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Jeremy Walsh
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

A message from our editorial director, Jeremy Walsh

Hi, I'm Jeremy Walsh, editorial director for the Pleasanton Weekly, DanvilleSanRamon.com and LivermoreVine.com. A Benicia native, I've been with Embarcadero Media's East Bay Division since 2013.

Part of what really draws me to local community journalism is probably what connects you to our publications too: sharing in the human experience. Telling the stories that impact people's lives can be quite powerful. So too can be the stories about the impact of people's lives.

I recently had the privilege of reflecting on the impact of Pleasanton community leader Don Lewis, an innovator and pioneer in the music world, upon his passing. Here was a man who touched so many lives through his passion and creativity — and a trademark smile — that so many around the Tri-Valley knew and respected. These are tough assignments for any reporter (and lord knows I've had my share of news obituaries this year), but they are so important for us to do, with the right balance of context, perspective and humanity. Don's story was so emblematic of the human experience; the process of telling it surely left an imprint on me as a journalist.

I'm so proud of the great journalism our small but mighty editorial team puts out on a daily basis. We recognize the vital role we play in your community, and our No. 1 goal is always to produce articles with the range and depth that our readers crave. That's why the Tri-Valley turns to us as the authoritative voice in local journalism. And we're so grateful for the support of our members, who allow us to practice our craft and grow as an organization. Consider supporting local journalism today!

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AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

A servant leader

It's not that Kathy Narum served the residents of Pleasanton in appointed and elected positions for more than 20 years. It's not the long list of council, local, regional committees and task forces she was involved with over the years. It's not even the impressive number of accomplishments the city made during her tenure.

It's how Kathy performed her duties over those years — as a servant leader who puts the needs and well-being of others before her own.

Over the years, I have watched Kathy interact with fellow councilmembers, residents, city staff and other elected officials, and I saw a leader who approached her role as an opportunity to serve others as opposed to a chance to fulfill a personal agenda. She has integrity and didn't make promises to get her way. She listened more than she spoke.

"It has been an absolute honor to have served as a member of the City Council for the past 9-1/2 years," she said at the Dec. 20 council meeting (her last since she is temporarily termed out). "For me, serving on the council hasn't been a job. It's a desire to do good, to really make a difference in the community."

Kathy and her husband Jeff are longtime residents who raised their two daughters in Pleasanton. Kathy was very involved with the Pleasanton Seahawks Swim Team and Pleasanton RAGE Girls Soccer when the girls were young.

She said it was about 25 years ago, when she was the Seahawks' president, that she met Jerry Thorne, a former Seahawks' president who later was elected to the Pleasanton council and eventually mayor. Little did Kathy know she would "follow in his footsteps, with his encouragement and support."

Like Thorne, Kathy was a member of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. She served on that commission from 2002 to 2006, and on the Planning Commission from 2007 to 2013. She was elected to the City Council in May 2013 to fill the seat vacated when Thorne was elected mayor; she was elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2018.

Some people believe being a city councilmember involves a couple hours of meetings a month. They haven't seen the several-inches-thick staff reports that have to be studied before the hours-long council meetings and committee assignments.

In addition to being very prepared for every council meeting, each year she was on the council, Kathy served on 14 to 18 committees and task forces spanning finance, transportation, land, water, air and mosquitos. Assuming each entity meets monthly, that is more than 1,700 meetings — in addition to the regular council meetings and unofficial meetings with residents — over 9-1/2 years.

"It became clear to me what 'community' really means," Kathy said, adding it is important for the council to recognize and meet "the needs of various segments that make us better as a whole."

Using Cubby's Dog Park as an example, she said, "We realized that four out of five of us didn't own a dog. Didn't want a dog. But it was important and it was the right thing to do for the community to put in the second dog park."

But it wasn't all hard work. Kathy had amazing experiences most people won't have the chance to.

"I helped put out a fire in the (Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department) training tower," she said, "and it's a good thing that's not part of our duties because I think I would have been a fail."

The future for Narum does not hold a job as a firefighter. As far as I know.

What is in her future, though, is time with her family, which now includes her 1-year-old grandson, Reed. She will also serve on the board of directors for Sunflower Hill, a nonprofit that offers housing and programs for adults with disabilities.

Susan Hayes, a nonprofit consultant and former city Human Services Commission member, said Kathy knows "where all the pipes are buried; where the mosquitoes hang out; the delicate dance of meeting housing needs; coping mechanisms for when the song 'It Never Rains in California' becomes a reality; and how to effectively navigate through the bottleneck of regional transportation discussions."

Kathy, you set a high bar and a great example. On behalf of residents present and future, thank you. ■



Kathy Narum

2023

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About the Cover

A look back at some of the standout visuals from July to December 2022 as part of our Year in Review: Part II feature, inside on Pages 12-19. Cover design by Doug Young.

What kinds of New Year's resolutions are you making for the coming year?



Kendra and Morgan Davies

Lawyer; golf professional

Well, we just went sneaker shopping and are committed to putting our new footwear to good use by doing plenty of walking and hiking. We also want to travel more during the coming year, while we're still young enough to have plenty of energy to go, explore, see and do.



Avni Kalur

College student

I'm planning to cut back on some of my social activities and to use that time to focus instead on developing hobbies that I enjoy, and that are just for myself.



Aneesha Smith

Graduate student

I want to be able to read a children's book in Japanese by the end of the year. I've been teaching myself Japanese so it seems like a very reasonable goal to me, and one that I'll be able to accomplish.



Sai Kalur

Software executive

I want to get back into pencil-sketching portraits. It is a great stress reliever for me, and something I enjoy so much that while I'm doing it, I totally lose track of the passage of time. I've had to put my sketching aside, but I'm very ready to pick it up again.



Ruchira Sharma

Software

I don't usually make resolutions because I always break them. But for 2023, my plan is to read at least one book every month, to get 10,000 steps in at least six days a week and to continue with my singing lessons so that I can produce a quarterly video to share with family and friends.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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An annual magazine featuring Pleasanton neighborhoods.

Our Neighborhoods

Coming inside your Pleasanton Weekly on **February 24, 2023**

Our Neighborhoods showcases selected neighborhoods and captures the particular qualities that make it unique.

Each Neighborhood profile includes local features — such as parks and shopping centers — and a fact box including the median home sale price, how many homes were sold and the nearby schools.

Our Neighborhoods is a great resource for current residents or those looking to relocate to the Tri-Valley.

2022 edition available at <https://tinyurl.com/PLS-neighborhoods>

Pleasanton Weekly

DIGEST

Blood drive

The Tri-Valley's interfaith community is hosting a blood drive next week, encouraging prospective donors to come out and "start the new year right by helping to save a life."

The event is scheduled for next Friday (Jan. 6) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz in Pleasanton.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code "INTERFAITHPLEASANTON" or call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

Spam text messages

California Attorney General Rob Bonta joined the attorneys general from the other 49 states and the District of Columbia expressing support earlier this month for a federal proposal to crack down on illegal text messages.

The 51 attorneys general sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission in support of the agency's proposal to require mobile wireless carriers to block illegal text messages from invalid, unallocated or unused phone numbers.

The FCC has also proposed blocking messages from phone numbers that are on a do-not-originate list, which includes phone numbers that are confirmed to be used for illegal or fraudulent activity.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, U.S. consumers lost some \$131 million in 2021 via fraudulent and illegal text messages that included, among other things, phishing links and downloads for unwanted software.

—Olivia Wynkoop,
BCN Foundation

26% water conservation

Pleasanton city officials announced last week that the water conservation numbers are out for November from the Zone 7 Water Agency, which set a monthly 15% conservation goal for its Tri-Valley service area.

The region surpassed the goal, and then some — combining to use 26% less water than November 2021. "A big thank you to all Pleasanton residents and businesses who are conserving water this winter," city officials said. "We did a great job, but we need to keep conserving."

Key tips for cutting back on water use include turning off irrigation during rainy months, signing up for automatic leak notifications via the Pleasanton water customer portal, installing an "Energy Star Most Efficient" washing machine and using toilet dye strips to detect silent leaks. Learn more at PleasantonWaterConservation.com. ■

Council narrows down Housing Element site list with a few modifications

PUSD headquarters plans for fewer housing units; St. Augustine property back in the queue

By Christian Trujano

After almost four hours of discussion, the Pleasanton City Council voted to make several modifications to its 2023-31 Housing Element site list at last week's council meeting.

Some of the most notable recommendations from the council were to reduce the number of housing units and buildable acres at the Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters and Vineyard sites as well as bringing back the St. Augustine Catholic Church site, which staff originally took off the site list.

"I don't think any of these decisions tonight or even in this Housing Element are necessarily the end of the story," community development director Ellen Clark said.

"If the city wanted to come back and PUSD wanted to come back with a proposal to show us a really awesome site plan, integrating open space pocket parks ... and it happens to bump up the density a little bit, we can talk about that and make that decision," she added. "We're just trying to make sure we have an (environmental impact report) that remains whole and we have a Housing

Element that delivers the number of units that we need to show."

City staff began working on the city's sixth Housing Element cycle back in March 2021 to meet the state-mandated Regional Housing Needs Allocation of 5,965 new units.

They underwent a public participation process through which public comments, input by the Housing Commission and Planning Commission and prior City Council direction led to the current draft that was presented to the council on Dec. 20.

Staff had originally developed a

site list with 24 potential locations for redevelopment — that list has now been cut down to 19. Reducing the list was always on the table as the decision to do so came after several layers of evaluations and reports back from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

In addition to the HCD's review, the city prepared an EIR draft to analyze significant effects of implementing the Housing Element and development of its various

See **HOUSING** on Page 10

Stage set for New Year's weekend

Meredith McHenry to headline in hometown — plus comedy, hiking and more music

By Jeanita Lyman

The Bankhead Theater is set to see out 2022 with a major performance featuring a Tri-Valley native as the headliner for its upcoming New Year's Eve show in one of the biggest local events of the weekend, which is also packed with performances and festivities ranging from standup comedy to hiking.

Meredith McHenry, who grew up in Livermore and Pleasanton and developed her musical foundations in those school districts before studying music at Las Positas College, described her musical trajectory as "interwoven and formed through the whole Livermore and Pleasanton musical system."

But while this set the stage for her current musical career, which consists of more than 20 shows per month on average throughout Northern California, McHenry said relieving stress from a job unrelated to music across the country ultimately put her in a position to succeed in a full-time music career.

"I moved to Pennsylvania for a couple of years, and I was just ready for a big shift and kind of needed to start over to a certain extent," McHenry said.

McHenry said that she started to hit a wall in her pursuit of a career outside of music, with a "high-stress, high-quota, high-demand sales position" pushing her to a breaking point.

"So I would go blow off steam at the end of the week by going to our local karaoke bar," she



COURTESY LVA

Meredith McHenry is set to be a major highlight of New Year's festivities in the Tri-Valley with her spot as headliner at the Bankhead Theater in her hometown of Livermore on Saturday.

said. "I had done a lot of performing in my early years and just kind of set it aside. Looking back I think it was because I was afraid to pursue what I loved so much."

Her casual foray back into performing, a stroke of luck, and trends in reality television in 2011 eventually landed McHenry a much larger audience than she'd ever anticipated, and launched her on her current trajectory.

"When I moved back to California I was still doing

that once in a while on the weekend, and happened to be at a bar that was holding a round for the Karaoke World Championships," she recalled.

With reality singing shows all over network television at the time, McHenry said that she found herself and her fellow performers recruited by ABC to a short stint on the small screen as the competition progressed.

"They were looking for a way to do it on the cheap, so

See **NEW YEAR'S** on Page 6

Banning tenant background checks

County ordinance aims to quell homelessness

An ordinance endorsed last week by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors is expected to curb homelessness in the county, according to racial justice and human rights groups.

The Wilma Chan Fair Chance Housing ordinance passed with the support of four out of five supervisors. The ordinance prohibits public and private property owners from using a criminal background check when evaluating an applicant for rental housing in unincorporated parts of the county.

Seventy-three percent of residents of Oakland homeless encampments had a criminal record, according to a 2018 survey by the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, human rights group Just Cities and The Village, a group of unhoused leaders.

The ordinance must pass a second reading in January before it becomes law.

"Fair Chance Housing is a commonsense public policy solution," Board of Supervisors president Keith Carson said in a statement.

Alameda County Supervisor Dave Brown said, "I am grateful that my colleagues voted for the Wilma Chan Fair Chance Housing ordinance. Wilma Chan and I have been strong supporters of removing discrimination and providing the

See **BANNING** on Page 7

Leaders praise Narum upon departure, welcome Nibert to council

Reelected Brown, Testa also take oath of office for new terms in Pleasanton

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A line of residents, past city officials and current council members delivered heartfelt goodbyes to now-former Councilmember Kathy Narum during the city's transition meeting last week that also saw newly elected District 1 Councilmember Jeff Nibert join the dais.

Narum served almost 10 years on the City Council and another 11 years of appointed service on local and regional task forces and committees that cover a range of issues like transportation, regional development, schools, mosquito abatement and water.

"It has been just an absolute honor to have served as a member of the City Council for the past 9 1/2 years," Narum said at the Dec. 20 ceremony. "Serving on the council hasn't been a job, it's a desire to do good, to really make a difference in the community."

Narum was ineligible to run for more time on the council this year under the city's term limit law, after



Jeff Nibert

first being elected in a special ballot in 2013 and then winning full at-large terms in 2014 and 2018.

She also served as vice mayor in 2016 and served on the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission each for five years.

"My hope is that residents take from my experience that you don't know where community service will lead you," Narum said. "You just don't know what happens if you simply just put one foot in front of the other in service of doing the right thing."

Those who spoke on Narum's accomplishments and dedication to the city of Pleasanton ranged from high-ranking public figures such as Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) and Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) to current and former Pleasanton councilmembers like Jack Balch and Jerry Pentin.

"As long as I've known Kathy, I've known her to always encourage people to get involved," Balch said as he tried to hold back tears. "Serving alongside her has been a great honor of my life. Her methodical engineering hat has been

invaluable to Pleasanton as we progress through many challenges in our city ... her commitment to the city and its people is inspiring."

Pentin, a former council member who reached the term limit in 2020, also agreed with many of the points other speakers made regarding Narum's dedication to her work at the council.

"I think we sometimes don't recognize what somebody does until they're done doing it," Pentin said. "I hope that you feel in your heart that the work that you gave to this city over the years was worth it, because I feel it was worth it and I know a lot of people in this town feel it was worth it."

