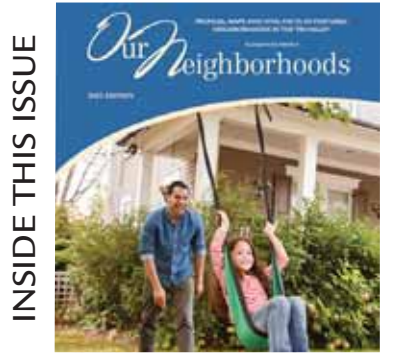


# Pleasanton Weekly

Our Neighborhoods



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## Instruments of hope

Inaugural George Bowen Master Guitar Summit supporting ALS CURE Project

Page 14

- 5 | **NEWS** Valley Humane Society opens new surgery center
- 16 | **TRI-VALLEY LIFE** Hot jazz with Solomon Alber Trio
- 21 | **REAL ESTATE** Buyers and sellers move with the times

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## On my education

One of the challenges for me with this recurring column is learning the craft of opinion writing and subjective storytelling.

I don't use this professional platform to convince somebody to think my way nor to push an agenda nor to even influence anyone to change their minds — but unfortunately that's an effect "opinion articles" have on many readers, regardless of intent.

My main motivation is to present my perspective to explain my train of thought as an editor or to offer options for consideration, with no strings attached or ulterior reasons at play.

That is the spirit, after all, of the primary goal journalistically in our objective news reporting — to share a range of facts, perspectives and visuals to help readers better understand issues at hand and inform their reactions — so why shouldn't that serve as inspiration for my column?

It's also the way I approached my education, especially in high school and college: information, data, interpretations and skills to help me cultivate my ever-evolving personal perspective and vocational expertise as a young adult and beyond.

Oh, and to be an open-minded, empathetic and positive presence in American society too.

One area where my educational experience, in the classroom, was so vital to my own evolution as a person was direct exposure to a variety of informed points of view.

Diversity of subjects and sources was particularly important for me, especially in history, literature and the arts, recognizing that as a white straight male student I sat at the desk with a limited perspective on the reality of America's shared cultural existence.

How much could I really understand about my place among others and our systems when my closest tie to the minority experience would be my Great-Grandmother Walsh being one-fourth Native American? Or at least that was a necessary rhetorical question I was comfortable asking myself.

I always point to two specific seminal educational opportunities in my life: I took African American history (from Reconstruction through Civil Rights) taught by one of the few Black professors at American University, and I took a U.S. history course (from the

pre-Revolution until Pearl Harbor) at the University of Melbourne.

The former provided me with a fresh, unabashed frame of reference to realities of the Black experience in America over generations that I would not have learned otherwise. Eye-opening.

The latter offered a critical, outside look at national history I thought I knew inside and out. I mean, we spent an entire lecture week analyzing Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings; the Australians in my class just couldn't reconcile the hypocrisy of this revered freedom founder fathering children with an enslaved woman he owned. Eye-opening.

I keep these two classes, and others I took, in mind when I look at the buzzword-driven national stories about educational curriculum that are now cropping up closer to home more and more these days.

I, of course, recognize those examples were from college, but my public education in Benicia Unified School District was just as formative for my personal and journalistic development.

I think back to the read-aloud sessions with "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and who opted to say the egregious slur associated with Jim, and who like me skipped it, in our predominantly white class. Confronting that discomfort was an important lesson. Or discussing the gender- or sexuality-based themes of "Lord of the Flies", "The Catcher in the Rye" or "Moby Dick".

Heck, it wasn't until college that it really hit me that all of the thick history textbooks from middle and high school were written by people, who no doubt had their own perspectives — and sold to schools ... it's big business.

That's a key reason I balk at a buzzword like "indoctrination" in the context of more modern books or lessons, because to accuse new curriculum or teachers of indoctrinating is to admit the public education system has always had the capacity to indoctrinate.

A motive that systemic is not suddenly conjured anew; either it's always been there or it hasn't. I don't buy it as anything more than a distraction or mudslinging on its face.

But I'm willing to have that conversation if you really want; I'm not afraid of uncomfortable discussions. Just as long as we agree to peel the whole onion, not just start agitated or teary-eyed in the center without acknowledging the layers before. ■

## About the Cover

Longtime Pleasanton resident turned luthier George Bowen shows off the top piece of a guitar body that he scrapped because it wasn't up to his standards. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIV, Number 5



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## When you're away traveling, what do you miss about being at home?



**Ryan Aveni**  
*Machinist/dog walker*

I miss my normal routine and all of my everyday activities that keep me busy and that I look forward to when I'm at home. I also miss my friends.



**Cindy Aveni**  
*Real estate*

I always miss my dog a whole lot. And if I'm gone for a long time, of course I miss the rest of my family, too.



**Jeet Desai, with Indelisa**  
*Finance*

I really miss sleeping in my own bed. I'm very tall, so at home we have a California king-sized bed. It is longer than the standard king mattress that most hotels have. So whenever I travel, my feet hang off the end of the bed and that's uncomfortable. It's always so nice to get home and finally be able to get a good night's sleep.



**Melissa Huang**  
*Staff accountant*

I miss my familiarity with our public transit system. I know the bus and train stations and schedules and how to get around easily. But when I travel, everything is new and different and unfamiliar. I find that very stressful, so I'll often take an Uber. But that involves all of its own stresses. Not to mention the added expense. And oh, of course I miss my dog, too.



**Jeff Garrison**  
*Retired*

Well I miss my beautiful wife if she is at home and not traveling with me. And the wonderful coffee she makes for both of us every morning. I also miss my bicycle rides and cycling buddies, and going out to eat at my favorite local restaurants.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### I-680 work rescheduled

Caltrans has postponed the final weekend closure of northbound Interstate 680 in the Pleasanton area for one week due to inclement weather forecasted for this weekend.

The new dates, weather permitting, are from 10 p.m. next Friday (March 3) through that Monday (March 6) at 5 a.m. between Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton. The major repaving project will result in all northbound lanes in that area being closed and significant detours in place. Southbound lanes will remain fully open.

The agency is in the midst of work that planned to close northbound I-680 lanes between Sunol and Pleasanton on three entire weekends. The first two shutdowns took place from Feb. 10-13 and over the Presidents Day weekend.

To learn more, visit [www.680paving.com](http://www.680paving.com).

### State of the District

Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent David Haglund is set to deliver the annual State of the School District address next Tuesday at an event organized by the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Haglund is expected to present “a comprehensive look at our schools, what PUSD has accomplished over the year, and how they continue to move forward,” according to PPIE officials.

The event will also feature PPIE’s new Executive Director Andrea Wilson honoring the nonprofit’s eight Pillars of Pleasanton — organizations who have supported Pleasanton schools through PPIE.

The State of the School District event is scheduled for 9-11 a.m. Tuesday (Feb. 28). To learn more, visit [ppie.org](http://ppie.org).

### Teen Job Fair

The Pleasanton Senior Center is poised to host the Tri-Valley Teen Job and Career Fair next Saturday (March 4) from 12-3 p.m.

The free event, featuring employers in the region and open to local teenagers between 14-19 years old, is a partnership among the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin and San Ramon, the town of Danville and the Dublin/San Ramon Women’s Club.

“Teens will have the opportunity to meet with local employers, pick up applications, and apply for jobs. The event will feature mock interviews, career workshops and related information. Lunch will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of their resumes and dress professionally,” organizers said.

For more information, call 925-931-3474 or email [jmireles@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:jmireles@cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

## New Valley Humane Society surgery center up and running for shelter animals

Will primarily focus on spaying, neutering pets so they can be adopted in Tri-Valley

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Spaying and neutering your pet — it’s a costly, but necessary, procedure for most new pet owners who don’t want to deal with their cats or dogs getting pregnant unexpectedly.

But as veterinarians are becoming more and more scarce, animal shelters in the Tri-Valley and across the U.S. are experiencing a real crisis with too many animals in their facilities.

According to Shelter Animals Count, a national database of sheltered animals, 4% more animals entered into shelters in 2022 compared to those that left. This is up from 2% in 2021 making it the largest gap in the past four years.

While some might think the

simple solution would be to just get these animals adopted, that can’t happen effectively if those animals are not spayed and neutered.

“During COVID, the government asked us to stop doing elective surgeries, which is what spay and neuter falls under. And so right now they’re estimating that we’re three million spay and neuter surgeries behind,” Melanie Sadek, president of the Valley Humane Society, told the Weekly. “So when that happens, you have a backlog now of adoptable animals that can’t get placed because we can’t adopt them until they’re fixed.”

“The end result of that is public shelters that are totally overwhelmed and impacted,” Sadek added. “Their population is going

up, rescue transfers out of those shelters are way down and there’s just not even enough adoptions to be able to move everybody through ... there’s not enough spay and neuter appointments.”

That’s why in order to provide what she described as an essential service to the thousands of homeless pets in need of not just spay or neuter surgery, but medical operations in general, Valley Humane Society created its new Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center.

Named after Phil Scholz, a Pleasanton resident and pet lover who died in January 2014 while rescuing a man from the Santa Clara rail tracks during his commute home, the center on the edge of downtown Pleasanton is now

mostly operational as it is helping alleviate the backlog of rescue and shelter pets that need surgeries.

“The serious shortage of surgery appointments affecting our industry limits how many animals rescue groups can help,” Jill Tucker, CEO of California Animal Welfare Association, said in a press release from the organization. “The state of California requires animal shelters and rescues to spay or neuter all animals before adopting them, but if we can’t get them fixed, we can’t send them home.”

Located in a renovated building on Spring Street, the center is fully equipped with new examining rooms, administrative offices,

See **SURGERY** on Page 8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes (center) has announced his retirement from law enforcement effective March 17.

## Dublin Police Chief Holmes set to retire next month

Has served with sheriff’s office for nearly 30 years

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin Police Chief Garrett Holmes has announced his retirement from law enforcement, effective mid-March, after more than five years at the helm.

Holmes, who is officially a commander within the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, has worked for the county agency for nearly 30 years — almost two decades of which was spent assigned to Dublin Police Services under the city’s contract with the sheriff’s office.

“It has been an honor to serve

the community of Dublin for over 18 years, and the last five as the chief of police,” Holmes said in a statement last Friday.

“Over the past two decades, the city has grown rapidly, but it still has a hometown feel,” he added. “I have been extremely fortunate to work with the many dedicated women and men of Dublin Police Services, and I am grateful for the wonderful support that our community members have shown us through the years. Together, we have made the city a vibrant and safe place to live and work.”

Holmes, who rose through the ranks of the sheriff’s office after beginning as a reserve deputy, worked three different stints with Dublin Police Services during his career. He took the reins as police chief from Dennis Houghtelling in December 2017.

“We thank Chief Holmes for his years of service and leadership to the city of Dublin,” Mayor Melissa Hernandez said in a statement. “We look forward to continuing his legacy of community policing

See **HOLMES** on Page 6

## Too many commissions? Members?

Council forms group to analyze options for restructuring

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Pleasanton City Council approved the formation of an ad hoc committee that will take feedback from the Feb. 7 council meeting to develop recommendations for potentially altering the city’s existing committee and commissions.

According to City Manager Gerry Beaudin, the discussion on restructuring how the committees and commissions will look like in the future was important because it will help streamline the way those appointed bodies work with the council on future projects.

“The committee and commission structure has grown over the years, our organization has changed and the opportunities for people to participate in the public process have become layered in some cases and maybe less efficient than they could be,” Beaudin told the council.

The city of Pleasanton has seven commissions that each provide different recommendations to the council on different issues: Planning, Housing, Civic Arts, Human Services, Library, Parks and Recreation, and Youth commissions.

The city also has three committees — Bicycle Pedestrian and Trails Committee, the Committee

See **COMMISSIONS** on Page 10

# Bus pass program aims to help people access social services

Initiative provides free 24-hour Wheels tickets to those in need in Tri-Valley

By **CIERRA BAILEY**

While many recent efforts to address homelessness in the Tri-Valley have focused largely on shelter and housing, longtime Livermore resident Jacky Poulsen is helping tackle another significant challenge unhoused residents face: transportation.

Poulsen is the founder and coordinator of the Tri-Valley Bus Pass Program, which donates 24-hour bus passes to nonprofit organizations throughout the region that support people without homes.

The passes — which cost \$3.75 each — are specifically to use the Wheels bus service, operated by the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority. The program pays for the passes and offers them at no cost to those who need them.

The program is in its eighth year and is a collaborative effort with Asbury United Methodist Church which handles the accounting while Poulsen procures and distributes the passes.

“The problem that we are addressing is that a lot of times people have to get from point A to point B, and if they don’t have money and they don’t have their own vehicle,

it’s very expensive for them to take the bus every time they have to go somewhere,” Poulsen said in a recent interview with Livermore Vine.

“In Livermore and the whole Tri-Valley, we have a lot of services for the homeless but they’re scattered and they’re not necessarily geographically located where the people are, so they have to get there,” she said, citing Open Heart Kitchen and Axis Community Health as examples. “That’s the problem we are addressing with the bus passes; we’re getting them there.”

She noted that in addition to being able to access services throughout the region, the passes help people without transportation get to work and to job interviews.

