

Set for June

County Board Continues the Sunwalker Solar Hearing

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted last week to continue the Sunwalker Energy solar facility project appeals hearing to its June 3 meeting.

Supervisors David Haubert, Richard Valle and Wilman Chan voted 3-0 on April 22 to revisit consideration of the four appeals, along with certification of the project's final environmental impact report (EIR) and approval of the conditional-use permit. Supervisors Keith Carson and Nate Miley were excused; the clerk of the board later stated there was no known reason for their absences.

The project would generate about 6 megawatts of photovoltaic power and cover 59 acres of a 71-acre parcel located at 4871 N. Livermore Ave. The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments' (EBZA) decision to certify the final EIR in December 2020 saw four appeals from Save North Livermore Valley, Friends of Livermore, Friends of Open Space and Vineyards, and the Bowles family.

The groups' appeal points charged that the project represented an improper use of the agricultural land and would decrease aesthetics. They further stated that the board needed to explore alternatives for solar construction and establish a county solar policy. The groups challenged the public need for the project.

The appellants also reported the project to be overall inconsistent with the Williamson Act. The Williamson Act enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use.

(See SUNWALKER, page 7)

On ValleyCare

Foundation's Members to Vote on Merger

By Aly Brown

REGIONAL — The governing bodies of the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation (VCCF) and the Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare (SHC - VC) each voted unanimously to move forward with a conditional merger, pending VCCF's corporate member approval.

John Sensiba, SHC - VC board chair, said that the discussion around the merger fell in line with the sunset in May 2020 of VCCF memberships, along with the fulfillment of VCCF affiliation obligations with the California State Attorney General in December 2020.

When ValleyCare affiliated with Stanford Health Care in 2015, the Attorney General put various conditions in place on the approval of the affiliation. In addition, Stanford at the time had to become the sole member of ValleyCare's organization, which was made up of corporate/founding members. With the affiliation, ValleyCare's members then had the option to be-

(See MERGER, page 6)



Karl D. Wente, chief winemaker at Wente Vineyards, shakes the hand of Mark Schwager, co-founder and president of Monarch, on Thursday, April 22, after officially accepting delivery of the first Monarch tractor. Now available to order on the Monarch website, the Pilot series of the driver-optional tractor is 100% electric and comes with a base price of \$50,000. (Photo - Stephanie Mollenhauer)

Longtime Restaurant Closes

Commission Says the Site of Former Barone's Should Include Commercial

By Ruth Roberts

PLEASANTON — The iconic Barone's Restaurant is going out of business after more than 25 years as a Pleasanton mainstay.

The planning commission recently told the owners of the restaurant to incorporate additional commercial space in their conversion plans for the downtown establishment or risk losing support for the proposal.

The commission reviewed the project during a March 24 work session where the applicant, Robson Homes, initially proposed two options for the 475 and 493 St. John St. locations.

Both plans call for the preservation of the Barone family residence and the demolition of the existing restaurant and surrounding structures on the property. The first plan called for 10 detached single-family, two-story homes and seven second-story accessory dwelling units (ADUs) above detached garages. The second proposal included nine detached two-story, single-family homes with five ADUs above detached garages, along with a commercial building and parking lot. The plot covers a total of 2.3 acres.

"I believe this project site is appropriate for mixed-use with a strong commercial presence or potential commercial-use only," said Vice Chair Nancy Allen. "As nice as the designs are, and they are beautiful, both of those projects are primarily a residential project, and I believe it doesn't serve our community well; (it) doesn't enhance our downtown and is inconsistent with our intent in zoning."

During the adoption pro-

cess of the Downtown Specific Plan in 2019, the city council said that the initial Barone plan to redevelop the property for residential use was not desirable, although still a consideration. However, the planning commission argued during the workshop that the project was neither in keeping with residents wishes, adhering to the original input from the city council regarding commercial use, nor in keeping with the Downtown Specific Plan.

Richard Yee, with Robson Homes, contended the mixed-use plan brought before the commission was in keeping with the Downtown Specific Plan and consistent with criteria outlined for the redevelopment of the property.

"Specifically, our plan retains the existing Barone residence, preserves the small-town character of downtown ... provides no net loss of commercial space and

ning commission argued that the plan needed less residential and more commercial space.

"This site is 2.3 acres and is part of the core of downtown, and as such I think we should be looking at an all-commercial use ... to be consistent with what the residents are asking for and in keeping with the Downtown Specific Plan," said Commissioner Greg O'Conner.

Not all residents agreed with his assessment.

"Joe Barone looks out his front door, and all he sees are dozens of brand-new houses towering over Peters and St. John streets," wrote one resident on social media. "... And then, he wants to tuck 10 attractive-looking houses between St. John and Arroyo, and he gets told 'no'? Doesn't seem fair ... doesn't seem right."

In the end, the commission said mixed-use commercial space should encompass



The owners of Barone's Restaurant, which is going out of business, will now need to add more commercial to their development plans. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

provides sufficient on-site parking," said Yee.

He added that new residents and tenants would support the existing commercial core and that affordable housing would also be provided along with the ADUs.

However, a united plan-

the property looking out on St. John Street, with residential units, if any, on the second floor or behind the property. Yee said Homes has heard the commission and is committed to coming back to the table with the requests of the city.

Dublin City Council Approves \$10 Million For Affordable Housing

By Ruth Roberts

DUBLIN — The city council unanimously agreed to spend \$10 million on the possible development of an affordable housing project adjacent to the west Dublin BART station.

The city will partner with BRIDGE Housing, a non-profit organization that aims to build 308 units on a city-owned 3.6-acre site at 6501 Golden Gate Drive. The 100% affordable housing complex would be built in two phases, 136 units and 172 units. Thirty percent of the first-phase homes — 40 units— are slated for special needs residents, homeless

individuals and families, and veterans. These 40 homes would include basic necessities, such as furniture and kitchen items, including appliances. The remaining units would not be furnished.

The project will be paid for with \$7.1 million from Dublin's affordable housing fund and \$2.9 million from Alameda County Measure A1 bond funds.

"I'm in favor of what we are doing, and it's a great idea," said Councilmember Jean Josey. "We are sorely in need of affordable housing and having this many units is fantastic. I'm really pleased."

(See HOUSING, page 7)

Planning Commission Votes 4-1 in Favor of Eden Housing Plan

Opponents Want Housing Relocated; Community Group States Current Plan Violates City Standards and Cannot Be Approved

LIVERMORE — With Commissioner John Stein the dissenting vote, the Livermore Planning Commission voted 4-1 to send the Eden Housing project for final approval to the city council.

Despite residents voicing opposition, the commission on Tuesday recommended the development of the 130-unit, 4-story Eden Housing project in the city's downtown core, without any

changes.

The project site, occupying 2.5 gross acres, sits on the southeast corner of South L Street and Railroad Avenue; the site once housed a Lucky supermarket. The proposed plan, revised over time, now consists of two four-story buildings — one on Railroad Avenue and the other fronting Veterans Way. Each building would contain one-, two- and three-bed-

(See EDEN, page 6)

John Stein Criticized

Commissioner's Comments Lead to Possible Dismissal

By Aly Brown

LIVERMORE — The city council voted unanimously this week to consider the removal of Commissioner John Stein from the planning commission at a meeting set for May 3.

The April 26 decision followed a discussion of Stein's comments at last week's April 20 planning commission meeting.

Councilmembers said they had received emails and calls, complaining that the commissioner had used inappropriate language when discussing the Eden Housing project proposed for the old Lucky site in the downtown core. Among other statements at the com-

mission meeting, Stein had said, "I really don't want to see the downtown become a ghetto of affordable housing, and I support inclusionary housing both on a macro and micro scale ... (but) it should be distributed throughout the city." The commissioner was then the lone dissenting vote during that meeting, when the planning commission passed a recommendation 4 to 1 for the city council to approve Eden's current plan.

At this week's council meeting, Stein issued an apology for his remarks.

"I'd like to say that I do feel my comments were in-temperate ... I also believe that as a planning commis-

(See DISMISSAL, page 7)

Jewish Center Building to Undergo Improvements

By Larry Altman

PLEASANTON — Rabbi Raleigh Resnick is hoping to turn the Chabad Center for Jewish Life building into a community centerpiece, following the Pleasanton Planning Commission's unanimous approval of a beautification plan to refurbish his synagogue in the city.

Resnick, leader of the Orthodox Jewish Center, said the panel's April 14 approval of the synagogue's improvement project was a beautiful finale to a long process.

"I'm just thankful to God and to all the participants that we've reached this milestone," said Resnick, who has directed Chabad of the Tri-Valley since 2005. "This

will, God willing, be a centerpiece to the community."

Largely approved by the city council in 2019, the project will add a 60-by-48-foot outdoor playground and an outdoor terrace to the property. A renovation of the building's facade will include new windows, wood siding, lattice and other wall features, a new roof design, an entrance canopy, landscaping and a paint job.

According to Resnick, some funding has already been secured, but a \$2 million capital campaign is going to begin soon. The cosmetic changes outside will lead to changes inside, including an early childhood education program, a Judaica

(See CENTER, page 11)



Dublin High School Junior Vivian Tseng adds mulch to a garden plot with Nathan Vuong's help at the Dublin Aquatic Center on Saturday in celebration of Earth Day. Both are members of the DHS Green Earth club, which participated in the day's events. (Photo - Stephanie Mollenhauer)



BOO

PET OF THE WEEK

Ready to meet your new boo? Affectionate and sassy, this spayed female two-year-old tuxedo cat is guaranteed to spice up your life. She is single and ready to mingle! At this time, Valley Humane Society is coordinating adoptions by appointment only. If you are interested adopting Boo, send an email to info@valleyhumane.org for more information.

(Photo - Valley Humane Society / V. Reyes)

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Asian American Gun Club Promotes Responsibility, Support

By Ruth Roberts

The pandemic-related rise in hate crimes and gun violence has left many Asian Americans frightened for their safety. But one organization is working to alleviate those fears through community outreach, education and the promotion of safe, responsible firearm ownership.

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Gun Owners (AAPI GO) club is a newly formed non-profit, nonpartisan group co-founded by Bay Area residents Scott Kane and Vincent Yu along with Patrick Lopez from Southern California. The organization was established just a few weeks ago, and the group plans to hold its first meet-and-greet event at the Livermore Gun Club early next month. According to Lopez, several hundred interested residents have already reached out to the group on their website and through social media.

"The response has been very nice," said Lopez,

who is of Asian American descent. "The focus (of the group) is to educate and promote safe gun ownership with an emphasis on also providing resources to those who might not otherwise have access to information due to language barriers or other obstacles."

By all accounts, the number of anti-Asian hate crimes continues to grow, with one study from the Stop AAPI Hate group based out of San Francisco State University citing over 1,200 self-reported accounts of violence and bigotry in California since the pandemic began. The Bay Area accounted for 706 of those accounts. A recent survey conducted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation puts the number of new Asian gun owners at 46% in the first two quarters of 2020.

For Yu, the recent mass shootings that killed eight people at three Atlanta-area spas, six of whom were Asian women, was the catalyst for him to get involved.

"I already owned a fire-

arm for sports purposes, and I found that I shied away from the stigma of guns," said Yu. "But what created a spark for me was the Atlanta shootings. It called (hate crimes) to attention, and I felt this anger and sense that I wanted to do something good, something productive."

Kane, who is white, felt the same tug to make a difference following a more personal encounter. Kane's Asian wife and their mixed-race child were verbally abused and spat upon by a truckload of men driving by them one afternoon as the family was walking down the street.

"My wife and daughter were shaken and in tears, and that got me thinking, 'What if I wasn't there?' How can I protect my family if one of these (explicit) followed my wife home?" he wrote in a blog on the group's website.

H.K. Kahng, from Portland, Oregon, understands Kane's concerns. As a new member of AAPI GO,

Kahng says he joined the organization for their focus on supporting a targeted group who have historically been underserved when it comes to gun ownership, education and safety.

"Owning a firearm comes with a lot of responsibilities to your family, to your community and to yourself," said Kahng. "Education, training, practice and mindfulness are absolutely critical in responsible gun ownership, and AAPI GO's emphasis on safety training and education really resonated with me... I'd like to learn from other AAPI GO members of their journeys as gun owners, and I'd like to share what I've picked up with regards to firearm safety."

Striving to fill a gap in resources for Asians who are targeted by hate crimes but feel helpless to protect themselves, while also circumventing the potential for inflaming bigotry and hate with the formation of a gun club, has spurred the three founders to ensure their

organization is one of inclusiveness and support. And although the group is focused on Asian-Americans, all ethnicities are welcome.

"It's a fine line between stirring the pot, seeing the Asian side, and gun control," said Lopez. "We knew it would be problematic. (While) new gun owners are the focus, this is not a call to arms. It is about giving them the power to use guns safely and provide training and education."

Yu takes it one step further.

"I would even go as far as to say that it is this balance that is our strength," he said. "It keeps us honest and allows us to look at things without bias. We have no specific agenda, no extreme direction. All we want is to provide the best information we can in a nonpartisan way."

For more information and updates, visit www.aapigo.org.

Interactive Map Tracks Local Vaccination Sites

Alameda County residents can now find local COVID-19 vaccination sites by entering their preferred zip code into an interactive map on the county Public Health Department's website.

The map, at covid19.acgov.org/vaccines, also provides information on eligibility and how to register.

Local vaccine sites include the Alameda County Fairgrounds and several Kaiser Permanente, CVS, Rite Aid, Safeway, Walgreens, and Walmart locations.

Residents who do not have internet access to make an appointment online can call 510-208-4VAX for assistance.

Parents Raise Funds to Continue Safe Grad Night

By Dawnmarie Fehr

High school senior parents in Livermore are working to raise funds to continue a graduation tradition for this year's senior class.

Safe & Sober Grad Night has been an institution at Livermore High School (LHS) and Granada High School (GHS) for years. The events—celebrated separately at each school—provide a safe place for seniors to celebrate the end of their high school career, but hurdles to fundraising have put this year's events in danger.

"Safe & Sober Graduation Night provides a supervised and safe environment for graduates to celebrate the time of their lives without risking their lives," said Melissa Lortie, whose son is a senior at GHS. "This event greatly reduces the risk of harm to the graduates and the community at large when the danger of driving under the influence is unusually high. It keeps students off the roads as they celebrate their accomplishments by enjoying activities, music, food, prizes, and entertainment during the event on the high school's campus."

The events usually start late in the evening, at 10 p.m. or later, and run until the early hours of the next day. Student tickets go on sale at the beginning of the school year and increase in price over time. Tickets give students access to a night of fun, entertainment and activities.

