

## School District Hosts Q&A to Address Public Objections

By Dawnmarie Fehr

LIVERMORE — In an effort to address concerns of some families in the district, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) Parent Club Information Council (PCIC) hosted a live leadership forum.

The Jan. 19 forum featured a panel of school officials and administrators who answered previously submitted questions on a variety of topics — most of them dealing with the question of returning to in-person learning and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The four panelists were LVJUSD Superintendent Kelly Bowers, Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, LVJUSD Board President Craig Bueno and the district's COVID-19 liaison Carolyn Reggiardo. The remaining board members did not participate.

"Overall, I think it went well," Bowers said after the meeting. "We have received an outpouring of positive feedback from various stakeholders who were appreciative of the forum and new format, which allowed for real-time responses to questions ... my sense is that our joint goals were achieved."

Bowers said hosting a live session gave district representatives the opportunity to respond directly to many frequently asked questions, and address concerns. In all, 136 viewers attended the live forum; 117 more watched the recording. Bowers said she hoped it gave families a better sense of the processes, inputs and considerations of the district and assured them that she and her team are positioning themselves for multiple scenarios.

"This forum allowed us to further illuminate the recommendation and decision-making process relative to LVJUSD's ongoing COVID-19 response," Bowers noted. "This forum allowed us to engage in a dialogue with our community, and in so doing, correct misinformation and dispel misconceptions that may be circulating out there."

In addition to the submitted questions, participants were able to write comments and questions in the chat box, which could be answered by the appropriate panelist.

During her opening statement, Bowers acknowledged that she and everyone in the district wants school to return to in-person learning, despite all the efforts made (See DISTRICT, page 7)



Tri-Valley residents woke up this week to find a subtle dusting of snow atop Mount Diablo. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Council Aids First-time Homebuyers

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The city council recently amended a current policy that assists local first-time homebuyers.

In a 4-1 vote, with Vice Mayor Julie Testa voting against the motion, the

Alameda County employees and employees of local non-profit agencies.

"I have some real concerns about it," said Testa of the final proposal. "I think everyone who is income eligible should have a chance

each family — some councilmembers and staff feared the program would quickly extend beyond a reasonable reach.

Assistant City Manager Brian Dolan stated that the concept of giving preference

*Applicants earn points based on various criteria, such as length of residency, single household incomes, consideration for those who work in Pleasanton and those with relatives residing in Pleasanton, to name a few.*

council agreed on Jan. 19, to add several more employment groups to the city's Down Payment Assistance (DPA) program in an effort to help more residents purchase homes during the pandemic.

The addition will include qualifying employees from the Pleasanton Unified School District, City of Pleasanton, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department,

to come forward, so I am uncomfortable with this."

While Testa expressed concerns about limiting the categories of those who could apply for local funding, the majority of the council wanted to extend the eligibility to frontline workers, but still keep the list short. With only \$300,000 in the program's current coffers — a number that will serve roughly three families with a cap of \$100,000 for

to local serving workers predated the pandemic and will extend beyond it. He showed support for keeping the list of those who qualify small.

"This term 'essential workers' ... I don't think anyone knew what that was 10 or 11 months ago," Dolan said. "At a certain point, it's more about who is not included than who is included.

(See HOMEBUYERS, page 7)

## State Water Agency Seeks Input from Local Groups on Infrastructure Projects

By Tony Kukulich

REGIONAL — There is an adage in California that goes, "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over."

But instead of fighting, the California Water Commission (CWC) is looking for opportunities to hear from local agencies on water infrastructure projects.

The CWC recently wrapped up a series of public workshops intended to determine the opportunity for a state role in financing water conveyance projects that meet the challenges of a changing climate. A water conveyance project

is one that moves water, either through natural waterways like creeks, rivers and streams, or through man-made structures, such as pipes, ditches or canals.

"The workshops are an acknowledgement that conveyance is an important part of our water system," said Laura Jensen, CWC assistant executive officer. "There's a need to think about what a state investment might look like to both improve what we have now, or repair what we have now to be more resilient to the changes that are happening now, and we expect to continue in a changing

climate. We're trying to get a feel for what the priorities are in each region, but we're not looking to create a comprehensive list of projects."

Each of the four workshops focused on a different geographic region of the state. The Jan. 12 session concentrated on Northern California and was hosted by the Northern California Water Association (NCWA).

"Water suppliers in Northern California serve water for multiple benefits, including cities and rural communities, farms, fish, birds, wildlife and recreation," said David J.

(See WATER, page 7)

## Miley, Gasten and McMahan Selected For MLK Awards

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — During the Community of Character Collaborative annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast held Jan. 25, three individuals were recognized for carrying on Dr. King's legacy.

Those named to receive Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Awards were Alameda County District 4 Supervisor Nate Miley, Ruth Gasten and Denel McMahan.

"This year, in keeping with our theme, we focused on people who have shown courage — the courage to hear, to extend compassion to all; people who have called us to see and acknowledge each other and address issues of inequity and injustice in our communities," said host speaker Kelly Hively.

First, Hively introduced Miley, who has served on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors since 2000, representing Supervisorial District 4. District 4 includes Pleasanton, along with other portions of Alameda County.

After graduating from Franklin & Marshall College and finishing Law School at the University of Maryland in 1976, he moved to Oakland to work as a Jesuit Volunteer. He began his community involvement by taking a position with the Oakland

Community Organizations. Miley worked with many community-based groups and trained community or-

(See MLK, page 6)



Nate Miley



Ruth Gasten



Denel McMahan

## City Selects Energy Plans

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton City Council has approved the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) default service level of "Renewable 100" for municipal accounts, "Brilliant 100" for residential and commercial customer accounts, and "Bright Choice" for reduced-rate medical baseline programs.

The council said the service levels would provide residents with 100% carbon-free electricity with no change to their utility bills.

The CARE/FERA/Medical Baseline accounts will see save an additional 1% under the default service plan. All other customers rates will be the same under the default service plan. The rollout of EBCE will help the City achieve its CAP 2.0 2030 and 2045 reduction targets approved by Council in October 2020.

In 2019, Pleasanton

joined EBCE, a nonprofit agency providing electricity from clean and renewable sources to cities in Alameda and San Joaquin counties.

Pacific Gas and Electric continues to maintain the grid and manage billing, while delivering EBCE power.

Pleasanton residents, businesses and municipal accounts will begin receiving EBCE electricity in April. Customers may opt for a lower or higher level of service, or choose to opt out of EBCE entirely and continue purchasing power directly from PG&E. Residential and business customers will receive more information about their options in the coming weeks.

Mayor Karla Brown said initiating EBCE service is a step toward the city achieving its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and being carbon neutral by 2045.

## Gina Bonanno Appointed to Council Seat

By Larry Altman

LIVERMORE — Planning Commissioner Gina Bonanno, who has spent nearly two decades in civic service and volunteering for nonprofit organizations, was sworn in Tuesday as the newest member of the Livermore City Council.

Councilmembers appointed Bonanno to the post unanimously Monday night during a special city council meeting, in which she and 16 other applicants stated why they were qualified for the position.

Bonanno, a retired Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientist and program manager who has lived in Livermore for 20

years, will finish the remaining two years of the seat formerly held by Bob Woerner, who was elected mayor in November. Following the Monday night presentations, Bonanno came in first on each councilmember's "top 3" list. The council chose to appoint a new city council member instead of spending more than \$1 million on a special election.

"Congratulations," Woerner said to Bonanno after City Clerk Marie Weber issued the oath of office to Bonanno to open the online council meeting Tuesday. "We are really happy to have you join us."

Bonanno expressed her appreciation over being

selected. Later, she said she will be meeting city department heads over the next week and has much to learn.

During the candidates' presentations, most focused on similar issues of concern in the city: the effects of COVID-19 closures on the economy, homelessness, the downtown revitalization, climate change, affordable housing and unity.

"Livermore has provided a wonderful quality of life for me and my family," Bonanno said during her Monday night presentation. "Community is something I've demonstrated my commitment to, and I would enthusiastically continue

(See COUNCIL, page 7)



Pleasanton's Farmers Market welcomed shoppers on Saturday, Jan. 23. Such local markets have provided one of the few activities allowed under the shelter-in-place orders, which changed again this week. To read more, see page 11. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



JEFFREY

### PET OF THE WEEK

Jeffrey is a sweet and low-key chowhound. He lacks some confidence in the real world, but you can win him over with belly rubs and ear scratches. As an adult dog, he's a well-behaved canine companion, and at only 15 pounds, he's an easy addition to any home. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society /L. VanWagner)

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— VISIT WWW.INDEPENDENTNEWS.COM FOR DAILY ONLINE NEWS —

# Cancer Support Organization Moves to Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch

By Heather Brewer

In December 2020, Culinary Angels – an organization that provides nutritious meals and nutritional education to people going through a serious health challenge like cancer – announced they were expand-

two local gardens, Fertile Groundworks and Sunflower Hill. Our menus are based on what is grown seasonally, and we are grateful to be able to have this access and support our community in this way.”

McNaney, a cancer survivor and the mother of

course on food handling and safety.

“We are excited to further our collaboration with Culinary Angels from donating produce to support their recipients to partnering together, so they can utilize the new commercial kitchen at Irby Ranch,” said Edie

aspect is unique, in that the focus is typically on the person that is ill, when in fact, the caregiver is the one who feels both helpless and responsible. We are a conscious organization that creates meals full of life-supporting ingredients and educates through our meals. Our website serves as a great resource for our recipes.”

To volunteer with Culinary Angels, a person must be 18 years or older and complete a food handlers certification class.

“I had cancer myself and knew how much firsthand caregivers give up to assist and help their family members or friends who are going through treatment,” said John Carter from Livermore, a volunteer with Culinary Angels. “I had been looking for an organization to volunteer my time, and this felt like the perfect fit.”

Given the impact such organizations have on their communities, Carter strongly encourages anyone with the desire to give to join him in volunteering.

“These organizations are priceless,” he said. “I honestly do not think people of our community realize Culinary Angels exist until they are put into a position of needing services to assist with caregiving. The emotional support of receiving such a nutritious meal and knowing that you will receive this every week cannot be put into words. You never know when you will be the one needing assistance. Due to job loss, illness, death, accidents, natural disasters, there might be a time where you will depend on others

to get through a difficult period.”

In addition to support from other groups, churches and citizens, Culinary Angels also gets backing from local politicians as well. Pleasanton’s Mayor Karla Brown stopped by the organization’s new facility recently to help out and promote their good work.

“Cancer survivors and other seriously ill Tri-Valley residents are fortunate to have caring nonprofits such as the Culinary Angels to

support them as they go through their difficult challenges of beating their diseases,” said Brown. “Many of my family members have been personally affected by breast cancer, including my mother, my sister and my daughter. (This group) delivers healthy and organic food to Tri-Valley residents, and their name says it all – Culinary Angels.”

For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.culinaryangels.org](http://www.culinaryangels.org).



From left, Pleasanton Mayor Karla Brown joins Culinary Angels Executive Director Lisa McNaney and Chef Claudia Castillo Holley in the group’s new kitchen site, located at Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton. Together, they put the final touches on meals for Tri-Valley residents with severe health challenges. (Photo - Culinary Angels)

ing into the commercial kitchen at Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch to provide meals to ranch residents and other recipients.

Prior to this announcement and for the past three years, Sunflower Hill – a residential community and program for adults with developmental disabilities – had donated organic produce from their garden to Culinary Angels for their meals.

a young cancer survivor, founded Culinary Angels in 2016. Both Fertile Groundworks and Sunflower Hill Gardens donate most of the produce used in Culinary Angel’s meals, which use only organic and locally cultivated vegetables and fruits. Maintaining good nutrition during chemotherapy and other cancer and medical treatments is critical to maintain strength, energy

Nehls, Sunflower Hill executive director in a joint press release. “We are thrilled that they, in collaboration with Chef Claudia, the Sunflower Hill kitchen manager, will be creating nutritious and delicious meals for residents who choose to opt into the meal plan. We can’t wait to see what Chef Claudia cooks up!”

Since the organization’s formation, community sup-

“Cancer survivors and other seriously ill Tri-Valley residents are fortunate to have caring nonprofits such as the Culinary Angels to support them as they go through their difficult challenges...”

“The move to Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch was based on a desire to grow and be able to feed more people in need more often,” said Lisa McNaney, founder and executive director of Culinary Angels. “It also allows us the opportunity to expand our partnership with Sunflower Hill, which is one of our garden partners. We receive the majority of our organic produce from

and a healthy body weight.

Between 2017 and the present, Culinary Angels prepared and delivered more than 4,000 meals to local residents. The need is growing as more people are diagnosed and learn of their services. Some 45 volunteers assemble to prep, cook and package meals. These volunteers are all required to pass a state accredited

port for their efforts has been overwhelmingly encouraging, according to McNaney.

“The public reaction when they learn about our efforts is very positive,” said McNaney. “We are a local nonprofit that is directly serving our Tri-Valley community. Meals are delivered free of charge throughout Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton. The caregiving

## Annual Wines and Valentines Set for Feb. 12



In previous years, the annual Wines and Valentines fundraiser took place at Castlewood Country Club. This year, the event will be virtual. (Photo - Chuck Deckert)

The Museum on Main in Pleasanton is preparing for its 14th annual Wines & Valentines fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 12, but because of the pandemic, instead of the traditional gala at Castlewood Country Club the event will be held virtually.

Beginning at 7 p.m., Wines & Valentines will still feature live and silent auctions, Fund-a-Need drive, and virtual games to support the museum’s programs. Those who live in the Tri-Vally area can also choose to pick up wine and dessert at the museum or have them delivered to their homes.

The Fund-A-Need campaign this year will focus on supporting children’s educational programs that are offered free or at low cost to members of the community.

The museum is partnering with Charity Works and PayBee, an online platform for making donations, to produce the fundraiser. Republic Urban Properties is this year’s Sweetheart Sponsor.

The cost to “attend” the fundraiser is \$50 per person, or \$75 per person for wine and dessert.

The silent auction this year will be open to all bidders, not just event attendees. Bids will be accepted from 6 a.m., Monday, Feb. 1, through 6:45 p.m. the night of the fundraiser. The live auction will be held during the event and is only open to ticketed participants.

Items for both auctions are listed on the PayBee event page, which can also

be accessed through the museum’s website, [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org). Tickets may also be purchased from PayBee via the museum website.

The museum is currently closed to the public due to the pandemic.

