

# Pleasanton Weekly

New podcast tells veterans' stories

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Tri-Valley studio tour to connect local artists with the community

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# WHAT A WEEK



By JEREMY WALSH

## Enjoying 'Memory Lane'

‘W’hat was it like to live in Pleasanton back in the 1950s? How many people lived here? Where did they come from, and why did they come here? How did they make a living? What did they do for entertainment? If you are curious, this book is a treasury of stories that answer those questions and many more.”

The opening lines of the foreword by Francine King Rivers teases well the tales and photos shared in “Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s”.

The 400-word book features first-person anecdotes from more than 40 longtime residents about themselves and the people, places and institutions that made the city what it was in the '50s — and in many ways, what it still is.

You may remember the cover story our reporter Christian Trujano wrote last Oct. 21 (with four of the storytellers posed at the Pleasanton Pioneer Founders Mural on our front page) highlighting the book's creation process when the authors and editors were in the final stages.

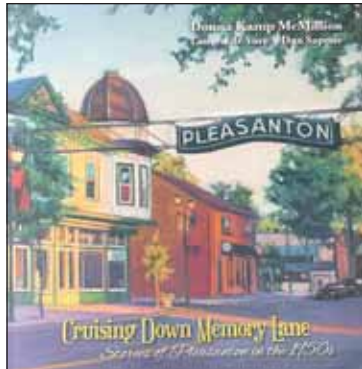
“Cruising Down Memory Lane” is now complete, and it's every bit as engaging and insightful as the organizers hoped it would be.

“The stories they tell, recounting their own lives and those of their Pleasanton forebears, form the collective fabric of the Pleasanton we know today. Please note that the stories in this book are not history. Rather, they are the individuals' own stories, told in their own words from their memories and their perspectives,” Donna Kamp McMillion, the lead interviewer for the book, wrote in its introduction pages.

Reading through the courtesy media copy I received from McMillion ahead of the public book launch party this weekend, I was struck most by the authentic storytelling throughout: Real people opening up about their memories, and that of their families, coupled with original black-and-white photographs from the era to present a true community chronicle.

The book represents a who's who of Pleasanton history. The family names jump out right away: Koopmann, Irby, Hansen, Fiorio, Lund, Orloff, Georgia, Philcox, McCloud — the list goes on and on.

So many stories that should intrigue old-timers, newcomers and any resident in between.



Book jacket for the newly released “Cruising Down Memory Lane: Stories of Pleasanton in the 1950s.”

It should come as little surprise that Patty Walker Cleveland's chapter stood out to me. In “Recalling the times of The Pleasanton Times”, she talks about the founding of their family-operated newspaper and its impact on her, the family, its employees and the community over the years through to her folks' difficult decision to sell to the Leshner group/Contra Costa Times.

Here's a snippet of the other sections I really enjoyed:

“Growing up on the Meadowlark Dairy, wooden shoes and all” by Bruce Takens, Bob Takens and Winnie Takens Smith. “Remembering Pleasanton's first town doctor” by Hal Shanks. “Growing up Italian in 1950s Pleasanton” by Mike Antonini and Carolyn Antonini Cardinali. “From the wrecking yard to life in the fast lane” by Rich Guasco. “A good life, with animals all around” by Lynn Moller Skarratt.

Consider checking it out for yourself. The book can be ordered now via Towne Center Books for \$38.50. The launch/book-signing party is set for 3-5 p.m. Sunday (May 7) at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Pleasanton. The event costs \$10 per person; RSVP required via the book store.

Proceeds from the book sales benefit Amador Valley High School's AV/journalism program. Individual donations to support the book organizers' “Stories from Pleasanton's Past, Powering the Future” project can be made via the Three Valleys Community Foundation. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/Cruising-Down-Memory-Lane](http://tinyurl.com/Cruising-Down-Memory-Lane). ■

*Editor's note: Jeremy Walsh is the editorial director for the Embarcadero Media East Bay Division. His “What a Week” column is a recurring feature in the Pleasanton Weekly.*

### About the Cover

Artist Mike D'Amelio embraces his original works, “Just Let Me Go” and “Hysteria”. A member of the Alliance for the Visual Arts, D'Amelio's creative process will be on display as part of the Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour this weekend. Photo courtesy TVAST.

Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XXIV, Number 15

## GINA'S COMING SOON



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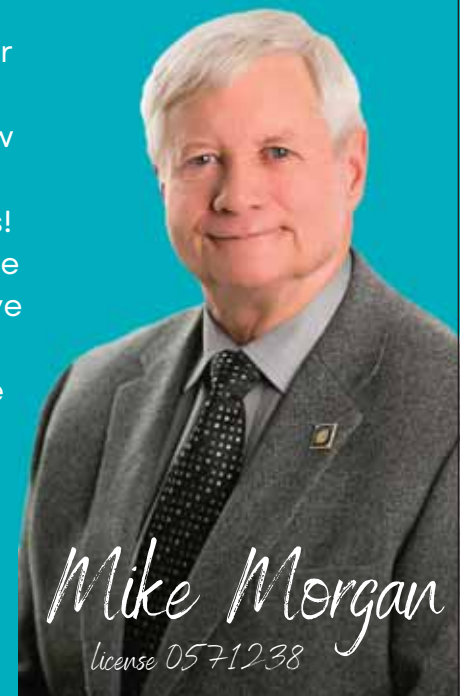
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SUMMER

# 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.

## Las Positas College Summer Camps

LasPositasCollege.edu/SummerCamps

### Biotech Bootcamps

- Intro to Biotechnology: June 19-22, 2023 | 10am to 3pm Building 1800
  - Intermediate Biotechnology: June 26-29, 2023 10am to 3pm | Building 1800
  - \$100 per student per session | Age Group: 16-18 Years
- Biotechnology is used to diagnose diseases, make vaccines, solve forensic cases, and improve the food we eat. In this week-long camp you will get a chance to utilize some basic molecular biology tools used in biotech to observe and analyze cells, viruses, proteins, and DNA. Students are encouraged to enroll in both courses.

### Digital Media

- Character Design Camp: June 12-15, 2023 | 9am to 2pm Building 700, Room 714
  - \$100 per student per session | Age Group: 14-18 Years
- Have you ever wanted to create your own character and bring it to life? Designing a captivating character is vital for graphic novels, movies, video games and many other industries. In this summer camp, we will draw and paint your own character in Photoshop, taking style, costuming and props into consideration, as well as expressions and gestures.

### Digital Media

- Creature Design Camp: High School: June 26-29, 2023 | 9:00am to 2:00pm Building 700, Room 714 Middle School: July 10-13, 2023 | 9:00am to 2:00pm Building 700, Room 714
- \$100 per student per session
- Age Group: Middle School 11-14 Years, and High School 14-18 Years

Learn the fundamentals of creature design! Whether your creature is a faithful companion, adorable pet, or evil boss, creatures are vital to the creation of any fictional universe. Many illustrators focus on creature design, creating works for movies, games, and animation. In this camp, we will use Adobe Photoshop to sketch and paint our own creature, taking into consideration their anatomy, environment, and behavior.

### Interior Design

- June 26-29, 2023 | 10:00am to 12:30pm | Via Zoom
  - \$100 per student per session | Age Group: 14-18 Years and Up
- Introduction to Interior Design with use of design tools and products. Students will be hands-on to create digital boards and presentations of a desired space. Students will hand draft and computer draft a room working with drafting tools given and computer programs. Design kits will be available for pick up on campus the week before.

### Press Pass 2023 - Summer Sports Institute

- July 17-20, 2023 | 10:00am to 3:00pm | Room 2416
  - \$100 per student per session | Age Group: 14-18 Years
- Get a taste of one of media's most-coveted professions — sports journalism. This week-long course will give students an opportunity to try their hand at the craft, learn from professionals in the field and get modern insight on the latest practices in the industry. Some of the skills developed: writing, interviewing, storytelling, game analysis and, yes, debate. A career in sports media just might begin here.

### Summer Jazz Camps

- Middle School: June 19-22, 2023 | 10:00am to 3:00pm Building 4000 | Age Group: 11-14 Years
- High School: June 26-29, 2023 | 10:00am to 4:00pm Building 4000 | Age Group: 14-18 Years
- \$100 per student per session

Each summer, the LPC Music Department welcomes Middle and High School students of all ability levels to our campus for 4 intensive days where we work on: Improvisation, Music Theory, Arranging, Performance, Rehearsal, and much more. Campers work directly with LPC Music Faculty and present a public performance on Thursday, June 29 on the Mertes Main Stage headlined by a guest combo made up of faculty from the California Jazz Conservatory.

## 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.

# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## When you're feeling under the weather or otherwise out of sorts, what do you do to comfort, heal and soothe yourself?



### Nancy Morehead

Retired

When I'm out of sorts, I go for a walk with my dog Tilly. Fresh air and greenery always restores me. When I'm actually sick though, I rest up and listen to books on tape until I feel relaxed, which allows my body to recover and get better.



### Shivan Gandhi

Software manager

I go to my parents' house, or to other places where things need fixing, and I fix everything. It takes my mind off of not feeling well, and then usually once I've fixed everything I can fix, I feel better.



### Kavya Dindu

Product manager

When I don't feel quite right, I like to get into my most comfy, fluffy pajamas and crawl into bed and eat my favorite ice cream, straight out of the container. Usually once I've done all that, after a day or two, I feel all better.



### Lauren Fairchild

Cybersecurity sales

I take a hot shower. Sometimes two, and try to get plenty of sleep. If possible, I try to avoid taking any medications and/or tinctures. And usually once nature has taken its course and my body has had a chance to rest and heal, I feel all better and good again.



### Paige Fairchild

Community associate

I drink tea and go for a lot of walks outdoors because the fresh air tends to help clear my head. This is a remedy that always seems to work for me. I think everyone else should try it.

—Compiled by Nancy and Jeff Lewis

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

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## DIGEST

### First Weekend on Main

The heart of downtown Pleasanton will see pedestrians and bicyclists roaming more freely, with Main Street closed to vehicular traffic from 5 p.m. today through 9 p.m. Sunday for the opening First Weekends on Main event of 2023.

Organized by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the event occurs monthly in the spring, summer and fall on the first weekend of the month. For May, First Weekend on Main also coincides with the Artists on Main display from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the PDA's annual Wine & Art Stroll from 5-8 p.m. — both on Main Street on Saturday (May 6).

For more information, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

### 'Etch and Catch'

The Livermore Police Department is partnering with the Las Positas College automotive department to host another catalytic converter etching event next Thursday.

"Technicians will etch your license plate on your catalytic converter and spray paint your car with a Livermore Police identifier," LPD officials said. "It helps deter theft and track your catalytic converter if it's stolen."

Offered on a first-come, first-served basis, the "Etch and Catch" event is set from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last vehicle in line at 3 p.m.) in LPC's Building 800.

### Trinity concert

The Trinity Concert Series is featuring some of the most memorable songs from stage and screen this Saturday evening when it presents "Dreams! The Music of Life and Hope from Broadway and Hollywood."

"This concert is a musical play set at the Creative Musicians Retreat in Wolfeboro, N.H., in the summer of 2022. The play follows the attendees, faculty and staff as they prepare for their show at the end of the retreat and they tell their stories about performance anxiety, self-doubt, broken dreams and imposter syndrome," organizers said.

Starring Leandra Ramm, Filo Ebid, Brie Martin and Joachim Luis and featuring Areté Singers, the show is set for 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church at 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Go to [www.tlcppleasanton.org](http://www.tlcppleasanton.org).

### DHS Film Festival

The ninth annual Dublin High School Film Festival is returning to the campus' Performing Arts Center next Thursday (May 11) at 7 p.m.

With a movie premiere feel, the festival will feature the 13 finalists selected by judges who reviewed the record-setting 120-plus student submissions for this year's competition. Visit [gaelsvb.com](http://gaelsvb.com). ■

## Student behavior, safety take center stage at council-school board joint meeting

Staff also discuss SRO program, crossing guards, campus fencing improvements

By Christian Trujano

Parents and many community members were outraged when they saw a video on social media in January showing a Pleasanton Middle School student punching and stomping on the head of another student in front of the city library — many of whom spoke at Pleasanton school board and City Council meetings during public comments in those following weeks.

So when the council joined the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees at their district office meeting room for an annual joint meeting on April 20, district staff made sure to cover a wide range of topics to address community concerns about their children's safety at school.

Other aspects of student safety were also covered as the Pleasanton Police Department presented the latest about the school resource officer program and the city's traffic engineer shared an update on crossing guards

and how the city is working to establish a criteria for possibly adding new crossing guard locations.

### Student behavior

Ed Diolazo, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent of student support services for PUSD, kicked off the evening with safety at the school site level and how the pandemic had affected students' behavior because they didn't have socialization skills.

He said that those who had support at home, the experience might have hindered their education, but for those who didn't have that same support it was devastating to their educational and behavioral development — which can lead to negative behavior such as fighting at school.

"Kids need to socialize," Diolazo said. "Part of being in school is learning how to learn. Especially for our youngest students, that concept about coming to school and figuring out how you fit in the world; when you're

not around other students that can definitely be impacted."

"So when we think about behavior, especially for some of our students, they've never been on a campus," he added.

And while he said that most of those young elementary students didn't have much trouble acclimating to a regular campus, that wasn't the case for a lot of students — specifically those who came from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds or students who might be experiencing some form of trauma.

"We know that sometimes social isolation can cause certain levels of trauma and we know that behavior actually is a response to trauma," Diolazo said.

