

Watching the wheels of progress in Tri-Valley transit

A reporter's reflections on commuting for coverage without a car in the Bay Area

Page 12



- 5 | **NEWS** New airport policies on development, hangars
- 17 | **OPINION** Bay Area to begin phasing out gas heaters
- 18 | **SPORTS** 'Scottie's Scramble' honors late Foothill alum

Expert Cancer Care Led by Compassion



We are leading the way in advanced therapies, research, and clinical trials—with an unwavering focus on your quality of life.

Our Circle of Care approach cares for you as a whole person—from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.

With pioneering expertise across all types of cancer, our team of surgical, medical, and radiation oncologists works together—alongside care coordinators, specialized nurses, therapists, and other professionals—to meet your individual needs.

Our Cancer Centers

- Castro Valley
- Emeryville
- Palo Alto
- Pleasanton
- San Jose

Additional Medical Oncology Location

- Redwood City

Additional Radiation Oncology Location

- Turlock

To learn more, call **1-833-444-SMCC (7622)** or visit:
stanfordhealthcare.org/cancercenterpleasanton
stanfordhealthcare.org/cancercenteremeryville
stanfordhealthcare.org/cancercentercastrovalley



Stanford
MEDICINE

Health Care

AROUND THE VALLEY



BY GINA CHANNELL WILCOX

Illogical to absurd

Yet another asinine decision was made by the Pleasanton City Council majority when it voted March 7 to defund Leadership Pleasanton, a program led by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for more than 30 years.

Just like the Feb. 7 decision to scrap the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks conceptual plan, Mayor Karla Brown and Councilmembers Valerie Arkin, Jeff Nibert and Julie Testa voted to scrap the relationship with the chamber of commerce with the justification of money — and staff time in the case of LP.

I didn't buy that money was the reason behind the vote on the parks. Money was no object in June 2022 when Brown, Arkin and Testa voted to take \$2 million from the Rainy Day fund to put toward rehabilitation of Century House.

Perplexed, I speculated in my last column that park neighbors might have been whispering in the ears of Brown, Arkin and Testa. The people named assured me they didn't.

After seeing the staff report for Tuesday's City Council meeting, it dawned on me that maybe the decision on the parks was indeed about money. Diverting it, anyway.

The March 21 agenda included a discussion about the city's operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The skatepark that Testa really wants is third on the priority list. By killing the parks' master plan, money that would have gone to fund that project has now been freed up for other projects — like a skatepark.

I definitely don't buy the LP vote is about money, staff time or making the program more accessible, as the majority claims.

After removing the \$950 participation fee for up to four city employees per year, the city's commitment was a paltry \$6,200.

The concern about staff time is valid. That's why the majority's next directive to staff is spectacularly absurd: Launch and maintain a city-run program with modules held in the evenings and on weekends at no cost to participants.

So they want to sever the relationship with a program that's worked very well for 30-plus years and have the short-handed staff busy with urgent internal initiatives to create and execute a program.

Who will be planning and implementing this city program? If it's held during evening hours and weekends, will there be overtime paid, or will the

staff be told to stop doing other tasks?

The incongruence between the majority's justifications for defunding LP and desire to strap city staff with creating and implementing a program is obvious to most.

Testa's passion to do away with the city's connection with the program and the chamber — which she believes is too "politically active" because it has a political action group — is also obvious.

Testa apparently thought the subject of LP funding was closed in 2021 when it came up during a council priority-setting meeting.

"The messages and the intent and the concerns were very clear," Testa said, "and shouldn't have been ignored."

Balch asked for clarification on the action taken at that meeting and Testa turned into a petulant child. She literally put her hand up and said, "I think, I'm not going to engage with you, Jack."

The chamber's PAC has never supported Testa or Brown in any of their campaigns, nor has the chamber endorsed either over an opponent. Is that enough to incur the wrath of Testa? Well, Balch asked a question and got the "talk to the hand - I'm not engaging" response.

Perhaps residents should start asking questions of the council majority, starting with why the parks' master plan was tossed aside before a solid estimate could be done.

Also, does Brown truly not understand the \$10 - \$14 million estimate for the parks' project was a guess by staff because the concept plan had to be approved before a solid estimate could be provided? Or is she hoping that by repeating the amount often enough we will forget the majority scrapped the plan before a real estimate could be developed?

Why was staff directed to return with an estimate of, basically, rebuilding the bandstand "with minimal public outreach"?

And why not re-agendize the parks' plan, as Balch asked for support to do on March 7?

Why are Testa and Brown hellbent on spending \$6 million to build a skatepark, which will serve a very limited group? Especially since it's a new amenity, meaning there will be ongoing maintenance costs and a new repair and replacement budget line item? They're worried about money?

Here's my question: Do a majority of residents agree with the direction this council majority is taking the city? ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton Weekly reporter Jeanita Lyman adds fare to her Clipper card, one development in Bay Area public transit in recent years that has streamlined the transfer and payment process between BART and other transit agencies such as County Connection and Wheels. Photo by Christian Trujano. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn. Vol. XXIV, Number 9



Dave & Sue
FLASHBERGER
DRE# 01243871 | 01001584
Realtor®, CRS, GRI, SRES

925.463.0436

Sue @SoldInAFlash.com

SoldInAFlash.com

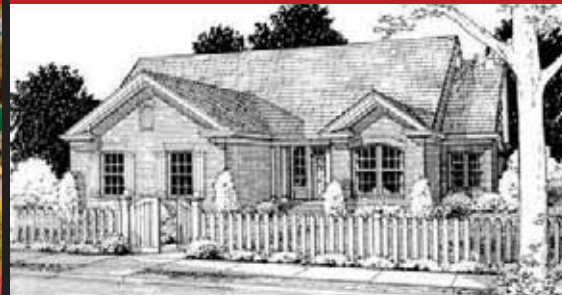
COMPASS

**PLEASANTON COMING SOON
CUSTOM HOME IN GATED COMMUNITY!**



5 Bedrooms | 6.5 Baths | Over 5,300 Sq Ft
Situated on just under an acre with sparkling pool.
Stunning panoramic views.

COMING SOON IN PLEASANTON!



4 Bedrooms | 2 Baths | 1,489 Sq Ft with Detached Office
Beautiful single story home with gorgeous quartz kitchen. Priced in the low \$1,400,000's

JUST LISTED IN LIVERMORE WINE COUNTRY!



6 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths | 3,956 Sq Ft | 10,748 Sq Ft Lot
Stunning Kristopher Ranch home with new wide plank flooring, paint, carpeting, and waterfall covered pool and spa. 4-car garage!

ANOTHER PENDING SALE!



4903 MIDDLETON PLACE
Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with over 2,300 Sq Ft and stunning hillside views. Offered at \$2,050,000

**COMING SOON
TUCKED AWAY IN THE HILLS OF PLEASANTON!**



4 Bedrooms | Den | Over 4,000 Sq Ft
Private and serene custom home on almost an acre with captivating hillside views.

COMING SOON ~ CUSTOM HOME IN PLEASANTON!



4 Bedrooms | 3 Baths | Over 3,400 Sq Ft
Gorgeous ½ acre parcel with new PebbleTec pool and waterfall. Stunning quartz kitchen and open beam family room.

JUST SOLD!



4451 FAIRLANDS DRIVE
2 Bedrooms | 1.5 Baths | 1,120 Sq Ft | 747 Sq Ft Lot
Sold for \$700,000

ANOTHER SOLD HOME!



6738 RANCHO COURT, PLEASANTON
4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Baths | 1,816 Sq Ft | 6,490 Sq Ft Lot
Sold For \$1,330,000

YOUR HOME DESERVES AN EXPERT

We can help you sell your home for the best price possible.
Contact us to review our comprehensive home - selling services and complete marketing plan.

If you were a beverage, what beverage would you be?



Markus Jeziorski
Engineer

I'd be two shots of vodka, with no ice, beside a tall glass of water. It involves no waste and gets straight to the point. It's very direct, just like I am, and it has Polish roots, just like I do.



Luchi Parra
Program manager

I'd be sparkling wine because I like celebrations, I love parties and I have an effervescent personality. And I think people can also drink sparkling wine even when there's no special occasion because bubbles just make people happy.



Gaila Balniene
Med tech

I would be a very fine red wine. Because like a fine wine, I keep getting better with age. And the best is yet to come!



Veronica Costa
Account executive

I can't decide between a whiskey sour or a Long Island iced tea because I feel like both of these cocktails have been around for a long time, just like me, and are either ready to be refreshed somehow or be totally retired.



Luis Martín
Software engineer

I would be a gin and tonic because I'm very transparent, refreshing and have a bubbly personality. A gin and tonic is also a bit bitter, in a good way, just like I am.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/subscribe to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



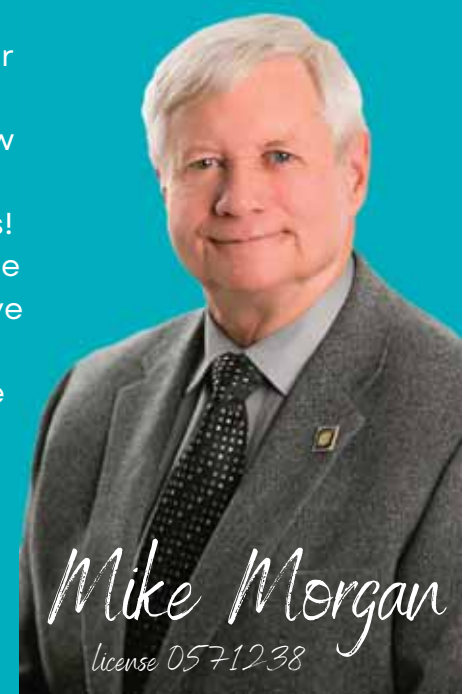
Location.
Location.
Location.



In-person or virtual
visits at LPSR Pediatrics
genpeds.stanfordchildrens.org

Protect your family
with life insurance!

Call me today for
your free, no-
obligation review
of your life
insurance needs!
We represent the
most competitive
and financially
stable insurance
companies and
can find you the
best rate for
your needs.



Gene Morgan Insurance Agency
2020 Fourth Street, Livermore
(925) 447-2565 ext. 2220
mike@genmorganinsurance.com

MULTIPLAN_MAFLYERGMLM

DIGEST

Amador girls who code

Young girls and nonbinary students were recently taught how to program and write code during the Amador Valley High School Girls Who Code club's fourth annual summit at the school on March 11.

More than 150 students in grades three through eight attended the event, which had a space exploration theme. The students had to work their way through an escape room by programming robots, which were provided by the club, to travel in all directions and use their LED light to flash different patterns.

"It's a really fulfilling experience to be able to pass on the knowledge we've gained and worked together to develop," Ella Jeon, one of the high school mentors for the club, said in a press release.

Goodguys event

The roaring sounds of over 3,000 American-made car and truck engines will be returning to the Bay Area this weekend as part of the Goodguys All American Get-Together.

The Goodguys Rod & Custom Association will be hosting the event from March 25 to March 26 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The event will feature a special indoor custom display and lowrider hopping contest, a massive swap meet, vendors and live music.

General admission tickets are \$20 on Saturday and \$15 on Sunday if you preorder — if you buy at the gate it's \$22 on Saturday and \$17 on Sunday.

For more details and to register your vehicle or purchase tickets, visit www.good-guys.com/aagt.

Holi celebration in Dublin

If you're looking to completely cover yourself in a rainbow of colors from head to toe, then the 'SPLASH': Celebration of Colors event in Dublin this Sunday is the place to go.

The annual fundraiser, hosted by the Association for India's Development East Bay nonprofit, is meant to celebrate the popular Hindu festival, Holi. Attendees will be given a complimentary pack of colored powder to throw at each other and can purchase more packs at the event.

All the proceeds from the ticket sales will go towards supporting grassroots development projects across India.

Tickets will be \$13; children under five can enter for free — no walk-ins will be allowed.

To buy tickets, visit www.events.sulekha.com/. ■

Livermore Airport creating new policies for development, hangar waitlist

Public feedback on drafts accepted through May 3; council decision due later that month

By CIERRA BAILEY

Following recent discussions about growth at the Livermore Municipal Airport, officials plan to have new development and hangar waitlist policies in place later this spring.

At an Airport Commission meeting on March 6, staff presented drafts of the updated policies for review and feedback. The changes to the leasing and development policy include "improved processes and procedures for the city of Livermore to review and approve any proposed development projects at the airport," according to the

agenda report.

The hangar waitlist policy has also been updated to reflect current industry practices.

Staff described the previous development policy as a very brief and unapproved document that did not include sufficient information or a well-defined process to allow proper review and approval of proposed development at the airport.

Officials worked with the Aviation Management Consulting Group (AMCG) to update and enhance the process.

Last July, the city of Livermore adopted a resolution to suspend the

airport's pre-existing development policy while airport staff worked to create a new one. The initial resolution shelved all development proposals for the airport until Dec. 31, 2022.

At its March 13 regular meeting, the council adopted a new resolution to extend the suspension of airport development until a new comprehensive development policy is adopted by the City Council, which is expected to take place in May.

Drafts of the proposed development policy and hangar waitlist policy are available on the city's

website for the public to review. Airport staff is accepting public comment on the policies through May 3.

According to the draft development document, five key objectives were identified by the city in 2010 as priorities to achieve the goal of ensuring that "airport property is leased and developed in a high-quality manner consistent with sound fiscal management and best practices while ensuring the provision of essential infrastructure, improvements and amenities."

See **AIRPORT** on Page 8

Pleasanton PD's Lt. Sarasua hired as next police chief in Pacifica

Becomes coastal city's first-ever female top cop

By JEREMY WALSH

Longtime Pleasanton police official Maria Sarasua will make local history for the Pacifica Police Department next month when she takes the reins as its new police chief, becoming the first woman to ever hold the position in the coastal city.

Sarasua, who has worked for the Pleasanton Police Department for nearly 20 years, including the past seven-plus as a lieutenant, rose to the top of Pacifica's police chief search following a nationwide recruitment process. Pacifica City Manager Kevin Woodhouse announced Sarasua's hiring publicly last week.

"This is an amazing opportunity," Sarasua told the Weekly over the weekend. "I am excited to be a part of the city of Pacifica organization and serve alongside the dedicated men and women who embody character, resiliency, and compassion. I am inspired by our deeply supportive residents, business owners, and civic leaders and look forward to learning and enhancing our high levels of service in partnership with our community."

Reflecting on her upcoming departure from Pleasanton PD, Sarasua said, "Pleasanton will always be a very special place to me. I raised my family here and built strong relationships within the police department and the community."

"The unwavering support the



Pleasanton Police Department Lt. Maria Sarasua is the new police chief in Pacifica.

police department receives from our community and civic leaders has made the past 20 years of service an incredible honor," she added. "I have a deep and abiding respect for the men and women of the Pleasanton Police Department, and it was my privilege to serve with them."

Sarasua's first day on the job in the oceanside city along Highway 1 in San Mateo County is scheduled for April 24. She succeeds Daniel Steidle, who retired as Pacifica's permanent police chief nine months ago — although two police captains served as acting chief at different times and

retired Colma police chief Kirk Stratton worked for six months as Pacifica PD's interim chief.

"Chief Sarasua is a proven leader and brings a breadth and depth of experience and values to Pacifica that will be an exceptional fit for the organization and the community," Woodhouse said in a statement March 15.

"I am confident that with her extensive knowledge and collaborative leadership style, she will continue to enhance the high level of public safety services, transparency, and trust the

See **LT. SARASUA** on Page 6

Diocese mulling bankruptcy

Oversees Catholic churches across Tri-Valley, surrounding cities

By KILEY RUSSELL

Just days after a major Bay Area Catholic diocese filed for bankruptcy in the face of hundreds of potential sex abuse lawsuits, the Diocese of Oakland announced it is seriously considering doing the same.

In a letter to parishioners that was also sent to media outlets on March 16, Bishop Michael Barber said he "is giving strong consideration to filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy." The diocese serves an estimated 550,000 Catholics in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, including the Tri-Valley.