Lortie is the fundraising chair for the Granada event. She said normally parents can raise close to \$60,000 to fund the celebration by hosting a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, but many of those have been modified or cancelled due to the pandemic, leaving the Safe & Sober Grad Night short of money.

"We have raised approximately \$45,000 at this point," said Lortie. "We have six more fundraising events on the calendar that

we are hoping will help us get there. It really takes a village. In the meantime, we are seeking outside donations and sponsorships wherever possible for cash donations to help close the gap as much as we can."

As difficult as their shortage is, GHS has fared better than LHS. Diana Luna is co-chair of Livermore High's event and said their group is currently falling far short of its goal.

"We need donations of any amount," Luna said. "We are close to putting up a GoFundMe, hoping people will donate \$20 or \$25... we are sitting at \$25,000, so we need donations from the community or gift cards for vendors we can gift the kids the night of the event, things like that. We are still hoping to raise \$40,000."

Funds raised for the events at both schools will go to students, even if the events are cancelled for some reason, as happened last year. Seniors of the class of 2020 each received gift cards to Amazon, and the committees for the events used remaining funds to purchase decorations for the drive-through

graduation ceremonies.

Both schools have partnered with local businesses to host dine-out nights, with a percentage of profits going to the events. Students have sold everything from pies to merchandise; GHS hosted a drive-through crab feed, and LHS held a drive-through meat sale. Lortie said Granada will host its first in-person fundraiser at McGrail Vineyards on May 1, featuring a five-course food and wine pairing and live music.

"We can only hope this celebration can bring the much-needed joy to finish out their high school career," Lortie added. "At this time, Granada and Livermore are both working really hard to host a Safe & Sober Grad Night for these kids. Fundraising has been a challenge during COVID and we are doing everything possible to reach our financial goals and keep these celebrations moving forward."

Sarah Robinson is a senior at GHS and her mother, Heidi Robinson, is the chair of Granada's event. The 18-year-old is looking forward to grad night, although

details are being kept secret.

"I'm very excited," Robinson said. "I've seen my mom putting it together, so I'm more on the knowledgeable side than other kids, but I definitely hope it happens this year because I am very excited to have this one last celebration with my friends."

For more information on Granada's Safe & Sober Grad Night, or to donate, call Melissa Lortie at 925-895-4051 or email ghs.2021.ssgn.donations@gmail.com. Granada High School's "Sip, sip hooray!" fundraiser with McGrail Vineyards will be held on Saturday, May 1, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.ghsgradnight2021.com/fundraising. For more information on Livermore's Safe & Sober Grad Night, or to donate, call Diana Luna at 925-337-4000.

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This year's format is a little different, but the goal is the same: to raise \$100,000 for patient care and community programs, including grief support services, dementia education, and caregiver resources for local families.

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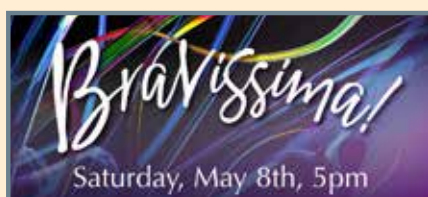
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ValleyCare

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EDITORIAL Counties Should Work to Install Solar Over Water Canals

The debate over solar projects like Aramis and Sunwalker shows the concerns of many environmentalists who believe that covering hundreds of acres of ag land will harm federally listed species, destroy dwindling open space and negatively impact the local environment. Proponents of these projects say that the need for green energy is urgent, and that installing solar along rooftops throughout local municipalities is cost-prohibitive.

While there's no doubt we need renewable energy or that installing solar on roofs in a city is going to cost more than plopping down panels in a field, there's another option that could help us.

There are about 4,000 miles across the state of open water canals. A new study co-authored by Distinguished Professor of Engineering Roger Bales — in collaboration with UC Water and UC Santa Cruz —

reports that covering California's open canals with solar panels could reduce evaporation and save upwards of 63 billion gallons of water annually. Brandi McQuin, with the University of California, Santa Cruz, and lead author of the report, said researchers "were surprised by the significant evaporation savings, which we project to be as much as 82%. That amount of water can make a significant difference in water-short regions."

The solar panels would have the capacity to generate about half the additional renewable energy California needs by 2030 to meet the state's decarbonization goals.

Should we be collaborating with neighboring counties to help make this a reality? Our local elected officials should push to explore what this could look like for Alameda County and, by extension, the entire state.

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.

No Credibility

Alan Marling, Livermore

The Friends of Livermore argued against solar energy on Earth Day.

On April 22, during the Alameda County Supervisor meeting, the Friends of Livermore appealed the Sunwalker Solar Project, which would provide clean energy to business along North Livermore Avenue. Among the appellants, none went as far as the Friends of Livermore, who claimed that the "public need for solar is overstated or doesn't exist."

On Earth Day.

I'll remember that when the skies turn orange during the next fire season. The infernos and ashen skies are likely to only worsen unless we slow global warming with renewable energy. As I struggle to breathe in the smoke, I'll think back to what Friends of Livermore said on Earth Day.

The group has lost all credibility. They will say anything, not matter how false, no matter whom it harms, as long as it advances their goals. A top donor of the group is Joan Seppala, who also owns The Independent.

Move The Eden Project

Ruth Gasten, Livermore

Supporters of moving the Eden housing apartment buildings from the lot in the center of Downtown are strongly in favor of affordable housing in Livermore. We encourage the City Council to consider moving the Eden project across Railroad Avenue.

Give Plan More Thought

Linda Milanese, Livermore

Livermore has been debating the Downtown Development for so long that I'm afraid people are about to just "settle" for something inferior because they're tired of talking about it.

My question for each of the City Council members is this: Is the Eden Housing plan really your dream vision for our downtown? Is that what you've always wished would be in the center of Livermore—4 stories of dense housing right across the street from the concrete monolith rising on the Groth Brothers site?

Please reflect on whether this plan fulfills what each of

you originally envisioned for this plot of land. Is it exactly what you hoped for—or even close? Or has it evolved over time to something less than your dream vision.

You need to know it's not the dream vision of a rapidly growing number of residents. And we resent being characterized as selfish NIMBYs who reject low-income housing. We believe in the importance of low-income housing—just in a slightly different location—like maybe across the street! We're just trying to support more green space for new residents—and all residents and visitors—to enjoy.

Please give this plan more thought.

An Amended Statement

Julie Espinosa, Livermore

I would like to make an amendment to the article I sent in last week, "Insult to Injury." Violet Campbells' name was in fact also printed in other news articles as Violet Agamau. So, I stand corrected.

Violet Agamau, aka Violet Campbell. Thank you.

A More Positive Tone

John Stein, Livermore

I apologize for my insensitive comments at the last Planning Commission meeting regarding the proposed Eden development. In no way did I mean to insult, offend or denigrate any member or group in our community. I continue to support the efforts of Eden Housing to provide affordable housing both in Livermore and throughout the bay area. I believe that it is Livermore's responsibility to provide a broad range of housing types for all segments of the population. I support inclusionary affordable housing throughout the City, rather than it being concentrated in and around the downtown. The choice of the word ghetto, with its negative connotation, was extremely unfortunate and I should not have used it.

Eden Housing has built a number of successful projects in Livermore, including Stoney Creek, which I voted for during my term on the council. In no way should I have compared this proposed project to the failed big city projects that I did. These past developments destroyed existing neighborhoods, led to economic and racial stratification and were badly and often corruptly mismanaged. None of these characteristics apply to Eden's many outstanding projects or the downtown project being proposed.

The sole reason I voted against Eden's project was because I believe that the parking was inadequate and that it could have a negative impact on the continued growth of our successful downtown.

I am sincerely sorry for any explicit or perceived negativity of my comments. My intent was not to offend or insult anyone. As a Planning Commissioner, my role is to show respect, compassion and fairness to all members of our community. I apologize that my communication skills have atrophied during the pandemic's extended isolation, and will work to improve them and adopt a more positive tone.

Policeless in America

Paul Stone, Dublin

Defund the police.

Fine.

Let's try a little experiment first. Every police officer, sheriff's deputy, and highway patrolman in our country should go out on strike for two weeks. And no private security for the likes of pols (sic) and Hollywood

celebrities.

If I were a betting man, I'd be willing to bet the farm that there would be a great hue and cry nationwide to bring law enforcement back whether in the city, the suburbs, or rural America. (Actually, it probably would only take a couple of days.)

But wait. This has already been tried. Check out the Boston police strike of 1919. Hint: It didn't turn out well for Bostonians (that is, for the law-abiding ones).

Girls LEAD Act

Kaylee DeLand, Livermore

Women remain grossly underrepresented in politics and the pandemic has upended progress made towards girls' equal access to education.

743 million girls worldwide have been pushed out of school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fostering educational opportunities for women and girls will lead to more democratic societies and prevent domestic violence and child marriages.

If passed, the bipartisan Girls LEAD Act would work to identify barriers to women and girls' political participation within U.S. foreign initiatives and fund and assist civil society organizations led by and focused on girls. This act would uplift the status of women and girls by ensuring their inclusion in politics and education.

As a Borgen Project ambassador, I am calling on Representative Eric Swalwell, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Senator Alex Padilla to cosponsor the Girls LEAD Act. I encourage all readers to urge their representatives to support the Girls LEAD Act, as well.

Retribution Firing of

Planning Commissioner

John Stein

Richard Ryon, Livermore

The Livermore City Council's Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2021 had item 6.3: "Discussion and Direction regarding the City Council's commitment to a culture of welcome, inclusion and respect and the comments made by Planning Commissioner Stein at the Planning Commission Meeting on April 20, 2021, as well as the complaints received from the community." This item is viewed by some of us to be preparation to fire John Stein from his place on the Planning Commission at the next City Council meeting.

Firing John Stein from the Planning Commission appears to be simple retribution for his being the sole vote on the Planning Commission against the bait-and-switch Eden Housing proposal for the vacant city-owned property in the heart of downtown Livermore. This plan has the support of the Livermore City Council and therefore the City staff. The excuse for firing Commissioner Stein is some remarks he made about group-in low-cost housing in one big complex.

I listened to the Planning Commission debate and heard nothing offensive in Stein's remarks. He did have a dim view of grouping low-cost housing together in one big complex. Apparently, some took offense to this remark. Stein did go on to support the need for low-cost housing and inclusiveness for all who work in Livermore. I take this to be a sincere statement. Stein's view on densely concentrated, low-cost housing is the same as that of most city planners, for valid sociological reasons. Many cities have demolished their big, subsidized housing complexes in favor of placing people in need throughout their cities. This is precisely the purpose of Section 8 housing vouchers. This federal program allows low-income prospective tenants to lease any housing they find suitable. They receive a subsidy for their rent. Therefore, they can rent anywhere in the city, not just in centralized low-cost housing complexes.

I find the ire at Stein's comments to be a fabrication to take retribution for his vote against the current Eden Housing complex plan. Had he voted for it, I find it hard to believe that any Council member would take offense.

Stein's vote against the new Eden Housing plan is in accord with what I believe to be the overwhelming view of the citizens of Livermore. His stated reasons, such as concentration of low-cost housing in one place, inadequate parking for the complex, and landscaping have a different emphasis than my reasons for opposition. (My personal view is: good idea, wrong place.) His vote was supported by at least 70% of those who submitted statements at the Planning Commission meeting. John Stein is an independent, clear thinker whose views are important to the deliberations of the Planning Commission.

Do You Like a Vibrant Downtown?

Robert Koelle, Livermore

During the Livermore Planning Commission meeting on April 20, we got a view of the beautiful Eden Housing community proposal, which will finally utilize the empty lot that has brightened the downtown for over a decade, while also providing the town with exactly what it needs - affordable housing and increased customer base for businesses and restaurants.

Ask any business or restaurant owner on First Street what they think.

Then came the comment period, which was dominated by total fantasists. The ridiculous claims about bait and switch, housing not available to teachers or first responders, being able to simply "flip" the housing to other side of Railroad Ave, etc. It was incredibly absurd to listen to this organized but delusional crowd. They actually claimed that this plan is some kind of betrayal, despite its character substantially matching what was democratically approved by the residents in March 2020.

Some of the old, discredited arguments from the election were recycled yet again, doubtless by the same people. The most offensive were the scare tactics concerning low-income people.

They also claimed to speak for the whole town, due to a rigged survey. Nonsense. They're arguing to each other, while I'm convinced that many more people are eager for these plans to move forward. No doubt they were also tallying the comments for more phony evidence that Livermore residents oppose the project.

Do you like a vibrant downtown? What better way to guarantee its survival than to provide new residents to eat and shop there?

We Do Not Oppose Affordable Housing

Thomas Soules, Livermore

Please do not think folks who are opposed to the current Eden Housing plan for the Lucky site are against low-income housing. This couldn't be further from the truth. I for one am very much in favor of low-income housing. In fact, I came to Livermore from Cleveland in 2002, and at that time, I could not afford to live in Livermore. If I could, I would reduce the value of my house and all houses in Livermore to make them more affordable. Anything we can do to help make homes more affordable is good.

My concern is only over the location of the low-income housing on the Lucky site. The 2.5 acres is not nearly large enough; the parking is not sufficient; the character of Livermore will be destroyed by these huge buildings that extend all the way from L to K street; the traffic is already bad and will get much worse with 130 more families in this small space; the destruction of what might be a nice open park, need I go on. These structures will define Livermore. It will no longer be a small town; no longer a town to walk around probably forever.

Yes, we want low-income housing, anything to make Livermore more affordable. Let's try to have more affordable housing and have it quicker. Subsidize housing in the Legacy apartments right across the street; add Eden housing units north of Railroad Avenue; add more units on Pacifica; etc. If

these options cost more so, be it. Look at the long-term effects of what we do. Respect the will of the citizens and enhance not destroy the desirability of being downtown.

Move Housing

Cal Wood, Livermore

Livermore was recently rated to be a very desirable city to live in. With a large park, the city's desirability will be enhanced. Moving the housing across Railroad Ave. will yield about 100 additional units (very desirable) so that we can achieve a true win-win situation. It will take extra work to do this, but it would be well worth it.

If Eden's latest plan is implemented, we will become more like Dublin - a city that supplies housing, but without the charm of a truly attractive downtown destination. San Francisco has Golden Gate Park. New York has Central Park and Sacramento has parks scattered throughout the older, central, part of town. Where is Livermore's truly appealing Park? Carnegie has a large building in the middle of the block, which eliminates it as the destination that would be so welcoming to the public. Let's have our spirit enhancing park on the Lucky block with housing moved and improved onto the next block north.