That's why he said PUSD has been exploring different ways to teach these students so that they can begin to be more proactive in dealing with behavioral issues that can be caused by the student not being able to learn due to whatever trauma they might

be going through.

He said the idea of restorative teaching practices and creating a space for students to feel comfortable talking to staff and teachers will be the solution to helping students rather than things like suspension. Although he did point out that when needed, school will still swiftly suspend students as consequences for serious actions.

"Restoring relationships, repairing harm — those are the things we'd rather do rather than just send a student home to be suspended," Diolazo said.

He then went on to talk about the incident that happened outside of the library in January and the efforts from Pleasanton Middle School and district administration to restore a sense of safety at the school.

Diolazo said that apart from community town halls, safety surveys being conducted and a coalition being formed that got student and

See **JOINT MEETING** on Page 6

## Council approves continuation of water rate study

City also allocates grant money to community programs

By Christian Trujano

The Pleasanton City Council has unanimously approved staff's recommendation to continue working with financial consultants in updating water rate models and continuing their work in preparing a water rate study.

Tamara Baptista, interim director of operations and water utilities, told the council on April 18 that the approved amendment and increase in the contract amount not to exceed \$259,550 with the consultant firm Raftelis, Inc., will help staff to complete a water rate study that they say is crucial in restoring the water enterprise fund, which is running low.

"The rate study will help the city maintain adequate funding for the operations and maintenance of the water system, help replenish the reserves for council and to get them up to approved reserve levels ... and to better position the city to pursue future debt financing," Baptista said.

Water rates in the city of Pleasanton have been stagnant for the last three years since the city had to pause its water rates study back in 2019 due to the pandemic and issues with finding longlasting chemicals in its groundwater wells.



CHUCK DECKERT

A tap runs water inside a Pleasanton home.

When the city contracted Raftelis to conduct water and sewer rate studies in 2019, the goal was to complete the work by 2020.

Because the water rates have not been increased over the past three years, city staff said water sales have continued to decline due to the mandatory 15% conservation that was enacted to alleviate extreme drought conditions — the 15% mandate has been lifted after the recent storms.

Baptista said that led to projected fund balance for the water enterprise fund being below council-approved reserve levels.

"That wasn't supposed to happen, it's supposed to be every

five years," she said regarding the delay in increasing the water rates. "Every five years, we go to council and get the rate increases and that was a plan originally back in September 2019."

The item was originally supposed to be voted on as part of the consent calendar, which are council items that are deemed routine and typically voted on without discussion, but was pulled by Councilmember Jeff Nibert who wanted to emphasize the need to speed up the water rate increase process.

He expressed a need of urgency from staff to accelerate their tentative timeline that was presented to the council, which shows staff working with the Water Liaison Committee from April to September in developing a water rate model.

The tentative timeline presented shows staff working with the water liaison committee from April to September before holding public hearings and workshops. The water rate increases through utility billing — if the council adopts it that way — would be implemented by January 1.

"I'm looking at April 19 to Sept.

See **WATER** on Page 8

## Man dies in apartment stabbing

City's 2nd homicide in 2-week span; investigation ongoing

By Christian Trujano

A man was killed in a stabbing inside the Park Hacienda Apartments complex on Monday morning in what police described as a case of a robbery attempt that escalated to homicide.

Pleasanton police Lt. Erik Silacci told the Weekly that the investigation started when police got a call around 10:30 a.m. on Monday from a witness who said they saw two people in ski masks running from an apartment at the complex on Owens Drive.

The lieutenant said police believe that after some confrontation, the victim was stabbed inside the apartment after the two assailants tried to rob him. Silacci said the victim, who was found unresponsive inside the residence, was pronounced dead at the scene.

As of press time Wednesday, the victim's name has not been released publicly as the coroner had just taken

See **HOMICIDE** on Page 8

# Vigil held for Pleasanton Home Depot employee killed in shooting

Friends, family share stories about Blake Mohs; say he will be dearly missed

BY CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

A crowd of nearly 100 friends, family and community members gathered last Friday for a candlelight vigil to honor the life of Blake Mohs, the 26-year-old Tri-Valley resident who was shot and killed last month while working at the Home Depot in Pleasanton.

The evening vigil, which was hosted by the Boy Scouts of America's Golden Gate Area Council in front of their offices on 6601 Owens Drive, featured a number of speakers who shared stories and celebrated who Mohs was as a person and dedication to the Scouts.

"He was a goofball at heart," said Matt Lindberg, who is the council program director and a close friend of Mohs.

Lindberg met Mohs when they both attended Camp Royaneh, a Boy Scouts camp where Lindberg is now also director.

During the vigil he talked about Mohs' nickname — D.K. — at camp and how it stood for the famous Super Mario character, Donkey Kong, because of the fact that Mohs would dress up in a gorilla costume for performances during camp.

"Blake loved getting into this outfit," he said. "And it wasn't for his own sense of self worth ... he did it because

he loved to be such a goofball, he did it for the kids."

He said Mohs was the reason he kept coming back to camp and that Mohs made the camp experience feel like a second home and a second family.

The vigil took place 10 days after Pleasanton police allege Benicia Knapps, a 32-year-old Oakland resident, shot Mohs as she tried to take a large yellow Dewalt box without paying from the Home Depot on Johnson Drive on April 18.

Mohs, who died later that day at an area hospital, was a loss prevention employee at the store and attempted to stop Knapps whom police allege fled the scene in a getaway car that was being driven by David Guillory, 31, with Knapps' 21-month-old child in the car as well. After her arrest, Knapps admitted holding the gun but claimed it fired accidentally, according to a police report filed with the court.

"When I first heard the news, it was a complete shock to me," Charlie Utecht, another one of Mohs' camp friends, told the Weekly on Friday. "I had just spoken with him a week before. Hearing this news and hearing the details was just devastating."

Utecht, who met Mohs 10 years ago at camp, also spoke during the

vigil and recounted all the fun times he and Mohs had — like when they accidentally scared all of the horses in the feeding pad to the pasture by cracking a whip they found one night.

"Blake was just this amazing person," Utecht said. "He would walk into a room and just fill it with positivity ... He loved to make people laugh, loved to help people, always the first to shoot up his hand to volunteer for something."

Utecht said that even though he hadn't seen Mohs in a very long time, he always considered him to be a close friend and like a brother.

"He had so much life left in him and he had so much life in him in general. It's a tragedy that he got taken from us so soon," Utecht said. "I know that he was doing his job, but it's just so sad."

Edward Gabrielson, who worked with Mohs at various scout BB gun ranges for the last five to six years, told the Weekly that he only had one word for how he felt when he got the phone call about Mohs' death — disbelief.

"He was such a genuine Eagle Scout," Gabrielson said. "Everything they described was an Eagle Scout, that was Blake."

He said that they were even set to work together on one of the ranges later that month and that Mohs



CHRISTIAN TRUJANO

Eric Mohs holds wife Lorie during the vigil for their son, Blake, on April 28 in the parking lot of the Boy Scouts of America's Golden Gate Area Council.

had told him just a couple of years ago that Mohs wanted to take over Gabrielson's position.

"We got to the point where we were literally finishing each other's sentences," he said during the vigil. "It's stunning to hear what happened."

But while he was grieving with the rest of the crowd, he also touched on remembering Mohs for the giving person he was and how the Scouts will have to carry on without Mohs — even if it is going to be difficult.

"It's just going to be very hard this coming week to get it together ... but we pride ourselves on whatever happens — continuing," Gabrielson said. "This is probably the worst one we're going to have to deal with, but we will deal with it and we will have a good camp and hopefully the campers won't even notice that we're all walking around like zombies."

And as the crowd prepared their

candles for a moment of silence for Mohs, many even joked saying that the wind that kept blowing out the candles was his last goofball prank to his friends and family.

The Mohs family, along with members of the Boy Scouts, asked at the end of the ceremony for contributions honoring Mohs to be made to Camp Royaneh, where he spent a lot of his time and where he met his fiancée. To donate, you can visit [www.eagles.ggacbsa.org](http://www.eagles.ggacbsa.org).

A Go Fund Me account has also been set up in his memory and as of publication, has raised over \$42,000 with 565 people having donated. According to the organizers, the money is going straight to Mohs' mom to help pay for memorial services as well as his mom's goal of preventing anything like what happened to her son from happening to anyone else. ■

## JOINT MEETING

Continued from Page 5

parent perspectives on the incident to help find ways where PUSD can do better in future incidents.

However, the most notable solution to address negative student behavior and specifically the incident at PMS was the "Pleasanton Library Pilot Project".

Lia Bushong, city assistant director of library and recreation, told the council and school board that it's mostly a recreational-based program that gives students a chance for activities and socialization. While the program is on a four-week pause because of library construction, the program is set to return as soon as the temporary closure ends on May 15.

PUSD Trustee Justin Brown confirmed with staff that the library program is mainly targeted for middle schoolers, but they still have fifth graders and some high school students as well.

Leslie Heller, PUSD director of student services, also provided the community with specific expulsion data from all the middle schools as well as suspension due to fighting in order to give more context surrounding the January incident.

She said that while district expulsion data has declined over the past five years, PMS now has the most fighting suspensions after the library

incident occurred — she said before that it was Hart Middle School, which had 40 suspensions.

PUSD Trustee Kelly Mokashi said she was "floored" by the data across all the school sites and wanted to know more about how the district is supporting students going through the transition from elementary to middle school.

Heller said that is important to set behavioral expectations early on, which is where the district's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports multi-tiered system, which provides educators with systemic ways to ensure that students grow and succeed.

Back on the topic of the PMS incident, Vice Mayor Jack Balch asked about the time in between when students walk from the school to the library and had staff inform the public on how principals and administrators supervise students out in the streets and also have people supervising from library since the incident occurred.

Councilmember Valerie Arkin, who is a former PUSD trustee, also wanted to know more about social media use given how the students recording the PMS fight focused more on posting the incident rather than intervening.

Superintendent David Haglund said that while there aren't any new policies regarding social media,

certain policies have been updated.

Councilmember Julie Testa, who said that she and her kids saw a similar incident of the library fight when her children went to PMS, asked about more after-school activities for the rest of the schools.

Diolazo said that there are various after school programs for other schools and that a recently formed Panther Club at PMS will be made available to other middle schoolers and that the recreational program could be created for each of the other schools in the future.

### Student safety

More presence from school resource officers, school security improvements and additional crossing guard locations were the other core points that were discussed during the April 20 joint meeting.

Trustee Brown brought up the point on SROs and how he wanted to see more of a presence from them at the middle schools to which police Lt. Erik Silacci said that while the department is facing staffing issues, the three SROs that are stationed at the high schools still make their rounds to the middle schools and have a strong presence at each of them.

He said the SROs actually get called from the middle schools a lot for consultation, which he emphasized was a key component in the relationship between the SRO

program and how much they handle in terms of discipline along with school site administrators.

Balch also asked when the city should start considering adding more SROs — especially given the fact that more students could move into the district in the future to which PPD Chief David Swing said doesn't know if the city needs to have those discussions just yet and that there really isn't a solid metric to measure when a city would need a certain number of SROs.

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, PUSD assistant superintendent of business services, also touched on some concerns that were brought up by some parents who spoke at the meeting during public comments regarding adding more supervisors, fences around elementary schools and improving the overall safety of PUSD schools.

"School safety encompasses not only the tragic headlines we read about, but also the day to day campus life," said Elizabeth Untermann, a PUSD mom of three. "Have improvements been made, sure. Are there still gaps in safety? Absolutely."

While Sheikholeslami did not touch on bringing in more campus supervisors, he did provide updates from the \$270 million Measure II bond that funded security improvements such as more fences, new state-of-the-art camera systems and a new check in process that requires schools

to lock all doors after a certain time in the morning so that people have to forcefully go through main offices and go through a system that does background checks based using driver's licenses.

As for new crossing guard locations, city traffic engineer Mike Tassano told everyone during his presentation that while the city staff have completed informal reviews around elementary schools and found that approximately 15-20 additional locations could meet the criteria for a crossing guard, it is still up in the air.

He said that the city had already received numerous requests for new crossing guards in 2019 but that there was no formalized criteria for adding crossing guards.

He said that staff initiated an evaluation of existing crossing guard locations to help guide the establishment of criteria for new crossing guard locations but that the 17 new guards that the city is looking at adding could raise the amount the city spends on the program from \$400,000 to \$800,000.

Tassano added that if they keep the 23 guards that the city currently has, then staff will look at the requests for new locations and if the location meets the newly developed criteria, they will evaluate relocating an existing crossing guard with the corresponding school site administration. ■

# 200+ attend meeting to hear Springtown Open Space plans

Community garden, pickleball courts, disc golf course among proposed Phase 1 amenities

By CIERRA BAILEY

The Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge in Springtown was packed with over 200 community members last week eager to hear the city's plans for development in the neighborhood located in the foothills of northeast Livermore.

The conversation around Springtown's future has recently resurfaced after an approved 2017 Open Space Plan was put on hold by the city due to a lack of funding available at the time to begin building. The city aims to bring a number of public, outdoor amenities to the residential community over the course of several phases.

While public works director Scott Lanphier confirmed during the April 26 meeting that the city is not changing the previously approved plan, the purpose of the event was to refresh residents' memories of it, answer questions and gather updated input about the proposed near-term improvements in Phase 1 of implementing the plan with the roughly \$1 million that has been identified for the project thus far.