### Clarification:

In a report out from a Jan. 11 Livermore City Council meeting, an article published in the Jan. 14 issue quoted City Manager Marc Roberts stating that countywide, the ICU bed availability was just above 3%. While Roberts did say this, he later clarified that the 3% figure was intended to be attributed to the entire Bay Area region. He further noted that ValleyCare had 52 available beds at the time of the Jan. 11 meeting.

A recent article in The Independent regarding the City of Dublin’s participation in a clean energy program should have clarified that Dublin customers will continue to have the option of Bright Choice, Renewable 100, or PG&E service as they currently have.

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# Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Move Out of Old Station 3



Fire Station 3 on Santa Rita Road will undergo a complete renovation. Firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will use a temporary facility on Stoneridge Drive until the replacement is finished. (Photo - City of Pleasanton)

Firefighters moved out of Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Station 3 this week after almost 50 years of use.

The 48-year-old building, on Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton, will be torn down and replaced with a two-story, 8,800 square foot fire station, which is expected to take about a year to complete. Until then, firefighters will work out of a temporary facility around the corner on Stoneridge Drive.

Although always intended to be a fire station, when Station 3 was built in 1973, it was initially used as a com-

munity center until it was needed by a growing department. It served that purpose for more than 40 years.

A bell that was used to summon Pleasanton's volunteer firefighters in the late 1800s was kept in front of Station 3 until it was restored by the city and moved indoors for display. The bell, as well as other mementos, have been incorporated into the design of the new building and will be on public display.

The Pleasanton City Council-approved priority work plan project will begin soon, as the building no longer meets the operational

needs of the fire service as it operates today, does not comply with seismic and wind building codes for essential facilities, and has become difficult to maintain. Additionally, the station includes an open dorm bunk area and bathroom facilities, making it impossible for staff of more than one gender to work out of the building. A study was also conducted and determined it was not economically prudent to renovate the building. Subsequently, the city council prioritized the rebuild in their work plan and approved a budget for the project.

## State Looks to Speed Up Vaccinations and Improve Data

Gov. Gavin Newsom this week announced changes to California's COVID-19 response plan designed to speed the pace of vaccination and improve the state's ability to track vaccination data.

The governor said the changes would also make it easier for people to know when they are eligible to receive the vaccine and how to make an appointment.

"Vaccines are the light at the end of the tunnel," Newsom said, "and I am focused on taking the steps needed to get Californians safely vaccinated as quickly as possible."

At the start of the month, California was vaccinating

about 43,000 people per day. By Jan. 15, that had increased to 131,620. In a news release, the governor's office said the effort to ramp up vaccinations "exposed key improvements needed to administer even more vaccines when increased supply becomes available."

According to the announcement, there will now be a single statewide standard for eligibility.

The state will continue vaccinating healthcare workers and those 65 and older, and it will prioritize those in emergency services, food and agriculture workers, teachers and school staff.

The state will then "tran-

sition to age-based eligibility, allowing California to scale up and down quickly, while ensuring vaccine goes to disproportionately impacted communities."

California is also launching My Turn, a system designed to let people know when they are eligible to be vaccinated and to make an appointment, as well as let providers share data on the doses of the vaccines they have received and administered, reducing lag times. The Department of Public Health said it would reallocate doses of the vaccines if providers not used at least 65% of their supply on hand for a week and had not submitted a plan for admin-

istering the remaining doses within four days.

My Turn is currently being piloted in Los Angeles and San Diego counties and should be available statewide early next month, according to the announcement.

While California has received more than 4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine, enough for 2 million people at two doses each, the governor's office noted there are 3 million health care workers and nursing home residents in the state, 6 million people age 65 and older, and 2.5 million who work in education and child-care, emergency services, and food and agriculture.

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stanfordbloodcenter.org/find-a-drive

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## Blood Drive Friday in Livermore

Stanford Health Care – ValleyCare will hold a community blood drive at the LifeStyleRX fitness center, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd. in Livermore, from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29.

"The need for blood is constant. Even during a pandemic," said Elisa Manzanares, with the Stanford Blood Center. "It's the blood that we have readily available that allows us to save a life at a moment's notice."

Manzanares said the blood drive, which will take place on the basketball court, would follow COVID-19 safety guidelines and donors would be required to wear masks. She said giving blood should take about an hour.

Although walk-ins will be accepted, donors are encouraged to make appointments by calling (888) 723-7831 or by going to <http://bit.ly/shcrx29>. First-time donors, or returning donors without their donor ID cards, will be required to have valid state-issued photo identification.



Enjoying a mostly sunny day this week, a bicyclist rides along South Flynn Road in the Altamont hills. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## LLNL Collaborating on Universal Coronavirus Vaccine

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is working with a British company, ConserV Bioscience Limited, to develop a broad-spectrum or "universal" coronavirus vaccine.

A broad-spectrum vaccine would protect against coronavirus pathogens of both human and animal origin, including MERS, SARS, and COVID-19, and could protect against new or mutated coronaviruses.

The collaboration brings together CBL's expertise in identifying antigens and LLNL's nanolipoprotein delivery system. Nanolipoproteins are water-soluble molecules, similar to the high-density lipoproteins that help regulate good cholesterol in humans.

LLNL has been working with the nanotechnology as a delivery platform for tularemia and chlamydia vaccines that are under development.

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause respiratory tract infections in humans. A novel strain of the virus, SARS-CoV-2, first identified in December 2019, is what causes COVID-19. Variants of the virus, which appears to mutate easily, have emerged that could spread more easily or be resistant to the recently approved vaccines.

A broad-spectrum vaccine could protect against continued mutations of

SARS-CoV-2, or other strains of the virus. Using nanolipoproteins for the delivery system would allow the vaccine to be freeze dried, avoiding the need for constant cold during transport and storage.

"We are pleased to be working with the Biosciences and Biotechnology Division at LLNL to develop our broad-spectrum coronavirus vaccine candidate," said Kimbell Duncan, chief executive at ConserV Bioscience. "We have identified regions within the proteins

of the virus that are not susceptible to change and if effective, the vaccine promises to protect against a broad spectrum of current circulating coronavirus strains and future emergent ones."

In addition to its "universal" coronavirus vaccine candidate, ConserV Bioscience, a late-stage vaccine development company, is working on potential vaccines to protect against broad-spectrum influenza, mosquito-borne diseases, HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, Rotavirus and Chagas.

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# EDITORIAL MLK Award Winners Set Examples of Courage

The Independent congratulates the three recipients of the 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Awards: Nate Miley, Ruth Gasten and Denel McMahan.

Each shared a story different from the others, but all showed a commitment to address the inequities in their communities. Whether through launching programs for seniors or children, or bringing awareness to issues that still plague marginalized people, their actions set examples for us all.

As we move forward into a new year following one that saw a global pandemic, police brutality, civil unrest, rioting and destruc-

tive wildfire, we can only hope the examples of the recipients cause a ripple effect of positive change and healing.

Spanning different generations and backgrounds, the three award winners honored for their courage serve as an inspiration to others to uphold the legacy of Dr. King, whose powerful words continue to reverberate through the world to this day.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

## MAILBOX

**Mailbox Guidelines:** Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters are required to have the name(s) of the person(s) submitting them, city of residence and phone number, for verification purposes. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Letters are subject to verification and may be edited for clarity at the discretion of the editor. We reserve the right to decide whether or not the letter will be published. Headings for all letters may be edited at the discretion of the editor to properly reflect their content. A headline will be added to letters received without one. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters must be submitted by someone living in or from the Tri-Valley; they must not offer medical advice from unconfirmed professional sources or contain libelous or inappropriate content. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less and should be sent by email to letters@independentnews.com or submitted using the form below. To be considered, letters must be received by 10 a.m. on the Tuesday before publication.

### Unused Overpass Needs a Look

Lafe Bassett, Livermore

When first plans of gentrification were debated a common topic in Springtown, that of connecting the never used overpass between Auto Row and Target.

This unused, yet paid for, overpass could connect cyclists in south wine country with northern, flat farmland, traffic restricted. Just an extended path along the freeway to the 7/11 on Bluebell!

### Current Plan Bad for Everyone

Helen Barnes, Livermore

I would like to suggest that Eden Housing and our city council investigate an alternative housing plan to the one that is proposed for the City of Livermore.

The current plan is not good for our community and our residents, and guests will not feel welcome.

### Who Does That?

Patricia Thorstad, Livermore

Inciting a partisan crowd to march towards insurrection? Who does that?

### Save Downtown

Ruth Gasten, Livermore

The "Save Livermore Downtown" group asks Eden Housing and the Livermore City Council to save downtown Livermore by presenting a new alternative with a destination park, affordable units that include workforce housing, appropriate parking and no mass of three and four story buildings in our city center.

If you agree, please sign the petition at: <https://www.gopetitions/save-our-livermore-downtown.html>

### My Apology to Democrats

Lee Edwards, Livermore

I have finally come to my senses and want to apologize to my liberal friends.

I am sorry my grandparents legally immigrated from Sweden in 1880. I am sorry I was born white. I wanted to be born a person of color, by (sic) my parents would not cooperate. I am sorry that my father worked a blue-collar job for 55 years to pay for our family of five. I am sorry they instilled in me morals and a work ethic. I am sorry I went to a state college and paid for it.

I am sorry I worked for 45 years at a blue-collar job. I am sorry I never went on welfare or applied for disability. I am sorry I didn't participate in mostly peaceful protests that burned or destroyed private property, minority businesses and killed or injured hundreds.

I am sorry I learned to think for myself. I am sorry for making my own decisions. I am sorry I took responsibility for those decisions. I am sorry I taught my kids those same ideas.

But most of all, I am sorry I won't be around to hear the whining and crying when you realize you have lost all your freedoms and are totally dependent on the all wise government ... that is assuming that you can realize it.

### Robotic Parking Is Key

Glenn Stewart, Livermore

15 years ago, city council asked, what are we going to do with that big dirt lot?

"Let's revitalize downtown," they said, and approved the Revitalization Strategy in the Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) - "... downtown should be the cornerstone of the community. It should show off the best of the city with access to unique shops and destinations, cultural facilities, galleries, parks, theaters."

\$500,000+ was spent on an outreach program, where we were asked, what is the vision for Livermore; what kind of place do you want to pass on to your grandchildren; what are your concerns?

The response: 1-Parking, 2-Community Character, 3-Open Space, 4-Traffic, 5-Hotel, 6-New Retail Uses, 7-Hotel Location, 8-Cultural Facilities, 9-Public Finance, 10-Housing.

DSP housing revitalization objectives state, "... revise land use policies to allow housing at a range of densities and types everywhere, except on ground level in the Downtown Core ... encourage construction of housing above store fronts ... promote the establishment of an artist community."

How does Eden housing meet residents' top four concerns: parking, community character, open space, and traffic?

Tom Ramos wrote in The Independent on Dec 7, 2017, "I am astounded and depressed that after all the

hard work and planning that went into making downtown Livermore the incredible beauty it is, that our city council would come up with a scheme as haphazard and poorly planned as it has. My foremost thought goes to housing. Are there really that many citizens of Livermore who think sticking an apartment complex, regardless of size, in the middle of the downtown superblock is really a good idea?"

This is 2021, and the time has come to be smart about where housing-parking could be placed and how it will impact future traffic. There's a 58,000-unit shortfall for homes affordable to very low-income, extremely low-income and homeless in the county. Livermore needs to do their part to build more affordable housing units - not on the development site.

Build 500+ Eden housing units north of Railroad Avenue to the railroad tracks and between L Street and Livermore Avenue, and on the NE corner of Livermore and Railroad in front of the I-Street parking garage.

There is enough land space for an Eden housing complex to have a robotic parking garage with twice as many parking spaces than a conventional garage, less costly, can be leased, and room for Eden Park.

### The Future is at Stake

Christine Thompson, Livermore

Fellow community members - are we being misled?

I would like to express my great concern regarding the revised low-income Downtown Livermore Eden Housing plan that was quietly presented on Dec. 7 to the city council, showing a stark 42% increase in the housing footprint - a revision that will nearly eliminate all of the proposed Veterans Park that has been touted to the community for years! The vision of this land was to provide housing for certain income levels (this is changing too, please do your research!), and to create a family-friendly outdoor space for parents like me to gather with our children while supporting our local businesses.

The goal was not to create a concrete jungle, which not only takes away from the character of such a sacred space in our community, but also is not what the community has been seeing on visual maps since 2018! Families like mine are expecting a safe, green, open space to enjoy with our children, a place to make memories and make new friends, a place to sit and appreciate the city that we love. The spacious Veterans Park was proposed to help support our local businesses, provide a social footprint for young and older families to congregate, and be the downtown gathering space we have been planning on for many years!

Before any decision is made, I am requesting that the mayor and city council be transparent to the public about the proposed drastic changes to our Downtown Plan, so community members like myself can decide what we want for our families. This is our beloved downtown, not the town of a nonprofit who will build and leave us with a suffocating complex of overcrowded larger units and their related parking issues - thus suffocating our years-long vision

of Veterans Park.

The future of our town is at stake - our children deserve more!

### Nuclear Weapons - Sole Launch Authority

Mary Perner, Livermore

On Friday, Jan. 8, Nancy Pelosi wrote to fellow Democrats, "This morning, I spoke to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley to discuss available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes and ordering a nuclear strike."

Her concern centered on the unhindered ability of the president of the United States to launch nuclear weapons. No one else legally, or practically, is in the chain of command for nuclear launch. Anyone who goes against or fails to carry out such an order risks severe consequences for breaking the law.

Such a system relies totally on the mental and moral wellbeing of the U.S. president. President Trump's status in that regard has been questioned by many, and he's not the only POTUS who has caused concern.

In the final days of the Nixon presidency, Defense Secretary James Schlesinger reportedly asked those around President Richard Nixon to inform him before carrying out any military orders, including nuclear ones, issued by the president.

During and since the Cold War, sole presidential launch authority was considered necessary, allowing immediate preemption or retaliation to adversaries should other principals be unavailable. However, in the hands of an unstable, unpredictable POTUS, the risk is unacceptable - thus the concern raised by Pelosi.

Few other countries place sole launch authority in the hands of one person. Even Russia does not.

The Russian system requires a second vote in addition to that of Russian President Vladimir Putin's.

America's system does not require any input or second vote, making it particularly dangerous.

We have been incredibly fortunate, particularly during these past four years, that the power to preemptively initiate a nuclear war has not been used. However, when it comes to nuclear weapons, depending on luck is no comfort.

It's time to rethink and revamp this decision-making process before catastrophic consequences result. For more information, visit [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org).