Most notably, Mayor Karla Brown gifted Narum with a ceremonial key to the city in a gesture that shows how Narum will always be welcomed in the community that she has served and lived in for so long.

"Sometimes the public doesn't realize how much work, how much time and effort goes into serving," Councilmember Valerie Arkin said. "You've had a lot of passion with your work, and you do your homework on things and I know, you put a lot of thought into



Outgoing Councilmember Kathy Narum (middle) poses with members of the Pleasanton City Council on Dec. 20 -- Narum's last day on the dais.

CHUCK DECKERT

all of your decisions. Whether we ever agreed or not, I always knew you were always trying to do what you felt was best for Pleasanton and I always respected that."

Narum reminisced on some of her accomplishments over the years citing things like the creation of the Sunflower Hill community at Irby Ranch, which is an affordable housing community for adults with special needs.

"Pleasanton is just truly a

wonderful place to live to work to raise the family and the councils over the past nine plus years that I've been a part of have worked really hard to enhance that," she said. "It's really been an honor for me to be to play a part in that and I'm confident that this new council will continue to enhance Pleasanton and make it even better in their service to our community

See **COUNCIL** on Page 9

NEW YEAR'S

Continued from Page 5

they took their news team and sent their news team out to cover the karaoke championships," McHenry said.

While the effort to save on production costs associated with shows like "American Idol", "The X Factor" and "The Voice" was not a roaring success for ABC, it garnered a large enough audience during its one season to set McHenry's career in motion.

"It was really cheesy, and so ridiculous, and got canceled almost immediately but I got into the top four in the country and it got to almost a million viewers," McHenry said. "That was 2011 and since then I've formed multiple bands, I've been playing all of the Bay Area and all over Northern California recently in lots of different styles and genres like blues and rock and funk."

McHenry's upcoming show at the Bankhead is set to be the culmination of her wide-ranging musical career as it has evolved over the past decade, and an opportunity to showcase the vast array of musicians she's performed and collaborated with.

"With the New Year's Eve show, I've taken it as an opportunity to showcase and thank all of these wonderful folks who've been hanging out with me the last 10 years as I figured out how to do

this," McHenry said.

With deep roots in the Tri-Valley — and a personal connection to Nancy Bankhead — McHenry said the venue, as well as the opportunity to bring her favorite collaborators together, were making for what she anticipates to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"My mom moved to the house in downtown Pleasanton that was owned by the Bankhead family and the daughter is a rancher and she used to come and wash her horse blankets at our house," McHenry said. "She was always a huge supporter of the arts, and she was always really encouraging of whatever performance endeavors I was involved with at the time."

Another part of her continued connection to the Livermore performance space was the date of its dedication — Sept. 27, 2007 — which was her 25th birthday.

"It feels like a real full circle moment in a lot of ways," McHenry said.

One moral of McHenry's musical story so far, she said, is that what one is passionate about can be hard to suppress or escape from, even when other pursuits seem more practical.

"I tried really hard to find lots of other jobs that were safer than music, but it was the thing that I loved so much that it kept coming back to me and I kept coming back to it," McHenry said.

"Holding onto the things that

make us light up, the things that fill our hearts, is always going to serve us," she added.

McHenry and her many collaborators and fans are set to take to the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First St. in Livermore on New Year's Eve (Dec. 31) at 8 p.m. Tickets and more information are available at livermorearts.org.

For those looking for smaller-scale New Year's celebrations, or with other plans, the weekend is set to feature a number of other opportunities to welcome in the new year and say goodbye to 2022.

- The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is hosting their annual "First Hike of the Year" for early risers at 7 a.m. on Sunday (Jan. 1) at Sycamore Grove Park, kicking off at 1051 Wetmore Road.

- Tommy T's Comedy Club is hosting Tony Roberts through the weekend, with five show dates on today, Saturday and Sunday at 5104 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

- Almost Famous Wines at 271 S. Vasco Road in Livermore is hosting Crawdad Republic, Of Shape and Sound, and Loren O for another New Year's Eve musical offering with doors opening at 7:30 p.m.

- Michelle Lambert is taking to the stage at Pairing Wine Bar and Restaurant at 310 Main St. in Pleasanton on New Year's Day (Jan. 1) at 11:30 a.m. ■

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DSRSD seeking applicants for vacant seat

Opening due to Rubio's election to San Ramon City Council

By NICOLE GONZALES

After the departure of one of its board members, the Dublin San Ramon Services District held a discussion to determine how they would fill the vacant seat last week, opting to move forward with an application and interview process to fill the vacant position rather than calling for a special election.



Marisol Rubio

The agency will have until Feb. 18 to select a new director for Division 1 to succeed Marisol Rubio, who resigned after being elected to the San Ramon City Council this fall.

DSRSD provides services dealing with water, wastewater and recycled water to residents across the region. Areas of service in the Tri-Valley include Dublin and San Ramon as well as Pleasanton through a sewer agreement.

Normally the board is composed of five elected nonpartisan individuals. Terms for the board are carried out in four years.

Rubio was sworn in to the San

Ramon City Council this month, leaving the DSRSD Division 1 seat vacant. In her time on the board, Rubio acted as the 2022 board vice president. She is now overseeing City Council District 4 of San Ramon.

Division 1 covers a significant portion on San Ramon's Dougherty Valley.

The DSRSD board at its Dec. 20 meeting weighed three options for filling the vacancy. The first option would have brought about a special election to fill the seat. Staff noted a traditional election through Contra Costa County Elections Division would cost an estimated \$153,708.

Option No. 2 would allow the agency to begin the application and interview process for a candidate that will act as Division 1 director until the next election. This would cost an

estimated \$1,000.

The third option would be for the board to directly appoint a citizen to fill the seat without a full interview process.

DSRSD board members chose the second option. Per the staff report this detailed moving forward "with an application and interview process with qualified citizens of the district and make an appointment based on the results of a formal process."

Applicants must reside within Division 1 and be a registered Contra Costa County voter.

The application window will stay open for 21 days, closing on Jan. 10. By Feb. 7 the board will interview and choose a qualified applicant to fill the vacancy. ■

Editor's note: Editorial director Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.



FENTON KRAMER

Wreaths Across Pleasanton

Residents, community groups and businesses joined forces in Pleasanton earlier this month to prepare more than 600 holiday wreaths and place them at the gravesites of military veterans interred at Pioneer Cemetery and the adjacent St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery. Navy veteran Don Crocker, who served during World War II, laid the first wreath at the base of the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial and volunteers distributed the others on Dec. 17. The decorations will remain in place through New Year's Day.

BANNING

Continued from Page 5

support formerly incarcerated residents need for successful reentry."

Brown took over for Chan on the Board of Supervisors following Chan's untimely death in a collision in the city of Alameda last year.

Advocates of the ordinance said it is the nation's first countywide Fair Chance Housing ordinance. Formerly incarcerated people will have the chance to get a place to live based on the strength of their housing applications.

"Fair Chance Housing removes the albatross of one's past and allows people access to the housing we and our families need," said Dorsey Nunn, co-founder of human rights group All of Us or None in a statement.

Nunn added that formerly incarcerated people return home and "can't even live with family members" without putting them at risk.

"We are facing structural discrimination on par with redlining, but instead of racist covenants and purchase agreements, now criminal background checks are the barrier," Nunn said.

Over 5,000 adults are on probation in Alameda County and 47% are Black, according to the county's probation department. Only 10.7% of the county population is Black, according to the U.S. Census estimate for 2021. ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

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Holiday Fund



Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community.

The Holiday Fund partners with the Three Valleys Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

The following agencies will benefit from the Holiday Fund:

- Axis Community Health
- CityServe of the Tri-Valley
- Hope Hospice
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE)
- Sunflower Hill
- Tri-Valley REACH
- Valley Humane Society

2022-23 Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 27th, 225 donors have contributed \$60,000 to the Holiday Fund.

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Roseann Csencsits & Mike Kundmann.....	200	Bruce Yamamoto.....	200
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Plane crashes near Livermore Airport

Pilot transported to hospital; feds investigating

By JEREMY WALSH

An airplane crashed into property just east of the Livermore Municipal Airport, injuring the solo pilot late on Christmas Eve afternoon, according to authorities.

The incident occurred at about 4:55 p.m. Saturday, according to Jim Artman, a battalion chief with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

LPPFD and Alameda County Fire Department crews were dispatched to a report first describing an aircraft down at the airport in west-central Livermore, according to Artman. The information was soon clarified that the small airplane went down and came to rest at a commercial storage facility property on Rutan Drive just east of the airport.

Michael Musca, interim airport manager, said a local pilot had just taken off from the Livermore Airport when their airplane lost power suddenly. The airplane “landed abruptly” in the clear zone property owned by the airport on the other side of Highway 84 before coming to rest against a commercial



LPPFD

A single-engine airplane crashed into a storage business building east of the Livermore Municipal Airport on Christmas Eve.

building.

The first arriving fire crews confirmed that a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza 35 airplane with only the pilot aboard crashed and made contact with the storage building, “resulting in severe damage to the aircraft (and) requiring an extended extrication of the pilot,” according to Artman.

The pilot, who has not been

identified publicly, was transported by Falck Ambulance to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, according to Artman. The pilot’s injuries were considered to be non-life-threatening.

The building was not damaged, according to Artman. The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. ■

Swalwell secures funding for Tri-Valley projects

Federal dollars to support 15 initiatives throughout district

By JEANITA LYMAN

The office of U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Livermore) has announced funding for 15 projects across the congressman’s District 15, including four ambitious ones centered in the Tri-Valley.

The federal government’s funding package for 2023 was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 23, and includes more than \$15 million in funding for community projects throughout Swalwell’s district, with \$4.1 million of that dedicated to Tri-Valley-specific projects.

The package includes \$2 million in funding for Pleasanton’s PFAS treatment and well rehabilitation project, along with \$1 million for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District’s East Bay College

Agile Network, in partnership with the California State University system, and an additional \$1 million for the Goodness Village affordable housing project in Livermore. The Dublin Chamber of Commerce also received \$100,000 in funding for its “Emerging Business Community Outreach Program”.

“I am thrilled to see this funding for Community Projects headed to California’s 15th Congressional District,” Swalwell said in a Dec. 23 statement. “Whether it’s supporting affordable housing in Hayward, mitigating food insecurity in Livermore, or increasing student support programs at local community colleges, funding for these projects will help meet the needs of our communities.”

Other projects supported by the newly secured funding include One

Nation Dream Maker’s Last Mile Delivery Program, the Alameda County ALL IN Eats Food Hub, East Bay Community Energy’s Municipal Critical Facility Resilience Project, the Construction Trade Workforce Initiative’s Building Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program, East Bay Agency for Children’s Post-COVID Student and Teacher Recovery and Resilience Building Program, the Muslim Community Center’s Rental Assistance Program, and the Bay Area Community Health’s Refugee Mobile Health Clinic.

“These project requests came directly from local governments and nonprofits in our community and I look forward to seeing their impact in the months and years to come,” Swalwell said. ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 6

and again, I just thank you. It’s truly been an honor.”

Narum was referring to the new council, which officially welcomed Nibert as the first-ever District 1 representative upon the city’s conversion to district-based elections. Nibert, a now-former planning commissioner, won the District 1 seat at the ballot box last month.

After Narum’s departure, Nibert

along with reelected Brown and Councilmember Julie Testa were all sworn in before they started the regular council meeting.

“I am humbled to be assuming this position of public trust on the City Council. It will be an absolute honor and a privilege to do the work of the people of Pleasanton,” Nibert told the Weekly.

“I am excited to engage with the people of our city, and I encourage everyone’s active involvement in matters coming before the council. I welcome an open exchange of

ideas, so we can make Pleasanton a city that in the future our children will take pride in,” Nibert said, adding:

“I know this office will require a lot of work and present some significant challenges. But I am anxious to work together with my fellow council members and city staff so we can confront important decisions, beginning right away with critical issues regarding housing and water.” ■

Editor’s note: Editorial director Jeremy Walsh contributed to this story.

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Spedowski poised to become interim city manager of San Ramon

Council to vote on contract at upcoming meeting

By JEANITA LYMAN

The San Ramon City Council is set to vote on appointing current deputy city manager Steven Spedowski as the interim successor to retiring City Manager Joe Gorton early next month.

Following a series of special meetings, Mayor Dave Hudson reported on a vote taken in closed session on Tuesday to advance

Spedowski, a San Ramon city employee for more than 20 years and a former Livermore city councilman, as the interim city manager.

“The City Council has



Steven Spedowski

directed the city manager to bring a proposed contract to the next regular meeting of the city council appointing Steven Spedowski as interim city manager beginning Jan. 10, 2023,” Hudson said.

The measure was passed unanimously by the council members.

The move comes following Gorton’s announcement in September that he would be

retiring early in the new year after more than five years on the job.

“Words do not adequately express my love for this community and the team that has dedicated their lives to provide a quality of life that is unmatched to those who live, work and play in San Ramon,” Gorton said in a statement on Sept. 23.

Since the announcement, seeking Gorton’s successor has been

at the top of city officials’ minds, and at the center of discussions including those ahead of the Nov. 8 general election.

Spedowski was hired as deputy city manager in June 2019. An experienced public servant in his hometown, Spedowski had sat for two years on the Livermore Planning Commission and completed a four-year term on the Livermore City Council from 2014 to 2018.

Following the council’s vote Tuesday night, Spedowski’s contract is set to be considered at the San Ramon City Council’s next regular meeting on Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. ■

HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

sites with housing.

A traffic level of service (LOS) assessment — which evaluates the traffic impacts of the Housing Element — was also completed and presented to the council.

The PUSD district office on Bernal Avenue was one of the main talking points of the night as it took over most of the discussion, which ended in reducing the amount of assumed dwelling units.

“I wanted to take this property off the list for several reasons, one being with my previous knowledge, school districts giving out property to me is never a good idea,” Councilmember Valerie Arkin said. “But aside from that ... the location is a little problematic for me. I think it is part of our downtown. It’s changing the character of our downtown and that’s something that I think our residents have really strongly advocated for keeping that historic, charming downtown type of thing.”

With Councilmember Julie Testa abstaining, due to her living near the site, and Councilmember Jack Balch voting No, the rest of the council voted to zone the 10 acres available at the site at eight to 12 units per acre. That would mean an assumed capacity at about 107 housing units.

That differed from staff’s original recommendation of 15-16 dwelling units per acre, which would have produced an assumed capacity of 122 units.

Also, as a policy direction, the council voted to direct staff to include a green space on the corner of First and Bernal — the council also asked for less density on the Abbie Street side of the district headquarters site so the neighborhood adjacent to that area wouldn’t be as affected by the increase in housing.