Some of the proposed developments in Phase 1 that were presented during the meeting include

a community garden, shade structures, bike racks, multi-purpose fields, a Frisbee/disc golf course, picnic/playground areas and pickleball courts.

The city initiated the process to convert the 85-acre former golf course located in the heart of Springtown into an open space when the nine-hole course was closed in 2015. The property was locked into the existing open space designation by voter approval of Measure FF in the 2016 general election.

The Springtown Open Space Plan was prepared with assistance by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and adopted by City Council in 2017. City officials said the study that led to the approved plan included community input through workshops and comments on the draft plan. The master plan was estimated to cost as much as \$27 million at the time.

"I remember coming to this part of the city when I was interviewing and really realizing how disconnected the community was from the rest of the city and also how much potential you have in the open space," said City Manager Marianna Marysheva, who is approaching one year with the city this month.

She said that at that time, she was made aware of the Open Space Plan and the projected cost.

"The master plan is so expensive but you know what, we don't need to have the entire \$30 million to improve this. So staff — we have a brilliant staff — put our heads together and said, 'Where do we have funds and how much do we have?' and it is possible that we may have a million or two of funding that is shared by the city and the parks district," she said, noting that they are still working to confirm exactly how much is available but even though it may not be much, it's enough for a start.

Several residents shared questions and comments during the roughly two-hour meeting, including one community member who highlighted that although the plan has been approved since 2017, there are some residents who didn't fully agree with it back then and still don't today due to a number of concerns including traffic, maintenance of the new amenities and parking, among other potential issues.

Many other residents expressed that while they do agree with the plan and are glad to see it moving forward, they are also worried about some of the same issues and how it

will affect their day-to-day lives.

A number of audience members shared their public support for the addition of a disc golf course, citing the potential to bring tournaments to the city and more community members from other neighborhoods to Springtown. On the other hand, some other residents questioned whether tournaments and more visitors would be a good thing or would exacerbate the traffic and parking woes that they're already concerned about.

There were also concerns expressed about attracting unhoused residents to take shelter underneath the proposed shaded structures or at new picnic and playground areas.

Others were generally skeptical about the project actually moving ahead this time.

Addressing Marysheva and Lanphier — who started with the city in 2019 — resident Terry Stillwell said, "I think that you guys weren't here when this all started rolling, so I don't think you understand maybe that the people in Springtown have a tendency to feel like we're the bald-headed stepchildren of the city. I don't think we feel that our parks get the same level of maintenance as the parks in the more affluent

communities do within Livermore."

She continued, "When this first started, we had high-density, low-income housing proposed for the open space, which the community came together and made very clear that was not going to happen on our watch. So if you walked into this meeting and you're feeling a little bit of hostility, it's because of our lack of trust that we've had with the previous administration over the process to bring us to where we are today."

She added that she and her neighbors want to make sure that "the promises that were made are going to be kept."

Prior to last week's meeting, officials also presented conceptual drawings of the proposed improvements to the community at the Climate & Environmental Expo that took place in Springtown on April 19.

As part of the city's efforts to beautify Springtown, the Department of Public Works already implemented some minor improvements at the Springtown Branch Library last year, including adding drought tolerant plantings, mulch and new signage in front of the library.

More information about the Springtown Open Space plan can be found at [www.livermoreca.gov](http://www.livermoreca.gov). ■

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RIDE RAPID



# Tri-Valley student heading to National Spelling Bee

Middle schooler eyes top prize after years of wins at various levels

By JEANITA LYMAN

A San Ramon middle school student is preparing this month for what could be the culmination of an illustrious career as an award-winning spelling bee champion as he gears up for the end of academic term and begins considering what his high school and college years might bring.



Dhruv Subramanian

Dhruv Subramanian, a seventh grade student at Windemere Ranch Middle School, is heading across the country at the end of May to represent the city, county and state at the

Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington D.C.

"I am so proud of Dhruv's accomplishment in the Spelling Bee," Windemere Ranch principal Sharon Baltazar said. "At Windemere Ranch, our students thrive as learners. They are exemplary both in and out of the classroom in all they do, and Dhruv has exemplified this at an incredible level and a true Falcon."

While Subramanian's self-described encyclopedic knowledge of the English language and its rules, origins and applications — as well as his success in spelling bee competitions and chance to win at the national level — are points of pride for his school, district and county, the origins of all of these can be traced back to his earliest experiences with language.

His father, Sathesh Subramanian, said that competing and succeeding at spelling bees came naturally early on, in the throes of an early childhood spent marveling over encyclopedias and learning new words and information from any and all available sources.

"He was actually just curious about learning new things and always had fun being quizzed on it," Sathesh Subramanian said. "This was just a natural extension because as he started getting into the circuit it became apparent that there were other kids that were like him that were interested in learning the roots and the hist of every word."

Dhruv Subramanian first competed in the North South Foundation Junior Spelling Bee as a kindergartener, and was one of only two

students in his grade to compete in that competition nationally. He went on to compete again throughout elementary school, scoring 21st place nationally in first grade, 11th place in second grade, then first place in third grade.

"I like looking at weird and interesting letter combinations of words, and I find them in my everyday life," Subramanian said. "For example in the year that I won the bee in third grade, that year I got the word 'humectant'. I had seen that in one of my soap bottle covers and I remembered it from there."

This year, Subramanian came in third place at the Bay Area Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, and is heading to Stockton ahead of the national competition to represent Contra Costa County at the California State

Junior High Spelling Bee on May 13.

Despite years of experience on the spelling bee circuit, Subramanian said that his pending trip for the national Scripps competition was the pinnacle of his competitive spelling career thus far.

"It's definitely a thrill ride for anyone who wants to take part in it, for anyone that's competed in the National Spelling Bee; it seems so surreal," Subramanian said. "It seems surreal in a manner. I feel like the national competition is the height of everything. It comprises all individuals from everywhere around the world."

The Scripps National Spelling Bee was first launched close to a century ago in 1925, with the millions of students who have competed since making it the largest as well as the oldest educational program in the country. The final round is broadcast on national television.

"It would feel like I'm on the top of the world of spelling; it's like I can't go any higher," Subramanian said. ■

## HOMICIDE

Continued from Page 5

the body on Monday night and was still working to positively identify the victim and notify his family.

The two culprits fled the scene on Monday morning, and they remained at-large as of early

Wednesday afternoon.

Silacci said that as PPD continues to investigate the fatal stabbing, if anyone saw anything before or after the incident they should reach out and provide any information they have.

"It's a pretty busy apartment complex," Silacci said. "We're still doing neighborhood canvases and

looking for any sort of video surveillance and any other sort of evidence, but right now we just don't have much information."

This marked the second homicide in Pleasanton in less than two weeks, following the fatal shooting of Home Depot loss prevention employee Blake Mohs during an attempted theft at the Johnson Drive

store on April 18.

While the lieutenant said Monday's stabbing appears to be an isolated incident and that "there is no public threat at this time", he also acknowledged the fact that this was the second major violent crime within a short amount of time in Pleasanton.

"Pleasanton historically has and continues to have a very low, violent

crime rate," Silacci said. "Our investigators are diligently working on trying to identify who was responsible for this and taking them into custody."

PPD is asking the public to help locate the two suspects and that if anyone has information about the homicide, they can call the department's tip line at 925-931-5107. ■

## WATER

Continued from Page 5

1, to work on the rate model and to report to various other agencies — including the water liaison committee meetings — update rate models and so on," Nibert said. "I would like to see that happen earlier so that we could have results earlier and be able to hold the public hearings earlier, the workshops earlier and potentially implementation of water rate increases earlier."

"I'm looking out at the future and thinking it could be a very significant need for city revenue in order to address the concerns and the crisis that we could be facing," he added.

Nibert's request to speed up the process was met with unanimous support from the rest of the dias as fellow council members agreed with the need to help the city's financial hole in its water enterprise fund.

"We're bleeding to a point where we're at a 23% reserve as of June 30," Vice Mayor Jack Balch said. "What is the reserve level going to be on Dec. 31, at the end of this calendar year, and what is it at the end of the next fiscal year? How much capital do we have to take out of the water capital fund and how much reserve comes out?"

Balch said he has seen the water rate study with the PFAS funding element in it so he said he's hopeful that the PFAS element can simply be removed and be brought forward quickly.

"We're not necessarily recreating

those underlying elements, possibly just simply updating those as I recall," Balch said.

But Baptista and City Manager Gerry Beaudin said that while they can work with staff in speeding up the process from the April to September timeframe, there are some limitations as to the overall process.

"So because we're now getting 100% for water from Zone 7 instead of the groundwater (wells), we have to shift the rate structure," Baptista said. "We're gonna have to update the financial model, we have to update our usage data and then we have to restructure the rates because of the use of groundwater from Zone 7 versus the city of Pleasanton's groundwater allocation in the rates."

Beaudin also said that because of state laws surrounding water rates, the city has to follow certain timeframes to allow for public hearings and to inform the community.

"The takeaway for us is we need to get it done as quickly as possible. I think with the Water Subcommittee, we can certainly lay out a timeline that gets it done as fast as possible," Beaudin said.

He added that while they do need to adhere to state laws in informing the public about the water rate discussions, staff will work on putting together a schedule to "pigeonhole" the Water Subcommittee to condense their discussion into fewer meetings rather than letting them take several weeks.

"I think, for the sake of time, we might want to get something on the books rather than let it live for longer

and miss this opportunity to get it done as efficiently as possible knowing that we will have to come back once we know what our (PFAS) treatment option will be and redo the rates again, or update this rate study again," Beaudin said.

Mayor Karla Brown rounded up the discussion by asking staff to look into an interim rate adjustment that would reflect the 100% purchase of water from the Zone 7 Water Agency due to the shutting down of the three city-operated water wells.

"Even if it's like a 10% rate increase across the board," Brown said. "I'm just trying to protect our funds because as it's been stated so many times tonight, they're dangerously low, and they will continue to fall, if we don't recoup our expenses."

"Zone seven increases their rate, and we're buying more water," Brown added. "By the time we actually can adjust our rates, we have lost a significant amount of money in the fund or percentage of our reserves."

### In other business

The council approved the allocation of more than \$1,200,000 for the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHS) and Community Grant programs during the April 18 council meeting.

According to staff, these grant programs will provide funding to support human services, community development, housing, youth, and civic arts projects and programs throughout the Tri-Valley.

The allocation of these funds for the fiscal year 2023-24 will begin on

July 1 — \$660,010 will be allocated to human services-related projects and \$487,003 will be allocated to housing-related projects.

According to the staff presentations, some of this year's Housing and Human Services Grant Program recipients include Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, ECHO Housing Hively, Goodness Village, Open Heart Kitchen and

Tri-Valley Haven.

The council also approved, as recommended by the Civic Arts and Youth Commissions, the allocation of \$87,800 in Community Grant funds to various recipients including the Go Green Initiative, Livermore Valley Arts, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE). ■



COURTESY CALTRANS BAY AREA / JOHN HUSEBY

## Groundbreaking for I-680 express lane project

Officials gathered April 26 to formally break ground on what will be the final segment of high-occupancy vehicle/toll lanes that will stretch from the Carquinez Strait in Contra Costa County to the Santa Clara County line on southbound Interstate 680. The nine-mile, \$326 million express lane project is scheduled for completion in late 2026. Caltrans has combined the project with the replacement of the pavement on that same section of southbound lanes, alleviating the need for another construction project. Shown from left: Caltrans deputy director Doanh Ngyugen joins Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert, Dublin Mayor Melissa Hernandez and Pleasanton City Councilwoman Valerie Arkin to turn the shovels.

## DeSaulnier seeks congressional funding for Tri-Valley projects

List includes \$3.5M for Zone 7's Chain of Lakes

PFAS Treatment Facility project

BY JEANITA LYMAN

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) recently announced that he had advanced a request for federal funding in Congress for more than a dozen local projects throughout his district, including in the Tri-Valley.

The approximately \$30.5 million in congressional funding for local projects DeSaulnier is seeking includes \$8.2 million for several Tri-Valley efforts headed by the cities of San Ramon and Dublin, Zone 7 and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority for environment, public safety, and transportation and infrastructure projects.

"Whether by lowering everyday costs for families, increasing access to public spaces, or by making our communities safer, these projects will each have a meaningful impact on the daily lives of people across our district," DeSaulnier said in the April 18 announcement. "I am grateful to our cities and local organizations for their advocacy and partnership in advancing these projects, and I will fight for them through each step of the process."

In San Ramon, the \$2 million in requested funding would go toward a publicly owned and operated fiber-optic network throughout the city for use by residents and businesses along with city facilities, traffic signals and automated license plate readers.

"On behalf of the City of San Ramon, I would like to thank Congressman DeSaulnier for his support of our Intelligent Transportation System and Citywide Communications Infrastructure Project, which creates numerous opportunities to benefit residents and our business community through a citywide, publicly-owned fiber optic network," San Ramon Vice Mayor Mark Armstrong said.

LAVTA was identified for \$2.5 million for a second hydrogen fueling tank that would expand the agency's capacity for fueling its bus fleet.

"The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority is thrilled that our Hydrogen Fueling Station Expansion Project is on the list for consideration as part of the United States House Appropriations Committee's

Community Project Funding solicitation," said David Haubert, LAVTA board chair and Alameda County supervisor. "This project represents critical infrastructure needed to operate future zero-emissions buses and to meet the growing transportation needs of Tri-Valley residents."