Barber's letter comes just three days after the Diocese of Santa Rosa filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the face of more than 200 possible sex abuse lawsuits.

In both cases, church leaders cite a state law that opened a three-year window allowing childhood sex abuse lawsuits to move forward despite statute of limitations rules that had prevented older claims.

"Since the closing of the filing window on Dec. 31, 2022, we have been informed there may be approximately 330 lawsuits filed against our diocese," Barber said.

"After much prayer and thoughtful advice, I believe bankruptcy can provide a way to support all

See **DIOCESIS** on Page 9

Library staff present updates on programs, services, book collection

Key highlights include upcoming Hindi collection, outreach efforts, longtime benefits

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton is currently in the midst of a citywide employee engagement effort as staff continue to work on developing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Plan, which was one of the 2019-20 City Council work plan priorities.

And while some might think of the Pleasanton Public Library as only a place to rent books, the reality is that it is an amenity that serves the community on a much larger scale.

“Our library plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to diverse and inclusive resources that represent all the individuals we serve,” library and recreation director Heidi Murphy told the council during a presentation March 7.

“Our programs, services and collections weave together in an effort to make everyone feel welcomed and included regardless of their background, identity or life experience,” she added.

Murphy, along with several other Pleasanton Library staff, highlighted several ways that her division has incorporated diversity, equity and inclusion into program planning and the library’s broader work plan.

Pleasanton librarian Chris Spitzel recalled recent moments where he saw the positive impacts from just bringing in more culturally diverse books.

“One of my colleagues watched a young patron find a book on our new shelf last month, and excitedly say to her, ‘Mom, look at her dress, we have dresses like that,’” Spitzel told the council. “I had an interaction recently that concluded with a young girl telling me I love reading about Ms. Marvel because she’s Muslim like me. So ‘Crown of Flames’ and ‘Marvel Rising: Heroes of the Roundtable’ were mirrors for these children and we were delighted that they were there on the shelf for them to find.”



CITY OF PLEASANTON

An aerial view of the Pleasanton Public Library.

Staff also included information like how the library is working to get a Hindi book collection and how through council approval, they eliminated late fees so that they could reduce any barriers in accessing materials.

“Our objective is to make sure that everyone in our community is able to discover and utilize informative resources to enrich their lives, and to find and enjoy materials that offer reflections of themselves and perspectives into others’ experiences,” Spitzel said.

Apart from the late fees and push for more books in different languages and formats — such as accessibility — another main highlight in the presentation was all of the different programs the library offers.

“We use a number of tools, both quantitative and qualitative, to determine whether programs are the right fit for our library,” said Cherie Buenaflor, library and recreation coordinator. “So for quantitative data, we use things like programs, surveys and performance measures, such as attendance at previous programs to inform that need. For example, it was from our 2022 surveys that we saw the immense interest in our storytime programs, where over 93% of attendees said

they were strongly satisfied with our program.”

One program in particular that Buenaflor pointed out that focused a lot on equity and inclusion was the Paws to Read, a 20-year-old program that allows elementary school students in first through fifth grades to read in one-on-one sessions with dogs from Valley Humane Society’s certified canine comfort teams.

“In this anecdote, a young reader came in and expressed hesitation to read because they had dyslexia. Well, it just so happened that the Paws to Read volunteer also had dyslexia,” Buenaflor said. “She explained to the young reader that while reading also didn’t come easy to her, she learned how to read forwards and backwards and kept trying and kept trying and it became her superpower. The volunteer said she could see the young reader’s defenses coming down and this reader ended the session excited to come back and read to the volunteer again.”

Other programs that she touched on were the bilingual storytimes as well as sensory storytimes which take place in quiet intimate settings and offer extra assistance to young children with sensory sensitivities.

However, Buenaflor also included

some suggestions for improvement that they received through surveys such as more programs for younger and older crowds, additional volunteer opportunities for teenagers and more days and times for programming.

Yu Tao, library manager, also touched on more of the logistic side of things such as library usage, demographic information and how these two played into the intentional selection of diverse materials and programming.

“In 2010, the population was primarily composed of the white population at 79% white with some Asian and Hispanic people, very little African Americans and no Native Americans,” Tao said. “We observed a drastic reduction in the white population, while the Asian population surged from 12% to 37%, reflecting a significant change in the community’s makeup.

“Moreover, the Hispanic African American and Native American populations have all increased over the last 10 years,” she added.

Tao said that these demographic changes highlight the need for diversity, equity and inclusion in the library as a top priority as they continue to gain a better understanding of Pleasanton’s ever changing

demographic composition.

“Pleasanton is very much different than it was 20 years ago and you know, that’s good,” Councilmember Jeff Nibert said. “Keeping up with that change and making sure that all of our residents are served is excellent. That’s what we always strive for.”

While the presentation was not an action item, several council members did weigh in on asking questions such as Councilmember Valerie Arkin’s question on the library’s outreach efforts to inform more residents about their services.

Murphy said that as the city works on developing its five-year strategic planning framework that would replace the longstanding two-year process for identifying and prioritizing public projects, she hopes it would help with their outreach efforts.

“We had a lot of trouble reaching people who weren’t already users of our services and so we are really excited about the city-wide strategic planning process and the opportunity that we have to engage with the broader community,” she said. “We’re hopeful that we’re going to be getting some additional feedback just through the general citywide survey that we can then plug into an updated library and recreation strategic plan as well.”

Murphy also responded to Nibert’s question on learning tools for English as a second language students.

“Our literacy program has expanded this year. We got a second state library grant ... \$110,000, from the state library for literacy services that also has provided us with a new app,” she said. “So there is an app that people can download, and start to learn with a live person on the other end, which is really interesting.”

She added that the main reason the city got the app was because they had a 50-person waiting list of those seeking language tutoring services.

“We have more people needing the service than we have tutors to provide the service,” she said. “We would love more volunteers so we could serve everybody.” ■

LT. SARASUA

Continued from Page 5

Pacifica community expects and deserves,” he added.

Pleasanton Police Chief David Swing praised Sarasua for being “a vital member and leader of our organization ... instrumental in mentoring and preparing our next generation of leaders.”

“Her appointment as chief is a testament to her commitment to her professional growth and leadership. I am confident her heart for developing others will contribute greatly to her continued success,” Swing told the Weekly. “While it is bittersweet to see her move onto a new

opportunity, I am excited for her and for the opportunity for others it creates here at PPD.”

An Alamo native, Sarasua served as a police explorer and community service officer before being hired as a deputy-sheriff in Contra Costa County in 1995. She transferred to Pleasanton PD as a police officer in 2003, and would rise through the ranks over the ensuing two decades, including her promotion to lieutenant in 2015.

She has been a well-recognized member of Pleasanton PD during her 20-year tenure, both internally and in the community — known for most of her career by her maiden name, Maria “Mia” Munayer,

until her marriage in recent years to Pleasanton police Sgt. Benjamin Sarasua.

Her community impact includes in her personal life founding the nonprofit organization Bridgewatch Angels, which coordinates volunteers on major holidays for suicide prevention efforts at the Golden Gate Bridge and raises awareness for mental health.

Pacifica city officials noted Sarasua’s reputation as “an innovator with a track record of building significant partnerships and working closely with the communities ... (and) a passion for mentoring and coaching others.”

Looking ahead to her first day at

Pacifica PD, where she will be the city’s 11th police chief overall in its history, Sarasua said, “As part of my transitional plan, I will be meeting with all members of the police department, regional public safety partners, as well as our city and civic leaders, to inform a comprehensive organizational assessment.”

“This process will also include listening sessions and outreach with our community to understand the public safety needs unique to Pacifica and how the police department can best serve each neighborhood and business district,” she added. “Establishing priorities will require a strategic approach and a plan that aligns our shared values

and best outcomes for Pacifica.”

Sarasua holds a bachelor’s degree in organizational behavior from the University of San Francisco and a master’s degree in leadership from St. Mary’s College, and is a graduate of the California POST Command College. She is an adjunct professor for the University of San Diego, where she has taught classes in law enforcement and public safety leadership.

Sarasua has two adult children from her prior marriage — a son who is a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army and a daughter who is in college. When off duty, she said she enjoys exercising outdoors, traveling abroad and volunteering. ■

Save Livermore Downtown takes Eden Housing case to California Supreme Court

Petition requests review of appellate panel's rejection of their challenge to affordable housing project

BY CIERRA BAILEY

The debate over the affordable housing development planned for downtown Livermore continues with Save Livermore Downtown's most recent move asking the California Supreme Court to review the appellate court's published decision that affirmed the trial court's judgment in favor of developer Eden Housing and the city of Livermore.

The group filed its petition to the court on March 7. In a statement to Livermore Vine, the group said that its petition "addresses important questions of law related to the level of deference courts are to give to cities and counties approving housing projects and the findings that must be made as part of those approvals."

The focus area of the petition was determined because the Supreme Court's grounds for deciding which appellate decisions it will review are "narrow".

According to the court document obtained by Livermore Vine, the specific issues presented for review are:

1. What does it mean for a project to be consistent with a local agency's general or specific plan, and how



COURTESY EDEN HOUSING INC.

Rendering shows one corner of the proposed Eden Housing development in downtown Livermore.

much deference should a court afford an agency's findings that a housing development project is, in fact, consistent with such plan(s)?

2. How much detail must a local agency provide in its findings approving a development project under California's planning and zoning law?

"The petition recognizes that there are various lines of appellate opinions about what it means for a project to be 'consistent' with an applicable land use planning document, such as a general plan or a specific plan, and that those cases are challenging to reconcile with

one another," SLD said in its statement. "In addition, the petition notes that recent amendments to the state's Housing Accountability Act (HAA) may have muddied the waters on this issue even further, presenting an issue that has never been considered by the California Supreme Court."

If the petition is granted, SLD maintains the court's review of the case would provide an opportunity to clarify existing law and allow the group to "demonstrate how the city inappropriately determined that the Eden Housing project was consistent

with the city's Downtown Specific Plan."

Livermore city attorney Jason Alcala underscored the fact that SLD's previous legal actions were unsuccessful and criticized the veracity of the new petition.

"Save Livermore Downtown's petition presents a distorted view of the case, and does not accurately represent the thoughtful and articulate decisions by both the trial court and the Court of Appeals that rejected Save Livermore Downtown's petition," Alcala said. "Instead, it attempts to hide the fact that both the trial court and the appellate court determined that Save Livermore Downtown's case was not even close, and that Save Livermore Downtown's case was brought to delay affordable housing."

Linda Mandolini, president and CEO of Eden Housing, expressed frustration with SLD's continued efforts to halt the housing development that would provide 130 units of affordable housing for Livermore's workforce and low-income residents.

"It is truly disappointing that, after two years of lawsuits and consistent losses, Save Livermore Downtown continues to take meritless legal

actions with the aim to stall the Downtown Livermore project," said Mandolini.

She continued, "If these suits hadn't been filed, we would now be welcoming 130 families to their new homes. Given the scope and scale of the affordable housing crisis we face in the Bay Area and California, it is tragic that groups like SLD continue to look for CEQA loopholes to derail housing that would help so many individuals and families in dire need of a place to call home. These lawsuits not only hurt the people who really need a home, they also continue to make it harder for our local businesses to hire local workers."

Alcala said the city and Eden Housing are preparing to answer SLD's petition, which he anticipates will be filed with the Supreme Court on or before March 27. "That answer is intended to ensure the California Supreme Court remains focused on the facts in the case and the prior decisions," he said.

However, SLD also said that it is anticipating arguments to be submitted by the city and Eden and that the group plans to respond in early April — after the arguments are expected to be filed.

While the petition's impact on the project itself remains to be seen, Alcala expressed that he was optimistic that the state Supreme Court will reject SLD's petition before June, which would limit its effect. ■

EXPRESS LANES



CHANGES
COMING IN 2023

FasTrak[®] Required

visit expresslanes.511.org

HOV
2+
FREE



511.org

All green and gold for St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Dublin

History of city and Irish roots highlighted at weekend festival

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Thousands of Dublin residents and visitors lined the streets last weekend for the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

From Saturday to Sunday, the Dublin Civic Center was filled with visitors, both local and from afar, who sported all shades of green and Irish pride. Highlights from the weekend-long event included traditional Irish dance shows, live music performances, carnival rides — and plenty of beer.

Festival-goers enjoyed a lively atmosphere with outdoor activities to partake in. Three entertainment stages broadcasted the sound of Celtic music throughout the event until its closing time.

Many performers specialized in traditional Irish music, such as California band Golden Bough, originally formed in 1980.

Various regional organizations were represented at the festival through visitor and outreach booths. The Dublin Historical Society was one of the many who showed out to interact with the public.

"We're out here trying to connect with community members. It's a great opportunity to help them learn about each other and the past," said Kim Hudson, with the historical society.

Hudson, born and raised in Dublin, volunteers with the organization to help promote its mission. She currently serves as the organization's vice president.

"We're educating folks about their city and its history. Our main goal here is to preserve the past while also documenting the present," she added.

Hudson said her favorite part of being a Dublin native is how nimble and adaptable the city is.

"It's grown so fast in the past



NICOLE GONZALES

Traditional Irish dancers perform at the 2023 Dublin St. Patrick's Day stage.

few decades, and it continues to grow," Hudson said. "It's come a

long way since I was a kid, and I'm excited to see what happens

to the city in the next 10, 20 or 30 years." ■

Pleasanton MS principal Nguyen stepping down

After four years at helm, administrator resigning at end of school year

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Pleasanton Middle School principal Joe Nguyen has announced that after nearly four years at the school he will be resigning from his administrative position effective June 30.

"While I will miss our Panther community, I am looking forward to a new opportunity and challenge," Nguyen said in a statement to the Weekly. "This was not an easy decision to make, as I have



Joe Nguyen

enjoyed my time here at Pleasanton Middle School and continue to be amazed by the dedication of our staff and the support of our families."

While Nguyen will continue to serve as principal until the end of this school year, the Pleasanton Unified School District has already begun the recruitment process to replace Nguyen by the end of the term in June, according to PUSD director of communications Patrick Gannon.

"We would like to thank Joe Nguyen for his dedication and service to the Pleasanton Middle School community over the last four years. We wish him well in his

future endeavors," Gannon said.

Gannon added that Nguyen did not want to disclose his next career plans as he wants to mainly focus on his time remaining at Pleasanton Middle School. Nguyen also did not provide any direct reason as to why he was resigning.

The news of Nguyen's departure comes just a couple of months after administrators faced criticism from parents about the response to a Pleasanton Middle School student who punched and stomped on the head of another student in front of the Pleasanton Public Library on Jan. 19, an incident that was captured on video and went viral on local social media.

Nguyen was first hired in July 2019, coming to Pleasanton after working as principal at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon for seven years. He had been appointed by the Pleasanton school board to succeed Jill Butler, who retired that year after also serving four years as principal at the school.

Nguyen's move to Pleasanton came about when he was at Iron Horse and Hart Middle School reached out to Iron Horse for assistance creating a multi-tiered systems of support program. He began working with the teachers and staff during that time, and when he saw that Pleasanton Middle School needed a principal, he said he

jumped at the opportunity.

A son of Vietnamese immigrants, Nguyen spent most of his childhood in San Leandro before moving to Los Angeles for college. While pursuing pre-dentistry at the University of California, Los Angeles, Nguyen took an upper division teaching assistant class at a fifth grade classroom where he realized his love for teaching.

That's when he switched his major and returned to the Bay Area after completing his bachelor's degree in psychology. He has been working in education ever since.

"I am grateful for the relationships that were forged here," Nguyen said. "There are many promising opportunities on the horizon at Pleasanton Middle School that will have a positive impact on our students and know that our Panther community will continue to thrive." ■

AIRPORT

Continued from Page 5

The pre-established goals will serve as the criteria for evaluating proposals for airport leasing and development as part of the updated policy.