“There were a lot of letters received — and I think most of them were from that Second Street area,” Mayor Karla Brown said. “So if there was some way to direct traffic away from Second Street, or or put up a barrier, so a small number went to Second Street, but the rest of them went to Bernal, that sure would be a

preference for me.”

Balch’s reasons for voting against the reduction stemmed from his belief that more units in that site would benefit the downtown area’s businesses and that based on a letter from PUSD officials, having more units there would be beneficial for workforce housing that teachers and staff could use.

“If we don’t allow them to cluster, if we don’t allow them to design a multifamily product that allows for affordability for their teachers, where’s our local control?” Balch said. “Where’s our partnership with our school district? They’re saying that’s what we need to help them do.”

He also added that the “downtown needs bodies and density of people to visit it so that they will patronize our establishments. It could actually create an economic engine and vitality of multifamily nearby.”

Because the council also reduced the number of units at that district site, they decided to bring back the St. Augustine church site, which staff had removed from the site list coming into last week’s meeting due to limited space resulting in a low amount of units that could be built there.

That decision to bring the site back was also supported by the fact that the church has expressed the desire to build housing at the site.

One comment that Testa made regarding the church site was that she was worried about the development affecting the character of the surrounding area and while Clark assured her that the units there will be single-family homes much like the surrounding area, other sites will still have some sort of negative impact on different neighborhoods.

“Many of the sites that we’re looking at are going to have some impact on somebody,” Clark said. “It’s going to be a change, I will certainly acknowledge that, for folks who have had really a vacant lot next to them for all these years and so how you feel about impact depends on your experience and what you’re used to seeing and what you may or may not want to see there in the future.”

Another big site for PUSD on the list was the Vineyard Avenue property located between Thiessen Street and Manoir Lane.

The roughly 10 acres in discussion was originally going to be zoned for three to five dwelling units with an assumed capacity of 20 units.

But after some discussion surrounding the idea of maintaining the character of the surrounding area by adding some type of greenbelt park that goes through the development, Balch motioned — with an amendment by Arkin — to reduce the site to seven acres and have three to four units per acre that adds up to a assumed capacity of 21 to 28 units.

Another issue that Testa brought up regarding the site was the impact the housing will have on the schools nearby and whether or not the district has enough available space in the city to build more schools if needed.

“There is no major housing planned in this area and the schools that serve this area have capacity,” said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, PUSD’s assistant superintendent of business services. “The type of housing in this area is low density, and (the site is located in) a mature area of the city. So it makes a lot of sense for the district to take its assets here and to be able to invest in where the housing is going to be built.”

He also added that, “the redrawing of the district boundaries for the elementary schools will help balance the schools and reduce ... the need for additional middle schools. Again, we are looking at our enrollment is down, we’ve lost about 1,000 students over the last three years. So our demographics right now don’t show the need for an additional school.”

Testa requested an additional analysis be completed by the city

to determine the need for additional schools.

The remaining three acres would be left unzoned so that any future development for park space would be placed there.

The sites that the council voted to take off the site list after following staff’s recommendations were: Old Santa Rita area; Pimlico Drive area, north; Boulder Court; Owens Drive sites (Motel 6 and Tommy T’s); Rheem Drive area; and Sonoma Drive area.

The other main topic during the Housing Element item discussion was regarding substantive program revisions that relate to the city’s existing development review process and residential development standards.

The city’s current planned unit development (PUD) process is discretionary and requires Planning Commission review and then City Council approval. Through the process, sites modify their respective zoning to a special PUD zone that allows for greater flexibility of standards tailored to the specific site’s constraints and opportunities.

“One of the requirements of the Housing Element is to analyze potential governmental constraints to housing production and reduce them where feasible and also to facilitate housing development through a streamlined process that provides certainty and outcomes,” said associate planner Megan Campbell.

Campbell said that the HCD provided feedback related to the PUD process expressing concerns that the process could constrain housing production by introducing extra time cost and uncertainty into

the review process.

“In response, the city is developing a comprehensive set of objective design standards for residential and mixed-use developments,” Campbell said. “These standards will help streamline development approvals (and) provide a clear, consistent and objective guidance to ensure quality, consistency and design.”

The council voted to approve staff’s modification to the PUD process, which will create two paths — one would be applicable to applicants seeking rezoning or wishing to deviate from those objective design standards.

“What we’re trying to do is sort of take that one step forward in terms of simplification and objectivity, which is what the state is looking for in our housing sites, by defining sort of a more structured process,” Clark said.

The other would be creating a PUD conformance review, which would be established for the rezone sites.

“This adjusted process would involve approval by the Planning Commission and the city will base its review and related approval or denial based on those objective standards that will have been adopted,” Campbell said.

The objective design standards were voted on unanimously by the council at a separate item during the meeting.

These standards would also apply to smaller infill projects in zoning districts that allow residential family or mixed-use development.

“Questioning around land use controls, our consultant recommends adding two programs to review and update the multifamily zoning standards,” Campbell said. “The goal is to adjust the standards to allow assigned densities to be feasibly achieved without the need for a PUD variance or other exception.”

Now that the council weighed in on the Housing Element draft, the Planning Commission and the City Council will conduct a public hearing on Jan. 31 to consider adopting the final draft of the Housing Element and certification of the EIR.

Staff will then resubmit the Housing Element to HCD for final certification — most likely in February, according to staff. ■



JEREMY WALSH

The density of the Pleasanton school district office site on Bernal Avenue was decreased to 10 to 12 units per acre from city staff’s original recommendation of 15-16 per acre.

POLICE BULLETIN

Local Crumbl Cookies shops hit with child labor violations

Popular dessert chain Crumbl Cookies is currently facing financial penalties following a federal investigation that found child labor violations at 11 franchises across the country, with the Tri-Valley franchise that operates three locations being hit the hardest.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division announced last week that an investigation into 11 franchise locations across six states found that a total of 46 young employees under 18 years old faced work hours that violate child labor laws, as well as dangerous conditions that child labor protections are also aimed at shielding them from.

"Violations ranged from employing some minor-aged employees to work longer and later than the time the law allows to assigning others to operate potentially dangerous ovens and machinery," labor department officials said in Tuesday's announcement.

Of the 46 minors impacted according to the labor department, nine were employed by Tri-Valley Treats LLC, the local franchisee that operates locations in San Ramon, Dublin and Livermore.

The findings mean that the 11 franchise operations are collectively facing \$57,854 in penalties for the violations, with Tri-Valley Treats LLC facing the highest proportion of that total compared to other franchises, at \$15,417. The local operation was tied with a franchise out of Bountiful, Utah for having the highest number of minors impacted according to the investigation.

"Employers must ensure that part-time employment does not jeopardize the safety or education of young workers," Wage and Hour Division regional administrator

Betty Campbell said in Tuesday's announcement. "It is the responsibility of every employer who hires minor workers to understand child labor laws, and comply with them or potentially face costly consequences."

In addition to Tri-Valley Treats LLC, two other nearby franchise operations were among those found in violation according to the labor department. Andersen Brentwood Inc. based in Brentwood and Walnut Creek Cookies LLC based in Concord were also hit with fees for \$7,543 and \$3,597 respectively. Six minors were impacted by violations at the Brentwood operation, and three by violations at the Concord operation.

—Jeanita Lyman

In other news

- Police said Monday they have arrested a Denver man suspected of a racist and homophobic rant against two people at a San Ramon fast-food restaurant on Christmas Eve.

Jordan Douglas Krah, 40, allegedly harassed the diners at the In-N-Out Burger on San Ramon Valley Boulevard as they were filming themselves trying different dishes, making the young man and young woman fear for their safety.

"The San Ramon Police Department strives to ensure everyone in our community feels safe and welcome," Lt. Tami Williams said in a press release Monday afternoon. "We will continue to take swift and diligent legal action against acts of hate to help create an inclusive place for all to live, work and visit."

A TikTok video that captured the exchange shows the pair trying different menu items, when someone behind the camera says "You're filming yourself eating? You're weird homosexuals."

The diners look stunned, and the suspect then asks if they are Japanese or Korean. When one of them answers "Korean", the suspect then says "that's what I thought. You're Kim

Jong Un's boyfriend huh."

As the diners laugh nervously, the suspect then says he is "a slavemas-ter" and uses a homophobic slur.

After that, the suspect tells them "see you outside."

On Sunday afternoon, San Ramon Police Chief Denton Carlson said on social media that police were seeking information about the suspect and posted a photo of a man in a silver Mustang, with Florida plates.

On Monday, police said Krah would be booked at Contra Costa County jail in Martinez on suspicion of two counts of committing a hate crime.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped by providing information associated with the racist and homophobic incidents over the past few days," Carlson said Monday in a post on social media.

—Bay City News Service, with Jeremy Walsh contributing

- On the morning of Dec. 14 Dublin Police Services responded to reports of an armed robbery at a local business in the west side of the city.

According to a press release on the incident, officers arrived at the scene around 10 a.m. Police confirmed that customers and employees of Mike's Camera store at the 7200 block of Regional Street had been held at gunpoint while merchandise was stolen.

Police report five individuals were allegedly involved in the crime and are still at-large. The investigation is ongoing.

The robbers entered the store and proceeded to hold employees and customers at gunpoint while they smashed several display cases in the business. An estimated \$80,000 worth of gear was taken, according to Dublin police. The suspects then fled in a nearby vehicle.

Police were unable to locate the assailants or the vehicle following the robbery.

According to the statement, eyewitness accounts describe the

burglars as "dark-skinned males in their early twenties." The news release also said they wore dark clothing with hoods, gloves and masks. A description of the getaway vehicle has not yet been provided.

Officers referred to the crime as a "take-over" style robbery. In this scenario, suspects take control of a location and demand money or merchandise, this typically includes more than one perpetrator.

Anyone with additional information about the robbery is encouraged to contact Dublin law enforcement at 925-833-6670.

—Nicole Gonzales

- A cheer coach and teacher in the San Ramon Valley is set to remain in jail ahead of an arraignment date at the start of the new year after being held to answer for lewd conduct charges following a preliminary hearing that ended Dec. 16.

Nicholas Moseby is facing allegations by five different unidentified minors of sexual harassment and molestation during his time as a cheer coach with NorCal Elite in San Ramon and as a science teacher at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

Moseby, 41, of Concord is set to be arraigned next Tuesday, marking the kickoff of criminal proceedings headed toward a jury trial, with Moseby facing charges against all five of the alleged victims in the case.

At the final day of the preliminary hearing on the case, Contra Costa County Superior Court Judge John Cope declined to grant the defense's motion to reduce Moseby's \$125,000 bail in order to enable his release from the Martinez Detention Facility, where he's been in custody since his arrest on Sept. 14.

According to Ted Asregardoo, spokesperson for the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, Cope reasoned that "Moseby was too much of a threat to public safety to let him out" in his decisions at the

Dec. 16 hearing, which included ordering Moseby to stand trial for the charges against him.

"In sexual assault cases, judges rarely lower the bail because they know that most of these suspects tend to go back to their old ways pretty quickly," Asregardoo said.

Cope also declined to consider school records on the five alleged victims that were produced, according to the DA's office.

Moseby is facing four felony charges — three for lewd acts upon a child and one for distributing or exhibiting harmful material to seduce a minor. He is also facing three misdemeanor charges consisting of two for child molestation and one for sexual battery.

The initial announcement of his arrest on Sept. 14 was spurred by allegations from two young teenage girls and three charges. Three additional victims came forward ahead of court proceedings with additional allegations, leading to the total of eight charges Moseby now faces, according to the DA's office.

At the time of his arrest, Moseby was a biology teacher at Diablo Vista Middle School, having previously taught at San Ramon Valley High School at the start of his teaching career in 2021, and had worked as a tumbling and conditioning coach for Nor Cal Elites for more than nine years. He was issued a single-subject teaching credential by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing the month before his arrest, and received a certificate of clearance in 2021.

While the two alleged victims who came forward ahead of Moseby's arrest this fall reported incidents that had occurred shortly before, the charges from additional victims who came forward after go as far back as January, according to court records. ■

—Jeanita Lyman

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 21

Theft

■ 10:43 a.m. on the 4100 block of Denker Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 4:51 p.m. on the 5800 block of Valley Avenue

■ 6:59 p.m. at Rosewood and Owens drives

Dec. 20

Shoplifting

■ 6:48 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Dec. 19

Shoplifting

■ 6:48 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 18

Drug violation

■ 12:21 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Domestic battery

■ 9:51 p.m. on Linwood Court

Criminal threats

■ 10:00 p.m. on the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue

Dec. 17

Theft from auto

■ 1:49 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Warrant arrest

■ 6:22 a.m. on the 3200 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Assault/battery

■ 8:51 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 2:37 p.m. on the 100 block of Main Street

■ 5:47 p.m. on the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Alcohol violation

■ 10:44 a.m. at Main and St. Mary streets

DUI

■ 9:21 p.m. at Foothill Road and I-580 ramp

■ 10:56 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Dec. 16

Alcohol violation

■ 10:20 a.m. at Division and Fair streets

Warrant arrest

■ 3:21 p.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft from auto

■ 3:36 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

Vandalism

■ 5:59 p.m. on the 4200 block of First Street

DUI

■ 9:40 p.m. at Sunol Boulevard and I-680 southbound

Dec. 15

Theft

■ 8 a.m., 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; theft from auto

■ 9:29 a.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 8:01 p.m. on the 5800 block of Sterling Greens Circle

■ 8:14 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

■ 8:48 p.m., 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

Fraud

■ 4:14 p.m. on the 400 block of Boulder Court

Dec. 14

Weapons violation

■ 10:17 a.m. on the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 11:18 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Dec. 13

Drug violation

■ 10:12 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Hacienda Drive

Theft

■ 11:12 a.m. on the 5100 block of Oakdale Court

■ 12:40 p.m., 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 6:08 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

■ 1:03 p.m. on the 3700 block of Trener Drive

■ 7:34 p.m. on the 7200 block of Stonedale Drive



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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW: JULY TO DECEMBER

Local elections dominate headlines, plus two World Series titles, big anniversaries and making scientific history

By JEREMY WALSH

When the clock chimes midnight after tomorrow, we will officially say goodbye to 2022.

A monumental year in many respects for the Tri-Valley saw some major achievements on the local, regional, national and international stages come to the forefront in the second half of the year.

The general election was the gift that truly kept giving for our journalists between July and December. So many of our most important stories focused on the campaigns, candidates and ballot measures in front of local voters — not to mention another successful election forum series for us.