Do Not Allow Kaiser

Designation

Rich Buckley, Livermore

Several aviation enthusiasts, including myself with both private and military pilot flight experience, have reviewed the master plans for both Oakland Airport and Livermore Airport and landed on the realization that Terminal space is a profit maker for Oakland, and that support shops space needs to go elsewhere.

Terminal space is at a high premium over support shop space. Kaiser, we believe, is making a move to Livermore Airport to make a run at developing a potential growth market in 737 engine maintenance.

Once a fixed base operation (FBO) is approved by the community, the community loses important controls over the FBO and must rely on the FAA to designate where and how the maximum engine run-up area will be located. FAA will decide location, not the city.

Livermore will be the muffler shop for the Oakland Airport. The Oakland Airport existing maximum engine run ups muffler building, way over on the North End of the Oakland Airport is about as close to residential as Livermore. But the Alamedans and Bay Farm Islanders have more political say than the Tri-Valley. We always get pushed around and violated: BART, airport, and North Livermore Valley.

Kaiser plans to push a business model to capture and truck in (not just fly in), but truck in engines for repair, turn them around quickly and develop a reputation for fast turnaround that will compete with airline unions. They will solicit also from a large and growing, untapped, non-union market, existing internationally as well.

Please do not allow Kaiser to obtain the 35-acre FBO designation at the Livermore airport.

Cancel Culture

Comes to Livermore

Jim Hutchins, Livermore

I am writing in support of Planning Commissioner John Stein. He has provided helpful oversight on the Planning Commission and has a long history working for and supporting Livermore. In 2019, when appointed to the Planning Commission, Councilmembers Carling and Woerner said Stein's vast experience and perspective would be valuable.

At the April 26th City Council meeting, Councilmembers initially voiced concerns about remarks by Commissioner Stein during the April 20th meeting, but by the end it had turned into a shark feeding frenzy having smelled blood. They focused on some poorly chosen words by Stein regarding low-income developments in the downtown,

ignoring the positive things Stein said in the same breaths.

Stein raised valid concerns about parking for the Eden Housing project, using his experience living by apartment complexes. He noted how service sector workers, the target for Eden, often drive their service vehicles home, yet this was attacked as classist. He said "I support inclusionary housing" "that should be distributed throughout the city," so it doesn't become segregated, which he unwisely described as a ghetto, but this was attacked as if he was putting low-income housing down despite his saying the opposite. He voiced concerns about the residents' safety during power outages given the project's all-electric systems, meaning loss of elevators and heating in winter, and voiced concern about how Livermore's neighbors were providing far less affordable housing, but this was twisted into him not wanting it here.

He ran straight into "cancel culture". Rather than the councilmembers saying he needs to be educated on more inclusionary language, they spun straight into demanding termination. Stein did what he should, he apologized, but in cancel culture an apology is never enough, and often is used to further attacks, which also happened in the meeting. They explicitly said Stein's intentions didn't matter, only what the listener felt. Imagine if you were solely judged by what listeners thought, not what you meant, despite context to the contrary, and how unfair that is.

I believe Commissioner Stein was trying to be inclusionary, and even said so on April 20th, but his poor choice of words is being used to attack and destroy him. These qualities have made him a target and they don't want oversight, they want a rubber stamp, so want him out and replaced with the "right" person. It's amazing how exclusionary people can be when trying to be "inclusive."

It's Not Too Late

Melanie Reed, Livermore

I was very disappointed to see that the Livermore Planning Commission still wants to build the Eden Housing project in the middle of downtown Livermore despite strong opposition from our community.

To be clear, I do not oppose affordable housing in Livermore, and I recognize that there is a need to provide homes for low-income individuals in our community. My opposition is to the proposed location of the Eden Housing project. The housing will dramatically alter the charm and character of our downtown, which is why so many Livermore residents oppose the plan. We need our downtown to have welcoming, tree lined, open space where citizens and visitors can gather. We also need ample parking for businesses and the new housing that is being built. The current plan falls dramatically short here. I encourage our city leaders to uphold the will of their constituents and locate the Eden Housing project on the other side of Railroad Avenue. Give Livermore residents the park and open space that we want downtown. It's not too late to get this right!

What Else Needs to Happen?

Jorge Barrantes, Livermore

I would like to figure out the percentage of military personnel that exist in the police force.

In one respect, it is commendable that former military personnel serve as policy officers, but their training is to fight real war enemies. Their training doesn't come from the police academies, but from military academies.

In war, if you see the enemy, you are aware that you could be heard and so protect yourself as much as possible. But we are not enemies, but common citizens with families and friends and part of the common good. Yes, we commit errors like the one for using counterfeit money that carries a penalty of \$1,000, but

(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 Periodical Postage 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)

destroying a life is a charge to apply to real enemies and not to our heart and soul of the communities we love to live.

All comes to this percentage that we have become to ignore. What else needs to happen?

The Truth Will Come Out Russ Greenlaw, Livermore

Just as stopped clocks are correct twice each day, so the agenda-driven media is sometimes accidentally correct on environmental 'reporting.'

The local daily has repeatedly alarmed the public with stories of an imminent three-foot rise in sea levels, despite the late Dr. Fred Singer publishing in the popular press (2018) that the long-term sea level rise is but 7.1 inches per century. The local daily accidentally admitted same in an editorial a few weeks ago, but has since reverted to type with an unsupportable alarmist prediction of 6.9 feet within 80 years - 14 times the actual rate.

On wildfires, it takes big fuel to have big fires, and the daily has consistently ignored fuel loads as causing intense forest fires, blaming instead the roughly one degree Celsius of warming over a century. But in an article on Big Basin Redwoods park, the daily accidentally acknowledged that an adjoining, private parcel, which had been thinned, suffered a less intense fire than the overgrown park. They note also that our governor has included fuel reduction in a fire-prevention plan (finally removing his head from the sand).

In the end, truth does sometimes come out.

It's Just Good Planning Johnna Thompson, Livermore

It should be clearly understood that those of us opposing the Eden Housing development on the former Lucky Store site are not in opposition to low-income housing; rather, we are in opposition to putting ANY housing in the central downtown core, which should be a community park.

If the low-income housing complex were located just one block north of the central downtown site, there could be MORE affordable housing units, MORE parking, and a more open, inviting downtown with a central gathering place for the whole city.

Asking to move the affordable housing complex does not equate to opposing affordable housing. The desire for a downtown park should not be misrepresented as elitist NIMBYism. It isn't. It's just good planning.

In like manner, planning commissioner John Stein is being pilloried for comments he made at last week's planning commission meeting, in which he explained that he favored integrating affordable housing units into mixed housing developments rather than segregating them. He said that he had grown up near such segregated housing developments in Los Angeles, which he appropriately termed ghettos. A handful of listeners interpreted Mr. Stein's use of the word ghetto as a pejorative, and, in high dudgeon, have complained to the city council,

which seems to be happy to use their grievance as an excuse to remove Mr. Stein from the planning commission. Is it only coincidence that they want to remove the only planning commissioner who voted not to approve the Eden Housing plan as it was presented to the planning commission? Mr. Stein was rightly concerned about the inadequate parking provisions of the Eden development, which was the basis for his vote not to approve. It looks to me as though the council wants only yes men (and they are all men!) on the planning commission; no independent thinkers.

Enough is Enough Part 2 Lee Edwards, Livermore

Last week, I listed just a few names of minorities that were killed or murdered since 2021 began.

I purposefully left out the fact that these persons were all law enforcement officers who have died while protecting us. Omitting facts is a typical progressive way of influencing the

reader to think only one way.

I wonder how many of those that read my short letter jumped to the conclusion those listed were killed by police.

The point of all this is to try to get everyone to look deeper into the "truths" that all sides feed you. Emotional, knee jerk reactions may just prove to be wrong.

Don't let the ignorant mob ruin our country.

Time for the Mayor to Step Up Susan Putnam, Livermore

In 2019, Bob Woerner campaigned for mayor with the promise of a win-win situation for the Downtown plan, transferring the Eden Housing project across RR Ave., and creating open space for Downtown Livermore. That promise has been broken by the Mayor, and intensified by his unwillingness to govern in accordance with the views of residents, who overwhelmingly oppose the massive 4-story building he now backs. Downtown is one of the

most beloved places in Livermore. Mayor Woerner should lead the charge to preserve this space for the people and future of Livermore.

A Vibrant, Commerical Downtown Tom Ramos, Livermore

I feel a need to express my disappointment that city officials appear to ignore many Livermore citizens who have a deep concern that those city officials would build an apartment complex smack in the middle of what we would hope can be a

vibrant commercial downtown.

We Can End the COVID War Antoinette Foxworthy, Livermore

We've been battling this pandemic for over a year.

More than 567,000 Americans are dead from this COVID War. That's more than the total U.S. deaths from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined. We've only been fighting COVID-19 for 14 months. The wars listed above are conflicts lasting more than

(See MAILBOX, page 10)

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"I'll find a buyer for your home and a home for you to buy"

Last week, the Planning Commission ignored the 70% of speakers opposing the Eden Housing project.

They  also ignored the law.

The flawed Eden Housing plan violates development standards in Livermore's Downtown Specific Plan. The Planning Commission could not legally approve the project as it is currently proposed.

-  **The Eden plan exceeds maximum density limits and violates at least five development standards.** The current plan does not meet density requirements, and violates setback, massing and design standards, and at least two separate parking standards.
-  **Eden must request relief from the density maximum.** State law allows density increases for affordable housing projects, but Eden has not requested more density, and the current density exceeds limits in the Specific Plan.
-  **Only four "density bonus incentives" are allowed.** Under current law, the city is allowed to give the Eden project up to four incentives to allow it to avoid city development standards. But Eden's project needs more than four incentives.
-  **The Planning Commission could not legally approve the Eden Housing plan as proposed.** The city council cannot legally approve the project as currently designed. The Planning Commission ignored both the will of the voters and the law when it recommended approval by the City Council.


Save Livermore
Downtown!

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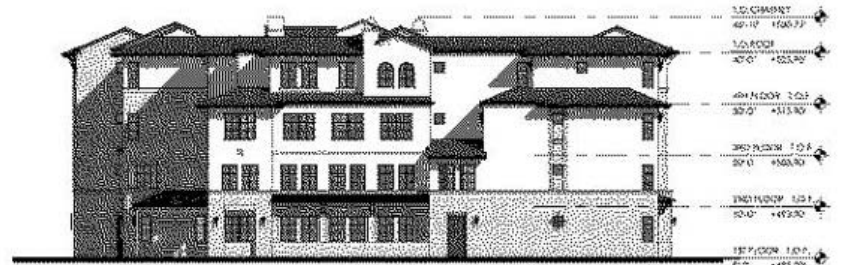
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EDEN

(Continued from first page)



NORTH ELEVATION - RAILROAD AVE. ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION - EVA ELEVATION

The above graphic displays one of the two Eden Housing buildings proposed to run from L Street to the extension of K Street on Railroad Avenue. (Photo - City of Livermore)

room rental apartments for people with incomes that are 20% to 60% of the Alameda County median income, in other words, those with low income, very low income or experiencing homelessness.

An area between the two Eden buildings would be dedicated to the city as a park. Two private underground garages would provide 117 on-site underground spaces for parking. The city's public L Street garage would accommodate 16 stalls for the private use of Eden Housing residents.

Planning Commission Chairman Jacob Anderson said the project — which he called a very beautiful building with great amenities — will provide housing for teachers, emergency medical technicians and those in downtown service jobs.

"We're talking about people that live in our community — a teacher, a family of three, a single parent with two kids," Anderson said. "Every single service worker downtown would qualify for this housing. These are the people who serve you food. They are the people who teach your kids. They are the people who pick you up in ambulances ... This is not a homeless shelter."

While Anderson, along with Commissioners Steve Dunbar, Evan Branning and Daniel Leary voted in favor of the project, Stein voted against the plan after voicing concern that the project did not have enough available parking. He further stated that there could be challenges associated with placing an affordable housing complex in this downtown location.

"My major concern was the limited parking," Stein wrote in an email to The Independent after the meeting. "The developer proposed not meeting the city's standard for number of parking stalls, 100% compact stalls and using a portion of the L Street parking structure to meet the requirements. There is no backup plan if the developer's parking need estimates are too low. It does not fail safe. I believe this sets a poor precedent with approximately 3,000 more residential units still zoned in the Downtown Redevelopment Area. The community has expressed a strong preference for adequate downtown parking. Having worked for over three decades to create a vibrant downtown, I would not like to see it negatively impacted by limited parking and associated traffic congestion. Overall, this is a reasonable project. Eden housing has a good record both in the Bay Area and Livermore. The architecture and landscaping are attractive. There is a need for a broad range of housing types in Livermore, particularly housing affordable to low-income families."

During the meeting, Stein also pointed out an issue with the trees that cover the buildings.

"Some of the trees close

to the building(s) (according to staff) are going to spread out more than 60 feet, but I don't think that will happen if they're within 10 feet of the building. So perhaps you could look to more colander trees for the ones that (are) planted close to the building," he said. "I think you need to look more carefully at the large trees next to the building."

Stepped in controversy, the plan was addressed by 157 speakers from the public, with about 30% favoring the plan and 70% opposed. Their opinions on the housing project and its impact on the city were read by a clerk for three hours.

Those in favor of the current plan argued that affordable housing in the community is urgently needed and should not be postponed any longer. Supporters said the additional residents in the core area would support the downtown businesses. They further expressed concerns that a delay in developing the site could result in a loss of the Alameda County A1 funds.

Those against the project asked for the city to consider an alternative location, stating that more affordable housing units can be provided across Railroad Avenue. They added that the vacated space would leave room for a community park. In addition, they pointed out that the current plan violates city law.

The planning commission functions in various capacities when making recommendations to the city council. Most commonly, its roles are legislative (establishing or amending laws) or quasi-judicial (determining whether a project conforms to the standards of those laws). In this case, the Eden Housing project fell into the quasi-judicial category.

In short, Eden was seeking the planning commission's recommendation to the city council that its design conforms to the Downtown Specific Plan's standards and that a vesting tentative parcel map should be approved.

Ruth Gasten, the spokesperson for Save Livermore Downtown (SLD), explained in the comments from her group that the project violates several development standards in the Downtown Specific Plan and other city documents. She said that the commission could not legally approve the project as currently proposed. She noted that SLD has received legal advice from Latham & Watkins, a law firm that practices land-use law.

Gasten's statement concluded that the current Eden plan does not satisfy the Specific Plan's density requirements and needed several density bonus incentives to obtain relief from parking, setbacks, massing and design standards.