Poulsen’s philanthropic efforts initially started many years ago with collecting socks during the holidays to donate to people in need, but after a while she decided she wanted to do more. She connected with a friend who had more insight into the needs of unhoused residents and learned that there was a demand for bus passes.

“The community has been so supportive,” Poulsen said. “(People)

love (the program) because it’s totally local and there is 0% overhead — absolutely not a penny — and people can appreciate the need and the value of being able to provide transportation to these folks. So it’s been a really positive thing that the community has gotten behind.”

Donations to the program are made out to Asbury. Roughly once a quarter, Poulsen goes to purchase a batch of bus passes and distributes them to about a dozen organizations throughout the Tri-Valley, including Livermore Homeless Refuge, Tri-Valley Haven, Goodness Village, the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry and Cornerstone Fellowship, among others.

“We at Goodness Village are extremely thankful for Jacky Poulsen and the Tri-Valley Bus Program for providing the neighbors at the village with bus passes,” said Kim Curtis, executive director of Goodness Village in Livermore.

She continued, “The village is in a remote area which might have proven a barrier to accessing services if not for Jacky’s program. The Goodness Village neighbors use the bus passes to travel to medical



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tri-Valley Bus Pass Program founder Jacky Poulsen shows examples of the tickets she helps collect for those in need.

appointments, the grocery store, retail shops and to work. Because we have a limited supply of bus passes we also rely heavily on volunteers who help provide transportation to the same locations. We are thankful for the way the Tri-Valley community has shown up to help us provide the support needed to assist those residing at Goodness Village.”

While donations to the bus pass program are accepted year-round, Poulsen organizes a big fundraiser each year during the holidays, starting around Thanksgiving and extending throughout the winter months, which she said is typically when they

receive the most donations.

Her desire to give back was inspired about 20 years ago during her experience in the Livermore Police Department’s Citizens Police Academy. After learning that one of the department’s biggest challenges was homelessness, she decided to find ways to help.

“That was my defining moment in terms of my interest in helping the homeless and I’ve done a number of things over the years since and the bus passes is one of them,” she said.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.asburylive.org/bus-passprogram](http://www.asburylive.org/bus-passprogram). ■

## HOLMES

Continued from Page 5

and making Dublin a safe place to live and work.”

Holmes’ last day with the department is set for March 17. He is the second-longest tenured police chief among the five Tri-Valley municipalities, behind only Danville Police Chief Allan Shields who was appointed five months before Holmes in 2017.

The city said an announcement on Dublin’s next police chief will be made soon. City Manager Linda Smith will interview candidates from a list of ACSO commanders provided by Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez and select one to be the new police chief, in line with the contract between the city and sheriff’s office, according to city officials.

“Chief Holmes’ retirement is personally and professionally bitter-sweet,” Smith said on Friday.

“I have had the opportunity to work closely with him these last eight years and to have had a front-row seat, watching him take community policing to the next level,” she added. “He’s a man of great integrity, is extremely caring, and has always wanted the best for the city. He is deserving of all wonderful comments to

come, and he will be dearly missed.”

Holmes is a Tri-Valley native, having grown up in Pleasanton and graduated from Amador Valley High School.

He started with the sheriff’s office as a reserve deputy in 1993. He would go on to work as a correctional officer for several years at the North County Jail and Santa Rita Jail in Dublin before becoming a deputy assigned to Dublin Police Services.

His initial tenure in Dublin continued in 2009, during which time his experience ran the gamut, including patrol, crime prevention, investigations, field training officer, patrol supervisor and administration sergeant.

After attaining the rank of lieutenant, Holmes left Dublin for other duties within the sheriff’s office through 2015. That time included a promotion to captain and serving as commanding officer at Oakland International Airport.

Holmes was transferred back to Dublin during 2015 to serve as a captain overseeing operations and administration for the department and sitting as second-in-command to then-Chief Houghtelling.

He was promoted to commander in early 2017 and moved back to ACSO administration to lead the Countywide Services Division. Upon Houghtelling’s retirement later that year, Holmes was appointed as Dublin police chief in December 2017.

“During his five-plus years as chief of Dublin Police, Cmdr. Holmes led

Dublin Police through the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unrest stemming from the death of George Floyd,” city officials said. “During the pandemic, he worked to provide greater transparency of Dublin Police Services, holding regular online meetings with the community, and creating the first Dublin Police Annual Report.”

Holmes guided the department through internal adversity in the past year as they mourned the death of one of their own — Deputy Aubrey Phillips, who suffered a fatal aneurysm while on duty in February 2022. The police chief also played a key role in negotiating the surrender of Devin Williams Jr., a first-year jail and courthouse deputy with ACSO who was on the lam for nearly 12 hours while wanted for double-homicide charges in Dublin last September.

City officials noted that Holmes was a visible leader for the department in the community as well, regularly attending events like the Dublin Farmers’ Market, the St. Patrick’s Day Celebration and Coffee with the Chief sessions.

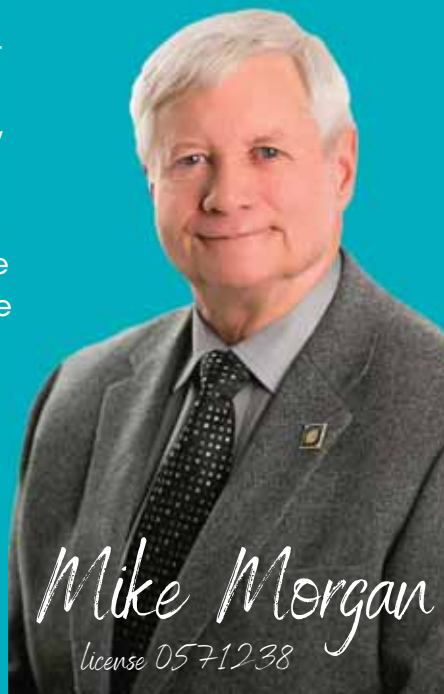
Holmes said that in retirement he hopes to spend more time traveling with family, including to U.S. national parks and completing their goal of visiting all Major League Baseball stadiums. Holmes has two grown daughters and a son. His wife, Angela Ramirez Holmes, holds elected office in the Tri-Valley — on the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors. ■



Garrett Holmes

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# Glazer introduces bill to reduce costly hotel cancellations

Tandem legislation would require lodging services to disclose all prices, fees upfront

By CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Local State Senator Steve Glazer recently introduced a bill that, if passed, would allow people to cancel their hotel reservations within 24 hours of the original booking and receive a full refund at no charge.



Steve Glazer

Internet searches can

provide a jungle of conflicting links, and consumers can easily fall into a quicksand of misleading pricing on lodging," Glazer (D-Orinda) said in a press release earlier this month. "Many mistakes are irreversible on some third-party reservation sites. Unfortunately, no state or federal law protects consumers under these unfair circumstances."

Senate Bill 644, which would also apply to short-term rentals and third-party booking services, states that any booking or lodging service

could be penalized up to \$10,000 for any violations of not providing those refunds, according to the bill's text.

"This bill would provide greater protections for consumers in case they inadvertently made a mistake while booking, or change their minds about where to stay," said Glazer, whose district includes the Tri-Valley.

If passed, these rental services would be required to refund a customer's money in full to the original

payment method within 30 days of when the reservation was canceled without any penalties.

"This bill would require a hotel, third-party booking service, hosting platform, and short-term rental, as defined, to allow a reservation to be canceled without penalty if the cancellation is commenced within 24 hours of the reservation being finalized so long as the reservation is made 24 hours or more prior to the day of check-in," according to the bill text.

Glazer also proposed a second consumer protection bill the same day, Feb. 16, that would require these lodging services to provide upfront pricing that shows any and all additional fees.

That would include the total cost

of the stay inclusive of all extra fees, rather than just the nightly cost. Lodging companies would also be required to display all fees, such as resort and destination fees.

"This bill would help consumers by making sure they are aware of the total cost prior to payment on the internet or before check-in at the lodging establishment," Glazer stated in the press release.

The senator co-signed the bill with 13 other state senators before introducing it on Feb. 16.

In order for the bill to be brought forward in the State Legislature, it must first go through the 31-day introductory period before a senate committee hearing can take place — which according to the bill text will be after March 19. ■

# Police recover riding lawn mower stolen from Dublin High School

Suspect allegedly tried to sell the equipment online

By JEREMY WALSH

Dublin High School now has one of its most important pieces of grounds maintenance equipment back after city police reportedly recovered the stolen John Deere Lawn Tractor riding mower after finding it available for sale online five days later.

Police arrested a Dublin man on suspicion of committing the crime last Friday after allegedly finding the riding mower sitting on a stolen trailer while surveilling the suspect.

"It's impossible to be more impressed with the quick work of the Dublin Police. The day

after being notified of the theft, they located and recovered our property, arrested the suspect, and saved the Dublin taxpayers money. Their partnership is one we always appreciate," said Chip Dehnert, public information



COURTESY DUSD

This John Deere Lawn Tractor riding mower stolen from Dublin High School on Feb. 11 has been returned to the campus after police intervention.

See **TRACTOR** on Page 10

# HIKE for HOPE

**MAY 6** Del Valle Regional Park, Livermore

Your participation helps **Hope Hospice** care for more than 2,000 East Bay neighbors each year. Money raised through registrations and supporting donations benefits patient care and helps keep grief support, dementia education, and caregiver resources available to the public at no charge.

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Raffle prizes • Silent auction • Fundraising*



Register Today!  
[TheHikeForHope.com](http://TheHikeForHope.com)



# A Starry Night shines again for Pleasanton North Rotary

Gala seeks to combine fun with funding for local charities

By JIM BRICE

Despite adversity, some traditions survive because they have an enduring effect on their communities.

Such is the case with Pleasanton North Rotary's A Starry Night Charity Gala. The tradition was placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, but now, it is back with all the glitter, pizzazz and generosity that have always been the fundraiser's hallmarks.

"Our unofficial motto is 'We Do Fun. We Do Loud. We Do Awesome', but we never lose sight of our commitment to community service," noted PNR President Billy Buckley. "We hope like-minded area residents from outside our club join us for this special evening."

The formal dinner, dance and charity auction will return March 11 to the newly refurbished ballroom at The Club at Castlewood.

Funds collected that evening will add to the more than \$2.2 million the gala has raised since 1987 for the nonprofit PNR Foundation. The

money will be returned to the community as grants to local nonprofit organizations and youth programs.

The PNR Foundation aims to assist people at every stage of life, especially those with special needs, at-risk and abused children, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, food insecure families, the unhoused, and active military and veterans.

The foundation also supports Rotary International's longstanding worldwide commitment to eradicate polio, provide safe drinking water, promote social justice and economic development, as well as PNR's own commitment to assist the Wheelchair Foundation of Danville distribute wheelchairs in developing countries.

In recent years, PNR Foundation grants have been awarded to Agape Villages, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Ballistic United Soccer Club, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Culinary Angels, Goodness Village, Hively, Kids Against Hunger, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton

Military Families, Seek and Save, Shepherd's Gate, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Sunflower Hill, The Grateful Garment Project, Tri-Valley REACH, Tri-Valley Haven, and the Valley Humane Society.

The PNR Foundation also supports local youth programs, such as the Pleasanton Foothill High School Interact Club, Foothill High School Student of the Month Awards, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA), Rotary International Youth Exchange, the annual Richard D. King Youth Speech Contest, and college scholarships.

"We try to cast a wide net of support here locally and abroad," said Kirsten Bureman, ASN planning committee chair. "Plus, we're planning a fun evening with great people enjoying dinner, dancing and opportunities to win raffles, play games, and bid on wonderful auction items."

## How to join the party

Guests can register and purchase their admission tickets for \$150 per



JIM BRICE

From left: Scott Piper, Joe Cristiano, Gina Piper, Janet Cristiano and Sophie Piper all dressed to the nines at a previous A Starry Night gala.

person at [www.pnr-rotaryfoundation.org/astarrynight](http://www.pnr-rotaryfoundation.org/astarrynight). Donations are tax-deductible.

Formal attire is required. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. A cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres and no-host bar will follow. For the seated dinner, guests may choose among steak, salmon and vegetarian entrees. Complementary wine will be served. Dinner will conclude with options from a sweets table and dessert auction.

Event sponsorships remain

available as well.

CBS-affiliate KPIX-TV news anchor Juliette Goodrich will serve as celebrity master of ceremonies. Charitable giving opportunities will include silent and live auctions with auctioneer Frank Jakubka, "Heads or Tails" and raffles. The evening will conclude with DJ Ranel Laroco playing music especially for dancing. ■

*Editor's note: Jim Brice is a writer, photographer, Pleasanton resident and member of Pleasanton North Rotary.*

## SURGERY

Continued from Page 5

state-of-the-art operating tables and an X-ray room that alone cost \$50,000.

The project, which cost \$1.9 million, was mostly funded by Nvidia, the American multinational technology company where Scholz used to work. Sadek said the company donated \$650,000 to her organization, which was one of the reasons the facility was named after him.

During a walkthrough of the newly opened center, Sadek said that while the center has been fixing pets from the Valley Humane Society since Feb. 2, it won't become fully operational until the organization raises the final \$150,000 to bring the elements to fruition.

She said that the nonprofit still needs that money to complete the last couple of construction projects and to pay off some of the equipment such as the X-ray machine.