The objectives include establishing sustainable development practices to conserve natural resources and features to minimize adverse impacts on the environment, maintaining and enhancing a compatible relationship between the airport and the broader community as well as encouraging innovation and improvements consistent with the Airport Master Plan and other standards.

The last two objectives focus on establishing high-quality standards

for architectural and landscape design and construction along with preserving property values, enhancing investments and ensuring that the airport is as self-sustaining as possible in alignment with the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Sponsor Assurances.

As for the hangar waitlist policy, airport staff contracted with Aeroplex Group Partners to review the existing guidelines and provide recommendations for improvement.

Officials said that previously the waitlist policy used a point-based system to rank potential tenants on the list. Points were determined at the discretion of the airport manager; however, tenants were not happy with the process as they felt it did not recognize the chronological

order of tenant applications to be added to the list.

The procedure described in the updated policy establishes three waiting lists — one for T-hangars and one each for small and large box hangars. The lists will be derived from the applications submitted to the airport office. Those who provide a completed application form and required deposit will be listed by date in chronological order with the earlier dates at the top of the lists.

In addition to input from the Airport Commission and the public, the Dublin and Pleasanton Liaison Committees also have an opportunity to weigh in and provide feedback on the proposed policies. The final versions of both documents are set to return to the Airport

Commission on May 8. After that, the development policy only will

be presented to the Livermore City Council for adoption on May 22. ■



CHUCK DECKERT

Key policy changes are in the works for the Livermore Municipal Airport.

Cracked roadway, guardrail collapse cause I-580 lane closures

Erosion from recent storms creates major damage near North Flynn Road

By Christian Trujano

Two right lanes on Interstate 580 eastbound near North Flynn Road outside Livermore have been closed due to a major crack in the lanes, creating serious impacts for many commuters in the Tri-Valley.

In addition to the damage in the freeway lanes, the guardrail and part of the shoulder adjacent to the cracks collapsed and went down the embankment.

According to a Caltrans press release on Monday, the agency is currently working on repairing

the crack roads and collapsed embankment that gave way due to erosion from the recent storms and heavy rain.

Signage is in place to notify the public and motorists are being advised to use alternate routes.

Caltrans spokesperson Janis Mara told the Weekly that the agency had been working since Monday on re-stripping the road so that they can get one of the two lanes restored for the public. She said that the agency hoped it can get that done by Wednesday (March 22) but that it all will

depend on getting a break from the rain.

As of now, she said the agency does not have any updated timeline on how long the lanes will be closed.

“Our geotechnical and structure departments are working to find the solution. One possibility is to drive piles — metal sheets — into the ground to fill the gap where the wall failed,” Mara said. “Needless to say, as soon as we have a better idea how soon we can restore both lanes, we will get the word out right away.” ■

Pleasanton makes online budget survey available for residents

Community can share projects they want prioritized

By Christian Trujano

As Pleasanton city staff get ready to discuss the upcoming two-year budget, community members have been given the opportunity to share what projects they think should be prioritized through an online survey and other public events.

“On March 15, the city of Pleasanton announced that it is preparing its two-year budget for fiscal years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 and expanding its outreach efforts in the budget process to create more opportunities for public input,” according to a press release from the city. “The goal is to develop a city budget that reflects the operational needs, strategic goals, values and priorities of

the City Council and community.”

Apart from the usual process of attending council meetings to voice their desires, there will be a number of other ways people can get involved in the budget process such as surveys, community meetings, and in-person events.

“The city’s budget should reflect what residents and businesses need. We can only do that by hearing directly from you,” officials said in an earlier press release.

A short survey can be accessed by going to the “Pleasanton Budget” portion of the city website. Apart from that residents can attend a virtual community budget meeting next Thursday (March 30) from 6-7:30 p.m.

They can also find an

informational table at the downtown farmers’ market on April 15 and April 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to learn more and give feedback on the city’s budget and strategic plan.

The strategic plan is a five-year planning process that the city is looking to adopt in order to replace the current two-year work plan.

“The strategic plan will create a vision for our future and guide the design and implementation of projects and programs that reflect the community’s values, needs, and priorities,” according to the press release. “Like the budget process, inclusive community engagement will be essential to ensure the strategic plan represents the diverse perspectives of our community.” ■

DIOCESE

Continued from Page 5

survivors in their journey toward healing in an equitable and comprehensive way,” Barber said. “It will also allow the diocese to reorganize our financial affairs so we may continue to fulfill the sacred mission entrusted to us by Christ and the Church.”

In a FAQ section on the diocese website, church leaders said the possible decision to file for bankruptcy is not intended to minimize its responsibilities to survivors of sexual abuse.

The Chapter 11 process is transparent and “allows all claimants equal access and an equitable share in the assets available to pay claims” while also allowing the church to continue its “mission as the Catholic Church in Alameda and Contra Costa counties,” according to the website.

The diocese has “limited cash

reserves” but insurance and the potential sale of underutilized assets could also help pay some of the claims, according to the website.

Local churches overseen by the Oakland Diocese include the St. Augustine and St. Elizabeth Seton in Pleasanton, St. Michael and St. Charles Borromeo in Livermore, St. Raymond in Dublin, St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon and St. Isidore in Danville.

A lawyer for a firm representing nearly 100 people with sex abuse claims against the Diocese of Oakland said the potential bankruptcy filing is a strategy to sidestep full transparency and accountability.

“It is, unfortunately, another stab at hiding information regarding perpetrators and the crimes committed by and through the church, as well as their assets and financial information, for the benefit of the church at the expense of those

who have been seriously harmed as children,” said Jennifer Stein of Jeff Anderson and Associates.

Stein said it’s a tactic that’s been used by more than 20 dioceses around the country because, in part, it changes the legal focus away from the facts of the cases and puts it on the church’s ability to stay afloat financially.

Stein said she expects to see more such bankruptcy filings in the near future.

“These are institutions that have wronged children for decades and have put their own interest and their own financials above the safety of children time and time again,” she said.

A spokesperson for the diocese said there is not yet a timeline for when a decision about filing for bankruptcy will be made. ■

Editor’s note: Embarcadero Media editorial director Jeremy Walsh contributed local information to this story.

 **HOPE**
HOSPICE AND HEALTH SERVICES
Compassion and quality when it matters most.

Hospice | Dementia Education
Senior-Care Classes | Grief Support
Volunteering Opportunities

✓ Trusted in the Tri-Valley since 1980.

(925) 829-8770 | HopeHospice.com



Live at

The Bankhead

Peter White

Versatile. Unparalleled. Prolific.

Sat MAR 25 @ 8:00 PM

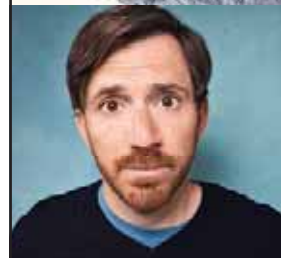


Best of SF Comedy Competition

featuring Joe Zimmerman

Hilarious. Comical. Side-Splitting.

Fri MAR 31 @ 8:00 PM



GET TICKETS NOW!
LivermoreArts.org

925.373.6800 | 2400 First Street, Livermore

Bauer-Kahan introduces bill to regulate automated decision tools

AB 311 aims to ensure everyone can benefit from algorithms

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Automated decision tools, or ADTs, are algorithms that are derived from personal data and are used to make important decisions in peoples' lives.

These complex systems are traditionally used for things like credit decisions, health care risk predictions, insurance eligibility and employment screening.

But as these algorithms are being used more and more to assess eligibility for benefits or penalties, local Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda) is now

calling for more regulations on ADTs due to the harm it is causing marginalized communities.

"As the use of decision-making via algorithm becomes more prevalent in our daily lives, it is crucial that we take steps to ensure that it is used ethically and responsibly," Bauer-Kahan stated in a press release on Monday. "Without quick, thoughtful regulation, we face a future where decision making is heavily biased without any protections from the devastating impacts."

One example of why ADTs are harmful to marginalized

communities that Bauer-Kahan highlighted was when it referenced a 2019 study published in the American Association for the Advancement of Science magazine called: Dissecting racial bias in an algorithm used to manage the health of populations.

According to the study, health care risk-prediction algorithms used across hospitals in the U.S. demonstrate racial bias against Black patients because it relies on faulty metrics to determine need.

"Black patients assigned the same level of risk by the algorithm are sicker than White patients.

The authors estimated that this racial bias reduces the number of Black patients identified for extra care by more than half," the 2019 study states. "Bias occurs because the algorithm uses health costs as a proxy for health needs. Less money is spent on Black patients who have the same level of need and the algorithm thus falsely concludes that Black patients are healthier than equally sick White patients."

That is why Bauer-Kahan says she is introducing Assembly Bill 331.

AB 331, according to the press

release, will require ADT developers and users to "conduct and record an impact assessment including the intended use, the makeup of the data and the rigor of the statistical analysis."

"The data reported must also include an analysis of potential adverse impact on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, national origin, or any other classification protected by state law," the press release states.

The first-of-its-kind bill will look to crack down on these issues to ensure that decisions, which significantly impact people's lives, are made with the consent and knowledge of those people.

"ADT is rapidly evolving and it is imperative that we take action now to ensure that it is used in a way that benefits everyone," Bauer-Kahan said. ■

Livermore council adopts 2023-31 Housing Element

Document sent to state for certification

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

The Livermore City Council recently approved a resolution to adopt its 2023-31 Housing Element and will now await final state certification before revisiting the document at a future time to make any potential changes.

A city's Housing Element is a section of its general plan mandated to be updated on a recurring basis, particularly focused on policies and zoning plans to accommodate the city's assigned Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) counts for new residential units within designated affordability categories.

"What this plan does is set the city up for implementation over the next eight-year period. To implement all the programs," Jennifer Gastelum, a consultant with the design and planning company PlaceWorks, told the council during its March 13 regular meeting.

"The Housing Element itself does not require you to build housing. The Housing Element identifies opportunities where there's land available to accommodate future growth. The city's job is to help facilitate the development of housing through the implementation of the programs," she added.

Livermore is one of the four other Tri-Valley municipalities that is awaiting review and approval of their plans for the current eight-year cycle by the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). San Ramon has so far been the only one that received its certified Housing Element as of February.

For the current Housing Element period, the Association

of Bay Area Governments determined that the city of Livermore's share of RHNA was 4,570 new housing units, 2,075 of which are lower income units (1,317 very low-income units and 758 low-income units).

Based on residential capacity in the General Plan and specific plan areas — plus an additional 15% buffer beyond the required RHNA to account for any sites that develop with fewer units than anticipated — the sites identified in the land inventory in the newly adopted Housing Element would accommodate a total of 5,256 units, exceeding the RHNA allocation.

According to Livermore senior planner Tricia Pontau, the council had no choice but to adopt the Housing Element on March 13 without any new recommendations so staff could submit the document to HCD for final certification before facing any penalties such as the builder's remedy.

The builder's remedy states that if a jurisdiction fails to adopt a compliant update by the statutory deadline — Jan. 31 for the Bay Area municipalities — local governments could lose the authority to deny development proposals based on inconsistencies with their zoning and general plan requirements, if presented with a proposed development that meets state affordable housing rules.

"I urge you to adopt the Housing Element not because it's a perfect document, but because the alternative is dreadful," former Livermore planning commissioner John Stein told the council during public comments. "The developers remedy would allow a halfway house to be built next to a school, a

condominium project be built on protected open space, or a six-story apartment be built in a single family neighborhood."

The city had first submitted a draft of the document to HCD last July after months of review from the Planning Commission and public input. The latest draft was submitted to HCD on Jan. 30 and then on Feb. 23, the city received a letter from HCD finding that the revised draft is in substantial compliance with state Housing Element law.

"You saw the original draft back in May of last year and since then, we've gone through a couple of rounds of revisions with the state and addressed public comment and comment from decision makers," Pontau told the council. "We received a letter from the state back on February 23, saying that the recent draft is in compliance with state law and they will certify the document if we adopt it."

According to Gastelum, now that the council has adopted the document, staff planned on submitting the city's Housing Element to the HCD to kick off that final 60-day certification process.

One of the main questions from the council on this matter was from Vice Mayor Brittni Kiick who asked to clarify that after the 60-day certification period the city is good to go and will not have to take any further action other than possibly making revisions to the document.

Gastelum and Pontau both said that the goal is to get it certified as quickly as possible.

"There are other cities that have received it much more quickly than 60 days so we're hoping to be one of those cities," Pontau said.

Some things that Gastelum said was different in this round of the Housing Element process compared to previous years was that staff had to include more detail in regards to the certainty of if and when developments would take place.

One example she gave was the The Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan.

The plan would allow for 4,095 new multi-family housing units and approximately 2.1 million square feet of net new office, business park and commercial development just east of Isabel Avenue.

Along with a neighborhood commercial center, the plan also envisions three new parks, pedestrian and bike facilities and infrastructure improvements that will mostly be focused around the future Valley Link rail station, which would be located in the median of I-580.

"The state was very interested in it and thinks it's a great plan but they wanted to include some more information," Gastelum said. "They wanted more detail on the sites that are available there and then just basically how the city staff works with developers to actually make things come to fruition and happen."

She said that staff also had to include more information on the number of smaller sites and non-vacant sites within the community and identify that these were actually viable sites.

Along with a resolution to adopt the document, Livermore city staff also asked the council to adopt a resolution to find that the Housing Element is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act, which requires state and local government agencies to outline any potential

environmental impacts of proposed projects.

"Because the city does not have to rezone any sites or make any physical improvements to adopt the Housing Element, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed Housing Element would have a significant effect on the environment," according to a staff report from the Livermore Planning Commission from Feb. 28. "Thus, the 2023-2031 Housing Element is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) ... in that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment."

As for making any changes to the document in the future, Pontau said that once the state certifies the Housing Element, it will be brought back to the council to direct staff to review potential revisions.

"I think there are some things that could be cleaned up in the language that would make it a better and more equitable document in the way I read some of the language in there now," Councilmember Bob Carling said.

Councilmember Evan Branning echoed that statement as he also praised the hard work staff have put into this Housing Element cycle.

"As we come back for revision in the future, one of the things that I appreciate is that that is an option," Branning said. "I know there's a lot of very strict rules about the revisions that we can and can't make and how we can and can't make them but I believe the Planning Commission gave quite detailed feedback on this already." ■

Innovative companies to be honored at #GameChangers Awards

Livermore Lab's Fusion Ignition Team to receive Founder's Award

Eight innovative companies from California will be honored at Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group's 2023 #GameChangers Awards next week.

The annual awards ceremony brings together founders, mentors, stakeholders and influencers from the Bay Area for a night that honors local companies and leaders for their

ground-breaking solutions to different issues in the world.

Receiving this year's Founder's Award is the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory National Ignition Facility (NIF) Fusion Ignition Team. The group of Livermore scientists will be celebrated for their breakthrough in the use of fusion energy as a potentially

unlimited clean energy source, according to a release.

Another Livermore company, SPARKZ, will also be accepting an award during the night's festivities. The local startup will be commemorated for being the first American company to successfully commercialize a zero cobalt lithium-ion battery.

Other companies that will be

garnering awards are: Air Protein (Pleasanton), ProSomnus Sleep Technologies (Pleasanton), The WellNest Company (Dublin), Zeiss Innovation Center (Dublin), Lazarex Cancer Foundation (Danville) and Reputation (San Ramon).

"Extraordinary solutions continuously emerge from our region, then

drive impact on a global scale. This is the moment our community comes together to amplify and honor the disruptive, innovative spirit that is part of our Tri-Valley DNA," said Rick Shumway, ITV board chair and president and CEO of Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley.

Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group's 2023 #GameChangers Awards is set to take place on Wednesday (March 29) from 5:30-8 p.m., at Goal Line Studio in Pleasanton. For more information on the event, or to purchase tickets, visit innovationtrivalley.org. ■

— Pleasanton Weekly Staff

BART officials broadly supportive of Glazer bill

Legislation aims to strengthen agency's internal watchdog office, lessen obstruction

BART officials said last week that they are broadly in support of state legislation that would give the transit agency's watchdog office more power over internal audits and investigations.