Zone 7's Chain of Lakes PFAS Treatment Facility project is among the five environmental projects proposed for congressional funding by DeSaulnier, who is seeking \$3.5 million to advance the facility.

"Zone 7 Water Agency is thrilled to be considered for federal funding to construct a PFAS treatment facility at the Chain of Lakes wellfield. PFAS are a significant concern in our community and the treatment facility will help ensure continued access to safe and reliable water," Zone 7 General Manager Valerie Pryor said.

As one of the three public safety projects in the current list up for consideration, DeSaulnier is seeking to secure \$198,000 for the city of Dublin's Situational Awareness Camera Project that would provide additional security cameras near the city's parks and schools. ■

## Rainbow trout in Alameda Creek signals return of normal migration

Juvenile fish found last month comes in wake of longtime conservation efforts

BY JEANITA LYMAN

Local conservationists focused on restoring Alameda Creek as a habitat for steelhead trout and other fish species who carry out most of their lives in ocean waters before migrating to inland waterways to spawn are celebrating what they call a milestone after finding a young fish they have been seeking to see accommodated in the local tributary to San Francisco Bay last month.

A juvenile rainbow trout was found in the creek by Alameda County Water District and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, who issued a joint statement on April 24 along with the Alameda Creek Alliance.

"We've made incredible progress building fish migration infrastructure in the lower urban portion of our watershed, allowing spawning adult salmon and steelhead to swim upstream to reach good habitat in Niles Canyon and the upper watershed toward Sunol Regional Wilderness," Jeff Miller, director of the alliance, said in a statement. "But the successful downstream migration of juvenile fish is just as critical; it's gratifying to be able to document some of our trout moving toward the Bay to complete

their dramatic life cycle."

The young rainbow trout's appearance in the creek's lower watershed means that things are going as planned for conservationists at the alliance, as well as ACWD and SFPUC officials, who have collaborated for more than 20 years to restore the creek as a viable habitat for adult steelhead to spawn, and for juvenile rainbow trout who result to migrate through in order to carry out the majority of their adult lives in the open ocean.

Tagged juvenile trout were first detected in the upper watershed in October, with the completion of a "fish ladder" that enables fish to navigate through a previously impenetrable barrier to the open bay being completed in December. This means that in addition to being born and growing in the creek, the juvenile fish can return as adult steelhead for their own spawning process.

SFPUC biologist Brian Sak said that while it was gratifying to see results from the decades of work aimed at restoring the creek as a spawning habitat for steelhead, conservation efforts such as those leading up to the milestone marked last month are necessarily long, painstaking processes, with SFPUC having been monitoring steelhead — or the lack

thereof — in the creek since 1998.

"We've always expected that some of the resident rainbow trout in the upper watershed that have been shown to be directly related to the system's historic steelhead make it out to the Bay and ocean when the conditions are just right," Sak said. "But we have been hoping that reservoir water releases designed to improve spawning and rearing, along with passage improvements, would make things easier for fish."

"Having confirmation for the first time that trout from upstream are making it downstream to at least Fremont is wonderful news for the countless people that have worked so hard for the shared goal of bringing steelhead back to Alameda Creek," he added.

Prior to the most recent fish ladder installed in December, the first fish ladder was installed in 2019 slightly upstream from the current one, with both being aimed at giving steelhead an opportunity to bypass flood control and water supply infrastructure that was blocking them from traveling up the creek.

In total, the ongoing Alameda Creek Fish Passage Improvements Program is set to cost \$80 million, with more than \$30 million in grant funding secured. ■

  
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## POLICE BULLETIN

### Fundraiser supports local mom struck by vehicle while walking dog

Livermore resident Meena Rodkin is currently recovering in the hospital after recently being hit by a vehicle while walking her dog, according to a GoFundMe campaign launched by her best friend Nidhi Covarrubias.

The crowdfunding campaign raised \$59,265 within six days — significantly surpassing its initial \$40,000 goal. By Monday, the amount leaped to \$60,140.

Rodkin is a single mother of two college students and the GoFundMe aims to help alleviate financial hardship the family is facing while Rodkin is in the hospital.

“Meena has a long road to recovery ahead, but with your help, we can ease some of the financial burdens and allow her and her kids to focus on healing,” Covarrubias wrote in the campaign description.

According to the Livermore Police Department, the incident occurred on April 13. At around 7:30 a.m., the department received a report of a vehicle vs. pedestrian collision at the intersection of East Jack London Boulevard and Hagemann Drive.

“When officers arrived, they found a 56-year-old woman lying in the roadway in the eastbound lane east of the crosswalk. A preliminary investigation revealed the 47-year-old driver had run the red light and hit her. The driver claimed he had not seen the red light before running it. He remained on scene and



COURTESY NIDHI COVARRUBIAS VIA CARINGBRIDGE  
A GoFundMe campaign for Meena Rodkin’s recovery after being hit by a vehicle while walking her dog has raised more than \$60,000 to date.

is cooperative,” LPD officials told Livermore Vine, adding that the investigation is ongoing.

In addition to the GoFundMe for Rodkin, her family has also launched a CaringBridge site — a platform where people can share updates about a health journey for themselves or a loved one. Through the site, Rodkin’s daughter Natasha Rodkin shared a message of gratitude on behalf of herself and her brother to those who have rallied around their family during this time.

“Nate and I are incredibly grateful for the amount of love and prayers we have received from friends and family. It is a very warm feeling to know our mother is so cherished by those around. We will be periodically posting updates on this site so those who wish to check in on her can stay up to date with how she is doing. Thank you all again for the support you have surrounded our family with

in this difficult time,” she wrote.

The most recent update regarding Rodkin’s condition was posted to the site on April 26, in which Natasha Rodkin shared that her mother’s fever had gone down, she had spent more time awake, she was moving the left side of her body more and that she was getting the rest she needed.

—Cierra Bailey

### In other news

• A 26-year-old inmate died last week after suffering what Alameda County sheriff’s officials said was a medical emergency at Santa Rita Jail.

The man was booked into jail on March 28 by Livermore police. He was placed in a cell by himself in the jail’s Restrictive Housing Unit 1 due to what sheriff’s officials said was an “extensive assaultive history on staff.”

During the intake process, the man, whose name was not released, allegedly admitted to using drugs the day before his arrest but “there was no cause for concern found during the medical and mental health intake process,” the sheriff’s office said in a news release last Friday.

On April 27, at about 10:35 a.m., a deputy allegedly saw him drinking “a profuse amount of water” from the sink in his cell and vomiting.

He was taken to the jail’s Outpatient Housing Unit for observation and at about 3:25 p.m. he was found unresponsive in his bed, sheriff’s officials said. He was pronounced dead at 4:05 p.m. despite life-saving measures by jail medical staff and paramedics, according to sheriff’s officials.

Sheriff’s office investigators are

trying to find the man’s family, who they think are in Mexico.

The Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau will determine his cause of death. The Alameda County District Attorney’s Office was notified of the death and a report will be submitted to the California Attorney General’s Office.

This marks the fifth inmate death reported for Santa Rita Jail in 2023 — one a suspected suicide and the rest unspecified medical emergencies.

—Bay City News Service

• An SUV crashed into The Everest Momo, a Nepalese cuisine restaurant located in downtown Pleasanton, on Sunday resulting in three minor injuries, according to Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Battalion chief Dan Moyles told the Weekly that none of the three who were injured were transported to the hospital and that the incident was relatively minor in terms of damage to the building. “No major structural components were damaged in the event,” he said.

Moyles added that with the help of the Pleasanton Police Department, they removed the vehicle from the restaurant, which is located on 201E Main St., and the driver was able to drive his car home after cooperating with LPPD and PPD. The cause of the crash was not immediately confirmed, but Moyles said the driver reported it appeared to be some malfunction with the vehicle.

Moyles said that the city’s building department yellow-tagged the structure, which means that the building sustained moderate damage but is still allowed to operate during the daytime.

According to Pleasanton police Sgt. Marty Biltdt, nobody was arrested and neither alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash.

—Christian Trujano

• Livermore police investigators last month finalized their probe into the fatal crash at Isabel Avenue and Airway Boulevard in September 2022, determining that the motorcyclist who died was at fault for causing the collision.

Rachel Gray’s motorcycle struck another vehicle in the prominent intersection just before 5:30 a.m. Sept. 21, 2022. Gray, a 49-year-old from San Leandro who was reportedly on her morning ride to work, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Livermore police launched an investigation to determine, among other things, whether Gray or the other motorist was responsible for causing the crash.

The probe lasted nearly seven months, primarily due to the amount of time for toxicology and coroner’s reports, before it formally concluded on April 14 with findings that determined Gray was the one who ran the red light and was under the influence of unspecified illegal drugs, according to Livermore police spokesperson Azenith Smith.

“The final determination was the

motorcyclist, Rachel Gray, was at fault for the crash because she rode her motorcycle while impaired and traveled through a red light. This determination was based on toxicology reports, video surveillance and witness statements,” Smith told the Weekly last week.

The other driver’s identity was not revealed publicly, but police said at the time that they remained at the scene and cooperated with officers.

Gray was survived by three children and partner, Ray, and was remembered as a “loving daughter, sister, mother, partner and friend,” according to a GoFundMe page organized last fall by family to help with funeral expenses.

—Jeremy Walsh

• The California Highway Patrol’s Dublin office is hosting an open house this Saturday (May 6) as part of its efforts to recruit prospective new officers and staff members.

The free event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will inform potential applicants and community members at-large about the CHP hiring process for sworn officers, public safety dispatchers, Explorer cadets and professional staff positions. There will also be presentations of the CHP Mobile Command Center, a K-9 unit and motorcycle units.

“We are proud and thrilled to share what we do every day to save lives and serve the public. Whether you are one of our local youths looking for a meaningful learning experience through our Explorer Program or seeking one of our sworn or professional staff positions, we hope to see you,” Capt. Christopher Sherry, commander of CHP-Dublin, said in a statement.

The office is located at 4999 Gleason Drive in Dublin. To learn more about the open house, visit [www.chpmadeforemore.com](http://www.chpmadeforemore.com) or call 925-828-0466.

—Jeremy Walsh

• Police in Livermore arrested two men on Monday morning suspected of an armed robbery.

Officers responded around 11:45 p.m. near an apartment complex on East Avenue on a report of a person who had been robbed at gunpoint.

Upon arrival, police said they spotted the suspects’ vehicle driving away at a high rate of speed and turning onto a side street, the department said on Twitter. When the suspects saw police, they allegedly abandoned the car and took off on foot.

Police established a perimeter and carried out a search for the suspects with the aid of K9 unit “Max,” the Alameda County Sheriff’s drone unit and the CHP.

Police eventually arrested a 23-year-old from Hollister and an 18-year-old from Livermore on suspicion of robbery and being in possession of a firearm, a Glock 43 with a large capacity drum magazine. ■

—Bay City News Service

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

### April 27

#### Vandalism

■ 7:15 a.m. on the 3600 block of Shenandoah Court

#### Domestic battery

■ 9:33 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Fraud

■ 12:13 p.m. on the 6200 block of Corte Fuego

#### Shoplifting

■ 2:54 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### April 26

#### Theft

■ 7:13 a.m. on the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 10:23 a.m., 3100 block of Tonopah Court; theft from auto

■ 9:32 p.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

#### Warrant arrest

■ 12:23 p.m. at Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road

#### Burglary

■ 3 p.m. on Valley Avenue

#### Vandalism

■ 9:10 p.m. on the 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive

### April 25

#### Theft

■ 9 a.m., 4200 block of Hacienda Drive; catalytic converter theft

■ 6:06 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Embezzlement

■ 10:27 a.m. on the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

#### Fraud

■ 3:27 p.m. on the 3200 block of Flemington Court

#### Warrant arrest

■ 5:12 p.m. at Rosewood Drive and Old Santa Rita Road

■ 10:19 p.m. on the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Drug violation

■ 6:29 p.m. on the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

### April 24

#### Vandalism

■ 7:26 a.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

■ 9:15 a.m. on the 1100 block of Kottinger Drive

■ 6:50 p.m. on the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

#### Theft

■ 9:15 a.m. on the 400 block of Main Street

■ 10:32 a.m. on the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

■ 4:49 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

■ 5:34 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:17 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Fraud

■ 3:13 p.m. on the 1000 block of Laguna Creek Lane

#### Burglary

■ 6:31 p.m. on the 4100 block of Georgis Place

■ 6:32 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

### April 23

#### Vandalism

■ 12:04 p.m. on the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Shoplifting

■ 2:29 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 4:39 p.m. on the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Domestic battery

■ 3:09 p.m. on Corte Cerritos

### April 22

#### Theft

■ 7:23 a.m. on the 3800 block of Stoneridge Drive

■ 12:38 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 1:25 p.m., 4700 block of Willow Road; auto theft

■ 1:42 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 4:41 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 9:28 p.m. on the 4700 block of Willow Road

# Opinion

## LETTERS

### Zone 7 has PFAS chemicals in its water

The city of Pleasanton is currently locked in Zone 7 for all of its drinking water until such time Pleasanton City Council can resolve the PFAS chemical problem in Pleasanton well water.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has declared a standard “rule” for PFAS chemicals in drinking water. That standard as opined by the EPA is 70 parts per trillion, (PPT). They did not say it was safe.

Zone 7 water does not exceed that EPA standard, we believe. My opinion, any amount of PFAS chemicals in drinking water is not safe. However, there is no way around the PFAS chemical problem in drinking water. It is what it is.