Her comments initially addressed why the project does not meet the city's density requirements. They noted that when the extra

0.5-acre area of adjacent street frontage is included in the site acreage of the Eden project, the city calculates the gross acreage of the site to be 2.5 acres. The 130 units then yield a density of 52 units per acre, which is allowed under the Specific Plan. However, Eden and the city proposed that an estimated 31,200-square-foot parcel between the two buildings be dedicated to the city and turned into a public park. A public park dedicated to the city is not a residential use. Therefore, under current city law this estimated .72-acre parcel must be excluded from the gross acreage. Removing the park area means that the project does not meet the city's density requirements. Eden would need to revise its density bonus exemption request to ask for relief from the normal density rules.

Gasten's statement then turns to the density bonus incentives that they believe are needed. "Because the Eden project is a 100% affordable housing project, the city can provide Eden with up to four incentives as part of Eden's density bonus request. The current project needs even more than four incentives to proceed."

The statement lists five incentives that Gasten's group believes are necessary, beginning with parking. The city's staff report argues that the project seeks one incentive related to parking, but SLD claims that the project really needs two. The group says that the city cannot combine the parking-related requests into one incentive. Each request for a parking-related incentive should be treated separately, not collectively. Reduction in a compact parking space (from 18 to 16 feet) counts as one. Reduction in a standard parking space width for 100% of the spaces (from 8.5 to 8.0 feet) requires a second incentive under the density bonus law. To review city legislation on parking, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_Parking1 and http://bit.ly/Indy_Parking2.

Gasten's group then points out that failure to meet setback requirements triggers the need for a third density bonus incentive. According to Section 5.1.B. of the Specific Plan, the maximum street frontage setback is 20 feet. To review the Specific Plan, visit http://bit.ly/Indy_SpecificPlan. The frontage along Railroad Avenue has two areas in the plan that exceed the 20 foot setback. On page 70 of the city's staff report for Eden Housing, the plans show that the north building's setback of 24'11" and 35'6.5" in segments along Railroad Avenue exceed the maximum allowed setbacks.

Staff only mentioned orally and in the report that Eden meets the minimum setbacks. They did not address the maximum setbacks.

On the topic of massing, the Specific Plan allows the four stories, so long as the "fourth floor does not extend

for more than 60% of the site frontage along L Street, Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Avenue." The city staff report said both buildings will "occupy approximately 33% of the catalyst project site frontage along L Street, Railroad Avenue and South Livermore Avenue when taken as a whole." However, Gasten's statement noted that the city is misapplying the standard, as the project does not front on Livermore Avenue.

She commented that all that is important here is the frontage on Railroad and L Street, and the fact that the fourth floor extends more than 60% of the total site frontage on those portions of the site along Railroad Avenue and L Street, as well as Railroad Avenue alone. Gasten continued, "Eden does not meet this standard and needs a fourth density bonus incentive to be able to move forward with the project."

Gasten also mentions in her statement that Eden's architecture violates a design standard specified in the Downtown Specific Plan, one that would require a fifth incentive.

Standards for overall building massing (chapter 6, page 130 of http://bit.ly/Indy_Massing) mandate that multi-family buildings "convey a sense of home and give individuality to each unit that lies within it" and avoid a monotonous or overscaled massing. According to Gasten's comments, Eden's design does not make clear that there are individual units; the design is monotonous. Just to the west of the project across L Street, the Legacy Apartments on the Groth Bros. site incorporate balconies and porches that provide architectural relief. Eden's plan does not do so. As a result, the Eden project does not meet the required design standard in the Specific Plan, according to the community group.

In the opinion of Gasten's citizens' group, the failure of Eden to ask for relief from the Specific Plan's maximum density requirements and the need for five bonus density incentives means that Eden's project could not be approved by the planning commission.

In addition to the legal issues raised by citizens, others denounced the city as having lost its direction and predicted the high-density project would destroy the downtown's character.

Supporters, meanwhile,

called the project "desperately needed" — one that would create diversity, build housing for a local workforce, provide construction jobs for local union members and develop affordable housing for teachers, rookie police officers and other lower income residents. Proponents suggested the apartments will provide homes for what are actually middle income people whose salaries are considered "low income" in the Bay Area and who cannot afford the region's housing costs.

Although the project is supported by several Livermore and Bay Area anti-poverty and environmental organizations, including the Livermore Housing Authority, East Bay Housing Organizations, the Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative and Greenbelt Alliance, it also faces stiff opposition from community groups. Throughout the meeting, commenters found fault with the tall, block-long buildings and parking.

"We do not want to look like Dublin or like Pleasanton with their high rises everywhere," Gretchen Ruth-erford said of neighboring cities. "The Eden project needs to be taken out of this area and moved to another location."

Many of those suggested an alternative plan proposed by SLD that would put a park on the Lucky site and move the residential buildings to seven parcels north of Railroad Avenue between L Street and Livermore Avenue. Doing that, the group said, would allow for its expansion from 130 to 230 units and create adequate parking.

Speakers agreed that affordable housing is needed in Livermore, but they disagreed on where it should be located and how tall it should be.

Andrew Barker supported the plan. "Our community has a desperate need for housing at all income levels, especially the below market rate levels proposed in this project," Barker wrote in his comments to the commission. "Livermore's character is in danger of complete transformation into an insular community for only the rich and the old, and this project will help preserve its character as an inclusive and welcoming community."

Dawn Argula, CEO and president of the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, said Livermore was fortunate to have Eden

Housing working on the project, which she said would provide economic impacts, including construction, management and maintenance jobs. Investing in housing, she said, is "critical to Livermore's long-term success and economic competitiveness."

"While communities across the nation recover from the highest unemployment rates in decades, job growth will keep our community afloat and allow it to flourish," Argula said. "Reduced housing costs gives residents more disposable income to spend at local businesses ... Investing in housing is critical to Livermore."

Several union workers encouraged the project, saying it would provide jobs and apprenticeships for the construction community.

Downtown resident Eric Dillie called Eden Housing a mistake.

"Everyone seems to understand this except the mayor and council," he said. "Approving construction in the proposed location will be one of the largest political blunders in Livermore history. It's time to problem solve the situation, be bold, and do whatever it takes to relocate the Eden Housing project."

City staff weighed in as well. They said the development will jibe with Livermore's plans to provide housing for its workforce and help aid with state requirements to provide affordable residences for lower income earners.

According to a city staff report, residents whose salary ranges will meet the median include police department assistants, school district receptionists, emergency medical technicians, and retail and restaurant employees working in the downtown.

The project also will include rooftop solar panels that will provide enough electricity to handle the energy consumption in common areas, including hallways, lobbies and garages. The staff report adds that the units will be all electric, and garages will include five electric vehicle charging stations.

According to Planning Commissioner Evan Branning, the project appears to meet the city's design guidelines.

"It looks very nice in my opinion," Branning said. "I'm very excited about the open space that will be going with it."

MERGER

(Continued from first page)

come members of VCCF. But that membership was set to expire after five years, technically last May 2020.

"That's what we all voted on when we voted for the affiliation," Sensiba said. "But people kind of forgot about it."

He noted that the VCCF board decided to extend the memberships to June of this year, because they wanted complete transparency and to give members the chance to vote on the merger.

VCCF distributed information to its members and will hire an independent firm to manage the voting process. The deadline to return ballots is set for mid-June.

Rick Shumway, SHC - VC president and CEO, said the merger will add resources to the community.

"The Medical Center Development team at Stanford is exceptionally robust," Shumway said. "We're going to bring additional support and resources into our community around philanthropic and development activities for the hospital. So, in support of all the clinical programs and research and education that we are building and developing here, we will have access to the Stanford Medical Center Development team's resources and capabilities in a different way than we have in the past. That's not to say

that ValleyCare Charitable Foundation hasn't done an exceptional job at continuing to support the hospital, but it will be an added benefit to have those resources that don't exist here now."

With the merger, VCCF's fundraising mission will transition to the Stanford University Office of Medical Center Development (MCD). A specific team will be dedicated to SHC - VC fundraising efforts. The staff at MCD includes a team of fundraising professionals dedicated to managing donor events, communications and stewardship, research, operations, and other functions critical to supporting a fundraising program.

SHC - VC will receive the funds currently held by VCCF, and VCCF will no longer exist as a separate entity. Most importantly, all funds, endowed or expendable, will be transferred and stewarded according to the donor's original intent. Future funds will be managed in compliance with Stanford University's current funds accounting policies.

Sensiba continued to note that when the two boards voted to merge, the approval came with stipulations "that any money that came from the VCCF to the hospital as a result of the transaction would be exclusively used for efforts in the Tri-Valley region."

SHC - VC will also create a new advisory group called the Community Advisory and Relations Board (CARB), consisting of 10 to 20 members who will be identified from within the community. The primary role of this new SHC - VC advisory board will be to provide input in meeting the community's needs and expectations. CARB members will participate when feasible in the planning, execution and evaluation of SHC - VC's community strategy.

Bob and Joyce Shapiro, who have managed VCCF, will take on a new role following the merger. Bob said that he and his wife

are working with Shumway at present to help shape CARB. However, the advisory group's members have yet to be determined.

VCCF will host three Zoom/online/virtual town halls with VCCF and SHC - VC leadership to answer questions. The one-hour virtual town halls on Tuesday, May 4, at 3:00 pm; Friday, May 7, at 8:30 am; or Tuesday, May 11, at 4:30 pm. Denise Bouillere, Senior Director, Government & Community Relations can be reached at 925-373-4020 or dbouille@stanfordhealthcare.org.

For more information, visit givevalleycare.org/merger.

DISMISSAL

(Continued from first page)

sioner, it's my role to treat the public with respect, compassion and be willing to meet their expectations. Again, I apologize if I have not done that," Stein said. "I was accused of making remarks that were disrespectful to service workers and low-income people. That was not my intent."

He then provided his background on growing up in a one-bedroom apartment with immigrant parents, along with his work history in the service industry.

"Overall, I think to some extent, I was misinterpreted," he continued. "I do support inclusionary housing. I think it's best if affordable housing at all levels could be incorporated into the community, rather than concentrated at a single location. I have worked with Eden Housing for over 30 years and respect their ability to provide affordable housing. The sole reason for my negative vote was that I felt parking was inadequate."

Vice Mayor Trish Munro thanked Stein for his apology before addressing three points from the planning commission meeting.

"(Stein) talked about Livermore as, quote, 'The center of homelessness in the Valley.' He went on to say that

this history — of how exclusion was baked into our built environment — and being prepared to combat it," Minot said. "It's not just enough to be racially neutral. We have to combat this legacy. We know the word that was used is a racially loaded word. It conjures up centuries of injustice that continue to be highly relevant today."

Resident speaker Ally Felker voiced the opinion that Stein's comments were inappropriate and agreed that the use of the word "ghetto" stigmatized low-income individuals. Another speaker, Ian Carlin, said that while he understood Stein was sorry, the commissioner did not appear to understand the "fullness" of how he spoke at the planning commission meeting.

"If he does not have the time or effort to think about how these words that he's using could offend people, how can we trust him to represent us on the planning commission?" Carlin said.

Speaker Veronica Stewart-Long, however, weighed in with a different perspective.

"The first thing (Stein) said was that he supports inclusionary housing. That was his first statement," she said, adding that Stein had wanted to see the affordable housing

not ever blame the listener for misunderstanding their intent."

Mayor Bob Woerner agreed that the apology was lacking, saying that Stein's language was way past "in-temperate."

Councilmember Robert Carling then directly called for Stein's removal during the meeting, saying that he wasn't one to "kick the can down the road."

City Attorney Jason Alcalá addressed the legality of removing Stein at the time. He noted that while the council can dismiss commissioners without cause, the decision would need to be an agenda item for a future meeting.

The council then voted 5-0 to hold a May 3 special meeting to discuss next steps for Stein.

In a continued conversation after the vote, Kiick said she didn't want to go down the path of getting rid of people because they've made a mistake. She wanted to discuss what accountability means to the council, along with other city norms and values at a future time. She called for the council to consider establishing a policy for letting people go.

"I don't want to start a

"The shame of the ghetto, the shame of the slum, is not on those who live in them, but on those who create them."

he did not want Livermore to become the, quote, 'Go-to place in the Valley for affordable housing.' And finally, he used the word 'ghetto' to refer to the proposed Eden development," Munro said.

Munro went on to say that caring for people who have little, or nothing, is both a pragmatic and moral imperative. She said that words like "slum" or "ghetto" stigmatize people who live in poor neighborhoods that exist due to "redlining practices, predatory real estate practices, discriminatory bank loans, and poorly maintained rental properties."

"During World War II, the Nazis confined Jews to 'ghettos' prior to removing them to the death camps ... And in the U.S., we at local, state and federal levels carved out areas of our large cities where poor people lived. And by the mid-20th century, the ghetto was the place where we warehoused Black people," she continued. "The shame of the ghetto, the shame of the slum, is not on those who live in them, but on those who create them."

Councilmember Gina Bonanno acknowledged that everyone is capable of saying hurtful things. However, she said she was troubled by Stein's comparison of the Eden Housing plan to notorious public housing projects like Cabrini-Green, which aimed to segregate, not lift people up.

During public comment on the item, three of the four speakers further expressed dismay over Stein's language. John Minot of East Bay for Everyone, based in Oakland, pointed out the long history of racially disparate urban planning.

"Part of being in city planning today is being aware of

HOUSING

(Continued from first page)

The five-story building would include retail space and parking, along with the construction of at least 2,200 square feet of a ground floor café or similar use. BRIDGE Housing would also provide plaza enhancements to improve pedestrian access to the connection of the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station.

According to the staff report, the architectural design for the project includes a variety of contemporary building materials, including cementitious panels, metal panels, awnings and railings, brick, veneer and stucco. The design would also feature varying vertical parapet heights and upper-level balconies.

During a December 2020 presentation, BRIDGE initially showcased a 77-unit development that was part of a larger multi-phase project at the Golden Gate Drive location. Eden Housing,

distributed throughout the city. "He stepped back from the city planning and took a regional view and mentioned something that I've heard since I was young, growing up here in Livermore. And that's that Livermore does more than other towns around us ... he wanted to make sure that this housing that we're seeing is for our workforce — that there's some way for Livermore residents to get preference for this housing."

Jim Hutchin's written comment, which was included in the agenda materials with the item, also suggested Stein's words were taken out of context. He believed that Stein saw the issue as segregating the low-income units, instead of dispersing them throughout town.

"In fact, he was promoting the integration of low income units into the market rate projects to explicitly prevent the negative aspects," Hutchins wrote.

He also called the attempt to remove Stein a component of "cancel culture."

"Silencing an opposing viewpoint merely demonstrates a fear of debating it," he concluded.