Tri-Valley Sen. Steve Glazer (D-Orinda) introduced Senate Bill 827 on Feb. 17. The bill would expand the scope of the Office of the Inspector General, allowing it to access all records, documents, accounts, reports, communication or other property of BART or its third-party contractors.

SB 827 would also make it a misdemeanor crime to obstruct the OIG, punishable by up to six months in jail, a fine of up to \$1,000 or both.

If approved in its current form, the bill would bring BART's OIG into closer alignment with the authority held by watchdog offices that oversee transit agencies like Caltrain and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as well as the California State Auditor.

"My staff and I are fully in support of SB 827 as a way to ensure that OIG has access to records when conducting audits and investigations," BART Inspector General Harriet Richardson said on March 9 to the agency's Board of Directors during a presentation on the bill.

The presentation on March 9 came less than a week after Richardson informed the board, to which her office reports, that she will resign this Friday (March 17), months ahead of the end of her term in August.

Richardson has argued that BART management officials have obstructed the OIG's efforts to monitor the agency since the office was created in 2018.

Independent investigators, as well as Glazer, have supported that assertion: a report last year by the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury found that BART's OIG "is significantly underfunded and unable to fulfill its mission of uncovering waste, fraud and abuse."

The budget for BART's OIG has

not changed from the \$1 million annual budget with which it began.

The grand jury also argued in its report that the office is woefully understaffed with just three employees. That number will fall to two once Richardson departs.

BART disagreed in its official statement with all six of the grand jury's findings that the inspector general's office is underfunded, understaffed and regularly prevented by BART officials from properly conducting its mission as a watchdog.

On March 9, BART Board President Janice Li said she intends to support efforts to strengthen the inspector general's office and has already engaged with regional transit officials at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission about increasing the OIG's budget to at least \$2.7 million, if not more.

Li also said she intends to shepherd board approval later this year of a charter for the OIG to more clearly define how the office can

and should operate, which both BART management and the inspector general's office said has partially driven the tension between the two.

"There's a lot that's going on right now," she said. "While I know that there have been frustrations and conversations had via media comments, I'm very forward looking and I really want to learn from these past failures and make structural changes and policy fixes to fully set up the Office of the Inspector General for success."

Li also shied away from supporting the punitive elements of SB 827, arguing that she is

generally not in favor of creating more criminalization.

However, Board Director Debora Allen, one of the OIG's biggest proponents on the board, argued that the bill is still in its nascency and elements like possibly giving the OIG subpoena power and making it a crime to obstruct the office are likely to be negotiated or changed.

BART officials plan to meet with Glazer in the coming weeks to discuss the bill. State legislators could begin committee discussions on SB 827 as soon as March 20, once it has been in print for at least 30 days. ■

— Eli Walsh / Bay City News Service



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fallen tree damages historic church

A large tree destroyed the nursery wing of the historic Lighthouse Baptist Church on Neal and Second streets in Pleasanton during the windstorm last week on March 14. The stormy conditions continued this week too, with another atmospheric river and high winds on Tuesday into Wednesday.

GRAHAM-HITCH
FD #429 MORTUARY
LOCALLY OWNED
AND OPERATED SINCE 1891

**BURIAL & CREMATION
CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SERVICES
RECEPTION FACILITIES
ADVANCE PLANNING
MADE EASY**

FOR A FREE CONSULTATION
OR IN-HOME VISIT CALL



DEANNA MOSER
925.846.5624

TO VIEW OUR FACILITIES VISIT:
WWW.GRAHAMHITCH.COM

**4167 FIRST STREET,
PLEASANTON**

We're looking for a few interns

We are seeking local high school or college students with an appetite for news and an interest in learning about print and digital media for internship opportunities. The interns will research stories, do interviews and help with fact checking and rewrites for the award-winning Pleasanton Weekly, LivermoreVine.com and DanvilleSanRamon.com. They will also be introduced to the other aspects of publishing, including advertising and production.

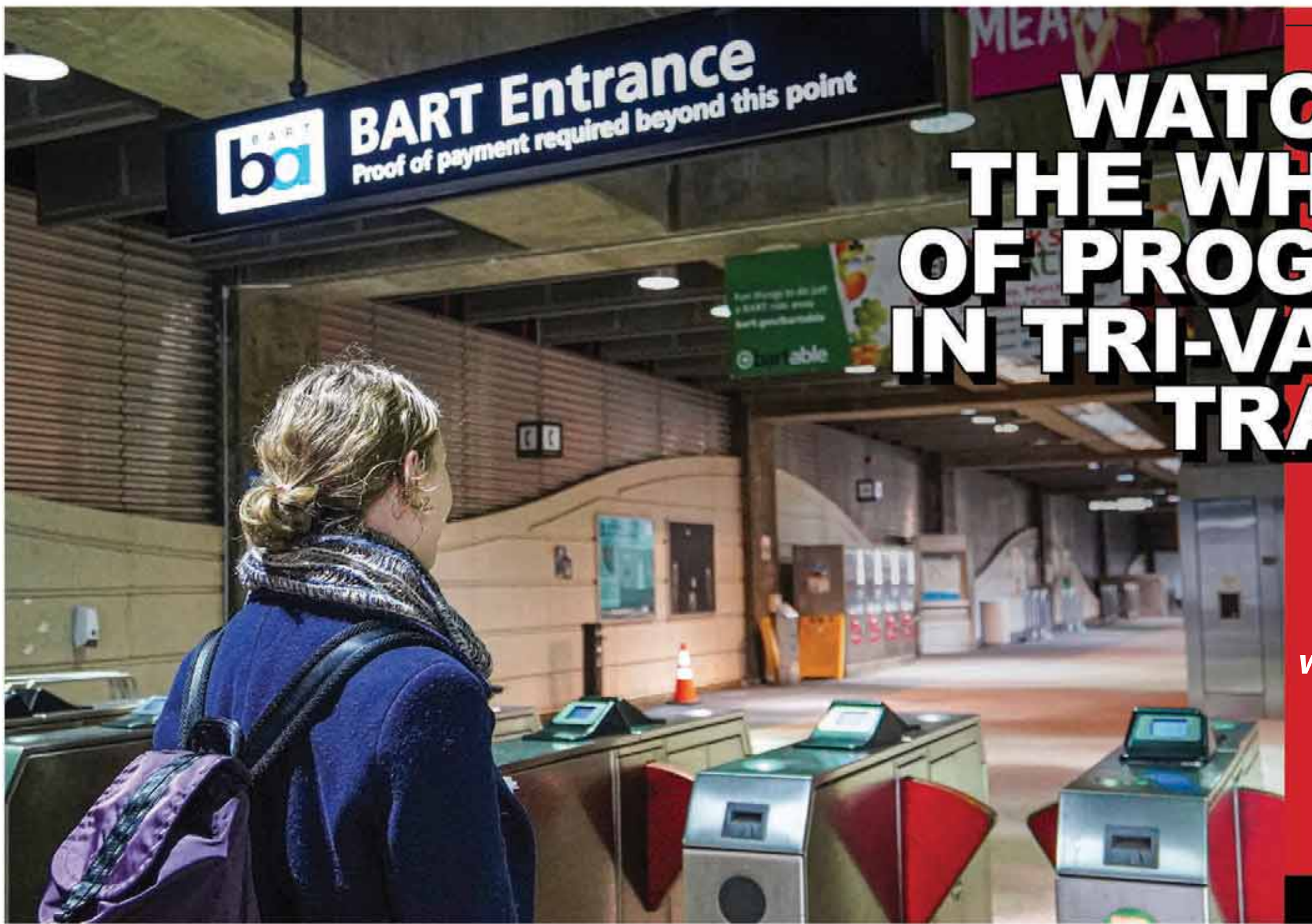
During the internship period, the intern will be an integral part of the team, participating fully in the process of gathering and presenting news.

Candidates must be responsible, have good writing skills, be available 10 to 12 hours a week and have reliable internet access. Internships require an academic sponsor. Applicants should send a resume, a cover letter explaining your interest and links to at least three examples of journalistic work to editor Jeremy Walsh at jwalsh@embarcaderopublishing.com by noon April 19.

**Pleasanton
Weekly**

**Livermore
VINE**

**Danville
SanRamon**



When I applied to work at the Pleasanton Weekly while living across the bay in San Francisco, I was quick to note that I would be willing to move to the Tri-Valley and get a car — and quick to ask for more money than the company had budgeted.

My then-future employers were candid about the company's small budget, but they added that work would be primarily remote, and that a move and a car wouldn't be necessary.

While I happily accepted that tradeoff, the "remote" part of remote work hit me hard. Even as a Bay Area native, the Tri-Valley and my beat area in

particular, the San Ramon Valley, were unfamiliar territory to me. In the evenings after my initial shifts, I reviewed public transit options to the communities I was covering while planning trips, during which time it became very clear that some were more accessible than others.

The main areas of San Ramon and

Danville, the primary fare for my coverage, were possible to get to by transit thanks to County Connection buses. But other areas, such as Blackhawk, Diablo, and portions of Alamo and Danville, continue to be out of reach on regular bus routes.

As I learned more about the affluent San Ramon Valley and its more remote outskirts, the context of public transit options and locations became clearer, as did what the availability of and demand for public transit say about a region and subregions.

To fast forward to the present day, while remote work remains an option — generally a more practical one — the return of in-person meetings and events and the lowered risk of COVID-19 has meant more opportunities for live coverage since my initial months on the job in 2021, and in turn, opportunities for firsthand experience with public transit throughout the Tri-Valley.

I took a trip to Pleasanton the weekend following my job offer, spending the majority of an early autumn day exploring Main Street and venturing through residential neighborhoods to Shadow Cliffs and back, taking some relief in the mostly empty, air-conditioned Wheels bus to downtown and the minimal BART traffic during the ride from San

Francisco's Mission District.

While having an on-the-ground experience in the Tri-Valley ahead of starting work was important to me, I quickly realized more trips would be in order upon my first days on the job, during which I found myself immersed in council and commission agendas for Danville and San Ramon, with a day in Pleasanton offering little in the way of preparation or orientation to the San Ramon Valley.

I made trips to downtown Danville and City Center Bishop Ranch subsequently, suppressing outward giddiness at seeing landmarks such as the Village Theatre and Art Gallery, the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, the Iron Horse Regional Trail and City Center, plus the sites of several proposed housing projects throughout San Ramon.

Getting familiar with the BART-to-bus routine throughout Pleasanton and the San Ramon Valley would prove to come in handy for some stories in my early months, including a trip to Pleasanton for "A Fair in the Fall" — which, however, required me to use a rideshare app to make my way back to BART as the rainstorm that would force the fair to temporarily shutter the following day began on my trip home.

I would also find myself relying on



Top: The Dublin-Pleasanton station at the end of BART's blue line serves as a portal that connects the Tri-Valley to the rest of the Bay Area. Photo by Christian Trujano. **Above:** Demonstrators with Conscious Contra Costa gathered near the Sycamore Park and Ride in memory of Tyrell Wilson, on the first anniversary of him being mortally wounded during a brief confrontation with deputy-sheriff Andrew Hall. The unshowered man in Danville was a familiar face on County Connection bus routes in the area. Photo by Jeanita Lyman.

SHING HEELS RESS ALLEY ANSIT

A reporter's reflections on commuting for coverage without a car in the Bay Area

By JEANITA LYMAN

a rideshare to make it to San Ramon in time for the seasonal opening of the Kristi Yamaguchi Ice Rink at City Center, where I was just as in awe of seeing the Alamo celebrity in person as I was local city officials and figures such as Mayor Dave Hudson and poet laureate Jenyth Jo Gearhart-Utchen. Meanwhile, a trip to Iceland in Dublin to cover Chanukah on Ice for the same story was a breeze — just a short walk from BART.

With overall positive experiences with County Connection through the San Ramon Valley though, plus experience on the ground, I was excited to dive into an interview with the agency's then-outgoing General Manager Rick Ramacier when news broke of his retirement — and to thank him personally for decades of work that had resulted in me being able to access at least parts of the area I was covering without a car.

But there were also more somber things to reflect on as I continued to cover the area and consider it from the perspective of County Connection riders. Tyrell Wilson, the second man fatally shot in Danville by now-former sheriff's deputy Andrew Hall, was a regular rider on the County Connection routes between Danville and Walnut Creek, which I learned upon discussing the commute with

Conscious Contra Costa founder Veronica Benjamin after a vigil I covered live in honor of Laudemer Arboleda, the first man Hall killed on duty in Danville.

Benjamin told me that she'd seen Wilson regularly during her bus commute from Danville to her job in Walnut Creek, and that the news of his death hit close to home — enough to spur her into action by kickstarting the activist organization into gear following the shooting in the spring before I came onto the beat.

While Wilson's death and the charges brought against Hall for Arboleda's death had both occurred months before I came onto the scene, sitting on the bus on the way home from the first conversation with Benjamin, and subsequent trips to Danville, led to some reflection.

As a lifelong public transit rider in San Francisco, there's not much that fazes me. I had seen a body on a pedestrian bridge on the way to Glen Park BART, then a stabbing on a Muni bus in the same month as a child during the high crime rates of the early 1990s. While violence is no longer rampant, in my experience, public transit in San Francisco has remained consistently chaotic in the present day.

But while riding the bus in the Tri-Valley is relatively serene in comparison, there's a foreboding sense of anxiety that comes with relying on public transit in the area on a tight budget — namely, the possibility of being stranded without recourse in areas that aren't always welcoming to outsiders, especially those who aren't earning enough to live or visit comfortably there.

While the cultural and economic forces behind this atmosphere don't necessarily seem to change much throughout the Tri-Valley, proximity and access to public transit do. The southern portions of Dublin and northern portions of Pleasanton, for instance, feel like hubs open to the rest of the Bay Area via the two BART stations. Even Las Positas College, the most far-flung location I've visited in the region yet, feels open to the rest of the area thanks to regular access between the campus and BART via Wheels.

Relying on public transit has provided some insight I wouldn't have gained otherwise, but it has also meant missing other opportunities — such as an invitation to visit the Blackhawk Museum following an interview I did for a story there in my early days on the job. However, looking into the museum and its famed classic car collection from afar, along with seeing classic cars on display during weekend cruises through Danville, has given me some sense of the ubiquity of car culture in the area historically and into the present day.

While it's been pervasive throughout the country, the suburbs of Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley in general have historically been developed by and for those seeking an alternative to metropolitan life and crowded conditions that make public transit popular in

European and East Coast cities such as London and New York, and even San Francisco, according to U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) who's been watching and facilitating the evolution of public transit in the area since the start of his political career on the Concord City Council in 1991.

"It was probably 15 to 20 million fewer people in the state, and probably even more than that in the Bay Area, all of that in the context of people like me, who came from somewhere else," DeSaulnier told me during an interview last week.

With a burgeoning population of residents seeking single family homes outside of the city, DeSaulnier said that Contra Costa County and other suburban areas in the Tri-Valley developed with sprawling, low-density housing in mind, leading to a lack of demand and challenges facilitating development of public transit in the area — plus a cultural atmosphere in which driving is the norm.

'WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF THROWING MONEY AT TRANSIT, BUT NOT DEMANDING PERFORMANCE.'

Mark DeSaulnier,
Congressman

"The car culture is a wonderful thing if you ask me, and it still is in California, but the current infrastructure model doesn't fit the way people can use (their) cars for benefit, because it's still stuck in decades ago," DeSaulnier said.

Specifically, he noted that the model transit agencies were relying on was from the mid-20th century, in a culture that assumed single-income households were the norm and in which the average commute time was 20 minutes.

"You're still trying to cram in an old model from the 1950s and '60s in a world where it doesn't work anymore," DeSaulnier said.

A major factor that's changed since that model was introduced, DeSaulnier noted, was the number of women in the workforce, which alone increased from 14% in 1974 to 74% in 1994.

"That's an unbelievable change, and it's a wonderful change in terms of the independence and the talent we get in the workforce, but we haven't adapted to it," DeSaulnier said.