### Eden Housing Building Changes

James Hutchins, Livermore

During the Dec. 7, 2020, city council workshop, Eden Housing presented design changes to the downtown development.

According to the workshop's agenda, the original plan, approved by the city council on Nov. 26, 2018, "was based upon 130 studio and one-bedroom units with an average size of 650 square feet." The new plan includes "a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. Unit sizes will range from 550 square feet to 1,200 square feet." The building's footprint increased by an estimated 42% as a result of these

changes.

Additionally, in the workshop, Eden Housing stated each of the original buildings had a footprint of about 8,000 square feet, thus the two northern buildings, at four stories each, would have totaled about 64,000 square feet combined. The new design presented at the Dec. 7 workshop shows the new north building, Building A, would be 122,200 square feet, which is almost doubling the original square footage. Unfortunately, the square footage of the new southern building is not legible on the design plans released to the public due to the poor-quality reproduction.

As a result, its increase in square footage is not known. It would be nice if Eden Housing or the city would upload on their websites clear and accurate drawings for the public to view.

The design presented by Eden Housing indicates two buildings on the south side. However, this is inaccurate. It is actually one building with an approximately 60-foot-long and 17-foot-wide passageway through the first floor. It is referred to as a 'breezeway,' connecting to Veterans Way, though it will look and feel more like a dark tunnel.

This is an undesirable architectural concept. People do not like walking through tunnels as is evidenced by the Arroyo Bike Trail tunnel, which passes under Holmes Street. Most people do not like going through the tunnel and prefer to wait at the crosswalk in order to cross in daylight. This is human nature.

It would be nice if the city posted the proposed designs online, so the public can have access to accurate information, rather than having to search through the workshop video of the entire meeting and attempt to interpret the information supplied from low-quality images. It would also be appreciated if the city council and planning commission listen to the public's concerns and cooperate in pursuing alternatives that address these concerns.

### Serving Our Needs

Richard Hughes, Livermore

Why not do a 'locomotion study' first, to find out what your citizens really want?

Here is another thought worth sharing with the community. Instead of cities all across America 'forcing' bike lanes upon all of us because they have decided, in their 'infinite' wisdom, that bike lanes are 'good' for us, why don't they do a simple poll study beforehand to determine what the people really want, instead of creating a billion miles of bike lanes only to discover, rather painfully, that it was a 'pipe dream' or 'wishful thinking' or a 'romantic notion,' aka a mistake? Just like the carpool lane debacle is turning out to be!

Send an email to all your citizens asking a simple question - when you leave your house every day to go about your business, can you please let us know your estimate, on average, on a weekly or monthly basis, regarding how you plan to 'locomote' (get around)? We can even call it the 'locomotion study.'

Each member of each household can respond, as long as they submit a

unique name and a unique email address, up to even six members from each address (household). Each city waits for even up to two years, patiently if need be, to get back all the data from as many citizens as they could possibly get a response from before they publish the results to their citizens.

Drive a vehicle/motorcycle: 70%

Take public transport such as a bus or train: 10%

Ride a bicycle or e-bicycle: 10%

Walk/run/roller-blade/skateboard: 10%

The total percentage must add up to 100% (as shown above). For example, for the City of Livermore, the final data tabulated, after a two-year, data-gathering 'locomotion study' could be:

Drive a vehicle/motorcycle: 90%

Take public transport such as a bus or train: 2%

Ride a bicycle or e-bicycle: 4%

Walk/run/roller-blade/skateboard: 4%

So, once this data had been gathered and clearly established, documented, and presented to all the citizens, then and only then should any city in these 'Democratic' United States decide what to do about serving and meeting the needs of 'we the people,' yes? Wow, what a concept!

### City Missing a Great Opportunity

Rob Blum, Livermore

I support to move the housing of 130 units plus to the alternative Railroad Avenue site.

It is disgusting that the city says one thing and turns their back on the public. The city council is not holding true to what the public wants through a lot of outreach from the public. The public wants a very large, open, airy, free-flowing park that is spacious and creative. Not a walled-in canyon housing debacle with congested, tall buildings and crammed-in parking spaces.

The city council has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a unique, open space for the downtown of Livermore. The city is destroying and blowing this great opportunity for something special.

### Response to:

The Deafening Silence

David Pastor, Pleasanton

I guess that I have hit the big time.

In her letter to the Independent, Ginger Iglesias devoted two whole sentences to my "bizarre and twisted rant."

I suggested closing the border to protect U.S. citizens from the illegal immigrants adding to the spread of the Covid virus. Nothing good was said of me, of course. That could never be from an (sic) suspected "Trumpie."

President Biden wants to quarantine travelers to the U.S. This does not include those from south of the border. Instead, he is stopping construction of the wall, which is protecting us.

I never said anything about children in cages. That is old news shown with pictures of those children taken in 2014 (not Trump). I have several suggestions for Ms (Is that the proper politically correct term for 2021?) Iglesias.

First, read the Constitu-

(See MAILBOX, page 5)

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## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

tion before you trash those who have read it. Second, there was no insurrection. Civil disobedience yes, not insurrection.

What would you call the mobs attacking the White House last year? How about the 'mostly peaceful' demonstrations over the last six months? Over four months of daily riots in Portland. Destruction of statuary. Burning buildings. Loss of small businesses. Attacks on police. BLM and Antifa. Full on censorship from Twitter, Google, YouTube, and others. Hardly a word of rebuke from Congress or local agencies, except that the police were too tough on the 'peaceful' demonstrators.

I never thought that I would miss the good old demonstrations at UC Berkeley, where the cry was for 'free speech,' not elimination of free speech and designated safe spaces where students could not hear any dissenting opinions.

#### City Needs a Better Plan

Yolanda Meider, Livermore

The Revised Downtown Eden Housing Proposal Plan not acceptable. The following are concerns with the plan:

- 1) Building sizes increased
- 2) Park area reduced
- 3) Less Parking
- 4) So much for housing for the workforce.

The city has done a bait and switch again - a huge disappointment. City council needs to come up with a better plan.

#### Count Your Blessings

Violet Moore, Livermore

The Save Livermore Downtown half-page ad on page 5 of the Jan. 21, 2021, issue preyed on the reader's emotions with a picture of an unhappy little girl leaning on a swing.

If the size of a downtown park is all that poster girl has to worry about, perhaps the sponsors should introduce

her to a homeless child that has no bed.

#### Protect Tesla Park

Marilyn Russell, Livermore

Thank you for your ongoing support, editorials, and articles for preserving Tesla Park.

I am writing in regards to the recent court ruling against the opening of the Tesla Park land for off-road vehicle use. This ruling is a very important step.

I and many other Tesla Road residents, east county ranchers, biologists, conservationists, and preservationists who have been working for years to stop the inadequate, and now invalid, state plan to open Tesla Park to destructive off-roading. Now is the time for the Newsom administration to change its policy and permanently redesignate Tesla Park as a natural and cultural preserve.

If they are to be true to their word to preserve 30% of state land by 2030, they need to protect Tesla Park now as the first deposit on that promise.

#### Vote Them Out

Cindy Jo Burrow, Livermore

I'm appalled that they are making the buildings larger and taking up the area where the city had planned a park.

They ask for our input, and then ignore us all and do what they want. What gives them the right to change things without talking to the people of Livermore? We pay their salaries; we should have some say. I went to every meeting about the entire project and listened to everyone, and it was all the same - less housing and more park. And the city did exactly what they wanted, not what the people wanted.

So yes, I will vote against everyone on this council as soon as I can.

#### Executive Orders

Owen Brovont, Livermore

There are simply too

many executive orders being issued by the presidents of the United States.

An executive order is a fiat, a decree, an edict! They are not laws - they are diktats. Diktats are the typical tools of despots, tyrants, oligarchs, kings and emperors, not chief executive officers of Democratic Republics.

Biden issued a dozen "executive orders" on the first day he sat down behind his desk in the Oval Office of the White House - the only thing missing from the scene was a gold crown on his head. I will not make any excuses for Trump's liberal use of executive orders, but I argue that his use was in the best interests of an America dedicated to keeping its citizens free, and necessitated because the House of Representatives, guided by the despotic and arrogant Speaker of the House, Pelosi, attempted to block everything he had promised.

As one clear indication of what was at stake, had the leftists controlled the Senate, as they did the House, we would not now have three more Associate Justices of the Supreme Court who are champions of the Constitution of the United States as it was written and intended to be implemented! The Constitution is intended for a free people, not to be used by a despotic socialism to subjugate the people.

In spite of the often hateful, obstructive behavior of the House majority and malicious attacks by the Senate minority, Trump managed to accomplish the campaign goals he promised to the American people - many of which Biden cancelled on the first day of his presidency. Should the House and Senate have respected the will of the American people, and supported Trump in fulfilling the campaign promises that got him elected, many of those promises would have been properly debated and likely have

become democratically created laws instead of being forced into implementation as vulnerable, unilateral executive orders.

To say that America would have been better off if the legislative process had been followed as the founders had intended, is a glaring understatement and ultimately a crucial loss to the American people!

Biden's choices for his cabinet and high-level administrative positions certainly proclaim the direction America will be traveling for the next two and possibly four years. Hang on, it will be a bumpy ride!

Ayn Rand said, "We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality."

#### What Has Happened Here?

Dave Biggers, Livermore

What happened to Livermore's opportunity to create something special for downtown out of the old Lucky property?

It started with the Lennar project, which nobody liked because of its congestion and residential overbuild. That led to a city-run outreach program in 2017, which generated a list of findings, preferences, and requirements to help guide a rethink of that eight-acre parcel. What came out of those sessions was a clear consensus for (the following).

- Open space park-ish feel between Livermore Ave and L Street.
- West side hotel.
- Sufficient (and convenient) parking.
- Minimal housing with zero being the consensus preferred.
- Preserve Blacksmith Square.

The city came up with a plan, but it seemed to pay little attention to the solicited input as it maintained the East side hotel and much of the housing (now Eden Housing) through the core of the property. Nonethe-

less, with drawings depicting the reduced housing, a wide swath of green through the middle and a city message of, "There's your park, now let's get on with it," they were able to defeat a March 2020 referendum and ... get on with it.

Fast forward to last month, (when) the housing plans submitted for final approval were made public and showed a much larger and more box-ish residential footprint in the core area, thus reducing that once wide swath of green into little more than apartment complex landscaping. Gone is any semblance of a park-ish feel beyond Stockmen's. It's just an apartment complex in downtown Livermore.

Is that what we were thinking would be something special? It's not even consistent with the city's pre-referendum marketing, much less with the solicited input from the community.

I repeat ... what happened?

#### ICU Numbers Fabricated

Joseph Nilsen, Livermore

Two weeks ago, the Livermore city manager

quoted the 3% Bay Area regional ICU availability that was used to justify the most recent shutdown, even though the Alameda County ICU availability was 30% and has remained fairly constant near 30% throughout the month of January.

Last week, the Associated Press reported that the state health officials will not release the data or formula they use to calculate the regional ICU availability, because they rely on a very complex set of measurements that would confuse and potentially mislead the public if they were made public.

As a physicist, my colleagues and I strive to simplify complex problems so that we can better understand and explain complex natural phenomena. If the governor cannot explain how the ICU numbers are calculated, then it means he has no idea what the numbers really mean other than to justify whatever arbitrary mandates he wants to issue.

No scientific journal would ever publish the California

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

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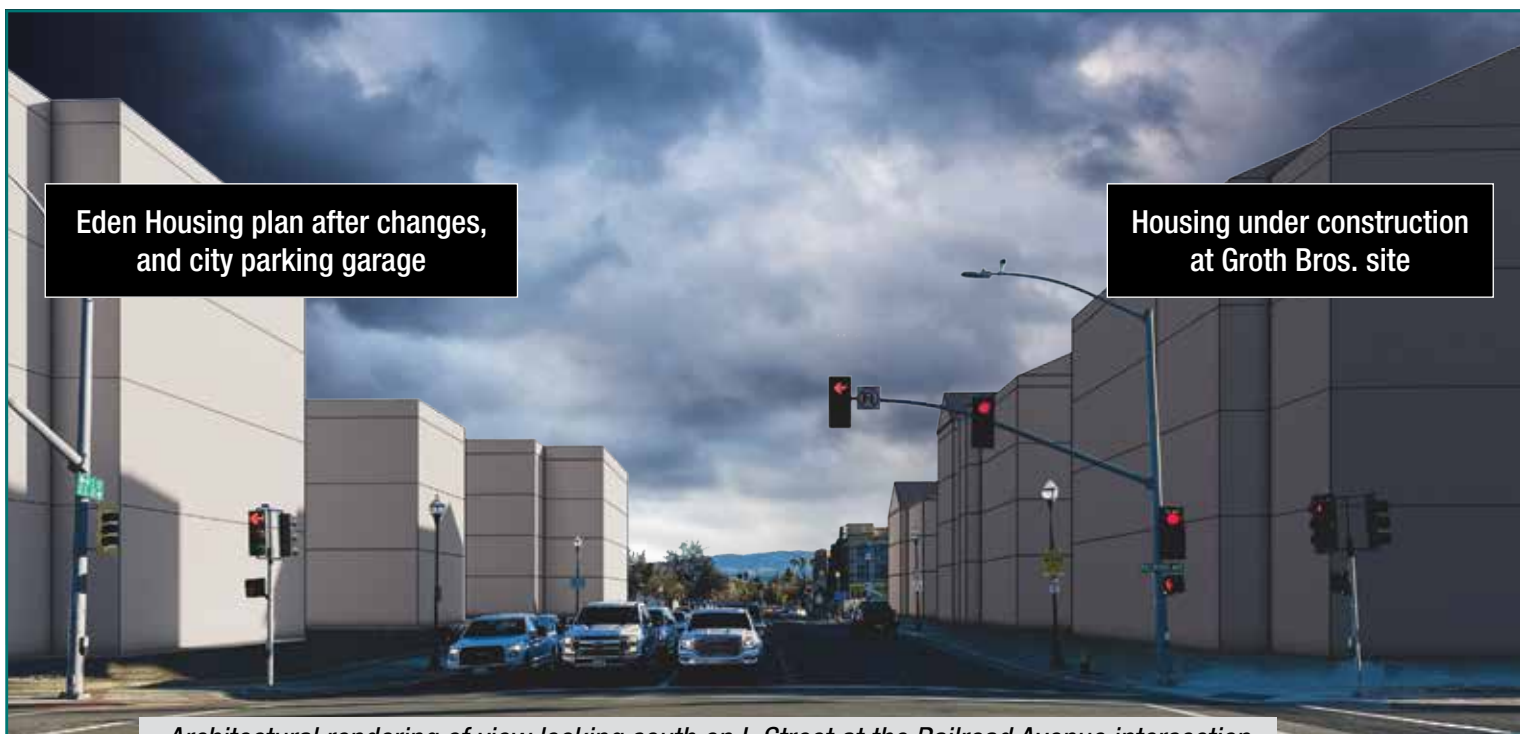
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## Eden Housing is closing in Livermore's open downtown

By pushing their 3 and 4 story buildings closer than promised to L Street, increasing the building footprint and reducing park space, the new Eden Housing plan puts the character of Livermore's open, historic downtown at risk.