The city councils in Pleasanton,

Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon each saw new members elected into office, two of the three school facilities bond measures narrowly passed and a progressive private civil rights lawyer, Pamela Price, defeated internal candidate Terry Wiley to become the next district attorney in Alameda County — part of a major shakeup for countywide law enforcement, when coupled with the primary election victory of Sheriff-Elect Yesenia Sanchez.

Although our election coverage dominated headlines throughout the last six months of 2022, it wasn't the biggest headline. That belongs to the team of scientists at Lawrence Livermore National



LLNL

The target chamber of LLNL's National Ignition Facility, where 192 laser beams delivered more than 2 million joules of ultraviolet energy to a tiny fuel pellet to create fusion ignition on Dec. 5, an accomplishment that made international headlines.

Laboratory who just weeks ago recorded a milestone of historic proportions by achieving fusion ignition for the first time. The news put Livermore innovation on the worldwide map.

That's just the tip of the iceberg

of the many significant stories we highlighted between July and December. Catch up on those storylines and photographs in our Year in Review: Part II in the pages ahead. We've added two new features for this first time as

well this year: A list of our Top 22 stories from 2022 according to PleasantonWeekly.com data, and our editorial team's personal picks for their favorite story and their best story of 2022.

Hope you enjoy! ■

JULY

- Downtown Pleasanton sees a familiar sight — red, white and blue filling Lions Wayside Park — as the community's traditional Fourth of July festivities return for the first time since the pandemic hit.

- Dublin is ready to proceed with work toward a new Iron Horse Nature Park and Open Space project after receiving \$2.29 million in state funding.

- The East Bay Regional Park District reopens the Del Valle East Beach to swimming with a caution advisory, while the West Beach at Lake Del Valle in Livermore remains closed due to blue-green algae.

- Livermore Valley wineries celebrate the return of Taste Our Terroir, a four-day affair offering 13 events, including a winemaker dinner in an olive orchard, an electric bike tour, a sensory extravaganza and more.

- Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown announces her intent to seek a second term in the general election, becoming one of the first local officials to confirm their reelection plans ahead of the fall campaign season.

- The Rincon Branch Library in Livermore marks its milestone 30th anniversary with a community celebration featuring games, treats, music and more at the satellite facility within May Nissen Community Park.

- Ailsa Rehkopf, a vice principal at Walnut Grove Elementary



NICOLE GONZALES

Construction employees work to place the final beam on the Emerald High School steel structure in November. This marked the "Topping Off" of the project, a major milestone for Dublin school district staff.

School in Pleasanton, is taking the reins of operations at Greenbrook Elementary School in Danville after being appointed as the school's new principal.

- Beverly Lane, a former Danville mayor and 28-year member of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, confirms that she will be stepping down at the end of her current term this fall.

- A sales tax measure that would provide more subsidized child care and preschool for low income children in Alameda County

is upheld by the Alameda County Superior Court as the judge sides with local officials arguing simple majority (not two-thirds) required for specific tax placed on ballot by voters. Measure C was approved by 64% of voters in March 2020 but challenged in court.

- Mission Valley Rock Company, which operates a sand mining facility in Sunol, must pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle allegations it discharged untreated wastewater into Alameda Creek last year, according to the

State Water Resources Control Board.

- Teachers in the Dublin Unified School District are poised to see an 8% salary increase, following a months-long negotiation process that saw a majority of unionized educators in the district in favor of striking at one point.

- Kelly Bowers, the outgoing superintendent for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, will take over as the new CEO and president of Three Valleys Community Foundation.

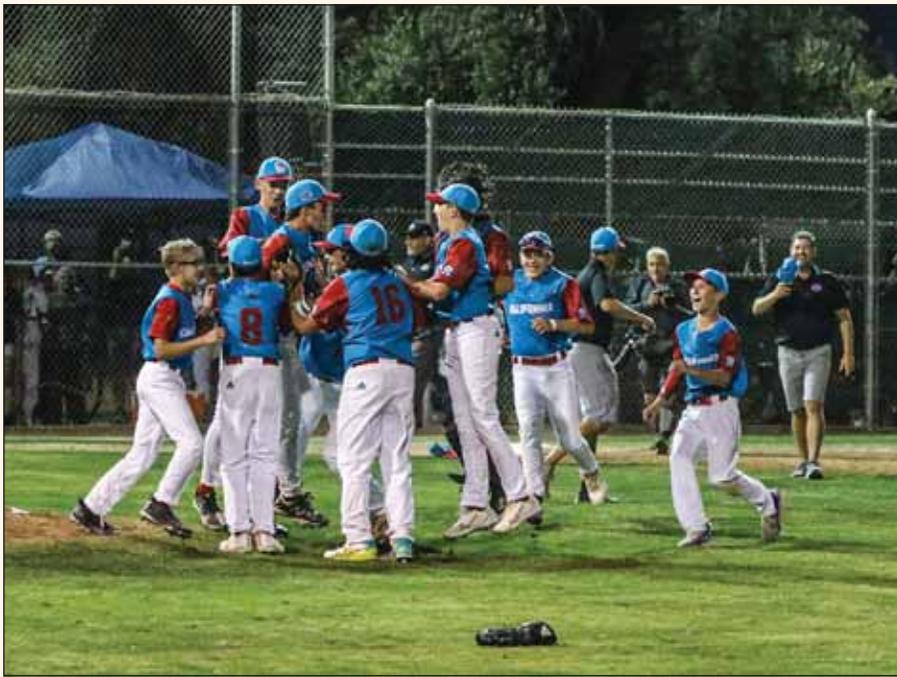
- American singer-songwriter Ben Folds, best known for fronting the eponymous alternative rock band that strung together several hits in the 1990s, has been announced as the new headlining act for Livermore Valley Arts' annual Brilliance at the Bankhead fundraising gala in September. He replaces previously signed headliner Randy Newman, who had to step aside for health reasons.

- Livermore City Council votes unanimously to adopt a resolution certifying environmental documents and approving ballot initiative language to extend sanitary sewer service beyond the urban growth boundary to serve wine country uses. The initiative will appear on the ballot citywide as Measure P.

- The Pleasanton school board signs off on the final plan to purchase an office complex in the Hacienda Business Park for \$23.28 million to serve as the new district headquarters location, with the costs to be recovered via the future sale of the current district office property on Bernal Avenue.

- Outgoing Milpitas principal Francis A. Rojas is moving to Dublin, where he has been appointed as the founding principal of Emerald High School, which is under construction with Phase I on track for completion in December 2023.

- After months of community debate, Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund has announced that he will ask the City Council to



DANVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE

Danville are international champions, winning the Little League Intermediate World Series 5-2 over West Seoul (South Korea) on Aug. 7 in Livermore.



JEN SCHMITT

Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 14s won the World Series in North Dakota on Aug. 20.

remove the Donlon Elementary School field from Pleasanton's Housing Element site inventory list — a move that leaves "Save Donlon Field" advocates grateful.

- Stanford Health has purchased a five-building office complex inside the Hacienda Lakes office center in Pleasanton for nearly \$60 million, new space needed to help meet the growing demand for health services in the Tri-Valley. A rebrand of the local hospital system to Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley (dropping "ValleyCare" from its name) is soon to follow.

- Livermore resident Antonio Vargas is killed and two others are injured in a shooting at Granada Bowl after a bar fight escalates into gunfire. Roger Aleman Garcia is later arrested and charged with murder in the case.

- Pleasanton police continue to investigate 10 catalytic converter thefts that were reported on the same day in the city.

- Officials at Dublin Unified hold a special meeting with the goal of addressing criticism and exploring options in the wake of publicized written conversations involving three trustees. DUSD's attorney argues no Brown Act violations occurred, but some are still calling for an external investigation into the matter.

- The Pleasanton school board approves notices of completion for the construction of new classroom buildings at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, two major projects funded through Measure II.

The family of Shawn O'Donnell, who was born and raised in Danville, is grieving her death after being struck and killed by a truck while bicycling to work in Washington, D.C.

- Freelance writer Kate Bradshaw recounts her experience hiking with her sister from Fremont to

Livermore, a three-day, 28-mile trek through Ohlone Regional Wilderness Preserve.

- At a Contra Costa County coroner's inquest hearing looking at the death of 33-year-old Tyrell Wilson in Danville last year, a civilian jury finds unanimously that Wilson's death came "at the hands of another person other than by accident" — akin to the legal definition of homicide. Wilson died after being shot by now-former Danville police officer Andrew Hall.

- A group of residents voice their concerns regarding the 2023-31 Housing Element site list including the Pleasanton Unified School District headquarters property for potential affordable housing during a recent City Council meeting.

- Following longtime advocacy for increased bike safety measures on Mount Diablo, workers begin

construction on a project that will provide 30 new bike turnouts on roads aimed at safely accommodating the flocks of cyclists who ride in the area.

- Pleasanton City Council approves revised traffic mitigation plans and proceedings to carry out the construction of a Costco in Pleasanton.

- Dublin officials are reviewing applications for two different Chick-fil-A restaurants in the city. One proposed location will be canceled later in the year.

- San Ramon resident Amit Bhardwaj and Pleasanton resident Srinivasa Kakkera are arrested on insider trading charges for activities that allegedly saw them generate more than \$5 million in illegal profits alongside others involved in the scheme.

- Dublin High alum Jon Thal-

blum goes viral for a grab he makes on a line drive in foul territory while working as a ball boy for the Oakland A's.

- Danville-based 300 Venture Group acquires the Stoneridge Shopping Center property that houses the JC Penney storefront in Pleasanton.

- EBRPD Director Ayn Wieskamp, a former city councilmember and parks director in Livermore, announces her upcoming retirement from the Board of Directors after more than 20 years representing Ward 5.

- The contentious Eden Housing development planned for downtown Livermore continues to spur debate following the city's decision to not process a resident-submitted referendum petition to overturn the City Council's approval of an amended disposition, development and loan agreement for the project.

- San Ramon's Golden Skate roller rink no longer has a firm closing date, following an uptick in attendance and community support for the facility, and delays with permitting and development for a townhouse project for the site.

- Dublin resident Roni Gage, 39, is killed after being struck by an SUV while walking in the southbound lanes of Dougherty Road. Police allege the driver, Giovanni Fissore of Livermore, was intoxicated with his child in the vehicle.

- Denton Carlson, a captain with the San Ramon Police Department, is promoted to police chief.

- Monte Vista High alum Brooke Starn wins the women's division of the San Francisco Marathon.

- Pleasanton school board places a \$395 million general election bond measure on the Nov. 8 ballot.

- The Livermore Municipal Airport's development policy is temporarily suspended amid plans to create new regulations that will better align development procedures with city requirements and industry standards.

- The Pleasanton school board hires Jonathan Fey, a local resident who has worked in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, to be the new principal for Amador Valley High School.

AUGUST

- Dublin Unified trustees discuss revisions to the board's policy on electronic communications, following controversy over conversations revealed by public records during the adoption of new trustee-area maps earlier this year.

- Newly formed community group Move Eden Housing files a lawsuit to take their efforts to force the city to process their referendum petition a step further. They seek to overturn the council's May approval of a development agreement for the 130-unit affordable housing project.

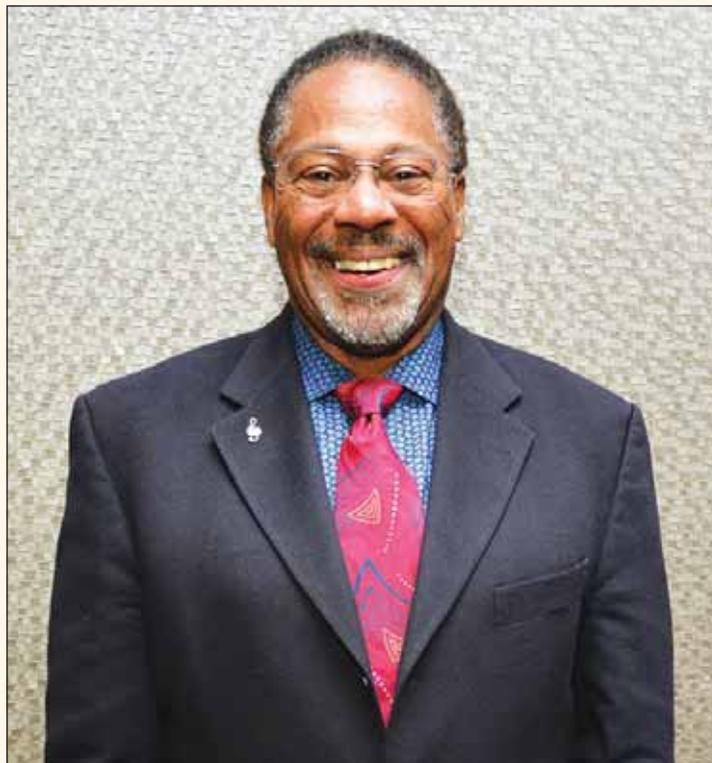
- Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority reveals plans to consolidate paratransit services with County Connection.

- Pleasanton native and Amador Valley High School alumnae Anastacia Snyder is honored as this year's Assembly District 3 Woman of the Year in Butte County for her work with Catalyst Domestic Violence Services.

- Questions abound about Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley after the apparent discontinuation of its popular Friendly Visiting Program speaks to leadership instability at the nonprofit.

- California Attorney General Rob Bonta files an amicus brief in the case of Save Livermore

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 14



FILE PHOTO BY CHUCK DECKERT

In November Pleasanton mourned the death of music pioneer and community leader Don Lewis.



Laurie Walker takes the oath of office after winning the election for PUSD Board of Trustees Area 2.



Justin Brown, joined by his family, is sworn into office in December for PUSD Board of Trustees Area 5.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 13

Downtown v. City of Livermore, supporting the city's request for dismissal or expedited review of the pending appeal challenging its approval of the Eden Housing development under the California Environmental Quality Act.

- Upon the city's ongoing 40th anniversary festivities, Dublin releases a new documentary, "Dublin: The Making of a City".

- The San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office urges community members to attend a court hearing in Sacramento that will determine if a man convicted in 2011 of torturing and beating a teenage boy in Tracy will be granted parole. Anthony Vincent Waiters was arrested at his workplace in Pleasanton in 2008.

- More than 2,000 Kaiser Permanente mental health professionals in Northern California and the Central Valley begin what organizers call an "open ended strike" amid stalled labor negotiations.

- Livermore school board votes to place a \$450 million facilities bond measure on the Nov. 8 ballot.

- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley confirms its plans for a merger with CityServe of the Tri-Valley, citing mutual benefits and additional programs for in-need populations in the region.