Even in places such as the Bay Area, where the social model has been on the forefront of adapting to changes like these, DeSaulnier said that it was a challenge to get models for infrastructure and transit specifically to keep up with the times.

In the Bay Area in particular, DeSaulnier noted that efficiency and functionality have been challenges for



JEANITA LYMAN

The Wheels bus stop near Owens and Chabot drives in Pleasanton hosts the No. 8 route, which stops near the Pleasanton Weekly office on Sunol Boulevard before continuing to downtown.

the multiple transit agencies, as well as lack of oversight, an issue he said he was seeking to contend with in congress.

"Unfortunately in the Bay Area, we have a long history of throwing money at transit but not demanding performance from operators," DeSaulnier said. "If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten."

But with increased housing density becoming common throughout the Tri-Valley in the present day, and set to be increasingly common in the future amid recent affordable housing legislation from Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk, changes for public transit options in the area could be on the horizon too — not to mention the financial struggles BART has experienced because of the pandemic.

"Just in terms of context this isn't easy, and the research shows one of the key things is higher density, so I'm actually quite hopeful because we've done a number of things in the Tri-Valley and East Bay in general," DeSaulnier said.

The result so far has been higher-density housing surrounding transit hubs and downtown areas rather than big cities, which DeSaulnier said he was hopeful to see more of.

"That doesn't happen all at once, but if you look (at) places like Walnut Creek, Livermore, Dublin, 30 years ago there were not three- to four- to five-story buildings, there were single-family homes," DeSaulnier said.

"I think it's changing for the better — pedestrian, bike infrastructure. I've had a lot of involvement with that (and) you can see it changing in urban areas and suburban areas," he added. "Those combined, and getting more jobs out of the urban core, not just big places like Bishop Ranch and Hacienda, but within those downtowns with mixed-use, so smaller businesses and retail."

In the near future then, I might be less of an anomaly, with DeSaulnier and other officials locally and nationally envisioning a future with more demand for public transit to accommodate workers coming to jobs at small businesses with local offices in suburban locations — and perhaps I'll get

few strange looks for living in an urban area and working for a company with an office on the edge of a suburban city, such as the Pleasanton Weekly's small Sunol Boulevard newsroom.

As it stands, I have watched the general public's perception of public transit change as the changing climate and warnings of pending catastrophes — plus high gas prices — have led to rapidly growing environmental awareness.

One tangible example I experienced recently was the ease of my trip to and from Las Positas College, as well as advertisements throughout the campus for the college's free bus pass for students — a significant improvement from my days of expensive commutes to Skyline College in San Bruno, sometimes at the expense of food or class material. While the trip still clocked in at about an hour and a half from Downtown Oakland, the \$6.75 price tag each way was within my budget, and less than gas would have cost in some vehicles.

However, I can't help but wonder if this will change the inconsistency with which transit routes are distributed throughout the Tri-Valley. Will I ever be able to stay in Danville or the outskirts of Pleasanton past 9 p.m., or set foot in Blackhawk via a bus route outside of work hours?

Even in places like San Ramon, where there is the political and cultural will for increased transit options, when will leaders' vision of a transit and commuter-friendly city with easy access to BART come to fruition, rather than a reality in which I depend on rideshare apps for most trips within the sprawling city?

These are questions that will continue to be on my mind as I keep watch for the latest developments in transit and other sectors of the Tri-Valley.

While existing transit options give me some opportunity to overcome the "remote" feeling brought on by remote work, the tangible impact of public transit in particular for me is another factor that makes the discussions of a transit-friendly future in portions of the Tri-Valley feel closer to home — even when bus delays and failed transfers mean my beat is sometimes hours away. ■

Gallery showcases **ancient art** form in newest exhibit

Encaustic-style hot wax paintings on display in downtown Danville

By NICOLE GONZALES

An ancient form of art known as encaustic painting will be showcased this spring at Danville's Village Theatre and Art Gallery. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the striking visuals created by local Bay Area artists.

Opening this Saturday (March 25) and running through May 26, "Convergence: The Intersection of Wax, Color & Design, An Exploration of Encaustic Art" will be free for the public to view. A reception will be held opening night from 4 to 6 p.m.

Encaustic painting, also referred to as hot wax painting, dates back more than 2,000 years. Most popular in ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian art, the name comes from the Latin word "encastiko", meaning to heat or burn.

"It is a really interesting process. There's a subtlety with this kind of art form that I hope people come in and appreciate" said Marija Nelson Bleier, visual arts coordinator at Village Theatre Gallery. "It has kind of a quietness to it."

The gallery relies on a cultural committee made from local volunteers with a background in art to select exhibitions, Bleier said. Suggestions and submissions are given to the group in which they discuss and finally select an art show to display.

Upon seeing the talents of local encaustic artists, the committee was amazed.

"One thing that really appealed to the curatorial committee about this exhibit is that it's a very different kind of art form. It's not traditional painting," according to Bleier, who has worked at the gallery for almost a decade.

Bleier explained the intricate and demanding process behind making encaustic art. The set of tools used, the nature of the medium and the safety aspect all impact the piece created.

The medium involves heating beeswax to fuse or melt it with pure pigment colors, creating unique visual effects.

"It's hard to control and definitely has a really different feel about it because it's wax," Bleier said. "There's always an element of surprise with encaustic art. You kind of have to get used to not having control and just seeing where it goes where your image is complete."

Creating encaustic-style art requires the use of additional tools and safety gear such as goggles, gloves and a blowtorch.

Due to the layering and 3D elements, each piece is unique and can look different in person from its 2D image.

"It's something that you can't see in photographs because of the layering and the wax," Bleier continued. "You can spend a lot of time looking at one piece. This is an exhibit where you can come back multiple times and keep experiencing something new every time."

Over the years, the Village Theatre



COURTESY VTAG

Rinat Goren's artwork "Thoughts Materialized" will be featured in an upcoming exhibit in Danville. The show highlights encaustic art that is made from heating beeswax and pure pigments.

Gallery has continued to highlight distinctive regional artists and their works.

"With my job as the coordinator here, I'm always looking for things that we haven't seen before," Bleier said. "We think about what kind of

art we can bring to Danville that's different, unique and eye opening."

"We have a real interest in changing things. We're always trying to show things that are new or you wouldn't see otherwise," Bleier said. "We want to give the community and

visitors to the gallery an opportunity to not only enjoy art, but to learn about different art forms."

To learn more about the "Convergence" exhibition, curated by artist Rinat Goren, visit the gallery's website at danville.ca.gov/vtart. ■

Reading together: One City, One Book

Dublin encourages literacy and community with citywide program

By NICOLE GONZALES

Throughout the month of March, thousands of Dublin students and residents will take part in a collaborative reading project to encourage literacy and community.

The program, known as One City, One Book, invites the public to read the same book together during the same month. Dublin officials said they hope the initiative creates connections within the community through the shared literary experiences.

The program was initially founded as "One School, One Book" by Catherine Brown, a first grade teacher at Frederiksen Elementary School. In 2020 the program expanded due to its success and was renamed "One City, One Book" to include the entire Dublin Unified School District and the larger Dublin community.

For this year's book, "Manjhi Moves a Mountain" by award-winning author Nancy Churnin was selected. The book follows the true story of Dashrath Manjhi and his heroic and tireless work for his village in India.

Over the span of 20 years Manjhi worked to carve a path through a mountain that connected his isolated, underprivileged town with a larger village.

The larger village having adequate amenities such as schools, stores and a hospital was what drove his work. Manjhi completed this task using only a chisel and hammer.

Brown spoke about the book's major themes and how important One City, One Book is for school children in Dublin.

"The book is largely about determination, hard work, all things that are good examples for the students to be reading about," Brown

said. "Even for the younger kids it can be incredibly moving and impactful."

Brown actively champions reading and literacy, both in and out of the classroom. She believes literacy engagement activities, such as reading aloud with a student, is one of the best things a parent can do.

"Programs like these, that engage and draw together a whole community through literacy, increase reading levels. Students just soar," Brown added.

One City, One Book is sponsored by local Dublin businesses and partners who have contributed funds for program needs. Physical copies of the book were delivered to schools across the district at the beginning of the month.

All DUSD schools, public and private, are participating in the month-long event.



CITY OF DUBLIN

Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez is shown holding the book "Manjhi Moves a Mountain" by Nancy Churnin.

The city is also hosting a second special event to encourage literacy, Books in the Park, in which a picture book is left on a bench in all 25 city parks. Families, children and students are invited to read together and

then leave the book on the bench for further use.

To view more information about One City, One Book or Books in the Park, visit dublin.ca.gov/CivicAlerts. ■

Mount Diablo connection trail to open this month

Knobcone Point pathway will link Mount Diablo to Riggs Canyon and beyond

By JEANITA LYMAN

Visitors to Mount Diablo are set to have access to a wider range of protected wilderness areas than ever beyond the state park's boundaries, with the opening of a long-anticipated connection trail coming at the end of the month.

Organizers with Save Mount Diablo have announced the opening of the Knobcone Point trail connection between Balancing Rock and Riggs Canyon next week, with the 1.25-mile portion of trail through 580 acres of the Curry Ranch area being celebrated for opening access to Riggs Canyon, Morgan Territory and Las Vaqueros.

"All these trails we have built are portals that allow the public to enter nature and be transformed for the better," Ted Clement, executive director of Save Mount Diablo, said in the announcement.

Curry Canyon, acquired by Save Mount Diablo in 2013, is described as the "final missing major canyon entrance to Mount Diablo." The Knobcone connection has been in

the works since the organization acquired the 1,080-acre property a decade ago.

As it stands, park visitors have to travel through four canyons between Rock City and Ridge Canyon, with state park staff being forced to leave state park territory in order to access Ridge Canyon. The new trail will aim to remedy both issues, offering access between the canyons along a ridgeline.

"This trail is the major recreational puzzle piece in the Mount Diablo area, allowing park users to connect the mountain to Morgan Territory and beyond to Los Vaqueros, furthering their adventure into this extraordinary place," land programs director Sean Burke said.

Finishing touches on infrastructure and fire prevention are underway ahead of the opening ceremony set for Curry Point at South Gate Road next Wednesday (March 29) at 9:30 a.m. While the trail is set to open as planned rain or shine, the ceremony could be canceled under excessively rainy conditions. ■



SCOTT HEIN/SMD

Overhead view of the Knobcone trail that will connect staff and visitors at Mount Diablo State Park to the canyons beyond via a ridgeline.

'An Afternoon or Evening with Robert F. Kennedy'

Museum presentation to highlight late senator

By JEREMY WALSH

The Museum on Main's "An Afternoon or Evening with ..." speaker series is set to welcome scholar-actor Jeremy Meier embodying late U.S. senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy next week.

The presentation will see Meier, making his first appearance in Pleasanton, portray Kennedy circa May 1968 during the politician's run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency that fall.

"Kennedy's campaign was particularly active in California in the spring of 1968, but he would unfortunately be assassinated in June 1968," museum education director Rachel Brickell said in a statement. "Personally, it will be fascinating to hear his views on promoting racial equality and economic justice in the late 1960s while knowing the sad outcome of his assassination."

Meier's performance will be in the Chautauquan style, in which the scholar-actors portray the character onstage, including through a Q&A session, before stepping out of character to answer any final questions from the audience.

The RFK presentation is set for 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. next Tuesday (March 28) onstage at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton. A virtual version



COURTESY MOM

Scholar-actor Jeremy Meier portrays the late Robert F. Kennedy.

via the webinar platform BigMarker will follow on April 4.

For more information on next week's show, or any of the other upcoming installments of the monthly Ed Kinney Speaker Series, visit museumonmain.org or call 925-462-2766. ■

Shakespeare in the Vineyard plays announced

'Silent Sky' followed by 'Much Ado About Nothing'

By JEREMY WALSH

Livermore-based nonprofit performance company SPARC Theater is bringing back its Shakespeare in the Vineyard series this summer with two plays outdoors in the heart of the region's wine country.

The production of playwright Lauren Gunderson's "Silent Sky" will kick things off between June 22 to July 9, followed by SPARC Theater's interpretation of William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" on weekends between July 14 to Aug. 6. Both plays will be performed on the stage at Darcie Kent Vineyards on Tesla Road in Livermore.

"Much Ado is one of my favorite plays, with highly intelligent characters engaged in witty dialogue, clowns earnestly attempting to be great citizens, while real-world relationships and vulnerabilities keep the story grounded. With great costumes and quality wine it's a fantastic night out," said SPARC founding artistic director Lisa A. Tromovitch, who is directing the Shakespeare play.

One of Shakespeare's most popular plays, the tragic comedy—with themes of love, honor and deceit—follows new lovebirds Claudio and Hero trying to play matchmaker for Beatrice and Benedick.

"Much Ado About Nothing" runs on Friday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m., as well as select Thursday nights, during its performance window, including "Preview and Family Night" on July 14 and "Opening and Benefit Night" on July 15.

Preceding the Shakespeare classic is director Jennifer Le Blanc's presentation of "Silent Sky."

"Silent Sky" is based on the true story of Henrietta Leavitt, a 19th-century astronomer who tries to find her place in the world while studying the stars. Combining science, music and heart, Henrietta and her female peers pave the way for an immeasurable discovery," according to SPARC Theater.

"Silent Sky" will also be performed Fridays through Sundays, and select Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m. during its run, including preview night on June 22 and opening night on June 23.

Tickets are scheduled to go on sale toward the end of this month. To learn more, visit www.sparctheater.org or call 925-443-BARD (2273). Formerly known as Livermore Shakespeare Festival, SPARC Theater formally stands for Shakespeare & Performing Arts Regional Company. ■



COURTESY LVA

Jazz guitar galore

British jazz guitarist Peter White, who has built a decades-long international reputation for his prowess and versatility, is coming to the Tri-Valley this weekend. "Armed with an unparalleled combination of lyricism and energy, he combines elements of jazz, pop, and classical guitar to create a singular sound and, at the same time accessible to a broad audience," Livermore Valley Arts officials said. White's concert is set for 8 p.m. Saturday (March 25) at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Visit livermorearts.org.

Helen Whitaker

Jan. 28, 1931 – March 17, 2023

Helen Whitaker passed away on Friday, March 17 at age 92. Helen was known by her many friends and loved ones for her expansive mailing list for thoughtful cards celebrating a wide variety of holidays. She was an active member of Lynnewood United Methodist Church and PEO, where she was well-loved for her caring and generosity. She moved to Pleasanton in 1999 after living for 40 years in Alhambra/San Gabriel (CA), where she had a successful 30-year career as a tax consultant. She was proud to be one of the original residents of the Stoneridge Creek retirement community when it opened in 2013.



Helen treasured her family above all else and organized several multigenerational vacations. She was preceded into heaven by her husband of 52 years, Kenneth. She is survived by her son (Brian), daughter (Colleen), and four grandchildren (KC, Lindsey, Alyssa, and Tricia). Her 6 great-granddaughters were the light of her life.

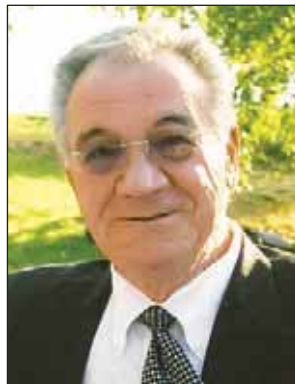
Memorial donations may be made to: Hope Hospice (hopehospice.com/donate/online-donation-form-2/); PEO Program for Continuing Education (donations.peointernational.org/peo-donation-pce); Lynnewood United Methodist Church - Endowment Fund Non Specified Giving (secure.myvanco.com/YJQF/campaign/C-YSQR).

PAID OBITUARY

Robert Rubino

January 28, 1940 – March 10, 2023

Robert (Bob) Rubino, 83, passed away peacefully at his home on March 10, 2023, surrounded by those he loved. A resident of Moraga, CA, Bob was born in Oakland, CA on January 28, 1940, to Jack Sebastiano Rubino and Mona (Chapman) Rubino.