Sadek added that the center is still operating off a temporary use permit from the city until it can finish certain accessibility design updates.

"This building was built in 1950," she said. "We were the first ones to pull permits, which meant there were lots of things that needed to be changed."

"This building was never ADA-modified ... So 22% of our budget is just on ADA changes," she added. "That's making the bathrooms larger; we had to cut a hole (in the wall) so that people had

access to an ADA restroom ... It's just this vast amount of changes."

And while Sadek said these improvements are necessary to have a safe, accessible building, the organization is now looking to the public to donate money for the last phase of construction.

"We're trying to bridge the fundraising gap of \$150,000," Sadek said. "So we've already raised over \$1.7 million but the campaign is costing \$1.9 million ... so we're reaching out to the community asking them to help us."

She said if everything goes smoothly and they can raise the funds in time, the center will be fully operational by May.

With that, she said, comes the opportunity for the public to sign up for one-time surgeries for their pets.

Even though the center will not act as a full-service hospital and will not offer emergency services, Sadek said people from around the Tri-Valley will still be able to get their pets fixed.

"We anticipate our clients will maintain relationships with their existing veterinarians for routine pet wellness care and diagnostic services," surgery center manager Tracie Cota said in the press release.

While the overall cost of services will be somewhat reduced, payment options will be available if needed. Specialty procedures will also be available for clients who have a veterinary referral system if costs become a problem.

Sadek said that will specifically help reduce the amount of animals that end up in shelters due to

owners who can't afford to spend thousands of dollars on surgeries for their pets.

"If you can't afford (the surgery), then those vets are in this really difficult situation," Sadek said. "What ends up happening is either we have economic euthanasia — which is euthanasia due to finances, which no vet wants to do, especially if it's a treatable animal — or the animal ends up getting surrendered to a shelter."

She said that the idea is to create a veterinary referral program at the center so that they can partner up with local vets who will send their patients to the surgery center for specific emergency operations.

"What we see is tons of animals coming into the Valley Humane that have treatable medical conditions that are surgery related, and

probably had a wonderful home but they couldn't keep the animal because they couldn't afford to give the animal what they needed," Sadek said, adding:

"So what we're hoping to do is create a referral program where that primary veterinarian can say, 'Hey, I know that you can't afford this, I don't want you to give up your pet, I don't want to have to euthanize your animal, I'm going to refer you to Valley Humane Surgery Center.' They'll give us all the prep for the surgery, the animal will come in, we'll do the surgery and all the post-op care will happen at their own private veterinarian."

Sadek said the public can visit [valleyhumane.org](http://valleyhumane.org) to find the link to donate to help fund the center's final phase. ■



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Valley Humane Society recently opened its Phil Scholz Veterinary Surgery Center in Pleasanton for internal procedures only. The center will not be fully operational for public appointments until the nonprofit raises the final funds to finish construction.



## County workers picket to demand increased staffing

Union says workforce down almost 25%, some employees denied vacations

Hundreds of Alameda County workers picketed last week at the Lake Merritt Amphitheater in Oakland to demand that county officials fill thousands of vacant county jobs.

The vacancies mean residents are not getting the services that a fully staffed county can deliver, according to the Service Employees International Union Local 1021.

Workers too are suffering from burnout.

"We are working understaffed," said Tina Tapia, an administrative assistant in the public health department. "We are doing the job of two to three people. You don't have time to take your break."

Tapia assists with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children — better known as the WIC program.

She said some workers are being denied vacations. The county is short 2,611 full-time equivalent workers, which is almost 25% of the county's workforce.

Tapia said county managers seem to be brushing off the problem.

Workers plan to speak with the county supervisors individually to see how they feel about the problem



SEIU LOCAL 1021, VIA BCN

Brandon Dawkins, SEIU Local 1021 vice president of organizing, leads workers during a march at Lake Merritt in Oakland on Feb. 13.

and where they stand on the issue.

Board of Supervisors President Nate Miley did not respond to a request for comment on Feb. 13, the day of the union protest.

Alameda County workers have been without a contract since December. Workers started negotiating in July. Tapia said it doesn't seem as if managers are taking workers' concerns seriously.

Tapia is part of the union bargaining team, which were set to be back at the bargaining table later in the week.

SEIU represents workers in behavioral health, in the social service agency and others. Members of the community and from other unions joined in the picketing.

"Our community has suffered enough," a letter from the workers to county administrators said. "Alameda County's workforce has struggled enough: for months at the bargaining table, and for years in their workplaces they have attempted to make clear the scope and severity of this understaffing crisis." ■

—Keith Burbank, BCN

## 'Dublin Business Corner' supports local shop owners

Online library provides free virtual resources

By NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin city officials this week announced the launch of a new resource program for local business owners, including materials such as hundreds of online training videos and business courses offered for free.

Known as the "Dublin Business Corner", the initiative is an on-demand virtual library of training videos and courses for small business owners. The library includes hundreds of webinars and learning materials on a variety of topics relating to business ownership, such as project management, marketing, customer service and others.

"The Dublin Business Corner was developed as a supplement to our live webinar training series," Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez said.

Past sessions from Dublin's small business webinar featured "Starting and Growing Your New Business" and "13 Principles of Brand DNA", each are available for viewing through the online library.

"Recognizing that Dublin's small-business owners' time is valuable and scarce, we are glad to offer this additional resource to support their success," Hernandez continued. "We plan to keep expanding with custom courses."

Run and developed from the

city's Economic Development Office, Dublin Business Corner was created as a way to encourage growth, customer base and operations among shop owners,

according to city officials.

Additional information about the Dublin Business Corner and materials are available online at [dublinca.talentlms.com](http://dublinca.talentlms.com). ■

### TAKE US ALONG



**The top of the mountain:** Shu Liu brought the Pleasanton Weekly along on a recent snowshoeing trip from Carson Pass to Round Top Peak in the Sierra Nevada.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [editor@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:editor@pleasantonweekly.com). Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.

  
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# DA's Office launches Mental Health Commission

Will advise prosecutors on criminal cases involving people with serious mental illness

A countywide coalition of mental health activists, thought leaders and parents will be working to advise the Alameda County District Attorney's Office on mental health issues in the criminal justice system.

Announced on Feb. 10, the 26-member District Attorney's Mental Health Commission will advise the office on how to better respond to criminal justice cases involving people with serious mental illnesses. The hope is to provide

care and new pathways, rather than punishment, to the families and loved ones of those with mental health challenges.

"We want to treat people suffering with mental health issues with the care and responsible justice they deserve," District Attorney Pamela Price said in a statement. "The creation of this commission is just the beginning in effecting change. It won't happen overnight, but rest assured this is a step in the right direction in providing

alternatives to mass incarceration."

The collective closely follows the recent death of an Oakland U.S. Postal Service Worker, Dilma Franks-Spruill. A 28-year-old man with bipolarity and schizophrenia was arrested for allegedly stabbing her to death on Jan. 11.

In response, the suspect's mother called for a greater push for mental health resources. She previously said it was challenging to encourage her adult son to take his medication and pursue help.

"We need to find a way to get our loved one's care — not cages," said Kimberly Graves, a member of Alameda County's Families Advocating for the Seriously Mentally Ill. "Far too often the only time our family members get treatment is with a criminal sentence and all the additional baggage that comes with it doesn't help their recovery. There must be a better path to recovery and care in our county."

—Olivia Wynkoop, BCN Foundation

## COMMISSIONS

Continued from Page 5

on Energy in the Environment and the Economic Vitality Committee — that are more focused on specific subject areas.

But as assistant city manager Pamela Ott said, Pleasanton has changed as a city since these groups were first established.

She added that since there are already two city priority items to restructure the Economic Vitality Committee and to evaluate the structure of the Youth Commission, city staff figured this was a good time to start a larger review of the city's commission and committee structure.

"With some reorganization or restructuring, we could think about how we better align our commissions and committees with the city's organizational structure, how we could streamline those opportunities for community input and engagement through our commissions

and committees and also how we could increase efficiency and impact for both the commission committee members as well as supporting staff members," Ott said.

Some of the key feedback that the ad hoc committee, which will be made up of Vice Mayor Jack Balch and Councilmember Valerie Arkin with city staff, will look at includes formal training for new members, updating their roles and responsibilities, and merging commissions where possible.

Another issue that the council agreed on was how input from the different commissions and committees fails to sometimes reach the different elected officials.

"We're the funding body ... We're the one that allocates funds, and if they can't get a good communication line with us, they have to jump around, which we don't want them to do but sometimes through desperation, people do that," Mayor Karla Brown said.

Balch also added to that saying

he also wants to see the vertical communication from the committees and commissions to the council be improved.

"The commissioners want to be of use to our city and I think we're disenfranchising them from that at times, based upon what they ultimately see percolate up," Balch said. "So I agree with investing in the formal training, tightening up the subcommittee's — maybe the roles — and staffing them appropriately."

Beaudin touched on that issue saying that there might be a way to create an annual work plan for committees and commissions to better set expectations around how they will be engaged on specific issues.

"If you have come through the traditional work planning process, you might have one or two projects and that may not keep a committee or commission busy for the entire year or it may not even be initiated in year one of the work plan," Beaudin said. "For those who have been through

it, you know that sometimes things get deferred to year two, or they may not even be prioritized in the work planning process but they live on the list because they originated there. That can be somewhat frustrating because your idea is not moving forward."

Other things that the newly formed ad hoc committee will look at are reducing the amount of members in the Economic Vitality Committee — because of the fact that there are currently 22 members compared to the maximum of seven or nine on the others — and create an overall sense of consistency between all the groups.

"I view all of this as an opportunity to engage in continuous improvement and to remove barriers to the effectiveness of the various commissions," Councilmember Jeff Nibert said.

The ad hoc committee will discuss this feedback and city staff will bring the discussion back to the council for further action at a later date. ■

## TRACTOR

Continued from Page 7

and community relations officer for the Dublin Unified School District.

Dublin Police Services school resource officers received a report on Feb. 16 about a riding lawn mower — valued at

approximately \$54,000 — being stolen from Dublin High, according to a press release from Sgt. Chris Shepard issued on Tuesday. A review of security video footage showed the mower being towed out of the school's parking lot in the early-morning hours of Feb. 11.

A short time into their

investigation, officers observed the stolen mower for sale on Craigslist and notified police detectives, according to Shepard.

"Dublin Police detectives contacted the suspect online, in an attempt to purchase the lawn mower," Shepard said. "The detectives also located an additional advertisement on Offer Up for the same mower. In the Offer Up advertisement, detectives recognized a vehicle which was for sale and recalled a previous arrest of a subject in the same vehicle."

Detectives later positively identified their prime suspect as 45-year-old Dublin resident Damon Cisneros, and they conducted surveillance of the man around 2 p.m. Feb. 17, following him to Livermore, according to Shepard.

The sergeant alleged detectives found the stolen mower loaded atop a trailer that had been reported stolen out of Hayward. Cisneros was arrested on suspicion of grand theft, and the stolen tractor returned to the Dublin High School. ■



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**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Library Commission Meeting**  
Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.  
City of Pleasanton Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- City-wide Strategic Plan and City Council Priorities Work Plan for FY 23/24 – Presented by Becky Hopkins, Assistant to the City Manager
- Review and approve the recommendation of Library Policies for City Council approval
- Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events of Interest

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# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Livermore police teaming with LPC to secure catalytic converters

Livermore police will team with Las Positas College's Automotive Department next week to host their second catalytic converter "Etch and Catch" event.

To fight the continued rash of vehicle catalytic converter thefts, technicians will etch the license plate number onto the catalytic converter for cars brought to the event and spray paint a Livermore police identifier on it. The goals are to both deter thefts and, if stolen, identify the stolen part later.

The event is set to run on Thursday (March 2) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Las Positas College's Automotive Department behind Building 800 at 3000 Campus Drive in Livermore.

For questions, email [CrimePrevention@Livermoreca.gov](mailto:CrimePrevention@Livermoreca.gov) or [bhagopian@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:bhagopian@laspositascollege.edu).

—Tony Hicks, BCN Foundation

### In other news

- A Bay Area guitar teacher and registered sex offender who taught classes in the Tri-Valley was found guilty earlier this month of additional felony crimes involving minors, following an arrest by officers with the San Ramon Police Department last fall.

Rex Lee Bell of Vallejo is set to serve a 22-year prison sentence upon being found guilty of six counts of lewd or lascivious acts against minors by Contra Costa Superior Court Judge David Goldstein on Feb. 7.

As of the Feb. 7 disposition, Bell had served 132 days of incarceration following his arrest by SRPD on Sept. 29 for charges brought forward on Sept. 26. SRPD officials reported that his previous convictions and status as a registered sex offender stemmed from sexual misconduct involving two 13-year-old girls in 2008.

Bell initially faced a total of 20 counts upon his September arrest, including two charges for violating the terms of his existing sex offender status and nine enhancements for previous charges. Two additional victims came forward the following month. With the exception of the six counts on which he was found guilty Feb. 7, Goldstein dismissed the other charges in line with the plea deal.