In March this year, EPA proposed stringent limits on levels of six PFAS (6 PPT) chemicals in public water

systems. Under the proposed rule, public systems that provide water to at least 15 service connections or 25 people will have three years to implement testing procedures, begin notifying the public about PFAS levels and reduce levels, if the above new standard becomes rule, the EPA said.

I do not see the Pleasanton City Council on track to meet EPA proposed new rule. The council is struggling to have a decent conversation. It is the decimated city staff that is carrying the load.

How to remove PFAS chemicals from your household water? Activated carbon filters.

Activated carbon filters, usually granulated activated carbon solid carbon black cartridges, are effective at removing PFOA, PFOS from household water.

—Michael Austin, via Town Square

### Respect everyone’s life

I’ve just read the story about the woman who was hit by a car while walking her dog in Livermore.

I live in Livermore, and I do most of my daily shopping, visiting, work, etc. by bike or foot. It sometimes feels dangerous out there and almost all the time it is inconvenient. We need more reporting to put pressure on both drivers and the city to hold drivers more accountable for being aware and safe, and for holding the city more accountable for creating an easier and safer way to get around without a car.

As for the driver(s) who accidentally hit cyclists and pedestrians, as I used to tell my children, it’s not enough to say “sorry, I didn’t mean to.” They have to mean not to!

Let’s respect all of our lives. Not just the ones on four wheels.

—Susan Morris

### Of course we trust the council majority

In the March 24 edition of Around the Valley, Gina Channell Wilcox asks if a majority of Pleasanton residents agree with the direction of the City Council majority. The obvious answer is of course we do.

We voted for them and trust that they are acting in a way that will serve us best. We elect council members to represent our concerns and wishes and not to please the Weekly.

Sadly, the Weekly has made it quite clear that they will sacrifice journalistic integrity to show support for the Pleasanton Chamber and the council minority. Ms. Wilcox recently accused two Pleasanton residents of conspiring with majority council members without speaking to either, and then offered a non-apology by stating that the two say they hadn’t done what she accused them of.

Also in a recent edition she laments about majority council member votes she doesn’t agree with,

and again, makes assumptions about those decisions without speaking or confirming them with the members mentioned. She is sounding more unhinged, angry and vindictive with each edition. What’s next, accusations of rigged elections and support by George Soros?

Without demonstrating a clear mission to present fair and balanced reporting, I’m sure I’m not alone in planning to deliver future Weekly editions directly to the recycle bin. Advertisers should take notice.

—Laura Danielson

### Supreme Court justices are not above the law

The Supreme Court has a serious ethics problem, and the latest revelations about Clarence Thomas should be alarming to every American.

For 20 years, Thomas has accepted high-end, luxury, all-expense-paid vacations around the world from Republican megadonor Harlan Crow. And he never disclosed any of it to the public. What’s more, he also sold three properties to the billionaire and never reported it on his financial disclosures. The vacations are blatantly unethical, and not reporting the real estate sales is potentially illegal.

Supreme Court decisions impact every facet of American life. Because of this, justices must be held to the highest ethical standards. When Americans see news like this about Clarence Thomas — or any other justice — the court demonstrates that it cannot hold itself accountable and it doesn’t take its responsibilities seriously.

A court with no legitimacy only hurts the American people. It’s time for Congress to pass a Supreme Court code of ethics to bring legitimacy back to the court.

—Amy Mauriello

### America, please open your eyes

Have you noticed that the Biden administration with the help of the mainstream left media have turned the United States into a Marxist communist regime? Here is some proof. Elon Musk released the Twitter files to three liberal journalists — Matt Taibbi, Bari Weiss and Michael Shellenberger.

The Twitter files exposed the immoral and unlawful doings of the Biden administration and the mainstream left media. The Twitter files prove that the Dems tried to bury the Hunter Biden laptop story because they knew how damaging it would be — Biden would have never been elected.

We have lost our liberty, democracy and our free speech. These are the things that happen in China and Russia, not America. America, please open your eyes, demand that we be given our free country back

and rid our country of the Biden administration.

—David Ott

### Senate must swiftly pass Freedom to Vote Act

I have a lot of t-shirts from my activism, and one that I wear often has a quote from the late civil rights pioneer, Rep. John Lewis, that says, “Your vote is precious, almost sacred.”

He said this in 2012 when he addressed the Democratic National Convention in Georgia on voter suppression. The full quote is, “Your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union.”

Unfortunately, today we still live in a time when the freedom to vote is under attack by extremist state lawmakers across the country who want to put up barriers to make it harder to vote — especially for poor and

low-income voters.

Just last year, at least 34 bills with restrictive provisions were moving through 11 state legislatures. Overall, lawmakers in 39 states had considered at least 393 restrictive bills for the 2022 legislative session.

During the last Congress, despite overwhelming public support of the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, Senate Republicans blocked this bill, doing the bidding of wealthy corporate donors instead of voters. A new Freedom to Vote Act must be introduced in the current Congress to ensure that voters can safely and freely cast ballots.

I want to thank Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Rep. Eric Swalwell for advocating for voters in the last Congress and ask that they continue their efforts. All of us thrive when all Americans have the freedom to vote.

—Ward Kanowsky

## THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Youth Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held at the Remillard Conference Room, 3333 Busch Rd.

- Discuss and Identify Process Improvements for the Community Grant Program
- Discuss Potential Grant Program for Pleasanton Youth

#### Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Instructions on how to participate and offer comments will be available after May 3, 2023 when the agenda is posted on the City’s website at: [cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning\\_agenda.asp](http://cityofpleasantonca.gov/gov/depts/cd/planning/commission/planning_agenda.asp)

#### Housing Element Update

- Consider recommendation for adoption of amendments to the Adopted 2023-2031 (6th Cycle) Housing Element, and conforming amendments to the Land Use Element, in response to comments from the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

#### Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the City Council Chamber – 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review of Proposed Fee Changes for Callippe Preserve Gold Course
- Provide Recommendation to the City Council Regarding Regulations for E-Bikes on Trails and in Parks
- Recommend City Council Approve Court Rental Fee Increases for the Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park Operator, LifeTime Activities, Inc., Effective July 1, 2023

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov)

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# Inside their creat

## Tri-Valley studio tour to connect local artists with the community

BY NICOLE GONZALES

**T**his weekend Tri-Valley residents will have the chance to engage with dozens of local artists, crafters, jewelry makers and creatives and view their works in their most vulnerable spaces — the studio.

For the second time, the Alliance for the Visual Arts is set to host the Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour across various locations in the area. The regional organization has enlisted over 60 local artists who will be opening their creative spaces to the public this Saturday and Sunday (May 6-7).

Free to attend, the event will feature work from artists across Pleasanton, Livermore, Danville, Dublin and San Ramon. Visitors can enter into artist studio spaces to discuss techniques with creators and purchase pieces. Fifteen sites will be available to tour, including

Livermore's Bothwell Arts Center and Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center.

"Our whole reason for existence is to support the art organizations, to build community between the artists and then connect the artists to the community," Livermore artist and TVAST co-founder Dennis Baker told the Weekly. "This is basically the way we do that, by having a huge open studio tour."

Baker helped formulate the event concept with other local arts supporters in 2020 after the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. He and Livermore Valley Arts visual and education manager Anne Giancola were inspired to create a set of studio tour events in the area.

"During the pandemic, so many of our artist friends were depressed and not able to get out and meet with others,"

Baker said. "We conjured up this idea of doing our own studio tours here, organically in our own areas."

Although it did not come to fruition immediately, in November 2021 the first Tri-Valley studio tour took place virtually.

"That was so successful that we decided to do it again," Baker said.

Baker spoke about the importance of events like TVAST and how they play a crucial role in connecting the regional art scene.

"A lot of the artists participating this time had not participated before, are new to the area or they've been an artist for a very short time. They didn't know how to get involved in the artistic community and then they see something like this event that we're putting on and they're thrilled," Baker said. "All of a sudden they get to jump back into the community."

"From the artistic artists' perspective, it's a chance to form great relationships with other creators, which is phenomenally important. You just can't underestimate the importance of that," he added.

With so many artists opening up and allowing the public to view their creative spaces, Baker feels it is a rare opportunity to view them in such a raw light.

"People can see working studio spaces and just get a visual idea of what it means to have a creative process," Baker said. "They'll see it as a way to peek behind the curtain and ask questions, see it being made, and see people who perhaps look like them too."

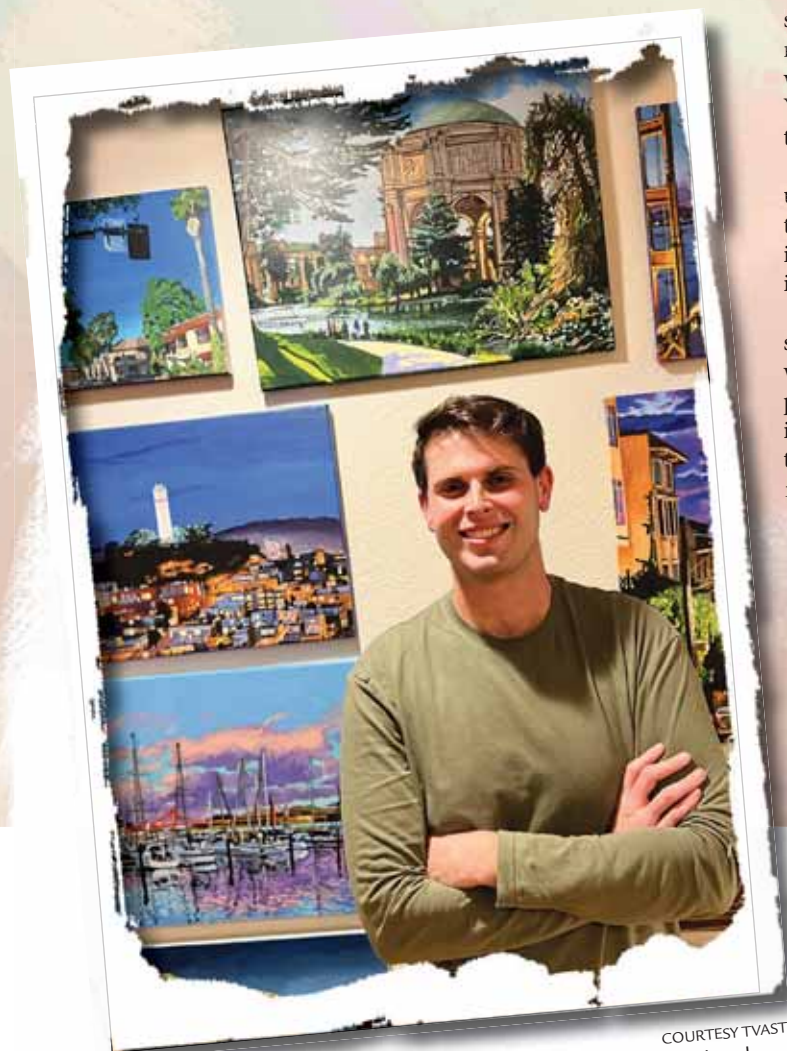
Visitors can expect to partake in live demonstrations and discussions with artists as well. As part of Baker's planned talks for Saturday and Sunday, he will discuss the importance of creativity.

"It can be used as a force of good, you could call it therapy," Baker said. "Picking up a hobby like painting, for example, will lead you to sense the world differently, to give you a greater sense of freedom to express. I think that's really important."

Baker shared his aspirations for the future of the tour, saying, "I'm hoping that in the years to follow that it will become something that the



Tri-Valley artist Erika Richard poses next to several of her works. Richard is set to be one of the featured artists at this year's Tri-Valley Artist Studio Tour event May 6 and 7.



Acrylic painting artist Miles Santos displays his recently completed work. COURTESY TVAST

community looks forward to and seen as an inspiration to engage in something creative."

Jennifer Huber, artist and TVAST volunteer, spoke to the Weekly about the alliance's event.

"I think it's really important to bring in artists into a community that they can join without judgment," Huber said. "It's bringing more artists in and educating people about the art community. It's people's passions that they really love."

Huber is known to incorporate bike riding into her creative process. By stopping and painting along her bike route, Huber is able to capture unique and lesser highlighted points of view in her work.

"TVAST is really something special for us Tri-Valley artists," Huber continued. "These are great opportunities to give support and direction. That's what I'm really looking forward to."

Huber will be organizing bike routes between each site for visitors, as she did for the first TVAST.

"The Tri-Valley has a wealth of creative people who make art and are eager to showcase their work to

the community," said Karen Barry, a local artist and TVAST deputy director.

"The (TVAST) venues are spread out all over the Tri-Valley, as well as in many home studios, pop-ups and collectives. Artists do a wide range of media, our visitors will see painting, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking and more," she added.

A traditional printmaker, Barry also makes etchings, woodcuts and linocuts. Barry shared her experience during the first TVAST in 2021.

"We had a lot of visitors to our location and it was a fun weekend," she recalled. "I really do enjoy sharing my art with others and getting their reactions."

Barry's art career began once moving to Pleasanton over 10 years ago. She slowly began creating more art and becoming aligned with major creative organizations in the area.

"A lot of my work is inspired by nature and what I encounter when I'm hiking, cycling, and camping," Barry said. "It's fun to observe the shifting patterns in our

# tive environment



COURTESY TVAST



Ron Rigge, a Tri-Valley photographer, showcases his landscape and nature images.

COURTESY TVAST

environment, some subtle and others not so subtle.”