- ✗ 42% larger building footprint and 32% less park space
- ✗ Buildings pushed 8 feet closer to L Street
- ✗ Jeopardizes the warm feeling and charm of Livermore's downtown

Save  
**Livermore**  
Downtown!



Architectural rendering of view looking south on L Street at the Railroad Avenue intersection

### Speak up to Save Livermore Downtown!

Call on the City Council and Eden Housing to keep their promises and present a new alternative for downtown.

EMAIL [SAVELIVERMOREDOWNTOWN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SAVELIVERMOREDOWNTOWN@GMAIL.COM) TO TAKE ACTION!

PAID FOR BY SAVE LIVERMORE DOWNTOWN

## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

state numbers without seeing the data and the formula used. Why should the public have any confidence in the governor's ability to lead the state through this pandemic when he keeps fabricating numbers in secret?

This Monday, the governor abruptly ended the regional stay-at-home order even though his "regional" ICU numbers are still 0% in the Southern California and San Joaquin Valley regions. What changed? Presumably, the governor wants to shift responsibility and blame away from himself and back to the county health officers. Sadly, California is like a ship adrift in the ocean with a broken rudder and a captain (Newsom) and crew (state legislators) who long ago abandoned ship and left the ship's medic (county health officer) in charge.

The public should demand that our governor and state legislators work together with the medical and scientific community to create an effective plan that engages and unites the community to work together to keep us all safe, to speed up the distribution of the vaccines, and to keep the economy working for everyone. More Americans are dying from Covid every day than died in the 9/11 terrorist attack, so California needs real leadership now more than ever.

**Think of Those Who Follow Susan Mayall, Livermore**

The value of a downtown park in Livermore's center has not been particularly controversial.

More recently, the confirmation of the park, particularly the size and placement of the housing, has been the subject of controversy. Lately, we have been told that the housing will take more space than previously believed. I had been doubtful about the wisdom of including housing in the park at all. This was distressing news. The very limited area that was actually park was being diminished further.

I believe strongly in low-cost housing downtown and more of it elsewhere too, so when Mayor Woerner mentioned the idea of moving the housing across Railroad Avenue, I became hopeful. As he said, it could be a 'win/win' solution.

I hope the idea is being very seriously investigated, and I hope city council will fill us in on any relevant information. This possibility may be the last chance

Livermore ever has for a real downtown park.

We need to think, not only of ourselves, but of those who follow us.

**The Pathway to SARS-CoV-2 Endemicity Greg Scott, Livermore**

Readers, the last sentence in my last letter should have read, "Tragically, SARS-CoV-2 is not progressing from pandemic to endemic soon enough." I apologize for the error.

"Endemic" means a disease that is common and manifests in certain demographics, such as an age group, and/or occurs in a certain geographic area. This differs from a pandemic which occurs in general populations and numerous regions.

I based my above quoted sentence on an article entitled "Immunological characteristics govern the transition of COVID-19 to endemicity," by Lavine, Jennie S., et al., Science, 12 Jan. 2021. One premise of the authors of this essay is that with SARS-CoV-2 (SARS-2) human immune systems infection-blocking response declines fairly rapidly and that the human immune systems disease-reducing response is relatively long-lived.

This contention leads to the notion that when SARS-2 becomes endemic its severity is greatly reduced depending on social behaviors such as vaccine rollout and acceptance, mask wearing, social distancing, not congregating indoors or outdoors in large groups, and handwashing hygiene - all to effectively reduce the transmission rate, the infection case load, and to offer lesser opportunities for the evolution of mutants with high Case Fatality Rates and Infection Fatality Rates. The authors assert, if we are sensible how we are dealing with current mutants, that all human coronaviruses elicit similar human immune system responses and thus SARS-2 will become no more a nuisance than 4 other endemic human coronaviruses that are responsible for 30% of the common colds. The thinking that we are going to achieve sanitized immunity to any of the SARS-2 mutants is erroneous.

I am sad to break this to you all - SARS-CoV-2 is not going anywhere soon. The current vaccines are based on early mutant lineages. I only encourage you to get vaccinated. The vaccines

will have to be modified for new mutants, and we will need to get frequently updated vaccinations to face this clever, mutating virus.

If we are smart about addressing and managing SARS-2 it will go from pandemic to endemic with minor effects. Children will be exposed and build better, stronger immune systems. Immune systems that are naive to SARS-2 in older adults will create specific scope and broader repertoire.

We were not listening to scientists and doctors. Few, if any, humans are not affected by SARS-CoV-2. To the SARS-2 pandemic, we must get to endemicity with low severity symptoms.

**All Would Enjoy A Park Jan Brovont, Livermore**

City officials and winery owners would like Livermore to be a destination city, but satisfying residents who would like a more quiet, quaint Livermore in which to raise their families, appears to rank last in their thinking.

Officials want to attract tourists to Livermore for weekend getaways, wine country events, maybe the rodeo or maybe just visiting downtown for dinner and a performance at the Bankhead. But can patrons find a place they can park their full-size, new Tesla or other expensive cars in one of our lovely new parking garages or lots with reduced size parking stalls? Won't it be a surprise when they go to their car to find both doors dented and maybe the trunk shortened since someone backed into it? I'm sure they will not look forward to another visit to Livermore.

Now let's take a closer look through a resident taxpayer's eye. Downtown will build up with several large, four-story buildings for housing, creating a canyon effect on L Street. Parking will be crowded, even in the new parking garages, because tenants in that housing need more parking than the housing provides.

A city of almost 100,000 needs a downtown where there is something for them to do, or they will not go downtown. Instead of cramming all these and too much housing, wouldn't it be more appealing for visitor's and most of the 100,000 taxpaying residents to have less housing on the old Lucky site and more open space which can be used for a multitude of friendly uses? Put housing on the north-

side of Railroad Avenue. With the additional space, we all could enjoy a larger versatile park area and have standard-size parking spaces.

**Say A Prayer For Country, Self Martin Pickett, Pleasanton**

Ginger Inglesias' interesting approach to unity in the post-Trump era is to dissect every right-leaning letter to the editor with a particular attention paid to snark and disrespect, as opposed to facts, flexing her moral superiority to label conservatives "rabid". Of course, letters from the left are "poignant and heartfelt".

What I think she is missing is the amazing spectacle of our freedoms being systematically erased and our voices ... being silenced because the message is uncomfortable. The Biden cabal comes to mind first.

The asinine "storming" of the Capitol by a bunch of fools is a great opportunity to again, blame the right, and praise the left for their courage. Which brings me to Eric Swalwell again, hand chosen by Pelosi to be a member of the cast of fools pursuing this time an impeachment not based on false information and simple spite, but wild-eyed fear that Trump might rise again in four years to crash their party, which I expect will be in full swing by then: foreign wars, high taxes, utilities and essentials through the roof, hyperinflation, illegal immigration. Please remember this tomfoolery when Eric comes up for reelection.

So Ginger, before you begin your weekly screed, say a prayer. For this country. And for yourself.

**Real Freedom Werner Schlapfer, Livermore**

After a series of letters to the editor, in the last one on Jan. 21, Owen Brovont warns us that our "ship of state" with the new "skipper," Joe Biden, is steering toward Socialism, no doubt meaning socialism, rather than Freedomland, against the will of a large proportion of voters.

Conservatives like Brovont constantly warn us that the left (Democrats) will push the U.S. toward socialism and that we consequently would lose our freedoms. They do not seem to understand the difference between the socialism (or communism) of the former Soviet Union (or North Korea, Venezuela and

Cuba) and today's social democracies of Europe, like Denmark. It is news to me that Denmark has "terrible accommodations, shortages of common commodities, including food and toilet paper, a dismal, unpleasant environment."

Progressives like Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and AOC advocate policies that are common practice in Scandinavian and other Northern European countries. These are countries which generally are well-functioning social democracies and are thoroughly capitalistic, in fact, (they) have freer economies than the U.S. For example, Denmark ranks higher than the US in the free-market Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom (8th for Denmark, 17th for the US). People in these countries are freer and happier than Americans. Real freedom is freedom from want.

We are behind the European social democracies as measured by almost every social indicator. They provide excellent health care for everybody, have much better unemployment insurance, paid parental leave, high quality and affordable or even free child care, better retirement benefits, better support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and inexpensive higher education. These countries score better than us

on indices that measure happiness, income inequality, economic freedom, trust in government, general well-being, elder care, child poverty rates, economic opportunity, quality of life, life expectancy, corruption, family policy, stress, intergenerational social mobility, employee protection, as well as infant and maternal mortality, obesity, teen pregnancy, drug overdose deaths, police killings, incarceration rates and gun violence.

Fixing these American inadequacies are the aims of progressives like Sanders, Warren or AOC. They do not advocate the old socialism, but rather modern social democracy compatible with capitalism. The often heard "The U.S. is the best country in the world" is no longer only not true, but it simply lulls us into complacency. We are the best, so nothing needs to change!

We must and can do better.

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(Continued from first page)

ganizers through the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs.

Hively noted that Miley's service revolved around empowering older adults, protecting open space, engaging communities, strengthening the health care system and improving neighborhood safety. He is the founder of the United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County and serves on multiple commissions and public service groups. He was recognized for dedicating his entire adult life to community and public service.

"I often tell people, I'm only as good as the people I work with," Miley said upon receiving the award. "I find the best way of leading is just to facilitate and get out of the way, and let good people do good things and back their play."

Next, Hively introduced Gasten, who fled from Nazi Germany during the Holocaust with her parents during WWII. Growing up in America with parents who stressed the importance of receiving an education, Gasten invested her life in education and opening communication to create more understanding.

She has taught parenting classes for 50 years and, in 1962, she helped start the Nursery School Scholarship Fund to help children from low-income families attend preschool. Today, that program is called Community Association for Preschool Education (CAPE).

After 9/11, Gasten recalled meeting a Muslim

man, who shared the problems he and fellow members of his faith were experiencing in the Tri-Valley. This conversation led to the creation of Interfaith Interconnect, a coalition of over 20 congregations in Livermore and Pleasanton. She launched the group with the goal of fostering tolerance through communication among people with diverse backgrounds and beliefs. She was influenced by MLK's quote, "People fail to get along because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don't know each other. And they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each other."

"We have a lot of different religions and cultures in our valley," Gasten continued. "One of the quotes that I like from Martin Luther King is the one that says, 'Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of education' ... I feel connected to all of you, and I am honored to get this award."

The third recipient, McMahan, is a current senior at Dublin High School and his school's Black Student Union president. As an activist for social justice, McMahan became involved with Tri-Valley for Black Lives and the sign garden that aimed to promote awareness around issues of inequity. While the sign garden had received the approval from the Dublin City Council, it drew the ire of one particular resident, Mike Grant. Through social media, Grant had called on the NRA, Sec-

ond Amendment supporters and far right militia to protest the sign garden.

McMahan in turn entered into a conversation with Grant to find common ground. The dialogue resulted in an apology from Grant, who later said he never thought a 17-year-old boy would wake up a 65-year-old man. Through his community involvement and the courage to stand up to opposition with the goal of opening communication, McMahan was honored with the award.

McMahan thanked his family and community for their support.

"So much progress has been made, thanks to activists like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. However, there is so much work to be done," McMahan said. "That's why I hope to be able to continue my activism through college and my adult life, because I believe that that's what we need more of, given our political and social climate."

The morning also saw its share of speakers whose messages resonated with teachings King provided before his death.

"As the past 400 years have shown us, and as this past year has particularly shown us, America has failed to uphold its ideals of liberty and justice for far too many marginalized people for far too long," said keynote speaker Johnathan Epps. "But it's never too late. Radical change is not eminent, but as Dr. King so eloquently stated, 'The

arch of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.'"

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For more information visit: [www.pfctv.org](http://www.pfctv.org) or Call/Text or Email Annie Corbett, Executive Director, Partners for Change Tri-Valley 650-474-9962 - [director@pfctv.org](mailto:director@pfctv.org)

## COUNCIL

(Continued from first page)

to do so as a member of the council these next two years."

At the conclusion, W-erner and councilmembers Trish Munro, Robert Carling and Brittni Kiick ranked their top three contenders for the post and required no further interviews or discussion when each chose Bonanno first.

Overall, in the ranked voting, Bonanno came in first with 12 votes; culinary arts teacher Evan Branning, who serves on the Livermore Human Services Commission, came in second with five votes; life and business coach Abigail

Helfer; UC Merced student Faith Nordvik and teacher Kyra Pervere each received two votes.

"I was also very excited by the enthusiasm shown by many of the applicants," Carling said Monday before voting to appoint Bonanno. "I thought that Ms. Bonanno did the best, and that's why I and the rest of my colleagues picked her as the No. 1. Picking second and third was tough."

Bonanno joins the council with a lengthy resume. She has served on the city's Planning Commission since 2015 and on the City Asset Management Program Com-

mittee, where she currently is chair, since 2016. She previously served on the Library Advisory Board. A retired scientist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Bonanno volunteers with the Livermore school district and works with nonprofit organizations including the Pedrozzi Foundation, Sunflower Hills, Paws in Need and the Quest Science Center.

Bonanno told the council during her presentation and on her application that the body's "overarching priority should be to provide effective inclusive and compassionate leadership, along

with the theme of unity and community spirit."

The top priority, Bonanno said, was leading the city through the pandemic and its recovery, focusing on public health measures, helping the community's hardest hit businesses, and addressing the needs of struggling residents.

"We won't know the full extent of the pandemic's impact or the economic consequences for some time, but we should be prepared to respond to a range of possibilities with all the tools available to us," Bonanno said.

Bonanno listed other

priorities for the city in the coming years as asset management, maintaining infrastructure, and updating the 20-year-old general plan to incorporate changes that have occurred in the city and Tri-Valley since it was adopted.

She described herself as a "thoughtful decision maker and effective communicator," and attentive listener.

"I believe my years in the Planning Commission, as well as on the Asset Management Committee, the downtown steering committee and the library are providing the broad and deep understanding of city

governance, city services, finances and the complexities of a city whose population is nearing 100,000," she said.

