby Hill



2974 Sorano Court, Ruby Hill



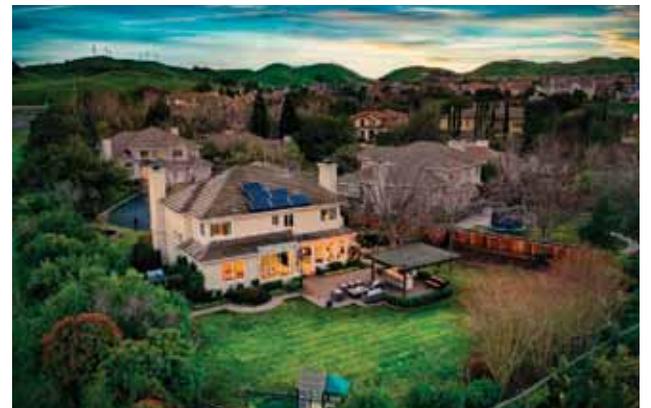
3422 Torlano Place, Ruby Hill



4132 Parma Court, Ruby Hill



1170 Pineto Place, Ruby Hill



482 Sangro Court, Ruby Hill



Ranked 127th in the Nation & Pleasanton's BEST 2 years in a row!



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Years Real Estate Experience

750+
Properties Listed and Sold

103%
Sales vs. List Price

\$800+ Million
Successful Real Estate Closings

Sold



8063 Regency Drive, Pleasanton
4 Bed 3 Bath 3,291 sq. ft.
Sold at \$3,320,000
Represented Buyer

Sold



7821 Galway Court, Dublin
5 Bed 4.5 Bath 4,832 sq. ft.
Sold at \$2,920,000
Represented Seller

Sold



2656 Corte Vida, Pleasanton
4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2,651 sq. ft.
Sold at \$2,900,000
Represented Buyer

Sold



7170 Foothill Road, Pleasanton
4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2,896 sq. ft.
Sold at \$2,680,000
Represented Seller

Sold



89 Coyote Place, San Ramon
5 Bed 3 Bath 2769 sq. ft.
Sold at \$1,998,000
Represented Buyer

Sold



583 Saint John Street, Pleasanton
3 Bed 3 Bath 1,745 sq. ft.
Sold at \$1,115,000
Represented Seller

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