

LVJUSD Assistant Superintendent Reported Missing

By Larry Altman

A Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) assistant superintendent last seen Sept. 22 remained missing this week. Apparently, he drove through the Lake Tahoe area.

Michael Biondi, a 52-year-old San Ramon resident, was last seen in Livermore at 2:00 in the afternoon, according to a flier posted on social media by his sister. Biondi drives a silver 2017 Honda CRV with a license number 7ZTM090. The license number was last tracked electronically on Highway 50 on the Nevada border in the Lake Tahoe area, the flier stated.

Livermore school Superintendent Kelly Bowers said Biondi's disappearance was a family and police matter, and expressed concern that he is found safe. She referred an inquiry to the San Ramon

(See MISSING, page 13)



Assistant Superintendent
Michael Biondi

Seven Make Bid for Two Pleasanton City Council Seats

A handful of candidates are vying for two open seats on the Pleasanton City Council in the upcoming general election – offering up one of the most crowded races in the Tri-Valley.

Below, and listed in alphabetical order, is a look at six of the seven candidates' positions and thoughts on growth, safe water and life in a COVID-19 world. Candidate Chinman Lee declined to be interviewed.

NANCY ALLEN

Allen provides an extensive background, because she has served as a seven-year member of the planning commission, as well as various

(See PLEASANTON, page 11)

ACTC Approves \$400 Million for Valley Link

ACTC Approves \$400 Million for Valley Link

In an action at their Sept. 24 meeting, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) approved a request from the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority to reallocate \$400 million in Measure BB funds that had previously been allocated for BART to Livermore to the Valley Link rail project.

The action included several components:

Acknowledge the rail authority as a new agency in Alameda County eligible to receive Measure BB funds from ACTC;

Remove the BART to Livermore project and its associated \$400 million from the Measure BB Transportation Expenditure Plan; and

Add Valley Link to the expenditure plan with \$400 million in Measure BB funding

The approval followed a 45-day comment period on the proposed action. Nearly 70 letters of support were received from a wide-ranging group of government agen-

(See VALLEY LINK, page 3)



A funeral procession was held last week for Livermore Police Department Officer Maximiliano "Max" Messina, who passed away from pancreatic cancer. The public attended the procession route from East Avenue through downtown Livermore. Messina was a Livermore officer for seven years of his 21-year law enforcement career. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

Contenders for District 1 Supervisor Share Stances on Tri-Valley Topics

By Aly Brown

In the race for a District 1 supervisor, three candidates will compete for the seat in this general election.

Presented in last-name alphabetical order, Vinnie Bacon and David Haubert share their perspectives on a wide range of issues.

VINNIE BACON

As an outgoing Fremont councilmember, Bacon said that while he's taken many actions that have improved city policies, he's the most proud of changing the way campaigns are financed in Fremont.

"I first ran for city council, because I saw how much influence developers had with the city council," he said. "Our city council had a reputation for approving anything big for-profit developers wanted, and tens of thousands of dollars flowed from these developers to our city council members in the form of campaign contributions and busi-

ness relationships. I raised this issue in every campaign I ran and pledged never to take money or have any financial relationship with a real estate developer. This started a trend in Fremont where more and more candidates refused to take this money.

"We now have a majority of our councilmembers who have never taken developer money. The city council has changed from a rubber stamp for developers to one that evaluates each project based on what is best for our community. Irresponsible developments that increase traffic, overcrowd our schools, and bring little benefit to our community are no longer approved by the Fremont City Council."

Bacon stated that he is a "clean money candidate."

"I don't take any money from developers, corporations, or ANY political action committees (PACs), including labor organizations and police

officer's associations," he said. "I believe it is at least an appearance of impropriety when elected officials who make decisions that affect the bottom lines of corporations are taking money from those corporations."

Listed on his most recent 460 campaign contribution form were individuals with varying occupations, such as those who are health planners, self-employed, retired, unemployed, in the U.S. Army, college professors, engineers, among others. The dollar amount from donors ranged from about \$12 to \$2,000 for the period.

Solar

On large solar projects, such as the utility scale development proposed for North Livermore, Bacon noted that the county needs policy guidelines to determine the most appropriate location. He prefers to analyze other

(See SUPERVISOR, page 10)

In Dublin

Council Candidates Express Their Views

By Ron McNicoll

There are nine hopefuls running for Dublin City Council.

Since Vice Mayor Arun Goel and Councilmember Melissa Hernandez decided to run for the mayor's seat, there will be two vacant seats on the council. Current Dublin Mayor David Haubert is running for County Supervisor, District 1. The mayoral contest was featured in the Sept. 24 print edition, which is also available online.

The Independent reached out to all candidates via email and phone calls to make contact. Candidates are listed alphabetically. Their statements have been edited for length.

SHAWN COSTELLO

Although Shawn Costello has opinions on some of the

issues facing Dubliners, his city council candidacy is focused primarily on one thing — being an example to other handicapped people that they should not feel intimidated about not being considered good enough to hold an office.

Costello has held committee positions, though nothing at a level comparable to that of a council seat.

"(I have) had a series of appointments to groups that make decisions about allowing grant money for handicapped transportation, or improvement of bus service," he said. "I have been on Wheels' committees for as long as 24 years, and on the county transportation Measure BB committee dating back to 2005."

Costello has served as literally a 'man in the street'

on the lookout for issues of traffic and street routes that impacted others in wheelchairs or traffic signals that did not allow much time for handicapped people or seniors to get across some of the city's wide boulevards.

"The council always treated (me) respectfully and asked (me) to meet with staff to discuss the details," he said. "My crowning achievement came when Mayor David Haubert appointed (me) to the city's Human Services Commission in April 2018. It was my moment of joy."

Now that he is on the ballot again, he does not expect to win, or even finish above the bottom rung, but showing others with handicaps that it can be done comes close to what he really wanted to do

(See DUBLIN, page 2)

Livermore Takes Step To Extend Wine Country Sewer Infrastructure

Livermore Residents May Need to Vote On Urban Growth Boundary Amendment

By Aly Brown

The City of Livermore recently directed staff to move forward with work needed to obtain a sewer line extension south on Livermore Avenue, and along Tesla Road through Wine Country.

While no motion or vote was required at the time, the city council provided authority and direction to staff during its Sept. 28 meeting to coordinate with the county to secure funding. Should funding be found, it will go toward a feasibility study and potentially implement wastewater treatment improvements to the South Livermore Valley.

The state's recent regulations prohibiting additional septic treatments in rural areas due to concerns about groundwater contamination prevent new wineries from coming in or existing wineries from expanding services. Stakeholders in the area have requested the extension in

what they say will ensure the future economic vitality of the winery and hospitality industries.

The decision comes on the heels of a letter from Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association (LVWA), the Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC), Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce (LVCC), Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group, and Visit Tri-Valley. In the letter, the group asked for help from the city to make the sewer extension a reality. The letter was signed by Chris Chandler of LVWA, Laura Mercier of TVC, Dawn Argula of LVCC, Tamara Reuss of the Friends, Lynn Wallace Naylor of Innovation Tri-Valley, and Tracy Farhad of Visit Tri-Valley.

Andy Ross, senior planner and project manager for the item, presented the staff report and recommendation to the council, which included:

(See SEWER, page 12)

In Livermore

Mayor, Council Candidates Address Current Issues

There are two candidates on the ballot for Livermore Mayor, real estate agent Mony Nop and current Livermore Vice Mayor Bob Woerner.

The first city council elections since Livermore adopted a district-based voting system has attracted two newcomers — Brittni Kiick, a community organizer and Pete Patterson, an account manager with a medical supply wholesaler. They are vying for the District 3 seat, which represents south-east Livermore.

City Councilman Bob Carling was elected at-large in 2016 and is seeking a second term on the council. The city council voted in 2018 to switch from citywide elec-

tions to a four-district voting system, where each city council member must reside in a district and be elected only by voters within its geographic boundaries. The transition to the new system starts with District 3 and District 4 elections on Nov. 3. The mayor will continue to be elected in a citywide vote.

Carling will appear on the ballot in District 4 where he lives. Only voters in that district, neighborhoods in the Southwest area of town, can vote for him. He is running unopposed.

The Independent reached out to the four candidates in contested contests to learn

(See MAYOR, page 8)

LARPD Candidates Compete for Two Board of Director Positions

By Tony Kukulich

Five candidates are vying for two available seats on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors. Only one incumbent is seeking reelection.

Longtime Boardmember Beth Wilson is not applying for another term.

"I have been on the LARPD board for 13 years, and while I love all I do there, I feel it's time for someone newer and younger and more energetic to be on the board," Wilson said. "I will certainly miss greatly being on the

board, although I look forward to relaxing a little and being able to be an LARPD volunteer."

The contenders for the available LARPD seats are James E. Boswell, Jan Palajac, Mike Ralph, Stacey A. Swanson and Richard Tarbell.

The LARPD candidates were asked the following questions:

•What do you see as the biggest challenge for the LARPD over the upcoming term, and how do you intend to address it?

(See LARPD, page 13)



With the return of warmer temperatures, customers lined up at Pleasanton's Meadow Lark Dairy for ice cream. Amy Oh of Pleasanton tries salted caramel. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)



Korma

PET OF THE WEEK

Korma is a happy and playful young cat. She loves human company and will follow you around, brushing up against your legs. Korma has already raised a family despite being a big kitten herself. Her best kitten-like trick is chasing her own tail, which is most entertaining. Her worst kitten trick is her tendency to counter surf and steal kitchen items. While Valley Humane Society remains closed during shelter-in-place, adoptions are coordinated by appointment with approved adopters. Contact info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society / E. Scholz)

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

TV30 to Host Election Interviews

Tri-Valley Television, Comcast Channel 30, will broadcast its various election interviews early next week. All qualified Tri-Valley mayoral, council and school board candidates were invited to speak. Please visit tv30.org on Tuesday, Oct. 6, to check the schedule. This is the only televised presentation of the Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton candidates.

The election specials will air on Comcast Channels 28, 29 and 30; and AT&T U-Verse. Video-on-Demand will be offered also. They will repeat up to Election Day Tuesday, Nov. 3. For more information, visit tv30.org.

DUBLIN

(Continued from first page)

with his life — be a teacher.

LUCRECIA DELEON

“I am an insurance (real estate) broker and have been a business owner for more than 20 years,” said DeLeon. “I have helped clients achieve their financial goals, while building a great career for myself in the process. My entrepreneurial mindset, executive leadership and perseverance in the face of a challenge, coupled with my confidence, compassion, integrity and desire to make a meaningful difference in my community makes me the best candidate and best fit to serve as a member of the Dublin City Council.”

If elected, DeLeon would strive to help Dublin residents in the areas of housing and social justice.

“The first issue I’d focus on is housing,” she said. “I believe that every resident must have access to affordable housing. I will support solutions for our communities and residents that focus on smart planning strategies to facilitate the development of housing that is affordable and diverse in family circumstances, ages, lifestyles and budgets. Another key issue I’d work on is social justice. I will advocate for carefully crafted public policies that address systemic barriers and promote equity and access, foster inclusion and encourage diversity.”

DeLeon also plans to address the economy.

“The third issue I’d prioritize is fair economic participation,” she said. “I am committed to supporting sustainable economic development that generates real jobs and prosperity with equal access and an equal opportunity to succeed for all members of our community.”

RASNI HASNI

According to Hasni, his broad range of skills and experience make him a fit for council. He has a real estate background and founded a chain of fitness studios in five East Bay cities. Hasni said he is good at building consensus and bringing disparate groups and viewpoints together.

“(My) top priorities are putting together an economic recovery task force that includes the Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders to develop a framework for the city’s economic rebirth,” he said. “I want to ease the regulatory burdens on small business, so businesses incrementally and safely return to full operation.”

Hasni also would have sales tax holidays and other incentive programs to spur retail and restaurant sectors.

“The city’s small business assistance fund was a positive first step,” he said. “There should also be a rent stabilization program for businesses that are most severely impacted by COVID-19. The most vulnerable residents should be protected through such measures as increased meal delivery programs and safe social visits. We must come together as a community and support one another in these efforts.”

Hasni also believes the community, not developers, should drive growth; he would work to bring community members into the end-to-end development process. Additionally, he strongly supports Emerald High School, which he believes will be crucial to easing overcrowding in schools and increasing the affordable housing supply so more people can participate.

“I realize that affordable housing is a divisive issue, and I will work hard to build consensus within the community,” he said.

SHERRY HU

Hu is a first-generation immigrant who came to the U.S. 20 years ago to pursue a doctorate in architectural en-

gineering. She specialized in green building technologies and environmental sustainability.

Hu currently owns a business bringing new technology and resources into traditional educational service and engages with a nonprofit charity that works with children in an Indian orphanage.

“(My) top priorities are to ensure Dublin’s smart and sustainable growth, provide public safety and security, and help local businesses and bring in high-paying jobs,” she said.

According to Hu, growth of the last 10 years can’t continue.

“Smart and sustainable growth is needed,” she said. It is not too late to do it, but we have to take actions now. My experiences in green building and environmental sustainability, and proven leadership in problem solving, will help bring solutions to this challenge.”

Hu said she has talked many high-tech managers and brainstormed how to bring them to Dublin. “Due to COVID-19, (managers) are more willing to relocate to suburbs,” she said. “Retaining businesses is important, as (I) know from owning one myself.”

Additionally, Hu wants to encourage solar energy in moderation.

“We should encourage solar panels within the city, but we need to evaluate case by case to see if solar panels are suitable for each case,” she said. “Some are feasible and work out financially for a homeowner, but some do not. Some homes don’t use much electricity, and their roofs don’t get much sun exposure.”

MIKE MCCORRISTON

“I bring mature leadership through transparency and trust,” said McCorrison. “I have a strong understanding of our community’s needs, supported by my accomplished career in treasury and banking. I can provide solutions and timely responses to complex problems. What distinguishes me from other candidates is my ethics, transparency and approach to problem solving through teamwork, listening and respecting the views of others.”

McCorrison’s immediate priorities would be fiscal sustainability during the COVID-19 environment, sustaining our local businesses, supporting our residents with sufficient services and programs and creating local employment opportunities. Additionally, he would avoid increasing density that causes overdevelopment, traffic and a lack of housing affordability.

“With the above-mentioned priorities in mind, the city must include long-term strategies for our community’s natural resources and impact of future development efforts,” he said. “Physical space will be limited going forward, and we must mandate community programs designed to conserve water and power efficiency and encourage smart energy efficient development. Fixing the traffic congestion and capacity issues in our city’s schools, resulting from years of growth initiatives, will require effective infrastructure management and dedicated collaborative efforts with our commissions and district representatives.”

If elected, McCorrison plans to use his time on the council to help move the city forward in several areas.

“As a councilmember, my commitment to our community will include support of sound environmental conservation standards and natural resource sustainability; fiscally sustainable and intelligent development that is aligned with the needs of our growing and diverse

community; business initiatives that promote local employment and use of local skilled labor for energy efficient development projects; and sustainability measures through close collaboration with city agencies and district representatives that ensure adequate resources for our schools,” he said.

SRI MUDDI

“I grew up in this community, moving to the Tri-Valley area in 2004,” said Muppidi. “My family and I first lived near the Santa Rita and Tassajara exit, and now we live in West Dublin. Having lived on both sides of town, I understand perspectives of both East and West Dubliners, and these prior experiences will inform my decision-making in city council.”

In addition to a history in the area, Muppidi also holds experience in policy and economic development.

“I earned both my BA and MS from Stanford University, with coursework in economics, policy, and technology,” said Muppidi. “I previously worked at the federal level with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Federal Reserve. Additionally, I have experience working across the aisle, as I bring an independent perspective. I have volunteered on Democratic political campaigns since 2010 and conducted research for the former US National Security Advisor, who previously served in a Republican administration.”

Muppidi believes that prior experience and independent thinking will be a good addition to the Dublin City Council.

“My top priorities are around local economic growth, pragmatic development, and downtown Dublin,” said Muppidi. “Small businesses have been hit hard by COVID-19, and unemployment has increased as a result of the economic crisis. We need to restore growth in Dublin. I will support local businesses to adjust to and recover from COVID-19. In the last two decades, the city has seen rapid growth, growing nearly 40%. We are now moving from a growth phase to a maintenance phase. Additionally, Dublin desperately needs a downtown center, like our Tri-Valley peers. Dubliners want a pedestrian-friendly retail space to enjoy our city’s wonderful restaurants, bars, and shops. I’ll work with the community to efficiently execute on the Preferred Vision plan, so our residents can enjoy a pedestrian-friendly downtown and spend time in the public square with friends and family.”

DAWN PLANTS

“I’ve worked directly with Joe Callahan for years when he developed Hacienda Business Park from 1988 to 1993, DeSilva Gates on the Callahan DeSilva Vallejo Waterfront project before the recession, and for Stonebrae LP as a contract administrator for the massive infrastructure construction, joint trench and utility connections,” said Plants.

If elected, she plans to draw on her many years living and working in the city.

“I’ve lived in Dublin for 40 years — since 1980 — and watched it all unfold,” she said. “I’ve also been on the Dublin Planning Commission since May 2019, as an alternate. As a councilmember, my top priorities would be a long overdue general plan review, preferably by a third-party consultant, and to get the (environmental impact report) updated, also preferably by a third-party consultant. How I would

address this depends on the outcome of the election.”

According to Plants, the city needs serious help moving forward in a positive direction.

“When Dublin became incorporated, it took nine years to create the general plan and get it on the ballot,” she said. “Fast forward 30 years ... still no impressive destination projects, pack and stack housing, lack of Class ‘A’ offices, and the problems of two BART stations and overcrowding. We get a fancy waterpark failure and lots of expensive public art. Dublin has an identity crisis.”

KASHEF QAADRI

“Over the past 15 years, I have been serving our communities in three main areas — providing access to health care to underserved communities; backing STEM tutoring, coaching, and mentoring for our youth; and participating in community leadership and volunteering,” said Qaadri. “As a seasoned and proven executive, I have held multiple leadership roles in business development, commercial operations, strategic planning and product development. My professional experiences in managing complex and substantial budgets, generating new growth for our businesses, and implementing new and innovative technologies, paired with my community involvement, makes me the best choice for city councilmember.”

Qaadri’s top priorities of focus are safety and traffic, resilience and preparedness, and economic and environmental sustainability.

“In terms of public safety, we need to initiate public community oversight, creating much needed checks and balances,” he said. “In terms of traffic, we need to ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for everyone, improving our road safety by expanding public transport. We also need to prepare, prevent, respond to, and recover from the pandemic by supporting local businesses and community-driven solutions. We should also provide evidence-based solutions and knowledge to make informed decisions and mitigate economic impact while initiating recovery.”

Finally, Qaadri wants to move the city toward a more secure future.

“We need to create a more sustainable Dublin, by creating business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building a resilient community and economy,” he said.

SAMIR QURESHI

Qureshi said a passion for public service — along

with his previous experiences on an environmental commission, human services committee, and zoning board and school boards — make him fit to serve on the council.

“My top priorities are trust, transform and together,” said Qureshi. “Build trust by providing transparency. Public safety is on top, and also dealing with the pandemic that needs a return to normal for businesses and the community.”

According to Qureshi, a transformation needs to be done since the exponential growth of the city has occurred.

“Now Dublin needs a transformation over the next 10 years and more,” he said. “I want to focus on economic development, smart and sustainable growth, traffic and climate issues.”

The ‘together’ component covers collaboration as a

united community where everyone is respected and represented.

“The city should improve collaboration with the school district to make sure so many diverse backgrounds learn about each other,” he said.

Qureshi experienced many proud moments while serving on boards and commissions in many states.

“In Dublin, I was on the planning commission, which approved the beautiful Carl Zeiss building,” he said.

As such, he understands that Dublin has seen fast growth in the past few years.

“Families will continue to move to the city, and with limited land left for development, I would support projects that the community, schools, city staff and developer agree on together,” he said. “Our schools have been impacted. We need to think about what type of school to build next.”

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Measure J Funds Livermore School District Bond Construction Projects

By Dawnmarie Fehr

Measure J Bond construction projects have been moving forward throughout the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), adding and upgrading facilities at multiple campuses.

The bond — passed by the town’s voters in 2016 — allotted \$245 million for the district to complete a variety of projects for its students. The district’s bond program director, Kim McNeely, said the district already knows where each dollar will go.

“The bond is fully allocated in the sense the bond has identified all of the projects they would like to accomplish with the bond fund,” explained McNeely. “The board identified several Measure J bond projects at the high schools, there were stadium renovations at both . . . At Granada High School, there was a new athletics and aquatics center, which includes a weight room, a P.E. classroom, a wrestling

room and a new dance studio and a new competition swimming and water polo facility.”

The cost to upgrade Granada High School’s (GHS) athletic facilities was \$16 million. The old facilities were appropriate for a school of 1,000, but the work brought capacity up to a level capable of meeting the school’s population of 2,300. GHS athletic director David Moore said the upgraded facilities will be a wonderful asset for his students — once they are able to use them.

“From an athletic standpoint, we are just incredibly grateful,” Moore said. “We needed some updates. This has really transformed the back side of campus, and we are ready for the kids.”

The project at Livermore High School (LHS) was more extensive, costing \$57 million. Neely noted this campus received an entirely new athletic facility, with crews demolishing and replacing the nearly

100-year-old gym.

“Livermore High School is grateful to the community of Livermore for the passing of Measure J, which is bringing many improvements to schools throughout our district,” said LHS Principal Helen Gladden. “At Livermore High School, great improvements were made to our outdoor stadium, and we are now witnessing construction of a new, impressive athletic complex building. We also were the recipients of updated technology for our classrooms.”

Matthew Hart, GHS principal, noted many of the projects funded by Measure J were not easy to see.

“It was an infrastructure bond, so there was a lot of work that people didn’t see,” said Hart. “We had to have sewer line work done; we quadrupled the security cameras on our campus; there was a lot of invisible work being done. But there was also a lot of visible work being done.”

Work has been moving forward, despite temporary delays due to shelter-in-place orders issued in March. GHS had hoped to have their facility operational by April but are now looking at finishing work next month.

In addition to the ongoing work at the high schools, multiple other projects have been underway throughout the district. At East Avenue Middle School, \$36 million was spent on new classrooms, a quad, a drop-off area and offices. At Joe Mitchell (a transitional kindergarten through eighth-grade school), \$37.5 million was spent on replacing old portables with new classrooms; a new gymnasium was built that includes a maker space and a new drama space; upgrades were made to the fields; and a new drop off loop and parking were installed.

“We have already done a video projection and voice enhancement project that touched every classroom in

the district,” McNeely noted. “We have done a whole data infrastructure upgrade to support all of the tech equipment and our wi-fi systems. We are in process on exterior

paint; we have replaced all the marques in the district already, and our maintenance operations and facilities team did a camera upgrade throughout the district.”

VALLEY LINK

(Continued from first page)

cies, business organizations, educational institutions, labor unions and the general public. The list included the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, and Union City, area Chambers of Commerce, the Hacienda Business Park, the Chabot Las Positas Community College District, the Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda County, and the Innovation Tri- Valley Leadership group to name a few.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who serves on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and is also the Regional Rail Authority’s Chair said, “I am truly grateful to my ACTC colleagues who supported this action. I thank them on behalf of the 93,398 Bay Area workers who commute through the Altamont each day struggling to house their families and access jobs – and for all who receive its environmental and economic benefit. For many, transportation is more than getting from point A to point B – it’s a vehicle to opportunity and a chance to have safe and affordable choices about where they can live and work.