Later referencing Stein's apology, Councilmember Brittini Kiick spoke to the difference between intent and impact.

"Intent matters, we know, but impact matters more," she said. "What I heard in the apology was 'I'm sorry that you misunderstood my comments.' And I don't think that was really taking account for the action that was said. The impact of those words was very strong ... the impact we make with our words is far stronger than the intent that's behind them. The apology needs to come for the impact, and the apology should

situation where somebody on a commission does something that we don't agree with, or think is inappropriate, and then start removing people without cause," she said. "I know that we can remove people without cause. I just don't know that we should constantly just remove people without cause, which is why I want the cause to be part of the conversation. And I think policy is important, so if having policy be a part of that conversation is something that we can do, great. I get that it's very, very short notice for staff to give us a policy."

She said that Stein's comments went against the city values, but she wanted to protect the council in the future from accusations that "we just remove people that we disagree with."

Munro agreed that she would be more comfortable if there were a policy in place to apply to Stein's actions.

Woerner said the council needed to ask staff if the request was even feasible. Alcalá interjected to say it's very challenging to create a policy, and then apply it retroactively.

"Right now, the baseline is, the planning commissioners serve at the will of the city council," Alcalá said. "If you create a new policy, you can't apply it retroactively, because that planning commissioner did not know what the expectations were."

Woerner "implored everyone to understand how things work."

"Let's get a grip," he said.

Bonanno added that a policy was not needed, though she understood the reasons the matter was raised. Kiick and Munro agreed to move forward. Kiick stated that she would like to talk about the concept of a policy in the future.

another nonprofit developer, also presented an idea for a 21-unit project proposed by Eden Housing at 7922 Dublin Boulevard. At the time, the city council had directed staff to continue to work with BRIDGE Housing on refinements to its proposal, while exploring potential opportunities to provide funding to both projects. Since then, Eden Housing has withdrawn its proposal.

BRIDGE's application still needs to go before the planning commission. A community benefit agreement will be presented to the city council after the planning commission completes its review.

Councilmember Michael McCorriston said he was impressed with the developer's market focus.

"I think (the project) will be very beneficial to the

Art Association Hosts Mother's Day Event

The Livermore Art Association Gallery will hold a Mother's Day Market a week before Mother's Day on May 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Carnegie Park.

The Gallery is a co-op of artists covering many media, including 2D, 3D and jewelry art. They sell unique paintings, prints using quilled paper or pressed flowers, one-of-a-kind pottery, glassware, jewelry, and scarves. There is also a large variety of notecards and tote bags.

SUNWALKER

(Continued from first page)



The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to continue the appeals hearing for the Sunwalker Energy solar project to June 3. The land seen here near the project site (4871 N. Livermore Ave.) could possibly become home to 59 acres of photovoltaic panels. (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

After hearing the appellants' objections to the project and the public comments, the supervisors expressed their own concerns around the lack of a county solar policy, the project's agricultural management plan and the Williamson Act. At present, the applicant's agreement with the landowner is that the Williamson Act must continue to apply to the property.

"I would prefer to have the policy in place before we considered anything else," Chan said.

The board recently approved the even larger Aramis Solar Energy Generation and Storage project on March 4, 2021. That project will now cover over 300 acres in North Livermore along Cayetano Creek with solar panels and 5 acres with battery and facility storage.

Chan asked staff how long it would take to develop a solar policy, and County Planning Director Albert Lopez reported the time period to be 9 months to a year. Chan then turned to the Sunwalker applicant Kevin White.

"We're in a really difficult position here, because we're approving things on a one-by-one basis without a clear policy — that puts us in a terrible position," Chan said, asking if a delay would kill the project.

White pointed out that the project began in 2016 and already went through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

"It's been a long time coming, and our application was submitted prior to the Aramis project, but somehow, somehow, the Aramis project was approved by your board," he said. "At the end of 2022, the solar investment tax credit from the federal government will drop from its current rate — 26%, I believe — to a lower rate. It does put the project in jeopardy."

Haubert said that the Aramis project had a more robust agricultural manage-

ment plan, with plans for animal grazing and beekeeping.

Before the vote, four individuals spoke in favor of the project, noting the importance of supporting green energy generation and creating local union jobs. The other 12 of the 16 public speakers weighed in to oppose the project, citing the impact to the site's habitat of federally listed species, the county's lack of a solar policy plan and groundwater contamination as some of the concerns,

among others.

Speaker and Livermore resident Jean King said the EIR was not adequate.

"I'm not a lawyer, but if new information has been sent to you about water contamination and environmental concerns, have you violated CEQA?" King said. "This project should not be before the supervisors without a solar policy. You do not have a solar policy that has gone through the proper public process ... a staff draft policy is not sufficient."

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVERMORE RESIDENTS: Share your talents with the community by volunteering on one of the City of Livermore's advisory bodies. We are accepting applications now through Friday, May 7, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Beautification Committee (1 Vacancy)

Join us in working to preserve the natural beauty and habitat of Livermore.

Next Meeting: May 5th - Virtual

Historic Preservation Commission (2 Vacancies)

Join us in identifying, protecting, and preserving Livermore's historic resources. The Commission's successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks.

Next Meeting: May 6th - Virtual

Housing Authority (1 Tenant Vacancy)

Join us in administering and overseeing low-income housing units and the Section Eight Voucher Program for subsidized housing.

Human Services Commission (1 Vacancy)

Join us in discussing community social needs, assisting local agencies in procuring grant funds, and more.

Library Board of Trustees (2 Vacancies)

Join us in helping to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs the Library provides and recommend policy modifications to City Council.

Youth Advisory Commission (Youth & Adult Vacancies Available)

Join the commission in bringing together young people and adults, and private and public sectors of the community, to address responsibility for the care, health, safety, welfare, and education of Livermore's young people.

Next meeting: May 1st - Virtual

SAVE THE DATE! Interviews will be tentatively held the evening of May 13, 2021. For more information or to apply, please visit www.cityoflivermore.net/AB, call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200, or email: cityclerk@cityoflivermore.net. Must attend at least one meeting of the advisory body applying before submission of an application.

city," he said.

For more information, visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

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Las Positas Hawks Take Flight on Field Despite Short Season



Las Positas' Hailey Hahlbeck takes possession of the ball. (Photo - Alan Lewis)

Wrestler Racks Up Accolades As Season Draws to a Close

Granada High School's Carter Bailey traveled out to Virginia Beach this week to compete in the NHSCA National Championship.

The NHSCA tournament is split into four divisions: freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Bailey competed in the senior division, at 126 lbs. Bailey is currently the 15th ranked wrestler in the nation at that weight, and is currently ranked as the #2 wrestler in the State of California at that weight.

Bailey won four straight matches to make the finals, where he faced the 14th ranked wrestler in the nation, Nic Provo (Connecticut) in his finals match. Both wrestlers battled in a tight match that was tied 1-1 late into the final period. Provo was able to pierce through Bailey's defense with just three seconds left in the match, to earn the 3-1

win. Bailey came away as a national runner-up, and he earned All-American status for the fourth time this year.

This tournament was Bailey's final individual tournament of his high school career. The State of California will not be holding a state tournament this year, as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions in the state. In June, Bailey will be competing for Team California in the National Dual Meet Championships, held in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After graduating high school, Bailey will be wrestling for the prestigious Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Although the SAT is not a requirement for admission this year, Bailey scored a 1440 on the test. He has also been selected as a finalist for this year's Livermore-Granada Olympian Scholarship Award.

Lucky California Donates to Pleasanton Unified Schools

Save Mart Supermarkets, which operates the Lucky California grocery chain, has announced several new Tri-Valley partnerships in the lead-up to the opening of its remodeled flagship store in Pleasanton.

The Lucky store on Las Positas Boulevard has designated the nearby Donlon Elementary School for the company's Adopt-A-School program.

Donlon Elementary will receive \$1,000, along with year-round support from Lucky that includes teacher treats, donated books for National Reading Day, and store tours.

Each of Pleasanton's three middle schools — Pleasanton, Thomas Hart, and Harvest Park -- will also receive \$1,000 for their after-school programs, while Amador Valley and Foothill High School will each receive \$1,000 to support their marching band and dance teams. Each of the high schools will also receive \$1,500 in Lucky California gift cards to help stock food pantries and support their culinary arts programs.

Lucky California will also donate \$1,000 to the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) to pro-

mote the arts in Pleasanton schools. The PCAC provides art class grants to Pleasanton schools and coordinates a yearly multicultural event in conjunction with the city.

The grocery chain has earmarked another \$3,000 to support the Alameda County 4-H livestock auction and \$1,000 for a new 4-H summer day camp cooking program.

Lastly, Lucky California is making a \$1,000 donation to the Alameda County Food Bank and is partnering with its Children's Food Program-Summer food distribution. Lucky California will donate bags for the summer program along with \$20,000 of shelf-stable food.

Lucky California has not announced a reopening date for its Pleasanton store.

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By Matt Schwab

The Las Positas College women's soccer team got a lot out of an abbreviated season.

As one of the state's few teams competing during Spring 1, the Hawks allowed just one goal en route to a 4-1 record. Head coach Andy Cumbo was thrilled with how the defending Coast Conference-North Division champs executed on the field during a complicated time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The team did great," Cumbo said. "It was a lot of new players compared to 2019, but the strength of the team was their overall fitness level, their morale and just their fight, their competitiveness."

Center backs Hailey Hahlbeck, a Granada graduate, and Makenna Diaz of Tracy were standouts along with midfielder Isabel Mello of Livermore, who played virtually every minute of the season. Ashley Arno of California High was another impact player. A talented competitor and team captain, Hahlbeck epitomized the Hawks' drive on the field.

"She is super athletic,"

Cumbo said. "She's a very good soccer player, and her strength is her ability to break up plays. She reads the game well and, physically, she's tough as nails."

The Hawks split 1-0 games against City College of San Francisco and also bested Cabrillo twice and West Valley once by 1-0 scores.

"It was a very short season, but we were all so happy to still be able to have any games at all," Hahlbeck said. "Personally, I had taken some time off beforehand, so to get back out there on the field was so much fun."

Hahlbeck agreed that the intensity was heightened in the first game, which was a 1-0 win over Cabrillo on March 11, because the Hawks didn't have much time together in practice.

"I think we were all eager to win," she said.

Of her heady field presence, Hahlbeck had to rely on reading the game growing up in club soccer because she wasn't always being the fastest player.

"Reading the game is important and helps a lot, for sure," she said.

Las Positas freshman goalkeeper Kennessey Ir-

vin, a Castro Valley High graduate, was great this spring, according to Cumbo, who noted how she came up big in a dramatic 1-0 win at City College of San Francisco in the season finale. Mello, a holding midfielder, was also good at breaking up plays by the opponent and creating chances on the attack.

The Las Positas men's team only played one regulation game due to COVID-19 protocol and procedures, but the Hawks were a polished group.

"We've got a strong men's team, and they were fortunate that in the limited time they did play, it was a positive experience," Cumbo said.

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Friday, April 23, the Granada girls' Lacrosse team hosted cross-town rival, the Livermore Cowboys. Seen here, Granada's Autumn Johnson and Livermore's Marissa Gonzales fight for the ball. Granada won 15-10 (Photo - Doug Jorgensen)

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TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now Until Saturday, May 8
Livermore Valley Opera Presents "Triple Treat 2021"

Livermore Valley Opera will again offer an operatic treat with a series of free online concerts on LVOpera Channel on YouTube. "Triple Treat 2021" features professional opera singers performing in three concerts premiering March 13, April 10, and May 8. All concerts begin at 6 p.m. and accompanied by LVO Music Director Alexander Katsman. English subtitles provided. Following each premiere, the concerts will be available on-demand on the LVOpera Channel so you can watch each any time. Though the Triple Treat virtual opera concerts are free, donations are always welcome. For more information, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Now to Thursday, May 13
Shaping Tomorrow's Visionaries

This art-infused multimedia adventure for students 13 and older will inspire them to examine and appreciate issues surrounding diversity, community, humanity, and the environment, and develop their own roadmap and action plan for the future. The curriculum was developed by artist Nova Staring, Instructor Anne Giancola, Visual Arts Manager. To register, visit <https://sforce.co/3uFdkNR>.

Now Until Wednesday, May 19
Coffee Hour for Seniors

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

Now to Saturday, May 22
Drawing Nature with Pen and Ink

Using pen and ink, discover the pleasure of rendering objects from nature, learn techniques and employ your unique way of seeing. This will be a virtual class with Instructor Nancy Saltsman. To register, visit <https://sforce.co/3p-YuIPD>.

Now Until Friday, July 23
Art History in Action

A creative and varied monthly curriculum introduces some of art's major periods, artworks and architecture, as well as the impact of different cultures, theories, materials, processes, techniques and audiences. The instructor will be Thomasin Dewhurst. There are multiple class dates. For more information or to register, visit <https://sforce.co/3ktrnKY>.

Wednesday, May 5
Senior Brain Games

Dublin Seniors are invited to a Zoom Activity, "Brain Games," at 10 a.m., at the Dublin Senior Center. Seniors are encouraged to join friends for these fun, online brain-expanding activities. Hosted by the California Game Girls, this event will widen your horizons and expand your social connectivity. Learn skills to improve your memory by using both sides of your brain. These games take minutes to learn, but the benefits will last a lifetime! The event is free to all 50 and better. Register online at www.DublinRecGuide.com; just type "Brain Games" in the search box, or email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov to reserve your spot and to receive meeting information.

Monday, May 10
Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Thomas MacEntee

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will host a free event featuring Thomas MacEntee on Monday, May 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on Zoom. MacEntee, a genealogy professional based in the United States, is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder, and more. He describes himself as a lifelong learner, with a background in a multitude of topics, who has finally figured out what he does best: teach, inspire, instigate, and serve as a curator and go-to-guy for concept nurturing and inspiration. Access the Zoom event at <https://bit.ly/32KQ7NI>. For more information, email program@L-AGS.org.

Thursday, May 13 to Thursday, Aug. 19
Twilight League

Join other Dublin Chamber members for some fresh air, exercise and friendly competition. Chamber Board of Director, Les Jacob, with Select Imaging, is looking for interested golfers to form a team to play in the Twilight Golf League at Dublin Ranch Golf Course on Thursday evenings. Shotgun start goes at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff Hazelwood, director of golf, Dublin Ranch Golf Course.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS

Dublin Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Thursdays, 4 to 8 p.m., at Emerald Glen Community Park, 4201 Central Parkway.

Livermore Downtown Farmers Market Open for the Season

Open Sundays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Second Street between J Street and L Street. Open Thursdays, April 15 to Nov. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., between J Street and K Street.