Prior to his most recent arrest, Bell was the owner and head teacher for Guitar Confidence, offering private in-person classes for students 5 years old and up on the guitar and similar instruments such as the mandolin, banjo and ukulele

throughout the Bay Area -- including Danville, San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

The business website boasted Bell's decades of experience in the music industry, listing big names such as Frank Sinatra, Michael Jackson and Barbra Streisand as among artists he performed or recorded with over the course of more than 40 years in music.

In addition to the prison sentence, other terms of Bell's plea deal include criminal protective orders for the victims that require him to stay away from them for at least 10 years, providing the results of a mandated HIV/AIDS test to victims and prosecutors, and payment of restitution on all counts, including for psychological harm to the victims.

—Jeanita Lyman

- Antioch police have arrested a Livermore man on suspicion of attempted murder after a reported shooting on Dec. 12, the department said on Monday.

Officers were dispatched to a possible shooting near Peppertree Way and Sycamore Drive around 1:06 p.m. Upon arrival, police located evidence of a shooting but no suspect or victim.

Video surveillance confirmed that a shooting had taken place, police said. Eventually, Antioch Police identified Malik Jefferson, 23, from Livermore, as the suspect and arrested him on Feb. 16 in Brentwood.

Jefferson was booked into the Martinez Detention Facility on suspicion of attempted murder and several firearm offenses. Police have not released any further information.

—Bay City News Service

- A 26-year-old Stockton man was shot near a Tesla distribution center in Livermore last Friday night.

Livermore police responded to a report of a shooting outside the facility at Challenger Street and Discovery Drive at about 8:30 p.m., police said on Twitter.

The victim was found on the road suffering from non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to the hospital for treatment.

The suspect fled the area and was not immediately located. Anyone with information is asked to call the Livermore Police Department's anonymous tip line at 925-371-4790.

—Bay City News Service

- Police in Southern California on Monday apprehended a Concord man wanted for allegedly shooting a woman at a San Ramon apartment complex two nights earlier.

Forest T. McCaskill, 26, of Concord was taken into custody by the Anaheim Police Department on suspicion of attempted murder and assault on a deadly weapon pursuant to a warrant from San Ramon Police Department detectives, according to

SRPD Acting Capt. Tami Williams.

The investigation began unfolding after officers responded to the Mill Creek at Windemere Apartments in the Dougherty Valley at about 11 p.m. Saturday on a report of shots fired at the apartment complex, according to Williams.

Police found a woman suffering from a gunshot wound, and paramedics transferred her to an area hospital where she was listed in stable condition, according to Williams.

Based on information developed by patrol officers and detectives, SRPD investigators believed the suspect had traveled to Southern California after the shooting, Williams said.

San Ramon police coordinated with multiple agencies before McCaskill was ultimately arrested in Anaheim on the felony warrant out of San Ramon. He remained in custody in Southern California as of Tuesday morning, Williams said.

—Jeremy Walsh

- Officers with the Danville Police Department took a man into custody on several criminal charges Friday after an hours-long standoff in the southeastern outskirts of town.

Diego Alfaro, a 27-year-old Danville resident, surrendered to police after hours of negotiation during which he had obstructed the entrance of his home on Glasgow Circle and was refusing to leave, according to police.

The standoff began at 11:38 a.m. Friday when police arrived at the scene in response to a report of assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threats.

Alfaro was taken into custody at 3:30 p.m. Friday and booked into the Martinez Detention Center later in the day on a \$100,000 bail for assault with a deadly weapon other than a firearm, as well as felony vandalism and criminal threats, according to police.

No further details were available as of Tuesday afternoon, according to police officials.

—Jeanita Lyman

- A 41-year-old former Contra Costa County sheriff's deputy has been charged with multiple felonies, including grand theft, unlawful possession of an assault weapon and filing a false report, county prosecutors announced last Friday.

Matthew Buckley, a Pinole resident, is accused of crimes that took

place in 2020 and 2022 while he worked for the sheriff's office, according to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office.

Buckley was a 15-year veteran at the department when he was arrested last August. Sheriff's officials did not say what prompted the investigation that led to his arrest.

Along with grand theft, unlawful possession of an AR-15 and filing a false report, Buckley has also been charged with two counts of preparing false documentary evidence and a misdemeanor charge of destroying or concealing evidence, prosecutors said.

Buckley had served as a court bailiff when District Attorney Diana Becton was a Contra Costa County Superior Court judge prior to her becoming the county's top prosecutor. As a result, the DA's office contacted the California Attorney General's Office to determine whether that would warrant the DA's office recusing itself from the case.

However, the attorney general's office said there would be no conflict of interest as long as Becton has an "ethical wall" in which she has no input or ability to make a decision regarding the case, prosecutors said. ■

—Bay City News Service

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### Feb. 17

#### Vandalism

■ 10:05 a.m. on the 5000 block of Owens Drive

#### Warrant arrest

■ 12:27 p.m. on the 1400 block of Cedarwood Lane

### Feb. 16

#### Burglary

■ 8:20 a.m. on the 3100 block of Valley Avenue

■ 10:25 a.m. on the 6100 block of Via De Los Cerros

■ 5:07 p.m. on the 2800 block of Foothill Oaks Drive

#### Fraud

■ 8:25 a.m. on the 3600 block of Reflection Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 11:02 a.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

#### Graffiti offense

■ 3:25 p.m. on the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Assault/battery

■ 9:06 p.m. on the 4600 block of Augustine Street

#### Drug violation

■ 10:32 p.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

### Feb. 15

#### Theft

■ 7:59 a.m., 3700 block of Angus Way; theft from auto

■ 3:15 p.m., 5700 block of Stoneridge Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 3:48 p.m., 5700 block of Stoneridge Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 3:50 p.m., 2100 block of Delucchi Drive; theft from auto

■ 3:57 p.m., 6600 block of Owens Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 4:18 p.m., 000 block of Vintage Circle; bicycle theft

■ 4:45 p.m., 2100 block of Delucchi Drive; theft from auto

■ 5:38 p.m., 5000 block of Owens Drive; auto theft

■ 5:54 p.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

#### Fraud

■ 11:27 a.m. on the 4600 block of Cope Court

#### Burglary

■ 7:38 p.m. on the 2300 block of Silver Oaks Lane

#### Robbery

■ 9:58 p.m. on the 400 block of Rose Avenue

### Feb. 14

#### Burglary

■ 6:15 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Feb. 13

#### Trespassing/prowl

■ 3:59 a.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

#### Warrant arrest

■ 7:28 a.m. at Main and Spring streets

#### Theft

■ 8:39 a.m., 9100 block of Olson Court; theft from auto

■ 8:47 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

■ 8:48 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 11:18 a.m., 900 block of Montevino Drive; theft from auto

#### Vandalism

■ 11:37 a.m. at Vineyard Avenue and Ruby Hill Boulevard

#### Warrant arrest

■ 3:28 p.m. at Harvest Road and Oakview Court

#### Burglary

■ 6:06 p.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

#### Fraud

■ 8:13 p.m. on the 4600 block of Klamath Court

### Feb. 12

#### Warrant arrest

■ 5:16 a.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Burglary

■ 6:21 a.m. on the 3000 block of Hopyard Road

■ 9:35 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

#### Domestic battery

■ 6:21 a.m. on First Street

#### Shoplifting

■ 9:43 a.m. on the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

#### Graffiti offense

■ 11:01 a.m. at Vineyard Avenue and Ruby Boulevard

#### DUI

■ 7:49 p.m. at Main and West Angela streets

### Feb. 11

#### Theft

■ 9:58 a.m., 1300 block of Brookline Loop; auto theft

■ 3:53 p.m., 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 4:24 p.m., 4900 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

■ 4:43 p.m. on the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

■ 7:18 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting

■ 11:12 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

#### Burglary

■ 7:16 on the 600 block of Blossom Court

SUMMER

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# Instruments of hope

## Inaugural George Bowen Master Guitar Summit supporting ALS CURE Project

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

**B**uilding a guitar is more than just cutting, bending and gluing pieces of wood together.

It's an art that many guitar luthiers — those who professionally build hand-crafted guitars — take to heart because it allows them to create something that not only brings joy to the player, but to the listener as well.

That's how longtime Pleasanton resident and luthier George Bowen sees himself — as an artist plagued by the need to be absolutely perfect, down to the ten-thousandths of an inch.

“My career was deadline driven ... where you've got to accomplish something by a certain time,” Bowen told the Weekly. “That might mean that getting it done on time is the key thing, getting it done perfectly comes second to getting it done on time. That's one of the things I love about guitar making, is that it's the opposite. Getting it perfect ... with no deadline is the way that I build guitars.”

Bowen has been crafting guitars in his makeshift woodshop inside his garage for about eight years now, after he retired from the insurance industry. Before all of that, he even made it to the Billboard charts as a professional musician while also working as a studio musician in Los Angeles before deciding to give up the lifestyle for a calm, married suburban life in Pleasanton.

But his love as a musician for the guitar never died, which is what led him to become a luthier.

“I found that I really love building,” Bowen said. “I'd be building a guitar and I'd be thinking about the next one that I was going to build.”

He has gone on to make guitars for musicians who have played for several big names in the music world such as Paul Simon, Johnny Cash, Bob Dylan and much more.

But when Bowen was diagnosed last year with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's

disease, he realized that he couldn't let his passion for bringing people joy through guitars fade away.

He decided one way he could do that was to put together a small concert with two of the professional musicians whom Bowen sold guitars to in order to raise money for ALS research.

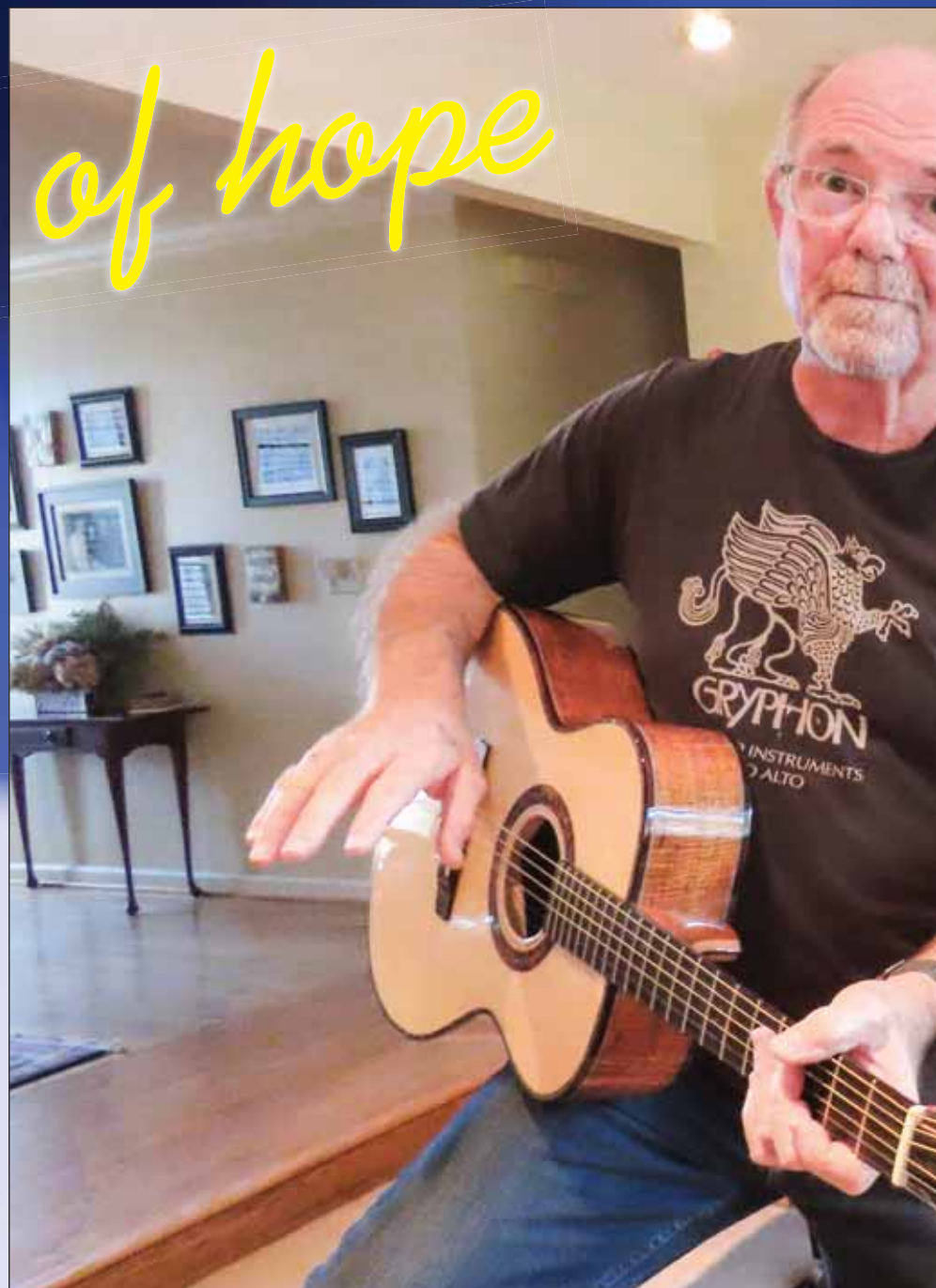
**‘It's doing something for the community, it's bringing the community together to help find a cure for a horrible disease.’**

**George Bowen,**  
Guitar luthier and fundraiser organizer

So he tried calling up Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown, who is a personal friend, to see if she could help him organize some type of fundraiser event.