It supports equality. It connects us. It gives many a hope for a better future.”

Reflecting upon the tremendous regional collaboration that it took to get to this point, Livermore Mayor John Marchand commented, “Using the Measure BB funds for Valley Link brings us one step closer to keeping the promise that was made to Tri-Valley voters in 1962 and again in 2014. That is the promise of frequent, convenient rail transit through the Tri- Valley with connections to BART and the rest of the Bay Area.”

With this action by the ACTC, Valley Link has now identified \$708 million in funding for building the rail project. This represents almost 30 percent of the of the estimated project cost. Valley Link Executive Director Michael Tree noted, “This \$400 million allocation and the other local funds identified for Valley Link will go a long way in helping us leverage state and federal funds for the project.”

Phase 1 of the proposed Valley Link project includes seven stations along 42 miles of track, connecting the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART

Station to the proposed ACE North Lathrop Station. A second phase would extend service to Stockton. Trains would be scheduled to allow for convenient transfers to BART. The first Valley Link trains could be placed into service in 2028.

Valley Link will carry 33,000 passengers a day in 2040, reducing vehicle miles travelled by 99.3 million each year and eliminating between 33,000 to 42,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per year depending on the vehicle technology selected. Currently,

the Regional Rail Authority is considering three technologies that include two zero emission technologies – battery, electric and hydrogen.

The passenger rail project will have a significant impact on the regional economy. A recent Economic Impact Study performed by PGH Wong found that during construction Valley Link will create 22,000 jobs with an economic impact on the region of \$3.5 billion. Additionally, during service, Valley Link will create 400 jobs and an economic impact of \$69 million per year.

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Experience matters

Bob is widely endorsed:



Eric Swalwell, US Representative, "Vice Mayor Woerner has proven to be compassionate and collaborative in tackling regional, Tri-Valley, and Livermore issues. His dedicated leadership and track record of accomplishments makes him uniquely qualified to be the next Mayor of Livermore ..."



Harpreet Singh Judge, Owner, Beer Baron, "Bob has been on the council for 8 years and vice mayor for 3 terms, during this time he has listened to all views and made this city financially very strong and a wonderful home for my family ... "



George Miller (Former Director, LLNL) & Sue Miller (Retired Livermore Teacher) "As long-time Livermore residents we strongly endorse Bob Woerner for Mayor. Bob has been instrumental in many of the positive changes we have seen in Livermore during his decade of service. Bob is a creative problem solver with the experience to lead the city through these challenging times."



Dave Finster, Director/Past President, Livermore Stockmens Rodeo Association "Bob was a key player in making Stockmen's Park a reality! He has a way of bringing people together and the park is proof of that."



Lisa Tromovitch, Artistic Director, Livermore Shakespeare "Bob is someone we can turn to in time of crisis. For many small organizations, the pandemic left us without a path forward. Bob isn't afraid to shake things up, propose new ways of doing things, and get things done!"



✓ **Vote Woerner for Mayor**

Paid for by Bob Woerner 4 Mayor 2020 FPCC ID #1427412

EDITORIAL

Vinnie Bacon for District 1 Supervisor

In the race for Alameda County District 1 Supervisor, The Independent endorses Vinnie Bacon. We believe his values around smart growth, solar utilities that don't destroy open space in the county, and support for affordable housing while protecting the Urban Growth Boundary are in line with what the Tri-Valley needs as it looks toward the future.

We've seen urban sprawl in many once-beautiful parts of the Bay Areas, families pushed out of neighborhoods they can no longer afford, homeless populations growing by the year and traffic making for horrible commutes. We stand strongly behind preserving the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and need elected officials who will balance housing mandates from the state with plans for smart growth. Bacon is not endorsed by a host of developers and unions that might sway his decisions.

On affordable housing, Bacon showed an in-depth understanding of legislation that makes it easier for cities to build affordable housing, along with those that create the appearance of solving the problem — when really they serve to take away local control.

Bacon has a keen understanding of the county's work with the homeless and how COVID-19 could impact services, making him well-suited to navigate difficult times now and going forward.

The Independent is happy to see he supports Valley Link, as that county project will address already-existing traffic issues.

Bacon will also provide a strategic method for addressing social injustices. He sees how black Americans are disproportionately incarcerated. We support his call for a revisited approach to policing and a de-militarized force, while acknowledging that "defunding" could simply mean "redirecting" the funds to bring mental health professionals into the fold.

Bacon's opponent, David Haubert, also promotes Valley Link and enhancing our mental health resources. However, there are some concerns with regard to his history around development. It's very possible that campaign dollars from unions and developers don't impact his voting decisions, as he states. But as he leaves office in Dublin, which has seen unmitigated growth and inundated schools during his time, we can't help but wonder if he's received the campaign donations from certain sources because the developers know he won't ask for much when approving their proposals.

Given the issues in this area around housing, homelessness, traffic and inequity, we need someone who will stand firm for preserving the region and protecting our most vulnerable residents.

Bob Woerner for Livermore Mayor

In their bid for mayor, Livermore Vice-mayor Bob Woerner and Mony Nop bring unique personal stories for voters to consider.

Son of a United States Army officer, Woerner states that as an "army brat," he learned to be open to new experiences, people and cultures. His formative years were spent in various cities in Germany, and locations along the East Coast.

In his career, he was employed first as a physicist, and then as a corporate executive in areas that included information technology, strategy and finance in many different companies.

Looking back at his past years as a council member, a pattern emerges. He reached out to resolve difficult issues in a breadth of projects. They include the creative \$2 million city small business grant program that encourages businesses to fund solutions to the pandemic in an ongoing way; access to the city's sewer service at a time of need for Concannon Vineyards; the Stockmen's Park land swap that provided a win-win — more affordable housing and a downtown park, and the initiation of city council subcommittees on homelessness, as well as equity and inclusion.

Mony Nop, a survivor of the killing fields in Cambodia, arrived penniless in the United States in 1983, not speaking a word of English. Later, he spent summers working with migrant workers in the fields, traveling from Stockton to as

far north as Oregon. Despite hardship, he went on to become an avid learner, and later a police officer and real estate agent.

In addition to their remarkable assets, both have deficits. Woerner, one of the leaders of the Livermore City Council, made or endorsed erroneous statements about the downtown Central Park Plan proposed by a citizens' group — in particular, how state housing laws would affect it, the delay it would cause, and the size of the parks in each of the plans.

Although Nop has many accomplishments, his roles as a police officer, realtor and non-profit founder do not prepare him for the difficult financial and political issues currently facing the city.

In regard to moving the 3- and 4-story Eden Housing development off the site in the center of the city to expand the number of units and create an enlarged park, he does not express support. He lists his concerns, states that he does not think the community would be very happy, and asks, "Are we nullifying the voters two to one vote recently?"

The answer is "No." On March 3, voters secured the development agreement with the hotel on the east side of Livermore Avenue, but did not lock in plans for the 130-unit Eden Housing development on the west side.

After the March 3 election, Woerner turned a page. He reached out to those associated with the Central Park Plan to look for ways to bridge the divide. He involved a professional facilitator. He stated, "I believe it is still possible in principle to relocate the housing element, assuming that any contractual, financial and quality concerns that may arise are satisfactorily resolved as judged by the key stake-holders."

He continues, "Once we are clear on the best plan for the Eden Housing project, I will go for it, and look for the opportunity to make it happen."

By expressing his willingness to study the relocation of Eden Housing to provide more affordable units, and thereby make possible a treasured public park in the heart of the city, Woerner has taken an important step to heal the community.

Woerner's financial background and years on the council give him the experience to address the effects of the pandemic on the city. Together with his interest and skill in bringing disparate community groups together in a win-win, we think that he could creatively lead Livermore into the future. We endorse him as mayor.

For its part, The Independent commits to remaining watchful and vigilant in regard to the relocation of Eden Housing, the creation of a downtown park as a local and regional attraction, and other topics that affect the vision of our community and the integrity of our government.

Nancy Allen, Valerie Arkin for Pleasanton City Council

The Independent endorses Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin as two council candidates who will champion smart and slow growth.

Allen's extensive experience within the city will serve the community her well. She's been involved with various committees, and served on the planning commission for seven years. She's a strong supporter of the UGB. We appreciate that she brought her fight for local control to Sacramento to ensure we would see bills that truly promote affordable housing.

Arkin served on the Pleasanton Unified School District board and brings with her the goals of providing smart growth, protecting open space, and ensuring safe drinking water. Her advocacy work for mental health for students will also transfer well to the city, as we look at different ways to approach policing.

Dawn Plants, Sri Muppidi for Dublin City Council

Over in Dublin, promising candidates will appear on the ballot. It was a difficult task to choose among them, but The Independent believes Plants and Muppidi are the right choices.

As a 40-year resident, Plants brings with her a love for her city. Backed by the Sierra Club, she can deliver the pause in rampant growth that Dublin desperately needs. Despite her experience of working for a developer previously, we feel she will help to take the city in the right direction.

Muppidi is the young, smart voice Dublin needs on the council to bring a new perspective. Her experience working with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Federal Reserve, along with her expertise in economics, make her an impressive candidate and a fresh mindset that Dublin is missing.

Jan Palajac, Stacey Swanson for the Livermore Area & Recreation Park District

The Independent believes Jan Palajac and Stacey Swanson will be strong leaders on LARPD board.

Palajac, the incumbent, brings with her a wealth of knowledge and a track record of success. She understands the challenges brought upon the district during COVID-19 and knows what the facilities need. Her stance on supporting renewable energy, but not at the detriment of open space, is in line with The Independent's values.

Swanson is known as someone who gets involved. She has shown a genuine interest in the LARPD through her activity and helped to spearhead an effort to preserve 85 acres of open space after the closure of the Springtown Golf Course. She will bring a great perspective to the board.

Kristin Pelham, Michael Utsumi for Dublin Unified School District

The Independent is pleased to endorse Kristin Pelham and Michael Utsumi for the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD).

Pelham is a special education teacher who has become involved in her community through various committees. Through her 20 years of experience, the skill set she developed in working with children with special needs will be an asset for the district. We believe Pelham will help address the gap in learning for those struggling in school.

In addition to his work as an in-classroom tutor and time with Dublin Partners in Education, Utsumi has volunteered at every school site in the district. This, along with his impressive understanding of the district's budgetary needs and education standards, show us that Utsumi has the energy, passion and dedication to become a key player at the board table.

Yanira Guzman, Kristie Wang for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Both Yanira Guzman and Kristie Wang impressed us with their extensive backgrounds in education. We believe they are well-equipped to shore up the gaps in education and bring the families in the LVJUSD through the distance learning phase of the pandemic and beyond. The fact that they're both parents of students in the district also gives them an intimate understanding of its needs, challenges and strengths.

Guzman's technology and language backgrounds, along with her participation in the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure M, show she can not only weather the distance learning storm, but that she has a strong understanding of school district budgets and the needs of the Spanish-speaking community. As she pointed out in her interview, she understands the subtle nuances of cultural differences within her community, and can help to build more inclusivity.

Wang's impressive degrees in education and public policy are just the starting point. She tirelessly contributed to the school district through her involvement with PTA, youth vaping education campaigns, the Technology Committee, the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measures M and G, the Coalition for Change, among others. We believe she is a force to be reckoned with and will serve the families and students well.

Mary Jo Carreon, Steve Maher, Kelly Mokashi for Pleasanton Unified School Board

When voting for three board trustees, The Independent recommends the community to consider Mary Jo Carreon, Steve Maher and Kelly Mokashi. All current or previous educators and administrators, together these three will guide the district into the future with both fresh and experienced eyes.

Carreon's caring approach to changing her students' lives for the better and experience working with younger children in particular give her the behind-the-scenes understanding of what students, teachers, school sites and families need in order to drive success for youth.

With an extensive background in teaching, administration and his existing role on the school board, Maher is well-equipped to tackle a broad range of challenges facing the district. Despite his lengthy tenure with the PUSD, we appreciate his ability to acknowledge when his understanding of a topic is limited, in order to delegate to appropriate professionals.

Mokashi's 10 years of e-learning experience, curriculum creation, teaching background and service to nonprofits make her another well-rounded candidate for the board. Her call for creating more transparency with regard to fiduciary issues is welcomed.

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.

Vinnie Bacon for Supervisor Alameda County Supervisor, District 1

Donna Cabanne, Livermore

Do you want to preserve open space from sprawl and over-development?

Then vote for Vinnie Bacon for Alameda County Supervisor, District 1. Environmentalists and conservationists trust Vinnie to protect open space, parks, and agricultural land. This is why Vinnie has been endorsed by the Sierra Club, the League of

Conservation Voters of the East Bay, and 350 Bay Area Action.

His opponent has taken \$240,000 from special interests, including Tripointe Homes, Ponderosa Homes, Trumark Homes, Citation Homes, Shea Properties and Award Homes. Why are so many developers putting so much money to help Haubert?

Vinnie Bacon has the best education and experience. He earned a Masters of transportation engineering and a Masters of city planning from UC Berkeley. He has served as a Fremont City Councilmember since 2012 and has over 20 years of high-tech management experience. He is a 30-year resident of Alameda County.

The choice is clear. If you want a supervisor who will protect our resources and who is not influenced by special interests, then vote for Vinnie Bacon. Vote early and vote for Vinnie.

More Affordable Housing And An Exciting Park

Bill Dunlop, Livermore

An article in the Independent paper about a week ago caught my attention. My understanding of the problem was increased when my wife told me that she had just driven downtown and was stunned by the enormous buildings going up on the west side of L St. I had to see it for myself and was taken aback by the size of these buildings. I think almost everyone who goes through downtown on L Street will be shocked by the new construction just west of L Street

between First St. and Railroad Ave. It is overwhelming.

If you haven't had a chance to drive downtown for a while, it is worth a look.

The article in the paper reports that there may be interest in the City Council to review the current City Plan for the 8 acres that are proposed on the east side of L Street, opposite the current high-rise buildings on the west side. If there is a chance to revisit the plan for the 3 and 4 story housing development on a part of the city-owned 8 acres, I would be pleased to support the suggestions discussed in the recent newspaper story. It appeared that a plan could be studied to accommodate even more housing nearby and leave significantly more open space on the 8-acre site. Revisiting this issue could lead to creating a downtown with an exciting park that we could all enjoy for decades to come.

Valerie Arkin for City Council

David Pascualy, Pleasanton

Pleasanton is at a crossroads - shift to the dense urbanized style of Walnut Creek

or try to keep the small-town feel of Pleasanton?

That is the choice we have this election, between candidates supported by the developers and chamber of commerce forces and those not accepting money from developers. Vote carefully, you might regret getting Walnut Creek (advocated by some on the Downtown Task Force).

We need Valerie Arkin on the city council. She did a great job on the school board, and now she can represent Pleasanton residents on the city council.

Karla, Nancy and Valerie: Residents Over Developers

David Camp, Pleasanton

The Pleasanton election is simple this year.

If you want Pleasanton to keep Pleasanton's wonderful small-town character, vote for Karla Brown for mayor and Nancy Allen and Valerie Arkin for city council. If you want to build, build, build Pleasanton into a Dublin, Milpitas or San Jose,

then vote for another group of candidates.

We moved to Pleasanton 18 years ago from Oakland, because it was, well, very pleasant. Karla, Nancy and Valerie are the best candidates to resist those who would change Pleasanton into a big city.

I have known Karla for 16 years as a neighbor, neighborhood leader, and city council member. She is thoughtful and caring, and she has worked respectfully and constructively with those having different opinions. Nancy has been an effective planning commissioner for seven years, and Valerie has been an energetic PUSD board member for 12 years, working to keep our schools excellent. The most important thing about these very experienced candidates is that their priority is residents and our quality of life.

A different group of candidates values aggressive building, development and growth. They have and would favor high-rises in our wonderful historic downtown, developments on our ridges, and rapid advancement of a huge housing development on the east side, despite impacts on traffic, school crowding and the character of our town. Developers, real estate groups and commercial interests expect they will profit more with these candidates in office and have funded generously their campaigns and supporting PACs.

Let's prioritize residents over developers. Let's not turn Pleasanton into a big city. Elect Karla, Nancy and Valerie.

Jack Balch for City Council

Sharrell Michelotti, Pleasanton

Pleasanton faces many challenges in the next four years that calls for strong leadership on the Pleasanton City Council - that is why I am supporting Jack Balch for City Council.

Jack Balch will bring decisive leadership as Pleasanton faces challenges in these uncertain times. As a certified public accountant, Jack understands economics and will bring his business and finance experience

perspective to the Pleasanton City Council. His 11-year experience as a parks and recreation and planning commissioner will serve him well as a member of the city council.

He is knowledgeable about the past, and his service and leadership has helped create the Pleasanton we all love.

As a planning commissioner for the past six years, Jack Balch, has been a leader in making decisions that help determine Pleasanton's future. He is known for his knowledge of issues, respect of public input, and ability to make decisions that benefit Pleasanton. He is a proven leader with experience who will put Pleasanton residents first as their elected city council member.

Please join me in Voting for Jack Balch for City Council on Nov. 3.

Idyllic Daydream

Valerie Huff, Livermore

Having spent time in several other wine country town centers, I envisioned Livermore's City Plan would include trees, grass, flowers, benches, a fountain and hopefully, some birds. The Town Center would be quiet, restful area to meet friends, family and out of town guests. Coffee shops and a bakery would be close by.

Alas, my daydream disappeared, but I was pleased with the Stockmen's Park, a grassy area dedicated to our ranching heritage. I only wish it were larger.

Moving forward, currently I am stunned by the humongous size of the Groth Bros. housing project of 222 units. It is a concrete mammoth that dwarfs everything within its radius, and it is not even complete.

I cannot imagine adding 130 low cost, 4 story housing units and a parking garage in close proximity to our Town Center. We could be viewing owners' laundry, BBQs, and bicycles instead of trees and grass.

I am hoping for a "win-win", with the City Council relocating this low-cost housing project to Pacific Ave. to save a bit of tranquility for our Town Center and its residents.

Valerie Arkin for City Council

Rita Prieto-Galvin, Pleasanton

I have known Valerie Arkin for over 15 years while we raised our children in Pleasanton schools.

Valerie brings 12 years of dedicated service on the Pleasanton School Board, where she was instrumental in working through the management and budgetary issues impacting our schools during the last recession. Valerie has always been diligent in gathering relevant information and meeting with people before reaching a decision. She is passionate about serving and would be an excellent advocate of the Pleasanton community.

Please join me in voting for Valerie Arkin for City Council.

Vote No On Proposition 15

Brad Hirst, Pleasanton

It is time to correct the purposeful misstatements and myths of Proposition 15 tax advocates.

Schools and Communities First Act CA (is a) purposefully misleading title by the State of California. It is step one to destroy the voter-approved Proposition 13 passed in 1978 to protect property ownership and provide certainty of future tax burdens. Every California property owner benefits by Proposition 13. The tax advocates are open and clear that if Prop 15 passes, they will come after all the residential property.

Only 5.28 percent of your property taxes in Pleasanton go to the local school district.

Only 3.47 percent of your Pleasanton taxes go to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College district.

91.25 percent of your property taxes go to other governmental agencies. If you want to increase revenue to local schools as I certainly do, the best methods are bonds and parcel taxes with specified uses.

The myth sayers talk at raising \$12 billion annually. Where does that number come from? Who and how was that calculated? I submit that is another (See MAILBOX, page 5)

THE *Independent*

INLAND VALLEY PUBLISHING CO.
PUBLISHER: Joan Kinney Seppala
EDITOR: Aly Brown

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: David T. Lowell (In Memoriam)
EDITOR: Janet Armantrout (In Memoriam)

THE INDEPENDENT (USPS 300) is published every Thursday by Inland Valley Publishing Company, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550. (925)243-8000. Mailed at Periodicals Prices at the Livermore Post Office and additional entry office: Pleasanton, CA 94566-9998. THE INDEPENDENT is mailed upon request. For more information or to sign up visit www.independentnews.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Independent, 2250 First St., Livermore, CA 94550.

Advertising and subscription rates may be obtained by calling (925)243-8000 during regular business hours or by emailing info@independentnews.com. Editorial information may be submitted by emailing editor@independentnews.com

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

misleading statement.

The high tax advocates claim 10 percent of the California properties will pay over 90 percent of the huge tax increase. They ignore the burden to hundreds of thousands of small businesses in shopping centers that pay all of the property taxes or office tenants that pay the tax increases.

This pandemic is devastating most small businesses. Please do not tax them out of existence. Vote NO on Prop. 15.

Jack Balch for City Counsel
Brandon Pace, Pleasanton

Jack Balch is a demonstrated leader in a time of change.

As a city, a community, we are facing historic challenges. As change is being forced upon us, we need leaders like Jack.

I have served with Jack on the Pleasanton Planning Commission for years. The commission is tasked to consider and weigh the costs and benefits to changes in our city to find the best balance for all of us.

For example, is the home proposed with two stories ok? What happens to the look and feel of downtown if that building goes up? There aren't always easy answers. (Compromise) is required. One person's expanding business is a neighbor's traffic.

These hard choices the city council must decide are similar to what Jack has faced on the planning commission. Difficult decisions that impact our community require people like Jack. Jack listens, takes time to learn, balancing what people want and the implications to our entire community.

Jack has demonstrated capabilities to carefully consider all sides of a decision. This is desperately needed now for the greater good of our community. Jack's professional experience, in addition to his experience in serving our city, makes him particularly adept at helping our city find the right balance with changes it will face in the coming years.

Jack works hard to get to the best solution for our community, not for one set of special interests, or against one set of interests. Jack knows how to help all of Pleasanton.

In Support for Vice Mayor
Bob Woerner
Anne Marie and Alan Ross,
Livermore

Citizens of Livermore,
Let's make sure to support the one candidate with our community's best interests at heart:

Bob Woerner.

He and the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee will make our community better and more affordable. They will move the 130 units of downtown development housing from Railroad and L Streets directly across the street to the north. This will ensure a great opportunity for low-income housing AND make space for a nice park in the city center.

We are counting on our vote!

Join Medication Safety
Marjory Tilley, Pleasanton

It is an excellent time to take stock of what unused or expired medications you currently have in your home medicine cabinet and to evaluate how you are managing your personal medication regimen.

If you are like most people, there is much in your home medicine cabinet that could be disposed. Unused or expired medications are a public safety issue, leading to potential accidental poisoning, misuse, and overdose. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

Safe disposal of unwanted or expired medications is the responsibility of each of us.

The twice-yearly National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, and highlights convenient, safe, and responsible options for disposing prescription drugs at specific sites where the drugs will be collected and destroyed responsibly. See the Drug Enforcement Administration's website for a location near you at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov.

Other ways to safely dispose of unused or expired medications include year-round pharmacy disposal locations (within participating pharmacies and law enforcement agencies) and U.S. Food & Drug Administration, FDA safe home disposal methods www.fda.gov.

Older adults (60 or older) in the Tri-Valley are encouraged to Join Medication Safety. To learn more about a free, evidence-based medication safety program, contact Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley at 925-931-5379.