Pleasanton Farmers Market Open for the Season

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

VIRTUAL ONLINE EVENTS -AVAILABLE ANYTIME

Pacific Chamber Orchestra Offers Musical Podcast

During this time of challenge, PCO continues to bring everyone beautiful music made insightful. Conductor Lawrence Kohl is pleased to announce the launch of a series of podcasts of musician interviews and conversations about the music. Subscribe to listen at www.pacificchamberorchestra.org.

Sunflower Hill Online Activities

Sunflower Hill posts new Online Activity videos created for people with developmental disabilities each week. Our archive includes over 140 free videos on yoga & meditation, movement exercises, cooking activities, scavenger hunts, arts & crafts activities, and more! Visit www.sunflowerhill.org/onlineactivities



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Stanford Blood Center Offers Technology Prizes to Donors

The Stanford Blood Center will offer donors the opportunity to win one of seven digital technology prizes now through May 21.

Anyone who donates blood at a Stanford Blood Center site or mobile drive will be entered in the giveaway. Prizes includes two NVIDIA graphics processing units, two Apple watches, a Sony PlayStation PS5, Google Nest Hub Max, and a Mirror digital workout display with a full-year subscription.

For more information, go to stanfordbloodcenter.org/spring-raffle-2021.

Interfaith Group to Host Monthly Religion Chat

Interfaith Interconnect is inviting the public to their virtual May Religion Chat.

This event will be held on Wednesday, May 12, via Zoom, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. The Zoom room will open at 4:45 p.m. The discussion topic will be, "In what ways, positive and negative, has the pandemic affected your ability to practice your faith?" Any participants who wish to share a brief response (under three minutes) to the topic may do so. Note that organizers will not be recording this event.

Religion Chat is a free, monthly interfaith forum held on the second Wednesday of the month by Interfaith Interconnect. The group's mission statement reads, "To enrich, educate, and inform ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley." In order to accomplish our mission, a variety of events are held each year.

For more information or the Zoom link, email interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

Christine Andrea Williams Fiori 1968 – 2021

Christine A. Fiori resided in Livermore, California, for 44 years.

Christine graduated from Foothill High School in Pleasanton, and continued on to Bryant and Station Business School Walnut Creek.

Thomas M. Fiori predeceased Christine the Beloved Mother of Mary Louise Fiori. Survived by parents, Theodore J. Williams III and Carolyn C. Williams of Tennessee; and sister, Cynthia L. Williams

Metzger (Mark), Connecticut. Christine extended her love to nephew, Andrew Metzger (Olivia), and was Great Aunt to Callie Metzger and niece Alyssa Metzger.

Christine enjoyed local farmer's markets, garage sales, and reading. Her greatest joy was caring for her daughter, Mary. Her smile and personality will be missed.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Fiori family. An online guestbook is



available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Mina Merline Plants April 20, 1939 – April 14, 2021

Merline passed away peacefully at the University of New Mexico, a month after a traffic accident left her working to get back on her feet.

She was the best mother, a loving wife, super grandmother, and a very special friend to many. We all loved her so very much. She is survived by daughters, Jennifer Meyer, Ann Parnigoni, and

Kelly Boulware; son, Thomas Kempf; 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

A viewing will be held at the Daniels Chapel, on Tuesday, April 27, from 4 to 6 p.m. A memorial service will be held at the Latter-Day Saints Chapel, on Wednesday, April 28, at 2807 Cabezon Blvd., Rio Rancho, NM, 87124, at 11 a.m.



Rosalyn Manousos Oct. 19, 1927 – April 4, 2021

Rosalyn Manousos passed away peacefully at 93 years old on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, in Pleasanton, in the home of her daughter Susan and son-in-law Peter Miller, where she resided for the last three years of her life. She was surrounded by her family and friends.

Rosalyn was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. She met her husband, Leo, as a teenager, and they were engaged before he left to serve in the Air Force during WWII. When he was discharged, they boarded a military train headed to California.

Ronnie/Roz (as many called her) was 18 when they arrived in California and ended up settling in Oakland, where they raised 11 children. With one baby on her hip and another in her arms, she managed, giving her time and energy to her family.

She was preceded in death by her husband Leo



and her siblings Eileen and Marshall.

Rosalyn converted to Catholicism when she married her husband at 18. She loved her faith, and it carried her through many trying times. It was a Sunday ritual to dress her children in their finest clothes, most of which she made herself, and walk the three blocks to St. Cyril's church for mass. She enjoyed hosting weekly rosaries with her family and the parties that followed with upwards of 40 people. These, she often said, were the best years of her life.

Rosalyn had a loyal and loving group of friends who stuck together and supported one another come rain or shine. She loved her friends and they loved her. She always had a bottle of Manischewitz wine on her counter and that, along with dancing and singing, baking and cooking, and daily exercise was how she coped.

The family moved to Pleasanton in 1971, and it was here that she raised the second wave of children. She was blessed to have all of her children still with her. She is survived by Jude Lemmo, Steve Manousos, Susan Miller, Joan Jurich, David Manousos, Maryann Petri, Nancy Stone, Carol Edwards, Timothy Manousos, Michelle Stange, Paul Manousos and her 24 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A Rosary and Mass in her honor is scheduled on Thursday, May 6, at 11 a.m., at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA.

Martha Ann Watkins (nee Jacob) Sept. 26, 1934 – April 19, 2021

Martha, a life-long East Bay resident, was born in Oakland and graduated from San



Leandro High School in 1953, where she met her husband Ed.

The couple raised five children in Hayward, Dublin, and Livermore, where Martha spent the past 53 years. An avid animal lover, Martha relished the many years spent on their Livermore acre surrounded by farm animals, including a horse of her own. Martha was universally described as cheerful and loving, and treasured her family, friends, and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by husband, Edward D. "Ed"

Watkins; and son, Harold E. "Hal" Watkins. She is survived by four children, Lisa M. Schulz (Kurt) of Oro Valley, Arizona; Joel A. Watkins (Kimberly) of Livermore; Beth A. Sands (Gerald) of Manteca; and Heather M. Walton (Brooke) of Cypress. She also leaves nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of a funeral service, a private Celebration of Life will be held with family and friends at a future date to be determined.

Carol Lee Hardiman Nov. 1, 1934 – April 19, 2021

Carol Lee Hardiman was born Nov. 1, 1934, in Santa Rosa, California, and passed away peacefully at her home, surrounded by her family, on April 19, 2021.

Carol spent her early years in Santa Rosa, moved to Reno for a brief time, and then settled in the Bay Area, where she attended St. Joseph's School of Nursing in San Francisco. She spent five years as a nurse, working for St. Joseph's in San Francisco and Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek.

In 1957, she married the love of her life, Buster Hardiman. They lived in Danville for 10 years, where they were blessed with six little ones, then together, built their family dream home on Morgan Territory in the foothills of Livermore Valley, with views of the Alameda hills to the east and the Pacific to the west. The family spent many cherished years together here, enjoying the beautiful backyard, sunsets and spending time with friends and loved ones.

Sadly, Buster passed away at the young age of 58, but Carol lovingly took care of their home for the rest of her days, fine tuning her gardens, driving the treacherous Morgan Territory Road in the dark, wind and nasty rain, moving railroad ties by hand and dropping the occasional unwelcome, four-legged intruder with her shotgun when necessary.

Buster and Carol had six children, Charles Kelly Hardiman (Rachel), Charles Christopher Hardiman, Mary Francis Hardiman Johnson (Jeffrey),



Charles Patrick Hardiman (Lory) and Paula Hardiman Mazhar (Sean).

She was preceded in death by Christopher's twin, Lenore Ann Hardiman in 2019. Carol is also mourned by her 10 beautiful grandchildren, Calum Jacobs (Rachel), Shayna Thie (Cody), Kallie Cruz (Esteban), Laurel Hardiman, Robert Hardiman (Alecia), Brooklyn Hardiman, Ben and Jack Mazhar, and Erin and Loren Poindexter McHan.

Carol spent many years volunteering and serving her community. Carol and Christopher were involved with the Rainbows nonprofit program at St. Michael's Church, serving children from broken homes, and for many years, Carol spent her Sunday afternoons after church, providing communion and fellowship to the elderly who were no longer able to attend services.

Carol enjoyed life to the fullest, but nothing was more important than spending time with her family.

Together, they thrived (and seriously competed) on the racquetball and tennis courts

and often at the poker table. Carol also loved watching her kids play sports as competition is the hallmark of the Hardiman family. Her home was the gathering spot - she wasn't really interested in going places - she would much rather have family and friends at her home enjoying music on the piano, shooting pool and laughing until they cried.

She enjoyed gardening and straightening her statues, had a special place for each of her kids on the property and, at the end of the day, nothing was better than sitting in her gorgeous backyard with her rosary and margarita, watching the beautiful sunsets.

As the years passed, life got even sweeter as she was blessed with six great-grandchildren, Marin, Blythe, Maddox, Quinn, Cooper and Wyatt. You could often find Carol sitting in her favorite chair snuggling one of them, smiling from ear to ear.

Due to Covid-19, private funeral services and burial will be held Friday, April 30, at Callaghan Mortuary and St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore. A Celebration of Life will be held for Carol at the family home the following day. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Carol's name to The Wounded Warrior Project or Shepherd's Gate Women's Shelter in Livermore.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Hardiman family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Thomas Edmon Favero Feb. 2, 1934 – Feb. 11, 2021

Tom Favero was born in the small town of Leechburg, Pennsylvania, the second son of Bart and Edna Favero.

After graduating from Leechburg High School in 1952, Tom spent a year at Brown University before he was drafted and served two years in the Army. Upon release from service, he transferred to Arizona State University to pursue his dream job as a P.E. teacher and coach. It was there he met the love of his life, Wendy Bowersock.

After college, Tom and Wendy married and moved to Riverside, California, where they started their family, and Tom began his 36-year career as an educator and coach (football, track, and briefly, baseball). They welcomed son Tom, followed by son Randy and daughter Jennifer. In 1962, they moved to San Luis Obispo, California, where Tom taught at SLO High. Daughter

Melissa completed the family, and in 1968, a job at Granada High School in Livermore took the family further north.

In 1974, Tom left GHS for crosstown rival Livermore High, where he finished his career and retired in 1994. The last football game of his final season as a coach was played in the Oakland Coliseum, where the Livermore Cowboys played in the North Coast Section championship game. During halftime, Tom was honored to receive the NCS 1993 Coach of the Year award.

In retirement, Tom and Wendy moved to their mountain home in Twain Harte, California, where they lived until moving to Brentwood in 2015. As a retiree, Tom played golf (a lot of golf!). He and Wendy also enjoyed playing bridge, eating at their favorite restaurants and spending time in Maui (where Tom loved to play golf!).

Tom was patient and humble, a man of integrity. He didn't just teach P.E. and coach sports; he taught and coached people, young men and women, often making personal connections as a mentor and guide, as someone who cared. Tom was a devoted, loving, and much-loved husband, father and grandfather. One of the greatest pleasures of his life was his grandchildren. He loved attending their sports games and performances and hearing about their travels and experiences.

Tom is reunited in Heaven with daughter, Melissa; parents, Bart and Edna; and brother, Joe. He is survived by his loving wife, Wendy; son, Tom Favero (Cristina); son, Randall Favero; daughter, Jennifer Bernstein (Ken); grandchildren, Lindsay and Cassie Favero and Kevin, Madison, Rebecca and Brett Bernstein.

Jane T. Staehle 1939 – 2021

Jane T. Staehle, 82, died peacefully in her sleep on April 23, 2021, following a series of illnesses.

She had been moved to hospice at home and was surrounded by loved ones at the time of her death. Staehle, who lived in Livermore most of her adult life, was an active force in many communities. She was beloved by a large network of friends and colleagues whose lives she influenced and touched through these activities. She will perhaps be best remembered for her wry and adept wit, her generosity of spirit, and her deep and practical kindness.

Staehle was born Margaret Jane Tener on April 3, 1939, in Columbus, Ohio, to Eva Nixon and Carlton Glen Tener. Her only sibling was a sister, Gladys Elizabeth (Betty) Tener (later Betty T. Welsbacher), 14 years her senior. In addition to her immediate family, Jane spent formative years with aunts and cousins. From an early age, Jane had strong musical skills, a keen artistic and organizational eye, and a high intelligence level. She was in particular a gifted flutist. She received her BA in speech pathology and her MA in English, both from Ohio State University, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

In college, Jane met George Staehle, also of Columbus.



They married in 1960 and, in 1964, moved to Livermore, where Jane remained for the rest of her life. Their daughter, Carolyn, born Dec. 24, 1968, and came home in early 1969. Her mother held her in her lap all the way home.

After her marriage ended in divorce, Jane rejoined the workforce and started her career in the technical information department at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, where she worked as an editor until her retirement. While at the lab, she was widely admired for her managerial skills as well as her work editing various publications and papers written by the lab scientists for technical journals.

Judy Barnett, former head of the department, was Jane's supervisor, but before that "we became close friends." Theirs was one of many lifelong friendships in multiple communities and of all generations that Jane forged and nurtured

throughout her life.

Jane was a committed member of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, where she served as president and in other governance positions, started and directed the choir, and founded the Chalice Circles small groups program.

Jane served as president of and remained active in the League of Women Voters of Livermore Amador Valley. There, she befriended Khabira Hartwig, who became, with husband Chuck Hartwig and their children Johanna and Gunther, close lifelong family friends.

"My kids sometimes called Jane their 'first' mom," said Khabira. "I was their 'second.'"

A gifted and prolific cook, Jane also helped found and run the Open Heart Kitchen in Livermore.

In addition to her daughter, who she described as the "best thing" that ever happened to her, Jane is survived by her niece Annie Welsbacher (Corey Swertfager), nephew Rick Welsbacher, cousins and great-nieces and -nephews, and countless friends within and beyond Livermore. Memorial service plans are pending.

Callaghan Mortuary is honored to be serving the Staehle family. An online guestbook is available for condolences at www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Sharon Kay Herman Dec. 5, 1957 – Jan. 26, 2021

Sharon Herman died peacefully at home on Tuesday, Jan. 26, after battling lung cancer.

Sharon was born in 1957 to Frank and Mary Ann Richardson and spent most of her childhood in Illinois. After graduating from Augustana College and marrying her high school sweetheart, Roy, she worked as an accountant.

She and Roy moved to California in 1989, just after the Loma Prieta earthquake, which was widely considered by their thoroughly Midwestern family to be a bad choice. After becoming a mother, she devoted her time to raising her two children, Julie and Steven.