- Tri-Valley water agencies have unveiled a new website that is focused on educating residents and businesses about the region's water supply reliability.

- Pleasanton native Stephen Piscotty is released by the Oakland Athletics in a personnel move seen as the last-place A's clearing more roster space for prospects to gain major-league experience at the end of a lost season.

- Clark Conover, who was formerly a vice principal at Granada

High School, is stepping into the role of principal this school year.

- The Pleasanton school board approves a reorganization plan for the Information Technology Department that will see tech specialists assigned to multiple schools and work off a dispatch model.

- Pleasanton Unified welcomes back students for the start of the 2022-23 school year.

- Dozens of Parkside residents packed inside the Pleasanton City Council chamber celebrate as council members voted against constructing a recycled water fill station in their neighborhood.

- Pleasanton City Council approves a request from staff to move forward with the planning process for the Stoneridge Shopping Center redevelopment framework.

- Two California Highway Patrol officers are praised for saving a woman from a fiery crash on westbound Interstate 580 in

unincorporated Alameda County just outside Livermore.

- The president of a Livermore-based East Bay Rabbit Rescue says bunnies are coming in at an "alarming rate", and the group needs help.

- Pleasanton resident Jong Park, 67, dies in a solo-vehicle crash at the southbound Bernal Avenue offramp along Interstate 680.

- A two-year pilot project is launched that will examine the viability of a transit pass that is compatible with every public transit agency in the nine-county Bay Area.

- The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 14-year-old All-Stars win the Babe Ruth 14 World Series contested in North Dakota.

- Pleasanton City Council approves the floor layout and site plans for the multimillion-dollar project to renovate the historic Century House.

- The city of Pleasanton welcomes

Susan Hsieh to her first day as the new director of finance. Hsieh has more than 20 years of experience in finance and operations management in the private and public sectors.

- Two men face multiple felony charges after prosecutors allege they robbed an off-duty police officer at gunpoint in Dublin and fled into Oakland before ultimately being caught in yet another armed Rolex watch theft reported in the Bay Area this summer.

- The Danville team wins the Little League Intermediate World Series contested in Livermore.

- Longtime incumbents Karen Stepper and Robert Storer will be reappointed to the Danville Town Council after being the only candidates to file for the general election.

- On the second anniversary of the passage of Pleasanton's tobacco retailer ordinance, city leaders and youth advocates gather at Foothill High to provide updates on the effects the regulations have had on the city.

- Ray J. Garcia, a former prison warden at the Federal Correctional Institute in Dublin, is indicted on allegations of sexually abusive conduct towards female prisoners and lying to government agents about it.

- Danville resident Andrew Oliver Kallick, 33, who worked as a noon duty monitor at John Baldwin Elementary School, is charged with possession of child pornography by the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

- Swarms of small flies that are invading downtown Pleasanton in higher numbers than usually expected have prompted city leaders to work with the county in finding out if there are any additional contributing factors to the increase.

- One pilot who died in a mid-air plane crash in Watsonville

has been identified as 32-year-old Stuart Camenson, a San Ramon Valley High School alumnus who grew up in Alamo.

- Dublin school board reviews the results of an outside audit done to determine the causes for a nearly \$200 million shortfall for bond-funded district construction projects revealed publicly 18 months ago. Findings mainly cite planning miscommunications, staffing turnover and failure to account for inflation, land costs and additional construction fees, primarily around the new Emerald High School. However, the audit did not report any elements of fraud or suspicious actions by district officials.

- A revised application to construct a five-story, mixed-use building on the edge of downtown Pleasanton with no onsite parking was sent again to city staff for approval months after an initial rejection — and in light of recent state housing laws, residents and city leaders will likely not be able to push back.

- Kwangson "Sonny" Kim, a once well-known youth golf instructor in the Tri-Valley, faces up to 18 years in prison after being found guilty by an Alameda County jury of continuous sexual abuse of a minor student and other related charges.

- Livermore resident and Amador Valley High alumnus Jensen Ybarra is killed in a solo-vehicle crash while vacationing at his family cabin in the town of Arnold in Calaveras County.

- San Ramon Valley officials join executives from Standard Communities at a currently vacant lot on Alcosta Boulevard for a groundbreaking ceremony marking the kickoff of construction on a 100% affordable senior housing project.

- Christine Lutz, one of the three candidates to qualify for the election ballot for PUSD Board of Trustees Area 2, announces that



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Progressive civil rights attorney Pamela Price was elected as the new district attorney for Alameda County.

she will be withdrawing from the race — although her name will still appear on the ballot.

SEPTEMBER

- Nurses from Kaiser Permanente facilities in the greater Bay Area and throughout the state picket to protest the health care giant's alleged refusal to address concerns about health, safety and short staffing.

- The FDA authorizes a pair of COVID-19 booster vaccines that are specifically formulated to target the omicron variant of the virus and two of its most common subvariants.

- Chick-fil-A has signed the lease for a second location in Pleasanton, in the vacant restaurant space Sweet Tomatoes once occupied before the buffet chain went bankrupt early in the pandemic.

- Devin Williams Jr., a first-year Alameda County sheriff's deputy, is arrested and charged with allegedly killing married couple Maria Tran and Benison Tran in their Dublin home, leaving the community and his department reeling with as many questions as answers about what happened. Williams' family contends he had been romantically involved with Maria Tran.

- Tri-Valley communities, like the rest of California, avoid rotating power outages thanks to successful conservation in the face of a record-breaking heat wave and the highest power grid peak demand in state history.

- An Alameda County Superior Court judge denies community group Move Eden Housing's temporary restraining order request to prevent the city of Livermore from completing the sale of the city-owned project site intended for a 130-unit affordable housing development.

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

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

- One of the employees at FCI-Dublin facing allegations of sexual misconduct in ongoing investigations at the women's prison has died by apparent suicide. Nicholas Theodore Ramos was placed on leave amid allegations he attempted to initiate a "sugar daddy relationship" with an inmate in 2016.

- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory celebrates its 70th anniversary.



CHUCK DECKERT

Our freelance photographer Chuck Deckert selected this photo from the 2022 Tri-Valley Veterans' Day Parade in Pleasanton as both his favorite and his best photo of the year for us.

My Favorite and My Best Stories of 2022

We asked our editorial staff to reflect on their coverage from 2022 and select what they felt was their favorite story and their best story of the year.

Publisher Gina Channell Wilcox

Best: Around the Valley — The group of many names

Favorite: If you don't pray, you learn how to pray: 97-year-old WWII, Korean War vet tells of battles, bombs and life as Navy corpsman

Editorial director Jeremy Walsh

Best: Former Pleasanton mayor Jerry Thorne dies

Favorite: 'Live and Local' — Focus on Bay Area performers for new season at the Firehouse

Livermore Vine editor Cierra Bailey

Best: Livermore Lab breakthrough marks milestone for future of nuclear defense, clean energy

Favorite: Mike Runs Livermore: Resident takes on mission to run every street in the city

Reporter Jeanita Lyman

Best: 'Institutional abuse.' 'Tumultuous 15 months.' Public records reveal new details of investigation into CCCCD's ex-chancellor

Favorite: St. Patrick's Day celebration in Dublin this weekend

Reporter Christian Trujano

Best: Pleasanton school board reviews learning programs for students with disabilities

Favorite: Foothill Black Student Union members voice concerns about SRO program

Reporter Nicole Gonzales

Best: Portraits for Patriots

Favorite: ArtWalk celebrating community, art and culture in Livermore this weekend

- The five candidates for Pleasanton City Council debate in an election forum moderated by the Pleasanton Weekly, the first in a series of forums hosted by Embarcadero Media's East Bay Division in the Tri-Valley.

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

- A Contra Costa County jury convicts San Ramon resident Erik Triana, 51, on a majority of counts after making threats of gun violence against State Senator Scott Wiener earlier this year in response to a vaccination bill introduced by the legislator.

- EBRPD enters into an agreement to consider purchasing a 768-acre Finley Road Ranch property, the largest portion of

unprotected open space adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park.

- Altamont Corridor Express trains are briefly impacted by the national rail worker labor negotiations impasse.

- Dublin officials unveil Don Biddle Community Park, a new 30-acre park located on a former portion of Camp Parks Army Base.

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

- Nicholas Moseby, a longtime cheer coach in the San Ramon Valley who recently began a teaching career with SRVUSD, is arrested and charged with committing lewd acts against teenagers.

- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District celebrates its 75th anniversary.

- Former Pleasanton mayor Bob Philcox, who served on the City Council in the 1970s, dies at his home surrounded by family at age 88.

- Seven Tri-Valley schools, including Hart Middle School in Pleasanton, four in SRVUSD and two in Dublin, are named National Blue Ribbon Schools.

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

- One project slated to break ground in fall is aiming to help Pleasanton residents grow their own food in a sustainable, water-

conserving manner — a community garden and farm at the Bernal Community Park.

- North Coast Section officials are weighing two proposals for changes to the East Bay Athletic League.

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

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

- Rachel Gray, 49, of San Leandro is identified as the motorcyclist who died in a crash at the intersection of Isabel Avenue and Airway Boulevard in Livermore.

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

- Alameda County supervisors vote to ban the rodeo practice of wild cow milking in unincorporated parts of the county, while an amendment to the ordinance cleared spurs, bucking straps and non-release ropes for continued use.

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

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

- Alameda County sheriff's officials believe 47 deputies who allegedly failed a psychological exam and now have desk jobs will pass the exam when they retake it and get their guns and peace officer powers back. The audit was prompted by murder charges being brought against then-deputy Devin Williams Jr.

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

- San Ramon's largest corporate resident is staying in the city for the foreseeable future, with Chev-

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 16

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 15

ron Corp. signing a new lease to move its global headquarters into Bishop Ranch while also selling its namesake corporate park down the road back to Sunset Development to keep the 92-acre property in local hands.

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

- Vallejo resident Rex Lee Bell, 69, who owns a guitar instruction business and is a registered sex offender, is arrested by police on allegations of sexual abuse involving a child in a San Ramon home.

OCTOBER

- BART’s current mask requirement expires, but the agency’s Board of Directors approves a new resolution that would allow for the mandate to be reinstated when public health officials require indoor masking in their respective jurisdictions.

- Livermore Pride celebrates LGBTQ+ History Month all October long with a series of diverse, community-based events with the goal of fostering queer connection and education.

- Voters in the Sunol Glen Unified School District are poised to decide a \$10.9 million general obligation bond on the Nov. 8 ballot to help fund several big-ticket projects like replacing the roofs, upgrading outdated facilities and modernizing classrooms.

- Brentwood resident Chad Flores, 28, dies and a Livermore man is seriously injured when their cars collided head-on along North Vasco Road just outside the Livermore city limits before dawn.

- John Clauser, a Walnut Creek-based physicist who previously worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, is named a co-winner of the Nobel Prize in physics for his pioneering work on quantum information science.

- LivermoreVine.com celebrates its first anniversary of providing local news in the Livermore Valley and greater Tri-Valley region.

- Alameda County’s homeless population grew 22% over the past three years and is approaching 10,000 people, according to the release of official point-in-time numbers.

- Dublin High teacher Ramany Kaplan is selected as an Alameda County Teacher of the Year.

- Anne Giancola, a Pleasanton

Civic Arts Commission member who works as the visual arts and education manager at Livermore Valley Arts, and Dennis Baker of the Alliance for the Visual Arts were among six winners of the 2022 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards.

- Livermore-based UNCLE Credit Union assumes control of the operations of Moore West Federal Credit Union of San Leandro, marking the third strategic merger for UNCLE in recent years.

- Yolanda Fintschenko is hired as the new executive director of i-GATE Innovation Hub, based in Livermore.

- Bill Danko, a member of Pleasanton’s American Legion Post 237, is named California Legionnaire of the Year for 2022 for his work with the local veteran community.

- More than 30 people are interviewed and their stories about growing up in the small town will be featured in an upcoming book “Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s”.

- The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, an organization that supports wineries, growers and wine aficionados in the Livermore area, announced it has rebranded its name and will now go by the Livermore Valley Wine Community.

- First-year Valley View Elementary School principal Julie Plaisance resigns after just over three months on the job, meaning whoever takes her place will be the fourth permanent principal the school has seen in the last three academic years.

- The union representing Kaiser Permanent mental health therapists reaches a four-year agreement with Kaiser to bring a months-long strike to its conclusion.

- EBRPD sees the completion of a series of renovations for one of its most popular attractions in Alameda County: the Sunol Visitor Center.

- Amador Valley High is featured on the Wikipedia main page.

- The Crayon Initiative, a non-profit based in Danville, hires Bernadette Shanahan-Haas as its new executive director.

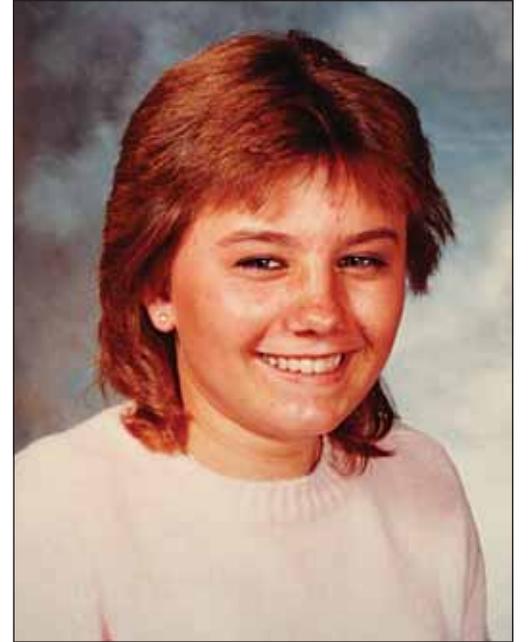
- Weekly investigates Move Eden Housing, yet another incarnation of a political action committee that has plagued Livermore for at least a decade backed primarily by Livermore Independent publisher Joan Seppala and her relatives and allies.

- Citizen group Move Eden Housing is ordered by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Michael Markman to post a \$500,000 bond to nonprofit developer

Top 22 Stories of 2022

Here were the 22 most-read stories of 2022, based on data for PleasantonWeekly.com.