“I have known George Bowen for almost 10 years,” Brown told the Weekly. “When he called me to let me know he was recently diagnosed with ALS, my heart broke for him and his family.”

That led to the creation of the George Bowen Master Guitar Summit, an ALS benefit concert at the Bankhead Theater



Above: George Bowen, organizer of the upcoming Master Guitar Summit at the Bankhead Theater to be held in Pleasanton. (Photo by Christian Trujano). Top right: Arlen Roth is among the guitarists performing at the concert.



COURTESY LVA

Bill Kirchen, who is also playing at the benefit concert, is a chicken-picking, Grammy-nominated guitar player who founded the late-1960s American rock band Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen.

in Livermore next month that will feature artists who bought guitars from Bowen as well as other famous guitarists.

All the proceeds from the concert will go to the ALS CURE Project, a Tri-Valley nonprofit that is co-sponsoring the event

# ALS CURE PROJECT



Benefit the ALS CURE Project, shows off one of his signature guitars inside his instrument-filled living room at the concert on March 15. (Photo courtesy LVA).



COURTESY LVA

Redd Volkaert won a Grammy in 2009 and was the lead guitarist for Merle Haggard.

alongside Livermore Valley Arts.

“George’s goals immediately turned to help and support others by working towards a cure. It was his idea to help the

ALS community by putting together a guitar-based fundraiser,” Brown said.

Brown also helped Bowen connect with Mike Piscotty, another longtime Pleasanton resident whose late wife Gretchen battled ALS. After she passed away in 2018, Piscotty and their sons decided the best way to honor her was through the creation of the ALS CURE Project.

“I read an article in the Pleasanton Weekly about Mr. Mike Piscotty and his wife Gretchen. The article highlighted the Piscottys as longtime Pleasanton residents, and their difficult journey as Gretchen battled ALS, with their sons and Mike by her side,” Brown said. “Within the article was Mike’s personal cellphone number. I immediately picked up the phone and called Mike. We talked for a while, and he said he would like to help.”

Piscotty told the Weekly that he founded the nonprofit in 2019 in order to fund research that he said will ultimately help find a way to target the causes of the disease and find out how and why it progresses so that a cure can finally be developed.

“To date, we’ve funded \$1.3 million in ALS international research collaborations

including work at Lawrence Livermore Lab,” Piscotty said.

So when Brown told Piscotty about Bowen’s guitar summit, he said he jumped at the chance because it contributes to his overall goal of the nonprofit, which is bringing hope to those like Bowen who are told by doctors that there is no hope.

“You have kind of an ALS death sentence, if you will, and to be able to rise above that and do something and contribute to a cure ... I think it is a great testament to his character,” Piscotty said. “I think he’s a fabulous man and so courageous and we’re so thankful for the advocacy in this area (during) one of the, I’m sure, most challenging parts of his life. To be able to rise above that and put himself out there ... I think it’s very admirable.”

But Bowen said the fundraising concert isn’t about him. He said it’s about the community coming together to appreciate art, to appreciate the musicians and to continue the fight toward finding a cure.

“I put my soul into the guitars that I make ... They’re art and I try to create something that’s really unique and special, and what’s coming out of it is what I had hoped would come out of it and that is that it brings joy to the players, to the audience and in this case, it’s doing something for the community, it’s bringing the community together to help find a cure for a horrible disease,” Bowen said.

He said he also isn’t giving up hope on fighting his disease and has even continued making guitars despite his condition.

“Six special guitars are in the pipeline ... so I’m not done and it gives me something to do, that I love to do, as I fight this illness,” Bowen said.

These six guitars, which he said might be his final original instruments, will all



COURTESY LVA

Jim “Cactus” Soldi is a heavily revered Nashville studio musician.

be made with some of his best wood. One of the guitars, which he named “The Resurrection”, will be crafted from wood that was cut down from a tree in 1081 and was used in 1470 to be made into the beams of the Munich Cathedral that was bombed in 1944.

He said that even though ALS has taken away his ability to play, he will continue to build guitars for as long as he can.

“I’m a fighter,” Bowen said. “So I’m gonna give it everything I’ve got. Every day is a day that I can try to bring more joy to the world and with whatever strength I have, I’m gonna continue to do that.”

The George Bowen Master Guitar Summit will be held at the Bankhead on March 15. To buy tickets, visit the Livermore Valley Arts website at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

## Hot jazz with Solomon Alber Trio

Amador alum reflects ahead of homecoming show next weekend at Firehouse

BY NICOLE GONZALES

**A** Pleasanton native will grace the Firehouse Arts Center stage next week. Along with his trio band, the headliner is set to bring “hot-style” and contemporary jazz to the venue.

The Solomon Alber Trio will present “My Stunning Romance” next Saturday (March 4) at 8 p.m. on the Firehouse Arts stage in downtown Pleasanton.

Solomon Alber, a saxophonist and alumnus of Amador Valley High School, serves as the front man for the band.

“I’m looking forward to coming back and showing my hometown what I’ve learned and how I’ve grown as an artist and a musician,” Alber said. “I hope the audience can take away the idea that jazz doesn’t necessarily need to sound like one thing. It is such a diverse and unique art form that has so many different influences.”

The trio is known for their “hot-style” music, similar to the likes of John Coltrane or Louis Armstrong. This style incorporates a blend of blues and is typically performed in an upbeat fast tempo. Their March 4 performance is set to include gripping and contemporary jazz pieces from composers such as George Gershwin and Vincent Youmans.

When reflecting on his time within Pleasanton Unified School District and the music education he received, Alber expressed gratitude.

“I was very fortunate to have some very exceptional

teachers during my time at Amador,” Alber said. “It was a very valuable time for me; it gave me the chance to delve into music in a lot of different ways. I got to meet local musicians and that was incredibly valuable for me as a young, up and coming artist and musician.”

After graduating high school, Alber went on to attend Berklee College of Music in Boston.

“In my time at Berklee, I had the chance to really experiment with a lot of different styles,” Alber said. “I had some experience playing big band jazz styles as well as small combos. Also, it was really a time where I started to write my own music.”

Since branching out of Pleasanton, Alber has continued to grow his musical career. He has amassed over 60,000 regular listeners on the streaming platform Spotify to date.

“I’m very excited for the show. We’re able as musicians to bring this music and enjoyment to people. And in this way, it makes us happy and we hope that it makes the audience happy,” Alber said.

As part of its 2022-23 season, the Firehouse Arts Center expressed its commitment to showcasing local and Bay Area acts in its scheduled performances such as the Solomon Alber Trio. Tickets and additional venue information can be found at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org). ■



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

Led by Solomon Alber, an Amador Valley alum, the Solomon Alber Trio is set to perform at the Firehouse Arts Center on March 4.

## Livermore Valley Opera performing Puccini’s ‘Tosca’

‘Gripping tale of love, jealousy and deceit’ onstage from March 4-12

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Livermore Valley Opera is set to bring the classic Italian production “Tosca” to the Bankhead Theater stage next month as part of its 31st season of performances.

Originally written in 1900 by composer Giacomo Puccini, the story follows Floria Tosca and Mario Cavaradossi, a pair of lovers in 19th-century Rome, on a journey that incorporates elements of drama, jealousy, love, murder, politics and betrayal.

“‘Tosca’ is one of Puccini’s best operas,” LVO artistic director Erie Mills said. “An opera diva, her patriotic lover and a corrupt police chief all clash in this gripping tale of love, jealousy and deceit.”

“It has something for everyone: high drama, passion, beautiful tunes, a romantic couple and one of the all-time great villains in opera,” Mills added.



COURTESY LVO

The Livermore Valley Opera production of “Tosca” features Ann Toomey as Floria Tosca and Alex Boyer as Mario Cavaradossi.

Mills, who has served as artistic director with LVO since 2016, explained how the performing arts company carefully selected two complementary productions for what was going to be their current season of shows.

“We began our 31st season last fall with a great comedy (Gaetano Donizetti’s ‘The Elixir of Love’) and we thought we wanted a true tragedy to make the pair of operas complete,” Mills said.

Directed by Bruce Donnell, the

production of “Tosca” stars LVO performers Ann Toomey as Tosca and Alex Boyer as Cavaradossi. All shows are to be accompanied by a full orchestra, and sung in Italian with English subtitles provided.

Mills told the Weekly that audience members this March can expect to experience “absolutely gorgeous singing and wonderful acting.”

“I’m looking forward to wonderful performances. I always look forward to the audience’s reaction, how they respond not only to the music but to the action,” Mills said. “All the elements are there for brilliant performances. I can’t wait for the LVO audiences to experience this. We are also fortunate to have members of the Cantabella Children’s Chorus and members of the Livermore Rotary joining us on stage.”

LVO was originally founded in 1992 with the goal of enriching the community in professional theater performances. Since then, they have produced dozens of classic opera productions.

The group is scheduled to perform a total of four shows of “Tosca” at the Livermore venue at 2400 First St., with opening night March 4 at 7:30 p.m. A second evening show will be performed March 11 at 7:30 p.m., while shows on March 5 and 12 will be performed in the afternoon at 2 p.m.

Guests can attend a dinner opening night held at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard at 4 p.m. before the first show, with a separate ticket required for entry.

Tickets are available at the Bankhead Theater box office in downtown Livermore or online at [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■



# Stellar spring and summer slate at the Bankhead

Rocker John Oates, comedian Paula Poundstone, pianist Keiko Matsui among the acts

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore Valley Arts has shined a spotlight on its upcoming spring and summer schedule at the Bankhead Theater, including a special acoustic set from Rock and Roll Hall of Famer John Oates, a night of comedy with Paula Poundstone and the return of the Courtyard Concerts series.

The performer list also features comedian Maria Bamford, pianist and composer Keiko Matsui, all-female quintet Mustangs of the West and magician and illusionist Mike Super, a former finalist on “America’s Got Talent”.

As part of their announcement highlighting the summer series, LVA officials confirmed that famed rocker Oates had been added to its spring lineup for a concert on the night of April 14.

Oates is best known for his work in the duo Hall & Oates and their massive hits in the 1970s and ‘80s including “Maneater”, “You Make My Dreams”, “Rich Girl” and “I Can’t Go for That”. Also an accomplished solo artist, Oates is set to perform an acoustic set at the Bankhead.

Poundstone will mark the formal start of the Bankhead’s summer slate, a couple weeks before the calendar officially turns for the season.

A touring comedian “known for her smart, observational humor and spontaneous wit”, Poundstone hosts her own weekly



podcast “Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone” and has published multiple books, according to LVA officials. She makes her return to the Bankhead on June 10.

Comedy will take the night again on July 21 as Bamford makes her debut at the Livermore venue. She’s starred in multiple specials on Comedy Central and Netflix and contributed voiceover roles on series such as “BoJack Horseman”.

Japanese contemporary jazz pianist and composer Matsui will perform her “transcendent and haunting melodies ... that speak a universally appealing language” on Aug. 4, according to LVA officials.

Two weeks later, recently reunited Mustangs of the West out of



The Bankhead will also welcome John Oates (top left) and Paula Poundstone (bottom left).



COURTESY LVA

Upcoming shows at the Bankhead Theater include (four-box, clockwise from above left): magician Mike Super, Mustangs of the West, comedian Maria Bamford and pianist Keiko Matsui.

Southern California will bring their eclectic style to the Bankhead. “To hear band members talk about their present incarnation is to tune into five women who are dedicated to defining their new destiny with the commitment it takes to share it with the world,” LVA officials said ahead of the Aug. 19 concert.

Illusion will fill the air toward the end of August when magician Super, who was a finalist on “America’s Got Talent” in 2014, performs on the night of Aug. 25.

The Bankhead will also welcome back the Courtyard Concerts series during the months ahead in the venue’s Madden Courtyard. The shows begin next month with Michelle Lambert on March 10, followed by The LK Project on April 13, Jenny Madrigal on May 12, KNR on June 9 and Matt Finders & Friends on Aug. 11.

For tickets and more information on all events this spring and summer at the Bankhead, go to [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org). ■

## TVNPA announces grant recipients

Fund’s first-quarter cycle now open

The Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance announced its fourth-round grant recipients of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund for 2022. This marks the organization’s goal of awarding \$100,000 annually to nonprofits representing a broad range of community needs and interests for the year.

“As awareness of the fund has grown, so have the number of grant applications,” said TVNPA CEO Kathy Young in a statement. “As a result, throughout the year, TVNPA received many worthwhile applications, including in this fourth round.”

Thanks to community donors and matching partners, TVNPA awarded a total of \$25,000 to the following organizations:

- Room Redux Bay Area: Room transformations for children who have faced sexual and/or physical abuse (\$5,000).
- Lazarex Cancer Foundation,

CARE Program: travel reimbursement costs for clinical trials for Tri-Valley cancer patients (\$5,000).

- Shepherd’s Gate: Children’s Equine Therapy sessions with Reins in Motion in Livermore (\$4,000).

• Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area: Educational, developmental, and health and wellness support to families with a child or adult with Down syndrome in the Tri-Valley region (\$3,000).