In her application for the post, Bonanno wrote that she came to the Tri-Valley in 1986 after living on the East Coast.

"It didn't take long for me to set my roots here and feel like this was home," she wrote. "My late wife, Kimberly, was born and raised in Livermore, and this is where we chose to raise our son who was born in 1997. We felt fortunate to live and work in a community where we were treated just like any other family."

## HOMEBUYERS

(Continued from first page)

I do believe if you include this entire list, it kind of loses its value."

Other items added to the amendment also included the requirement of a six-month work history with the city and the extension of the loan program to those enrolled in the Below Market Renters (BMR) program.

While Testa didn't agree with the applicant qualifications parameters, everyone agreed to the BMR additions and six-month work history.

On Oct. 20, the city council approved modifications to Pleasanton's DPA program to increase the maximum loan amount to \$100,000, restructure

the loan terms, and adopt a shared appreciation loan policy for repayment based on recommendations from the housing commission.

"What we didn't bring forward at that time (on Oct. 20)," said Dolan, "was a second, smaller part of their recommendations to add some sort of preference

program ..."

Qualifications for the loans are currently based on a point system of 21 total markers. Applicants earn points based on various criteria, such as length of residency, single household incomes, consideration for those who work in Pleasanton and those with relatives

residing in Pleasanton, to name a few.

The city funded program has helped residents with homeownership since 2003. Currently, there are 50 homeowners with DPA loans; of those 50, 46 residents own BMR units with the remaining four residing in unrestricted market rate

homes.

Income eligibility for the program is: one-member household, \$100,150; two-member household, \$114,450; three-member household, \$112,870; and four-member household, \$143,050. For more information, visit [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov).

## WATER

(Continued from first page)

Guy, NCWA president. "The conveyance of water is important for climate and water resilience in this region. We encourage active participation in this workshop to explore how conveyance projects can best serve these various beneficial purposes into the future."

During discussions of California water conveyance projects, the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) was the elephant in the room. Expected to cost \$22 billion and take 15 years to build, the DCP is the latest iteration of plans to draw water from the northern reaches of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The water would then be conveyed into the Central Valley and Southern California as far as San Diego through the existing network

of State Water Project canals. Under Gov. Jerry Brown, the project was referred to as WaterFix and consisted of a pair of 35-mile-long tunnels buried 150 feet underground through the heart of the Delta. Gov. Gavin Newsom scaled the project down to a single tunnel with the introduction of the Water Resilience Portfolio, and WaterFix became the DCP.

Despite the significance of the DCP, it was not a workshop topic. The California Department of Water Resources is the state's lead agency on the tunnel project and is managing the public process for that initiative. As such, DCP falls outside of CWC's purview.

Workshop participant Carol Mahoney, Zone 7 manager of integrated water

resources, said the DCP has wide-ranging implications for her agency. But with it off the table for discussion, she focused on other projects that would improve water delivery resiliency for the Tri-Valley. One such project is the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline – an initiative spearheaded by the Contra Costa Water District that will connect Zone 7 with the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. It will provide redundancy in the Zone 7 infrastructure that does not exist today.

"For us, we talked about the idea of effectively getting water to the Livermore Valley when it's needed," Mahoney said. "That is our big concern, because 80% of our water does come through the Delta. That's our source. It's important to this valley to

be able to move water here when it's needed. Those are the projects that are going to be most beneficial to Zone 7 outside of the Delta Conveyance Project."

Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio served as the impetus for the workshops. Introduced in April 2019 and finalized in July 2020, the portfolio is the Newsom administration's blueprint for equipping California to cope with more extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, and over-reliance on groundwater, among other water-related challenges.

According to the CWC, existing conveyance structures are aging and in need of repair. Additionally, climate change will require new and improved connections de-

signed for different purposes than the state's historic infrastructure. The commission's objective is to learn about regional conveyance needs and priorities that align with the goals of the resilience portfolio.

"The end result of this will be a white paper with

recommendations that goes out to state policymakers that may be used to craft bond language that looks at bond funding for investment in water infrastructure," Jensen said. "We are looking to make high-level suggestions about how to think about projects that come before the

## DISTRICT

(Continued from first page)

to improve distance learning. She asserted the district would not commit to keeping students at home for the remainder of the year, but continue to hold out hope to reopen this spring.

"From day one of distance learning, we have also simultaneously been working on reopening," she said. "At each point, we have been following guidance from the county, the governor and our stakeholders ... At each step of the way, we have positioned ourselves for any possible avenue."

Despite Bowers' claim and Van Schaak's discussion of the school's plan for hybrid learning once allowed by state and county regulations, some parents were looking for more commitment to seeing students in the classroom.

"All parents like myself want is a commitment in the form of an approved vote from the board to roll out the approved plan for hybrid reopening for those who want it when we return to the red tier," said LVJUSD parent Ashley Bolduc. "There has been no commitment from the board to giving families the hybrid option."

Nobella Baba also expressed her frustration. A strong proponent of a return to in-person education, Baba began a Facebook page called "Reopen Livermore

Schools."

"In theory, this live Q&A was a wonderful idea and was a great chance for the district to give some real answers to some very important questions," Baba said. "In reality, what we got was the same zero solution answers, where no one wants to make any decisions because of fear. No one on that panel wanted to give even the slightest concrete answer."

Baba said she would like to see some firm plans made – in the form of a vote by the school board – for a return to school. She said an item on a board meeting agenda or the creation of class rosters for in-person learning would be a step in the right direction, insisting a goal to work toward is imperative to students returning to the classroom.

Assistant Superintendent Chris Van Schaack said that while the district understands the desire for a firm answer to the question of when schools will reopen, it's not one that can be answered with surety.

"We have criteria that must be met prior to us committing to opening schools to large numbers of students," he said. "Some of the criteria – reduction in community spread, widespread testing and access to vaccinations – are not within our control. If we had guarantees of when those would take place, we

could set a definitive date for our community.

"The claim that 'no one wants to make decisions because of fear,' is absolutely accurate. However, 'fear' is being used by Ms. Baba as though it's irrational or unfounded. In fact, the fear in (this) case is that decisions we make might increase the spread of COVID, resulting in more illnesses and deaths, which is clearly something that should create some level of fear."

Newly elected board member Yanira Guzman was not present during the meeting, but did watch the recording. She said she felt the meeting went well and hoped the district continued to work together to bring all students and staff back to their campuses safely.

"(The meeting) was highly organized, thorough, and informative," Guzman said. "In addition, I appreciated the handling of questions that came via chat, as well as the continued reminders that we are all on the same pathway – to bring students, staff and teachers back to school safely."


A recording of the LVJUSD Leadership Live Webinar is available on the district's website at [www.livermoreschools.org](http://www.livermoreschools.org). For more information, call 925-606-3200.



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# The Sky is the Limit for Robinson

By Matt Schwab

On and off the basketball court, Skylar Robinson is an impact player for Chabot College.

The 2019 Dublin High graduate, who stands 6-foot-8 with a versatile playing style, is making a lasting mark through his leadership and charisma. The communications major is president of the Striving Black Brothers Coalition at Chabot, a support group for African American students, and has been a leader in discussions surrounding social justice. He is also a student peer guide in general counseling and special programs.

“People like him,” Chabot coach Keenan McMiller said of Robinson, a 3.5 GPA student. “His peers like him, and the administration likes him. I think next fall, he’ll probably be the ‘poster child’ on the cover of the Chabot class course schedule magazine... I don’t think there’s been a student-athlete on there for quite some time, but it’s hard to

trying to transfer to a four year, so I’m just trying to stay positive, stay in shape, things like that.”

His goal with the Striving Black Brothers — Chabot has about 2,000 Black students — is basically to get people graduated within two years with an A.A. degree and ready to transfer to the four-year level. Five or six players on the successful men’s basketball team last year were part of the support group.

“That’s definitely been one of my highlights at Chabot,” Robinson says of his role. “It’s taught me a lot of life skills professionally and academically, and it’s helped me build a lot of connections. We also do community service in the Bay Area, like Hayward, Oakland, and Alameda — things like that — so it’s been really cool.”

A late bloomer on the court, Robinson has received an offer from Division II St. Martin’s University in Olympia, Washington, and

blo Valley College 74-72 in Round 1 of the NorCal playoffs. Robinson had seven points, eight rebounds, along with two assists, three blocks and a steal in the tough defeat. He averaged 6.3 points a game for the season, and is expected to be a NorCal standout as a sophomore.

The DVC game has stuck in the minds of the Chabot players. DVC made the last shot to win it after the host Gladiators led at halftime. Robinson takes ownership for the outcome.

“It actually really stung, and that last play was on me defensively,” he recalled. “I blocked it at first, and then somehow, he still had the ball and it went in. We really thought we were the better team in that game, and I think we would win that game if we played it again, but it was definitely a heartbreaker. It really was.”

Even though Robinson will surely have other options down the road, basketball is his main focus.



During a 2019 game against Amador Valley High, Skylar Robinson #4 Dublin wrestles for the ball (center of left photo) and goes to block a shot (above). (File photos)



“I am definitely looking to play for as long as possible,” he said, “I am definitely going to see wherever that takes me, but career wise, my major is communications. I have a hard time figuring out what my passion is other than basketball, but I just want to keep my options open. I know I

can speak pretty well, I’m kind of good in the academic setting, and I (have) a little experience with that now. At first, I was thinking sports journalism or sports broadcaster, just to stay connected with the game. My uncle still works for the NBA as a drug counselor for the rookies and stuff. That’s kind of

cool. He still stays involved with the game, so I like that about his job.”

No matter where the road takes him, Robinson is making an indelible mark at Chabot. McMiller says Robinson takes pride in everything he does.

“I couldn’t ask for more,” the coach said.

find a student-athlete like this in any of the programs at our level.”

At Dublin High, Robinson quickly became popular on campus after transferring from nearby California for his senior year. Gaels coach Tom Costello vividly remembers how seemingly everywhere he went on campus, teachers, counselors, and administrators would say, “Skylar this, Skylar that,” Costello recalled this week.

“He is a very, very impressive kid,” he said. “He really is.”

Currently, Skylar and his Chabot teammates are awaiting the green light to even have a season during the COVID-19 pandemic. Things have stalled statewide for team sports, and McMiller fears that there won’t be enough time to complete an 18-game season by the state’s April 16 deadline.

“I’m trying to pretty much keep a positive mentality,” Robinson said. “It’s easy to get down not knowing if we’re going to have a season or not. That’s very impactful to guys at the community college level

at least three other Division II schools are interested, but McMiller sees a Division I future for Robinson if he stays patient.

Basketball success runs in the Robinson family. Skylar’s dad, Anthony, played at Castlemont High, Chabot and Division I Valparaiso (Indiana) before finishing up at Cal State Hayward (now East Bay); and Skylar’s uncle, Cliff Robinson, starred at Castlemont and USC before embarking on a 10-year NBA career. Skylar, whose brother also played high school basketball, turns to his family basketball brain trust often. They watch game film together.

“My dad always tells that there’s more than one way to get to a goal, so he always uses himself as an example of the guy that went the junior college route and ended up going Division I, so he’s part of my inspiration, just staying the course,” Skylar says. “I didn’t have any offers coming out of high school. I’m doing the junior college thing, and I’ve had pretty good success with it.”

The 2019 to 2020 season for Chabot ended with a heartbreaking loss to Dia-

## Granada High Schooler Wins Gold for Team USA



Alli DeGuzman

Alli DeGuzman was selected to the United States National Team in Taekwondo poomsae and represented Team USA in the Pan-American Poomsae Championships held virtually in late December 2020. They are a member of the mixed poomsae freestyle team that would contribute to the United States finishing first in the medal

count (38 Gold 119 Silver 113 Bronze). Shortly after representing Team USA, the Granada H.S. sophomore competed in the U.S. Grand-slam Poomsae Finals taking Gold in mixed team freestyle and Silver in Individual freestyle poomsae. Alli trains at Elite Taekwondo Academy in Livermore and MteamTKD/ CPP in San Jose.

## TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Thursday, Jan. 28 New Year Swag Bag Drive Through

Dublin Senior Center staff will be handing out a swag bag to seniors on Thursday, Jan. 28, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m., or while supplies last. Bags will be filled with information about local services and resources for seniors, plus items to help welcome in the new year. Participants should enter the Senior Center driveway from Donohue Drive and drive toward the front door of the facility. Drivers should remain in their car, and pop open their car’s trunk or roll down a window in the back seat so that staff can safely deliver the bag to the occupant. For more information, email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov.

### Thursday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Feb. 11 Career Planning for Students

Does the thought of picking a college major or deciding on a career have you worried? AAUW — LPD for High School Girls has answers, so join them for career planning for STEM and more, at 7 p.m. A panel of young professional women will share their varied paths to success, so you can listen to their very own ‘Ted Talks,’ and learn about their varied journeys, and follow up with a question-and-answer session. To reserve a seat at this event, register at <https://bit.ly/2KsKBJY>.

### Friday, Feb. 5 Community Blood Drive

Join the City of Dublin in supporting the American Red Cross at a Community Blood Drive on Friday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Dublin Senior Center (7600 Amador Valley Blvd.) Successful blood donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. To make a reservation, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code, DublinCommunity, or call 1-800-733-2767. While reservations are encouraged to donate, drop-ins are welcome. The City of Dublin will be hosting blood drives on the first Friday of alternate months. In addition to the February blood drive, other upcoming blood drives will be held on April 2, June 4, Aug. 6, Oct. 1, and Dec. 3. This allows for donors to participate at each blood drive, following suggested recommen-

dations to wait 56 days between donations. Please note that blood drive locations may change within the City of Dublin.

### Monday, Feb. 8 Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Stewart Traiman, MD

This free Zoom class, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., is based on Mastering Genealogical Documentation by Tom Jones (NGS, 2017). Stewart will breakdown all 17 chapters and lead you through exercises designed to sharpen your citation crafting skills. You will learn the five necessary elements of a good citation — who, what, where, when, and where is. You will then put those elements together to create clear, complete, and accurate descriptions of your sources. The class will also discuss software aids to help you become a citation expert. For more information, email [program@L-AGS.org](mailto:program@L-AGS.org).

### Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 28 Taste Tri-Valley

Visit Tri-Valley, the region’s destination marketing organization, in partnership with the Cities and Chambers of Commerce of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Town of Danville, are launching their first annual Taste Tri-Valley, a 10-day delivery and take-out restaurant week promotion from Friday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 28, for participating dining establishments ready to showcase their culinary talents. Prix-fixe menus will be available for take-out and delivery from diverse cuisines at various set price points (for lunch and dinner) for every taste and budget. For more information, visit [visittri-valley.com/restaurantweek](http://visittri-valley.com/restaurantweek) or follow @visittri-valley on Facebook and Instagram.