Take charge of your well-being and health by investing in yourself. Grow in confidence and knowledge about your medications; review strategies to manage your medications; take an active part in your medication treatment plan with your doctor and pharmacy; receive an assistive device and safe disposal

guidelines. Other benefits include an individualized medication screening that uses an evidence-based software tool to look for potential medication concerns and duplicate therapies; a review done by an independent pharmacist; and a list of your current prescribed and non-prescribed medications detailing how each is being taken.

Evidence tells us that when a patient (or a caregiver) is actively involved in their care and treatment, it can improve outcomes. Join Medication Safety! Medication Safety is funded by Alameda County Measure A Essential Health Care Services Initiative.

Woerner Supports a Win-Win
Virginia Shuler, Livermore

Walking downtown to Livermore's wonderful Farmer's Market on Sunday gave me the opportunity to pause at the corner of L and First Streets to survey the massive construction in progress.

It was very clear to me that if the Eden Housing project was located directly across the street, it would create an inhospitable and unfriendly environment for our city.

Livermore has brilliant and concerned citizens and civic leaders who are committed to a unified plan. Bob Woerner and others have made it clear they want the best plan for the Eden Housing project and open space area. Bob Woerner is championing the effort to resolve the issue by weighing all the factors and working with key stakeholders. He is a leader who has proved that collaborative leadership works for everyone.

Reelect Steve Maher
Jerry Pentin, Pleasanton

Every now and then in a lifetime, you meet someone that you know will impact your life in a very positive way - Steve Maher is one of those people.

I first met him when Hart Middle School was opened and did a tour with him. His enthusiasm, his passion and his drive were incredibly present when he described how this school would serve his students, teachers and parents. Since that time, I've come to know Steve in a more professional role through a Pleasanton Councilmember/PUSD Trustee relationship. Years later, that same enthusiasm, passion and drive are still prevalent, if not enhanced, as he embraces his role as president of the PUSD Board of Trustees.

Our school district, our stu-

dents and our community are blessed that Steve is still willing to serve after more than 40 years. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy for a second term as a school district trustee.

Bob Woerner for Mayor
Robert Taylor, Livermore

Bob Woerner has a vision for long-term downtown development. This will be a win-win for our community. As we can now see, development along the west side of "L" street cries for more open space along the east side. (How about calling this park expansion Vineyard Park?) Bob has the leadership to bring our community together. I support Bob Woerner for Mayor of Livermore.

What Wattage?
Paul Stone, Dublin

Our Einsteinian governor has decreed the abolition of the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles by 2035.

Tell us, Mr. Governor, where will the electricity, the wattage for all the millions of new electric vehicles come from? We don't have enough power for even our present needs thanks to your energy policies. You're already trying to get rid of natural gas and oil production in the state, and you don't want nuclear power plants or new hydro. Please don't tell us wind and solar are going to do the job. More magical thinking. Where will the juice come from? This governor is doing great

damage to our state. Look at the mismanagement of our forests, exploding homelessness, crime, etc. I urge you to download the petition to recall Newsom at

recallgavin2020.com. Otherwise, will the last one leaving California, please turn off the lights. Oh, I forgot - they're already off.

(See MAILBOX, page 6)

Paid Political Ad

Karla Brown
For Mayor of Pleasanton
www.Vote4Karla.com
Endorsed by The Independent!

MAYOR

WHY VOTE KARLA BROWN FOR MAYOR?

- PROVEN LEADERSHIP**
Served 8 years as Councilmember includes 2 years as Vice Mayor, plus 12 local committees.
- CLEAN MONEY PLEDGE**
ONLY Candidate pledging to REJECT all campaign donations from builders or developers that often aim to buy influence.
- SLOW AND SMART GROWTH**
ONLY candidate to consistently advocate for key policies that shaped our award-winning town.
- SAFE DRINKING WATER**
ONLY Candidate Serving on two regional water committees.
- PROTECT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN**
ONLY Candidate to vote against zoning for multi-story housing to replace two successful-existing businesses.
- SAFETY**
Retain our outstanding police officers while adding vital mental health experts.

Paid for by "Karla Brown for Mayor 2020" FPPC#1427228

Paid Political Advertisement

ELECT JACK BALCH
PLEASANTON CITY COUNCIL

Local Roots, Local Experience for Pleasanton's Future

- Promoting our economic recovery
- Recommitting ourselves to keeping our neighborhoods safe
- Strengthening the city-school partnership
- Ensuring city government and finances are fiscally sound, transparent, and accountable

Endorsed by over 250 community leaders and organizations!

www.JackForPleasanton.com
Paid for by Jack Balch for City Council 2020. FPPC #1424493

Paid political ad

The hills and open spaces of our district are at risk - DON'T LET DEVELOPERS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS BUY THIS ELECTION



THE CANDIDATE FIGHTING TO PRESERVE OUR OPEN SPACE

- THE EXPERIENCE WE NEED FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY**
- THE LEADER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST OVERDEVELOPMENT**
- MASTERS DEGREES IN CITY PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING FROM UC BERKELEY**

VINNIE TAKES NO DEVELOPER MONEY. TAKES NO CORPORATE MONEY. TAKES NO PAC MONEY. NONE.

www.bacon4supervisor.com

SIERRA CLUB ENDORSED

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

"For the last 20 years Vinnie has fought against overdevelopment in Alameda County, first as a Sierra Club activist and then as a Fremont City Councilmember. He understands that once we pave over land for development, it's gone forever. We've lost too much of our hills and valleys to development already."

"Developers, construction companies and real estate interests have put over a quarter million dollars trying to get my opponent elected. Tell them that Alameda County is not for sale."

VINNIE BACON 

YOUR CLEAN MONEY CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Paid for by Vinnie Bacon for Alameda County Board of Supervisors District 1 - 2020 4388 Lorren Dr., Fremont CA 94536 FPPC# 1415928

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

Elect Balch - Leadership Matters!

Herb Ritter, Pleasanton

I have had the privilege of serving with Jack Balch on both the planning commission and the parks and rec commission.

Jack, a CPA, utilizes his deep understanding of business and finance when he reviews all matters that are brought up for discussion in commissions. He values and listens to input from the residents in our community and encourages his fellow commissioners and staff to come up with win-win decisions that are best for our community.

During the challenging times, it is important to elect a leader like Jack who will work hard for all residents. He will make fair and well-researched decisions that will support our amazing schools, police and fire departments and will fight for property owner and community rights. Jack's top priority is the economic recovery of our community, and he will be a champion for local businesses and residents.

I am proud to cast my vote for Jack Balch for city council. For more information, visit www.jackforpleasanton.com.

Please also consider your second council vote for Randy Brown. His many years of community service in Pleasanton are outstanding. For more information, visit www.randyforpleasanton.com.

For school board, I endorse my longtime friend Steve Maher. Steve's vast experience working with kids, parents, teachers and school staff is truly amazing and he brings an important perspective to the school board. For more information, visit www.votemaher4schoolboard.com.

Nancy Allen for City Council

Dan Sapone, Pleasanton

Looking ahead to our local election, I realize that the choices we must make among the candidates for Pleasanton City Council will have serious impacts on the important issues that will confront the council in the coming years.

Since many of the issues facing our city require decisions about development and land use, many citizens are looking for city council candidates who will support the interests of local residents over those of developers and other outside interests. As I study the campaign positions released by the city council candidates, I realize that the challenge is to make sure we select leaders who will not have personal or professional interests that conflict with those of local Pleasanton residents.

With that key feature in mind, I am drawn to one candidate who represents what I consider to be "the complete package" of values most important to local residents.

Nancy Allen, an experienced member of the current Pleasanton Planning Commission, does have that combination of views that will serve the needs to local residents. Nancy's support for the small-town character of our downtown, the value of our scenic open spaces, and the need for the council to partner with the local school board to maintain academic excellence are three key values that will serve Pleasanton well. Those three priorities would certainly be enough.

However, one issue makes Nancy Allen stand out among most of the other candidates - the fact that she has steadfastly avoided any business connections or other associations that could create a conflict of interest in her decision-making on the council.

She has declared that she will not accept campaign contributions from developers or others who may bring projects before the council for approval. If you study the campaign position of all the candidates, you will find that this characteristic sets Nancy apart from many of them. Other candidates do not have this independence.

Her long history of service to Pleasanton demonstrates that she will represent Pleasanton with independence and integrity. Pleasanton voters need not look farther than Nancy Allen to select a candidate who will serve their interests without conflict on the Pleasanton City Council.

Mony The Right Person for Mayor

Jim Linhart, Livermore

I am a retired division chief from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, and I have lived in Livermore for 43 years and raised a family here.

I met Mony through my professional interactions with the police department. Since my retirement, I have gotten to know Mony as a friend and seen him for the true person that he is. I have only met a few people in my life like Mony.

He has a blend of integrity and leadership, and a true love and concern for others that I believe makes him uniquely qualified to be your mayor. Mony never ceases to amaze me with what he is willing to do to help others and our community.

As the new mayor of Livermore, Mony would be the kind of leader that can generate enthusiasm, make balanced decisions,

and always be available to listen in order to understand someone else's opinions. With Mony you will get a fresh approach. What you will get is thoughtful problem solving and dynamic vision for the future of our beautiful city.

Our city (like many others) may be faced with difficult issues in the future. I would feel fortunate to have someone like Mony leading us into the future. I urge you to consider voting Mony Nop for mayor.

COVID-19 Affects Many Americans

Antoinette Foxworthy, Livermore

Words matter, Mr. President. I'm disgusted by your cavalier attitude and comments at the rally in Ohio the other day regarding COVID-19 when you stated, "It affects virtually nobody."

Contrary, it affects almost everybody. This pandemic has had more effect on my fellow Americans than possibly anything we have or will see in our lifetimes.

Here are some statistics about who it has affected in the U.S.

201,000 people have died. Some of these were the primary wage earners, care givers, role models, or friends. Regardless, all of these lives mattered to someone. Also affected are their family and friends struggling with their loss.

More than 18 million people are out of work, plus at least seven million are only working only part time. What about their families and their bills?

More than 20 million may lose their employer paid medical insurance. How is that not affecting those families?

290 million kids are out of school. Have you sat in the home of a parent who is trying to teach their children while also trying to work from home? It doesn't work. How are these people not affected?

\$3 trillion dollars has been added to our debt. Who do you think will have to pay for that? We all will be affected.

\$355 billion loss in travel spending in the U.S. These are people affected.

More than 1,000 healthcare workers are dead. Are our medical personnel not important during a pandemic?

A third of the population is working from home. Aren't they affected?

41 percent of businesses were temporarily closed. They were affected.

100,000 small businesses will close permanently. How will they recover? They are affected.

40 percent of populations report anxiety and depression due to COVID-19. Their mental health is affected by this pandemic.

19 percent of child abuse charges are from school personnel. There is no reporting now from the closed schools. These kids are affected.

Double digit increases in domestic-violence calls. These people are affected.

This is just a small sampling of the effects of this pandemic on my fellow Americans. Bottom line, contrary to what you spewed at that crowded, non-distanced Ohio rally, almost everyone is affected by this pandemic. You stand on the biggest pulpit in America and you carelessly shout, "It affects virtually nobody." How dare you.

These people matter. We all matter. Shame on you for dismissing us as "virtually nobody."

Great Things Can Happen

Ellen Turner, Livermore

It looks like congratulations are in order. Some members of the City Council have worked with community groups to create more green grass, trees, and flowers in our proposed Central Park.

The idea of moving the low-income housing one block to the north of the park site is a wonderful compromise. When we can let go of our intransigent positions and listen to others, great things can happen.

Swalwell Devoured by Political Tribalism

Pierre Bierre, Pleasanton

I'm thinking about my vote for Congress - does Eric Swalwell deserve it?

I voted for him twice (volunteering on his early campaigns), but that was back when he was representing us as a bipartisan moderate with his noble attempt at a Problem Solvers Caucus. That all changed when Speaker Pelosi recruited Eric for a party leadership position.

Everyone knows how far overboard Eric went as spokesperson for the Trump-Russia conspiracy theory - embarrassing. And, few have forgotten that Eric publicly relinquished his House seat during his campaign for president, then reneged when things didn't work out.

Don't get me wrong, I like Eric personally, and I'm like you in tolerating political differences of opinion and not letting them devour relationships. Is Eric the hyper-partisan Dem like that?

Though I only know Alison Hayden by reading her website, I can tell that she is not afflicted with TDS. She is moderate, well-reasoned and forward-thinking. She reminds me of Eric Swalwell

in 2012 - someone who is independent and objective enough to work across the aisle.

Alison Hayden 2020 = Eric Swalwell 2012. Let's move forward with her.

Unabashedly Biased

Mark Palajac, Livermore

Four years ago, my wife, Jan Palajac, went to Oakland and paid \$500 so she could run for public office. The position was a seat on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. She was surprised on election day and has been devoted to the position since then.

She had a great background for the job, having spent 17 years as a landscape architect dealing with parks and trails for the City of San Jose. The architect and project management skills she developed have been useful as board member and working with LARPD staff these last four years. This year, as chair of the LARPD board of directors, she has been in almost daily contact with the staff to help navigate the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown.

It has been challenging to comply with changing Alameda County guidelines, curtailing many in-person activities and keeping trails and parks open as much as regulations allow. Directors have also had to deal with the financial instability brought on by reduced fees for services no longer provided. That means lost jobs at LARPD.

This has been a challenging year for all of us and what LARPD has been able to do in keeping parks and trails accessible has been very helpful to our physical and mental health. I'm writing because one thing Jan does not excel at is self-promotion. Those who know and work with her appreciate her focus, drive, and ability to work with others and listen to their needs. But how will everybody else know if I don't tell them? By the way, she'll be reading this for the first time when it shows up in our mailbox. I may be in trouble, but she's worth it. Yes, I'm biased, and I know it.

We Can Count on

Nancy Allen

LaVonne Youel, Pleasanton

Nancy Allen and I have been coworkers, friends and neighbors for many years. She has always been interested in the welfare and success of Pleasanton. She has volunteered and served on numerous community and civic groups, such as Stop Pleasanton Gridlock, the Tri Valley Animal Rescue Board of Directors, Economic Vitality Committee, and the city Planning Commission.

She understands the issues Pleasanton faces. Nancy also listens to all perspectives, digs deep to understand the data, and works with others to achieve common goals. You can count on Nancy to be an advocate for this city. I urge you to vote for Nancy Allen for Pleasanton City Council.

Reason Often Falls to Ignorance

Owen Brovont, Livermore

For me, the hardest part of writing is wavering motivation. I believe deeply in the ideals of America and I love my country passionately, but on occasion I feel overwhelmed by the sheer ignorance and selfishness often manifested as stupidity displayed by large parts of society. It has proven difficult to escape the paralyzing impact of the outrageous events and unlawful behavior of far too many citizens without incurring appropriate consequences, and instead, who appear to have garnered broad support. The society in which we live is suffering severely unhappy times full of illusions born of ideologically manufactured confusion nourished and amplified by ignorance. The resulting poor judgment has become chronic and employed to nurture chaos and encourage the disgraceful uncivil behavior that must inevitably follow. It has been conspiratorially decided by entities comfortably exercising their schemes under false colors and in darkened corners that society shall not be permitted to evolve organically, but instead shall be driven to a designated destination. Society is being shepherded down the track laid out by those who consider their opinions and goals superior to the natural evolutionary processes that brought American society to the verge of successfully achieving self-governance by the common man as envisioned in the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution.

Society is being manipulated, often very subtly, by forces that believe they are justified in denying people the right to make their own decisions about how to live their lives in a social context. The noose around the neck of our freedom is drawing ever tighter and soon will surely strangle America with a garrote of socialist tyranny, as it has done in many parts of the world at the cost of 10s of millions of lives.

Contemporary life in America has become alarmingly disturbing owing to the absence of civility, the conspicuous lack of integrity demonstrated daily by our political leaders, and the rank dishonesty that form the

tools of political maneuvering using an ideologically deformed association with rational thought. The utter dishonesty of the news media flows from the ideological beliefs that, by their actions, they claim to legitimize their betrayal of America.

A clear point needs to be made: Those who continue to support the leadership of the political left must accept that morally they are just as responsible for the ugliness, mayhem, and incivility of our times.

Win-Win

Calvin Wood, Livermore

I'm pleased to read Bob Woerner's proposal that would likely double the number of low-cost housing units in the downtown area and at the same time, expand the size of the open space around Stockmen's Park.

In this time of national division, it is very heartening to see our local leaders working to heal divisions in our community and seek ways to bring us together. I will strongly back this proposal since it seems to embrace many of the ideas that caused so much division in our community not very long ago. May whoever is elected to lead our city in the upcoming election vote diligently to bring about this measure to reunite strong elements in our beloved city.

RBG's Moment of Weakness

Louie Hesemann, Livermore

Roman statues often portrayed Justice as blindfolded" because her judgments are supposed to be above personal opinion. In Ruth Bader Ginsburg's public life, she held to this with one glaring exception. During the 2016 election, she publicly called Trump a "faker," for which she later apologized.

This shows she was human. "To err is human." And we, fellow humans, love her for this.

Her apology was not that she didn't personally believe Trump was a "faker," it was because she realized in her position, as a Supreme Court justice, she was not "being blind."

Trump probably only called her "amazing," when he heard she had died, because she had apologized, and in so doing, she had elevated him, though undeservedly. He always has remained a bully, but he glories in elevation through his opponents' apologies, which he sees as their weakness.

A sculpture of Ruth Bader Ginsburg should not only depict her as blindfolded, but at the same time, it should show her holding her nose as well.

Mony Nop Best Choice for Mayor

Maurice Duenas, Livermore

Our community is indebted to an immigrant population that has come here to make their own lives better and for the betterment of the community. Mony Nop is the perfect example of someone who came here poor and improved himself and much more. He gives to the community in ways that we cannot repay. He is our best choice to guide Livermore to a bright future without the political baggage that our other contender has. Mony has a clear vision not hindered by the Marchand machine. He has my vote.

Preserve the Downtown's Unique Open Character

Victor Karpenko, Livermore

As a resident of Livermore, I have been following the developments of the downtown plan for the past few years. The design and construction of a vibrant public park, affordable housing, and retail spaces is essential for our growing community. I support Vice Mayor Bob Woerner's willingness to consider the relocation of the 130 affordable units off the site bounded by L Street, Railroad Avenue, K Street and Veterans Way. This would preserve the unique open character

of the downtown by expanding the park open space adjacent to Stockmen's Park.

Hewing an Outstanding Candidate

Tony Luu, Livermore

Kandiss Hewing is an outstanding candidate for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees. I have had the privilege of knowing her for the past 15 years. Throughout this time, she has shown integrity, independence, intelligence, and a balanced temperament. In addition, she would bring a fresh and welcome perspective as a long-standing member of the Livermore community where her family has lived for decades.

Kandiss represents a bit of all of us in Livermore. She is a single parent of two. Her daughter is attending a Livermore middle school. She is the guardian for a nephew who is attending a Livermore elementary school. She also works fulltime in administration at San Jose State University. She understands the challenges of education and life in general.

Kandiss is a creative thinker and empathizes with others in the community. She is an advocate for those that need the most help. The Livermore community is growing more diverse each year and our school district reflects that as well. Kandiss has shown an ability and willingness to think outside the box and is not afraid to ask the tough questions that lead to positive solutions.

I wholeheartedly endorse Kandiss Hewing for the LVJUSD Board of Trustees.

Mokashi Best Fit for PUSD

Laurene Green, Zone 7 Water

Agency, Pleasanton

Pleasanton has an opportunity to take advantage of a highly skilled local talent who is a perfect fit for the times. Her name is Kelly Mokashi and she's a candidate for the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Mokashi has broad and deep experience in education as a parent, educator, and school leader. She has a double master's degree in education -- curriculum and technology/administration -- and has worked with school districts nationwide. Kelly is a former teacher and professional-development trainer and is currently an eLearning curriculum designer and instructor. She also has three school-aged children in the district.

Having previous experience as an executive director/board president for two nonprofits, Kelly believes in a "shared leadership" approach that is transparent and inclusive of students, parents, and educators. This approach is needed especially to maintain checks and balances for financial decisions, which will be a significant upcoming challenge. Her experience with eLearning is especially relevant

as we work our way through and beyond a COVID-19 world. She understands the proper balance between online and in-person learning, and what we will need to do to ensure all students are on track intra- and post- pandemic. Kelly is a good listener, approachable, non-patronizing, and an advocate for kids, the ultimate customer.

Don't miss the opportunity to install this local asset on our PUSD board. I wholeheartedly endorse Kelly Mokashi and encourage everyone to vote for her.

The Definition of "Special Interest"

Marty Birk, Pleasanton

Mayoral candidate Karla Brown says that she doesn't take special interest money to help finance her campaign for mayor.

Well, get a load of this. She took what is likely the largest campaign donation in the history of Pleasanton politics from the Jamieson Company, the quarry operators in Livermore. They donated \$4,000 to Karla Brown's campaign.

The Jamieson Company have been outspoken opponents of Pleasanton's various attempts over many years to evaluate the potential for development on Pleasanton's East Side. Councilmember Brown voted as recently as March of this year to not even consider to study the idea. Her vote was made in spite of the fact that the city council had voted in March 2019 to prioritize East Pleasanton Planning on the council's two-year work plan.

From my point of view, a \$4,000 campaign donation is pretty special and indicates a lot of interest from the donor. Keep in mind that the vast majority of political contributions in the history of Pleasanton politics are less than \$100, and you can appreciate the significance of a whopping \$4,000 donation.

I'm all for keeping special interests out of Pleasanton politics - I wish Karla Brown agreed with me. The \$4,000 campaign contribution from the Jamieson Company to Karla Brown's coffers is the very definition of special interests.

Randy Brown a Man of Service

Janeen Rubino-Brumm, Pleasanton

I have lived in Pleasanton for 28 years and love this city. I am writing to show my support for Randy Brown for Pleasanton City Council. Randy is a kind, compassionate, smart, and community-oriented family man. One of the many things I respect most about Randy is that he is a man of service, to his country and to his city. You would be hard pressed to find a local nonprofit that Randy hasn't supported, either by volunteering or sponsoring and attending fundraising events. He is also a Rotarian, which is

(See MAILBOX, page 7)

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MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

another level of service to his community!

Randy is a small-business owner, so he understands the needs and priorities of our small businesses, and he understands the value they bring to our community. He will no doubt look at all sides of every issue, listen to community members, and make sound decisions. He will bring a new and dynamic presence to our city council. I hope you will join me in voting for Randy.

Comparing Pleasanton Mayoral Candidates Car Riv-Hen, Pleasanton

I have known Pleasanton mayoral candidate Jerry Pentin for over 15 years. My first impression was that he is rude, obnoxious, and lacked compassion towards people with physical, mental and medical disabilities. Pentin has no professional ethics, speaks unfiltered, and is disrespectful to many of the residents he was elected to represent as a member of the city council. I have never found him to be supportive of physically, mentally, or medically disabled residents or seniors who need low-income housing. My comments are based on my experiences while he was on the city Planning Commission, city council, and the Wheels Bus board of directors.

On the other hand, I have worked with Council Member Karla Brown for eight years on accessibility projects. I find her to be caring, understanding, and compassionate toward all people. When anyone struggles with issues regarding housing under the Americans with Disabilities Act, she comes to their home and brings a city engineer to help resolve the problem. She also helped prioritize improving ADA and wheelchair access for future apartments in Pleasanton.

If you are a senior or a disabled person, you should vote Karla Brown for mayor of Pleasanton.