Shweta Agrawal, TVAST featured artist and social media manager, reflected on the upcoming weekend event.

“It is a very fulfilling experience working for TVAST,” Agrawal told the Weekly. “TVAST provides an opportunity for everyone to come out and spend a creative weekend immersed in the world of art. It’s a chance to discover new artists, see unique artwork and support the local art community.”

“Our Tri-Valley Open Art Studio Tour has been instrumental in bringing artists and hubs for the community to come together and appreciate arts,” Agrawal added.

When discussing her own approach to art, Agrawal explained that she personally can draw influence from anywhere.

“Inspiration can come from a variety of sources, such as personal experiences, emotions, nature, culture, current events or even other forms of art,” Agrawal said. “I often have a unique perspective on the world, and use my work as a way to express myself and share my vision with others.”

No matter the inspiration, Agrawal lets her creative spark flow wherever it may.

“I am drawn to certain subjects or themes that resonate with them on a deeper level. My aim is to communicate a particular message or emotion through my work or simply be captivated by the beauty or complexity of my subject matter,” she said. “I sometimes get motivated by the desire to create something new and innovative, other times I am driven by a need to explore and express my innermost thoughts and feelings.”

Agrawal anticipates that TVAST guests will be pleased by their visits to the various studios this weekend.

“Visitors to an artist studio tour might take away a deeper appreciation and understanding of the creative process and the work that goes into creating art. They may also gain insight into the artist’s personal inspirations, motivations, and techniques,” she said. “The beautiful thing is that you will never find 2 pieces that are even remotely the same.”

To find more information about the TVAST locations and schedule, visit [allianceforthevisualarts.org](http://allianceforthevisualarts.org). ■



Photographer Lisa Rigge showcases original still-life images.

COURTESY TVAST

## Veterans

Sentinels of Freedom launches podcast series to expand platform for servicemembers' stories | BY JEANITA LYMAN

# Never Stop Serving'

**M**ike Conklin, founder of Tri-Valley nonprofit Sentinels of Freedom, grew up listening to news about the Vietnam War — and his brothers who were deployed there — on the radio and in nightly news broadcasts.

Several decades later, he is seeking to use audio storytelling to showcase the voices of the veterans he and others in the San Ramon-based organization have been dedicated to supporting over the past 15 years, with a new podcast series “Veterans Never Stop Serving” that just debuted in recent weeks.

Conklin said that while veterans and active servicemembers benefit from widespread gratitude and support from many civilians, it comes hand in hand with general ignorance about the day-to-day operations within the military.

“The other side of the equation is they don't really know what they do,” Conklin told the Weekly. “They don't see them every day in the community. With only 1% of our population in the military and only one out of four high school grads being able to qualify for the military, this is a small community.”

“We ask them to go into the service. We're proud of them, but what happens when they come home and they're hurt?” he continued.

Providing tailored support for injured and disabled veterans is what Sentinels of Freedom was founded for, formally registering as a nonprofit organization in 2007 after several years of smaller-scale efforts to support service members locally.

“Instead of saying ‘thank you for your service,’ we say ‘thank you for your service, now let us help you,’” Conklin said.

Years before the organization was solidified, Conklin and others began organizing annual luncheons during graduation season to recognize graduating San Ramon Valley students who had enlisted in the military.

“We had started an honoring program — we still do that every year, we bring in students that are about to graduate and go into the military ... Because the high schools at their graduations, students were not recognized; these students who in my book were making the highest commitment any high school student can make,” Conklin said.

The first luncheon was in 1998. “We just basically told them that we were proud of them, (that) we were honoring them that day for



Mike Conklin and other organizers, supporters and veterans involved in the San Ramon-based Sentinels of Freedom pose during a past fundraising gala.

their commitment to our nation,” Conklin said.

While honoring ingoing servicemembers had already been important to Conklin, the call to support wounded veterans became impossible to ignore several years later, following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. soil and subsequent military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq — and the enlistment of Conklin's own children.

“So we continued in '99, 2000, 2001, and then at the time I had two sons in the Army ... and all of a sudden 9/11 happens,” Conklin said.

“I sat by myself and just collected my thoughts, and I realized that of probably 150 to 200 grads we honored, most of them had gone into combat or what we call infantry

— the guys that get chewed up,” he continued.

The idea to support local veterans coming home with severe injuries was a small one between community members initially, but the need for tailored support for an increasing number of veterans rapidly became apparent as the U.S. involvement in the Middle East was launched and intensified in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

“So I gathered all of our community leaders together,” Conklin said. “I said OK we're going to war. We started in Afghanistan — within one month we had troops in Afghanistan, a couple were my sons, so I said we need to be prepared. We all agreed that we would implement the plan if we had one of

the kids from our community hurt.”

It didn't take long for the plan for community support to be called on. The first severely wounded veteran to come home to the San Ramon Valley was run over by a tank, and wasn't expected to live following his injuries.

“He lived, and so I said, alright we've got to do something so we organized,” Conklin said. “We got a builder to give us an apartment, four years free rent. We raised money for furnishings, food, used car. We got him a job with UPS, a part-time job in San Ramon, got him into college.”

It didn't take long for the organization to go national, focusing on the most severely injured veterans throughout the country as well as locally. Today, the organization has served more than 700 veterans by

offering five-years of support and planning to help them achieve their goals in the civilian world.

Although inspirational stories from veterans are front and center for Conklin, he said that the current media and cultural landscape often fail to capture positive stories related to military experience.

“Today because the news has moved on, they focus on the negative,” Conklin said. “They talk about homeless veterans, and veterans with PTSD, and veterans on drugs and everything else. The reality of that is most veterans are the opposite of that.”

Conklin said that he seeks to use the newly launched podcast as a way of letting the veterans served by Sentinels of Freedom tell their own stories in their own words, and to showcase not just inspirational stories, but the individual complexities and nuances of disabled veterans' lives.

“They can laugh about things ... they don't focus on all the negative stuff, and they're proud,” Conklin said. “They don't beat their chests or anything like that, but they are proud of their service, they're proud of our nation and they're proud of moving forward.”

With the weekly podcast having launched early in April, there are already five episodes available. The debut episode, “I Don't Say You're Welcome, I Say You're Worth It”, features the story of Purple Heart recipient and former Army Sgt. John Wayne Walding.

“Veterans Never Stop Serving” is available to stream for free via Spotify or on most popular podcast platforms. More information on Sentinels of Freedom is available at [sentinelsoffreedom.org](http://sentinelsoffreedom.org). ■



Above: Mike Conklin, chairman and CEO of Sentinels of Freedom. Right: Conklin at work during production of “Veterans Never Stop Serving” podcast, which launched in early April.



# EBRPD finalizes \$11.4M purchase of land next to Mount Diablo

Deal for 768-acre Finley Road Ranch receives unanimous board approval

By JEANITA LYMAN

The East Bay Regional Park District has formalized its planned acquisition of hundreds of acres of sought-after property that is set to provide increased access between Mount Diablo State Park and Morgan Territory, as well as much of the Tri-Valley.

The \$11.4 million purchase of the 768-acre Finley Road Ranch property was finalized on April 24, in line with the planned timeline following the district's exercising of the purchase option on March 24.

"The acquisition is an important step toward a long-desired staging area at the end of Finley Road," EBRPD Director John Mercurio, whose Ward 6 includes the San Ramon Valley, said in an April 27 announcement. "Access to western Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and southern Mount Diablo State Park has been limited over the years and this property is an important step toward improving public access."

The move to exercise the purchase option and formalize the park district's acquisition of the property



COURTESY EBRPD

The 768-acre Finley Road Ranch Property was formally acquired by the East Bay Regional Park District on April 24.

came following the award of a \$7 million Coastal Conservancy grant for the purchase in February, as well as the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of EBRPD directors at their March 7 meeting.

"I'm really happy that we have these grant opportunities," EBRPD

Board President Dennis Waespi said ahead of the March 7 vote to approve plans to acquire the property. "I love these ... we're making these incredible partnerships."

Ward 5 Director Olivia Sanwong, whose district includes the southern Tri-Valley, said that she was eager to

see the park district's development of the property increase accessibility between the state park and regional trails near Dublin and Pleasanton, as well as to BART.

"I think that there's a lot of interest to connect all of these trails to Mount Diablo and also to be able to go from the BART station to Mount Diablo," Sanwong said on March 7. "I think it's going to be such a good opportunity for park users and certainly as we continue to look at that opportunity, I hope that we'll see updates here at the board."

However, as Mercurio drew attention to on March 7, there is still a long way to go before members of the public will have access to the property and the state park beyond.

"The one thing I can say for certain is it probably won't be soon," EBRPD chief of planning Brian Holt said on March 7. "Because it does take a long time to get the permitting in place, to get the design done, and really to work through the resource agencies to get the permitting that's necessary. If I've learned one thing in this role, it's not to over-promise on when we

can get public access to some of these sites, and it's a challenging process."

Mercurio echoed Sanwong's interest in increasing access to the state park and EBRPD sites and BART, and pointed to the opportunities for long-distance hikes that connecting existing trails and parks could have.

"If you really think about it, that prop when it's open provides a key link in a potential really, really long hike," Mercurio said on March 7. "And I don't know if it's just me, but it kind of feels like long-distance hiking is really coming up in the world in the last so many years ... This is an area here where we can actually train for long distance hikes outside of California and other places because the trails are so long."

Holt said that the next steps would be for workers to evaluate the hundreds of acres of newly acquired property in order to start developing a specific vision for the site.

"We will begin doing whatever resource studies are needed on the property to sort of understand what the opportunities and constraints are," Holt said. "Traditionally at the park district our process is to develop a land use plan or a land use plan amendment, something along those lines, or to move forward with a design of staging area, that type of thing." ■

## Famed photographer presenting at Bankhead Theater

Collopy to reflect on his portraits of presidents, cultural icons, entertainers

By JEREMY WALSH

The Bankhead Theater is set next week to welcome renowned portrait photographer Michael Collopy to share with local audiences about his experiences capturing some of the most famous people in the world.

Collopy, whose appearance is part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series in Livermore, has photographed hundreds of public figures including seven U.S. presidents, 41 Nobel Laureates and the best of the best in world entertainment including The Rolling Stones, B.B. King, Frank Sinatra,

Ella Fitzgerald, George Clooney and Penelope Cruz.

"His iconic photos of Mother Teresa in her Calcutta Mission have come to symbolize her work and humanity. Other iconic luminaries Collopy has photographed include Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama," according to offi-



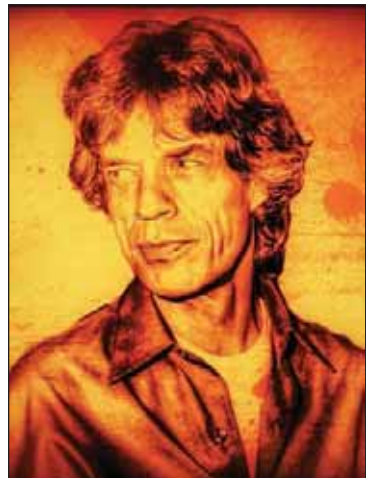
MICHAEL COLLOPY

Mother Teresa



MICHAEL COLLOPY

Ella Fitzgerald



MICHAEL COLLOPY

Mick Jagger

cialists with Livermore Valley Arts, which co-sponsors the speaker series.

"In his presentation, Collopy will discuss the art of portrait photography, the power of photojournalism to move us, and how he has been inspired in his advocacy by the people he has photographed," LVA reps said. "He will illustrate his talk with slides of select portraits in an engaging and insightful conversation."

An advocate for peace and

social justice, Collopy has published a number of books with collections of his photographs. His latest book, "Courage", includes original pictures of Maya Angelou, Desmond Tutu and Jane Goodall, among many others.

"An Evening with Michael Collopy" is scheduled for next Thursday (May 11) at 7:30 p.m. at the Bankhead in downtown Livermore.

The speaker series is named in honor of the late Rae Dorough, a longtime Livermore resident and avid supporter of local cultural events. Learn more or buy tickets at [raedoroughspeakerseries.org](https://raedoroughspeakerseries.org). ■



COURTESY CITY OF LIVERMORE

### 'Poppies' wins art contest

"California's Pride Golden Poppies", a colored-pencil illustration by Annapoorani Amarnath, an eighth grade student at Mendenhall Middle School, was named the grand-prize in this year's Livermore Water Conservation Art Contest. The annual competition gives local K-12 students the opportunity to produce original artwork that illustrates the importance of water conservation, a collaboration between the city of Livermore, Zone 7 Water Agency and Cal Water's Livermore Division. Artwork from all 10 finalists can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/2023LivArtContest>.



## PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER

### Foothill boys win EBAL volleyball title

Falcons knock off Gaels in four sets in tournament finale

The Foothill boys' volleyball team is always among the elite in the East Bay Athletic League, but the Falcons had been somewhat in a title drought.

The last time the Falcons took the outright title was back in 2009.

That drought is now over.

After going 3-0 last week, Foothill stands alone on top of the EBAL.

Time to hang a banner.

The week started with the final regular season game against Amador Valley, with both teams entering the game at 10-2. Whoever won the game would advance to the four-team EBAL playoffs, with the loser of the match sitting on the sidelines.

The way the league is set up, the top two teams from each of the Mountain and Valley divisions advance to the league playoffs. Dublin entered the final night also 10-2, but

had a game with Dougherty Valley, a much easier task.