- Arukah: 90 hours of staff development, training and oversight for key employees (\$3,000).

• System Overload Robotics: RPC Robot Build Kits for STEM robotics competition (\$2,500).

• Cantabella Children’s Chorus: Financial aid so more young choristers can benefit from Cantabella’s programs (\$1,500).

• Alliance for the Visual Arts: Artist Studio Tour to bring the visual artists of the Tri-Valley together with the residents (\$1,000).

### Q1 round now open

The first-quarter round for 2023 is open for applications now through Feb. 28. Nonprofits serving the Tri-Valley are eligible to apply. Grants from the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund offer unrestricted funds to nonprofits that serve the Tri-Valley area, including Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville.

“We are thrilled to have met our goal of raising and awarding \$100,000 in 2022 and we look forward to awarding even more funds in 2023,” Young said. “With the generous support of our fund sponsor, The Workday Foundation, we are already halfway there, and donations are still being matched at 150%.”

To donate, apply and learn more about the grant program, visit [www.tvnnpa.org/tvnf](http://www.tvnnpa.org/tvnf). ■

—Livermore Vine staff



COURTESY FIREHOUSE ARTS

## Until Further Notice at the Firehouse

Livermore-based alt pop punk band Until Further Notice is bringing its sound to the Firehouse Arts Center stage in downtown Pleasanton next week. The band is known for performing original songs and covers influenced by alt pop punk of the 2000s, ‘90s grunge and classic rock. The concert at the Firehouse is set for 8 p.m. next Friday (March 3); to learn more, visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

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### A message from our Publisher, Gina Channell Wilcox

I'm Gina Channell Wilcox and I've been with Embarcadero Media Group since 2006, when I was hired as the president and publisher of the East Bay Division. At that time, the division reported on only Pleasanton and Danville. Now, with a smaller staff, we cover Tri-Valley communities of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville.

While I wear many hats in my position, I'm a journalist at heart. My passion is connecting people to their community and each other, providing useful information and being a catalyst for change.

My colleagues and I are committed to reporting the truth, like when false accusations were lodged against a group of cheerleaders and we set the record straight.

We try to explain complex ideas that affect residents, such as why city councils have to plan for more housing even though there is a water crisis and crowded schools and streets.

We shine light on those who use wealth, manipulation and deception for years to thwart plans for a downtown that is supported by almost all residents.

But we also tell stories of compassion and inspiration, like the family that went to Ukraine to help in the first days of the war or the tale of Danville resident Joe Alvarez, a World War II and Korean War veteran who survived his ship being bombed twice. At 98 years old, Joe still dances with his girlfriend and enjoys a beer (or two) while bowling with his friends. Now that's an inspiration!

Our staff may have decreased over the years but our dedication to journalism has increased exponentially, as has the number of people we reach.

We understand how critical it is for residents of the Tri-Valley to get factual and unbiased news about our cities, schools and communities at large. In turn, our small but mighty staff depends on readers to help us continue our important work. Please consider Supporting Local Journalism.

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## PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

# Foothill Boosters golf tournament fundraiser set for St. Patrick's Day

Also: Baseball and softball seasons are ready to roll in Pleasanton

It is no secret that the athletic departments at both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools are always looking for ways to fundraise for their respective athletic departments.

Both schools have been blessed with quality people involved in the boosters clubs for each school. In fact, if it wasn't for the boosters, the financial needs for athletics for both schools would be overwhelming.

The problem is creating fundraising events that are entertaining and successful. Crab feeds or barbecue events before a football game are proven, but never fully cover the need.

You must find more events to get people involved.

For Foothill, the Foothill Athletic Boosters Golf Tournament is quickly approaching.

The key for a golf tournament is a day or time that people can embrace, as charity golf tournaments dot calendars much the way Starbucks dot city streets — there seems to be one on every corner.

Foothill may have found something, at least this year.

The tournament is set for Callippe Preserve Golf Course in Pleasanton on Friday, March 17, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. For those who are not aware (is there anyone?), March 17 is also known as St. Patrick's Day, and this year falls on day two of a four-day weekend for PUSD.

Hmm. St. Patrick's Day golf tournament, 9 a.m. start on a Friday? Seems like the making for a fun day!

The cost for a single golfer is only \$150, a steal for a golf tournament these days. There are multiple sponsorship opportunities available as well; all listed on the registration site.

For more information or to register, go to [www.foothillfalcons.org](http://www.foothillfalcons.org), then click on "Athletics Boosters (FAB)" link on the right.

### Foothill boys' soccer

The Falcons rode their sensational late season run to make the North Coast Section playoffs.

After sitting 5-10 earlier in the season, the Falcons ran off six straight

defending East Bay Athletic League champions and is loaded again this year.

The Falcons return their top two pitchers in Tyler Gebb and Jackson Flora.

Last year Gebb went 14-1 with a 1.98 ERA. The 6-foot-4, 210-pound senior will head to U.C. Riverside after his senior season.

Flora was 7-2 with a 1.27 ERA. Also 6-foot-4, Flora will take his considerable skill set to Loyola Marymount next year.

The Falcons also have three other Division I commits on the roster. Brendan Comerford has committed to St. Mary's, with Trevor Harmon headed for University of San Francisco. Junior Nate Novitske has committed already to the University of Arizona.

It was a crazy season last year with the Falcons (26-6, 10-3) playing De La Salle four times. While Foothill went 1-3 in the four games, they took the important one, beating the Spartans in the EBAL championship game.

The last two losses came in the North Coast Section championship, then the second round of the CIF NorCal playoffs.

I fully expect Amador Valley to bounce back from the struggles last

season that saw them go 6-18 overall and 1-12 in EBAL play.

Amador coach Lou Cesario is far too good of a coach for the Dons to have another off-year. The Dons will host Arroyo on Feb. 28 to kick off their non-league games.

On the softball side, expect the Dons and the Falcons to come back strong this year.

The Dons, one of the top programs in the East Bay the last 15-plus years,

were 10-12 overall and 5-8 in EBAL play last year. They also host Arroyo on Feb. 28 for their first game, according to their schedule.

The Falcons were 15-10, 7-6 last year and will look to get back into the contention this year. ■

*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](mailto:acesmag@aol.com).*

wins to make it to NCS. But the fun ended there as the Falcons dropped a 4-0 decision to Monte Vista to end the season. Overall, a great ending to the season!

### Baseball and softball are ready to roll

The Amador Valley and Foothill baseball and softball teams are back on the diamonds practicing, with the crack of the bat and the smell of fresh cut grass all back.

Foothill, who opens Wednesday by hosting Heritage, returns as the

## Public Notices

COAX CONSULTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 595520

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) COAX CONSULTING, located at 6806 CORTE NUEVO, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

STEVEN H. MOGAN  
6806 CORTE NUEVO  
PLEASANTON, CA 94566

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 10 2023.

(PLW Feb 24, Mar 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

LEOPARDI WRITING CONFERENCE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 595017

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Leopardi Writing Conference, located at 443 37th Street Oakland, CA 94609, Alameda County.

This business is conducted by: a Joint Venture

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

THOMAS COONEY  
443 37th Street  
Oakland, CA 94609

FREDERICK LAIN HART  
6709 40th Ave  
UP, MD 90782

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 05/15/2018

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 25 2023.

(PLW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 2023)

SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 594778

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE, located at 3878 OLD SANTA RITA ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA.

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

SANTA RITA AUTO SALES & SERVICE, LLC  
3878 OLD SANTA RITA ROAD,  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
CALIFORNIA

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 17 2023.

(PLW Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

PLEASANTON 100% HAND CAR WASH  
PLEASANTON CAR WASH  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 595656

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) PLEASANTON 100% HAND CAR WASH,  
2.) PLEASANTON CAR WASH, located at

4005 PIMILCO DRIVE, PLEASANTON CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY.

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

PLEASANTON CAR WASH, INC  
4005 PIMILCO DRIVE,  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
CALIFORNIA

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2002

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 17 2023.

(PLW Feb 24, Mar 3, 10 and 17, 2023)

YOANA BEAUTY SALON & BARBER  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 595023

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

1.) YOANA BEAUTY SALON & BARBER, located at 3600 INTERNATIONAL BLVD, OAKLAND, CA, ALAMEDA COUNTY.

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

YOANA ALEXANDRA ROMERO GUZMAN  
466 WARDEN AVE  
SAN LEANDRO CA 94577

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/15/22.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 26, 2023.

(PLW Feb 10, 17, 24 and Mar 3, 2023)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: 23CV027658

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Almas Kenges and Yanina Kenges filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

ZAKARIAH KENGES to ZAKARIA KENGES  
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING: 03/21/2023, 9:30 AM, Dept 14 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:

PLEASANTON WEEKLY  
Date: 02/10/2023  
Charles A. Smiley  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(PLW Feb 17, 24, Mar 3 and 10, 2023)

Place a legal notice at  
[PleasantonWeekly.com/legal\\_notices/](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/)

# Employment

### Product Security Engineer

Product Security Engineer, Workday, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Deploy and administer enterprise-grade security tools. Telecommuting permitted. Salary: \$133,100 – 199,700 per year, 40 hours per week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc. 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1239.

### Site Reliability Engineer

Workday, Inc. has an opening for Site Reliability Engineer in Pleasanton, CA. Job duties include: Support the operations of our applications and services. Salary: \$183,310 - \$209,600, 40 hours a week. Interested candidates send resume to: J. Thurston at Workday, Inc., 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Must reference job 20637.1351

### Senior Medical Scientist

Senior Medical Scientist (Medical Affairs Manager) for Roche Molecular Systems, Inc, Pleasanton, CA. Reqs travel approx. 20% of time, domestic & int'l, fully reimbursed. Telecommuting is permitted F/T from anywhere in the US. Req: PhD in a life or biomedical sci, or rlted field + 2 yrs exp (or Master's + 5 yrs exp). Expected salary range for position based on primary loc. in CA is \$136,802 to \$205,900 /yr. Actual pay w/in range determined based on exp, qualifications, geographic loc. & other job-rltd factors permitted by law. Discretionary annual bonus may be avail based on individual & Co. performance. Qualifies for benefits detailed at Benefits (<https://roche.ehr.com/default.ashx?CLASSNAME=splash>). Apply: <http://applyroche.com/202302-103116> (Job ID: 202302-103116)

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

## Entertainment

**CREATURES OF IMPULSE** Watch as local Bay Area improv teams compete against Creatures of Impulse in this pro wrestling-themed run of shows. Feb. 24-25. Tickets \$10. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT** For two decades, International Guitar Night has been the world's premier touring guitar festival, bringing together diverse master guitar musicians from around the world to play together. 8 p.m., Feb. 24. Tickets \$30-\$60. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**FIVE CHILDREN AND IT AT VILLAGE THEATRE** Five Children and It tells the story of a family who goes on vacation in the English countryside and uncovers an ancient creature in the sand. Feb. 24-26. Tickets \$16-\$20. Visit [cytrivalley.org](http://cytrivalley.org).

**VERSE ON THE VINE** Join Poet Laureate Peggy Schimmelman at SPARC Theater for Verse on the Vine, featuring award-winning poets Francesca Bell and Susan Cohen. Refreshments and an open mic will follow. 3 p.m., Feb. 26. SPARC Theater, 2172 Railroad Ave. Visit [livermoreca.gov](http://livermoreca.gov).

**ALT POP PUNK BAND** Northern California Alt Pop Punk band, Until Further Notice, dishes out their originals and covers influenced by 2000s and 1990s grunge and classic rock vibes. 8 p.m., March 3. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**BENICIA CHAMBER PLAYERS IN PLEASANTON** The Benicia Chamber Players perform Francaix, Schoenfield and Faure in Pleasanton. 7:30 p.m., March 3. Tickets \$10-\$20. Trinity Lutheran Church. Visit [beniachamberplayers.com](http://beniachamberplayers.com).

**PUCCINI'S TOSCA** Livermore Valley Opera Presents Puccini's Tosca, a tour de force tale that barely spans 24 hours, replete with love, jealousy, betrayal, torture and murder. March 4-5; 11-12. Tickets \$20-\$98. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**SOLOMON ALBER TRIO** My Stunning Romance will be an evening full of the most exquisite jazz music composed by George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Vincent Youmans and more performed by the Solomon Alber Trio. 8 p.m., March 4. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**LAURYN MARIE AT THE FIREHOUSE** Winner of the American Songwriter 2021 Song Contest, Lauryn Marie is a singer-songwriter from Pleasanton. Her thoughtful lyrics and evocative melodies create sincere and relatable songs. 8 p.m., March 10. Tickets \$20. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**SUNOL REPERTORY THEATER** Sunol Repertory Theater presents Caught in the Villain's Gaze, written and directed by Tom Harland. March 10-11; 17-18; 24-25. Tickets \$20. Visit [sunol.net/srt](http://sunol.net/srt).

**A BROADWAY CELEBRATION** Deborah Del Mastro brings a collection of favorite Broadway

melodies and memories to this special concert, along with some unexpected surprises. 8 p.m., March 11. Tickets \$15-\$25. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE** Valley Concert Chorale Celebrates its 60th Season with "Choral Currents: Celebrating American Composers". 7:30 p.m., March 18, Asbury United Methodist Church, Livermore; 4 p.m., March 19, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton. Visit [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org).