Kristi Wang to Lead Livermore Schools

Trish Munro, Livermore City Council

I am endorsing Kristie Wang for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Kristie was a founder of Flavors Addict Kids-Livermore. When FAK-L met with me to encourage a city anti-vaping ordinance, I was impressed by Kristie's tireless efforts on behalf of a healthy community, healthy schools, and healthy children. Her background in public policy enabled her to research, consolidate, and clearly make the case for the groundbreaking anti-vaping ordinance Livermore has today.

Now we face unprecedented challenges: a global pandemic, the resulting economic fallout, and a reemerging civil-rights movement. Our school system must have strong leadership to meet the needs of all our students through these difficult times.

Kristie's background, knowledge, and experience make her the best possible person to lead Livermore schools now. I have appreciated working with Kristie in the past. I look forward to working with her as a school board member in the future.

Jack Balch for Pleasanton Council Jan Batcheller, Pleasanton

Please vote Jack Balch for Pleasanton City Council. Jack is well qualified to be an effective city council member on day one. He has served on various Pleasanton city commissions for 11 years and is currently serving on the Planning Commission.

Jack is a certified public accountant. His expertise and understanding of finance will be sorely needed as Pleasanton recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. He is approachable, a good listener, enthusiastic, full of energy, and eager to serve on the city council.

Jack and his campaign committee have volunteered for Kids Against Hunger, packing approximately 10,000 meals over two weekends to feed hungry children. He enjoys volunteering; in fact, it is a family tradition. I served with Jack's grandfather on a foundation board many years ago.

I have been involved in many local elections over the years. Jack is the hardest working, most organized candidate I have worked with. He deserves your vote. Check out his credentials and endorsements at www.jack-forpleasanton.com.

Carron a Champion for Students Lynn Gatehouse, Pleasanton

MaryJo Carreon has my vote for the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees.

I have known MaryJo for over 20 years as a dedicated, intelligent, creative and hard-working teacher and valued colleague. Our younger son (now 30) was fortunate to have been in MaryJo's third-grade class.

Students really do come first with MaryJo. She understands their needs from multiple perspectives, as an experienced educator and as a parent of grown children who attended PUSD

schools. Her skill at differentiating the curriculum for each learner, coupled with her compassionate listening and effective communication with parents were keys to her students' success. MaryJo, an educator with over 30 years in the classroom, is in tune with what students, teachers and staff experience each day. Her insight into the challenges of remote learning and teaching will be valuable as the district considers the return to school in person.

She will be an asset to the PUSD Board of Trustees. I urge you to vote for MaryJo Carreon, a champion for our students.

How Can Christians Support Trump? Carol Chargin, Livermore

So-called conservative Christians support President Trump. How can that be? Trump publicly cheated on his wives, including on one who just gave birth. His attorney, Michael Cohen, paid Stormy Daniels to keep her affair with Trump a secret. Trump used vulgar language to demean women in the Access Hollywood video. Trump's immigration policy resulted in 5,400 and counting children kidnapped from their parents at the border. Our government did not keep accurate records of their parents and many will never see their them again.

Trump has no effective nationwide program to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. He refuses to wear a mask and people died from his suggestion that we inject ourselves with disinfectant. Trump never mentioned the deaths of these people.

Conservative Christians only want to vote for Trump because he says he is an anti-abortion Christian. Trump's un-Christian behavior suggests otherwise. Trump and his supporters endorse separating children from their parents and not reuniting them. Trump's lies about the coronavirus and thousands of deaths are condoned. Christian conservatives only care that abortion is made illegal. A rape victim must carry the baby if a pregnancy occurs. Women must carry babies who are anencephalic. Without a brain, the baby will die shortly after birth, but the mother must endure the entire pregnancy. People who do not know the mother, or care about her, make decisions about her physical and mental health.

Conservative Christians do not show compassion. Yet, Jesus explained that compassion is more important than a rule when he performed seven miracles on the Sabbath and angered the religious leaders. Yes, compassion is more important than a rule.

I do not know anyone who thinks abortion is wonderful. Abortion is the last resort to preserve the physical and mental health of a woman. I have never seen the lists of people willing to adopt and raise a baby that was not aborted. Anti-abortion groups are willing to put a woman through the most demanding physical and mental experience, but not to put "their money and time where their mouth is."

Trump clearly demonstrated his attitude toward women in the Access Hollywood video. I cannot support a man with no regard for his wives or any other woman. Remember Jesus' teaching that compassion is more important than a rule. Can you still support Trump? If so, I don't understand.

Karla Brown Top Choice for Mayor Gregory O'Connor, Pleasanton

I have been a member of the Pleasanton Planning Commission for over 14 years and have known Karla Brown for more than 12 of those. I met Karla when we were fighting to save our hills and ridgelines and placing Measure PP on the ballot.

For Karla, being on the City Council is hardly a part-time job. She has represented Pleasanton on 12 local boards and committees during her tenure. Additionally, she is a local business manager, has volunteered for our public schools and Tri-Valley Conservancy, and coached soccer. Her energy seems endless.

As a councilwoman for the past eight years, Karla has been the voice of the people of Pleasanton, often in the minority, voting to preserve our downtown from multi-story homes, advocating for slower/smart growth to ease the burden on our schools and traffic, and fighting to preserve the hillsides and scenic ridgelines we have left.

Karla has proven her leadership, integrity and independence while on the council. She knows how to listen to all sides of an issue, ask the difficult questions, and find a solution that is best for our community. As our mayor, she will continue to represent the interests of Pleasanton residents over outside/special interests.

Vote Karla Brown for mayor.

Trump is Copying Hitler Ron Sadler, Livermore

America's constitutional checks and balances are being pushed to the brink by a president who is consciously following Adolf Hitler's extremist propaganda and policy template from the early 1930s. Here are seven comparisons between the early Hitler and Donald Trump.

Both found direct communication channels to their base. Hitler used the relatively new medium of radio; Trump uses Twitter. Trump's Twitter account, like Hitler's radio broadcasts, enables a charismatic leader to maintain a personal, unfiltered line of communication with an adoring political base.

Both unceasingly attacked objective truth. Trump, as did Hitler, maintain a relentless assault on the very idea of objective truth by delegitimizing the mainstream press. Hitler used the term Lügenpresse ("lying press"). Trump uses the term "fake news."

Both of their attacks on truth included attacks on science. Both Trump and Hitler intensified their assault on truth by deriding scientific experts, especially academics who questioned Hitler's views on race or Trump's views on climate change and the pandemic. The goal is to dismember the idea of objective truth, turning everything into grist for a populist jury subject to manipulation by a master puppeteer. In both their worlds, public opinion ultimately defines what is true and what is false, not scientific fact.

Both embraced extreme nationalism. Hitler's appeals to his base invoked an extreme version of German nationalism by promising to restore Germany to its rightful place as a preeminent nation. Trump echoes Hitler's appeal to nationalism with the slogan "Make America Great Again," a paraphrase of Hitler's promise to restore German greatness.

Both embraced mass detention and deportations. Hitler promised to make Germany free from Jews and Slavs. Trump promises to slow or stop the flow of non-white immigrants, substituting Muslims, Mexicans, and Central Americans for Jews and Slavs as scapegoats for the nation's ills.

Both cemented their rule by enriching elites. Hitler's version of fascism shifted power to the leaders of German industry. Trump has presided over a massive empowerment and enrichment of corporate America. Under Trump, large corporations have received huge economic windfalls and freedom from regulations that were designed to protect consumers and the environment.

Both rejected international norms. Hitler's foreign policy rejected international cooperation in favor of military and economic coercion. Like Hitler, Trump is deeply hostile to multinational cooperation as evident by the withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the alienation of our allies.

Woerner Campaign Supports Livermore Lori Souza, Livermore

I like to see local politicians support Livermore businesses. A look at campaign filings shows that Vice Mayor Bob Woerner has spent his campaign dollars right here in Livermore supporting Livermore businesses. This is especially important now as our small businesses struggle during the economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope you will join me in supporting the candidate who supports Livermore. Vote Bob Woerner for mayor.

Nop Must Explain Expenditures Anthony Pangellinan, Livermore

Livermore mayoral candidate Momy Nop must explain his lack of support for local businesses.

For someone who claims to support local businesses and bring new ideas to the table, his campaign has not spent much, if any of its funds, locally. A quick look at his financial reports shows his website was designed by someone in San Jose and his yard signs were printed in San Leandro. Apparently, he has yet to report the cost for the mailer sent to every Livermore household a few weeks ago. No charge for printing or postage (usually around \$10,000 - \$15,000 based on Measure P statements) show up in his required FPCC filings. That's probably a violation. However, the printer's stamp on the mailer, Allied Printing 138, is a shop out of San Jose.

I am sure local Livermore businesses struggling to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic would have appreciated his business.

High Stakes in Pleasanton Elections Jake Krakauer, Pleasanton

Regarding the upcoming Pleasanton election, I reviewed contributions reported to the California Fair Political Practices Commission as of Sept. 25. For context, political contributions in past elections averaged \$15,000 per candidate.

In the election for mayor, Jerry Pentin reported \$37,000 in contributions with 10 coming from outside Pleasanton, including Nevada, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Karla Brown reported \$26,000, including two contributions from outside Pleasanton.

For Pleasanton City Council, Jack Balch reported \$35,000, including 14 donations from out-

side Pleasanton. Randy Brown reported \$20,000, with 24 contributions from outside Pleasanton and donations from the California Real Estate and Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce political action committees. Nancy Allen reported \$13,000, including three contributions from outside Pleasanton. Valerie Arkin reported \$4,000, including two contributions from outside Pleasanton.

Total contributions to these six candidates are an eye-opening \$135,000. The combined amount for Pentin and Balch represents over half that total. This makes one wonder if there are some future development decisions at stake that are generating large contributions and potential influence from special interests.

Contributors, including PACs, sometimes delay contributions until after the September deadline for reporting, knowing that voters won't have access to updated information until post-election reporting.

Until California provides real-time reporting, I challenge all candidates to divulge contributions from PACs and individuals between now and the election. Karla Brown, Valerie Arkin and Nancy Allen seem to have been the most transparent about their financing and consistent about putting the interests of Pleasanton first.

Mike Wallace for BART Director Dennis Gambs, Livermore

I worked closely with Mike Wallace, candidate for the Bay Area Rapid Transit board of directors, when I was an employee at the Zone 7 Water Agency. Mike is very professional with the highest degree of integrity. His business and public agency experience will serve him well as a BART director.

Mike knows that Livermore got the short end of the stick when BART was not extended to Livermore. He will be a great team player in working for what is best for the residents of the Livermore-Amador Valley.

Please join me in voting for Mike Wallace as BART director for District 5, which includes Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

Public Servant, Not a Politician Jo Beth James

Kelly Mokashi came into my life path soon after the birth of my first grandchild, who has Down Syndrome. This life-changing event opened the door for our family to learn the meaning of "the lucky few."

With our beautiful granddaughter's love, we became involved with the nonprofit organization RODS (Racers for Orphans with Down Syndrome) because we wanted other people to experience this same blessing. RODS was a nice fit with its mission to help orphans with Down Syndrome find their forever homes. This is where we had the pleasure of meeting Kelly, who served as executive director of this fine organization. I learned quickly that Kelly is easy to talk to and is a go-getter. She works hard, is always open to new ideas, and is willing to help others. She truly has a servant's heart.

Being a school board member throws a person into the world of politics. I should know because I am a past school board member. But with Kelly Mokashi, you will get a public servant, not a politician who is out for personal gain. Her agenda will be making the system the best it can be for the students.

I wish I could be there to vote for this wonderful educator, mother, and passionate soul who will serve you greatly. Kelly Mokashi will be an amazing addition to your Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Darkness of Judge Barrett Greg Scott, Livermore

Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has been nominated for the Supreme Court by President Trump. Barrett was nominated by Trump for the circuit court in 2017 and confirmed by the Senate, largely along a party-line vote.

It is everyone's right, judge or prospective judge, to be a member of any religion, or religious cult or sect they choose. A religious test for government office is unconstitutional.

It is also the right of the American people to know the organizations, clubs, churches, religious sects or cults, or other groups that a judge or prospective judge may belong to. How Barrett chooses to love and serve God is her business. How she is going to serve as a Supreme Court justice is the people's business.

DailyMail.com found a picture of two of Barrett's children, one adopted and one biological, on People of Praise's website publication "Vines and Branches." Archives of this publication have since been removed and all articles with mention of Barrett have been scrubbed. Why the secrecy? Why not have transparency if People of Praise is a good, forthright group?

It is most probable that Barrett's nomination to the Supreme

Court will be confirmed before the presidential election. What will happen in short order after the election, assuming the Supreme Court is not forced to pick the next president in a non-unanimous decision like Bush v. Gore in 2000, is that Obamacare, or the Affordable Care Act, will be declared unconstitutional. Millions more will cease to have healthcare and be added to the 12 million who lost their healthcare in the coronavirus pandemic.

The real reason Barrett was nominated is to dismantle Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision making abortion legal. Barrett clerked for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who, in Planned Parenthood v. Casey, wrote a minority opinion, joined by three other justices, that said Roe v. Wade should be rescinded.

By right, some women choose abortion. Are we are going to return to "coat hanger" abortions? Concern for the post-natal must balance with concern for the prenatal.

Removing Political Signs Khati Pocha, Livermore

To the person who removed Biden/Harris signs in our neighborhood: Removing signs is a crime. It is also cowardly. If you want to express your choice, by all means do so, but please leave our signs alone.

Brown for Pleasanton City Council Steve Van Dorn, Pleasanton

Chamber of Commerce

I urge you to vote Randy Brown for Pleasanton City Council.

As president and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working with Randy as a board member and most recently as board chairman.

Randy is passionate about Pleasanton, which is evident through his leadership with Rotary Club, Sunflower Hill, Agape Villages, Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, Pleasanton Military Families and other organizations.

Being a small business owner and understanding the challenges in running his own business will give Randy an excellent perspective as a city council member. His can-do attitude, positivity, and ability to collaborate with others will be critical as the council works to bring the city back from the pandemic.

It is also important to note that once Randy is elected to the city council, he will step down from the chamber of commerce board of directors.

Please join me in voting for Randy Brown for city council on Nov. 3.

In Support of Nancy Allen Mike and Darlene Miller, Pleasanton

We strongly support Nancy Allen for Pleasanton City Council.

She has been a tireless worker for the people of Pleasanton, serving in many capacities over the years, currently as a second-term planning commissioner. She listens and makes sound decisions that are carefully considered, and she is not beholden to any special interest groups, which means she would work for us, not them. We encourage you to support her as well.

Some of Trump's Achievements Jackie Cota, Livermore

Some of what President Trump has achieved:

He signed a bill this year allowing drug imports from Canada to help keep prescription prices down. In the eight years prior to Trump's inauguration, prescription drug prices increased

an average of 3.6% per year. Under Trump, drug prices have seen year-over-year declines in nine of the last 10 months, with a 1.1% drop as of the most recent month.

He signed an executive order that forces healthcare providers to disclose the cost of their services so that Americans can comparison shop and know how much they charge insurance companies. When signing the order, he said no American should be blindsided by bills for medical services they never agreed to in advance. Hospitals will now be required to post their standard charges for services, which include the discounted price a hospital is willing to accept.

He created a White House Veterans Affairs Hotline and staffed it primarily with veterans and direct family members of veterans. VA employees are now being held accountable for poor performance, with more than 4,000 removed, demoted, or suspended so far.

He issued an executive order requiring the secretaries of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs to submit a joint plan to provide veterans access to mental health treatment as they transition to civilian life.

He championed and signed a bill giving most federal employees an average 3.1% pay increase – the largest raise in more than 10 years. He also signed a bill providing up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave for millions of federal workers.

The Trump administration will provide HIV prevention drugs for free to 200,000 uninsured patients per year for the next decade.

Trump also signed an order allowing small businesses to work together when buying insurance to get a better price. He signed the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act that provides funding for states to develop maternal mortality reviews to better understand maternal complications and identify solutions that focuses largely on reducing the higher mortality rates" for Black Americans.

He also signed the First Step Act, expanding judicial discretion for judges in sentencing for non-violent crimes. Over 90% Of those benefiting from the retroactive sentencing reductions in the First Step Act are Black Americans.

Wang has Vision, Skills for School Board Craig Bueno, LVJUSD Board President

Kristie Wang Has the vision and skills necessary for the Livermore School Board.

I met Kristie in my capacity as school board president when she was fighting Big Tobacco right here in Livermore. Her passion for saving our youth from the dangers of vaping and her dogged persistence in taking on, and ultimately beating, a corporate bully are impressive.

Kristie has been a prominent voice in our community. She will bring a dynamic vision, high skill set, organizational experience,

(See MAILBOX, page 8)

Reed Plumbing Company

Livermore, CA

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davidreed@dareedplumbing.com

LIC #601931



National Nuclear Security Administration To Hold Additional Public Meeting



Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement For Continued Operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is holding a second public scoping meeting to invite public participation in the process and to encourage public involvement on the scope and alternatives that should be considered in the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for Continued Operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. The Proposed Action Alternative will include continued operations and foreseeable new and/or modified operations/facilities to address aging infrastructure concerns at LLNL. In light of current public health concerns NNSA will be hosting an internet-based (with telephone access), virtual scoping meeting in place of an in-person meeting.

Monday, October 5, 2020

Online Public Meeting: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. PDT

Access by Internet at: <https://tinyurl.com/LLNLNOC75>

Access by Telephone: 1-408-418-9388

Conference ID: 132 838 3950

Additional details and meeting materials are available for review online at:

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room>

Comments can be submitted by email to:

LLNLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov

or in writing to:

Ms. Fana Gebeyehu-Houston, NEPA Document Manager,

NNSA Livermore Field Office

7000 East Avenue, L-293

Livermore, CA 94550-9234

Please mark envelopes and emails as

"SWEIS Comments"

Comments must be received/postmarked by October 21, 2020.

Para información general en español, visite:

<https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room>

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 7)

and a true passion for students to our school board during this challenging time.

On Nov. 3, I will be casting my vote for Kristie Wang for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Trump's Successful

First Term

Jan Brovont, Livermore

In 2018, President Trump signed the groundbreaking First Step Act, a criminal justice bill that makes our justice system fairer.

The First Step Act addressed inequities in sentencing that disproportionately harmed Black Americans, including mandatory minimums that created unfair outcomes. Over 90% of those who benefitted from retroactive sentencing reductions were Black Americans. The act also provides rehabilitative programs to help inmates successfully rejoin society and not return to crime.

In 2019, Trump received the Bipartisan Justice Award from the 20/20 Bipartisan Justice Center, a non-profit organization founded by 20 Black Republicans and 20 Black Democrats for his accomplishments in criminal justice reform.

Trump also increased funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities by more than 14%. He signed legislation forgiving Hurricane Katrina debt that threatened HBCUs. He made HBCUs a priority by creating the position of executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs.

Prior to the pandemic, under the Trump administration the U.S. poverty rate fell to a 17-year low of 11.8% as a result of a jobs-rich environment. Poverty rates for African Americans and Hispanic Americans reached their lowest levels since the U.S. began collecting such data. Consumer and small-business confidence were also at all-time highs, and more Americans were employed than ever before.

Trump signed a bill that creates five national monuments, expands several national parks, adds 1.3 million acres of wilderness, and permanently re-authorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Trump's Department of Agriculture also committed \$124 million to rebuild rural water infrastructure.

Trump appointed five openly gay ambassadors and ordered Rich Grenell, his openly gay ambassador to Germany, to lead a global initiative to decriminalize homosexuality across the globe.

Vinnie Bacon for Supervisor

Richard Ryon, Livermore

I became aware of Vinnie Bacon when he opposed the industrial-scale solar energy project in agriculturally zoned North Livermore. After reviewing his campaign website, I have concluded that he is the best candidate to succeed retiring Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. It is refreshing to see a candidate with clear, concise, and detailed positions on issues facing Alameda County.

MAYOR

(Continued from first page)

more about them, and their views on important issues. Their statements have been edited for length.

LIVERMORE

MAYORAL

CANDIDATES

MONY NOP

Realtor Mony Nop, a former Livermore Police officer, and nonprofit founder, is making his first bid for elected office, seeking to become Livermore's next mayor.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Saint Mary's College, and worked as a Livermore Police officer for 17 years before pursuing his second career as a full-time realtor.

A young boy in the late 1970s, Nop fled the brutal Khmer Rouge regime and the killing fields of Cambodia. He would spend the next several years among the displaced in refugee camps of Thailand and the Philippines before his family resettled in the United States.

Despite the trauma of displacement and a hardscrabble life in Stockton, Nop endured. He says he would like to focus on lifting up people in the city and serving as an inspiration for others.

He began school in the third grade in Stockton and became an avid learner. At a young age, he signed paperwork for his parents, and in many ways was on his own.

He spent summers working with migrant workers in the fields, traveling as far north as Oregon. At 16, he landed his first official job at McDonalds. At 17, he decided that he wanted to become a police officer after taking a civics class and learning about police work. While attending police academy classes at night, he worked as a bi-lingual

For example, on North Livermore industrial solar: "We should be focusing on infill solar projects that allow us to generate clean, renewable energy without taking away open space. We shouldn't have to destroy part of the environment in order to save it."

On affordable housing: "We must do everything we can to invest in affordable housing, especially affordable housing near transit and job centers. On the Fremont City Council, I'm proud that I have voted for every affordable-housing project brought before us."

On traffic and safety: "As a bike and transit commuter, I have a personal stake in ensuring that our transit systems are accessible and well-funded, and our roadways are safely shared by all users."

On money in politics: "Money talks in politics, but I've charted a different path: I don't take corporate PAC money. Instead, I listen to everyone and do what I think is right. From my first election to now, I have consistently taken a clean money pledge. I will not accept money from any developer or special interest. I'm always open to good ideas, but leave the checkbook at home."

On the environment: "I'm proud to be the pro-environment candidate in this election. As the only candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club, I believe that Southern Alameda County can do a lot more to be an environmental leader. First, the urgency of the climate crisis requires us to stop endless sprawl and prioritize (affordable) development near transit and job centers. Reducing traffic and commute times while encouraging bike and transit use is a central way the County government can improve quality of life and address what might be the most pressing issue of our day."

Bacon's website has more details on these and other issues, as well as information on his background and experience. I like what I see. I think all who support open space and environmentally sound development should vote for him, too.

Dr. Nwamuo, a Servant

Leader

Monique Demartha, Dublin

Dr. Dawn Nwamuo transformed our breast cancer team at Kaiser Permanente and I believe she can do the same as a member of the Dublin Unified School District Board of Trustee.

When Nwamuo joined our team, I had been working in the department for 15 years. I witnessed the continuous progression of change she drove through her leadership skills that turned our department around from low performing to high performing. It was clear that Nwamuo operated with one goal: to drive change for the betterment of the patient.

Nwamuo gives 100% and encourages our team to do the same. She motivates and inspires the team with a listening ear, department and community building activities, and breast-cancer support accessories such as shirts, pens bags, water bottles, and pas-

teacher's aide in the daytime.

Then, Nop was hired as a Stockton police cadet and later a reserve police officer. Eventually, he gained full-time employment as a police officer in Livermore. In 2012, he turned to real estate full time in the Tri-Valley area and continues in this role today.