After high school, he joined the Air Force (1958-1961) and was stationed in Georgia, Florida, and then Greenland. After completing his service, he worked at JCPenney, first selling men's clothes in Oakland, then decorating the windows of the five-story JCPenney in San Francisco. He loved that job as it allowed him to explore his interest in interior design. He later began his career in the car business, selling cars at Morris Landy Ford and Good Chevrolet in Alameda to being General Manager and Partner at Cochran and Celli Chevrolet and Connell Auto on Broadway Auto Row in Oakland. While his career in the car business spanned 40+ years, his love of cars, specifically Corvettes, Cadillacs, and Jeeps, lasted his lifetime.

Bob loved his friends, good food and wine, travel, music, and waterskiing/houseboating; and he loved his family more than anything. Throughout his life he traveled to many places including Spain, Rome, Venice, Greece, Switzerland, Paris, and the beloved home of his grandparents, Palermo, Sicily. He also adored Graeagle, where he and his wife Suzanne spent many happy vacations. He was a proud member of Oakland's Colombo Club.

Bob was preceded in death by his sister, Jackie and his brother, Jim. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; his sister, Cathi (Tom) Rubino-Hamilton; his children, Bob (Wendy) Rubino, Janeen (Dan) Rubino-Brumm, Steve (Rae) Rankin, Jenni (Jim Chiboucas) Rankin; and his grandchildren, Andrew, Robbie, and Elizabeth.

Family and friends are invited to join us at Bob's celebration of life on Friday, April 28, at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Monica Catholic Church, 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga, CA. There will be a reception immediately following. We respectfully request anyone wishing to attend to COVID test prior to arrival.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Sunflower Hill, a nonprofit that was very close to Bob's heart (PO Box 11436, Pleasanton, CA 94588 or sunflowerhill.org). Please notate "In memoriam of Bob Rubino" in the notes section.

PAID OBITUARY

POLICE BULLETIN

Details emerge about pedestrian fatality on freeway offramp

A man died after being hit by a car and a big-rig after standing on an Interstate 580 offramp following a confrontation with his rideshare driver, while a second pedestrian in the immediate vicinity for unknown reasons was also struck by both vehicles in Livermore on Sunday night.

The situation began unfolding around 9:20 p.m. when an Uber driver pulled over on the I-580 westbound offramp to Isabel Avenue after some sort of altercation with their lone passenger, according to Officer Tyler Hahn of the California Highway Patrol. The Uber driver left the scene out of fear for their safety and reported the incident to 911.

Meanwhile, the passenger remained standing in the unlit Isabel offramp area near the creek crossing. A second man who is currently unidentified and apparently unrelated to the Uber ride was also a pedestrian in the area, according to Hahn.

Both men ended up in the offramp lanes rather than the shoulder and were struck by a Honda Civic and then by a big-rig, according to Hahn.

The man who had been the Uber passenger died at the scene, Hahn said. His identity has not yet been revealed publicly by the Alameda County Coroner's Bureau.

The second pedestrian was transported to an area hospital in critical condition. Authorities have not yet confirmed his identity or what he was doing on the offramp. "Our big question is: Where'd that other pedestrian come from?" Hahn said.

The circumstances of the collisions remain under investigation. Neither drugs nor alcohol were suspected as factors for the Civic or big-rig drivers, according to Hahn.

Anyone who may have witnessed any aspect of the situation can contact the CHP-Dublin office at 925-828-0466.

—Jeremy Walsh

In other news

- The city of Dublin has recently increased its efforts to inform the public of the correct electric scooter road laws.

Via brochure handouts, social media and online posts, city staff have restated the legal guidelines for e-scooter riders given their rise in popularity. City staff have said the clarification of rules was brought on by a large number of riders neglecting to follow them.

"We had become aware of some

incidents throughout Dublin in which teens and pre-teens had been riding electric scooters unsafely, and often without a driver's license," said Shari Jackman, communications manager for the city.

"There had been some near-misses with electric scooters coming too close to hitting pedestrians on sidewalks or in crosswalks, or passing intersections and driveways without observing other motor vehicles," Jackman added.

In a social media post, the city listed out a set of laws specific to e-scooters operators and addressed the reasoning behind the post.

"Electric scooters have become quite popular as a mode of transportation, especially for teenagers," city officials said. "Unfortunately, many electric scooter drivers neglect to follow the proper rules of the road, which can result in accidents and injury."

Main rules for riders include wearing a helmet at all times. Scooters that are intended for one person at a time must be used by one person at a time.

"Users must carry a valid driver's license, ride at a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour (and) dismount and walk for left turns," the official release said. "Do not ride on sidewalks, abide by crosswalk regulations (and) follow all rules that apply to motor vehicles." ■

—Nicole Gonzales

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

March 17

Burglary

■ 7:05 a.m. on the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

■ 12:00 p.m. on the 4500 block of Hopyard Road

■ 1:49 p.m., 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 2:44 p.m. on the 000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 3:17 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

■ 4:22 p.m. at Valley Avenue and Fairgrounds Gate 12

■ 11:04 p.m. on the 5800 block of Owens Drive

March 16

Drug violation

■ 2:56 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Vandalism

■ 6:57 a.m. on the 4100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Embezzlement

■ 8:50 a.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 11:05 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Theft

■ 11:10 a.m. on the 300 block of Neal Street

■ 4:22 p.m., 2600 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

■ 5:44 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 6 p.m., 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; theft from auto

Domestic battery

■ 8:48 p.m. on Chabot Drive

March 15

Assault/battery

■ 9:03 a.m. on the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive

Theft

■ 10:17 a.m. at Sunol Boulevard and Mission Drive

■ 9:53 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Warrant arrest

■ 10:51 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Fraud

■ 1:24 p.m. on the 3800 block of Picard Avenue

Embezzlement

■ 5:47 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

March 14

Drug violation

■ 1:28 a.m. on the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

■ 1:57 a.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 9:30 a.m. on the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 11:49 a.m. on the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Burglary

■ 12:34 p.m. on the 5300 block of Blackbird Drive

Shoplifting

■ 5:50 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 8:05 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

March 13

Fraud

■ 11:26 a.m. on the 4100 block of Cristobal Way

Vandalism

■ 11:32 a.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

■ 11:41 a.m. on the 3200 block of West Lagoon Road

■ 2:03 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

■ 6:26 p.m. on the 6800 block of Corte Nuevo

Theft

■ 11:44 a.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 12:20 p.m. on the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

■ 4:27 p.m., 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 6:24 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Trespassing/prowl

■ 2:06 p.m. on the 6100 block of Johnson Court

Warrant arrest

■ 5:15 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

■ 7:14 p.m. on the 3500 block of Stacey Court

March 12

Weapons violation

■ 1:53 a.m. on the 5900 block of Inglewood Drive

DUI

■ 4:46 a.m. on the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Domestic battery

■ 11:16 a.m. on Vista Diablo Court

Burglary

■ 9:08 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

March 11

Drug violation

■ 12:18 a.m. on the 4600 block of Black Avenue

■ 1:17 a.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Reflections Drive

Assault/battery

■ 3:15 p.m. on the 5700 block of Corte Libre

Opinion

A NEW SHADE OF GREEN

BY SHERRY LISTGARTEN

Bay Area to begin phasing out gas heaters this decade

In a momentous and likely highly influential vote at the end of a six-hour meeting last week, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District voted to ban the sale of gas heaters.

More specifically, water heaters and boilers that emit any nitrogen oxides (NOx) cannot be sold or installed if manufactured after 2026, and the same for gas furnaces manufactured after 2028. While theoretically NOx-free gas heaters are allowed, they do not exist and all indications are that replacements will be electric.

This ban is conditional on a determination of “equitable outcomes”, with a focus on low-income households. A working group will evaluate that condition and adjust dates or requirements as needed.

The vote on March 15 was nearly unanimous, with 20 of the 21 directors who were present voting yes and one abstaining. Well over 90% of the 200 speakers who commented in person or on Zoom at the meeting advocated for the ban. Some were physicians concerned about the health impacts of nitrogen oxides.

For example, an OB/GYN doctor talked about how she helps pregnant women adopt healthy habits but has little control over the often polluted air that they breathe. The doctors all encouraged the board to reduce disease and save lives.

Some speakers were students concerned about their own or their relatives’ asthma. One talked about how he loves to play sports with his siblings, but their asthma makes it difficult for them to enjoy sports. Eighth graders from the Urban Promise Academy in Oakland spoke

about a survey they had done at school that found that 16% of the 163 respondents had asthma and 31% had a relative with it.

Some speakers were parents or grandparents concerned about their kids’ future. Renters spoke up who were glad to have a policy that would reduce their building emissions, since they could not do it themselves.

Representatives from environmental organizations advocated for clean air, noting the equity impacts and the fact that we are out of compliance with our own air quality standards many days a year in the Bay Area, which has some of the dirtiest air in the nation. A representative from the EPA mentioned that those standards are being tightened further and this policy will help the Bay Area to comply.

Other speakers were concerned about global warming and eager to reduce our burning of fossil fuels. One speaker talked about how he grew up in Virginia where household heating was clean electric. He was shocked to find after moving to California that we use dirty gas-burning heat.

Of the few speakers who spoke against the policy, there were concerns about cost; about grid reliability (some had no power still that night from the previous day’s windstorm); about the disruption to tenants of multi-family housing if the building had to switch from gas to electric heat; about the space requirements for electric heat; about the time needed for panel upgrades; and about the “complicated nightmare” of updating very old homes.

One owner of a large apartment

building said he is on year three of an update that so far has cost \$1 million and he is still waiting for PG&E to provide the necessary service.

I found the public comments to be moving and interesting. Some speakers may have been misled that this proposal would improve indoor air quality (it generally won’t), or cure asthma (it affects only 5% of NOx emissions in the Bay Area), or leave their gas stoves and fireplaces intact (plummeting gas demand is likely to make them unaffordable).

But nevertheless most were eager to move forward into a future with cleaner air and reduced emissions, and trust the BAAQMD to ensure that the mandate is affordable and equitable. All speakers were respectful and thoughtful and used their one minute well.

After the public comment, the 21 directors in attendance took turns speaking. All felt strongly about reducing air pollution, which is the charter of BAAQMD. Director Brian Barnacle spoke about how this ruling would give time and certainty to equipment manufacturers, inspiring entrepreneurs and catalyzing innovation to reduce NOx emissions.

Vice Chair Davina Hurt of Belmont said that the timing would allow the area to be “first in line” for federal money. Vicki Veenker of Palo Alto noted that with the long lifetime of these appliances, full compliance wouldn’t be until 2046 or so. “We have time to get this right.”

Sergio Lopez of Campbell enthused about the ability to influence others with this ruling. “This is a region where we do big things ... We will be the first, but I guarantee we won’t be the last.” Lynda Hopkins of

Sonoma County similarly expressed excitement about “disruptive, radical, transformative change”.

But some highlighted relevant cautions as well. Tyrone Jue of San Francisco hammered on the need to get PG&E committed to and successfully supporting this effort with regard to grid capacity, electrical upgrades, reliability, and responsiveness, and others concurred. Mark Ross of Martinez talked about the importance of making the wide and confusing array of incentives accessible. Margaret Abe-Koga of Mountain View said it is important for this to work well in cities like hers that have rent control.

Juan Gonzalez of San Leandro highlighted implementation challenges, including getting adequate power to homes, responding quickly to replace a broken heater, and preventing unpermitted work by unskilled contractors. He worried that some regions that would benefit least (e.g., sparsely populated areas without much NOx from buildings) might bear undue costs.

He also clarified that eliminating building NOx is hardly a panacea when it comes to asthma. And yet he supports sending this market signal to see how technology and workforce will respond, and trusts the two-year checkpoint reports to avoid big problems.

Ray Mueller of San Mateo County, the lone abstainer, read a letter from Peninsula Clean Energy, a local community choice agency working very hard to equitably electrify buildings, with concerns that he shares.

Costs to electrify buildings can be very high and are highly variable. The grid in many areas is not reliable, particularly in the coastal communities that he and Peninsula Clean Energy represent. PG&E improvements to the grid are not happening at the pace needed, and the alternative of battery storage is expensive and in short supply.

Mueller is skeptical that adequate technology will be available in just

four years to handle the diversity of electrification needs. (I think of replacements for tankless water heaters as one example, though they get an additional four years.)

Moreover, if a sufficiently large and trained workforce doesn’t exist, Mueller worries that greater demand will increase rather than decrease rates, as it has done with building contractors in his area, pushing up housing costs beyond reasonable values.

Mueller says he is fully committed to working hard to make this a success, but he is very concerned about the scale of the effort that will be required, the potential cost burden on the middle class, and the significant negative impacts that can occur if the Implementation Working Group doesn’t execute perfectly.

I find myself wondering how many of the board members have attempted to electrify their own homes. It is not always simple or cheap. Many are optimistic about the power of capitalism to respond to the mandate and lower costs, but others noted the long length of time it took to develop electric vehicles. Houses are complex and varied.

Gonzalez seems aware of all of these risks, and ultimately trusts the built-in process to slow things down if equitable outcomes cannot be ensured. Whether that protects the middle class, Mueller’s concern, remains to be seen.

The critical next step is to create an effective Implementation Working Group to enumerate and make progress on these issues. The group will be able to lean on many high-level state senators and representatives who are strongly supportive of this effort. There is funding from multiple sources.

This is going to be a very informative and interesting next few years. This vote is just the start. ■

Editor’s note: Sherry Listgarten’s “A New Shade of Green” blog runs once a week across Embarcadero Media websites, including the Pleasanton Weekly. This blog posted on March 15 after the BAAQMD meeting.

LETTERS

Congrats on 20 years for Pleasanton Military Families

Pleasanton Military Families held their Easter Packout at the Pleasanton Veterans Hall last weekend. For 20 years, the organization has been sending packages to our local men and women serving in the armed forces.

Nice donation checks were presented at the packout to PMF by the American Legion, VFW 6298, and Pleasanton resident Vinay Kruttiventi. The PMF appreciates all the many donations of items

to fill the boxes and to pay for the postage. For items to donate, see www.PleasantonMilitaryFamilies.org.

Thanks were extended to all who helped with the Friday setup, especially Boys Team Charity and the Young Men’s Service League, which are organizations of young men and their parents focused on doing community service. Other groups, such as Troop 947, made cards to be inserted into the boxes.

A big crowd showed up on Saturday to pack the 150 boxes being sent for the Easter Packout. Pat Frizzell is the coordinator of the packouts; Denise Harper is the president of PMF. Packouts are held

three times a year: Easter, Fourth of July and the winter holidays.

Congratulations PMF, and thanks for continuing to support our troops. To find ways to help serve in our community, visit www.JustServe.org.

—Ken Mano, via Town Square

Disappointing decision

I was extremely disappointed to learn that the Pleasanton City Council has voted (4-1) to end financial sponsorship for the Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Pleasanton program.

As a graduate of the program, I can attest to its tremendous impact on community members. Upon

completing the program, I gained a newfound respect for all that goes into making Pleasanton such a great place to live and work. I even fell more in love with the city, and I didn’t think that was possible after living here for 30 years!

I was so inspired by the program that I became a Human Services Commission member, a position I have loved serving in for the past five years.

Many of my fellow graduates have also become more involved with the city, and since the program requires participants to live or work in Pleasanton, the majority of the participants are paid for by their employer, while scholarships are

available for those who don’t have employer support.

The program’s monthly weekday classes provide participants with an opportunity to witness how the city’s operations, public safety agencies, businesses, nonprofits, school district, and cultural arts and recreation departments operate during work hours, which makes the experience more impactful.

Because only two of the five have taken the class, I would suggest that the City Council members who voted to end sponsorship of the program take the class themselves to see firsthand how effective it is before making such a huge decision.

—Janean Rubino-Brumm

SUMMER CAMP CONNECTION

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

7690 Quail Creek Cir. | Dublin | (925) 271-0015
KidzKraftz.com

Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. FREE fabric for first day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

Stratford School

stratfordschools.com/summer

Summer@Stratford...It's not just a Camp...it's an Experience!