## Exhibits

**ART OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA** Visit the Livermore Civic Center Library Art Gallery to view the artwork of several talented Bay Area artists during Black History Month. Feb. 1-28.

**MUSEUM ON MAIN EXHIBIT** Imagination Expressed is the current exhibit at Museum on Main. This annual collaboration with the Pleasanton Art League shows off the latest works in a variety of media from Tri-Valley artists. Through March 25. 603 Main St.

**BAY AREA FIGURATIVE EXHIBIT** Bay Area Figurative Exhibit: Emerging from Abstraction is an exhibition that highlights the significance of the Bay Area Figurative Movement. Now through April 23. Bankhead Theater.

**CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT** Among the finest shows of watercolor in the country, the California Watercolor Association's National Exhibition displays the best from 84 premier painters. Now through March 17. Firehouse Arts Center.

## Teens

**TEEN JOB AND CAREER FAIR** Attendees meet with employers, apply for jobs, participate in mock interviews, attend a resume workshop and learn how to sell their skills. Participants should bring a copy of their resume and dress in professional attire. 12-3 p.m., March 4. Pleasanton Senior Center. Contact [recreation@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:recreation@cityofpleasantonca.gov).

## Seniors

**PLEASANTON DAY TRIPPERS** Join the Pleasanton Senior Center Day Trippers to explore the Blackhawk Museum in Danville, home to five distinct galleries. Must be 60+ to participate. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., March 10. Cost \$8. Call 925-931-5365.

**AARP FREE TAX PREPARATION** AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance free of charge, Mondays and Fridays, Feb 3-April 17, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. For available appointments call the Pleasanton Senior Center front desk at 925-931-5365.

**MOVIES MADNESS AT THE SENIOR CENTER** Movie Madness at the Pleasanton Senior Center is 1-3 p.m., the second and fourth Monday of the month. For more information call 925-931-5365.

**LUNCHES AT THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER** For (60+) served in the Main Hall, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Call Open Heart Kitchen at 925-500-8241 for more information.

**PLEASANTON RIDES** Serving eligible Pleasanton Seniors with transportation needs, Pleasanton Rides is a door-to-door, shared-ride transportation service for Pleasanton Seniors. For reservations and information call 925-398-1045.

**LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS** Free remote legal services for seniors. To schedule a phone appointment, call 510-839-0393 or visit their website at [lashicap.org/programs/hicap](http://lashicap.org/programs/hicap).

## Expos

**FLY FISHING SHOW** The Fly Fishing Show produces the world's largest consumer fly fishing events for all levels and all ages. See the latest in rods, reels, lines, leaders and accessories. Feb. 24-26. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

**STAMP AND SCRAPBOOK EXPO** Stamp and Scrapbook Expo events cater to paper crafters of all types and experience levels. Swap ideas with like-minded crafters and learn new techniques by taking a workshop. March 3-4. Visit [alamedacountyfair.com](http://alamedacountyfair.com).

## Talks

**STANFORD MEDICINE ZOOM EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION** "Expansion in the Tri-Valley Community", featuring Mino Sastry, vice president of service lines and market development. 10-11 a.m., March 2. Visit [pleasanton.org](http://pleasanton.org).

**ZOOM WITH BESTSELLING AUTHOR** Live Zoom talk and Q&A session with Kate Moore, bestselling author of "The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women", Livermore Reads' featured book. No registration required. 1 p.m., March 5. Visit [us02web.zoom.us/j/89914899390](http://us02web.zoom.us/j/89914899390).

**INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT RELIGION CHAT** "How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times?" is the topic of the March Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat with Speakers Rev. Steve Wilde, First Presbyterian Church in Livermore and Hosai Mojaddidi, Muslim Community Center East Bay in Pleasanton. 5-6 p.m., March 8. Via [zoom.us/j/81770052038](http://zoom.us/j/81770052038).

**NAVIGATING THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT** This Hope Hospice webinar will include tips for communicating effectively with healthcare professionals, handling hospitalizations and understanding the discharge process and follow-

## PET OF THE WEEK



EAST BAY SPCA

### Meet Minnie

Hi! My name is Minnie, and I'm a low-riding lady who loves to run around and go for long walks. When it's time to get some attention or venture outside, I'll make little piggy-snorting noises to show you just how excited I am. I'm effortlessly happy and goofy, and it's impossible to feel sad when I'm there wiggling and wagging my tail next to you and giving you smooches. Ready to meet the affectionate, sunbathing pocket Pittie of your dreams? I'm available via the East Bay SPCA. Learn more at [eastbayspca.org](http://eastbayspca.org).

up care. 10-11:30 a.m., March 9. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS FRANCE** Richard Finn presents a slideshow entitled "France: From Paris to the Mediterranean" recounting his family and friends' trip to Paris, where they boarded the high-speed train to Lyon and sailed on a river ship to Nice. 1:30 p.m., March 9.

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS** "Scrappy Applique" is the topic of the next Amador Valley Quilters meeting. Learn the technique in a fun, engaging environment where everyone will learn the skills to confidently turn any template into an original design. 1:30 p.m., March 11. Visit [amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS** Hacienda Park Toastmasters Club meets virtually via Zoom on the first, third and fifth Thursday of every month from 12-1 p.m. Overcome fear of speaking in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Visit [haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org](http://haciendapark.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Outdoors

**LIVERMORE VALLEY HALF MARATHON** The 9th annual Livermore Valley Half Marathon is March 5 with registration ending March 4. Experience hyper-local feels in Downtown Livermore with award-winning local breweries, gold medal wineries and top local favorites on the main music stage. Tickets \$159. Visit [livermorevalleyhalf.com](http://livermorevalleyhalf.com).

**WILDFLOWERS OF THE ARROYO** Discover what wildflowers are blooming in the Arroyo Valle habitat on this 5+ miles through Sycamore Grove Park and Del Valle. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., March 4. Call 925-373-5700.

**NATURE STORYTIME AT SYCAMORE GROVE PARK** LARPD rangers and librarians from the Livermore Public Library will entertain families with children's books about nature and wildlife during Nature Storytimes at Sycamore Grove Park. Families should meet at the kiosk near the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove. 2 p.m., March 5.

**MARCH CAMPFIRE SYCAMORE GROVE PARK** Gather around a fire, share some stories and feast on delicious

s'mores. Bring a blanket and warm clothes, all ages welcome. 6-7 p.m., March 11. Call 925-373-5700.

## Veterans

**BEER, BRATS AND BINGO** Play to support the American Legion. Doors open at 5 p.m. for seats and refreshments. Feb. 25. Veterans Memorial Building. Visit [pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org](http://pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org).

**VETERANS EVENT** Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations and referrals for enrolled veterans. The drop-in event will run from 10 a.m. 1 p.m., Feb. 27.

**PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES PACKOUT** March Easter/Spring Packout. Prepack, 3:30-6:00 p.m., March 17. Care package event, 8:45 a.m., March 18. Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. [pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org](http://pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org).

## Festivals

**TASTE TRI-VALLEY RESTAURANT WEEK** Taste Tri-Valley Restaurant Week highlights the diverse culinary scene of the region over the span of 10 delicious days in the form of special foodie events, unique menu offerings and exclusive deals to top restaurants, wineries and breweries in the Tri-Valley. Feb. 24-March 5.

## Scholarship

**LAS POSITAS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** The program provides students with full tuition for up to two years, an annual stipend of up to \$1000 for books and school supplies, complimentary parking permits each term and personal use of a new laptop computer. Program application deadline is March 24. Visit [laspositascollege.edu/presidentsscholars/index.php](http://laspositascollege.edu/presidentsscholars/index.php).

**ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON SCHOLARSHIPS** The Rotary Club of Pleasanton invites high school seniors attending any high school in Pleasanton to apply for its \$40,000 worth of scholarships for students in financial need in 2023. Guidelines and applications are available online at [pleasantonrotary.org](http://pleasantonrotary.org). Apply by March 31.



COURTESY GETTY IMAGES

## Buyers and sellers move with the times

Players in Tri-Valley market need to track local conditions, not statewide or national trends

BY DAVID STARK

Homebuyers and sellers in Pleasanton are balancing concerns about rising inflation and mortgage interest rates against more homes on the market and pricetags that are becoming more realistic.

During the first few weeks of 2023, the Pleasanton real estate market continued feeling the effects from the major shifts that began during spring 2022.



David Stark

"Buyers this year may be more conservative because they are more concerned about their jobs and housing affordability," said Jennifer Branchini, 2023 president of the California Association of Realtors. Branchini, who is also a Pleasanton resident and Pleasanton-based Realtor, has a unique perspective on real estate markets given her local connection while also leading a trade association of more than 200,000 Realtors.

Branchini explained even cautious homebuyers are still motivated. "While interest rates are higher than where they were a year ago, we've also seen prices come down

in relation to the cost of money," she said.

She suggested buyers need to balance higher interest rates compared to this time a year ago with where they will be in the future, saying, "Buyers need to consider if the home they are going to buy now will be their home in seven to 10 years, is it a long-term investment for them?"

Branchini said a new type of buyer is emerging in Pleasanton following years of being sidelined.

"Another trend is that we're starting to see 'move-up' buyers who currently live in the Tri-Valley and are outgrowing the home that they are in and need a bigger home," Branchini said.

In previous years, Branchini said "move up" buyers had two options: look beyond the Tri-Valley or put their plans on hold and not move. "They couldn't compete because they would have to sell their home first before they could buy something," she said.

Branchini continued, "Because of where the market has been, I think there's a bit of an opportunity for people in Pleasanton to say, 'I'm ready to sell my condo, I'm ready to sell that first house' and buy the bigger house, and now they might have a shot at doing it in



'We only have so many homes on the market, and we have a high buyer demand again.'

**Jennifer Branchini,**  
2023 president of the  
California Association of Realtors

Pleasanton."

The desire to make a change is beginning to outweigh the low monthly mortgage payment buyers may currently enjoy. Branchini said, "Even though they may have a 3% interest rate now, they're saying, 'We can't stay here for the 30 years we're locked in on this interest rate; we have to make a decision and make a move.'"

Sellers are also responding to changing real estate and general economic conditions.

"People are feeling the pressures of inflation and the cost of living and high energy bills and are making decisions to sell their homes,

put that equity in the bank, and simplify their lives in advance of making a bigger move," Branchini said. These sellers are opting to rent in the Tri-Valley while they plan their next step.

Asked what may be motivating current homeowners in Pleasanton to make a change, Branchini said, "It depends on where they are in their life. If there are people who are approaching retirement, this may be the time when they opt to make the move when they thought they might do it in five years."

Market conditions during January 2023 were initially promising for buyers compared to January

2022 — more choices, lower prices and homes on the market longer. However, Branchini emphasized that 2022 was an unusual year as low interest rates and historically low inventory during the first quarter super-charged both prices and sales activity.

Branchini said some balance between buyers and sellers may be happening, yet the fundamental difference between supply and demand in Pleasanton is still a reality.

"We only have so many homes on the market, and we have a high buyer demand again," she said. "Homes are not sitting on the market unless they were significantly overpriced."

She emphasized that buyers and sellers in Pleasanton need to focus on local conditions rather than regional, statewide or national trends.

"Real estate is super-local, and buyers need to pay attention to the inventory that's on the market," Branchini said. "We are starting the year with very low inventory and if we don't see the spring market perk up, we're definitely going to be in a sellers' market." ■

*Editor's note: David Stark is chief public affairs and communications officer for the Bay East Association of Realtors, based in Pleasanton.*

# NEW PLEASANTON LISTINGS

## 6120 SANCTUARY LANE



**5 Bedrooms ~ 4.5 Bathrooms**  
**3,661 Square Feet**  
 Stunning home in Serenity on a 2.12 acre lot surrounded by rolling hills and oak trees.  
**Offered at \$3,200,000**



PROPERTY DETAILS

## 4121 GRANT COURT



**4 Bedrooms ~ 3.5 Bathrooms**  
**3,357 Square Feet**  
 Magnificent Kottinger Ranch home masterfully remodeled and finished with the finest materials.  
**Offered at \$3,188,000**



PROPERTY DETAILS

**9-TIME WINNER AS PLEASANTON'S BEST REALTOR**  
**VOTED BEST REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE IN PLEASANTON - 2022**  
**VOTED BEST REALTOR & BROKERAGE IN THE EAST BAY - 2022**



**Gina Piper**

925.200.0202 • DRE #01201349  
 gina@elationre.com

**ElationRE.com**



# Selling your home when you're on a deadline

Tips to effectively hasten the process

By **JOSIE DE LA TORRE**

Sometimes life takes an unexpected turn and all of a sudden you are on a tight schedule to sell your home. Luckily, there are a few actions you can take to speed up the process of selling your home quickly.

### Find a Realtor

“Most essential is to find a Realtor that is experienced in selling a home,” said real estate agent Kris Moxley of Moxley Real Estate Team. She added they should know the market and be “realistic with the market and pricing.”

Finding an experienced real estate agent is crucial in selling a home, especially if the seller has a deadline. Finding an agent who knows the area and local market will be an advantage as the agent advocates for the sellers when pricing and marketing the home, and when offers come through.