1. Pleasanton: Court rejects citizen group’s appeal in lawsuit over proposed Costco store
2. Foothill band director charged with inappropriate conduct against minor while at prior district
3. Livermore: Hells Angels founder Ralph ‘Sonny’ Barger dies at 83
4. Countywide Measure D aims to allow more flexibilities for wineries, equestrian facilities
5. Fire on Pleasanton Ridge forces evacuations
6. Complaints of small flies in Pleasanton pushes city leaders to find source of problem
7. Driver dies in fiery crash at freeway offramp in Pleasanton
8. Pleasanton: Barone’s Restaurant shutting down for good after nearly 30 years
9. Sheriff’s deputy wanted, accused of killing two in Dublin overnight
10. Former Pleasanton police sergeant charged with DUI murder in Tuolumne County
11. Happy Valley development plan earns approval from Pleasanton council
12. Former Pleasanton mayor Jerry Thorne dies
13. Alameda County aligns with state’s new school masking guidelines
14. Readers’ Choice 2022: Here are the winners
15. Pleasanton Preps: Remembering ‘Dr. B’ George Baljevich, a legend in Tri-Valley local sports



FILE PHOTO

Our most-read story in 2022 was actually an article written in 2020 about the Tina Faelz case, helped by a docu-series released earlier this year.

16. Pleasanton PD releases video, identifies suspect in fatal police shooting
17. Driver dies in head-on collision on North Vasco Road in Livermore
18. Korean grocery store H Mart set to come to Dublin
19. Cyclist dies in crash with SUV on Mines Road south of Livermore
20. Teen charged with murder after victim in Livermore crash dies in hospital
21. Pleasanton woman dies from injuries in Hopyard Road crash last month
22. Tri-Valley wins Babe Ruth World Series

Eden Housing, Inc.

- Pleasanton City Council authorizes staff to allocate \$363,755 from the water utility enterprise fund and put that money toward a new capital investment project that would develop and analyze water supply alternatives.

- Finding a place to park in downtown Pleasanton just got a little easier as city officials ceremoniously cut the ribbon for a newly improved parking section at Civic Park.

- Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton announces that she will not be filing charges against ex-sheriff’s deputy Andrew Hall for fatally shooting Tyrell Wilson in Danville in March 2021 — the same former officer now incarcerated after an October 2021 conviction for a prior on-duty fatality.

- Kameron Patricia Reid, a 38-year-old former inmate at Santa Rita Jail, is being sent to prison for seven years for distributing fentanyl that killed a fellow inmate at the Dublin facility in 2021.

- Nelson Chia — who is arrested for allegedly murdering his girlfriend, prominent Oakland dentist Lili Xu — dies by suicide later that day at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, officials said.

- Weekly contributor Deborah Grossman recounts her experience on the new Livermore Wine Trolley.

- Dublin city leaders and community members celebrate at a recent ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for the final phase of the 60-acre Fallon Sports Park.

- A young man from Pennsylvania, Joshua Hall, accepts a plea

deal in federal court for threatening to kill Tri-Valley Congressman Eric Swalwell in a series of “terrifying” phone calls two months ago.

- The Dublin Planning Commission provides its recommendations to the City Council for a proposed rezoning in East Dublin for a large mixed-use SCS Development project, following months of discussion, research and deliberations by city officials.

- Enrique Chavez, a former correctional officer once employed at the Federal Correctional Institute facility in Dublin, pleads guilty in federal court to abusive sexual contact with a female prison inmate.

- The Pleasanton Downtown Association announces the hiring of its new executive director, Bridget Karl, the former president and CEO of the Calabasas Chamber

of Commerce in Los Angeles County.

NOVEMBER

- The atmosphere is tense inside the Pleasanton City Council chambers as the council members vote 3-2 to increase their monthly pay by 10% following strong remarks from Mayor Karla Brown.

- Steve Lanza, a longtime Livermore resident and college educator, will soon be sworn in as the seventh trustee on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees after being the only candidate to file for the Area 7 seat.

- Alameda County Supervisor Dave Brown, who filled the seat of the late Wilma Chan last year, will stand trial next month in a legal challenge over whether he is eligible to sit on the county Board of Supervisors.

- Livermore father Justin Pittman, 22, is arrested and charged with murder in connection with the August death of his toddler daughter Francesca who was found to have toxic levels of fentanyl in her system.

- Pleasanton city staff present what some council members said was a bleak and depressing report on the 2022 state legislative session, which included several housing-related bills recently signed into law.

- Barone's Restaurant, known for offering quaint fine dining downtown for more than 27 years, announces that it will be shutting its doors for good after its last day of business just before Christmas.

- Steve McCoy-Thompson, executive director of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, confirms that he will be stepping down from his role in the coming weeks after more than six years of service.

- Black Student Union members at Foothill High School tell the Weekly that they felt like the Pleasanton school district had ghosted them after listening to student concerns about armed school resource officers.

- A small but significant piece of land adjacent to Mount Diablo State Park that has been eyed by Save Mount Diablo for decades as part of what's been dubbed the "Missing Mile" is now one step closer to being part of the environmental nonprofit's efforts to connect and restore pieces of land on the mountain in the name of conservation.

- Dublin Unified officials hold "topping off" ceremony, marking a major milestone in the ongoing Emerald High School construction project.

- Pleasanton resident Jesus "Jesse" Ocampo Mangabay, 35, has been charged with misdemeanor vehi-

cular manslaughter for the Valentine's Day morning crash on Hopyard Road that killed Ana Paula Munaretto and seriously injured her son, the Weekly learns.

- Work begins to convert Dublin's former police headquarters property into a new Cultural Arts Center.

- The LAVTA Board of Directors appoints Christy Wegener as the agency's new executive director.

- Ballots are cast in the 2022 general election and county election staff continue to tabulate eligible ballots on Election Night and the days beyond. The Measure I bond in PUSD, Livermore mayor and Alameda County district attorney runoff elections are two close contests to watch.

- With clearly decided margins in favor of the slow-growth candidates, incumbent Julie Testa and newcomer Jeff Nibert control their respective Pleasanton City Council races while the formality of Mayor Karla Brown's reelection unopposed is confirmed. Testa defeats Committee on Energy and the Environment Chair Joel Liu and former PUSD trustee Jamie Yee to win District 3, while Planning Commissioner Nibert is victorious over Dean Wallace for District 1.

- The Pleasanton community — and the music world at large — is mourning the loss of performer, composer and synthesizer pioneer Don Lewis, who died surrounded by family following a brief illness. He was 81.

- Angel Beth Green, 46, of Sacramento is killed after her vehicle was involved in four separate crashes in quick succession on I-680 near the San Ramon-Dublin border.



CHUCK DECKERT

A look inside the city well operations building for Wells 5 and 6 just outside downtown Pleasanton, near Alisal Elementary School. The future of city-owned wells amid PFAS contamination is a debate that continues to linger after 2022.

- The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority announces a settlement with the families of eight victims of last year's shooting at the Guadalupe Light Rail Yard, including Dublin resident Jose Hernandez III.

- California Attorney General Rob Bonta confirms the filing of a lawsuit against 18 manufacturers for allegedly producing toxic PFAS "forever chemicals" that have been proven to cause harm to human health and the environment.

- A trifecta of fall and winter illnesses are striking children, with one, respiratory syncytial virus, surging throughout the Bay Area, the state and the country.

- ACE announces that its trains will now run on 100% renewable diesel fuel, making it the first commuter rail service in Northern California to make the switch.

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

- The Weekly opens its 21st annual Holiday Fund, which runs through mid-January to raise funds in support of eight Tri-Valley nonprofits: Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, PPIE, Sunflower Hill, Tri-Valley REACH and Valley Humane Society.

- Open Heart Kitchen leaders hire John Bost to take over the role from current Executive Director Heather Greaux, who will be transitioning to CFO.

- Pleasanton City Council unanimously approve a quick-build pilot project that will create a protected bike lane on West Las Positas Boulevard between Hopyard Road and Hacienda Drive.

- Criminal charges will not be filed against the driver of the vehicle that hit and killed Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan nearly one year prior in the city of Alameda, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley says.

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on Page 18



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

PUSD Superintendent David Haglund walks through the small gym at Amador Valley High School while pointing out how rundown the 100-year-old building is. Replacing the gym is one of the key projects to be covered by the \$395 million Measure I bond that narrowly passed in November.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from Page 17

- BART finishes the 2021-22 fiscal year with a balanced budget due in large part to federal relief funding and more sales tax revenue than expected.

- Dublin Vice Mayor Jean Josey and Planning Commission alternate member Kashef Qaadri secure the first and second seats for the City Council, beating out former planning commissioner Lynna Do in the general election.

- After nine days of uncertainty since Election Night, John Marchand declares victory for his second stint as Livermore mayor by defeating Mony Nop in a narrow contest. Evan Branning defeats Carol Wahrer for City Council District 1, and Ben Barrientos beats Mel Chiong for District 2.

- Amador Valley High admin secretary Laurie Walker is elected to the PUSD Board of Trustees for Area 2, finishing ahead of main competitor Urvi Shah. (Christine Lutz, who qualified for the ballot but bowed out of the campaign, receives nearly 9% of the vote regardless.) Former city planning commissioner Justin Brown will be the Area 5 trustee after earning the seat unchallenged.

- After nearly two weeks of counting, PUSD's \$395 million Measure 1 bond earns a tight victory at nearly 57.2% Yes (needing better than 55% to pass).

- Pleasanton and its neighbors are set to see a 5.5% rise in the annual rates for wholesale water services from the Zone 7 Water Agency for each of the next four years after its Board of Directors votes 5-2 to approve the price increase.

- CHP-Dublin officers gather to recognize a solemn anniversary alongside surviving family members of one of their own who died on duty 15 years ago. Officer John P. Miller, 32, was killed in a car crash while en route to pursue a suspected drunk driver in Livermore on the night of Nov. 16, 2007.

- Voters across Alameda Coun-



ACSO

First-year sheriff's deputy Devin Williams Jr. was charged with double homicide in Dublin.



DUSD

A look at Dublin High School's musical production of "The Addams Family" in November.

ty overwhelmingly support the changes to agricultural and open space land-use policy for unincorporated areas, including the Livermore Valley, proposed under Measure D.

- The two contested seats for the DUSD Board of Trustees go to incumbents William Kuo (Area 3) and Dan Cherrier (Area 5), who each outperformed his respective challenger by a nearly 2:1 margin. Kristin Speck earns the Area 2 seat without appearing on the ballot as the lone candidate.

- Hundreds of members of The Club at Castlewood flock to the hillside venue to celebrate the reopening of its clubhouse.

- Measure P, the South Livermore Sewer Extension Project, receives Livermore voters' stamp of approval to move forward, sitting at 66.59% (21,081) Yes votes in the Nov. 8 general election.

- LVJUSD incumbents Emily Prusso and Craig Bueno, along with newcomer Steven Drouin, win the three available at-large seats on the Board of Education in the nine-candidate election.

- New Pleasanton City Manager Gerry Beaudin gets unanimous support from the City Council to revamp the city's longstanding process for identifying and prioritizing public projects, programs and policies initiatives away from the two-year work plan process in favor of crafting a Citywide Strategic Plan.

- Sreeja Nagirimadugu, 30, of Fremont is identified as the passenger killed in a head-on collision on rural Altamont Pass Road in unincorporated Livermore on Thanksgiving Day. The CHP reports that her husband, the driver, was trying to pass slow traffic by entering the opposing lane.

- LPFD's Fire Station No. 3 on Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton

opens after being rebuilt into a two-story building with modern tools and amenities that will make firefighters safer and more effective and response times quicker.

- Progressive 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 before taking the lead for good.

- Certified results confirm the defeat of LVJUSD's \$450 million Measure G. Needing 55% approval to pass, the bond ekes out a slight majority but falls well short of the necessary threshold.

- Sunol voters elect Ryan Jergensen and Peter "Ted" Romo to full terms and Linda Hurley to the short term on the Board of Trustees. They also narrowly pass

the \$10.9 million facilities bond Measure J for the school district.

- Dublin San Ramon Services District incumbents Ann Marie Johnson (Division 2) and Arun Goel (Division 5) earn reelection. Director Georger Vonheeder-Leopold already secured the Division 4 seat as the lone candidate to file.

- Jesse vanZee, who ran on a conservative platform focused on parental involvement in the academic decision-making, wins the SRVUSD Area 1 election in a close contest with 42.18% of the vote compared to Michelle Petersen's 40.53% in second place and Jerome Pandell in third at 17.29%. Incumbents Rachel Hurd and Susanna Ordway retained their seats unopposed.

- Construction of a new parking facility expected to add over 500 vehicle spaces near the eastern

Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station is now underway. LAVTA and Dublin officials share their reflections on the project.

- Mayor Dave Hudson wins a second term as San Ramon mayor, besting outgoing councilmember Sabina Zafar and challenger Dinesh Govindarao. District 2 Councilmember Mark Armstrong defeats Sara Lashanlo to keep his seat, and DSRSD Director Marisol Rubio beats Parks Commissioner Heidi Kenniston-Lee for City Council District 4.

- Incumbents Philip Pierpont, David Furst and Maryalice Summers Faltings win reelection to the LARPD Board of Directors among a six-candidate field.

- Dublin Police Services has named Kenneth Krainski, 38, as the decedent in a domestic disturbance in Dublin that escalated into his shooting death, with police continuing to believe that the shooting was in self-defense.

- Kristin Connelly will be the new clerk-recorder for Contra Costa County, defeating Vicki Gordon in the runoff election.

- Mike Maxwell wins reelection to the Contra Costa County Board of Education Area 4 over two challengers for the San Ramon Valley-area seat.

- Union organizer Liz Ortega defeats fellow Democrat Shawn Kumagai, an outgoing Dublin City Council member, to win State Assembly District 20. Incumbent Rebecca Bauer-Kahan retains her position over Joe Rubay for Assembly District 16.

- Congressmen Eric Swalwell and Mark DeSaulnier are victorious against inexperienced challengers to retake their respective districts, which include parts of the Tri-Valley.



FILE PHOTO BY MIKE SEDLAK

The Century House has been closed due to safety concerns about the building. The Pleasanton City Council is moving forward with a multimillion-dollar renovation project in the hopes of reopening the city-owned venue.

- Las Positas College's newly constructed horticulture facility and the soon-to-be-completed viticulture building are some examples of how district officials said the college is teaching sustainability while also looking at the Tri-Valley's agricultural history.

- A driver dies after losing control of his SUV while traveling around 100 mph and crashing down an embankment on I-580 east of Livermore. The coroner identifies him as Masseyullah Khwaja, 21, of Fremont.

DECEMBER

- Revelers gaze toward the sky to take in the colorful display as the holiday tree in downtown Pleasanton is illuminated during a festive ceremony — although the rain clouds did put a damper on the evening, leading city officials to cancel the annual parade. Livermore goes forward with its scheduled holiday parade that same night.