### Now Until Saturday, March 6 Give the Gift of Swim

American Swim Academy is offering its 2021 Winter Camps for age 6 months to 15 years. Camps run weekly for 30 minutes with class ratios as low as 2:1. Gift certificates are now available. The academy is also hiring for positions in Dublin, Livermore and Walnut Creek. For more information, visit [americanswimacademy.com](http://americanswimacademy.com).

### Wednesday, Jan. 13 to Wednesday, May 19 Coffee Hour for Seniors

Zoom “Coffee Hour for Seniors” will resume once a month, on Wednesday mornings, beginning in January. The Zoom get-togethers will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 13, Feb. 17, March 17, April 14 and May 19. For more information, visit [dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events](http://dublin.ca.gov/380/Special-Events).

### ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square. Open Thursdays, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Town Square (South K Street between Third and Fourth St.) 2155 Third St.

#### Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Saturdays, from 10 to 1 p.m., at Main Street and West Angela Street. Seniors 60 and over are welcome for specialized shopping from 9 to 10 a.m.

#### Six Feet Apart Productions Shares Art From a Distance

Sunday Night Stories is an online show with people sharing true stories, poetry, comedy, music and more, featuring an eclectic mix of entertainment to feel connected in times of social distancing and self-isolation, live every week, on Sundays, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions](http://facebook.com/pg/Six-Feet-Apart-Productions) or [eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories](http://eventbrite.com/e/sunday-night-stories).

#### Stress Relief Recovery International

A confidential, peer-led, self-help group for stress relief will take place Sundays, at 2 p.m., via conference call. Get guidance on practicing a method developed 80 years ago by psychiatrist Abraham A. Low to replace the ‘defeatist babble of the brain, with secure thinking to help cope with the stressful events in our everyday lives. Call 925-515-604-9094, ID 192451547#.

#### VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

#### Register for Virtual and Outdoor Activities

Do you want to learn a new

skill, dabble in a new art form, get into shape, or finally take up that new hobby you’ve pushed back for so long? The Pleasanton Library and Recreation Department is now offering a wide variety of virtual and outdoor in-person courses this fall. Registration is open for everything from coding, web design and engineering courses to art, public speaking, and outdoor group exercise. There are even courses on LEGO and Minecraft. Sign up now at <https://bit.ly/33BNAOU>.

#### EBRPD Brings “Parks to People”

East Bay Regional Park District is committed to the idea of lifelong learning and helping people make their own discoveries about local parks. The resources they have compiled are designed to be used at home, in a classroom or part of any online learning. For more information, visit [www.ebprparks.org/activities/digital\\_learning/default.htm](http://www.ebprparks.org/activities/digital_learning/default.htm).

#### LARPD Now on YouTube

Livermore Area Recreation & Park District is featuring videos for all ages with virtual activities, including Basketball Academy, Mystery Craft Making Activities and many more to come. Visit [www.larpd.org](http://www.larpd.org) to subscribe and receive notifications as new videos are available.

#### Music Together Tri-Valley Supports Early Childhood Development

This international, award-winning, early-childhood music program supports parents with songs and musical activities to enjoy with their children through play-based learning curriculum, designed to help everyone learn to sing in tune and keep a beat. For more information, visit [www.musictogether.com](http://www.musictogether.com).

#### Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring everyone a beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcasts of musician interviews and conversations about the music. Subscribe to listen at [www.pacificchamber-orchestra.org](http://www.pacificchamber-orchestra.org).

Enter events online at [www.independentnews.com/calendar](http://www.independentnews.com/calendar) or email [calendar@independentnews.com](mailto:calendar@independentnews.com) for print.

# OBITUARIES

## Donald W. Larsen and Jacqueline J. Larsen



A great romance has come to its life's end this month with the passing of Donald W. and Jacqueline J. Larsen, married for 76 years.

Don passed on Jan. 10, at the age of 94, followed by Jacquie at the age of 92, on Jan. 12. They were home together in Brentwood, California.

The loving couple shared a wonderful life together that began in Marion County, Kansas, and continued in Livermore, California. Don and Jacquie began courting in high school in Marion, Kansas, walking to school. The couple mar-

ried during college, and then began their life together on the Larsen family farm. They soon rented a nearby farm and started a family, raised sheep, and started a gladioli nursery where they sold bulbs and cut flowers for weddings and funerals.

The happy couple moved to Livermore in 1957 with their three young children, where Don began teaching at Junction Avenue School. He later served there as vice principal and principal of Jackson Avenue School. He really enjoyed working with

the children and teachers. Jacquie taught piano lessons and later served (as) the library technician at Livermore High School.

The couple designed and built their own home in 1962 as an educational opportunity for their children. In 1972, they built another home with son Jon, where they lived until 2018.

The Larsens had an entrepreneurial life, including owning a gift and pharmacy shop in Peabody, Kansas. They purchased houses for rentals and fixer uppers to flip.

Don became a general contractor, and later, he and Jacquie founded the first house-inspection company in the area, Larsen House Inspection. Don and Jon became well-known in the real estate community and helped shape a new industry.

Throughout their life together, the Larsens had many interests, including the fine art. Don was known for his watercolor paintings and Jacquie for her textile hangings. Their love of nature and the world around them was reflected in their art and two published books. They enjoyed many

great trips together.

From the beginning to the end of their lives together, Don and Jacquie used love, humor, and thoughtfulness to support not only each other, but their family and community. Don and Jacquie had great resilience over their lifetime in battling health problems, taking turns caring for each other with spirit and humor. They were fond of their health care workers.

The family is incredibly grateful to everyone that had a positive impact on their lives.

### Donald Wayne Larsen

Jan. 23, 1927 – Jan. 10, 2021

Don grew up on a farm near Peabody, Kansas, with his parents, Louis and Grace Winkley Larsen, and his sister, Phyllis.

He enrolled as a first grader in a one-room school, attended Marion High School, then received a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture at Kansas State University. He married Jacqueline Hawbecker of Marion and began farming with his father.

After several years, the local school board asked him to teach at the one-room country school. This did it, his people interest was kindled. Night and summer school helped him achieve a master's degree in education at Emporia State College.

Four years later, he reported to a sixth-grade position at Junction Avenue School in Livermore, California. He later served as the school's vice-principal until being cho-

sen as principal of Jackson Avenue School. He loved working with the students and finding ways to enrich their lives. He also enjoyed working with people and often shared many fond and funny memories of faculty, students, and their parents.

After his retirement, he and his retired staff continued their friendships in regular lunches.

Don had an eclectic variety of interests and put his creativity and passion into every project. Before retirement from education, he began to paint. Watching the colored water flow from the end of his paint brush relieved much of the stress of dealing with adolescents.

He pursued watercolors and became recognized as a professional artist in California. He was elected president of two societies, the Society of Western Artists and the California Watercolor Society,

both of which granted him the honor to put his initials behind his signature. He really enjoyed demonstrating and judging at art shows across the state, and he won many awards. He also served as superintendent of the Alameda County Fair art department for many years. He left a large file of sketches and ideas for new paintings, several in his head still at the end of his life.

As owner of Larsen House Inspection, he found a new profession. He enjoyed helping homeowners, buyers and realtors understand and maintain the buildings. He created a regular newsletter with word search puzzles, an effective marketing tool that he delivered in person to realtors.

His son, Jon, joined the business and they helped form the state and national inspection organizations, CREIA and ASHI. Don inspected into his 70s, when he was grounded

and continued to do the marketing for the company.

After a second retirement from Larsen House Inspection and not wanting to be idle, Don wrote and self-published two books.

"I've Never Been an Old Man" describes the struggle when Jacquie became quite ill and needed a care-home for eight years. "The Prairie Tides" tells of his family and general changes in mid-west life during the 20th century. He then wrote a series of stories about a Danish detective that helped him research Denmark, his grandfather's country.

Don enjoyed his world, whether it was where he traveled, what he studied and observed in his back yard, or whom he spoke with. Memories of people he met always gave him pleasure. He was a people person, a creative person.

### Jacqueline A. Larsen

May 23, 1928 – Jan. 12, 2021

Jacquie was born Jacqueline Joyce Hawbecker on May 23, 1928, to Emery and Hazel Hawbecker in Marion, Kansas.

Jacquie had a great love for music, played saxophone and was drum major in the high school band, and for many years, she led the choir and played organ at church and taught piano lessons. She had a great appreciation for classical music and was sometimes found listening to her hi-fi stereo with headphones, conducting while she listened.

After raising their three children, Jacquie fulfilled her dream of higher education and returned to school to become a library technician. She started a career in

the libraries Livermore and Granada High Schools.

Jacquie shared interests with Don and supported his creative, professional, and business pursuits, but she also had many interests and hobbies to include fiber art. She dyed wool and spun her own yarn and interpreted some of Don's design ideas into her wall hangings.

In her later years, Jacquie dedicated several years to genealogy and researched their own and other families' lineages back as far as the records would take her. She documented her ancestors back to nearly 1,000 years of Scottish, Ulster Scotch-Irish in Northern Ireland, English, French, Pennsylvania Dutch and more.



Don and Jacquie are survived by their three children and spouses, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and Don's sister and family. Jacquie is preceded by her sister, Maurine Sloan Graham of Winfield, Kansas.

Survivors are daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Darrel Sweet of Livermore; Eric Sweet (Michelle), and great grandchildren, Blake and Audrey Sweet; granddaughter, Melani Sweet (Bryan Kirkwood) and Riley Kirkwood of Monument, Colorado; son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Karen Larsen of Peabody, Kansas; granddaughter, Krissy Lovett (Chris) of Haysville, Kansas, and great grandson, Andrew; Becky Tibbets (Mickey) of Peabody, Kansas; great-granddaughter, Kortney Foth; great-grandson, Trevor Foth (Rachel) and great-great grandchildren, Nathaniel and Gabriel Foth, and Elizabeth Dameron; grandson, Lucas Larsen; grandson, Kiefer Larsen (Alanis); and great-grandson, Kamden; granddaughter, Brianna Larsen great-grandsons, Logyn Larsen and Rheti Toppins; son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Donna Larsen; grandson, Drew Larsen of Ada, Oklahoma; Don's sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Owen Wingfield of McDonald, Kansas; niece, Debbie Wingfield of Dever, Colorado; nephew, Greg Wingfield (Dina) of Clements, Kansas, and their children, Orion Wingfield (Carlie) of Atlanta, Georgia, and Molly Wingfield (Scott Kaitz) of Portland, Oregon.

Your thoughtful gifts may be sent to any youth organization or Shepherd's Gate, in Livermore.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Larsen family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at [www.callaghanmortuary.com](http://www.callaghanmortuary.com).

### Dorothy (Dottie) Sladky

Jan. 19, 1926 – Jan. 5, 2021



Dorothy (Dottie) Sladky, born Jan. 19, 1926, passed away peacefully on Jan. 5, 2021, from COVID-19.

Dottie was born in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, and headed out west with her new husband, Joe Sladky (d. 2017), when she was just 20 years old.

After expanding their family in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the couple moved on to Livermore, where they resided for 65 years. Dottie spent her days raising money for non-profit organizations, and volunteering at the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, VA hospital, Livermore Police Department and Library, and Scandia (Sister Bay, Wisconsin) among other civic groups. She also enjoyed entertaining, taking her family on cross-country road trips, adopting cats, and teaching her grandchildren to hunt for snipes in Ellison Bay.

From an early age, Dottie displayed independence and strength. As a young wife, she went into a butcher shop

in Minnesota to buy a chicken and noticed there were two prices on the board. She asked why there were two prices posted, and the worker responded that the price depended on whether the chicken was "drawn or undrawn." To the worker's delight, she requested an undrawn chicken and was told she could have it if she could undraw it herself. She proudly walked out with a free chicken.

Dottie, also known as Grandma Dee, is survived by her daughter, Alex Sladky Anderson; son-in-law, John Anderson; grandchildren, Joe Anderson and spouse Shelly

Anderson, and Adair Spence and spouse William Spence; and great grandchildren, Lev and Nava Anderson and Lennox and William Spence; and her nephew, Lee Telfer and spouse Ruthie Telfer; and son, Barry Telfer and spouse Kirstin Telfer, and children, Jens and Sofia Telfer, grand-niece Alex Lawton and spouse Jack Lawton; and grand-nephew, Robert "Stock" Truslow.

Even in her final days, Dottie found some of her greatest joys in her Wisconsin roots. The last food she enjoyed was on Christmas Day - a cherry pie from Koepsel's Orchard in Sister Bay. Dottie will be laid to rest with her family at the Little Sister Cemetery in Bay, Wisconsin. While no memorial is planned, her family asks you to lift a glass at 5 o'clock, as she always did with Joe.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Sladky family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at [www.callaghanmortuary.com](http://www.callaghanmortuary.com).

### Kay H. Brown

March 24, 1943 – Nov. 24, 2020



Kay Brown, a Livermore resident since 1968, passed away Nov. 24, 2020, surrounded by her family.

She was predeceased by her son, Aaron Brown, who died in 2012 at the age of 39. She is survived by her husband, Charlie Brown; daughter, Lara Brown Donaldson, and 12-year-old grandson, Chase Donaldson.

Kay was born in San Antonio, Texas, but grew up in Port Arthur, Texas. In high school, she met her future husband, Charlie. After dating for five years, they were married on May 29, 1967. Kay was a registered nurse in Texas and California.

Her love for nursing was in the operating room. In Houston, Texas, she worked for a renowned heart surgeon, Dr. Cooley. Upon moving to Livermore, she worked in

surgery at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore for 15 years, then in Manteca for two years before going to work for the Fremont Surgery Center for 17 years, where she retired in 2002.

In her spare time, along with her entire family, she got into volleyball. In 1987, she became a USA National Scorer, which led to becoming an International Scorer both indoor and outdoor. She

was a scorer for Granada High School from 1984 to 1995, for UC Berkeley for 17 years, head scorer for the Davis Volleyball Festival that she helped co-found with her husband for three NCAA Final Four tournaments in Spokane, Washington (1997), San Diego, California (2004) and Sacramento, California (2007). Kay also enjoyed the outdoors, hiking and biking in the Northern California area with her husband and playing board games with her grandson, Chase.