How strong was the Valley this year? All five teams in the Valley advanced to the North Coast Section playoffs, while just two of the five from the Mountain advanced.

The first time the Dons and the Falcons met, it was Amador that came out on top, winning 3-1. This time it was all Foothill as the Falcons swept the match 25-17, 25-19, 25-20.

On Senior Night at Foothill, it was the six seniors who were celebrated before the game that turned it on when needed for the Falcons.

Jack Caudill, Zach Seraj, Tyler Keala, Landen Meonske, Micah Gawel and Surya Srinivasan all were key players for Foothill.

In defeat, the Dons were led by Nate Clinton (15 kills, 10 digs), Luke

Melvin (8 kills, 6 digs, 3 blocks) and Bryce Nohava (19 assists, 6 service points).

That sent the Falcons to the EBAL semifinals. Since Dublin had the tiebreaker over Foothill, they had to go on the road to De La Salle.

Not to be denied, Foothill rolled to a 21-25, 25-18, 25-15, 25-16 win over the Spartans. The highlights came from Meonske (45 assists, 17 service points), Kayan Vohra (9 kills, 7 blocks) and Caden Stedman (6 blocks, 3 kills).

Dublin easily dispatched San Ramon Valley in the other semifinal, setting the title match between two Valley teams.

The Falcons pulled out another four-set winner, 25-20, 29-27, 22-25, 25-22. The highlights against the Gaels were from Meonske (45 assists, 2 blocks), Keala (14 kills, 1

Pleasanton Preps sponsored by



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STEVE MITZENMACHER

The Foothill varsity boys' volleyball team celebrates its win in the EBAL playoffs over Dublin to clinch the league championship.

#### Foothill lacrosse

"The Helmet" is the trophy that goes to the winner of the Amador-Foothill lacrosse game each year.

The Dons held the trophy for the last nine years, that is until April 26 when the Falcons took it back with an 11-4 win over the Dons.

Foothill was led by the senior class who were playing their final regular season game at Foothill.

Mikey Paulson played great in the goal, turning away the Dons multiple times. Jake Morgan won 12 faceoffs, with Jake Clevenger playing tough in the midfield. John Connolly was solid on defense and Sean Flanagan was helping run the show for the Foothill attack.

Sophomore Darrin Lau had four goals, with junior Wyatt Lam adding three goals. Junior Jack May and sophomore AJ Becker each had two goals for Foothill.

The defense was led by Graham Zander, Josh Taylor and Ethan Lam who all played tight defense. ■

*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.*

#### Amador baseball

block) and Noah Mitzenmacher (24 receptions, 9 digs).

It was another great week for the Dons as they knocked off Granada twice, putting the team into a three-way tie for the top spot in the Valley Division heading into the final week of the season.

The first game of the week was a 3-0 Amador win on their Senior Day. Oliver de la Torre threw a six-inning, four-hitter to lead the way. He also struck out eight in the win. Braden Whitworth had a triple and drove in a pair, with Ross Kobayashi having a single that knocked in the other run.

In the second game, this one at Granada, the Dons pulled out a 6-3 win. Matthew Foley, Brady Lederer and Tyler Kubo split the duties on the mound. Foley went six innings, allowing three runs on five hits, with five strikeouts.

Amador trailed 3-1 at one point, but Evan Berry delivered a two-out hit to tie things up, followed by a double from Kubo to drive in another two. Mitch Kreider's third home run of the season sealed the deal with Dons winning 6-3.



### The Leprechauns: Dublin welcoming new pro baseball team

Pecos League club moves from Santa Rosa to call Fallon Park home

BY NICOLE GONZALES

Dublin is set this month to welcome a new professional baseball team, the Leprechauns, with a full schedule of games set for the 2023 season.

The team, which relocated from Santa Rosa to Dublin this year, competes from the Pacific Division of the Pecos League, a professional independent league founded in 2010 and operating teams throughout California and other states.

The regular-season home opener is set for May 30 at Dublin's Fallon Sports Park, where the Leprechauns will face the Monterey Amberjacks. Eight home games have been set for the remainder of

the 2023 season in Dublin, along with a slate of road and neutral-site games.

The team's new arrangement was first announced in mid-April by the Pecos League officials. League president Andrew Dunn shared his reflections in a recent press release.

"The reception we have received in Dublin has been second-to-none," Dunn said. "Our goal is to build something great; high quality baseball for the community and a place for players to get a chance to advance in the game of baseball."

"Dublin is an ideal place for us," he added.

According to league officials, Dublin first appeared to be the

best spot to relocate the now-former Santa Rosa Scuba Divers because of its robust and satisfactory playing field at Fallon Park.

The new team brandishes the slogan "Bring home the Gold" — a reference to its mascot and Dublin's history.

The Pecos League's Pacific Division also consists of the Martinez Sturgeon, San Rafael Pacifics, Marysville Drakes, Monterey Amberjacks, Bakersfield Train Robbers, Vallejo Seaweed and Lancaster Sound Breakers.

For more information about the Dublin Leprechauns, visit the team website at [www.dublinleprechauns.com](http://www.dublinleprechauns.com). ■

### PETS OF THE WEEK

#### Sonny and Cher

This adorable duo will rock and roll into your heart. They are bonded, wire-hair terriers, about 7 years old. Cher is blond and weighs 13 pounds; Sonny is black/gray and weighs 11 pounds. They are housebroken, socialized with people and most dogs, and walk well on leash. To further make you want to sing "I Got You, Babe", they are friendly, playful, lap snugglers, minimal barkers, ride fine in the car and sleep in their crate. Contact Tri-Valley Animal Rescue; [tvar.org](http://tvar.org).



TVAR

# Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

## Entertainment

**BANKHEAD PRESENTS FAITH ALPHER** Audiences will love Faith's explosive, comedic storytelling as you laugh your way through this comedy show. Her comedy is intimate, intense and wholly engaging. 8 p.m., May 5. Tickets \$25-\$45. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**THE SONG OF THE NIGHTINGALE** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents The Song of the Nightingale, a magical, musical romp that reminds us that true beauty and worth is always found within. May 5-7 and 12-14. Tickets \$25-\$42. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**MARIACHI SOL DE MEXICO** Mariachi Sol de Mexico brings mariachi to the Bankhead with passionate zeal, moving you with grace and power. 3 p.m., May 7. Tickets \$60-\$90. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL COLLOPY** Michael Collopy engages in projects that bring the work of peacemakers into focus and in his books we see a natural way of drawing out the stories of others to share and inspire us. 7:30 p.m., May 11. Tickets \$20-\$40. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**COURTYARD CONCERT STARRING JENNY MADRIGAL** Kick off the weekend with happy hour in the Madden Courtyard starring Jenny Madrigal. She'll delight with her musical styles including neo-soul, acoustic, folk, jazz and covers. 5:30 p.m., May 12. Tickets \$10. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**ANNIE KIDS** Pleasanton Youth Theatre Company presents Annie KIDS, based on the popular comic strip and featuring everyone's favorite little redhead in her first adventure. May 12-13. Tickets \$10. Amador Theater. Visit [firehousearts.org](http://firehousearts.org).

**CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS: INVERSIONS** Cantabella presents female artistry, turning the status quo upside down by presenting majority female composers, poets, lyricists and arrangers. May 13-14. Tickets \$2-\$38. Visit [livermorearts.org](http://livermorearts.org).

**VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE** By George, It's Gershwin, The Beatles and More is light, lively and fun music, packed with tunes that everyone knows. 7:30 p.m., May 13. Asbury United Methodist Church. Visit [valleyconcertchorale.org](http://valleyconcertchorale.org).

## Exhibits

**PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM ON MAIN** She Sang Me a Good Luck Song: The California Indian Photographs of Dugan Aguilar is a statewide traveling exhibition filled with stunning photographs revealing the richness and vibrancy of contemporary Native California cultures. On display through May 27. Visit [museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org).

**FRESH WORKS XI AT THE FIREHOUSE** The showing is made of up 72 artworks created within the past year by many of the region's most

creative artists and selected for the exhibition by juror Ashley L. Voss, owner and director of Voss Gallery in San Francisco. On display now through June 10. Harrington Gallery.

## Festivals

**FIRST WEEKEND ON MAIN** Every first weekend of the month come to downtown Pleasanton and enjoy street closures for roaming historical downtown, events and outdoor dining. May 5-7.

**PLEASANTON'S SUMMER WINE STROLL** Sip, shop and stroll during Pleasanton's annual Summer Wine Stroll where downtown locations become tasting rooms. Listen to live music and taste local wines and small bites. 5-8 p.m., May 6. Visit [pleasantondowntown.net/events](http://pleasantondowntown.net/events).

**LAS POSITAS HOSTS BEER FESTIVAL** The Las Positas College Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival is a celebration of local craft beer and an opportunity to support small businesses in the Livermore Valley. All ticket proceeds will contribute to new equipment for the LPC Fire Service Technology program. 1-5 p.m., May 13. Visit [lvcbf.com/beer-festival](http://lvcbf.com/beer-festival).

## Talks

**LIVERMORE-AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** Janice M. Sellers will discuss Introduction to Jewish Genealogy at the next zoom meeting. This class will cover how to start researching your Jewish family history and how the unique aspects of Jewish culture and history will affect that research. 7-8:30 p.m., May 8. Visit [l-ags.org](http://l-ags.org).

**CARETAKING RESOURCES FOR OLDER ADULTS** This is an opportunity for family and friends caring for older adults (60+) to meet representatives from companies who provide Fiduciary Services, Senior Legal Aid, In Home Care, Home Safety and Medical Alert Systems. 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., May 8. CityServe of the Tri-Valley, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

**FACING END-OF-LIFE ISSUES-HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE** This free Hope Hospice webinar will share general information about what to expect in the final days of life, transitioning to palliative (comfort) care, selecting hospice services and making funeral arrangements. 10-11:30 a.m., May 11. Visit [hopehospice.com](http://hopehospice.com).

**ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS SICILY PROGRAM** Vicki Stephens will present a slideshow entitled "Sicily: Land of Plenty" at Livermore Civic Center library where she will share photographs and stories of her adventures in Sicily. 1:30 p.m., May 11.

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS** Get Your Stash Together-Organization for Quilters is the zoom lecture at the next meeting with Carol Wilhoit, a retired physician who enjoys bringing her technical mind to quilting. 1:30-3:30 p.m., May 13. Visit [amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://amadorvalleyquilters.org).

# Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME  
File No. 512056  
The following person(s)/registrant(s) has/ have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):  
ACTION 1 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
2340 SANTA RITA ROAD, SUITE 9  
PLEASANTON, CA 94566  
FILED IN ALAMEDA COUNTY ON: 11/30/2015  
UNDER FILE NO. 512056  
REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):  
PLM INC  
3521 OLYMPIC COURT SOUTH  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
CALIFORNIA  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda County on April 10 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

PARKWEST CASINO 580  
CASINO 580  
BAR TATAMI  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597145  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Parkwest Casino 580, 2.) Casino 580, 3.) Bar Tatami, located at 968 N. Canyons Parkway, Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
CASINO 580, LLC  
1100 S. Flower Street, Suite 3100  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/07/2015  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 13 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

A TOUCH OF HEALTH  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597196  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) A Touch of Health, located at 6995 Dublin Blvd. Dublin CA 94568, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
VERONICA B. HORTON  
220 Kilkare Rd.  
94586  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/18/1988  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 17 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

EVAN MAC DELIVERY SERVICES LLC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597016  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Evan Mac Delivery Services LLC, located at 4487 Arce St Union City CA 94587, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
EVANGELINE TAN MACARAEG  
4487 Arce St Union City CA 94587  
Union City, CA 94587  
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 April 10 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

ACTION 1 PROPERTIES  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597381  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) ACTION 1 PROPERTIES, located at 4695 CHABOT DRIVE, SUITE 200, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
PLM INC  
3521 OLYMPIC COURT SOUTH  
PLEASANTON, CA 94588  
CALIFORNIA  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above

on 01/01/2016  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 21 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

CUPIDO PASTRY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 596888  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Cupido Pastry, located at 1325 Brookline Loop apt 2310, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
ALESIA TSIURYNA  
1325 Brookline Loop  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 05 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

JOY LIU MEDIA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 596685  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Joy Liu Media, located at 451 Mission Drive, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
JOY LIU  
451 Mission Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 29 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

HOMETOWN VENDING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597468  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Hometown Vending, located at 7554 Rosedale Court, Pleasanton CA 94588, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
ELLEN FIGUEIRA  
7554 Rosedale Court  
Pleasanton, Ca 94588  
LYTIA ZAZZERON  
4763 Orangewood Court  
Pleasanton, Ca 94588  
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 April 26 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

GEML  
GEML INC  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597082  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) GEML, 2.) GEML INC, located at 1807 Santa Rita Road Unit #229, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
TRUEBOO INC  
2625 Middlefield Road #216  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
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 April 12 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

SANGHA STRATEGIES LLC D/B/A BUSINESS CASUAL YOGA  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 596974  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Sangha Strategies LLC d/b/a Business Casual Yoga, located at 2607 Fulton St, Unit C Berkeley 94704, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
KATHARINE BIERCE  
2607 Fulton St, Unit C Berkeley 94704 Berkeley 94704

California  
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06/16/2018  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 07 2023.  
(PLW May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

NO JOKE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597032  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) No Joke, located at 2037 Walnut st. Livermore, CA 94551, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
CHRISTIAN CHACON COLIN  
2037 Walnut St.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
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 April 11 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

AMY ON DESIGN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 597170  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Amy On Design, located at 10 Castlewood Drive Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: an Individual.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
AMY WEST  
10 Castlewood Dr.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2022.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on April 14 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

PLEASANTON STAR DENTAL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 596330  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Pleasanton Star Dental, located at 2324 Santa Rita Rd suite 3 Pleasanton, CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
CHANDANA VUNDAVALLI DDS INC  
4218 Chapman Way  
Pleasanton CA 94588  
CA  
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 15 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

SOCH STOCK  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 596775  
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:  
1.) Soch Stock, located at 5479 Sonoma DR, Pleasanton CA 94566, Alameda County.  
This business is conducted by: Co-Partners.  
The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):  
APOORVA HOODA  
5479 Sonoma DR  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
PULKIT HOODA  
5479 Sonoma DR  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.  
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Alameda on March 31 2023.  
(PLW Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the marriage heretofore subsisting between Leslie-Anne Plettner and Deborah Susan Meyer is annulled due to fraud and lack of parental consent. The marriage of Leslie-Anne Plettner, (formerly of 3250 Wyman Street, Oakland, California [94619-9999]) and Deborah Susan Meyer (living at 3250 Wyman Street, Oakland, Ca 94619) is null and void through the authority of Divine Harmony Temple.  
(PLW Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

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

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Pleasanton (March 27-31)

**Total sales reported:** 10  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$758,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$3,200,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,791,300

### Livermore (March 27-31)

**Total sales reported:** 16  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$395,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,500,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,010,562

### Dublin (March 27-31)

**Total sales reported:** 12  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$500,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$2,950,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,461,166

### San Ramon (March 27-31)

**Total sales reported:** 9  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$495,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,995,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$1,485,000

Source: California REsource

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during March 27-31 for Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon.