Nop co-founded the Tri-Valley NonProfit Alliance, now serving 400 non-profit organizations. He was chosen as the Policy Committee Chair for the Asian Real Estate Association of America, a national nonprofit trade organization and also serves as president of the nonprofit educational group for school-age children known as Rising Young Leader.

Why are You Running for Mayor?

"I am running for mayor because I care about the people and future of Livermore. My passion is to serve, improve, unite, and get things done for the entire community," he wrote.

If chosen by voters, his goals include: public health and safety, managing the city's financial health without cuts to essential services, setting up a business task force, working with the city manager and professional staff on updating the General Plan, and ensuring the downtown hotel and I Street Parking Garage are built as planned.

On Livermore's Strengths & Opportunities for Improvement

"A city's greatest strength is its people, the community. Livermore is a great place to live and raise a family. We are an interesting mix of agribusiness, suburban living, small town local businesses, and large businesses, with the Bay and Silicon Valley as close

tries. She also provided resources to help build a unified front, including designing a technology program called "Patient Inspired Navigation Communicator" to better serve patients and keep the team in constant communication. She has conducted workshops and given breast-cancer seminars to create a culture of continuous learning.

I am confident that Nwamuo's leadership skills, compassion, and ability to create a learning environment will be an invaluable asset to Dublin schools. Her medical knowledge will also help guide Dublin schools through the pandemic.

Kristie Wang for

School Board

Dan Leary, Livermore

I am a civil engineer and small-business owner, a 20-year Livermore resident, and currently have four children in Livermore schools. The school district will have many challenging problems to solve over the next few years. We will need the most qualified residents of Livermore to step up, and I was grateful to learn that my neighbor of 14 years, Kristie Wang, is offering to serve on the Livermore Valley Joint United School District Board of Trustees.

There are three reasons I endorse Kristie Wang for the school board:

1) She is highly qualified and educated for the job. Kristie is an extremely smart person, well-educated for the position, and she able to understand and solve complex situations.

2) She cares about the children of our community. Kristie Wang is not only devoted to her own children, but she is attentive to the needs of other children in our community, as evidenced by her leadership in stopping vaping. My six children look up to Kristie Wang and often seek her advice, and Kristie is glad to help them.

3) She is a natural leader in all her pursuits, primarily because she is an excellent listener, smart and able to understand complex problems, and honest. We need competent leaders like Kristie.

Vote Mony Nop for Mayor

Eric Dillie, Livermore

Two absolutely wonderful public servants are campaigning to lead our amazing city. Both candidates are qualified and possess the necessary leadership traits to serve as mayor of Livermore. I am choosing to vote for Mony Nop because he is what our city needs right now. His integrity and adherence to equity for all is unwavering. Mony will build bridges to span political divides that exist within our community and region. He will attack the most pressing political issues of the day with a fresh perspective shaped by his unique personal and professional experiences.

Mony has dutifully and successfully served our city for over 20 years. He is not a political novice in Livermore or anywhere else for that matter. Nop has been influencing public policy through his nonprofit endeavors, as well

neighbors," he said.

Nop notes the city government has kept a strong financial footing despite the economic toll of the pandemic that caused deep declines this spring amid lockdowns and restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Lingering uncertainty about the recovery and the ability for businesses to survive the setback are reasons "...we need to do more to help local businesses," Nop said. "I will establish an Economic Task Force of Livermore to include various businesses owners from throughout the city and work with them to find ways of how we can help businesses to survive and thrive."

Nop also noted the city can do more to be inclusive of people from diverse backgrounds, including the city government's hiring practices — who it hires and promotes. "The hiring of personnel should always reflect the members of our community and right now, the management positions are not well balanced," he said.

Nop also envisions starting an annual citywide party Breaking Bread — Breaking Barriers, where neighbors from diverse backgrounds could come together to learn about one another and find common ground.

On Long-Term Stability

Nop said the city government's long-term viability would be aided by streamlining the permitting process, attracting more family-wage employers, and working more closely with regional and state agencies and nonprofits that offer support for small businesses.

"For example, the State Treasurer Fiona Ma and her office have been holding informational meetings all over the

as his leadership in several professional organizations. He even served as Mayor Marchand's campaign manager in 2018. I urge you to vote Mony Nop for Livermore mayor on Nov. 3.

Facts about Trump's

Successes

Teresa Miller, Livermore

President Trump donated his \$400,000 salary each quarter to different federal agencies and to fight the coronavirus.

He recently signed three bills to benefit Native Americans. One gives compensation to the Spokane tribe for the loss of their lands in the mid-1900s, another funds Native American language programs, and the third gives federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Montana.

Trump finalized creation of the Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. military.

He signed a law to make cruelty to animals a federal felony so that animal abusers face tougher consequences.

Violent crime has fallen every year that Trump has been in office, after rising during the two years before he was elected.

Trump signed a bill making CBD and hemp legal.

Trump's Environmental Protection Agency provided \$100 million to fix the water infrastructure problem in Flint, Michigan.

Under Trump's leadership, the U.S. surpassed Russia and Saudi Arabia in 2018 to become the world's largest producer of crude oil.

Trump signed a law ending gag orders on pharmacists that prevented them from sharing money-saving information on prescriptions.

Trump signed the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which included the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, giving law enforcement and victims new tools to fight sex trafficking.

He signed a bill requiring that airports provide spaces for breastfeeding moms.

The 25% lowest-paid Americans enjoyed a 4.5% boost in income in November 2019, which outpaced a 2.9% gain in earnings for the country's highest-paid workers. Low-wage workers are benefiting from higher minimum wages and from corporations that are increasing entry-level pay.

Trump signed the biggest wilderness protection and conservation bill in a decade and designated an additional 375,000 acres as protected land. He signed the Save our Seas Act, which provides \$10 million per year to clean tons of plastic and garbage from the ocean.

Randy Brown for

City Council

Jill Buck, Pleasanton

I was dismayed to see candidates for mayor and Pleasanton City Council vilify our local Chamber of Commerce and insinuate that affiliation with the chamber is a negative. My nonprofit organization is a member of the chamber, as are Open Heart Kitchen, Valley Humane Society,

Agape Villages and many more. My plumber, my hair stylist, and the hospital are also active members of the chamber. All my favorite restaurants — Eddie Papa's, SideTrack, Experience Burma, Sultan's Kebab, and the Hopyard — are chamber members. Some of the biggest supporters of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation are chamber members, as well.

We look to our chamber board members to work on programs and resources that will help all businesses in town, and they work tirelessly to help us even while they are trying to keep their own businesses solvent.

Randy Brown is chair of the chamber board, and the road to that position is paved with self-sacrifice, dedication, countless volunteer hours, and a laser-focus on the local businesses that provide jobs, services, and a vital tax base for our city. Randy has worked diligently throughout the pandemic on initiatives to save as many small businesses as possible. Each of those businesses represents the hopes and dreams of the residents who run them, and Randy cares about each one as if we were his family.

There are a lot of self-employed people in Pleasanton who help make this city great. The chamber is the champion of those entrepreneurs, and we chose Randy Brown as our chair for 2020.

I also choose Randy Brown for Pleasanton City Council in 2020, and I hope you will too.

Beware of Smear

Campaigns

Michelle Boss, Livermore

How fortunate are we are to have two solid candidates for mayor of Livermore in this upcoming election. But beware of the haters publishing their opinion, whether or not it has any truth to it. Regardless of who you are voting for in November, I'd like to put in a good word for the character and integrity of candidate Mony Nop, who was smeared in a letter in this paper last week.

The author painted one of the nonprofit organizations Mony has established as a "poor performer" and suggested that should be the sole indication of his qualifications to be mayor. I find it interesting that the other nonprofit Mony established, the Tri-Valley NonProfit Alliance, was never mentioned. What a shame to slam an individual with a long history of integrity and service to the community who is very capable and seeking to serve and uplift in a new capacity.

Let's get to know our candidates, appreciate their willingness to serve, and not further contribute to the false news, rumors and defamation of character already prevalent in politics.

Karla Brown's

Passion for Helping

Kunal Khaware, Pleasanton

I am writing to discuss Karla Brown's passion for helping Pleasanton residents. It recently came to light that the city was considering a new parking lot

to replace the lush grass at Bicentennial Park, which is used for T-ball, soccer, picnicking, and more by residents. The proposed parking lot would also require the removal of numerous heritage trees, including a stately redwood.

As a Sierra Club member and local activist, I contacted Karla Brown to inform her of this situation and the growing grassroots mobilization of neighboring residents. She immediately responded and established a dialogue with the city's Parks and Recreation Department and the city manager to raise awareness.

The city has now agreed to delay the project to allow for more community engagement.

Karla is endorsed by the Sierra Club, and her environmentalist values are seen in her actions. She exemplifies true leadership without the partisan politics, and she is running a clean-money campaign.

I endorse Karla and her bold leadership for the Pleasanton City Council.

Mony Nop for Mayor

Margot Platt, Livermore

I urge you to vote for Mony Nop for Livermore mayor. I've known Mony for about 15 years, first as a next-door neighbor and fellow member of the homeowner's association, and later as a real estate agent when he sold my mother-in-law's house here in Livermore after she died.

Mony is honest, hardworking, and enthusiastic, but more than that, he has a deep compassion for people of all social and economic classes. His unique life has taught him what it is to be poor and to be financially comfortable, to be an immigrant child and to be influential in Livermore's cultural life, to be a public servant as a policeman and to be a businessman. Nop has the skills and the heart to represent all the people of Livermore and I urge you to vote for him. '

Guzman for a

Promising Future

Aaron Horner, Livermore

Yanira Guzman is exactly who we need for our Livermore students. A mother of two intelligent students, she exemplifies the tenacity and clarity of vision we need to lead the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District through this difficult time and into a promising future.

Our students and families need leaders who are deeply invested and dedicated to putting in the effort to develop the creative solutions required to get us over this educational slump. Yanira possess such determination and attacks her business with the same level of intensity. Applying her quick wit and kind heart to the challenges that our school district will need to address over the next few years will surely help our community recover as quickly as possible.

Yanira for LVJUSD Board of Trustees is a great decision for our students and the future of our city.

Nop said he considers affordable housing a human rights issue and believes everyone should have a safe place to live.

He said he would support increasing city's current inclusionary housing rules that require new residential developments to set aside up to 15% of the units for lower income households. Nop also supports a greater mix of housing types to cater to the needs of people at various income levels.

"To help increase more access to affordable housing, I am in support of the Isabel Neighborhood Specific Plan

(See MAYOR, page 9)

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MAYOR

(Continued from page 8)

and more work force housing throughout the city, including building more work force housing in areas that are near and around LLNL and Sandia National Laboratory,” Nop said.

He also points to public-private partnerships like the Chestnut Square project, where some of the units were designated for low income, homeless, and senior tenants, as another successful formula for meeting some of the community’s affordable housing needs.

On Moving Eden Housing

While Nop said, “I will always entertain a conversation about the moving of the 130 affordable housing units. However, three critical factors must be taken into consideration.”

He continued, “(i) How much time will this change extend to the project? What is the new projected completion date if we do? (ii) How much more money will it cost the city? (iii) Are we nullifying the voter’s two to one vote recently? I don’t think the community would be very happy with extending the already extended timeline to complete this project,” he said.

“For sure, it will cost the city more if we were to extend the project. The city will have to buy more land to do so and then having to complete/move all of the underground utilities to do so.”

On Homelessness

Nop suggested holding a symposium on homelessness, and its impacts on the community, including participation from the homeless themselves, as well as families, businesses, health care providers and representatives from the criminal justice system.

He supports ongoing short-term solutions, among them: distributing hotel vouchers; Vineyard 2.0 site, where 24 permanent supportive apartments for extremely low income homeless households is planned; safe overnight parking at various churches for car-dwellers; assisting nonprofits, such as Open-Heart Kitchen and City Serve of the Tri-Valley that provide direct services to the homeless; and the planned 31 tiny houses community at Cross Wind Church.

County Solar Policy

As currently proposed, Nop said that he is opposed to the two large commercial solar power generation facilities planned for hundreds of acres of farmland a few miles north of Livermore. He said he believes Alameda County should have a comprehensive written policy for commercial solar power developments prior to issuing permits for the two proposals.

At the same time, Nop said he supports encouraging solar power development in the built environment, on city parking lots and rooftops of private homes.

On Moving the Urban Growth Boundary

“Outside of the state’s mandate, I am not in support of modifying the Urban Growth Boundary for the solar developments or in South Livermore to support the wineries,” he said.

An Arts Master Plan

Nop, an Arts Ambassador for the Bankhead Theater, said he supports an Arts Master Plan, and believes the city can help the performing arts during the pandemic by using technology to bring the arts directly to the people.

“I truly believe in a partnership between all art groups and the city. Because of our partnership, the city should do everything it can to support an Arts Master Plan and help in promoting the streaming of cultural events,” Nop said.

Valley Link: Yea or Nay?

“I am 100% percent in support of the Valley Link project,” Nop said. He supports the project for a number of reasons, including its anticipated positive impact on regional commutes and the environment, job creation before and after construction, and the projected economic impact that would pump tens of millions of dollars into the local economy every year.

Key Endorsements

Tri-Valley Democratic Club, the Asian Pacific American Democratic Caucus and the many residents of Livermore. For a more complete list of endorsements see: monyformayor.com/endorsements/

BOB WOERNER

Appointed in January 2012 to fill a vacancy on the City Council, Woerner later won election to a four-year term in 2014 and ran a successful reelection bid in 2018.

He holds a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate in physics from MIT, was on the

crew team as an undergrad, and served as a captain in the United States Air Force Reserve before going on to work as a physicist at MIT and Bell Labs. Woerner first came to Livermore in 1976 as a PhD physicist to work at LLNL. He provided laser physics research and managed complex projects in laser fusion and laser isotope separation, was granted two patents for his inventions, and has published several scientific papers.

He later earned an MBA in finance at UC Berkeley Haas School of Business graduating at the top of his class, and went on to a successful second career in business, moving to high level positions in a number of companies. He recently retired from PG&E as a senior director in electrical operations.

Looking at his past eight years as a council member, he is credited with helping to resolve difficult problems in a breadth of areas with actions like: a \$2 million city small business grant program designed to help businesses pivot their operations in the pandemic; access to the city’s sewer service at a time of need for Concannon Vineyards; a land swap that allowed for the downtown Stockmen’s Park and added more affordable housing near the Civic Center, and the initiation of city council subcommittees on homelessness, as well as equity and inclusion.

Woerner has been appointed to seven disparate government committees and the liaison to three community groups.

Why Are You Running for Mayor?

“I am running for mayor because these unprecedented and complex times call for experienced, effective leadership now, more than ever before,” he wrote.

If chosen by voters, his priorities include: ensuring public safety, preserving fiscal strength, and keeping critical infrastructure working, promoting inclusivity and respect, championing open space, smart growth, and diverse housing, finishing the downtown plan and effectively standing up for Livermore’s interest on regional issues.

“I’ve shown over the past nine years on the council, with three terms as vice mayor, that I’m ready to fulfill the job duties starting on day one. I will continue to listen and collaborate with our community, my fellow council members and regional colleagues to fully understand our issues and implement the best possible solutions,” he said.

City Strengths & Opportunities for Improvement

More than nine in 10 residents polled in the most recent National Citizens Survey said Livermore is an excellent or good place to live and raise a family. Woerner credits a well-managed and financially strong city government for contributing to Livermore’s high quality of life.

“We can certainly improve in providing for our diverse residents and workers,” Woerner said. “Although we have seen a significant decline in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness, continuing to help them is also a top priority. This requires a collaboration and ongoing commitments from the county, state and even federal governments, particularly for mental health and substance abuse wraparound services.”

On Long-Term Stability

Restoring economic vitality of the local business economy, maintaining adequate operating reserves, prudent budgets, and planning for future maintenance of city infrastructure, are paramount to ensuring the city government remains sustainable in the decades ahead.

“In the short-term, we will be very cautious before embarking on large, multi-year capital projects to conserve cash,” Woerner said. “I think it’s important to address balanced housing growth, finish the downtown plan, and work regionally to address homelessness.”

COVID-19 Response

While Woerner said he agrees with most of the Alameda County Health Officer’s orders, he said he believes the orders could have been implemented in a manner that is more sensitive to the abilities of individuals and businesses to comply.

The city has requested from the county detailed COVID data so it can better understand where the cases are and what is driving them.

“Until we gain that deeper understanding, we will be measured with our specific actions, including urging everyone to follow the health protocols, especially for wearing a mask. The science is very clear on

this,” he said.

Woerner recently asked the city manager and staff to develop a \$2 million matching grant fund to help small businesses in Livermore pivot their operations in response to the pandemic.

“Helping the less fortunate citizens in our community is also a priority, and we will need assistance from the county and the state to gather the needed resources. We will keep monitoring and working on the situation and striving to help,” he said.

Police Reform and BLM

Woerner recently initiated the council’s Equity & Inclusion Subcommittee, and serves as its chair along with Council Member Trish Munro. The subcommittee was formed in response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Black Lives Matter movement and a national reckoning on issues of race and racism.

The subcommittee recently convened its first meeting with a large and diverse working group of interested members of the community. The group is starting with a review of the police department’s use of force policies, and is later expected to look for ways to improve equity and inclusion throughout the broader community.

Woerner said he believes police personnel in Livermore are generally respected and want to serve the community. Woerner said he is looking forward to working closely with the community to identify ways to coordinate policing and other human services to achieve better outcomes.

While contract negotiations with the police union are coming up, Woerner said he is not aware of any needed changes to the contract at this time.

Affordable Housing

At the low end of the market, Woerner said the problem boils down to funding. Affordable housing is extremely difficult to finance and more help is needed from the state and federal government. “The city does not have the resources to go it alone, but we’re ready to roll up our sleeves and welcome creative ideas for addressing this urgent issue,” he said.

On Moving Eden Housing

Woerner referred to the following statements he recently made to The Independent.

“First, I believe it is still possible in principle to relocate the housing element, assuming that any contractual, financial and quality concerns that may arise are satisfactorily resolved as judged by the key stakeholders,” he said. “The quantity of housing may not be the only consideration. The objective is to figure out the best feasible location by carefully evaluating all the factors.

“Second, how the decision is made will also be a critical factor that impacts how well the community is able to unite behind a common goal. I imagine there will need to be plenty of opportunity for public input and reasoned discussion of the potential benefits. Hopefully, the best course of action will become apparent as members of the community collaborate. “Once we are clear on the best plan for the Eden Housing project, I will go for it, and look for the opportunity to make it happen. I am sure there is a way to help the community come together.”

Woerner further said he believed that working on the housing and open space would create another win-win for everyone.

Homelessness

The issue of homelessness is multifaceted with no one simple solution, Woerner said.

The council subcommittee on Homelessness, which Woerner initiated, is working with the city staff and human services organizations on a variety of measures, including several housing projects recently completed and underway.

“Coordinated efforts by federal, state, regional and local governments, along with community groups, are required. Much is happening in Livermore to help, but much more needs to be done.”

Solar Policy

“I think the city should encourage solar panels on city parking lots and private homes. I have, and will continue to advocate, that with respect to the

large scale projects proposed for the county in North Livermore, that the county should first put a comprehensive solar policy in place that is done through an open and public process with robust community input from all stakeholders and points of view.”

On Adjusting the Urban Growth Boundaries

“I see no need to modify the UGB for solar in North Livermore. I do believe Alameda County should have a comprehensive solar policy in place, determined by a public process with community input, before such projects are approved.

Modifying the UGB to support the wineries in South Livermore makes sense if the appropriate safeguards to prevent urban sprawl are put in place as the sewer is extended to help the wineries.”

Cultural Arts

“I am in favor of implementing an Arts Master Plan for the City, not just talking about one. I think the City should help promote streaming cultural events. There is a synergy between the cultural and economic aspects of the city. That is why I got behind reassigning the Arts Commission to the Economic Development Department.”

Valley Link: Yea or Nay?

Yes, most emphatically, because of all the benefits to Livermore and the region. I am on the Board of Directors for the project. Please refer to the Valley Link website for details.

Key Endorsements

“I am broadly endorsed by Livermore and regional elected officials on both sides of the aisle, trade unions, industry trade groups, corporations and many individual community leaders. The elected officials and organizations know the importance of having an experienced, effective leader as mayor. My contributions come from the above, plus numerous individuals.”

On filling your vacancy if elected

Woerner said: “I believe the successful applicant should have a track record of civic involvement for the betterment of the community. I would also look for someone who is open to new ideas, willing to work hard to learn how to manage the city, and who will be a collaborative team player.”

LIVERMORE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

BRITTNI KICK

Brittini Kick is a branding consultant, community organizer and the mother of two young children. As renter in a community where the median priced home exceeds three-quarters of a million dollars, Kick said she would bring to the city council the perspective of a person in their early 30s who understands the affordable housing crisis firsthand.

“I have always worked in service or nonprofit work, organizing and managing collaboration between groups of people. In Livermore specifically, I organized a group of complete strangers while nine months pregnant to organize the 2017 March for Science,” she said. She did not make it to the march because she gave birth 11 hours before its start.

She helped launch Livermore Pride, a LGBTQ+ focused nonprofit, and Livermore Back to Business, a project promoting local businesses through the COVID-19 struggles.

Why Are You Running for City Council?

“My goal is to continue to work towards an equitable community that welcomes all residents. I am happy to see projects like the Equity and Inclusion Working group, the East Ave Corridor improvements, and downtown workforce housing,” Kick said. “I am excited about this opportunity to use my skills as a community organizer to bring in new voices from our community to ensure all Livermore residents feel welcome and able to shape our future.”

City Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

While the city’s strong financial position has allowed it to move into a new budget cycle without service cutbacks, “we are moving into a period of time where we will need to

make tough financial decisions about our infrastructure,” Kiick said.

“We need to prioritize, with the help of the community, how to keep up our roads and buildings while also staying financially solvent. The East Ave Corridor Study is a great example of an infrastructure project that we need to prioritize for the safety of our community that specifically affects District 3.”

On COVID-19, Lockdowns & Economy

Kiick said she would like to see more detailed analysis of the case numbers in Livermore so the city can identify trends and respond effectively.

She agrees with the strict health orders from the Alameda County Public Health Officers, and wrote the S.T.A.G.E.S. Pledge signed by many Livermore businesses. Businesses agree that they will be: Safe, Transparent, Adaptable, Guided by Science, Equity Minded, and Supported by Community.

Kiick said she would like to see the city do more to help struggling businesses.

“The \$2 million released from the general fund is a great start,” she said. “I would like the restrictions about what the funds can be used for to potentially change. Many businesses are being turned down at the moment since their reimbursement requests don’t fit within the current constraints.”

Police Reform & the BLM Movement

“First, let me be clear, Black Lives Matter,” said Kiick, who volunteered as a liaison between youth organizers and the police department during several protest marches and public demonstrations in Livermore this summer.

She said her experiences with Livermore Police Department personnel were positive. There were no conflicts between protestors and officers. She does not have any specific recommendations for change, and believes any recommendations should come from the ongoing community-led review of the police department’s use of force policies, practices and culture.

On Affordable Housing

“The Isabel Specific Plan is a project that comes to mind. Being near transit, this location would be ideal to increase affordable housing percentage. We also need to consider some zoning changes, allowing for more small duplex/triplex/fourplex builds throughout the city.”

Homelessness

“The Homelessness Subcommittee has been doing great work. Our partnerships with various church groups have allowed us to move quickly on projects like the Safe Parking Lot and the new Goodness Village.