Sharon was an active community member, volunteering in support of her children's numerous activities, as well as serving on the board of several nonprofits for local arts promotion and children's welfare. She loved music and singing and dancing. She enjoyed her faith community at First Presbyterian Church and was fascinated



with the role of women in the Bible and with the spiritual power of meditation symbols such as prayer labyrinths.

Walking and the outdoors held great healing for her; whether just in the neighborhood or on hiking trails, she always insisted that she needed some sunlight every day. Sharon also treasured the power of simple human connections and held sacred her lunch meet-ups with friends.

Sharon will be remembered for her handwritten letters, her persistence in catching and releasing spiders, and her

uncanny ability to sense when either of her children were contemplating the slightest mischief. Most of all, her kindness and consideration for all people and animals will live on in the hearts of those who loved her most.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Roy; daughter, Julie; son-in-law, Peter Perez-Hernandez; son, Steven; mother, Mary Ann Richardson; two sisters, Sandra (Frank) Bader and Susan (Joseph) Zeinz; and many nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held in Livermore when groups can safely gather. Memories of Sharon can be sent to the following address and should be marked for the family to open or to be kept sealed as a wish for Sharon: 220 S Livermore Ave #501 Livermore CA 94550. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the House Rabbit Society (rabbit.org/donate) or the National Park system (nps.gov/getinvolved/donate.htm).

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 5)

18 years.

Like many of our soldiers who died without loved ones by their sides, people dying of COVID-19 are usually without comfort from their dear ones. As I pause to think of how difficult it must be to die alone, especially when your cherished family is close by, my heart bleeds with dismay. We don't yet know the long-term effects of COVID-19, but we do know of the suffering it has caused millions who have lost loved ones to the deadly virus.

We have the power to slow down and greatly control this COVID War within months by making some minor sacrifices, mostly by getting one or two vaccines. Yet there are those who still refuse to participate in this solution. And, if we don't stop the mutations, one variant may break-through our current vaccinations leaving us all more vulnerable for a much longer period. Instead of walking around unvaccinated and possibly being the next host for a deadly variant, please get vaccinated.

What better way to show patriotism to our country and those who have fought for our freedoms than by ending this COVID War so that others don't die or suffer, and we can all return to enjoying all this great country offers.

Please do your part to end this deadly war.

To Mayor Woerner and City Council Members: Raquel Holt, Livermore

I am sure that you drive to our city center very often, if not every day. During these past months, you must have noticed how bright and spacious the future center park looks. Imagine how greatly lovelier it will be when this park is with trees and plants and Livermore residents, children, and visitors are strolling and having a good time. Please visualize and imagine this beautiful scene. But, sadly, this will go away if the City Council follows the Planning Commission's recommendation of the Eden Plan to materialize and have tall housing buildings crowd and cast shadow to this precious prime land instead. In addition, parking will become even a bigger problem. Surely, such a decision will negatively alter the charm of our downtown.

I understand that the Eden plan for 130 affordable dwellings can be located nearby and even with the possibility of adding more to it. As a long-time resident of Livermore, I am respectfully urging Mayor Woerner and each member of the City Council to seriously consider and endorse relocating the housing buildings to a different place. Then, we can have a central, large open-space, and easily accessible beautiful park for everyone to enjoy. Then, the character of our charming downtown is retained. This plan is a "win-win" solution. And many, many Livermore residents will be grateful for your courage and vision.

We Are the Land Greg Scott, Livermore

In pre-Western culture adoption, indigenous peoples thought of themselves as, "We are the land."

Present studies show that many such indigenous peoples improved their ecosystems through greater biodiversity. Our society has no cultural regard as this.

Europeans arrived and chopped down the oaks of Oakland and the Livermore Valley. Wine grapes were later grown for the luxury of wine, farming ceded to cattle grazing, and a U.S. Navy airfield became home to radionuclides. Suburbs blossomed as almond culture fled to the Sacramento Valley. The Lincoln Highway of Highway 50 went on to become Interstate 580 along what was the easiest route around the "Inland Sea" to the goldfields.

As freeways expanded, oil became, in 1963, America's largest source of energy, just seven years after Best Picture Award "Giant" depicted the greed of Texas tycoons. Livermore grew from a "hick" cattle town mixed with "lab rats" to a thriving bedroom community.

Out there to the southwest, in the Santa Clara Valley, came Shockley, inventor of the transistor, and later, Fairchild Electronics. The "Silicon Valley" boomed from the "Valley of Heart's Delight" vanquished by a burgeoning population. The commute from Livermore began in earnest.

What remains largest from Livermore's natural past is the North Livermore Valley. The Aramis Solar Project commences the intended serial rape of this valley. First the Aramis Solar Project, then the SunWalker Solar Project, then who knows?

The populace for the most part seems not to care. We need our energy, and solar electric is a groovy way to get it, unless you are analytical. Then this analysis starts you to think about the loss of biodiversity and the natural heritage of the North Livermore Valley. You start to think about recycling all

those solar panels down the road along with the lithium batteries for "backup". And you start to think about the loss of unique lands so close to the Bay Area super-city metropolis.

A question comes to mind: From a biological standpoint what becomes of a culture highly proficient technologically, and vacuous to the indigenous thinking of "We are the land"? A condensed version of a North American Cree parable is: "When the last tree is chopped, and the last fish is caught, will we then realize we can't eat money?"

It seems, in our culture, that not only do the elders not understand the land; the elders have no wisdom whatsoever.

Improve Eden Housing's Revised Plan Carol Silva, Livermore

The revised housing plan from Eden Housing would not be beneficial for residents, visitors, and downtown businesses. I would like the City and Eden Housing to change this revised plan. Another plan to locate housing north of Railroad will reduce the canyon effect on L St., can increase the quantity of affordable housing units and include housing for teachers and first responders, increase the number of parking spaces, ease traffic congestion, and increase the size of the park for everyone's enjoyment. All this can be accomplished in a fiscally responsible manner.

Earth Day, A Perspective Sangeetha Krishnamoorthy, Pleasanton

While in the process of helping my own kids celebrate Earth Day, I had this sudden realization as to how we had been more "eco-friendly", "eco conscious", mindful and health-conscious while growing up in India, before even these buzzwords existed, and found it so relevant on Earth Day to share it with my own kids growing up here.

I am sharing my perspective here as well.

Speaking about saving trees - Growing up, there was no concept of toilet paper. Water was the cleanser used in toilets - it was both hygienic, and obviously, we didn't have to cut down trees! On festive days and weddings, banana leaves were used as plates on which food was served on, and later, the used-up leaves were also fed to the cows. So, zero waste, and recycling was so natural in its authentic purest form, too!

I still remember the fun work as kids we used to do - 'sorting vegetables' as soon as my mom got home from grocery with all vegetables mixed up in one single big cloth bag :-). Nor did we need the modern-day NGOs preaching us of eco consciousness, as there was not an inherent plastic usage in first place!

Growing up, we didn't even realize we were doing some form of yoga and meditation every day - every single time we prostrated to god and elders in the morning, did suryanamaskara for sun, etc. Yoga, a practice passed down through our ancestral yogis through generations, was so natural and part of everyday life and not the marketable, new-found business seen in the west to sell appropriated culture classes and high-priced leggings!

And last but not the least, the food we ate growing up - the turmeric, ginger, garlic, pepper, tamarind, cardamom, cumin, fennel, and ancient grains - millets, yogurt or curd, and fermented foods were all essential part of our everyday meal. While growing up, we did not have the concept of supplements, probiotics or immunity boosters seen in stores today.

On this Earth Day among the shelter-at-home times, it was a nice refresher to recollect, reminisce and even be proud of the naturally eco-conscious, eco-friendly, and hygienic way that we once grew up with without any of the tags attached.

Space to Park Marlene Brown, Livermore

Garage, I still feel that we need the two-story parking garages on Railroad Avenue. So many businesses are working again. And we need the garage for them to park closer to where they work. Plus, the people who move into the Eden housing project, hopefully will be teachers, police and first responders. This will give them space to park their vehicles.

Process Has Not Changed Owen Brovont, Livermore

"So," as Ronald Reagan used to say, "here we go again." The public has "again" made a clear statement of its disfavor of the Eden project design for many valid reasons. For example, granted that the homeless and people with limited financial resources have a right to decent living arrangements - and a compassionate society would want to provide an effective path to that goal - but who in their right mind would conceive of solving that problem by building such housing in the very heart of downtown? There are other, more appropriate areas in

Livermore where an effective solution could be satisfactorily implemented, but the heart of downtown isn't one of them. Who will feel comfortable in walking or taking out of town guests through what amounts to someone's extended back yard?

Many residents accepted the invitation to participate in Tuesday's Planning Commission's webinar. The Q&A statistics, with a high level of confidence, was 114 opposed to the project to 39 who favored it; that translates into 74.5% in opposition and 25.4% in support. By anyone's reckoning, the conspicuous majority of those who cared enough to participate was opposed to the Eden project. The intensity of the negatives varied from well thought out opposition to very passionate objections. Several construction workers were interested in job availability during the construction, but indicated that they would move on upon project completion - one said that he might seek residency. It was also evident that some participants favoring the project were interested in potential commercial patronage.

However, the post Q&A comments of three commissioners created the distinct impression that they had neither watched nor listened to the Q&A session, as not one single reference to the substantial citizen input was evident in their comments! This is a conspicuous example that citizen participation in the Downtown Plan is merely a proforma exercise to create the illusion of legitimizing the process - this is not the first time! It lends strong support to the accusation that the bureaucrats had already made their decisions prior to the meeting and nothing was going to change anyone's mind. Those citizens who chose to participate were abused by the Livermore bureaucracy by snubbing their input - in short, the invitation was farce! Apparently, the autocratic process on this issue has not changed in the slightest.

Support Eden Housing Plan Donna Edwards Weber, Livermore

I would like to publicly rescind the comments I made at the planning committee meeting on April 20, 2021, against moving forward with the Eden Housing Plan.

My prior opinion had been formed based largely on the loud and vocal opposition messaging. But at the meeting, I heard other perspectives that spurred me to dig deeper, learn more, and come to a different stance.

First, I have learned that the Eden Housing Plan is a solid realistic plan that has the approvals and funding required to move forward. The alternative plan looks lovely on paper, but the land north of Railroad Avenue is not owned by the city. The pursuit of that land would take much time and negotiation, would lose the existing affordable housing funding, and thus could forfeit local control of downtown development and place it instead into the hands of the state.

Second, the height of the Eden Housing buildings is consistent with that of the legacy development and with the L Street Garage. Third, the downtown businesses will appreciate the additional pedestrian traffic generated by the new downtown residents.

Finally, we already have lovely open space downtown - Carnegie Park, the Bankhead Theater Park, and Stockmen's Park, as well as the plazas at the Flagpole.

Let's move forward together as a community with this well-thought-out, well-negotiated, realistic plan.

Listen to the Residents Alan Ross, Livermore

I have been a resident of Livermore since 1996. One aspect that I truly love about Livermore is the downtown. Many cities in the area have lost their downtown atmosphere to inconsiderate, reckless, and ugly urbanization. I urge us to not make the same mistake. I urge us to keep our downtown green, open, free of tall buildings and traffic congestion. Doing this will benefit us now and our children tomorrow.

The revised Eden Housing Development does not serve Livermore well. It can and should be changed.

The Eden Housing Development should be transferred across Railroad Avenue to the north, which preserves our historic downtown area. The Livermore Low income Housing Fund, Housing Successor fund and Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District can all provide income to purchase parcels north of Railroad Avenue or other sites zoned for residential.

Teachers, firefighters and police officers should be allowed to be housed there. They serve our community everyday and deserve this consideration and opportunity.

Now more than ever, we need to be responsible citizens - embrace new norms, be fair, equitable and inclusive in our actions, and respectful to the

environment.

Please listen to the residents!

Wait To Test Cutting East Avenue Felicia Ziomek, Livermore

Don't 'test' cutting East Avenue from four lanes to two until after schools resume classes 100% in-person.

The spring 2021 Livermore Community Newsletter announced that a future phase of the East Avenue Corridor Study includes temporarily decreasing parts or all of East Avenue from four lanes down to two, from South Livermore Avenue to Vasco, to 'test and evaluate the alternatives and gather additional public feedback.' This 'test' must not occur until East Avenue Middle School and Livermore High School resume classes (with) 100% in-person attendance!

Currently, East Avenue Middle School has approximately 33% of their students attending on school days (66% split into alternating days). Livermore High School has approximately 25% of their students attending on school days (50% split into alternating days). The rest of the students remain in 100% distance learning due to the current pandemic.

If this 'test' of cutting East Avenue from four lanes to two occurs now, these 'test results' will be invalid. The 'test' won't provide accurate data regarding actual traffic volumes experienced when both schools are fully open. The city needs both schools fully open with in-person classes, testing what it's like for the lanes to be cut from four down to two (with parents trying to drop off students in the morning before school starts (with only one lane available in each direction), to receive accurate feedback from the public.

So, if the city wishes to conduct this (foolish) test, it should not occur until after both schools resume in-person classes in the fall. Anyone who has experienced traffic during morning drop-off at these schools on East Avenue already knows that cutting East Avenue from four lanes down to two is foolish. Not to mention the bus traffic and daily racing fire engines and ambulances down East Avenue.

And let's not forget about the freeway traffic that uses East Avenue when there are accidents or delays on the freeway.

An Historical Perspective Barbara Soules, Livermore

I'd like to look at the Eden Housing project from an historical perspective. As a member of the Livermore Heritage Guild, I aspire to our goal of preserving the historical character of our community. Building four story buildings in the heart of downtown will destroy the quaint atmosphere of our town and make it less attractive to tourists. A large park would certainly attract more visitors and create a greater need for a hotel. Any alternative plan for the location of the Eden Housing buildings is preferable from both an historical and hospitality perspective. At the Planning Commission meeting last week, John Stein talked about the need for more and alternative parking for larger vehicles. He also voiced the opinion that the housing should be dispersed about town, not all amassed in the center of town. I concur with these thoughts and ask the City Council to please listen to the citizens of Livermore and approve an alternative plan.

Do Not Approve Eden Housing Anne Marie Etesse, Livermore

One aspect that I love about Livermore is the downtown. So many cities in the area have lost their downtowns to inconsiderate urbanization and to greed. Let's not make the same mistake! Let's not be one of those cities! Let's keep our downtown green, open, free of tall buildings and traffic congestion. Let's do all this for us now and for our children tomorrow.

The revised Eden Housing Development does not serve Livermore well. Do NOT approve it. It can and should be changed.

Transfer the Eden Housing Development across Railroad Avenue to the north and preserve the historic downtown area.