**2027 Park Street** Andersen Trust to T. & G. Lehr for \$755,000

**581 Selby Lane #3** Bhanushali Family Trust to Meager Living Trust for \$1,068,000

### Pleasanton

**5670 Belleza Drive** M. Leung to Y. & W. Chen for \$860,000

**3003 Briggs Court** Marjanovic Trust to Peng Living Trust for \$2,988,000

**4357 Clovewood Lane** Kuevor Trust to S. & P. Hong for \$1,560,000

**3924 Eilene Court** C. Marx to B. Bidwell for \$1,150,000

**4121 Grant Court** Gardiner Living Trust to D. & E. Bogert for \$3,200,000

**6410 Paseo Santa Maria** B. & C. Mckeag to S. & J. Singh for \$2,040,000

**5262 Riverdale Court** Martin Trust to B. & W. Yang for \$1,127,000

**6120 Sanctuary Lane** D. & A. Zeunen to Foo 2003 Trust for \$3,180,000

**1168 Tiffany Lane** Sullivan Living Trust to F. & G. Wu for \$1,050,000

**3877 Vine Street** Golik-Rossell Living Trust to J. & K. Correia for \$758,000

### Livermore

**358 Albatross Avenue** D. & E. Bay to D. & G. Anantha for \$1,035,000

**855 Barney Common** D. Smith to N. & K. Jeyaraj for \$1,335,000

**529 Briarwood Court** L. & C. Silvey to M. & J. Broom for \$1,230,000

**24 Canary Court** Agbayani Trust to D. & J. Shim for \$1,500,000

**627 Catalina Drive** W. Wallace to A. & J. Hopson for \$950,000

**1610 El Dorado Court** E. & M. Mcadam to M. Habib for \$945,000

**1672 Embassy Circle** H. & G. Griffith to Andd Techservices Inc for \$830,000

**1317 Hibiscus Way** P. Fuentes to S. & J. Sandhu for \$866,000

**1174 Hillcrest Avenue** Jackson Trust to E. & M. Roddewig for \$1,250,000

**470 Knottingham Circle** Koch Trust to Foreverhome Properties LLC for \$1,200,000

**1085 Murrieta Boulevard #308** J. & K. Bailey to A. Yellenik for \$395,000

### Dublin

**7786 Bloomfield Terrace** B. & P. Marnon to F. & S. Hussain for \$2,300,000

**3661 Dublin Boulevard** Y. Yang to B. Pon for \$845,000

**5799 El Dorado Lane** C. Solh to H. Rehal for \$1,401,000

**7689 Frederiksen Lane** S. Wu to C. Ma for \$750,000

**7574 Gardella Drive** Peterson Family Trust to S. & S. Singh for \$1,225,000

**7069 Kalmia Hills Court** K. & D. Donaldson to R. & V. Malgrewar for \$2,950,000

**6827 Langmuir Lane** Callahan Trust to C. & D. Lokker for \$1,133,000

**5830 Midnight Place #C** T. & D. Brown to M. & R. Goepfert for \$1,225,000

**3551 Pinot Noir Court** G. Arumugam to S. & S. Tiruchirappally for \$1,850,000

**7914 Regional Common** Yoshizawa Living Trust to T. & J. Woo for \$905,000

**6967 Stagecoach Road #E** J. Zhu to R. Delgadillo for \$500,000

**2826 Tulare Hills Drive** D. Drake to S. & P. Ravva for \$2,450,000

### San Ramon

**470 Bollinger Canyon Lane #281** Opendoor Property C LLC to R. Tia for \$495,000

**2816 Bridgeport Avenue** D. Fabel to R. Poddar for \$1,200,000

**2080 Canyon Crest Avenue** D. & E. Bay to Agaram Family Trust for \$1,995,000

**6120 Hedgecrest Circle** Barley Family Trust to Li Family Trust for \$1,590,500

**218 Kent Place** Threez Investments Inc to S. & F. Siddiq for \$1,375,000

**2952 Marlboro Way** Kuftin Survivors Trust to S. & L. Anantharam for \$1,485,000

**12244 Santa Teresa Drive** J. Rice to Moore Living Trust for \$1,681,500

**7642 Stellaria Lane** P. Mudivarti to B. & J. Doshi for \$1,050,000

**2024 Wineberry Drive** Pack Trust to H. & S. Pracko for \$1,600,000

Source: California REsource

New Listing!

7728 Knollbrook Drive, Pleasanton



4 bedrooms | 2 baths | 1,749 SF | 7,691 lot

Beautiful single level home in the Stoneridge neighborhood. Perfect location close to schools, shopping center and easy access to freeways and getting around. The home has a gorgeous backyard much like a private park with a wood deck, perfect for entertaining or relaxing. Newer roof, newer A/C, updated primary bathroom and hardwood floors are included in this home.

Priced at \$1,499,000

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# Employment

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### Multiple Positions (SNA2022, SSET2022, SETCB22, BPL22)

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: ServiceNow Admin. (SNA2022) salary \$170k-\$200k; Sr. Software Eng. Test, Embedded (SSET2022) salary \$215,500-\$245k; Software Eng. Test-Computational Biology (SETCB22) salary \$138k-\$160k; Business Process Lead-Service Mgmt. (BPL22) salary \$175k-\$225k. Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

### Multiple Positions (SCI2022, SNPD22, SII22)

10x Genomics in Pleasanton, CA seeks multiple positions: Scientist I-Flow Cytometry (SCI2022) salary \$138k-\$155k; Scientist I-New Product Develop. (SNPD22) salary \$115,500-\$130k; Scientist II (SII22) salary \$149k-\$165k. Qualified applicants must mail resume to 10x Genomics, Attn: Jana Jensen, 6230 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588 quoting job #.

### IT Opportunities

Flexon Technologies, Inc. Pleasanton, CA  
Sr. Software Developer I. Jobs loc in Pleasanton, CA & var unantcpt locs t/o US. Dsgn, devel, impl, test, & deploy s/ware apps. Res, anayz, & determ info needs & dataflow reqs. Gath & eval user reqs & prcdres. Trav/relo to var unantcpt locs t/o U.S. for l/t & s/t assigns at client sites. Req Master's or frgn equitv in Comp Sci, Engng (any), or rel. Offered salary \$ 159,000 - \$183,309 P/Y Job 22FT112  
Software Developer. Jobs loc in Pleasanton, CA & var unantcpt locs t/o US. Devel & build user interface for websites, prdcts, & mobile apps. Rev & anlyz functl reqs & mapping docs. Asst in prblm solving & t/hooting. Wrk w/ var techs i.e. Java & Oracle. Trav/relo to var unantcpt locs t/o the U.S. for l/t & s/t assigns at client sites. Req Bachelor's or frgn equitv in Comp Sci, Engng (any), or rel. Will also accept 2 yrs exp in job offred or as a Comp S/ware Profll in lieu of Bachelor's. Offered salary \$130,000 - \$158,079 P/Y. Job 22FT110  
Email resume with cover letter to [immigration@flexontechnologies.com](mailto:immigration@flexontechnologies.com); EOE

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](mailto:digitalads@pawebly.com).



## Seniors Living Well

In the Pleasanton Weekly on May 19

The section will include information and practical advice on topics to help seniors live their best lives physically, mentally, financially and spiritually.

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Call 925-600-0840.

# A

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**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM**

**1923 NICOSIA COURT - RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON**  
OFFERED AT \$3,299,000  
4 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,447 SQFT

**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4PM**

**4102 PLEASANTON AVE, PLEASANTON**  
OFFERED AT \$1,839,000  
4 BED | 2.5 BATH | 2,159 SQFT

**CALL FOR PRIVATE SHOWING**

**COMING SOON - 35 GOLF ROAD, PLEASANTON**  
OFFERED AT \$2,995,000  
6 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,150 SQFT

**CALL FOR PRIVATE SHOWING**

**COMING SOON - 4373 LEE THOMPSON STREET, DUBLIN**  
OFFERED AT \$1,699,000  
4 BED | 3 BATH | 2,601 SQFT

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459 Main Street, Pleasanton  
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We are happy to announce our 2022 Giving Report is now available which reviews the challenges and successes throughout the year and sheds light on local nonprofits creating positive change in our communities.



<b>10</b>	<b>\$5.4M</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>9</b>
YEARS OF GIVING	GIVEN BACK	NON-PROFIT PARTNERS	COUNTIES SUPPORTED

\*YTD January 2023

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**MUIRWOOD MEADOWS**



**7331 ELMWOOD CIRCLE, PLEASANTON**

3 BD | 3 BA | 1,813 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

“Muirwood Meadows” north facing home located on Elmwood Circle with no through traffic. Two generous bedrooms and two bathrooms located upstairs and one bedroom & bathroom conveniently located downstairs. Formal living & dining areas, spacious kitchen (granite countertops) & added family room make up this approximately 1813 square foot move-in ready home! Vaulted ceilings, new downstairs vinyl plank flooring, new electrical upgrades, and some new paint. The private backyard is perfect for entertaining or relaxing with sparkling pool, patio area, and detached small flex space (art studio, playhouse or private work station area). Finished garage. Convenient commute friendly location is near access to both I-580, I-680, two BART stations, two parks, both elementary and high schools, and Stoneridge regional mall. It’s just minutes to downtown Pleasanton, golf courses, and Livermore wineries. Don’t miss this great opportunity!

**LSITED FOR \$1,569,000**

**CARRIAGE ESTATES**



**609 BLOSSOM COURT,  
PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 4.5 BA  
6,448 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE  
1.75 ACRE LOT

**LISTED FOR \$4,495,000**

Scan here for  
more information



**OAK HILL**



**7702 OAK CREEK COURT,  
PLEASANTON**

5 BD | 3 BA  
2,523 SQ. FT. LIVING SPACE

**LISTED FOR \$1,895,000**

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more information



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- Award winning real estate team, our success is your success!

**PENDING**  
\$866 Per Sq. Ft.

Listed for \$4,795,000

**1904 Zenato Place, Ruby Hill**  
5 Bedrooms | 5,385 Square Feet | .55 Acre Lot

**SOLD**  
8 Offers | 100k Over List Price  
Sold for \$1,850,000

**5847 San Juan Way, Pleasanton**

**SOLD**  
12 Offers | 166k Over List Price  
Sold for \$1,665,000

**5804 San Carlos Way, Pleasanton**



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**FOR SALE**  
Listed for \$1,798,000

**696 Merlot Court**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 1,942 Sq. Ft.

**FOR SALE**  
Listed for \$2,295,000

**1147 Mataro Court**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 2,401 Sq. Ft.

**FOR SALE**  
Listed for \$999,000

**549 Tawny Drive**  
4 Bedrooms | 2 Bathrooms | 1,611 Sq. Ft.

**FOR SALE**  
Listed at \$4,449,999

**12400 Morgan Territory**  
5 Bedrooms | 6 Bathrooms | 5,992 Sq. Ft.

**PENDING**  
\$866 Per Square Foot

**1904 Zenato Place**  
Listed for \$4,795,000

**PENDING**  
\$822 Per Square Foot

**42 Golf Road**  
Listed for \$3,449,000

**PENDING**  
Representing Buyers

**78 Meadow Walk Place**  
Listed for \$3,500,000

**PENDING**  
Listed at \$1,449,000

**6343 Inglewood Drive**  
4 Bedrooms | 3 Bathrooms | 1,608 Sq. Ft.

JUST LISTED



### 2280 Merlot Lane, Livermore

4 BR | 3.5 BA | 4 Car Garage | 3,940 SF | 12,604 Lot  
Presented at \$2,200,000



Pleasanton, Kottinger Ranch  
5 BR | 4 BA | 4,100 SF



Pleasanton, Pleasanton Valley  
4 BR | 2 BA | 1,675 SF

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