- The nationwide Get on the Bus program, founded by Pleasanton resident and Ballistic United general manager Tim Ryerson, aims to help more and more kids experience the joys of soccer.

- The National Nuclear Security Administration holds public hearings to receive input on a draft document evaluating potential environmental impacts associated with the operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

- Craig Eicher, a former member of the Pleasanton Police Department for more than three decades including six months as interim police chief, takes the reins as president of Pleasanton's Community of Character Collaborative. He succeeds Kelly O'Lague, who accepts a nonprofit job in Portland, Oregon.

- Zone 7 Director Olivia Sanwong will be stepping down from her position on the agency's governing board later this month so she can start her new role on the EBRPD Board of Directors. She earned the Tri-Valley's Ward 5 seat with East Bay Parks as the only candidate to file.

- The League of California Cities demonstrates its support for the city of Livermore in the pending appeal challenging the City Council's approval of the 130-unit Eden Housing development.

- Ray Garcia, the former warden of a women's prison in Dublin, is convicted of crimes involving sexually abusive conduct against three inmates and of lying to federal agents, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. "Today's guilty verdict is one important step in our ongoing efforts to root out sexual misconduct within the Bureau of Prisons," federal prosecutors say.

- PUSD and the Association of Pleasanton Teachers sign a mem-



New Amador Valley High principal Jonathan Fey (center) welcomes students on the first day of school and his first day as principal.

CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

orandum of understanding that both sides say signifies a successful start to next year's labor negotiations.

- More stringent masking rules are reinstated in Alameda County to protect against the spread of COVID-19, applying to emergency shelters, heating centers and county jails.

- Nicholas Garcia, 31, of Castro Valley is killed in a crash at the I-580/I-680 interchange in Dublin, marking the third fatal collision in less than three weeks for the Tri-Valley.

- Scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory make international headlines by achieving fusion ignition for the first time, an accomplishment that officials say will pave the way for advancements in national defense and the future of clean energy.

- Officials with the city of San Ramon and the e-scooter company Bird debut a partnership between the two entities that aims to increase local transit options and attract commuting residents

by offering 150 e-bikes and e-scooters for rent across the city.

- The City Council reviews the state of Pleasanton water amid updates from Zone 7. Key topics discussed include water rates, PFAS chemical monitoring and treatment center plans.

- Pamela Ott, who has been serving for nearly a year as Pleasanton's interim assistant city manager, is promoted to the position on a permanent basis.

- San Ramon Valley High's varsity football team makes a run to the state championship game, where the Wolves tied it late at the end of regulation but fell in overtime to Granite Hills (El Cajon) 31-24.

- Dublin's only Big Lots! store location, one of two in the Tri-Valley, is set to cease operations in the new year.

- The semi-professional United Soccer League W League announces that Pleasanton RAGE are among six expansion teams in the Bay Area and elsewhere in

Northern California will join the league starting in its 2023 season

- Nonprofit Goodwill, known for its second-hand retail stores and donation centers, announces a merger between two of its Northern California branches, a move that will impact stores in the Tri-Valley and greater Bay Area.

- Foothill High School director of bands Efrain Hinojosa faces a criminal charge for an alleged sex crime against a teenage student 10 years ago during his time working in the Ceres school district just outside Modesto, the Weekly has learned. Hinojosa was quietly arrested on the Foothill campus one week prior.

- City officials and community members celebrate the ceremonial grand opening of newly converted pickleball courts at Muirwood Community Park.

- Caltrans begins work on I-680 that will close the northbound lanes overnight for more than a year in the Tri-Valley, starting just north of the junction of Highway 84 in Sunol and eventually going



The Alameda County Fair returned to its familiar summer schedule in 2022 for the first time since the pandemic hit. Shown: Bunbao's Jesús Zuniga serves the truck's Thursday \$2 special.

DEBORAH GROSSMAN

all the way up to Alcosta Boulevard in San Ramon.

- A new outdoor pavilion is unveiled in one of EBRPD's most visited recreational areas, Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in Pleasanton.

- Santa Clara VTA announces findings from an independent investigation into the May 26, 2021, mass shooting in the VTA's San Jose rail yard that left nine employees dead including Jose Hernandez III of Dublin.

- Representatives from the Livermore Education Association are joined by more than 200 members at the LVJUSD board meeting where they express their need for a significant salary increase.

- An all-wheel pump track is coming to Livermore's Sunken Gardens Skate Park in 2023, following the LARPD board's unanimous approval of the project.

- The Alameda County Board of Supervisors votes 4-1 in favor of an ordinance to prohibit public and private property owners from using a criminal background check when evaluating an applicant for rental housing in unincorporated parts of the county. A final vote is due in January.

- Museum on Main announces the lineup for its 2023 Ed Kinney Speaker Series, the 14th season of the popular series of shows highlighting historical figures.

- Popular dessert chain Crumbl Cookies faces financial penalties following a federal investigation that found child labor violations at 11 franchises, including in the Tri-Valley.

- Pleasanton says goodbye to three longtime elected leaders upon the completion of their final terms: Councilmember Kathy Narum and PUSD trustees Joan Laursen and Mark Miller.

- An airplane crashes into property just east of the Livermore Municipal Airport, injuring the solo pilot late on Christmas Eve afternoon.

- Police arrest a Denver man suspected of a racist and homophobic rant against two young Asian Americans at In-N-Out in San Ramon on Christmas Eve. Video of the exchange is captured in TikTok video, which goes viral, prompting a response from the police chief leading into SRPD's investigation.

- After almost four hours of discussion, the Pleasanton City Council votes to make several modifications to its 2023-31 Housing Element site list, including reducing the number of housing units and buildable acres at the PUSD headquarters and vineyard sites as well as bringing back the St. Augustine Catholic Church site, which staff originally took off the site list. ■



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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

On city postponing adult softball seasons for cricket field construction

Much-needed project impacts youth field space, so officials move kids

For years, adult softball at the Ken Mercer Sports Park in Pleasanton has been an incredibly popular program.

During the softball seasons, teams stormed the Sports Park up to five or six nights a week, with games taking place from 5 p.m. up to after 10 p.m.

Local businesses like bars or pizza parlors benefitted from the softball teams taking over their establishments following their games.

Then COVID hit and like just about everything in society, it took a hit. The softball leagues disappeared for a while, and in turn the local businesses suffered.

Recently things have looked ready to come back to life. The numbers were down for softball — there are still over 80 teams across the board — and the businesses like Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill, Porky's Pizza Palace and the Sunshine Saloon began to see a resurgence.

Now there may be a hit again.

On Dec. 8, the Pleasanton Recreation Department sent notice to all adult softball managers that the spring and summer seasons for 2023 are going to be postponed.

The reasoning? Several months ago, the Pleasanton City Council approved the construction of a much-needed cricket field at the Sports Park.

The construction is set to begin in spring 2023 and may cause a hiccup in youth sports.

The construction zone for the cricket pitch is larger than the field space, with one hard ball field and three soccer/softball fields being impacted.

In order for no interruption of the youth sports, the city will be moving the playing spaces over to the softball complex.

With the youth sports moving

to the softball complex, the city made the decision to postpone both the spring and summer adult softball seasons and tried to help the softball teams that have been misplaced.

“Letting the adult softball participants know of the postponement early allows those who wish to play in other city leagues enough time to register and not miss a season of play,” was written in an email from the city. “Staff proactively sent out a list of other local city softball leagues to all adult softball players to aid in this effort. There is potential that a scaled-down season could be played once the construction and power impacts are fully known and field space needs better determined.”

Some team managers have found no issue with the postponement, but others not so much.

Joe Silva, a longtime Pleasanton resident who has raised his children in town, watched them play youth sports, and coached them as well. Silva recognizes the need for both a cricket pitch and an uninterrupted youth season.

“You have to play the kids games,” Silva said. “And there is no doubt there is a need for a cricket pitch.”

But Silva's main point is that there should be an easy fix to keep the softball leagues and be able to move the youth sports teams to the softball complex.

“The fields (for softball) are not being fully used,” Silva explained. “The math is easy. The youth sports could be played in their normal time-frame and the adults could play afterwards. It shouldn't be a problem to make it work. I could

solve this problem in 30 minutes.” Looking at it logically, Silva does make a solid case, but information from the city at this point is slow in coming. Instead of an open round table to work together, Pleasanton is taking a very cautious approach.

When I pushed, I got a safe and cautious response.

“At this point, that is all we can do with the information we have,” said Heather Tiernan, the new communications manager for Pleasanton. “As we know more about the impact when we know more about the construction timeline.”

There are some basic questions that have been asked by Silva, but at this point it appears the only solution is the adult leagues will be postponed.

If you look at the numbers and the timeline, it does look like this can be worked out to take care of the youth sports, adult softball and the much-needed cricket pitch.

Everyone wins and no group suffers.

There is also a lighting issue with the softball fields and that seems it should be on the front of all projects to better serve both youth and adult events on the softball fields.

This is a fluid situation and there could be something done to appease all groups, but time is of the essence. A cooperative dialogue needs to be opened and the sooner the better.

Make sure to keep checking back, and we will keep you updated. ■

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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FILE PHOTO BY JEREMY WALSH

Construction on a new cricket field at Ken Mercer Sports Park is having a ripple effect on adult league softball next spring and summer.

Entertainment

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH MEREDITH MCHENRY Spend New Year's Eve with Livermore native Meredith McHenry, as she sings effortlessly through selections by artists from Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald to Tool and The Weeknd. The evening concludes with a sparkling wine toast and desserts in the lobby. 8 p.m., Dec. 31. Visit livermorearts.org.

JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE AT THE BANKHEAD Join acclaimed performer Jim Curry for this tribute to the music of one of the most beloved singer/songwriters ever to grace the stage. 8 p.m., Jan. 6. Tickets \$20-\$60. Visit livermorearts.org.

AN EVENING WITH FLEETWOOD MASK Fleetwood Mask brings audiences the very best of Fleetwood Mac's 50-year history with a focus on the 1975 forward five-piece version of their lineup that catapulted them to superstardom. 7:30 p.m., Jan. 7. Tickets \$43-\$63. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE KINGS OF QUEEN Although there may be others, no other Queen tribute band comes close to the Kings of Queen bringing 4-part harmonies live to the stage. 8 p.m., Jan. 7. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

ENCORE PLAYERS AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY Encore Players, Livermore's community theatre group presents a preview of their production of *Lysistrata*, performing excerpts from the show. Director Diann McCannon will share her interpretation of the story. 3-4 p.m., Jan. 8. Civic Center Library.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH GOLDA MEIR As the fourth Prime Minister of Israel and the third woman in the world to hold the position of prime minister, Golda Meir led with gravitas, intelligence and determination in times of war and peace. Join this Ed Kinney Speaker Series at the Firehouse Arts Center. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Jan. 10. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit museumonmain.org.

IMPROV PLAYHOUSE OF SAN FRANCISCO The Naked Stage, presented by the Improv Playhouse of San Francisco, takes place on a single set, in traditional stage-play style. All the actors have is the bare stage, simple suggestions from the audience and each other. 8 p.m., Jan. 13. Tickets \$20. Visit firehousearts.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELVIS Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center kicks off a new year with the welcome return of Jim Anderson & The Rebels and their homage to Elvis Presley. 2 p.m., Jan. 14. Tickets \$20-\$25. Visit firehousearts.org.

IRISH SCOTTISH FOLK MUSIC AT LIVERMORE LIBRARY Celtic Duo Men of Worth to perform at the Civic Center Library. Playing a wide variety of instruments, James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald entertain with a unique combination of humor, exciting tunes and soulful, heartfelt ballads. This free event is 2 p.m., Jan. 14.

TRI-VALLEY REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENTS "SOMETHING ROTTEN" Welcome to the Renaissance and this outrageous, crowd-pleasing musical farce lauded by audience members and critics alike. Jan. 14-15; 21-22; 28-29. Tickets \$21-\$39. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

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 today.

BEAUTY AND TERROR EXHIBIT AT THE BANKHEAD This free 18-piece series by Robin Bernstein at the Uncle Credit Union Art Gallery at the Bankhead Theater is an example of how people will behave under set conditions. Many of these particular pieces refer to lesser-known Holocaust crimes as well as

redemptive stories and heroic acts of resistance. Jan. 12-29.

Family

DEACON DAVE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY The 39th Annual Deacon Dave's Christmas Display in Livermore is now through Jan. 1. Visit casadelpomba.com.

WIDMER WORLD Experience the Christmas Fantasy of Widmer World. Bring friends and family for an enjoyable start or end to the evening in Pleasanton. 3671 Chelsea Court. For more holiday homes in the Tri-Valley visit widmer-world.com. 6-9 p.m., Now through Dec. 31.

FAMILY BOARD GAME AFTERNOON Join for a special drop in with a variety of board games including Checkers, Candyland, Uno, Connect Four and more. Teen volunteers will be available to teach a new game, or to join in the fun if an extra player is needed. 2-4 p.m., Jan. 4. Dublin Library.

HOLIDAY ICE RINK The Kristi Yamaguchi Holiday Ice Rink at City Center Bishop Ranch is open 12-9:30 p.m., now through Jan. 8. Tickets are purchased per 90-minute sessions. Visit citycenterbishopranch.com/events.

MINDFULNESS STORYTIME AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY For children ages 2-5, this playfully active Storytime is full of stories, movement, breathing exercises and gentle stretching. 11-11:30 a.m., Jan. 11. Call 925-931-3400, ext. 3.

Farmers' Market

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

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

Outdoor Rec

FIRST HIKE OF THE YEAR Join an LARPD Ranger on the first hike of the New Year and enjoy the fresh morning air and beauty of Sycamore Grove Park on this 3-mile round-trip hike to Cattail Pond. RSVP to 925-960-2400. 7 a.m., Jan. 1.

LEAF PRINTS WITH LARPD Drop by Sycamore Grove Park to create art inspired by plant leaves to take home. Learn about different leaf adaptations around the world. RSVP to 925-0960-2400. 2 p.m., Jan. 7.

COYOTE DISCUSSION AT SYCAMORE GROVE Join this discussion and presentation on Coyotes and the

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Nice Nikki

Need a novel, noble and notable furiend for the New Year? Take note of Nikki the nice! Nikki navigates the neighborhood neatly, nurturing her toys in tow. Learn more about Nikki and other cats and dogs at valleyhumane.org. Email info@valleyhumane.org to start the adoption application process. #ShareTheCare to help pets today.

role they play in the ecosystem. 2 p.m., Jan. 8. RSVP to 925-960-2400.