Kay will be missed by her family and friends that she impacted greatly along the way. She was a sweet person and friend to many. She leaves behind a legacy that will live on forever. A celebration of her life will be planned at a later date when it is safe to do so. .

### Juanita Shirley Anderson

July 8, 1932 – January 1, 2021



On New's Day, Juanita Shirley Anderson, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away peacefully at home in Livermore, surrounded by her loving family. She was 88 years old. Juanita was born in Riverside, Illinois, to parents George and Elizabeth Nelson, and was the eighth of nine children. After graduating from Riverside Brookfield High School, she worked at Western Electric as a secretary. It is there that she met and married in 1952, the love of her life, Dan Anderson.

Over the next six years, their lives were blessed with three sons and they lived in Downers Grove, a suburb of Chicago. Their future would take a big change in 1963, when Dan accepted a job transfer to sunny California. They settled in Santa Clara, where Juanita lived for the next 43 years.

Juanita was an unforgettable woman with a strong will and caring heart. She was very supportive to her children and made her home like a second home to all their neighbor-

dren. Each of them lit up her world and brought her immense joy! After suffering a stroke in 2005, she relocated to Rosewood Gardens Assisted Living in Livermore, where she made her new home and new friends.

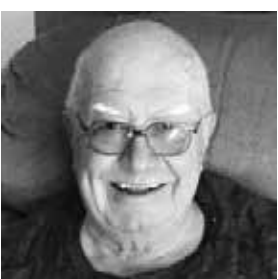
Juanita was preceded in death by her husband, Dan; her brothers, Ken, Monte, Ed, George and Herb; and her sisters, Jean and Fanny. Juanita is survived by her three sons, Greg (Cheryl) of San Jose, Randy (Colette) of Granite Bay, and Bruce (Katherine) of Livermore.

"Grandmanita" adored her eight grandchildren, Audra, Kelly, Scott, Alyssa, Haley, Jordan, Gregory and Katrina; as well as four great-grandchildren, Adeline, Eloise, Joey and Beau.

Memorial and celebration of life will be held in honor of Juanita at a later date. Donations, if you are so inclined, can be made to a charity of your choice. "Juanita" means Gift of God, and we feel truly blessed! .

### Dimitrios Mataras

July 28, 1933 – Dec. 29, 2020



Dimitrios Mataras was born in Greece, on July 28, 1933, and died peacefully at his home in Pleasanton on Dec. 29, 2020.

Like many Greeks of his generation, the tragedies of World War II and the Greek Civil War caused Dimitri to immigrate to Northern Europe at the beginning of adulthood to search for work and a better life. Soon after arriving in the Netherlands at the age of 22, he found a job working in the engine room on an oil tanker bound for the San Francisco Bay Area. On arriving outside of the Golden Gate Bridge, the oil tanker crashed and left Dimitri stranded in intensive care for three months. What seemed to be yet another stroke of bad luck at the time, was in reality, the beginning of Dimitri's American dream.

After being released from the hospital, he found a part-time job working as a dishwasher in a restaurant while

studying English as a second language at the City College of San Francisco. During that time, he met his future wife, Jeanette Fornaciari, at a popular dance club in the city.

After marrying in Jeanette's hometown of Livermore, they lived throughout the San Francisco Bay Area before settling in Pleasanton in 1987. With the help of his wife and in-laws, Dimitri became a successful small businessman. He opened and managed four restaurants and delicatessens, in addition to working tirelessly as a real estate agent and property manager up until four

months before his passing.

For over 40 years, he was a dedicated member and volunteer of the Lion's Club in Fremont and at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. In his spare time, he enjoyed cutting out insightful articles from the newspaper for his children and grandchildren, in addition to gardening, cooking, and woodworking.

A private burial was held at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore on Jan. 5, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Jeanette; two daughters, Natalie Mataras-Pirounakis and Sandra Stefani; three grandchildren, Marco Stefani, Vincent Stefani, and Anthony Pirounakis; two great-grandchildren, Luca Stefani and Noelle Stefani; and his siblings and their families, Alexandra Narayan, Marika Tsardoulis, Irene Firos, and Paul Mataras.

May his memory be eternal!



One Trump supporter, Gabriel Andersen, observed the presidential inauguration at the intersection of First Street and South Livermore Avenue on Wednesday, Jan. 20. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Livermore Extends Geocache Treasure Hunt

Livermore's popular geocaching treasure hunt, launched in November as a fun way to learn about the city, is being extended through the end of winter.

Debbie Bell, a management analyst for the Department of Public Works, said more than 500 people

have followed the clues and GPS coordinates left by L'more the Basset Hound to find the geocaches to learn about the city's roads, traffic signals, pipes, buildings, and other municipal assets by scanning the QR codes.

Those who find all five

geocaches can enter their gamecards in a raffle for a chance to win prizes.

Each cache is hidden outdoors, and the game is considered COVID-19 safe. For more information, go to [www.livermore-assets.net/geocache-2020](http://www.livermore-assets.net/geocache-2020) or [www.cityoivermore.net](http://www.cityoivermore.net).



Due to its popularity, the geocache treasure hunt in Livermore will continue past its originally planned deadline. (Photo - City of Livermore)

## David Haubert Records Supervisor's Report

Newly elected Alameda County supervisor David Haubert is featured in a new episode of "Supervisor's Report" now airing on TV30.

In "Supervisor's Report with David Haubert," the

former mayor of Dublin offers an overview of COVID-19 for Alameda County, including infection rates, vaccination updates, and the status of resuming in-person classroom education.

Haubert represents Dis-

trict 1, which includes Dublin, Livermore, and most of the unincorporated area of the Livermore-Amador Valley. He was sworn in Jan. 3,

The program is also available on demand at [www.tv30.org](http://www.tv30.org).

## Visit Tri-Valley to Plan for Cultural Tourism

Visit Tri-Valley, a destination marketing organization, and the San Francisco-based U.S. Cultural & Heritage Marketing Council will host two virtual meetings in February to discuss the development of a local cultural and heritage tourism plan.

The Zoom-based sessions are open to community

leaders, business owners, and members of the Tri-Valley arts and cultural community interested in exploring ways to attract visitors to local performance venues, heritage and historic sites, restaurants and agritourism.

Session will be held from 10 - 11:30 a.m., on Thursday, Feb. 4, and from

2 - 3:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 8. Both sessions will be facilitated by Richard Peterson, president of the U.S. Cultural & Heritage Marketing Council.

To register for the first session, go to [http://bit.ly/Indy\\_Culture1](http://bit.ly/Indy_Culture1). To register for the second session, go to [http://bit.ly/Indy\\_Culture2](http://bit.ly/Indy_Culture2).

# OBITUARIES

(Continued from page 9)

## James Douglas Duncan

Aug. 7, 1953 - Dec. 21, 2020



James Douglas Duncan (Jim) was born Aug. 7, 1953, in Oakland, California, to June and Jim Duncan.

Jim grew up in Pleasanton, California. Throughout his childhood, his family spent their summers at the Russian River. Those long, free, summer days on the river were a cherished memory.

Jim swam on competitive AAU teams during his school years. He graduated from Amador High School in 1971 and went into construction, following his father's footsteps. In 1977, Jim married Marna Mattern from Livermore. They lived in Pleasanton with their two sons, Garrett and Chase, and Jim built his family a beautiful home in Pleasanton.

When Jim retired at age 50 after 32 years in the carpenters' union, he and his family moved to Grass Valley, where they bought 15 acres, and Jim built another beautiful home for his family.

Jim loved many things. He loved dancing and volunteering with his wife, Marna, at

Naggiar winery. He loved his family. He loved being outdoors. He was an accomplished skier. He hunted both out-of-state and at the hunting cabin he and his brother built on family property in Monterey County, sharing it with his boys, his great friend, Louie Santillanes, and many others.

In his retirement, Jim helped family and friends with his building skills. He spent countless hours in his shop. One project he came back to time and time again was to make wooden hearts. He was generous in gifting these special hearts to family and friends, sometimes giving

them anonymously to make someone's day.

Jim passed away on December 21, 2020. He was 67. His family thought it fitting that Jim passed away on the Winter Solstice and on the day that the "Christmas Star" appeared in the sky.

He is survived by Marna Duncan, his wife of 43 years; his son, Garrett Duncan; daughter-in-law, Cameron; son, Chase Duncan; daughter-in-law, Susan; and four grandchildren, Sage, Jade, Lyla and Callen, who brought him great joy. Jim is also survived by his siblings, Diane Wardin of Pleasanton, California, Susie Jones of Miwuk, California, and Scott Duncan of Rocklin, California; and many nieces and nephews.

When remembering Jim, many call him a "gentle giant," and remember his laughter. A celebration of life will be held at the family home in Grass Valley at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of the Foothills or any charity of your choice.

## Dolores "Dee" Eastment

March 23, 1929 - Jan. 17, 2021

Former longtime Pleasanton and Grass Valley, California, resident, Dolores "Dee" Eastment passed away in her sleep on Jan. 17, 2021; she was 91.

Dolores Jean Kendrick was born on March 23, 1929, in Washington D.C. She married

Lendell "Len" Eastment on May 31, 1946. Len preceded her in death in 2007.

She is survived by her four children, Chuck (JoAnn), Lois (Phil), James (Lori), and Carolyn (Dave); seven grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

She had a lifelong love of gardening and enjoyed volunteering at Auburn Faith Hospital for many years. Dee gave her family four things that made them who they are - love, humor, discipline, and resolve. For that, we are forever grateful.

## Jerry Gaines



Jerry Gaines passed away the morning of Jan. 14, 2021, in Livermore, where he had lived since 1964.

He was born in Whittier, California, to John and Josephine Gaines, and his siblings were older brother, Bill, and younger brother, Jim. His family moved to Fallon, Nevada, before Jerry started the fifth grade, and Jerry remained there until college. During his senior year of high school, he met Joyce, whom he married two years later. They celebrated their 63rd anniversary in the fall of 2020.

Jerry completed his higher education in Reno, Nevada, graduating in 1961 from the University of Nevada with a master's degree in physics, where he also completed his ROTC courses. Upon graduation, he served his two years of active duty with the Army at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He continued to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Army Reserve for another 29 years, completing his service as a lieutenant colonel in 1995.

After his active duty, he started his career as a nuclear physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1963 and continued until his retirement in 1993. He loved his work in the testing division and in the course of it, he made many trips to the Nevada test site. He was credited with a number of patents for LLNL during his tenure. During his Army Reserve active duty assignments, he worked at the Army laboratories on the East Coast and later was assigned to the Pentagon.

As a young boy, he grew up loving the outdoors, fish-

ing, camping, hunting, and shooting his guns. He spent many years hunting deer and elk with his family and friends. After moving to Livermore, he joined the Livermore and Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club. During his time as president, he implemented many improvements to the club. After his presidency ended, he continued weekly trap and skeet, shooting with his friends for many years. Jerry was also an avid tennis enthusiast and could be found on the local courts during lunch or in the evening playing doubles with his friends.

Over the years, Jerry and Joyce traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, South America, and Australia. But one of his favorite vacation spots was back in the states, at Lake Tahoe, where he would meet with his brother's families for yearly summer reunions. Jerry loved boating and enjoyed taking his family out for early morning skiing or tubing and breakfast on the lake.

As his children were growing up, he always found a way to be involved with their activities, either taking the Camp Fire girls camping and helping close up the regional campground for the season

or showing support at swim meets, gymnastic competitions and track meets.

His faith and involvement in church was very important to him. He and his family were members of Our Savior Lutheran Church for many years. Over those years, he held many positions in the church, from president, to elder, Bible study leader and youth counselor. He was also involved with the Young Life ministry.

During the summers, he would often take the church youth group on backpacking trips to the mountains or water skiing and tubing at the lakes. Jerry enjoyed playing basketball and softball in the church leagues as well.

In recent years, Cornerstone was his church home, where he was a leader of a Senior's Community Group.

He leaves behind his wife, Joyce; his daughters, Lorrie Wallace (Walt), of Ft. Collins, Colorado, and Kristine Dean of Geneva, Switzerland; son, Michael of Livermore; five grandchildren, Ryan Dean of Dublin, California, Evan Dean and Stephan Dean of Geneva, Switzerland, Brooke Poertner (Matt) of Grass Valley, California, and their son Grayson, and Chris Wallace (Katie) of Escondido, California.

One of Jerry's favorite charities was the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. In lieu of flowers, you may donate in Jerry's name at [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org) or 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC, 28217, or any charity of your choosing. Interment service will be in Livermore at Memory Gardens on Feb. 1.

## Discounts Available for Low-Income Wheels Riders

Low-income riders are now eligible for discounted fares on Tri-Valley Wheels buses and more than 20 other Bay Area transit systems.

Wheels is participating in a pilot program called Clipper START, administered by the Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission, which will continue through the end of the year. The Wheels system is operated by the Livermore Valley Transit Authority.

Riders can learn more about the Clipper START program and apply online at [clipperstartcard.com](http://clipperstartcard.com).

Applicants must provide a copy of an Electronic Benefits Transfer card, Medi-Cal card, county benefits eligibility letter, Muni Lifeline number, or their last federal tax return to demonstrate their eligibility.

Once approved, they will receive a Clipper card that must be loaded with cash value before use. The Clipper START discounts are automatically applied whenever the card is used. On Wheels buses, the discount is 20% off the \$2 one-way fare.



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Earlier this month, patrons enjoyed a dinner at The Sidetrack in Pleasanton. The restaurant was one of several to protest the outdoor dining restrictions. With the order lifted this week, restaurants — among other businesses and community amenities — can reopen with modifications. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## Literary Agent McClean to Discuss Long-Term Pandemic Impact on Publishing Industry

Literary agent Laurie McClean will discuss the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the publishing industry at a meeting of the Tri-Valley Writers on Saturday, Feb. 20. The Zoom-based meeting will begin at 2 p.m.

McClean spent 20 years as CEO of a Silicon Valley public relations and marketing firm before spending eight years as a literary agent at Larsen Pomada in San Francisco. She co-founded her own agency, Fuse Literary, in 2013.

In her talk, "Publishing: 2021 and Beyond, What

Book Publishing Will Look Like in the New Normal," McClean will look at the changes forced on the industry by the pandemic, including the impact of editors and publishing pros working from home, the continuing shift to online buying, and how it has affected readers' preferences.

Hosted by the Tri-Valley branch of the California Writers Club, the meeting is open to anyone. The cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers, and \$3 for students aged 14-22.

To register, send an email to president@trival-



Laurie McClean

leywriters.org. To pay, go to www.trivalleywriters.org and click the PayPal button below the description of the meeting. Registration and payment are required by Thursday, Feb. 18.