What I would like to see from the council moving forward is more clear and transparent communication with the county, ensuring we are creating a regional plan to support our unhoused neighbors. We also need to start communicating the projects we have already begun, with all Livermore residents. Many people aren’t aware of the good work being done or the services available.”

Solar Policy

“I support green energy. I would like to work towards a 100% renewable energy grid. We should always encourage solar when possible in urban areas,” she said. “As for the controversial commercial solar projects planned for hundreds of acres of farmland north of Livermore, the issue is not cut and dried. The county project is very complex and although I have been researching, there is far too much nuance and not enough clarity for me to have a strong opinion one way or the other.”

On Adjusting the Urban Growth Boundaries

Open space surrounding the community is one of the reasons Kiick and her family chose to make Livermore their home five years ago. She considers herself an advocate of open space.

She explained that the trade-off to accommodate the Bay Area’s current and projected

housing needs is more infill development and building up instead of building out.

“But I also know open space means higher density,” she said. “I want it to be clear that we do not have the luxury to choose low density and increased open space considering the larger Bay Area housing crisis.”

Key Endorsements

No special interests. To view endorsements, visit www.brittnikiick.com/endorsements.

PETE PATTERSON

Pete Patterson, a medical account manager for a large health care vendor, said he is ready to put his knowledge and experience to work as an elected leader of the community.

“I am running for a council seat because I love my hometown and want to support our diverse community, our small businesses and support public safety. To support my ideas, I will extend consistent open forums to our residents, offer transparency for small businesses and help build bridges between our first responders and the community,” he said.

City Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

Patterson said Livermore’s strengths include a strong sense of heritage that make the city unique compared with other cities that place less value on historic preservation and have lost touch with their past.

While Livermore’s own recovery will largely depend on how well small businesses cope with the downturn, Patterson said he wants to ensure the community does not lose its sense of place as it finds its way through difficult times.

“I would approach all of these challenges with sincerity and humility, so that the voice of Livermore is heard and valued,” he said.

On the COVID-19 Pandemic

Patterson believes Livermore should have its own COVID-19 testing station for residents, and sees it as an important step toward economic recovery.

“These past few months have been absolutely unprecedented both for our local community and our residents. COVID-19 has put an immeasurable amount of financial strain and hardship on many of our residents both young and old,” he said.

“I commend Livermore and the County for their approaches with COVID-19 as the regulations are rapidly changing and we must do our part to adapt. From deferring financial burdens to creating local relief funds, there are many ways we can address how Livermore can best help our small businesses and unemployed, but it must be done with the health and safety of Livermore first.”

Police Reform & The BLM movement

“Our men and women in uniform have a very tough job and with current affairs, they put their lives on the line. I agree with and support our local law enforcement contract with the Livermore Police Officers Association. This being said, community safety involves both our residents and our public safety officers being able to meet in the middle. We need to heal our relationships within our community and talk about what we can do going forward, together so that the continuance of trust can be ongoing between all parties involved.”

On Affordable Housing

Patterson said he recognizes the need for more affordable housing, but also believes it should not come at the expense of obstructing views or up-zoning to exceedingly dense urban standards throughout the city.

Rather than concentrating affordable housing into one geographic area, Patterson sides with disbursing new low-income housing developments within existing vacant developable land across the city. Additionally, he said care must be taken to ensure the growth happens at a sustainable pace, and that it does not outstrip the community’s ability to provide essential services.

(See MAYOR, page 11)



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SUPERVISOR

(Continued from first page)

sites — such as the Altamont and Vasco landfills — before proceeding with currently planned sites.

“Solar panels in the existing built areas of Alameda County should be our preferred locations,” Bacon added. “The county can help by streamlining the permitting process within county lands and by assisting cities in doing the same. The East Bay Community Energy Authority could help with grants in some instances to increase the rate of adoption of solar power.”

He pointed out that Fremont’s “Green Challenge” grouped homeowners together to allow for a reduction in cost for solar installation.

“When developments are proposed, we ask developers to consider the orientation of the roofs and placement of objects on the roof to maximize solar production,” he said.

Regarding land north of Livermore, Bacon noted he’d like to see that scenic region preserved, as he’s skeptical of the ability to buffer a site that large.

“I would need to see specifics on how the view of the panels would be hidden and what the scenic corridor would ultimately look like,” he said. “I would also have to see an analysis that shows the ability to generate solar in other parts of Alameda County is too cost prohibitive. While the cost per megawatt would likely be higher, I don’t believe it would be cost prohibitive.”

At this juncture, he’s not in favor of proceeding with either of the two solar projects proposed for that region in Livermore.

UGB, Sewage, Wine Country

Bacon stands for upholding the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and preserving the existing Tri-Valley. He would be OK with clustering floor area ratio (FAR) rights in South Livermore to enable the winery and tourism industry to be more successful.

When asked if the county should assist with extending Livermore’s sewer line along Livermore Avenue and Tesla Road to allow for service growth in Wine Country, Bacon said he would need to learn more about the current capacity of the sewer lines and whether the additional capacity is more for existing development or planned future development.

“If future planned development were in land administered by the county, then yes, the county should provide additional funding for it,” Bacon said. “If the main purpose of the new sewer lines is to accommodate new development, then I believe the developers of that land should be required to help with the funding.”

He noted the good news to be that Measure D, the initiative county voters passed to create a UGB, is currently the law of the land.

“I believe it should stay that way. I would be ok with some minor exemptions if they were done on a case-by-case basis for local businesses and would produce insignificant impacts to traffic and the scenic nature of the land,” he said. “It was alarming to me to see that two of the supervisors were pursuing changes to Measure D in 2018. If any significant changes are to be made, I definitely believe they should be decided by a vote of the people of Alameda County.”

N3 Cattle Ranch, Tesla Park

As a firm supporter of preserving open space, Bacon expressed the hope that a public agency such as the Nature Conservancy, would purchase the N3 Cattle Ranch.

“I know the Alameda County Water District was considering purchasing the land. I believe that it would be a good use of public dollars to ensure that the land remains preserved,” he added.

On Tesla Park, Bacon prefers to prohibit off-road vehicles, as he said they cause significant damage to wildlife areas.

“I would like to see the Board of Supervisors work with the state to see if the land could be transferred to the California State Parks and/or the East Bay Regional Park District as an area where off-road vehicles are not allowed,” he said.

E&B Natural Resources, Oil Drilling

In the county’s continuing litigation against E&B Natural Resources, Bacon believes the

county made the right move in denying the company’s two oil drilling permits.

Should a third existing permit come up for renewal, Bacon noted that he would need to weigh all presented evidence before voting to deny or approve.

“But my inclination right now is to deny the permit,” he continued. “As an environmentalist, I do not like the idea of fracking or oil drilling within Alameda County.”

Homelessness

When addressing the Tri-Valley’s large homeless population, Bacon stated that the county should continue to provide services including health care, mental health training, drug addiction counseling and job training.

“These services have been in large demand before COVID and will likely be in even more demand once the economic impacts of COVID continue to sink in,” Bacon said. “I’m proud of the fact that in Fremont we took advantage of grant money from the county to build a Homeless Navigation Center (HNC) right in the middle of Fremont. This facility will take in 45 people and work to provide them with the services they need to get back into a housed situation.”

Affordable Housing

Bacon pointed out that there are two significant things the county can do to help produce more affordable housing.

“First, the county and cities must look at existing public lands as possible sites for affordable housing. On private lands, the property owners will try to maximize their profits by building as much market rate housing as allowed,” he said. On public lands the city or county can dictate that a higher percentage of affordable units can be built.

“Secondly, while the Board of Supervisors isn’t in the state legislature, the county does have significant influence over the kind of legislation that Sacramento passes. We need to ask Sacramento to pass legislation that makes it easier for cities to build affordable housing. I was opposed to SB 50 and similar measures that try to solve the problem by removing local control and giving developers less regulatory hurdles. These measures would likely result in more market rate housing and not do a lot to help with affordable housing.”

Valley Link, Isabel Neighborhood Plan

Bacon supports Valley Link and noted financing to be its largest issue.

“While about \$400 million was transferred from the BART to Livermore project to Valley Link, the cost of the project is well over \$2 billion,” he said. “I would do my best to argue for additional funding to be provided for this project and other similar projects in the area, such as expanding ACE train service.”

Livermore’s Isabel Neighborhood Plan involves 4,095 units that would benefit from the proposed Valley Link station at Isabel Avenue. Bacon believes the county should encourage the city to zone for a significant number of low-income units in the area, given that it’s close to transit.

He recalled an experience in Fremont with the Warm Springs BART station.

“The developer wanted 4,000 homes. I argued that we should do more of a mixed-use station with more commercial, retail and residential,” he said. “I was the only person to vote against the final plan which was primarily residential.

“With the Warm Springs station, we at least knew for sure that the BART station was coming. The funding was there. With the Isabel site, it’s unclear when funding will be available for the Valley Link station to become operational. Even with Valley Link up and running, it’s unlikely that most of these residents would use it to get to/from work. The remainder would be forced to drive adding to the traffic already seen in I-580. In short, if this development is primarily residential, it would add to the already bad job/housing imbalance that we see in East County.”

Social Justice, Policing, Santa Rita

On addressing racial issues and other areas of discrimination within the county, Bacon said, “We need to acknowledge that Black Lives Matter and that there is a history of systemic racism in our country.”

“There are many figures, such as the unemployment rates or the incarceration rates for Black Americans, that demonstrate the economic disparities in our country,” he said. “While these are larger societal issues beyond the control of the county, I believe we can do our part by acknowledging the issue and taking action to right the wrong of our past.”

Bacon stated that he’s been in favor of auditing the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department and Santa Rita County Jail, which has a high rate of inmate deaths and injuries — leading to costly lawsuits.

“The only way we can really know what is going on is to increase transparency and accountability with an operational and fiscal audit of their policies and budgets,” he said. “It must be a top priority to determine why this is happening and what can be done to dramatically reduce incidents of misconduct within our county criminal justice system. Our police do not need to be militarized. While I know that some calls, especially those with weapons involved, require officers to be able to defend themselves and others, I would also say that if a situation requires the use of a military tank, we might need our actual military ... If the point of police officers is safety, then using tanks, heavy artillery, and chemicals against our own community seems counter-intuitive to the goals of creating public trust and peace.”

He’s against officers using rubber bullets and chemical weapons against peaceful protesters.

On police funding, Bacon takes the call to “defund the police” to mean that we must examine policing practices to determine where to spend less. He noted mental health professionals have told him they can handle most situations by themselves and that they know when to call for police. He would like to see a study completed of the calls that police departments take and what was needed in terms of personnel to resolve those calls.

Education

Bacon believes the county must invest in programs that will give troubled youth a chance to lead productive lives and become responsible adults.

“I believe that discussions about programs like these that provide training in the arts and other areas should be continued,” he added.

COVID-19

To offset the loss of income during the pandemic, Bacon acknowledged there will be no easy answers.

“We need to maintain the programs that are providing assistance to the businesses that are struggling through the pandemic. If we were to lose these businesses that would be a permanent tax loss that would likely not be recovered soon, if ever,” he said. “We will likely need to look to measures that will increase funding for the county. There is a half-cent sales tax that the current Board of Supervisors unanimously approved to be on the ballot this November. I am also an endorser of Proposition 15 (aka Schools and Communities First Act) that will allow us to get more property tax revenue.”

He agrees with the county health officer’s policies, noting the public should listen to the advice of health care professionals.

If federal aid were lost, Bacon said the county could help the unemployed by providing job training and ensuring that the unemployment doesn’t result in homelessness and a loss of health care insurance.

“The county will likely need to augment these services as the unemployment rate continues to remain high,” he said. “My general philosophy on budget issues will be that we have to focus on those services that are helping those that truly need it.”

Bacon said he would work to provide financial support and delay commercial evictions for small businesses.

“I would review the zoning in unincorporated areas to make sure that there is sufficient area to site commercial development. Currently there is a boom in new luxury housing development. We need to preserve land for job creation,” he said. “I would talk to business owners in our urban unincorporated areas about their experiences with the Economic & Civic Development Department (ECD)

and ensure they are receiving excellent customer service.”

At the same time, he said he would fight to respect community character and review ways to provide more resources to the Alameda County Green Business Program. He also noted ranchers, who are part of the county heritage, will need assistance.

“I believe that history and culture are vital not just to an area’s identity, but to its economic vitality,” he said. “I would love to see the Livermore area become more of a tourist destination. Highlighting the historic contribution of ranchers to our economic vitality should be an important part of that tourism.”

Fire Protection

“I attended a briefing in Pleasanton by Cal Fire, and the first question I asked was, ‘What can be done to reduce the incidence and severity of fires going forward?’” Bacon said. “Cal Fire has a 32-point program to manage forests and create defensible spaces and fire-resistant landscaping. We should determine what are the most at risk areas of the county and follow Cal Fire’s advice on how to make those areas safer.”

DAVID HAUBERT

As the outgoing mayor of Dublin, Haubert has an extensive 18-year background serving at municipal and school district levels. David also serves on the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the Livermore-Amador Valley Transportation Authority, and the Alameda County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo). He earned an undergraduate degree in finance from California State University, Northridge, and then an MBA from UCLA.

“I love Alameda County, where my wife of 29 years and I raised our three daughters,” Haubert said. “Today, we’re facing the largest public health crisis of our lifetime: the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to economic turmoil, rising unemployment, and increased homelessness.”

Haubert said he will work with medical professionals to reopen the economy without jeopardizing public health; use his 18-Point Social Justice Action Plan to combat systemic racism; address homelessness by ensuring affordable housing and improving mental health and substance abuse treatment; find ways to support struggling small business owners; and protect and preserve valuable open space.

David noted that during his time as mayor, he balanced the city budget for eight consecutive years and built up reserves for the rainy-day fund — all without cuts to service. He said he’s proud to have brought more than 750 new jobs and 150 new businesses to the city, in addition to adding six new community parks, including an aquatics center, building two school sites in the Dublin Unified School District, and preserving over 1,750 acres of open space.

On campaign finances, Haubert said he follows all the rules, but is happy to accept campaign donations from anyone.

“But I cannot be bought and I won’t back down from my position,” Haubert said. “I have voted against people who have given me money, and I’ve voted for people who have never given me a dime. I vote the issue not the contributor.”

Listed as campaign contributors in his most recent 460 forms were Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California, Ponderosa Homes, Friends of Catharine Baker State Assembly, California Apartment Association, Nella Terra Cellars, California Real Estate PAC, International Association of Firefighters, Construction and General Laborers Local Union, Laborers Pacific Southwest Regional Organizing Coalition PAC, along with other private and business donors. The dollar amount from donors ranged from about \$100 to \$25,000 this period.

Solar

Haubert reported he’s fully committed to finding alternative sources of energy.

“I am watching what I think is the evolution of new ideas coming forward; I’m following electric vehicles; I’m following solar; I’m following gas and a number of potentials for different sources of energy,” he said, further noting that the East Bay Community Energy group is demanding and wanting to buy alternative sources of energy. “To me, we

need to understand where in Alameda County are the best locations for procuring additional sources of alternative energy.”

He stated that he won’t come out in favor of or against the two solar projects proposed for open space north of Livermore, but he did express concerns about the utility development’s possible impact on the environment.

“I want to see the (environmental impact report) that goes with it. I want to see the study that ranks the locations,” he said. “We should be prioritizing the locations with the highest potential.”

He said it might turn out that the solar projects could be good for Livermore, but reiterated that, as an elected official, it’s important to remain open-minded right up to the vote.

As a homeowner with his own rooftop solar panels, he is happy with the cost savings and would like to see more fast-tracking around the permitting process for installation in residential areas. He pointed out that the solar panels at the Santa Rita County Jail are a good example of an infill option.

UGB, Sewage, Wine Country

Haubert said he absolutely supports the UGB, permanent easements, while adding that he is sensitive to the South Livermore Plan. He does believe utilities to be an issue.

“We already have the lines drawn, and it’s just a matter of can we get utilities to support it? I’m open to looking at that, but I’m not open to expanding (the UGB),” he said.

Haubert said he possibly favors clustering the floor area ratio rights in South Livermore to enable an increase in winery and tourism development, but only after careful consideration of the implication and unintended consequences.

“I am the only candidate with experience through my position with LAFCo dealing with unincorporated areas,” he said.

He approached the concept of extending the city’s sewer pipeline to serve the industry needs of Wine Country with the same caution — adding that all stakeholders would need to agree to a plan.

N3 Cattle Ranch, Tesla Park

As long as the purchase of the N3 Cattle Ranch results in a fair compromise and exchange, Haubert said he would support it.

“To me, it seems like it provides a lot of conservation of open space that the seller is willing to accept in the deal,” he said. “I generally support those kinds of transactions.”

Haubert does not support allowing off-road vehicles in Tesla Park.

“Off-road vehicles are very damaging to the environment,” Haubert said. “Perhaps, this should be a partnership with (East Bay Regional Park District). I am the only candidate endorsed by a member of the East Bay Regional Parks District, Ayn Wieskamp.”

E&B Natural Resources, Oil Drilling

On the issue of litigation with E&B Natural Resources, Haubert also supports the county’s denial of the company’s two drilling permits.

He said he would vote to deny it, should a third existing permit come up for renewal.

Homelessness

Haubert said that many good people are working to address the issue of homelessness within the county, but that there is no silver-bullet answer. He believes in identifying root causes of homelessness and the needs of individuals.

“We need to develop a true solution to make sure they have a roof over their head and a safe place to sleep,” he said.

He shared his experiences visiting those camping along the Arroyo.

“There are a lot of good people down there,” Haubert said. “They need job skills training; I believe that everyone has a purpose, everyone has a skill.”

Haubert said the individuals could be assessed to address mental health and substance abuse treatment needs. He noted a need for transitional housing.

“It may be a dorm style environment, but whatever it is, it needs to be safe and secure,” he said.

Affordable Housing

Haubert stated that, for

many families in the Bay Area, a disproportionately large part of their annual income goes to housing costs.

“Many struggle to afford the Bay Area’s high cost of living, which leads to poverty, food insecurity, homelessness and other societal problems,” he said. “Action needs to be taken to ensure that Bay Area residents can comfortably live in the area where they work and raise a family.”

Haubert said that , as supervisor, he would spearhead solutions to increase affordable housing options, including subsidized housing and vouchers, requirements on future development to offer affordable housing programs, density bonuses, and higher sales tax programs to fund affordable housing.

On the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) mandates, he took issue with the methodology of determining housing needs.

“To me it seems condescending that a group that I’ve never spoken with says here’s a number that we’ve determined, and we won’t tell you how we’ve determined it, and you need to go meet this goal,” Haubert explained. “We’re never going to actually find out if we’ve met that goal; we just need to plan for it. (RHNA) should be showing us their homework ... exactly how did you come to that number? If you’re in our shoes, how would you try to make that number?”

“It’s like a relay race, with a baton passed from one runner to the next, and there’s absolutely zero metrics for understanding that baton — where does it get placed, who picks it up — to me it’s ridiculous. We need a better process where the people making these goals share with us how they got the number.”

Valley Link, Isabel Neighborhood Plan

Haubert feels strongly that Valley Link is a great opportunity for the Tri-Valley, especially Livermore, which for years had been paying for BART service that now won’t materialize.

“Valley Link allows us to be good neighbors with the county next to us,” he said. “People from San Joaquin County are already driving on our streets. Some say it only benefits people in San Joaquin County, but really, it takes them off our roads.”

On the topic of Livermore’s Isabel Neighborhood Plan, Haubert said it’s a local control issue.

“We (might) encourage it or help facilitate that, but I would leave it up to the people of Livermore to make those decisions,” he said. “I would point to other examples of where we have been able to have transit-oriented development; I intend to be a supportive resource to the city as opposed to an overbearing mandate.”

Social Justice, Policing, Santa Rita

Haubert expanded on his 18-point plan for his first days as supervisor.

“(The plan) starts with awareness and recognition. People need to be aware and recognize that we have a problem,” he said. “We are afflicted with implicit bias, and we have in our society an element of systemic racism. We have to agree on what those solutions are.”

Haubert said that while people tend to stand at odds on the matter of defunding the police or enhancing that budget, it’s more a matter of redirecting funds with a renewed awareness of what is and isn’t acceptable within law enforcement.

“I support 8 Can’t Wait for the most part, and I balance that with needing to keep officers safe,” he explained.

Haubert went on to say that he supports an education-first mindset — noting his support of Books Not Bars — along with restorative measures to help correct behaviors, as opposed to filling prisons.

He spent five years as a board member for a behavioral health nonprofit. “The professionals in the mental health business will say that an officer with a uniform can sometimes be the worst thing that can happen in a situation with someone in a mental health crisis,” Haubert said. “Both the health professionals and the officers say that. But if you don’t pass the baton to the mental health professionals, the officer is left holding it. The vast majority of officers I know signed up

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The "Pink Ladies," a group of friends that regularly participates in the Bay to Breakers run in San Francisco, completed 7.5 miles in Livermore on Saturday, Sept. 26, during this year's Bay to Breakers virtual run. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

PLEASANTON

(Continued from first page)

city committees, including Economic Vitality, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from UC Davis and a master's in business administration. Private sector experience includes working in the finance and telecommunication industries with Charles Schwab and AT&T.

Allen said she was the first candidate to publicly announce she would not accept donations from developers, and does not, and would not, serve on any boards that would conflict with her civic duties.

While she endeavors to maintain Pleasanton's small-town charm, Allen understands that responsible and thoughtful growth is Pleasanton's future.

"I want to promote slow growth while being in compliance with our state housing mandates," she said. "I am the only candidate who went to Sacramento to fight for local control and bills that truly promoted affordable housing by providing a funding source. I would like us to work with our largest businesses in the Tri-Valley — possibly through the chambers — to ask them for (the) funding (that) has been done in other cities with Kaiser (and) Microsoft. In terms of commercial projects, I advocate for commercial projects that bring important values to residents, such as new downtown businesses, the revitalization of the Stoneridge Mall, and Workday."

She noted that she's worked hard to mitigate impacts on neighborhoods from incoming industry, but supported Costco, believing most residents were open to the retail giant as many residents shop at Costco in Livermore. They would rather save driving time and keep tax dollars locally. She added that she worked hard to also mitigate the project's impacts, and required that all traffic improvements be built prior to occupancy.

As an advocate for fiscal accountability, especially given the current COVID-19 crisis, Allen believes vital services such as safe water, police and fire are paramount to the city's future success and its resident's safety. She will continue to listen to the health experts for guidance, while supporting the continuation of COVID-19 testing, wearing of masks and social distancing.

"I have a long history of not just being fair and independent in my decision-making, but also being open to diverse perspectives and respectful and collaborative in my approach working with others," she said.

VALERIE ARKIN

Valerie Arkin comes to the city council race with 12 years' experience as a Pleasanton School Board member and as a 27-year resident of Pleasanton. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in health science and an MBA. She works at Hively, a local nonprofit in Pleasanton that provides resources to families in need. Like Allen, she has pledged to not accept developer donations and will stand for oversight, transparency and accountability.

"My priorities on the city council will include smart growth, protecting scenic hill-sides, ensuring a safe drinking water supply, strengthening the partnership with the local school district, preserving the small-town charm of our historic downtown, and exploring innovative solutions to support our residents and businesses during COVID-19 recovery," she said.