### Do inspections

“Have the inspections available for a buyer,” Moxley said.

Home inspections help sellers and buyers know what is needed to be repaired and other issues. Sellers would benefit by having their homes inspected before an offer is made to minimize unknown, time-consuming issues. Inspections usually consist of checking for pests, water damage, plumbing problems, damaged electrical system and issues with the HVAC system.

“Get the information in front of the buyer so they can make a decision. Sometimes the buyer will just ask for a financial credit from the seller and they will take care of the repairs,” Moxley said.

### Improve curb appeal

The front of a home is the first impression buyers often get. To sell your home quickly, doing tasks that improve curb appeal can quicken the process.

Taking the time to spruce up the front yard, fix any fencing, add color to the house and pressure-wash the pavement can make a big difference and attract buyers. Enhancing curb appeal can also help with staging good quality photos to captivate buyers online.

### Declutter

“Always decluttering and cleaning the interior can give the buyer the ‘cozy warm, I have to have’ feeling,” Moxley said.

Decluttering a home can help potential buyers envision the home as their own and show how large the rooms can be. Cleaning the kitchen area, living room, bedrooms and bathrooms can draw in buyers to picture themselves in those spaces.

### Stage, if necessary

“Not all homes have to be staged. I would say staging is case by case,” Moxley said.

While staging is not essential in all cases, it can help buyers visualize the property as their potential home and sell it faster. Removing all personal items and staging with simple items and furniture would be recommended.

The most important rooms that would need to be staged would be the living room, master bedroom and kitchen area.

Doing as much as possible before the home even goes on the market will help when life takes a turn — good or not so good — and you need to sell quickly. ■

## OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

### PLEASANTON

<b>5262 Riverdale Court</b>	<b>\$1,099,000</b>
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00	3BD/2BA
Compass	925-997-2411
<b>3640 Annis Circle</b>	<b>\$1,290,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	3BD/2.5BA
Compass	925-997-2411
<b>6120 Sanctuary Lane</b>	<b>\$3,200,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/4.5BA
Elation Real Estate	925-200-0202

<b>3398 Hadsell Ct</b>	<b>\$1,599,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	5BD/2.5BA
Compass	925-997-2411

<b>3003 Briggs Court</b>	<b>\$2,988,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	5BD/3.5BA
Keller Williams Tri-Valley	925-963-1984

### SUNOL

<b>3370 Little Valley Road</b>	<b>\$4,249,000</b>
Sun 1:00-4:00	6BD/6.5BA
Compass	925-525-2569

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan. 9-20 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

### Pleasanton

- 4796 Corwin Court** S. & O. Ocon to S. & D. Rai for \$1,160,000
- 614 Palomino Drive** J. Negron to I. & Z. Guajardo for \$551,000
- 1675 Paseo Del Cajon** S. & M. Stinson to Y. & M. Li for \$1,623,000
- 6723 Paseo Santa Cruz** Yimbo Trust to P. & A. Alfano for \$1,290,000
- 4151 Veneto Court** Opendoor Property Trust I to R. & A. Clements for \$885,000
- 2622 Willowren Way** Rash Living Trust to Y. & K. Yu for \$1,497,500
- 3839 Antonini Way** A. & D. Lundgren to S. & H. Nandyala for \$4,210,000
- 5788 Belleza Drive** Threaz Investments Inc to Riley Living Trust for \$875,000
- 294 Birch Creek Drive** Dolan Living Trust to H. Wang for \$698,000

- 5125 Damiano Court** K. Dougherty to Price 2015 Trust for \$820,000
- 3109 Pawnee Way** Marsey Living Trust to Zca Homes LLC for \$400,000
- 1333 Rhone Place** G. Sun to Patel Family Trust for \$3,150,000

### Livermore

- 1506 Agatha Court** D. Smith to M. & K. Silva for \$1,620,000
- 4669 Almond Circle** Condit Trust to T. & Y. Sanchez for \$1,325,000
- 889 Barney Common** Redfinnow Borrower LLC to I. & P. Nayyar for \$940,000

Source: California REsource

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



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TRI-VALLEY LUXURY REALTY

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- ✔ Unmatchable Seller Fees



**COMING SOON**  
OFFERED AT \$1,829,000  
985 RIESLING DRIVE, PLEASANTON  
4 BED | 2 BATH | 2,053 SQFT



**COMING SOON**  
OFFERED AT \$1,829,000  
66 EDGE GATE COURT, DANVILLE  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,502 SQFT



5448 BELLEVUE CIRCLE, DUBLIN  
NOW PENDING \$1,799,000



3839 ANTONINI WAY, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$4,210,000



5705 BELLEZA DR, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$975,000



4471 LINDA WAY, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$1,750,000



4854 BRAXTON PL, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$2,500,000



5174 MOUNT TAM CIR, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$2,150,000



3805 ROBBY CT, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$1,590,000



967 CLINTON PL, PLEASANTON  
SOLD \$1,500,000

## 2022 Highlights Awards & Accolades



**Top 1.5%**  
Of Real Estate  
Teams Nationwide  
REALTRENDS | TOM FERRY

**70+**  
Families Assisted  
In 2022

**\$113M+**  
Closed Sales  
in 2022

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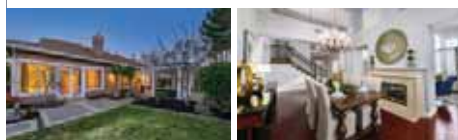
DeAnna Armario | (925) 694-0806  
459 Main Street, Pleasanton  
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OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1-4PM

**JUST LISTED!**

**3003 BRIGGS COURT  
PLEASANTON**  
LAGUNA OAKS Resort-Style Living!  
5 BED, 3.5 BATH  
3886 SF ON A 15,763 SF LOT  
**A MUST SEE HOME!**  
Offered at \$2,988,000



Laguna Oaks

**PENDING!**



**811 TRANQUILITY CIR. #8  
LIVERMORE**  
3 BED, 3.5 BATH, 1664 SF CONDO  
OFFERED AT: \$898,000

**COMING SOON!**



**628 FREESIA COURT  
SAN LEANDRO**  
AMAZING 4 BED, 3 BATH, 2700 SF HOME  
CALL CINDY FOR DETAILS



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**Talking Real Estate with Doug Buenz | Compass**

**All About the Appraisal Contingency**

The appraisal contingency is a standard clause in most real estate purchase agreements. It is a clause that essentially says “this contract is subject to the property appraising at the contract sales price (or more), or the contract may be canceled by the buyer”. While the intent is fairly clear, what is less clear is what happens if the appraisal comes in below the sales price.

First of all, a disclaimer. The appraisal in question generally refers to the bank appraiser assigned by the buyer’s lender to appraise the property as part of the loan process. If the buyer is paying all cash, they can still include an appraisal contingency, and contract to have the property appraised as part of the purchase. While sellers often wish it to be so, this clause does not apply to a previous appraisal obtained by the seller, either as a preemptive measure or as part of a refinance or purchase. Prior appraisals are not used to satisfy the appraisal contingency. In fact, as written about previously, the bank appraiser is independent of the lender, and seller for that matter. In theory, thanks to the recent changes in the appraisal process, appraisers have absolutely no contact with the lender. This is in order to avoid manipulation or undue influence on the valuation.

So, if the appraisal comes in at the sales price or greater, the condition is essentially satisfied and the buyer can not cancel the agreement on that basis. But what happens if the property does not appraise for at least the

>> To read the rest of this article go to [The680Blog.com](http://The680Blog.com)



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**2641 Lotus St., Pleasanton**

**3 BD | 2.5 BA | 1915 SF | \$1,400,000**

Welcome home to this light and bright home that will capture you the minute you move through the front door and into the sun-kissed living area. Imagine living in this beautiful, West-facing home in the sought-after Stoneridge Square neighborhood.

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# INTEGRITY AT YOUR FRONT DOOR.

• • • **Don't miss our upcoming  
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this weekend!**

**3398 HADSELL COURT, PLEASANTON**

5 BED 2.5 BATH \$1,599,000  
WWW.HADSELLCOURT.COM

**OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1-4 PM**



**5262 RIVERDALE COURT, PLEASANTON**

3 BED 2 BATH 1,525 SQ FT +/- \$1,099,000  
WWW.RIVERDALECOURT.COM

**OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 2-4 PM**



**3640 ANNIS CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**

3 BED 2.5 BATH 1,586 SQ FT +/- \$1,290,000  
WWW.ANNISCIRCLE.COM

**OPEN HOUSE THIS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 1-4 PM**



**1080 VICTORINE ROAD, LIVERMORE**

4 BED 4 BATH 4,000 SQ FT +/- \$5,250,000  
WWW.1080VICTORINE.COM

**BY PRIVATE APPOINTMENT ONLY - CALL JULIA 925.997.2411**



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## WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

### SOUTH LIVERMORE



#### 1141 RIESLING CIRCLE, LIVERMORE

3 BD + OFFICE AREA | 2.5 BA | 2,617 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

Don't miss this remodeled & impeccably maintained solar powered home in a sought-after South Livermore location! Rarely are homes available in this beautifully manicured neighborhood. This spacious east facing property offers an abundance of natural light and privacy. Unwind in the professionally landscaped backyard oasis with newer PebbleTec pool, raised spa & waterfall, outdoor kitchen & pergola. The gourmet kitchen has been tastefully remodeled and offers modern white cabinetry, granite countertops, tile backsplash, SS appliances, gas stove & pantry. The open formal living room and dining area are perfect for entertaining. The stunning wrought iron staircase leads up to a generous office space in the landing, a large master suite with a remodeled spa-like bath, two guest bedrooms and an additional remodeled full bath. Hardwood floors, newer light fixtures, newer floor coverings, 3-car garage, owned solar, newer interior paint and so much more!! A short walk from the vibrant downtown area and many of the well-known wineries. This home has it all and is sure to amaze!

**LIST PRICE \$1,509,000**

### OAK HILL, PLEASANTON



#### 7774 OAK CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON

4 BD + DETACHED OFFICE/STUDIO | 2 BA  
2,004 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

This newly remodeled, understated luxury, LA-style single story home features a light and airy open concept floor plan with more upgrades than you can imagine. The interior boasts custom accent walls, a vaulted living room ceiling, 12" wide plank white oak engineered hardwood floors throughout and an impressive show stopping chef's kitchen. An oversized custom island features 2" thick white Vadara quartz slab countertops, SS Thermador gas stove and hood, SS built in Thermador refrigerator, custom herringbone Italian marble backsplash, custom cabinetry with Restoration Hardware knobs/handles, 120+ bottle wine fridge, and SS farm sink. The primary Hampton style en-suite is a work of art with accent wall, walk in closet w/ barn door and an absolutely dreamy ultra-chic bathroom. Each secondary room provides ample space and closet organizers. This energy efficient home includes a whole house Kinetico water filtration system, newer HVAC and EV charging outlet. It sits on a drought tolerant, professionally landscaped, low maintenance lot in an amazing neighborhood with mature trees, green belt, community pool and close to all three levels of school.

**LIST PRICE \$1,799,888**

### DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON



#### 1027 ROSE AVENUE, PLEASANTON / PARCEL

24,678 SQ. FT. LOT

Great opportunity to easily create two premium buildable lots on Downtown Area Parcel! Previously fully approved minor two lot subdivision in 2016 has expired but should make the reapplication path less cumbersome. Parcel division was approved for two lots facing Creek Trail Drive (1308 & 1320 Creek Trail Drive). Walk to downtown from these premium 12,000 plus lots located adjacent to \$2,000,000- \$3,000,000 homes. The originating property address is 1027 Rose Lane and the actual 24,678 square foot parcel number is APN# 94-128-45.

\*Subdivision not guaranteed and new owner will need to re-apply with Pleasanton Planning.

**LIST PRICE: \$1,495,000**  
**PENDING W/ MULTIPLE OFFERS**



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# VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE



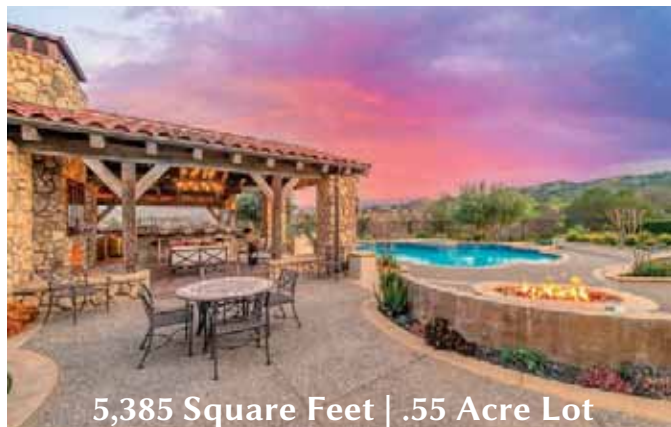
EXCELLENCE



1904 Zenato Place, Ruby Hill



Listed at \$4,795,000



5,385 Square Feet | .55 Acre Lot



5 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms

## You're Invited!



VENEMA HOMES TEAM

**Friday 2/24 from 10am-1pm**

**Saturday 2/25 from 1-4pm**

**Sunday 2/26 from 1-4pm**

**Exclusive Event this Saturday from 4-6pm.**

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