## Livermore Arts Association to Sponsor Online Sale

The Livermore Art Association is soliciting original work for its first-ever online art show and sale, to be held Thursday, Feb. 25, through March 31.

The art work will be exhibited on the LAA website, <https://livermoreartassociation.org>, and the association will handle all sales and delivery to the buyer for a 20% commission. There is no entry fee.

An entry form will be available on the website beginning Feb 1. All entries should be submitted by Feb. 15. For more information, contact Meghana Mitragotri at meghana.ms@gmail.com.



Artwork by Bettie Goosman

## Foothill High Named Semi-Finalist in STEM Contest

Foothill High School in Pleasanton is a semi-finalist in the 11th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, a program that encourages students to apply their classroom skills in science, technology, engineering, and math to real-world issues in their community.

For their project, two students at Foothill, Keerthana Nallamotu and Kiran Suresh, focused on the long periods of drought that have affected California's food production and water supply throughout the state's history.

With the help of computer science instructor Shannon Sos and some of their

classmates, they are creating an artificial intelligence-powered web application to analyze maps based on drone and satellite imagery to determine the need for watering.

That would allow irrigators to allocate resources to minimize waste. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nearly 50% of the water currently used for irrigation is wasted, further impacting water supply.

Each of the 75 semi-finalist schools will receive a Samsung Galaxy Note 20 smartphone to record their project and \$15,000 to be applied toward requests on

the DonorsChoose.org website, which directs donations to public school classroom projects.

The videos will be used to showcase the projects through future phases of the competition, with the opportunity for the schools to win additional prizes and educational opportunities. Ten national finalists will be named this spring and will present their projects to a panel of judges. Three winning schools will receive \$130,000 in classroom technology and supplies, with the other seven finalists receiving \$65,000 each.

## Governor Newsom Lifts Shelter-in-Place Order

Gov. Gavin Newsom has lifted the current shelter-in-place order, which has been in place since Dec. 7. Alameda County will move back to the restrictive Purple Tier in the State's "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" ([covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/](https://www.covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/)) as of 11:59 p.m., Jan. 25.

### Sectors allowed to continue operating indoors, with modifications, include:

- Hair salons and barbershops
- Grocery stores with a maximum of 50% capacity
- All retail with a maximum 25% capacity (indoor food courts must remain closed)
- Personal care services (e.g., nail salons, massage, skin care)
- Hotels and other lodging (gyms, fitness centers, and indoor pools must remain closed)
- Limited services (e.g., laundromats, dry cleaners, auto repair, landscapers, janitorial, home repair, contractors)
- Critical infrastructure

### Sectors allowed to operate outdoors, with modifications, include:

- Outdoor playgrounds
- Campgrounds
- Cardrooms and racetracks
- Family centers and movie theaters
- Gyms
- Museums
- Places of worship and cultural centers
- Restaurants, wineries, and tasting rooms
- Zoos and aquariums

Gatherings must be limited to members of no more than three households. Gatherings must be outside, socially distanced and all attendees must wear face coverings.

### Sectors that must remain closed:

- Bars, breweries and distilleries where no food is served
- Amusement parks

## LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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### LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575467

The following person(s) doing business as: The UPS Store #3714, 4000 Pimlico Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kharbanda Services LLC 5771 Kingsmill Terrace, Dublin, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Kush Kharbanda, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 24, 2020. Expires December 24, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4810 Published January 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575551

The following person(s) doing business as: Delaco Services, 13475 Bancroft Avenue, Apt. 315, San Leandro, CA 94578, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Delafayette Detoles, 13475 Bancroft Avenue, Apt. 315, San Leandro, CA 94578. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 9/23/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Delafayette Detoles, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 31, 2020. Expires December 31, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4811 Published January 14, 21, 28, February 4, 2020.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575510

The following person(s) doing business as: H&S Food Service LLC DBA Discount Liquors, 212 S L Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): H&S Food Service LLC, 1610 2nd Street, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited

Liability Company. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 11/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Harminder Pal Singh Uppal, CEO/President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 29, 2020. Expires December 29, 2025. The Independent Legal No. 4812. Published January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 2020.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575722

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Taboada Racing Stables 2. Marenta Stables 3. Johnny D. Taboada 4. JT Home Mortgages, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Johnny D. Taboada, 8032 Canyon Creek Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Johnny D. Taboada, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4813. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2020.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 575726

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Sustain Forever 2. N2CA Solutions, 5582 Maybeck Ln, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sustain Forever Inc., 5582 Maybeck Ln, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Adesh Kumar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 13, 2021. Expires January 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4814. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2020.

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### ANIMALS

#### 2) CATS/ DOGS



Adopt a new best friend TVAR Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Our current weekly adoption events include:

Saturdays - Dogs & Puppies at Farmer's Market in Pleasanton. The location is Deluchi Park, 4501 First St. Hours: 10:00am to 1:00pm. Saturdays & Sundays - Kittens at Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Hours: 11am to 3pm. Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

Follow TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

FERAL CAT FOUNDATION Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

#### EMPLOYMENT

VP of Payments and Customer Success - CloudCard, Inc., job site: 5674 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 204, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Finalize business requirement documents, define product functionalities, and provide executive sponsorship in all customer communications from implementation till the User Acceptance Testing phases of the delivery. Mail resume to job site, attn: Unman M. Baig.

#### 65) HELP WANTED

#### 57) SERVICES

BEWARE of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send money or fees. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

#### TO PLACE CLASSIFIED AD Call (925)243-8000

#### MERCHANDISE

114) FOR SALE

115)ESTATE/ GARAGE/ YARD SALES

18) FREE SECTION

Free Pine & Oak Wood You cut & haul it Lots of Pine cones, too Please call (408)897-3156

127) LOST/ FOUND

NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

155) NOTICES

"NOTICE TO READERS: California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or (800)321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

#### REAL ESTATE

170) LAND FOR RENT

157) OFFICE/HOUSE/CONDO / DUPLEX / APT RENTAL

165) HOUSE/ROOMS/RENTALS TO SHARE

160) BOAT / RV / RENTAL SPACE

Inland Valley Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001 Re: Legal Notice for Classified Ads The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in violation of the law.

## Professional's Choice Real Estate Directory

Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

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<p><b>Cindy Greci</b> (925) 784-1243 www.GreciGroup.com BRE#01323904</p>	<p><b>Dominic Greci</b> (925) 525-0864 www.GreciGroup.com BRE#01707140</p>
<p><b>Nicole Sweeney</b> REALTOR® 925.518.2142 nicole@nicolesweeneeyhomes.com</p>	<p><b>DENNIS SERRAO</b> Broker Associate /REALTOR Serving Livermore &amp; Tri-Valley since 1999 dennis.rebroker@gmail.com TriValleyHomeSellers.com (925) 876-3756 Cal BRE#01251442</p>
<p><b>THE KRISTY PEIXOTO TEAM</b> Luxury homes, Ranches &amp; Land Realtors (925) 621-1210 TheKristyPeixotoTeam@gmail.com TheKristyPeixotoTeam.com</p>	<p><b>Linda Newton</b> REALTOR®, GRI, SRES (925) 216-2015 Linda@ElationRE.com ElationRE.com DRE #01312631</p>
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<p><b>Gordon Corsie</b> Real Estate Broker Scotsman Realty Group CA DRE Lic # 0091100 Call/Text: 925.202.5497 www.thescotsman.com</p>	

To Place Your Ad, Call or Email:  
925.243.8010 kim@independentnews.com

# AROUND THE VALLEY



A runner takes advantage of clear, warm weather for an outing along Dublin's Dougherty Hills Open Space last Thursday. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Wind turbines along the Altamont hills east of Livermore glimmer in the sunlight. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



A great egret wanders through the grass along Dublin's Dougherty Hills Open Space. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



A rainbow formed over Livermore's Brushy Peak in between seasonal rain showers last week. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

## OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS NEED YOUR SUPPORT, PLEASE DONATE IF YOU ARE ABLE!

### Amador Questers

1089 Geneva Street  
Livermore, CA 94550-5661  
925-292-8123  
www.CalQuest.org  
www.questers1944.org

### Amador Valley Lions Club

P. O. Box 1764  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
(925) 290-7592  
Amador.valley.lions@gmail.com

### Assistance League Amador Valley

P.O. Box 11843  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925-461-6401  
Assistanceleague.org/Amador-valley/

### Axis Community Health

5925 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925-201-6068  
Axishealth.org

### Big Bay Ray, Inc.

Bigbayray16@gmail.com  
925-523-3133  
Bigbayray.com

### Blankets For Kids

7580 Driftwood Way  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925-846-6155

### Cantabella Children's Chorus

P.O. Box 131  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-292-2663  
Cantabella.org

### Cheza Nami

5424 Sunol Blvd. Suite 10-15  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
chezanami.org

### Christian Youth Theater Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1586  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-421-1351  
cyttrivalley.org

### CityServe of Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 1613  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-223-6947  
cityservetrivalley.org

### Community Health Education Fund

CHEF/TVNF  
C/O Maria Mancini  
P.O. Box is 420  
Livermore, CA 94551

### Culinary Angels

4435 First St., #142  
Livermore, CA 94550  
CulinaryAngels.org

### Drivers For Survivors

39270 Paseo Padre Pkwy #335  
Fremont, CA 94536  
510-369-5770  
driversforsurvivors.org

### Exceptional Needs Network

P.O. Box 3149  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-215-2281  
ennetwork.org

### Fertile GroundWorks

4743 East Avenue  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-344-9090  
Fertilegroundworks.org

### Friends of the Livermore Library

P.O. Box 2483  
Livermore, CA 94551  
www.friendsoflivermorelibrary.org

### Friends of Open Space and Vineyards

P.O. Box 1191  
Livermore, CA 94551  
fov.org

### Goodness Village

1660 Freisman Rd.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Goodnessvillage.community

### Hively

6601 Owens Drive, Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925-417-8733  
BeHively.org

### Hope Hospice

6377 Clark Ave.  
Dublin, CA 94568  
925-829-8770  
HopeHospice.com/donate

### Interfaith Sharing Inc.

678 Enos Way  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-366-5567  
saintbartslivermore.com

### Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild

P.O. Box 1049  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-447-6454  
Livermoreamadorsymphony.org/guild

### Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Foundation

P.O. Box 3403  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-373-5730  
Larpd.org/larpd-foundation

### Livermore Art Association

P.O. Box 216  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-449-9927  
Livermoreartassociation.org

### Livermore Filipino-American Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 172  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Livermorefilam.org

### Livermore Heritage Guild

P.O. Box 961  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-449-9927  
Lhg.org

### Livermore Homeless Refuge

4743 East Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-895-4167  
HomelessRefugeLivermore.com

### Livermore Lab Foundation

c/o UC Office of National Labs  
1111 Broadway, Suite 2130  
Oakland, CA 94607  
925-453-9382  
Livermorelabfoundation.org

### Livermore Lions Club

P.O. Box 975  
Livermore, CA 94551  
805-405-8743

### Livermore Pleasanton Fire Fighters Foundation

4847 Hopyard Road  
Suite 4, PMB 303  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

### Livermore Valley Education Foundation

849 East Stanley Boulevard  
PMB Box 143  
Livermore, CA 94550  
LVEF.org

### Livermore Valley Opera

P.O. Box 1002  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-321-6964  
Livermorevalleyopera.com

### Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center

2400 First St.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-373-6100  
LivermoreArts.com

### Movements For The Mind

MovementsForTheMind.com  
movementsforthemind@gmail.com

### Museum on Main

603 Main Street  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
902-462-2766  
Museumonmain.org

### NAMI Tri-Valley

P.O. Box 5563  
Pleasanton CA 94566  
925-980-5331  
www.nami-trivalley.org

### Open Heart Kitchen

1141 Catalina Dr. # 137,  
Livermore CA 9 4550  
(mailing address only)  
925-580-1616  
OpenHeartKitchen.org

### Pacific Locomotive Assoc., Inc. Operators of Niles Canyon Railway

P.O. Box 515  
Sunol, CA 94586-0515  
(510) 996-8420  
NCRY.ORG

### Partners for Change Tri-Valley

4743 East Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
650-474-9962  
pfctv.org

### Paws In Need

Info@Paws-In-Need.org  
925-551-1877  
Paws-In-Need.org

### Pleasanton Art League

P.O. Box 23  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Pal-art.com

### Pleasanton Community Concert Band

P.O. Box 135  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
info@pleasantonband.org  
PleasantonBand.org

### Reins In Motion

Therapeutic Riding Program  
P.O. Box 1001  
Livermore, CA 94551  
reinsinmotionca.com

### Rotarian Foundation of Livermore

P.O. Box 2181  
Livermore, CA 94551-2181  
http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org

### Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation

5890 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 104  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
866-862-7270  
HealingTherapiesFoundation.org

### Senior Support Program of The Tri-Valley

5353 Sunol Blvd.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-931-5378  
SSPTV.org

### Shakespeare's Associates, dba Livermore Shakespeare Festival

P.O. Box 2616  
Livermore, CA 94551  
(925) 443-2273  
LivermoreShakes.org

### Shepherds Gate

1660 Portola Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-443-4283  
ShepherdsGate.org

### SPECTRUM Community Services, Inc/Meals on Wheels

2621 Barrington Ct.  
Hayward, CA 94545  
510-881-0300  
SpectrumCS.org

### Sunflower Hill

info@sunflowerhill.org  
925-800-1042  
SunFlowerhill.org

### The Taylor Family Foundation

P.O. Box 2450  
Livermore CA, 94551  
925-455-5118  
TTFF.org

### Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

P.O. Box 11143  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
TVAR.org

### Tri-Valley Conservancy

1457 First St.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-449-8706  
Trivalleyconservancy.org

### Tri-Valley Haven

3663 Pacific Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94551  
925-449-5842  
TriValleyHaven.org

### Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance

P.O. Box 2467  
Livermore, CA 94550  
TVNPA.org

### Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

P.O. Box 1445  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
info@trivalleyrep.com  
Trivalleyrep.org

### ValleyCare Charitable Foundation/Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare

1111 E. Stanley Blvd.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-373-4560  
GiveValleyCare.org

### Valley Concert Chorale

P.O. Box 286  
Livermore, CA 94551  
Valleyconcertchorale.org

### Valley Dance Theatre

2247-B Second St.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925-243-0925  
Valleydancetheatre.com

### Valley Humane Society

3670 Nevada St.  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-426-8656  
ValleyHumane.org

FREE NONPROFIT LISTING FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.  
If you would like to be added please email kim@independentnews.com