RANGER LED MUSHROOM HUNT Join LARPD Rangers and the Bay Area Mycological Society for the return of the annual SGP mushroom hunt. Crawl around trees, wander through meadows and look at rotting logs to find fungi. 10 a.m., Jan. 15, Sycamore Grove Park. 925-960-2400.

Talks

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT Join this month's Religion Chat and choose a particular holiday, holy day, feast, or other celebration observed in your faith or culture. What is its significance and how is it celebrated? Participants may share a brief response. 5-6:30 p.m., Jan. 11. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/85664369063.

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GARDEN CLUB The Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club meets in person at Alisal Elementary School for the first meeting of the new year. Note agenda and time change. 6:30-7 p.m., social/refreshments. 7 p.m., presentation by Lisa Ayala, "Branching Out". For questions contact jstarkhome@comcast.net or visit lavgc.org. Jan. 12.

WEBINAR: MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT CAREGIVING This free Hope Hospice webinar will cover information about assessing needs, working together with family members, accessing community services and resources, relocating loved ones and exploring various care settings including in-home and residential care. 10-11:30 a.m., Jan. 12. Visit hopehospice.com.

HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets virtually via Zoom on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month from 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Overcome fear of speaking of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org.

Support

FREE HOT MEALS Served Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m., dine-in or take out. Closed Jan. 2. 4444 East Ave.,

Livermore. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

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

LIVERMORE WARMING CENTER One Nation Dream Makers is operating the warming center at the Veterans Memorial Building, 522 S. L St., from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. when overnight temperatures are forecasted at or below 45 degrees and/or a 20% chance or higher of rain. Open to anyone on a first come, first-serve basis. For more contact info@onenationdreammakers.org.

AXIS COMMUNITY HEALTH Every second Tuesday of the month an enrollment specialist from Axis will be in the Dublin library lobby to answer questions. No appointments necessary. 1-4 p.m., Jan. 10.

Festivals & Fairs

VINTAGE SNEAKER & CLOTHING EXPO The Link Up Sneaker and Clothing Expo comes to the Fairgrounds for one day to shop vintage style. 11 a.m., Jan. 7. Tickets \$10. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Seniors

SAN FRANCISCO MOVIE TOUR This unique sightseeing tour captures and re-creates movie magic while driving past locations made famous by scenes from *Vertigo*, *Dirty Harry*, *the Graduate*, *San Andreas* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*. Pick-up/drop-off at LARPD. To register call 925-373-5763. 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Jan. 4. \$84/R/\$92NR.

MEALS ON WHEELS Meals on Wheels provides home delivered meals (60+). Call 925-931-5385 for more information.

TECH TUTORING AT THE SENIOR CENTER If struggling with a PC laptop, tablet or smartphone, one-on-one tutoring sessions are available at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 11 a.m., Mondays, 9-10 a.m., Wednesdays. Bring device to session. \$2.50R/\$4NR. Call 925-931-5365.

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San Ramon commissioners discuss future of Chevron Park property

Sunset Development floats mix of housing, retail and office space

By JEANITA LYMAN

The San Ramon Planning Commission recently debated next steps for the former home of Chevron's global headquarters, following its reacquisition by Sunset Development earlier this year.

After announcing the sale of the property over the summer, Chevron opted to maintain a smaller office space elsewhere at Bishop Ranch while proceeding with the sale of the 92-acre property to its former owners.

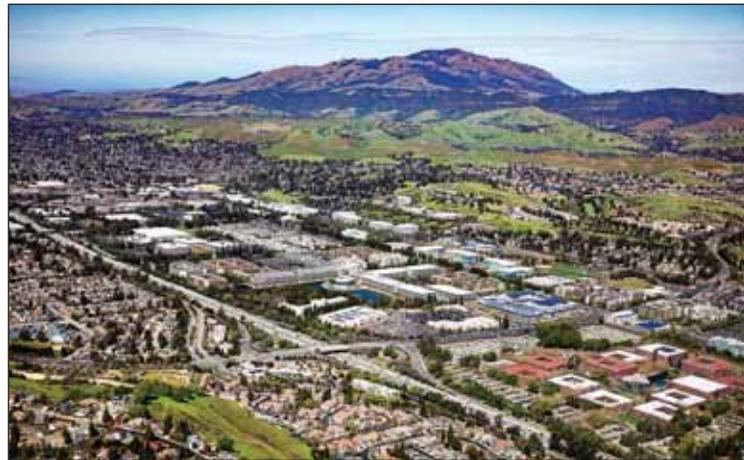
The Planning Commission's Dec. 6 study session was the first time a tentative vision for the property's future was laid out at a public meeting, with Sunset Development's Alex Mehran Jr. presenting the company's ideas to combine housing, retail and office space in the area, and soliciting feedback from commissioners and the public.

"I agree with the sentiments I often hear that the process whereby developers are required to develop quite detailed plans before presenting to you eliminates valuable opportunities for the creation and implementation of shared ideas, and I hope this session is a good first step in remedying that as we progress into what will be a very important chapter for San Ramon," Mehran said.

Mehran's presentation was intended as a summary of potential plans for the area based on the forecasted needs and wants of new and future residents in the rapidly growing city.

"We have tried to assemble a concise overview of the three main product types we're discussing — office, retail and housing and our feelings about where those uses and what their future role is at Bishop Ranch," Mehran said.

The concept presented by Mehran that night consists of 1,250 apartments, 1,000 houses and 125,000 square feet of mixed use office and retail space, and a transit center along



Aerial view of Bishop Ranch in San Ramon, which includes the Chevron Park property in the front right.

with a central park and other open spaces.

"For two decades, Bishop Ranch has been morphing into something very different than it was in the 1980s and the 1990s," Mehran said. "The pandemic only opened individual and corporate eyes to what could be possible to allow for more efficiency for the corporation and more happiness for the individual."

Former mayor Bill Clarkson gave his input on the concept in a public comment.

"First off, I want to say this is a great opportunity to create a really vibrant mixed-use neighborhood," Clarkson said. "I think this has all the potential (for) creating truly a destination neighborhood although it should be noted in capital letters the project will anchor the southern portion of the walking district and it will serve as gateway to Inverness Park and the southern part of San Ramon connecting people to the Iron Horse Trail, but also south down to Athan Downs Park."

Clarkson added that the project's proximity to the city's southern neighborhood meant that any plan for redevelopment of the park "should not place any undue

burdens on the neighborhoods to the south."

"Currently those neighborhoods enjoy a wide greenbelt area that was put in by Chevron and shepherded by Chevron including walking trails," Clarkson said. "I think one of the important things beside the walking trail behind the homes on Chevron, there should be also a very wide trail going from that through the center of this project to City Center, encouraging people to walk to City Center from that neighborhood."

Commissioners applauded aspects of Mehran's concept for the area, particularly the large number of housing units and emphasis on retail growth that residents and city officials have been calling for as the city continues to expand, while also weighing in with their own visions for the area and encouraging fresh ideas.

"It seems to me the really controlling factor is the proximity to the 680 corridor, the existing retail and the proximity to a lot of medium-density housing," Commissioner Corie Edwards said. "This is an excellent opportunity site to see some higher-density product being built, and for that reason I would like to see single-family housing be the

exception not the rule on this site."

"Because it is so close to the freeway and so close to existing retail, this is one of those rare opportunities where I would like to see some higher density development go in, perhaps higher density than anything else that we have," she added.

Edwards also encouraged Sunset Development to seek permanent affordable housing for the area and solutions to the city's affordable housing shortage that go beyond state mandated requirements.

"The thing I don't want to see us do is underutilize this site by building medium-density townhomes, medium-density single-family homes, there is a place for that in San Ramon; I feel very strongly that this is not it. If we're going to have single family homes in that area I would like to see them no less dense than what we've got at the SummerHill project."

Despite agreeing with Clarkson's call to prevent the future project from negatively impacting the neighborhoods to the south of it, Commissioner Rick Marks said that he would also like to see the site leveraged for long-term affordable housing solutions.

"I think there can be a reasonably sized development of middle housing and then I am very much in favor, as you go toward Bollinger, going with the higher density housing and I like the idea of smaller units to try to get to real affordability if we can — not just what the federal government says is 20% of your income or whatever," Marks said.

Nonetheless, the future redevelopment of the park wasn't set in stone at the study session, with commissioners calling for outside-the-box thinking before formalizing plans that would best leverage the large portion of property in the growing city.

"When I first heard that this property was coming up for sale, my

first thought was this would be a really great place for a school, and actually a high school, and to merge that with what is the growing trend to develop what is called middle college, where high school students can blend their high school years with the beginning of their college years," Commissioner Jean Kuznik said.

The overall point, Kuznik said, was to think beyond just retail, housing and office space in redevelopment plans.

"We are in fact early enough in the stages of development to maybe think a little outside just those three boxes, and again, once in a lifetime for the City of San Ramon in this area," Kuznik said.

Commissioner Eric Wallis also emphasized the importance of the property's redevelopment, and its capacity to be used for a range of fresh ideas

"We do have the opportunity to do something we haven't had before which is actually to take a realistic, holistic view of development in the city both on the residential side and on the nonresidential side," Wallis said.

While he noted that he would like to see the necessary rezoning completed by one year after the city's General Plan update at the end of January, Wallis also encouraged developers to consider additional study sessions before formalizing plans for the property.

"I'm hoping with the variety of input you've received from us tonight that you can go back to the drawing board and at some point in the near or intermediate future say 'We'd like to have another study session; we've thought about what you've talked about, and we have these ideas for what we want to do that we'd like to run by you to see what your thoughts are,'" Wallis said. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 24-28 for Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin, and Nov. 14-18 for San Ramon.

Pleasanton

- 2105 Armstrong Drive** Foreverhome Properties LLC to R. & V. Srinivasan for \$1,150,000
- 8015 Canyon Creek Circle** Martinez Trust to Raman Family Trust for \$1,620,000
- 3350 Hadsell Court** Keck Living Trust to D. & A. Raghupathy for \$1,660,000
- 7919 Peppertree Road** Wolf Living Trust to J. & K. Cao for \$1,380,000
- 3616 Portsmouth Court** W. Lock to Addybobbo Family Trust for \$1,650,000
- 3528 Rathbone Way** Pong Trust to S. & A. Chandra for \$2,205,000
- 822 Saint John Court** K. Huang to P. & S. Lakshminarayanan for \$1,830,000
- 4655 Sierrawood Lane** Maxwell Family Trust to J. & G. Kumar for \$1,598,000

1833 Spumante Place Tittle Trust to D. Kim for \$4,740,000

1493 Trimmingham Drive K. Das to Agarwal Trust for \$985,000

1011 Zinfandel Court F. & S. Stone to A. & K. Subramanian for \$2,500,000

Livermore

1289 Accra Court Pansoy Family Trust to Keck Living Trust for \$1,230,000

1782 Calle Del Rey Knapp Trust to Ross Living Trust for \$850,000

1950 Carnation Circle K. Leine to Q. & G. Yang for \$970,000

2013 Chardonnay Way Hardman Living Trust to N. & M. Saxena for \$3,025,000

1636 Chestnut Street Land Here Properties LLC to Zest Capital Investments LLC for \$550,000

786 Daisyfield Drive Goltz Trust to K. & J. Tucker for \$1,575,000

3928 Dartmouth Way A. Panasci to T. & R. Corso for \$950,000

165 El Caminito Russ Family Trust to B. & M. Jazi for \$835,000

341 Helen Way Bloom Family Trust to G. Almeida for \$1,086,000

282 South J Street Mills Family Trust to L. & P. Ketchum for \$1,312,500

1435 Laguna Street Petrilli Trust to L. & E. Ekstrom for \$1,270,000

1070 Lisbon Avenue S. & G. Foster to K. & R. Ravindra for \$993,000

2766 Lucca Court Jtsm Family Trust to R. & R. Li for \$1,700,000

975 Murrieta Boulevard K. Gainous to S. & A. Kumar for \$355,000

166 Selby Lane H. Thach to Zhan Family Trust for \$829,000

27 Tamalpais Avenue L. Pigott to Y. & L. Luo for \$1,080,000

955 Ventura Avenue K. & J. Tucker to S. & A. Agarkar for \$825,000

581 Yosemite Drive K. & J. Bilke to M. Sarwary for \$1,060,000

Dublin

8896 Bellina Commons B. Wong to M. & A. Kumar for \$875,000

7838 Bloomfield Terrace Perezalonso Family Trust to S. & J. Arguello for \$2,400,000

2092 Central Parkway Opendoor Property Trust I to S. & S. Subramaniam for \$1,070,000

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.

Source: California REsource

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



EXCELLENCE

Happy New Year 2023!



IT'S BEEN A YEAR! The holiday's came and went, but reminded us to be thankful. Most of all, they helped us focus on all that is important. Friends, family, and home. We hope your home is filled with all that is important to you. Wishing you and your family health, happiness, and abundance in 2023!



PENDING
Listed at \$3,195,000

7959 Foothill Knolls Drive, Pleasanton
5 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,399 Square Feet



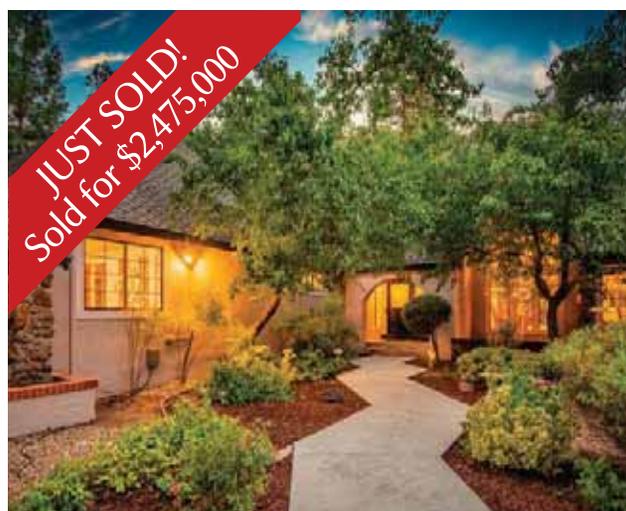
COMING SOON
Listed at \$1,689,000

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



JUST SOLD!
Sold for \$1,610,000

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



JUST SOLD!
Sold for \$2,475,000

6625 Amber Lane, Pleasanton
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 3,440 Square Feet



JUST SOLD!
Sold for \$2,265,500

6900 Riddell Street, Pleasanton
5 Bedrooms | 4 Bathrooms | 3,246 Square Feet

86 The number of households we helped achieve their goals in one of the most trying years in real estate history.



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*Best Wishes for a
Happy & Healthy New Year*



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