Arkin reported she has heard from residents that they are concerned about rapid growth and says as the city moves forward with zoning

for new housing, she cannot overstress the importance of creating infrastructure for new schools, the water supply and traffic impacts.

She supports the city's recent decisions regarding no-interest loans to small businesses, especially downtown businesses, as well as their partnership with CityServe to provide rental assistance to residents in need. She would like to see more ideas explored that would help both residents and businesses.

Arkin is also an advocate for city-sponsored counseling and mental health services for students. She believes strongly in police oversight.

"I have a lot of respect for the work our police officers do and I realize how hard of a job it is," she said. "My brother has been a police officer for over 30 years. Having a high regard for our police and having transparency and oversight are not mutually exclusive. I value a safe community and I know that's a priority of our residents. However, any public agency funded with taxpayer dollars needs to have oversight and transparency. The regular evaluation of police policies is absolutely needed, and the city has initiated the process."

COVID-19 has brought a new sense of urgency and responsibility to the city, states Arkin, along with the need for financial and food assistance for the most vulnerable of the city's population. "Strengthening the partnership with the county, as well as advocating at the state and federal level for additional assistance and resources would be a way to help," she said.

JACK BALCH

Jack Balch is a former parks and recreation commissioner and a current member of the planning commission. He notes that this makes him ready to serve on the city council from day one. As a licensed Certified Public Accounting (CPA), accredited Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA), and licensed Real Estate Broker, Balch believes he is uniquely positioned to assist Pleasanton in addressing the challenges of COVID-19 on the local economy, city budget, residents and businesses.

"I've advocated implementing some of the economic vitality suggestions from the recently completed Downtown Specific Plan (DSP) created for the downtown core," said Balch. "But some of the recommendations could be expanded to the greater community, such as: supporting the temporary closure of Main Street for businesses, implementing an aggressive shop local education campaign, working to a have dependable, streamlined government permitting process so that our local government is not making business harder than it already is."

In the last five years, the Pleasanton Police Department has had at least three reported arrest-related deaths involving people experiencing mental health crises. Balch believes the current communication between the community and the police department regarding use of force and general improvements, have been useful ones. He is also supportive of the city's efforts to address mental health and crisis assistance, either through a "go it alone" or potential partnership with the county or Tri-Valley neighbors to address growing mental health issues in the community.

Regarding future growth, Balch said the blueprint is a complicated one. He supports measured, planned housing for all age/income sectors, and also supports big box participation, such as Costco.

"I hope to achieve many things in the future, but as

a former Parks and Recreation Commissioner, I value parks and open space and hope to achieve during my term completion of another phase of the Bernal Community Park," added Balch. "I also want to model civic involvement and good governance for my son. Should I be elected to the Pleasanton City Council, I will focus on listening to our residents and businesses as I work to promote our economic recovery, recommit ourselves to keeping our neighborhoods safe, strengthen our city-school partnership, and work to ensure our city government finances are fiscally sustainable, transparent and accountable to the voters of Pleasanton."

RANDY BROWN

Randy Brown is a military veteran and 20-year business owner with extensive experience making fiscal decisions in a variety of economic climates. He is actively involved in serving the community and has led in local roles, including Chairman of the Board for the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, director on the Pleasanton Downtown Association Board, Pleasanton Rotary (Past President), Sunflower Hill, Agape Villages, ValleyCare Medical Center Board and Pleasanton Military Families.

Brown believes the issues facing Pleasanton in the coming years include public safety, economic stability, housing, traffic and preservation of local resources.

"The reopening of Pleasanton businesses and the economic recovery of Pleasanton is an immediate and critical need," said Brown, referring to the COVID-19 crisis. "Reopening will require collaboration and creative thinking on the part of our city staff and business owners. The goal must be to make opening/reopening a business ... simpler or even less expensive temporarily. This is the time for the City to have a can-do attitude as far as what and how to get businesses open."

He supports the Valley Link transit project, the arrival of Costco and the development of areas like the Johnson Drive Economic Zone, but is also an advocate for affordable housing, workforce housing, housing for developmentally disabled and for veterans. He believes this is something that can be included in developer plans when projects are approved to provide additional income for these programs. He also believes in supporting the police department, while coordinating to help community members in need.

"I completely support the funding of our police department along with expanding a mental health crisis team to handle members of our community in distress," said Brown. "I will not experiment with the safety of our community by having officers serve without the necessary tools and training. I would strive to protect the safety of our community by continuing to fund the police department budget. I also do not support the idea of a citizen's oversight committee."

Though he has never held a leadership position within the City of Pleasanton, Brown believes his military background and vast community involvement makes him qualified to serve on the council.

"I believe there are many paths to civic leadership," he said. "And now, more than ever, we need leaders who are honest, balanced, committed and motivated. I live my life with these attributes, and I truly feel I am the leader that Pleasanton needs as part of the council as we move forward together."

JAROD BUNA

MAYOR

(Continued from page 9)

Homelessness

"To even begin to approach the growing homelessness in Livermore is a multi-layered response. However, the very foundation in how to address this sensitive issue is to utilize a coordinated citywide systemic response, or rather an 'all hands on deck' approach," Patterson said. "Livermore has many outreach programs ready to extend their services to anyone in need. One such example is 'Partners For Change Tri-Valley.' We need immediate action and triage with our homeless population."

Solar Policy

"I oppose the future policy guidelines that would enable

the utility scale solar power developments to move forward in North Livermore. There are other appropriate locations for solar panels to be installed. The impact on local farming and wildlife habitats must be taken into consideration before installing panels in open fields. Most importantly, hearing the voices of the community and landowners first would be crucial to the influence of any large-scale project."

On Urban Growth

Boundary Adjustments

"To answer this question fully, would require a multi-layered approach. There should be a plan that could be implemented so that the urban

growth boundary could be modified not only to benefit North Livermore but also be in support of our South Livermore Wineries, with the South Livermore Growth Initiative from 2000 in mind."

Key Endorsements

Patterson is endorsed by outgoing Livermore City Councilman Bob Coomber, The Livermore Police Officers' Association and Bay East Association of Realtors. For additional endorsements see: <https://www.patterson4citycouncil2020.com>.

To view complete 460 forms for each candidate, visit acvote.org (Candidates > Campaign Finance)

port," he said. "(We should be) working at the state and federal levels to understand requirements and maximize businesses abilities to reopen. In this next chapter, I want to take my skills and take my community service to a new level and continue to build on this city."

ZARINA KIZILOGLU

Zarina Kiziloglu has served three years on the Pleasanton Housing Commission and comes to the city council race on a platform centering around three issues: affordable housing, investment in mental health/social services and building a stronger community through inclusion.

"Affordable housing is the number one problem facing Tri-Valley cities," said Kiziloglu. "And investing in social services and forming partnerships between law enforcement and mental health workers to reduce crime rates will create a better quality of life for all."

Kiziloglu understands that the preservation of open space in Pleasanton is a paramount concern for many residents, but she believes that the city needs to address and meet the region's housing needs as well.

"Housing and Community Development (HCD) has partnered with the Justice Department, and they will enforce Regional Housing Needs Allocation by taking away our local control, if necessary," she said. "I want to educate our community members and get us aligned with HCD's mission."

Kiziloglu supports the movement made by the city and the police department

regarding reform and will continue, if elected, to expand the conversation locally.

"While a board member at the Muslim Community Center East Bay, we held two training sessions with the Pleasanton Police Department to bring cultural and religious awareness to our police force," she said. "These sessions were received very well. Similarly, the council can plan training sessions for racial sensitivity with diverse community members to address their need through education and awareness. In addition, we can address suicide prevention and mental health issues by allowing mental health workers to go on 51/50 calls. This will free the Pleasanton Police Department to focus their resources on more urgent police matters."

Her goals as a council member would include advocating for housing for very-low- and low-income families and individuals, essential workers, first responders, baristas, clerks and preschool teachers.

"I believe that my voice resonates with many people because of my long-standing commitment to activism concerned about the school-to-prison pipeline, environment, homelessness and BLM," said Kiziloglu. "As a council member, I will initiate a Division of Equity and Community Engagement to involve the disenfranchised youth stakeholders, diverse community members and city staff and council members. I hope I can help the City of Pleasanton move forward with pride."

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SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2020
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Join our virtual fundraising event as three Tri-Valley restaurant chefs and Culinary Angels Chef Claudia battle it out during an exciting regional cooking competition!

- Chefs will create delicious meals featuring locally grown produce and immunity boosting ingredients that Culinary Angels meals are known for!
- A panel of regional judges will determine the winner. The winning dish will be featured on the Culinary Angels menu and website.

Emceed By Mel McKay

Interviews by Juliette Goodrich

TICKET OPTIONS
Individual: \$30 (incl. 1 vote & 1 raffle ticket)
Date Night: \$50 (incl. 2 votes & 2 raffle tickets)
Social Bubble: \$300. Up to 12 people (incl. 6 votes & 6 raffle tickets)
Experience the excitement of the competition!
Bid + win several fabulous auction + raffle items!
Learn cooking tips from chefs!

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SEWER

(Continued from first page)

submitting a letter to Supervisor Scott Haggerty, requesting the county reserve funding for possible future sanitary sewer improvements; preparing a draft agreement with the county outlining terms, timing obligations and funding; and

Boundary (UGB).

“Both of these boundaries limit the city’s ability to provide services beyond them unless certain conditions can be met,” he said, noting the municipal boundary can be moved through a city process, but the UGB can

“We’re not obligating anything. We’re creating the option.”

exploring actions necessary to advance the extension of the sewer system to serve the South Livermore Valley Area.

Ross reported that South Livermore comprises approximately 14,000 acres — regulated by the city’s general plan and the city’s South Livermore Valley Specific Plan. The unincorporated regions are regulated by the county’s South Livermore Valley Area Plan.

“All three ... have a common goal of protecting and promoting the South Livermore Valley as a premier wine region,” Ross said.

He presented a map, detailing the municipal boundary and Urban Growth

only be moved with a vote by Livermore residents.

Ross stated that a feasibility study of the city’s wastewater treatment plants’ capacity, capital costs and maintenance obligations for sewer improvements would be needed, as well as one that addressed other public improvements, including underground utilities. There would also be an investigation to ensure consistency with the city’s general plan, UGB and out-of-area-service policies.

“(Sewer extension) is going to be very important; this is going to be about creating a mechanism to complete the South Livermore Valley Area Plan,”

Mayor John Marchand said. “The plan envisioned additional wineries in this area ... but because septic tanks are no longer allowed, there is no provision for accommodating people at these locations.”

Councilmembers Robert Carling and Bob Coomber agreed that it was important to move forward with working with the county. Vice Mayor Bob Woerner pointed out that the residents will ultimately decide if they want to receive what he called a gift from the county.

“We’re not obligating anything. We’re creating the option,” Woerner said. “The groups concerned about urban sprawl were satisfied once the right conditions were met to assure that it wasn’t going to lead to a major housing development.”

Ross stated that any agreement/work program would come back to the council for consideration.

Prior to adjourning, Marchand dedicated that night’s city council meeting to the late Walter Davies resident, artist, and chair of the Livermore Commission for the Arts.

“We lost a longtime friend and artist,” Marchand said.

SUPERVISOR

(Continued from page 10)

to stop bad guys from committing crimes; they didn’t sign up to kick homeless people out of a tent. Let’s not ask them to do that. Let the officers keep us safe from criminals, and let the behavioral health skilled workers deal with the people who are truly having a crisis where a badge and a uniform aren’t the right answer.”

Haubert said there’s a stalemate on that topic of funding, and he believes he’s the one to bridge the divide.

At the jail, Haubert reported his concern around understaffing and high suicide rates.

“When I talk to the sheriff, he’s willing to look at studies and go through an evaluation to determine how he can do better,” Haubert said. “He wants it done by experts who understand what it takes to run a jail and not someone who doesn’t have the background and expertise; most people in law enforcement are not afraid of being assessed. I think it comes down to staffing, protocol and metrics, and we have to demand change. There’s always room to get better, but we can’t ask people to do things that are impossible.”

Education

“I am the only candidate who has served as School Board Trustee and so I am

best qualified to work closely with the Alameda County Board of Education,” Haubert said. “Alameda County works hand in hand with the directly elected Alameda County Superintendent of Education and the elected Alameda County Board of Education. The county can assist with support through the foster care system, as well as additional support for students in Juvenile Hall, with ways to increase incarceration diversion and ways to better serve homeless students. These families are also in need of food, medical, internet and other family support and education needs.”

COVID-19

Haubert stated that the county needs to prioritize funding for emergency medical services and treatment and maintain funding despite inevitable budget cuts.

“We can also prioritize needed (personal protective equipment) to protect vulnerable populations, so that they remain as healthy as possible and conditions don’t get worse,” he said.

If federal aid and the eviction moratorium were lost, Haubert noted that the county can help the unemployed by providing critical job skills training and retraining programs.

On assisting small businesses, he said he is best qualified to work with the business community, as he’s the only candidate with a master’s degree in business administration.

“There are examples of creative ways to continue to do business,” he said. “Restaurants have successfully converted outdoor spaces to eating locations. For example, parking lot spaces are now eating locations. Fitness classes are now offered online, etc. We should continue to search for creative ways to pivot business models so they can reopen.”

Fire Protection

Haubert said that supporting Measure X is important to raise funds for fire prevention. He’d like to review best practices with Cal Fire and make sure the area has strong mutual aid agreements.

“Of all the things we’re doing, I can say we’re doing well and we can always continuously improve,” he said, noting he’s proud to be supported by Alameda County Fire and Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. “They continue to be on top of fire prevention best practices, which again we do a good job and I want to keep that going, and the people who are responsible for that trust me to do that.”

LVJUSD

(Continued from first page)

special needs and college preparedness, among others.

“Understanding and recognizing that there are multiple voices (user groups) within the larger parent community is the first step towards finding resolutions for each unique situation,” she said.

Guzman’s experience with school district budgets goes back to 2011, when she first served on the Citizens Oversight Committee for LVJUSD’s Measure M parcel tax. She said she would work to identify budget cuts that wouldn’t directly impact sports, arts, music and other important extracurricular activities.

On the heels of COVID-19 and the subsequent distance learning, Guzman pointed out her extensive background in creating e-learning modules and hosting virtual trainings. She would like to see teachers provided with opportunities for professional development on not only technology for distance learning, but also on how to create engaging learning modules appropriate for students’ developmental needs. She also noted the district should promote classes for parents and caregivers on how to use the required learning technology.

“There are families that do not have the technical skill set to navigate the various e-learning platforms that are being used,” she said. “Although I am a techie and know how to speak English very well, some of the learning platforms are not user-friendly.”

She commended the current board for taking immediate action in transitioning to distance learning, and added that the district has been proactive in providing hardware and connectivity for students. She’s supportive of a phased and flexible approach for returning to the classroom. She supports a hybrid return to school.

Guzman expressed her pride in the dual language program at Junction Avenue, along with the tutorial videos she created on using Schoology (a learning management system) for the Spanish-speaking audience. She noted the district’s strengths to be a genuine care for students and families, as evidenced by many academic and creative programs. She further stated that the LVJUSD could work on stronger inclusivity in regard to its Spanish-speaking community. For Guzman, issues around diversity, equity and inclusion need to be addressed by representation of the different communities on the school board.

“There are cultural differences and nuances that I am familiar with and able to capitalize on in increasing the district’s reach into the Latino community,” she said. “Together, it’s a bridge that we can continue to build.”

For long-term goals, Guzman said she will work on changing the narrative about some Livermore schools. For example, when she intentionally chose Junction for the dual-immersion program,

the reaction from some was negative.

“I am extremely proud of the education that my children are receiving and the work of the Junction teachers and staff,” Guzman explained. “Whereas some view Junction as poor and low-income, I see hardworking and resiliency. I see a community, in which I am extremely proud.”

CHARLES “CHUCK” ROGGE

Rogge attended Livermore schools from kindergarten through 12th grade before heading to Chabot College and Cal State University, Hayward. His daughter also attended LVJUSD and recently graduated with the Class of 2020. Rogge has served as the track and field coach at Livermore High School since 2005.

As the lone incumbent trustee, he said he has a solid understanding of the school budgeting process, curriculum, and student and staff safety necessities.

“The LVJUSD is an exemplary district,” he said. “Our board is cohesive and listens to our parents and overall community to make good decisions. Since I have been an active participant in this process, I am seeking re-election to continue the success of LVJUSD.”

He outlined the current issues to include a safe return to the classroom.

“As a current board member, I have supported the direction the superintendent has taken our district, by asking for waivers to start ... in-school instruction,” he said. “I have sought and received feedback from students and parents on what works and what does not work with distance learning and passed this vital information on to the district. I have fully supported the loaning of laptops to students to advance distance learning. However, even with the systems our district has successfully implemented, there are still more known and unknown issues to address.”

As a board member, Rogge noted that he has been active in monitoring the school budget since he was first elected 12 years ago. He’s found the ups and downs to be cyclical, depending on policies, politics and the dependence of the “one percenters who pay the most taxes.”

“In our district, the taxpayers have historically supported education,” Rogge said. “The current state budget is forcing the district to borrow funds to fill in the state’s delay in funding, aka TARP. Our funding is fragile, because our state revenues are fragile. This year, we have a pandemic, massive fires and business closings. I feel we will be able to educate our students even if it means sitting in a grass playing field.”

Rogge said it’s inevitable that there will be a gap in education due to the pandemic and subsequent distance learning, but that the district is proactively working to

support students’ needs.

Rogge supports a hybrid return to school for the short term.

“The issue will be money to support parallel learning systems,” he said. “If less than 15% of families opt for distance learning it may come down to economic feasibility to continue. But if distance learning is mandated by the state, budget cuts and possible program reductions will occur unless the state is forthcoming with additional funds.”

Rogge said he was proud of the student-led Pledge of Allegiance to every public board meeting and the art displays at the board table. He noted LVJUSD’s strengths to be its teachers, staff, and strong relationships with labor groups, but said the district is understaffed.

On equity and inclusion, Rogge believes in equal opportunity in all areas of education, in addition to enforcement of policies and regulations to benefit all.

“The reality is we may never have 100% of equity and inclusion, for we are a country made of differences and those differences define who we are or want to be,” he said. “The first step is to listen.”

ASA STROUT

As co-founder of Unify Livermore, Strout stated his goal is to increase community engagement in local politics and create an environment of honesty and transparency in local government. His 3.5-year-old daughter will enter the LVJUSD, and, if elected, Strout hopes to address such issues as school safety, inequity, transparency and accessibility of board members. He also hopes to improve school infrastructure and technology.

Strout noted the recurring issues raised to him during his campaign to include accessibility and engagement with the school board.

“The parents in Livermore want to know that their school board members are available to them outside school board meetings,” he said. “As a community advocate, I will make a point to be the school board member who is accessible to our parents and actively participates in community engagement activities. That is one of the primary responsibilities of any elected official, to be available to your constituents.”

He also said the second issue has been the inequity within the school district, as some parents are told the best school in the city is on the southwest side of town. He noted that some of that is an inaccurate perception, but that there are also historical truths that need to be addressed.

“(Addressing inequity)

will require ensuring those schools are getting the right level of support for their needs,” he said. “That could mean some schools that are not performing as well as others are getting more support per student than the successful schools to increase the performance of the other schools.”

Strout noted that, while he doesn’t have experience with school district budgets, he’s worked with large corporate budgets in his professional career. On tackling budgetary issues within the district, he prioritizes keeping teachers and not adding to the record-high unemployment rates across the nation. He said he would work with the community and partners like Livermore Valley Education Foundation and local businesses.

“If the budget gap is not addressed through partnerships with the community, we can start looking at the cost of personnel and some programs that do not make sense during a pandemic,” Strout said. “It would be unfair to ask every employee of the school district to take a pay cut; instead, we should look at the high-earning employees and have a conversation about pay reductions in lieu of layoffs.”

Strout noted that he has a professional background in application technology and managed the implementation of the e-learning platform, called Skilljar. He outlined the importance of giving teachers enough time to properly understand new applications and technology. He also said there is a student population that’s being underserved in terms of technology. He believes students from lower-income households will fall behind, due to a lack of technology, adequate learning spaces or parental engagement caused by work schedules. To address this, he would aim to provide tutors for those struggling.

Strout does not support a hybrid return to school, noting that other districts struggle with balancing the online and in-person students at the same time. Instead, he supports a phased approach to reopen schools, placing in-person priority on those with special needs and students with suboptimal learning environments.

On the district’s greatest strengths, Strout said it’s the people who make up the community. His long-term goals include moving the district to a more progressive, equitable, inclusive and modern school district.

“As an elected member of the Livermore school board,” Strout continued, “I will fully support building a curriculum that addresses and highlights important events in the black community, Na-

tive Americans, and other persons of color to create a more honest and inclusive American history.”

KRISTIE WANG

Wang holds a bachelor’s degree in education policy from The University of Chicago and a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University. She worked for a national policy organization called Children Now, where her work included tracking education policy and funding in California and advocating for universal preschool.

She has two children in the district — one recently graduated and the other still in high school. Over the years, Wang has participated in PTA, served on the Technology Committee and the Citizens’ Oversight Committee for Measures M and G, coached the fourth- and fifth-grade math team, and volunteered in the classroom. In the last two years, she’s worked to build community education around youth vaping.

In addition to serving on the Oversight Committee, Wang said her in-depth conversations with district officials and the past seven years of research on Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) have given her a strong understanding of school district budgets.

“I have good relationships with officials in nearby cities and in Sacramento. I’m the only candidate endorsed by our Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who serves on the Appropriations Committee,” Wang said. “My connections and knowledge of the policy process allow me to advocate for additional resources to our district. My extensive background in the nonprofit world also gives me experience with corporate donations and grants.”

She further noted that she has ideas that will bring new energy to community fundraising efforts. Where cuts have to be made, she said she will work with stakeholders and reach out to groups that may be disproportionately burdened.

On e-learning, she noted

that, in addition to her work on the Technology Committee, she recently spoke to the district’s chief technology officer, who communicated the district is able to hire additional tech support staff.

“Our technology team has done a heroic job with limited time and resources to provide internet access to all of our students,” she said.

While Wang absolutely believes there will be a learning gap in need of addressing, she also pointed out other discrepancies.

“This pandemic made inequalities impossible to ignore. The longer it goes on, the wider the inequalities,” she said. “The fact that some families were trying to decide between various high-tech set-ups for their children, while others were waiting for a hotspot and laptop from the district so they can access the internet makes those inequalities clear. And we’ve seen that it is possible to make a laptop and hotspot available to every student who needs it. Some students still have to go to school every day to pick up food. I would like to see us keep working to close these gaps.”

If it’s what families want and resources allow for it, Wang supports a hybrid return to school. She pointed out that hybrid education could also present opportunities for students to take courses that the schools aren’t able to offer in person, such as a higher math level or certain languages.

“We need to listen to the groups that are most affected and fight the tendency to be dismissive. I’m a member of both the LVJUSD Coalition for Change and the city’s Equity and Inclusion Working Group, and will be working through these issues in our schools and in our city,” she said. “I’ve suggested we convene a youth panel to shadow the city’s Working Group, so our youth have their own space to discuss and offer solutions to something for which they have a lot of passion and energy. It’s more important than ever that we have board members with a deep understanding of racial injustice.”

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OBITUARIES

Rose Marie Bosque 1940 – 2020



We lost our mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Rose Marie Bosque of Patterson, California, on Aug. 17, 2020.