We've designed the perfect camp for your child, complete with all the fun, enriching activities they love, and the important safety measures and flexible hours you expect. And with many options to choose from, campers will have endless, AWESOME experiences to keep them engaged and excited all summer long.

Academic Camps

Academic camps are a wonderful way to enhance your child's love of learning while focusing on a specific subject. From math and robotics to literature and creative writing, we have something for every student. Campers work independently and in small groups to apply real-life experiences to lessons learned in the classroom.

Specialty Camps

Our specialty camps are packed with hands-on activities that offer experiences for campers to discover new skills and talents. Whatever your child's interests are, we have fun and unique activities for them to try!

Day Camps

Each week, students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 jump into action as they explore science and nature, become involved in creative and performing arts, and participate in sports and games. Our camp features a unique selection of indoor and outdoor activities and field trips that take advantage of resources in the local area.

Sports Camps

Our rigorous sports camp promotes skill building, exposes children to new activities, and helps build healthy exercise habits. We bring sports specialists from around the area to help each camper improve, practice, and play each sport.

Campers can enjoy sports and games, exciting STEM projects, arts, crafts, music, dance, drama and more. Just wait until you see what they're capable of! Find out more at stratfordschools.com/summer.

Write Now!

Summer Writing Camps

Pleasanton/Palo Alto

Hacienda: (925) 485-5750 | Emerson: (650) 424-1267

www.headsup.org | writenow@headsup.org

Good writing is key to a classical education

The Hacienda campus of Emerson Montessori School is a different kind of school. It shapes strong, competent, self-confident individuals, not students who would rather "follow the crowd." Emerson Montessori takes an innovative approach to classical education. Students progress at their own pace and learners are never pushed beyond their capabilities or held back to wait for others. Larger, flexible classrooms provide students with their own cubicles and computers, as well as small-group and large-group work spaces. The curriculum — built on a Montessori foundation — is designed to develop a complete human being. It includes art, music, Chinese, Spanish, economics and business, physical education, school tasks, and personal development. During the summer, the school is an ideal camp environment to improve student writing, an activity requiring both specific skills and the motivation to improve them. The Write Now! program fosters pride in student work by emphasizing what is valuable about it and how each draft represents an improvement over the previous one. For more information about the Write Now! program and Emerson Montessori School, call 925-485-5750.

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/camp_connection

To advertise in the April Camp Connection, call (925) 621-1177
or email kklein@pleasantonweekly.com

Sports

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



417-1600
PorkysPizzaPalace.com



THE ROSE
HOTEL
846-8802
RoseHotel.net



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

Inaugural 'Scottie's Scramble' honors late Foothill alum Kienhofer

Also: Highlights from volleyball and tennis, including two tournament titles

When Pleasanton's Scott Kienhofer passed in 2018 from cancer, it delivered a gut punch to Tri-Valley residents.

Scott was a senior at Foothill when he died and had played two years of baseball for Foothill. He attended both Lydiksen Elementary and Hart Middle schools.

A loss of a wonderful young man well before his time.

But if you know the Kienhofer family, they were going to bring something beautiful out of the tragedy of Scottie's passing. And that's exactly what the family has done.

On May 1, 2021, Scottie's Gift Foundation was launched, bringing Scott's vision of delivering gift baskets to newly diagnosed pediatric cancer patients to life, starting with the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland.

To date over 80 gift baskets have been delivered, with the goal to expand to Children's Hospital in San Francisco. Ultimately the family would like to expand to include Stanford and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia — including all four hospitals that were involved in Scott's treatment plan during his battle with cancer.

To help raise money for the foundation, the family has announced the first "Scottie's Scramble": to be held at the Pleasanton Golf Center on Friday, May 12.

There are options to play or support Scottie's Scramble:

- Get a foursome together.
- Join as a single and the family will mingle you into a foursome.
- If you can't play golf but want to participate in the day, you can join for the post-golf drinks and dinner.
- Become a Scottie's Scramble Sponsor — there are several options to choose from.
- Can't make it, but still want to send your support? Please donate today!

To register, sponsor or donate go to birdease.com/scottiesscramble.

Boys' volleyball

The Falcons kept rolling, knocking off Livermore and De La Salle in East Bay Athletic League play, then winning the Silver Division of the Stockton Classic tournament over the weekend.

Foothill came through with



COURTESY FHS

The late Scott Kienhofer.

a 25-12, 25-15, 25-21 win over Livermore. The highlights came from Casey Collins (11 service points, 6 kills, 6 digs), Yun Bae (13 assists, 2 aces) and Cameron Hitchan (5 kills, 1 block).

Next up was De La Salle, and the Falcons pulled out the big 23-25, 25-17, 27-25, 25-23 thriller. Great play came from Landen Meonske (31 assists, 9 kills, 9 digs), Zach Seraj (18 digs, 10 kills, 10 service pts), and Tyler Keala (15 kills, 8 digs).

Saturday brought the Stockton Classic where the Falcons went 3-1 to win the Silver Division.

The lone loss came to Ripon



NANCY RITER

Amador volleyball's Ryan Kucken plays the ball during recent game action.

Christian, the eventual Gold Division champion.

The wins came against Pleasant Grove (2-0), St. Mary's-Stockton (2-0) and Antelope (2-1).

Highlights throughout the tournament came from Meonske (64 assists, 20 service points, 11 aces, 11 kills), Noah Mitzenmacher (35 service receptions, 17 digs), Jack Caudill (14 kills, 4 aces) and Kayan Vohra (12 kills, 4 blocks).

Meanwhile, the crosstown Dons kept pace with Foothill by picking up a pair of wins over Monte Vista and Granada last week.

In the Monte Vista game, the Dons were led by Nick Nayak (9 kills), Max Riter (7 kills, 7 digs) and Bryce Nohava (14 service points, 2 aces).

Against the Matadors, the Dons got great play from Colin Bowers who had 29 assists while pitching in for six blocks on defense. Other standout performances included Riter (10 kills, 15 digs), Parker Brookhart (17 digs from libero), Luke Melvin (16 kills), Ryan Yu (13 service points, 7 blocks), Jackson Mello (7 service points) and Spencer Thiel (7 blocks).

Boys' tennis

The Falcons traveled down to Fresno and won the Fresno based California Tennis Classic by winning all five of their matches. The Falcons beat Pleasant Valley (5-1), Clovis West (4-2), Del Oro (6-3), Central Valley Christian (6-0) and Bullard (6-0).

The senior-laden team then came and beat De La Salle 9-0 to open EBAL play.

Across town for Amador, the Dons ran into a strong Cal High team and dropped a 7-2 match to the Grizzlies last week.

The two matches the Dons won came at the No. 2 singles where Minsung Kim defeated Jerry Xu 6-1, 6-1, and then at the No. 3 doubles where the team of Aidan Doan/Abhiraj Jalagekar beat the Cal team of Satvik Malloy/Vishesh Verma by the score of 6-4, 2-6, 10-7 (tiebreaker). ■

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.

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell Wilcox, Ext. 1171

EDITORIAL

Editorial Director

Jeremy Walsh, Ext. 1172

Livermore Vine Editor

Cierra Bailey, Ext. 6528

Editor Emeritus

Jeb Bing

Staff Reporters

Nicole Gonzales, Ext. 1175

Jeanita Lyman, Ext. 1179

Christian Trujano, Ext. 1176

Contributors

Tim Hunt, Dennis Miller,

Nancy Lewis, Chuck Deckert

ART & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown

Designers

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,

Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Account Executive

Karen Klein, Ext. 1177

Real Estate Sales

Carol Cano, Ext. 1173

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 1178

Administrative Associate

Carolyn Chan, Ext. 1174

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial email:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales email:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales email:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation email: circulation@

PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com/subscribe to start supporting the Pleasanton Weekly today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 203, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

© 2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.



Entertainment

HONK! JR. AT THE FIREHOUSE This heartwarming celebration of being different is sure to delight audiences of all ages with its sparkling wit, unique charm and memorable score. March 24-26; March 31-April 2. Tickets \$10. Visit firehousearts.org.

SUNOL REPERTORY THEATER Sunol Repertory Theater presents *Caught in the Villain's Gaze*, written and directed by Tom Harland. March 24-25. Tickets \$20. Visit sunol.net/srt.

XANADU AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE This fun and funky show is a roller-skating musical journey inspired by the 1980 movie of the same name and is guaranteed to have audiences tapping their toes and singing along. March 24-26. Visit showtix4u.com/event-details/69147.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS PETER WHITE Peter White has maintained a reputation as one of the most versatile and prolific acoustic guitarists in the contemporary jazz landscape with an unparalleled combination of lyricism and energy, he combines elements of jazz, pop, and classical guitar. 8 p.m., March 25. Tickets \$20-\$80. Visit livermorearts.org.

THE FOUR SEASONS OF BUENOS AIRES Experience the passionate Nuevo Tango of Piazzolla's *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. 3 p.m., March 26. Tickets \$66. Visit livermorearts.org.

AN AFTERNOON OR EVENING WITH ROBERT F. KENNEDY The Ed Kinney Speaker Series presents *An Afternoon or Evening with Robert F. Kennedy*. Hear his passionate views on the state of our country, its place in the world and our arc toward the future. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., March 28. Firehouse Arts Center. Visit museumonmain.org.

BEST OF SF COMEDY COMPETITION

Back at the Bankhead by popular demand, a new group of competition winners will take the stage for only one reason, to make you laugh. 8 p.m., March 31. Tickets \$20-\$45. Visit livermorearts.org.

CITY OF DUBLIN HOSTS FREE

OPERA PERFORMANCE *Boheme* Out of the Box is a one-hour version of Puccini's opera, sung in Italian and featuring English dialogue. Performances 7:30 p.m., March 31-April 1. 2 p.m., April 2. Registration at sfopera.com/box is encouraged. Emerald Glen Park.

BALLET ROOTS DANCE COMPANY Pleasanton's very own premier ballet company's mission is to provide the local community with professional-quality performances exhibiting both classical and contemporary ballet. 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., April 1. Livermore High School. Tickets \$17. Visit balletroots.org.

KALEIDOSCOPE COLOR AND SPIRITUAL SOUND Livermore-Amador Symphony Presents *Kaleidoscope Color and Spiritual Sound*, intoxicating dance infuses the music of Mexican composer Arturo Márquez. Prelude talk, 7-7:30 pm., Concert, 8 p.m., April 1. Tickets \$27-\$39. Visit livermorearts.org.

CHARO IN CONCERT: A MUSICAL SENSATION Charo is a multi-talented singer, musician, comedian and stage and screen performer known for her high-energy live concerts and award-winning Flamenco guitar playing. 7:30 p.m., April 3. Tickets \$20-\$105. Visit livermorearts.org.

BANKHEAD PRESENTS COURTYARD CONCERTS Kick off the weekend for happy hour in the Madden Courtyard starring The LK Project, a singer/songwriter trio. 5:30 p.m., April 13. Tickets \$20. Visit livermorearts.org.

JOHN OATES AT THE BANKHEAD Join for an evening of acoustic music and storytelling with John Oates,

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Meet Ollie

Ollie is a remarkable boy! He was very shy when we first met him at the shelter and he surprised us on his first outing to the pet store where he became a social butterfly, greeting everyone that walked by. He is now living in a foster home where he has been a very polite guest. Ollie is quiet, house-trained and crate-trained. He is approximately 5 years old and weighs 10 pounds. He is neutered, current on vaccines and microchipped. Ollie is available through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue; visit tvar.org.

one half of the best-selling duo of all time, Hall & Oates, as well as an accomplished solo artist. 8 p.m., April 14. Tickets \$65-\$95. Visit livermorearts.org.

SONGS OF THE EAGLES One of These Nights-Songs of The Eagles returns to The Bankhead, brilliantly re-creating the harmonic sounds of the legendary Eagles. 8 p.m., April 15. Tickets \$38-\$58. Visit livermorearts.org.

Exhibits

BAY AREA FIGURATIVE EXHIBIT This exhibition highlights the significance of the Bay Area Figurative Movement showcasing a number of contemporary artists working in this unique style. Through April 23. Bankhead Theater.

FIREHOUSE LOBBY EXHIBITION "After the Storm" features nine of artist Angelica Turner's works, including the lush botanical motifs for which she is known. Through April 8. 4444 Railroad Ave.

Family

THE BISHOP RANCH HOLI CELEBRATION Holi marks the arrival of spring and is a vibrant, and colorful Indian celebration. Enjoy the throwing of colors, traditional dance performances, music, and delicious food surrounded by family and friends. 2-4 p.m., March 26.

EASTER BUNNY AT STONERIDGE MALL The Easter Bunny is hopping into town at Stoneridge Shopping Center and reservations are encouraged for a Bunny Photo Experience. March 10-April 8. Visit bunnyphoto.splashthat.com.

Outdoor Rec

WATER DAY AT DEL VALLE In observation of World Water Day, join the East Bay Regional Park District at Lake Del Valle for a day celebrating water. Stop by the Visitor Center for fun activities and games. 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., March 25.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY AND OTHER MYTHS Learn how some of the origins of Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, Chupacabra and many others came to be. Celebrate April

Fool's Day in Sycamore Grove Park. 2 p.m., April 1. 1051 Wetmore Rd. Call 925-373-5700.

SPRING NIGHT HIKE Take an approximately 1 mile hike in hopes of catching a glimpse of some of the park's nocturnal inhabitants. Wear comfortable shoes and a warm jacket. 7:30 p.m., April 8. Sycamore Grove Park. Call 925-373-5700.

CATTAIL POND HIKE Learn about the turtles and other wildlife in the area on this 3 mile walk up to Cattail Pond. 9 a.m., April 2. 1051 Wetmore Rd. Call 925-373-5700.

Seniors

CONSUMER FRAUD PREVENTION Legal Assistance and Health Insurance Counseling Presentation presents "Consumer Fraud: Scams Targeting Seniors and Tips For Protection and Prevention." 1 p.m., April 5. Pleasanton Senior Center. Call 925-931-5365.

AARP FREE TAX PREPARATION AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance free of charge, Mondays & 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.

PLEASANTON PEDALERS AT THE SENIOR CENTER Pleasanton Pedalers Cycling meets at the Senior Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-Noon. For more information call 925-931-5365.

SENIOR SOLE MATES Walking is one of the easiest and most cost effective forms of exercise for adults. Participants must be able to walk 2.5 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group. 8:45-10 a.m., Wednesdays. Pleasanton Senior Center.

BOOKS, PUZZLES & MAGAZINES The Pleasanton Senior Center offers books, puzzles & magazines which can be checked out thanks to the Assistance League of Amador Valley.

See CALENDAR on Page 20

TAKE US ALONG



Valentine's on Kauai: Daniel and Kara McVey celebrated their first Valentine's Day as a married couple in Poipu, Kauai in Hawaii earlier this year.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to 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.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 19

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS Free remote legal services for seniors. To schedule a phone appointment call (510) 839-0393 or visit lashicap.org/programs/hicap.

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.

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

SENIOR MEAL PROGRAM Open Heart Kitchen remains committed to serving free, nutritious meals for those over the age of 60, addressing the nutritional gap of low-income seniors. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling 925-500-8241. 12-1 p.m., M-F, Livermore Community Center.

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.

Expos

GOODGUYS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS America's Favorite Car Show returns to the Fairgrounds for its 40th anniversary season of cool cars, cool people and good times featuring American made and powered show cars and trucks of all years on display. March 25-26. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

CAT EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE FAIRGROUNDS At this Cat Extravaganza & Adoption Event meet beautiful cats, local charities, speak to exhibitors, watch the international competition and enjoy a great lineup of speakers. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., April 1-2. Tickets \$15-\$20. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

GOLDEN GATE ARABIAN SHOW AT THE FAIRGROUNDS Now in our 66th year, this two day show features the magnificent, diverse and athletic Arabian and half Arabian horses. This free event is fun for the whole family. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., April 1-2. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

ROBO GAMES AT THE FAIRGROUNDS RoboGames is the Olympics of Robots where the best minds from around the world compete in over 50 different events. Some robots are autonomous, some are remote controlled, but all are cool. April 6-9. Tickets \$45, Military free. Visit alamedacountyfair.com.

Farmers' Markets

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

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

Talks

LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Linda Harms Okazaki, a past president of the California Genealogical Society, presents Organize your Genealogy. Linda will share strategies to start your research, keep track of findings and establish naming conventions for both digital and paper files. 7-8:30 p.m., April 10. Visit l-ags.org.

SIERRA CLUB TRI-VALLEY The next virtual Sierra Club Tri-Valley Group Meeting is 7 p.m., April 12. Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/events.

TRI-VALLEY WRITERS Connie Post, first Poet Laureate of Livermore, will present "Finding your Creativity in the Between Places" at the April meeting. She will explain how to find creativity by going beyond descriptions to find hidden meaning in unexpected places. 2 p.m., April 15. Las Positas College. Visit trivalleywriters.org. Register by April 13.

HOPE HOSPICE SEMINAR Webinar: Living With Dementia-Next Steps After a New Diagnosis. Attend this free live webinar for an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. 10-11:30 a.m., April 13. Visit hopehospice.com.

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

Support

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP Tri-Valley Haven will begin a Monday, in-person support group for survivors of domestic violence. Participants must be 18 and over and pre-register as there will be no drop-ins. 11 a.m.-12 p.m., March 27-May 15. For registration, location, or any further questions, please call Sharon at 925-667-2607 or email sharon@trivalleyhaven.org.

FREE HOT MEALS Served Monday-Friday, 1-3 p.m., dine-in or take out. 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

TO-GO HOT MEALS AT RLCC Open Heart Kitchen provides to-go hot meals at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 1-3 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit openheartkitchen.org.

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

LIVERMORE WARMING CENTER 6 p.m.-8 a.m. when overnight temperatures are forecasted at or below 45 degrees and/or a 20% chance or higher of rain. Open to anyone on a first come, first-serve basis. Contact info@onenationdreammakers.org. Veterans Memorial Building 522 S. L St.

FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM The City of Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department provides a Fee Assistance Program for residents who would like to participate in recreation programs but may not have the financial means. For more information visit cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cs/fees.asp.

Public Notices

CHURRITOS CON XOCHITL
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 595521
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) ChurrITOS con Xochitl, located at 1855 locusts st Livermore CA 94551, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
ALEJANDRA ARROYO
1855 locust st
Livermore CA 94551
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/10/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on February 10 2023.
(PLW Mar 24, 31, Apr 7 and 14, 2023)

1437 Kolln St.,
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on January 24 2023.
(PLW Mar 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

DVB INSURANCE SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596190
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) DVB Insurance Services, located at 344 Division St #209, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DIABLO VALLEY BENEFITS, LLC
344 Division St #209
Pleasanton, CA 94566
California
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11-1-13.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 09 2023.
(PLW Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

RIDGECREST CONSTRUCTION & REMODEL DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596136
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Ridgecrest Construction & Remodel Design, located at 10617 Altamont Pass Rd. Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
HENRY BATTEATE
10617 Altamont Pass Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2023
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 08 2023.
(PLW Mar 17, 24, 31 and Apr 7, 2023)

SCRIPT MOLECULAR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596096
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Script Molecular, located at 4198 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton, CA-94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
DEKA BIOTECH INC
4198 Rennellwood Way
Pleasanton, CA 94566
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 March 07 2023.
(PLW Mar 24, 31, Apr 7 and 14, 2023)

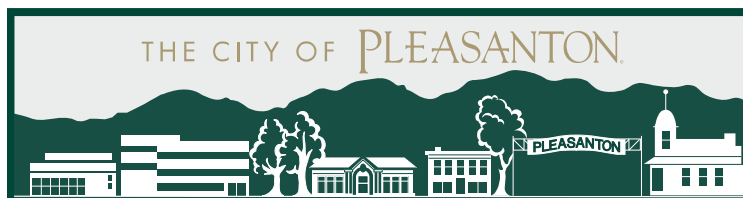
EASTBAY MAIL & DELIVERY
EASTBAY DELIVERY
MODERN EXPRESS
MODERN EXPRESS COURIER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 596303
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Eastbay Mail & Delivery, 2.) Eastbay Delivery, 3.) Modern Express, 4.) Modern Express Courier, located at 750 4th St. Oakland, CA 94607, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
MODERN MAIL SERVICE INC
750 4th St
Oakland, CA 94607
California
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/01/2012
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 14 2023.
(PLW Mar 24, 31, Apr 7 and 14, 2023)

CABLETECHS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 594947
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) CableTechs, located at 1437 Kolln St., Pleasanton, CA, 94566, Alameda County.
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):
SCOTT CHESLEY

The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in Alameda County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit PleasantonWeekly.com/legal_notices/
For assistance email LegalNotices@PleasantonWeekly.com.



HIGHLIGHTS
Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Committee Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
The meeting will be held at the Pleasanton Senior Center – 5353 Sunol Blvd.
• Provide a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the draft council priorities for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and receive an overview of the citywide strategic plan project.
• Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds for bicycle and pedestrian improvements at various locations.
To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

Employment

Senior Software Engineer (5 yrs of exp)
Senior Software Engineer, BS. Deg. in CS., IT w/ 5 yrs of exp.; Create Test Plans for Rou.& Brid. Feat. & prot.; Exe. test cases by enab. Brid. & Rou. Feat. & Prot.; Part. in Test Plan Rev. meetings; Han. Def. in Soft.Func.; Rep. BUGs w/ all Logs & CLI outputs; Fix Soft. Rel. & ver. defect by upg. to Soft.; Enable L2 Brid. Prot.LACP; Use Interop test. w/ ARP Prot. as well along w/ IPv4 & IPv6 rout. Prot.; Ver. MCLAG fea. & file bugs while test. High Avail. VLAN prot.; Wrk. on MVRP Prot. while test. Shor.-PathBridging Prot. along w/ it using Layer3 switches; Enh. Cov. using IPoverSPB w/ Multilayer switches; Use IP Mult. Prot. to incr. test cov.; Exe. test cases of Rou. Infor. Prot. w/ comb. of Open Shor. Path First feat. & number of def.; Fix bugs in auto. & create test suite for reg.; Men. team in all aspects like test plan crea., test exec.; Deb. & trouble. Prob. in order to root cause issue. Must be willing to travel &/or relocate to work in unanticipated locations throughout the US. No Telecommuting. Salary \$149989/yr. Send res to Noetic Information Systems LLC, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite # 255, Pleasanton, CA-94588.

The Pleasanton Weekly offers employment advertising.
If you wish to learn more about the advertising options, please call 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@pawebly.com.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



AND BECAUSE OF YOU.

Help support local journalism and the dedicated people behind the headlines.



**Gina
Channell Wilcox**

PRESIDENT
AND PUBLISHER
OF EMBARCADERO'S
EAST BAY DIVISION

**Pleasanton
Weekly**

**Danville
San Ramon**

Livermore VINE

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.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$144 to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.

JOIN AT

PleasantonWeekly.com/join/



HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Feb. 6-17 for Pleasanton and Livermore.

Pleasanton

- 315 Abbie Street** D. & A. Kionka to D. Florio for \$1,375,000
- 4109 Amberwood Circle** Thung Living Trust to A. & H. Alvarez for \$910,000
- 4776 Black Avenue** Brase 2005 Trust to I. & A. Jain for \$1,380,000
- 4109 Fairlands Drive** J. & W. Roush to A. & B. Bhargava for \$1,320,000
- 4253 Garibaldi Place** Franzella Trust to S. & M. Madan for \$1,172,500
- 363 Mullin Court** T. & K. Cardinotti to Singh Family Trust for \$2,400,000
- 727 Peters Avenue** M. & D. Paulk to K. & W. Harbourne for \$1,768,000
- 5420 San Jose Drive** Bora Investments LLC to M. & B. Upperla for \$1,560,000
- 1541 Trimmingham Drive** Mckean Trust to N. & S. Surendran for \$1,275,000
- 2707 Turnstone Drive** J. Moniz to J. Liu for \$1,790,000
- 1988 Via Di Salerno** Sunkara Trust to R. & M. Vashisht for \$3,900,000
- 5705 Belleza Drive** W. & L. Adam to S. & D. Ray for \$975,000
- 4396 Clovewood Lane** Sherod Trust to A. & M. Tiwari for \$1,450,000
- 8160 Ensenada Drive #4** Miller Trust to A. & R. Munoz for \$500,000
- 8002 Ensenada Drive #2** L. Sabella to K. & J. Asadi for \$540,000
- 7959 Foothill Knolls Drive** Crawford Family Trust to D. & J. Dashe for \$2,850,000
- 4252 Lucero Court** A. Raghupathy to A. & K. Dharwadkar for \$905,000

- 1067 Nolan Court** Survivors Trust to S. & N. Doshi for \$1,720,000
- 2556 Via Espada** A. & S. Etchelecu to P. & A. Chheda for \$1,581,000
- 3114 Washoe Way** T. & D. Richmond to C. & Z. Guo for \$702,500

Livermore

- 895 Barney Common** G. Venkataraman to N. & J. Liu for \$1,275,000
- 1156 Bava Common** Signorino Family Trust to Y. & M. Yamauchi for \$985,000
- 5563 Charlotte Way** Biro-Manley Trust to M. Deshmukh for \$1,035,000
- 2472 College Avenue** G. Guillory to G. Herscu for \$750,000
- 6972 Deerwood Court** S. Jones to R. Rajagopalan for \$930,000
- 772 Delaware Way** E. Engberg to L. & R. Gray for \$1,050,000
- 307 Garden Common** H. Ghan to P. & S. Cabrera for \$690,000
- 2464 Harewood Drive** Moon Trust to S. & E. Shahinian for \$915,000
- 2978 Kiwi Common** I. Leytman to T. & H. Ho for \$990,000
- 421 Lincoln Avenue** B. & H. Guidry to Young Family Trust for \$900,000
- 711 Los Alamos Avenue** C. Johnston to Kondareddy Family Trust for \$797,000
- 790 Meadowlark Street** Price Trust to Redwood Holdings LLC for \$759,000
- 229 Mulqueeny Street** M. & T. Wood to M. & M. Purswani for \$1,040,000
- 626 South S Street** A. Shum to J. & D. Mccafferty for \$965,000
- 1681 Spruce Street** Cabernet Properties LLC to W. Li for \$1,010,000

- 573 Zircon Way** Hufford Family Trust to N. & K. Bartlett for \$1,068,000
- 950 Alden Lane** M. Hansen to Balaji Family Trust for \$1,460,000
- 855 Avalon Way** S. & E. Gomez to P. & S. Kona for \$1,130,000
- 3948 California Way** C. & G. Przybylski to D. & C. Seeger for \$800,000
- 680 Cedar Drive** Golden Choice Homes LLC to F. & A. Prakash for \$950,000
- 1404 Chelsea Way** Kamp Family Trust to J. & C. Tuttle for \$1,350,000
- 5933 Crestmont Avenue** J. Ramirez to P. & A. Ravichandran for \$800,000
- 5792 Daphne Drive** N. Arante to K. & J. Walters for \$1,331,500
- 1070 Glenn Common** G. Roberts to R. & C. Cassarino for \$550,000
- 410 Hanover Street** Seuser Trust to J. & S. Singaravelan for \$889,000

- 2644 Kennedy Street** Rich Family Trust to M. & S. Mitra for \$890,000
- 1215 Lakehurst Road** Waller Family Trust to Av Homes LLC for \$860,000
- 2345 Palm Avenue** Rogers Family Trust to J. & A. Zeck for \$1,000,000
- 537 Ruby Road** S. & D. Perkins to L. & K. Aronds for \$1,055,000
- 3234 Saratoga Court** K. & D. Thomas to Ghorbani Trust for \$2,885,000
- 175 Selby Lane #5** S. Carrell to S. & R. Moore for \$829,000

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.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Feb. 6-17)

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$500,000
Highest sale reported: \$3,900,000
Average sales reported: \$1,503,993

Livermore (Feb. 6-17)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$690,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,275,000
Average sales reported: \$947,437

Dublin (Feb. 6-17)

Total sales reported: 14
Lowest sale reported: \$643,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,600,000
Average sales reported: \$1,336,928

San Ramon (Feb. 6-17)

Total sales reported: 30
Lowest sale reported: \$550,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,885,000
Average sales reported: \$1,189,849

Source: California REsource

FREE
GOOGLE BUSINESS BOOTCAMP
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH
11:30PM-1:00PM



GOOD MORNING MAXWELL
1850 SECOND STREET,
LIVERMORE, CA

As a small business owner and boutique real estate group, I believe in the power of local. We are thrilled to partner with Good Morning Maxwell to offer this lunch & learn workshop at no cost to our fellow local small businesses to raise your digital visibility & get more foot traffic to your local business!



Register Here!



Lunch will be provided!

CONNECT *California* **HOMES**
 A MODERN REAL ESTATE AGENCY



Pending Sale

3590 CHURCHILL CT, PLEASANTON



Coming Soon

OFF-MARKET LISTING IN IRONWOOD ESTATES
CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

Who you work with matters. Let's Connect.

KATIE MOE
 Founder | Realtor®
 925.216.9083
 DRE #01507863

JENNY SHIBLAQ
 Realtor®
 925.202.9026
 DRE #02049561

SANDRA KOZIMOR
 Realtor®
 925.588.6787
 DRE #01943317

STEPHANIE HEVEZI
 Realtor®
 510.410.9802
 DRE #02131973

ELIAS MUNIZ
 Realtor®
 925-524-8055
 DRE #01751724

DISCOVER OUR UNIQUENESS @ CONNECTCAHOMES.COM



THE
**BLAISE LOFLAND
&
KELLY MCKAIG**

REAL ESTATE GROUP
CONNECTING PEOPLE & PROPERTY



Blaise Lofland



Kelly Mckaig



Desiree Fanucchi



Ashley Kenitzer

925.846.6500

DRE 00882113

blaiselofland.com

blaise@blaiselofland.com

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated.

KELLERWILLIAMS
Luxury
INTERNATIONAL

WE LIST, WE SELL, WE CLOSE!

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

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

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.

SOLD PRICE: \$1,500,000

MULTIPLE OFFERS RECEIVED

VENEMA HOMES

EXPERIENCE  EXCELLENCE



PowerHOUSE Leaders!

It matters who you work with!

- Highest Sale in KWTV History: \$4,850,000
- Highest Second Sale in KWTV History: \$4,825,000
- Highest Price Per Square Foot: \$1,120
- Highest KWTV Luxury Brand Builder Award
- Ranked 127th In The Nation
- Close To One Billion In Sales Volume
- 1,200+ Households Helped



LIZ VENEMA FOUNDING LUXURY MEMBER, KWTV

FOR SALE
Listed at \$4,795,000

Ruby Hill




1904 Zenato Place
Brenda Meckenstock • 925.353.6484

FOR SALE
Listed at \$4,449,999

Livermore




12400 Morgan Territory Rd.
Sabrina Tirado • 925.578.4303

FOR SALE
Listed at \$1,749,000

Pleasanton




5847 San Juan Way
Liz Venema • 925.413.6544

PENDING
Representing Buyer

Danville




433 Sycamore Hill Drive
Michelle Kroger • 925.785.3134

PENDING
Listed at \$2,395,000

Dublin




10767 Inspiration Way
Celeste Storrs • 925.519.3019

PENDING
Representing Buyer

Livermore




130 Prato Way
Sabrina Tirado • 925.578.4303

SOLD
Sold for \$2,200,000

Danville




5920 Old School Road
Alexis Venema • 925.963.5446

SOLD
166k Over List Price
Sold for \$1,665,000

Pleasanton



5804 San Carlos Way
Liz Venema • 925.413.6544

COMING SOON
Listed at \$3,449,000

Castlewood



42 Golf Road
Liz Venema • 925.413.6544