She passed peacefully away at the age of 79, in the comforts of her home with her family.

Rose Marie was born in the Philippines in 1940, to Ramon and Jacqueline Estella, and was the second of six siblings. She worked for Farmers Insurance as an executive claims' adjuster for 30 years in Dublin.

She continued her pursuit of a higher education only after her last child was in grade school. She spent the final years of her life living with her eldest child. Rose Marie was spirited in everything she did, she loved bowling, cooking, and sewing. Some of her favorite memories were made while camping with her family and expressing her creativity through drawing and dancing.

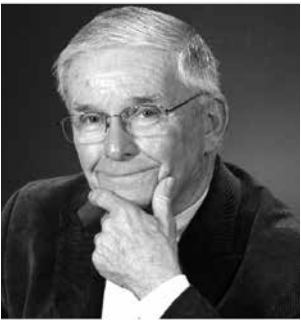
She was a Girl Scout leader

and a catechist of St. Raymond Church in Dublin. She loved her children, spoiled her grandchildren, and adored her great grandchildren. She was a very caring and loving soul to all who had the opportunity to meet her. She raised her family in a faithful Catholic household and held strong to her faith till the end.

Rose Marie is survived by her children, Helen (Jerry) Hoxie of Patterson, California, Cindy (Rod) Walston of Sandy, Oregon, Ralph (Stacy) Bosque of Rio Vista, California, and Edward (Jodi) Bosque of Eldorado Hills, California; 10 grandchildren, Olivia, Arthur, Hannah, Abby, Jordan, Claire, Julia, Will, Rachel, and Angie; three great grandchildren, Evelyn Rose, Oliver, and Eleanore Rose; and five siblings, Regina Estella of Oregon, Cindy Ormaechea of Canada, Ramon II Estella of Philippines, Cecile Lavine of San Francisco, and Ricky Estella of San Francisco. She was preceded in death by her mother and her father.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Benedictine Mission House, Relevant Radio, or National Kidney Foundation. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 1, at Hillview Funeral Chapel, in Patterson, California.

John “Jack” Thomas Healey Nov. 9, 1936 – Sept. 11, 2020



John “Jack” Thomas Healey, age 83, of Brentwood, California, died peacefully at home on Sept. 11, 2020, after losing his battle with colon cancer.

Jack was born Nov. 9, 1936, to Josephine (Slobodnik) and John Thomas Healey, in Omaha, Nebraska. He lived in Omaha and Gothenburg, Nebraska, until moving to Waterloo, Iowa, in 1952, where he attended Sacred Heart High School his sophomore through senior years. There, he met and ‘avidly pursued’ the love of his life, Constance (Connie) Voellinger, for five years until she agreed to date and eventually marry him.

Jack earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Iowa State Teachers College (now University of Northern Iowa) in Cedar Falls, and married Connie at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waterloo, Iowa, on June 14, 1958. They moved to Anamosa, Iowa, where he taught high school chemistry and math for three years.

They moved back to Waterloo briefly, where Brian was born in 1961. Jack received a full scholarship from the National Science Foundation to pursue a master’s degree in chemistry at Stanford

University, and the family moved to California for a year. They moved back to Waterloo in 1962, where Susan was born, and Jack taught high school for a year. They moved back to California in 1963, living in Sunnyvale, and then Cupertino, where Jack taught high school. Michael was born in 1965.

Jack spent the rest of his career teaching chemistry at Chabot College in Hayward, Las Positas College in Livermore, and Solano Community College in Fairfield. He was awarded the prestigious Catalyst Award from the Chemical Manufacturers Association for excellence in chemistry teaching. The family moved to Pleasanton in 1968.

Jack was a beloved baseball and soccer coach, coaching several teams to state, national and international tournaments. He loved many sports and played softball for several decades. Jack and Connie moved to Brentwood in 1995, where they became active parishioners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Jack was active in the Knights of Columbus and dedicated many years of service to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, including nine years as president.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents, John and Josephine Healey; and his brother, James. He is survived by his wife, Connie; children, Brian Healey, Michael Healey, and Susan (Craig) Taylor; grandson, Patrick Taylor (Kimberly Bauer); great granddaughter, Kimberly Taylor; sister, Mary Ann (Carlos) Healey-Pianelli; brother-in law, Richard Voellinger; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass and committal service were held on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, at Holy Cross Cemetery and Funeral Center, 2200 E 18th St., in Antioch, California.

Gregg W. Shephard Jan. 3, 1942 – Sept. 7, 2020



Gregg was born in Oakland, the second of four children, to Walker and Helen Shephard.

A proud graduate of Alameda High School, Santa Rosa J.C., Sonoma State and Cal State Hayward (East Bay), Gregg became an exemplary social studies teacher at Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo, California for 34 years. His primary courses were history and civics.

He met Lynne in San Leandro at the base of the escalator at Macys, where they both worked at the time. They married in 1964 at St Louis Bertrand Church in Oakland, then moved to Livermore in 1967. They celebrated 56 years of in August this year.

As a young father, Gregg was involved with his sons' activities,

particularly coaching Livermore Youth Soccer for many years in the 1970s and 1980s, and he taught them a strong work ethic.

In his retirement years, he kept active with activities like bicycling, running hiking and

sampling treats at Costco. Friends and family would routinely see him out and about around Livermore. His love of family, the legacy stories, Alameda, history, camping and Lionel trains were central to his core years. A fierce debater, he had a trenchant discussion waiting for you on history or current events.

Gregg is survived by his loving wife, Lynne; his sons, Glenn Andrew (Sandra) Shephard and Eric Timothy (Pilar) Shephard; and his grandchildren, Ryan, Katelyn, Zachery, and Maxwell. He is predeceased by his parents; his brothers, Peter and Michael; and his sister, Lorraine. A celebration of life will take place when it is safe to do so.

David Malcolm Neilson Feb. 10, 1931 – Aug. 25, 2020



David Malcolm Neilson was born in East Oakland on Feb. 10, 1931 to his San Francisco-born mother and Scottish-immigrant father, with older sister Jane.

David was an extremely hard worker and lover of family and friends, a HAM radio aficionado, an opera and symphony lover, a golf player, a scientist and computer engineer, a veteran of the Korean War, and a precious gem to his entire family. David was extremely intelligent, witty, hilarious, with a wry and sometimes sardonic sense of humor. He loved children and showing his granddaughter computers, science, art and music.

If any family member needed financial assistance, he, without

hesitation, used his resources to help. David was funny, kind, generous, loving, sharp, blunt, realistic, enjoyed his life to the fullest, worked hard to reap his rewards, and loved sharing his interests, time, hobbies, and life

with his loved ones. He will be forever missed.

David passed on Aug. 25, 2020, nine days after suffering a heart attack during the infamous, early morning Aug. 16, 2020 lightning storm. He was predeceased by his son, William Crawford Neilson in 2003; and wife, Cozette Neilson in 2006. He is survived by his son, David Alexander “Alex” Neilson; and granddaughter, Valerie Moon Watchempino.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Neilson family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Gary Lea Hickman Sept. 8, 1934 – Sept. 10, 2020



Gary Lea Hickman passed away at the age of 86 in his Oakland home on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020.

Born Sept. 8, 1934 in Kansas City, Missouri, to Eugene and Bernice (Williams) Hickman, Gary and his family later made their home in Alameda, California, where he would graduate from Alameda High in 1952. He then attended Laney Trade School in Oakland, and Contra Costa Junior College.

In 1953, he worked at United States Steel until 1959, when he joined the Livermore Lawrence National Laboratory for a successful 31-year career as a mechanical technician. He retired early in 1990 and enjoyed a very active life pursuing his many

interests and activities, including hiking, exploring, gold mining, and attending auctions. He was also an avid collector of historic firearms, classic car, and train enthusiast.

He is survived by daughters, Deborah Morales and Valerie Dua; sister, Ahnawake Slater; ex-wife, Gail Thompson; long-time companion and ex-wife, Joyce Hickman; two grandsons, one granddaughter, and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Robert Scott Hickman.

Gary’s life will be remembered and celebrated at a private gathering with close friends and family on Oct. 4, 2020. Donations may be made in his name to the National Rifle Association.

Arturo Nazareno Cairel



Dad, Grandpa, Brother and Uncle, Arturo Nazareno passed away peacefully at home as he always wanted, with his wife Connie by his side. He was 86 years old.

He was born in Hawaii, raised in the Philippines and returned to the U.S. in 1956. He and Connie met while traveling as migrant farm workers picking fruits and vegetables in California. He was a sought-after rose bud grafter, with many farms seeking his talent and requesting him to travel out of state for his almost perfect percentage rate of growth. They were married on Aug. 20, 1961. They settled in Livermore and had 3 sons and 11 grandchildren.

Art, as he was known, was always seen traveling the streets of Livermore on his moped scooter. He worked at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for 27 years as a landscaper until he retired in 1993. He was a tireless worker who also had numerous side jobs within the landscaping world, taking care of other people's yards as if they were his own; he took so much pride in his work!

He was a die-hard Oakland A's fan, taking his boys to many games, especially on giveaway nights. He would always root them on while watching the games on TV. He would even cheer the replays.

He was a regular card player and BBQ visitor at Camp Corregidor. He was always the life of the party with his quick sharp wit and humor. Always the prankster, he kept everyone on their toes at the family BBQ's.

He relished his role as a grandfather. He was always giving and supportive. He would always sit outside waiting for them to come home from school and then take them to the store and buy them

candy and soda.

Art is survived by his wife of 59 years, Connie; their three sons, Arturo Jr. (Cindy), Jack (Lori) and John (Jen); 11 grandchildren, Arturo III, Jacquelyn, Kyle, Alexander, Sierra, Lauren, Jack Jr., Colby, Benjamin, and Victoria. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Joseph “The Jet” Cairel; brothers, Esming and Francis; sister, Elizabeth; and both his parents, Tomas and Dolores. He will be greatly missed by his eight siblings, Thomas Cairel, Josie Cairel, Angie Palino, Evelyn Cabalbag, Stella Palino, Edmund Cairel, Roy Cairel and Joy Juan, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Visitation will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary. Visitors will be asked to pay their respects and wait outside, as there is a 25-person limit at a time inside Callaghan due to COVID-19. Eulogy, family and friend comments will take place at the St. Michaels Cemetery visitation tent at 12:30 p.m., with final committal at the graveside at 1:30 p.m.

Karen Joy Ellgas



The energetic life of Karen Joy Ellgas ended Sept. 14, at home, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

She grew up in Orinda, California, in a family of five that spent most weekends camping, boating, or skiing. She married her high school sweetheart, Rick, in 1976, graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and then moved back to the Bay Area with Rick. She has been a resident of Pleasanton since 1985, where she raised two wonderful sons, Casey and Cody. She was predeceased by her loving parents, Bill and Marlys Howard.

Karen was always busy taking care of her family, working on projects, tending the garden, taking her dog on long walks in the park or planning the next vacation. In addition, she was an

active member in the community serving on the Pleasanton City Council as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, served on the board of directors for the local Little League Baseball organization and participated in the local Prayer Group.

Her professional career started as a dietitian and then evolved

into a rewarding nursing career at several hospitals. After nursing, she took on the role of property manager for her parent’s rental properties. Karen enjoyed her tenants, and in turn, they considered her more than a landlord that always took care of any issue promptly and efficiently.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Rick, of 44 years. She also leaves behind her children, Casey Ellgas (Bella) and Cody Ellgas (Ashley); and her adorable granddaughter, Lily Ellgas.

Karen will be laid to rest in Windsor, California, near the graves of her parents. A memorial service will be held for Karen at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton, however, due to the current COVID limitations, the service will be invite only.

Robert Claude “Bob” Minaker June 18, 1929 – Sept. 17, 2020

Bay Area native Robert C. “Bob” Minaker’s physical presence left us the morning of Sept. 17, 2020.

Bob was surrounded by members of his loving family when he peacefully passed at his Livermore home of over 40 years that he shared with his wife of over 70 years, Mary Banley Minaker.

Bob was born and raised in Oakland, the youngest of three sons to Edmond “Pat” and Alice Holiday Minaker. Bob spent his early years working as a bag boy and later learned his lifelong trade as a butcher at the family market in Oakland. It was during these early years working at the market and spending time at the family cabin in Ben Lomond that Bob learned lifelong values of family, generosity, integrity, loyalty, and paying it forward to those less fortunate. At 13, an industrial accident took his right index finger, but that proved to be a blessing in disguise.

Bob attended High School in Oakland, where he excelled in track running the hurdles. When Bob was drafted, he was 4F’d from service duty because of the loss of his right index ‘trigger’ finger. This gave him opportunity to be introduced to the love of his life, Mary Evelyn Banley, at the local soda shop in the summer of 1948.

As they both had red hair, Bob had an immediate attraction and proposed after two weeks of dating. Mary declined and returned to college in Arizona, but she returned in 1949 and accepted Bob’s marriage proposal. The couple were married in the fall of 1950.

Bob and Mary eventually settled in Fremont and forged lifelong friendships with neighbors and colleagues. When they

decided to start a family, they discovered they were unable to have biological children of their own. Family was very important to them, so in 1962, they adopted the first of their two children, a son they named Scott Frederick. In 1964, they followed with the adoption of their daughter, Sandra Lee.

Bob supported the family as a butcher for Safeway, while Mary worked raising the kids. In 1966, Bob and Mary moved to a new home in Pleasanton to raise their family. Bob was a true craftsman, designing and building waterfall landscapes, decks, and rebuilding the family cabin along with inventing the ‘Swing-a-way’ trash can with his brother in law.

Bob eventually left Safeway for the independent market sector and continued cutting meat for a living, until two bouts of carpal tunnel syndrome led him to change professions. He chose to become a dental technician, as he enjoyed the detailed precision it took in making retainers, which he likened to tying flies.

Bob had a zest for life and a huge laugh, and he loved the outdoors, especially stream fishing for trout.

In 1979, in order to avoid paying boarding fees for the family horses, Bob and Mary bought what is now 4M Arabians (and Pistachio Farm) on S. Vasco Road in Livermore. It was at 4M Ranch Bob learned to ride horses (Western Pleasure) so he could join Mary on rides. The horses provided several decades of memorable trail rides and horse camping trips to the Sierra’s and beyond for Bob, his family, extended family and friends.

Bob loved to cook, cherished his family, extended family, and his friends, so hosting celebratory

gatherings and holiday parties throughout his life was second nature. All events involved grilling on the BBQ, baking a ham, or roasting a turkey to feed his guests. He also loved to travel, taking memorable trips with his family and friends to Tahiti, Europe, and Asia took cruises to Alaska, Panama Canal, and Russia.

Bob had a keen sense of humor, quick wit, and honest approach to life. These traits fostered lifelong relationships with friends he considered family. Above all, Bob loved spending time his family. Annual family road trips in the family van to places like Grand Canyon, Baja Mexico, or snow skiing at Bear Valley were the norm.

Bob loved to go camping, especially sitting around the campfire in the evenings singing songs with family and friends after a day well spent. He also loved traveling by RV caravan with family, friends and the ‘point man’ guiding the way to visit nature’s wonders throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Bob lived a full and happy life, and his presence will be greatly missed, but his spirit, countless memories and his positive influence on those that knew him will carry on with us each day.

Bob is survived by his loving wife, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family and countless friends he considered family. Due to current restrictions, a Celebration of Life gathering for Bob will be scheduled at a later date at Bob and Mary’s 4M Ranch at 2700 S. Vasco Road, Livermore, CA, 94550. In lieu of flowers, please pay kindness forward3

Geraldine J. Travers Kuntzmann Sept. 1, 1935 – Sept. 21, 2020

Geraldine J. Travers Kuntzmann Wright, 85, of Livermore, returned to her heavenly home on Sept. 21, 2020, with her son Bill at her side.

Geri was born the youngest of five children on Sept. 1, 1935, in Shipman, Illinois, to Leonard Everett Travers and Clarice Irene Travers (Lynch). She was raised in Shipman amongst her many aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins, and she graduated from Shipman High School in 1953.

She married William H. Kuntzmann, Jr. in 1954 and began life as a military wife. She loved meeting new people as they moved from Massachusetts to Texas to Illinois to Alaska, driving across the country and stopping to see the sights along the way. After retirement from the Army, Bill and Geri moved to Alaska in 1974. Geri worked at the Montgomery Ward catalog store in Fairbanks in the ‘70s and ‘80s, moving to Oregon in 1985 with her second husband, Wesley Wright.

They then lived the RV life, working as camp hosts at state

parks in Oregon and California and traveling all over the country during the off-season. She always said it was a great way to live, because if you didn’t like your neighbors, you just started up the RV and moved on.

The family is grateful for her caregivers these last few months – Mercy, Minali, Anya, and Ephron, and for the doctors and nurses who took care of her at the hospital. We are also very thankful for the care provided by Bill and Patty Kuntzmann – taking her to the doctor, picking up groceries and medications, and all the other things that were difficult for her to do herself.

Geri is survived by her five children, Cynthia (David Owen) of Fairbanks, Alaska William (Patty) Kuntzmann of Livermore, California, Kathryn (Rick Edmiston) of Livingston, Montana, Gerald (Heather) Kuntzmann of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Wayne (Robyn) Kuntzmann of Venice, Florida; 13 grandchildren, Dorian (Alan), Douglas (Cheri), Steven, Mikenzi, Kayla, Kenneth, Lisa, Travis (Melissa),

Brian (Mikaela), Shane (Crystal), Kendra, Chase, and Ryan (Catie); 11 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Gloria Travers of Jerseyville, Illinois, and Eunice Meyers, of Quincy, Illinois; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. She was predeceased by her first husband William H. Kuntzmann, Jr., father of her five children; second husband, Wesley Wright; parents, siblings, and one grandson.

Mother was always cheerful and had a joyful and loving heart. Everybody remembers her laugh and can-do attitude. She adored her children and grandchildren and loved the Lord above all else. She will be sorely missed by her family and her many friends scattered across the country.

A heartfelt thank you to Acacia at Heritage Estates in Livermore, and Mother’s many friends there. Interment will be in Shipman Cemetery, Illinois. Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Wright family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572452

The following person(s) doing business as: Drive Me Simply, 1877 Warsaw Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Carmen Ceremuga, 1677 Warsaw Ave, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: August 10, 2020. Signature of Registrant/s: Carmen Ceremuga, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2020. Expires August 27, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4766. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572502

The following person(s) doing business as: Del Valle Wines, 83 Vallecitas Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Del Valle Wines, LLC, 4948 Tesla Rd, 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: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s: Roberto Molinaro, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 28, 2020. Expires August 28, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4767. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572846

The following person(s) doing business as: Journeys for Women, 2139 Inverness CT, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rosemary Martelli, 2139 Inverness CT, 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: Rosemary Martelli, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 10, 2020. Expires September 10, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4768. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572451

The following person(s) doing business as: Freshly Fuji, 11717 Silvergate Drive, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Blaire Fujimoto, 11817 Silvergate Drive, Dublin, CA 94568. 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: Blaire Fujimoto, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2020. Expires August 27, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4769. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572855

The following person(s) doing business as: VB Enterprises, 403 Junction Ave #117, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Victor D. Baldi, 403 Junction Ave #117, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: Victor D. Baldi, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 10, 2020. Expires September 10, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4770. Published September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to build two 15-foot steel pole Telecommunications Towers in the vicinity of 9998 Carroll Road, Livermore, Alameda County, CA 94551. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Project 6120007012 - TC c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, tcubie@ebiconsulting.com, or via telephone at (339) 234-2597. The Independent, Legal No. 4772. Published September 10, 17, 24, October 1, 2020

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572582

The following person(s) doing business as: Beer Baron 20812 Baker Road, Castro Valley, CA 94546, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judge Family LLC, 44361 Technology Dr, Unit H, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: Harpreet Singh, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 1, 2020. Expires September 1, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4773. Published October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 572982

The following person(s) doing business as: Dirt Tech, 17011 Midway Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Karin Rivard, 17011 Midway Road, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: January 2, 2001. Signature of Registrant/s: Karin Rivard, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2020. Expires September 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4774. Published October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 573018

The following person(s) doing business as: Night Owl Collective, 2553 6th St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Mario Luis Rubio, 2553 6th St, Livermore,

CA 94550. 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: January 1, 2001. Signature of Registrant/s: Mario Luis Rubio, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 16, 2020. Expires September 16, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4775. Published October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 573105

The following person(s) doing business as: The Happy Skin Care, 152 Sonia Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Glessie Mendoza, 152 Sonia Way, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: Glessie Mendoza, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 18, 2020. Expires September 18, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4776. Published October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 5729585

The following person(s) doing business as: Tucker's Custom Vinyl, 4014 Loch Lomand Way, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jenna Hatch, 4014 Loch Lomand Way, Livermore, CA 94551. 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: 8/10/2020. Signature of Registrant/s: Jenna Hatch, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 15, 2020. Expires September 15, 2025. The Independent, Legal No. 4777. Published October 1, 8, 15, 22, 2020.

CLASSIFIEDS

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at (925)426-8656



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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

Clinical Research Associate, Roche Molecular Systems, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Req: Bach in Biology or rtd life sci. fld + 2 yrs of prof exp in job ofrfd or as Clin Resrch Assoc, Scientist or rtdl pson supporting pharma or medical diagnostics industry. Reqs approx 30% domestic & intrnl travel, fully reimbred. May telecommute 1 day per week. Apply: http://applyroche.com/202009-24459 (Job ID: 202009-124459)

65) HELP WANTED

57) SERVICES

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compass.com
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Tracey Esling
925.366.8275
tracey.esling@compass.com
compass.com
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Cherie Doyle
925.580.2552
cherie.doyle@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 01950716



Leslie Faught
leslie@lesliefaught.com
lesliefaught.com
DRE 00971395



Linda Futral
925.980.3561
linda.futral@compass.com
lindafultral.com
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Kat Gaskins
925.963.7940
kat@katgaskins.com
katgaskins.com
DRE 01137199



Gail Henneberry
925.980.1900
gail.henneberry@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 00693908



Eva Tia
510.847.4310
eva.tia@compass.com
compass.com
DRE 02072764



Linda Traurig
925.382.9746
linda.traurig@compass.com
lindatraurig.com
DRE 01078773



Jo Ann Luisi
925.321.6104
joann.luisi@compass.com
joannluisi.com
DRE 01399250



Lily McClanahan
925.209.9328
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compass.com
DRE 01975835



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kris.moxley@compass.com
moxleyrealestate.com
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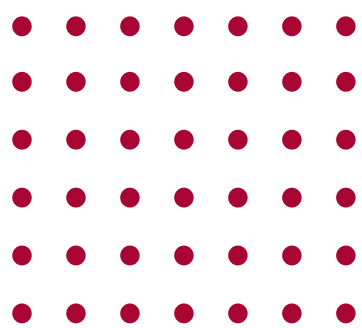
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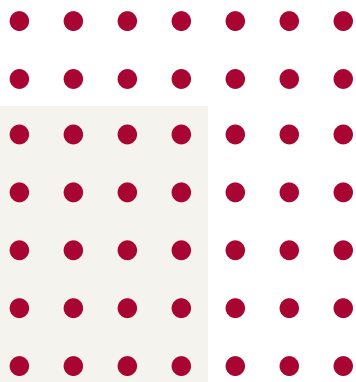
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