If this pandemic has taught us one thing, it is to not be afraid of change, to embrace new norms and to use our heads so that our future is brighter, better and healthier. Let's protect our city while making it even more attractive, inclusive, fair and equitable. Listen to its residents! Do not approve the revised Eden Housing Development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Move Eden Housing to a Better Location Donna Cabanne, Livermore

We all want a beautiful downtown--- large enough to invite visitors and residents to stay and enjoy numerous activities and attractions.

Above all, we need a com-

mon area that is safe---now and for future use. There is some very concerning news about the downtown Eden Housing site. The Regional Water Quality Board and the City are now investigating contamination located on the property in the soil and the groundwater. The chemicals of concern include arsenic, lead, petroleum hydrocarbons and volatile organic compounds. These chemicals can cause cancer, learning disabilities and other serious health issues.

Has the Eden Housing site been checked for PFAs? PFAs, or Teflon contamination, has been found in the soil and water in the Tri-Valley in high numbers, much higher than national averages. It is especially dangerous because its contamination half-life effects can last for hundreds of years. According to Consumer Reports, the Tri-Valley was in the top 10 to 15 percent for PFAs nationwide.

Sincere Thanks for Earth Week Tri-Valley Ann Brown, Livermore

Thank you to all who participated in Earth Week Tri-Valley!

I delighted in meeting caring people of all ages in Zoom meetings, at the Livermore Farmers' Market, at film discussions, and at a Youth Climate Rally. It is heartening to hear how many want to take meaningful personal and community actions for climate solutions.

Tom Bradley of Western Star Nurseries donated five native trees for school tree-planting projects. Girl Scouts met the Litter Challenge and prevented waste from flowing to the Bay. Young families biked to the market to enjoy local, organic products and a picnic. Its these kinds of collective actions that will move our community forward to transition away from use of fossil fuels, ensuring a healthy and thriving Tri-Valley for future generations.

Please visit our website, trivalleyccc.org, and the Independent online calendar to preview our May events. They include creating art, a youth rally, meetings, and action. We especially value input from youth, young parents, artists, businesses, and educators. Let's grow our network for a sustainable Tri-Valley!

Sincere thanks to supporters The Independent, Livermore City Council, Livermore Downtown, Livermore Farmers' Market, Retzlaff Vineyards, Page Mill Winery, Rodrigue Molyneux Winery, Western Star Nursery, Bay Area Redwood, and the City of Livermore.

To learn about and join Tri-Valley Citizens' Climate Education, please visit <https://bit.ly/2SbJ6U5>.

What Are They Thinking? Richard Langlois, Livermore

Council Member Woerner, Council Member Carling, and Council Member Munro played key roles in the "Yes on P" campaign. They repeatedly, assured Livermore voters that the City Council's downtown plan was the only plan that had been fully vetted by City Leaders, City Staff, and Commercial Partners. Now, after the election, Eden Housing informed the Council that it is impossible to construct the housing component as described in Measure P, so the City must accept a completely different type of housing project.

Why, after 4 months, have I not heard a single question or criticism from the current Mayor or City Council regarding this revised Eden project that violates all the assurances that were made before the Measure P election? Do any of the 5 of you have any individual concerns or questions, from yourself or your district constituents, which you are willing to share with the public before unanimously approving this revised project?

For me, a truly inclusive and responsive City Council consists of Council Members that 1) actively solicit the diverse ideas, concerns, and cultural values of the people in the district they represent, 2) show respect for their district by discussing district issues with the whole City Council, and 3) help to advise City Staff to incorporate as many of these ideas as possible in future city projects. I fear that our current Mayor and City Council are more focused on telling Livermore citizens what the staff and developers want, rather than listening and responding to the requests of the people of Livermore who elected them to office.

Walk the Talk - Or Cancel Culture Veronica Stewart Long, Livermore

Livermore's City Council has an opportunity to walk the talk -to demonstrate how a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful culture addresses difficult topics. Or they could focus on "sending a strong message" - in more of a "cancel culture" approach.

Monday night, they deliberated on "the comments made by Planning Commissioner Stein at the Planning Commission

Meeting on April 20, 2021, as well as the complaints received from the community." (Taken from agenda item description.)

While explicitly the topic of discussion, the "comments" were never identified, except indirectly when speakers referred to and interpreted some of them. The "comments" were never revealed. Nevertheless, Council seemed to agree on what they were discussing and were comfortable going forward with deliberations.

Council rightfully took issue with Commissioner Stein's insensitive language and should be commended for their attention to it. However, Stein's comments and intent were sometimes misconstrued and with some calls for Stein's resignation or removal the deliberation began to feel more like a public hanging.

The mayor stated several times that public comments must not address the Eden Housing apartment complex or the vote to move it forward. Council did not want any disciplinary actions to be confused with that event as Stein had been the only dissenter.

Ironically, a report by the subcommittee on Equity and Inclusion preceded the deliberation. It mentioned training, tools, and techniques to have difficult conversations and dialogue with others. Councilmember Munro explained one of the committee values -the importance of assuming a person has positive intentions. She explained that an open dialogue with an opportunity to explain and apologize met by compassionate listening can foster opportunities for learning, understanding, and growth. Hopefully Council listens to what she has laid out as a positive path forward.

A Better Plan is Needed Deborah McQueen, Livermore

I am asking that the City Council reject Eden Housing's application. I believe that what is now proposed will have a significant and negative impact on the core of our downtown. It not only goes against the City Council's stated priorities, but also violates parts of the Downtown Specific Plan. It is a major change from the plan that was approved by the City Council in 2018, and that residents have been seeing and expecting since.

The citizens were promised that downtown developments would maintain the existing community character, promote open space, and ensure parking would be addressed. The revisions to Eden Housing's plans all go in the opposite direction.

The current plan is for two massive four-story buildings and a strip of space between labeled as a park. This park area will be more like a courtyard for the buildings, not a park for the public. The illustrations in the report make it clear this long, narrow area will feel like a tunnel. Additionally, the visual impact on L Street and Railroad Avenue, especially when combined with Legacy's four-story building across the street, will be completely out of character to our downtown, and dominate its appearance.

The parking being proposed will be a fraction required by Livermore's standards, and will cause congestion and parking problems, harming their immediate neighbors, First Street businesses.

I also believe that Eden must request relief from the density maximum, and ask for two density bonuses, one for the width of 100% of their parking stalls, and one for the length of them, neither of which conforms to city requirements. Eden failed to do this.

This plan is not good for Livermore and its residents, and needs to be rejected so that the city and Eden Housing can create a better alternative. In 2019, Mayor Woerner promised to look at and pursue alternatives to create a "win-win". There are options available that would create a win-win. Other locations are available for this needed housing and would allow housing with more units than this proposal, parking in compliance with city standards, and housing for teachers that was promised in 2018 but locked out here because the income caps were lowered. This will leave the sole remaining open space in the downtown's core to be made into an inviting park, like many towns have, and that residents enjoy. Eden Housing and the city must work together to make this happen.

How Much Is It Worth? Vic Avila, Livermore

There is a City of Livermore sign at the corner of 4th Street and South P St. that states "Historic Downtown Livermore". This sign does not conjure up the idea that 4-story multiple dwellings would be located in "Historic Downtown Livermore", let alone not opposite each other creating no semblance of a charming historic downtown. There are no high-density multiple dwellings

(See MAILBOX, page 11)

CENTER

(Continued from first page)

shop, a Mikvah (ritual bath), a Kosher center, a teen lounge and a sanctuary.

"It's going to be a beautiful place," the rabbi said.

The Chabad building, which will be known as the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and the Gan Chabad Early Childhood Education Center, also will house a Holocaust education center that will be tied to the Shoah program at USC in Los Angeles. The rabbi is working with the Shoah program to create an entry point for the eyewitness program, which has an extensive collection of video recordings of survivors describing the Holocaust, where

6 million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis in the 1930s and '40s. Resnick wants the facility to be a place where people can access archival footage.

The planning commission's approval ended years of contentious debate over the 8,000-square-foot building, which housed a Masonic Lodge until Chabad members purchased the property for \$2.5 million in 2017. The sale occurred as neighbors' complaints about noisy parties drew the attention of the city council, which put restrictions on the Masons' activities. The council attempted to apply those

same restrictions to the Chabad, which had rented space from the Masons. Chabad members appealed, saying limitations on their outdoor activities and crowd sizes would prevent them from operating a religious institution.

According to Resnick, the process was very contentious, with nasty city council meetings. Ultimately, an agreement was reached in 2019, when the same neighbors said they welcomed Chabad.

"It took a long time to get everyone together to let them see this is a beautiful addition to the neighborhood," Resnick said.

In August 2019,

a fire damaged the building's exterior and roof, setting back the renovation plans. Although the council previously approved most of their plan, the fire and resulting changes required another visit to the planning commission for approval.

During the meeting, city planners and staff called the planned renovations to the building refreshing and attractive; they said that the final product also will be aesthetically pleasing for the neighbors.

"I'm excited about what this is going to do for our community," Commissioner Matt Gaidos said.

MAILBOX

(Continued from page 10)

Resnick and his wife, Fruma, moved to the Tri-Valley from New York 16 years ago and started services in his living room. As Chabad grew, services were held in hotel rooms and rented space until enough money was collected to purchase the Masonic building.

Chabad's Hebrew school is attended by about 100 children. An additional 30 to 50 people attend weekly Shabbat services.

"A Center for Jewish Life is a dream come true for me personally," he said. "Our community is growing."

The center is located at 3370 Hopwood Road.

in "Historic Downtown Pleasanton." Therefore, downtown Pleasanton has not lost its small-town charm, making it a place where multitudes of people visit, patronize, and enjoy. Downtown Livermore has small-town charm. How much is that worth? It's priceless, one can only realize its worth if and when it's gone. Affordable housing is needed in Livermore. If it is located across Railroad Avenue from the historic downtown CORE, the value and appreciation of this development will be everlasting.

Avoid Walls of Buildings

Rob Blum, Livermore

What the city Council has done and voted on with the Downtown Site Project has been

very disappointing and upsetting. Yes, I am disgusted with their bait and switch tactics. I have participated from the original workshops that started a couple years ago. The City Council does not care or listen to what the public want. Why bother to get involved at all? They could have even done a better job with the Stockmens Park. It is very, very bland. A good creative Landscape Architect would have done more for the area.

The City keeps on going, changing to the disgusting bait and switch tactical plans destroying a destination park concept. They are instead making a personal park for the Eden Housing Project. This is not good for a great opportunity to create a grand open space park for the pub-

lic to enjoy. The City Council is just adding to the ugly towering walls on L Street and Railroad Ave. being built for Housing. The towering walls on L Street and Railroad Ave. along with the Eden Housing Project that the City just voted on will be creating canyon walls like the Grand Canyon and destroying the Downtown appeal.

The Eden Housing can be built on adjacent sites along Railroad Ave and still be close to the downtown, do not let the City continue to ignore what the public wishes and wants. We need an Alternative Plan for a grand destination park to represent the open space of Livermore, not several vertical canyon walls of Buildings.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577345

The following person(s) doing business as: All Pro Mortgage, 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lori Porter, 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2002. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2021. Expires March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4841. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577051

The following person(s) doing business as: JD Land Development, 1419 Aster Lane, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Miguel Jarvis, 1419 Aster Lane, 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/: Miguel Jarvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2021. Expires March 9, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4842. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577483

The following person(s) doing business as: Arora Tennis and Fitness, 4408 Healdsburg Way, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Akshay Arora, 4408 Healdsburg Way, 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: 8/1/2010. Signature of Registrant/s/: Akshay Arora, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 23, 2021. Expires March 23, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4843. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577061

The following person(s) doing business as: Beyond Gorgeous, 1553 Buttercup CT, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tiffany M. Thomas, 1553 Buttercup CT, 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/: Tiffany M. Thomas, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 9, 2021. Expires March 9, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4844. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577545

The following person(s) doing business as: The Make, 1201 San Luis Obispo ST, Hayward, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James L. Goings, 2142 Sunleaf LN, Santa Rosa, CA 95403; Gene E. Orphanopoulos, 4529 Fisher Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588; William E. Warren, 48 Bayview Terrace, Mill Valley, CA 94941; Daniel W. Gazzano, 930 Montgomery ST, San Carlos, CA 94070. This business is conducted by a General Partnership. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: February 1, 2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: James L.

Goings, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2021. Expires March 24, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4845. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577635

The following person(s) doing business as: Weld-IT Unlimited Fabrication, 226 Joyce Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shane Orvis, 226 Joyce Street, 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/: Shane Orvis, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4846. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577569

The following person(s) doing business as: B.A.C. Construction, 28688 Triton ST, Hayward, CA 94544, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): B.A.C. Construction, 28688 Triton ST, Hayward, CA 94544. 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/: Bernardo Acuna, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4846. Published April 8, 15, 22, 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577347

The following person(s) doing business as: D.L. Marketing, 167 South Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage Inc., 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2011. Signature of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2021. Expires March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4848. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577342

The following person(s) doing business as: Tesla Real Estate Group, 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): All Pro Mortgage Inc., 167 South P Street, Suite C, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: 2011. Signature

of Registrant/s/: Lori Porter, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 18, 2021. Expires March 18, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4849. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577568

The following person(s) doing business as: Lahless Creations, 7792 Coolidge Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laura Ma, 7792 Coolidge Court, Castro Valley, CA 94552. 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: 3/1/2020. Signature of Registrant/s/: Laura Ma, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 25, 2021. Expires March 25, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4850. Published April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 578130

The following person(s) doing business as: Golden Thread Alterations, 2222 2nd Street, Suite #4, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Seul Han, 2745 Vista Diablo Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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/: Seuk Han, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2021. Expires March 14, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4851. Published April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 577531

The following person(s) doing business as: Dooley Notary, 48 Glacier Place, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Sandra Mary Dooley, 48 Glacier Place, 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/: Sandra Mary Dooley, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 24, 2021. Expires March 24, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4852. Published April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 578004

The following person(s) doing business as: Oasis Nails & Spa, 4427 1st Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Oasis Nails Livermore, LLC, 4427 1st Street, 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/: Truc Nha Zizileuskas, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 7, 2021. Expires April 7, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4853. Published April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 2021.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: Linnea Lee Ball 1716 Montecito Circle Livermore, CA 94551 (925) 321-8098 peetandpeanut@yahoo.com filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows
Present Name: Linnea Lee Ball
Proposed Name: Linnea Lee Palmer-Ball
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: 6/11/2021
Time: 11:00 AM
Dept: 17
The address of the court is: Alameda County Administration Building 1221 Oak Street Oakland, CA 94612
A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Independent Newspaper 2250 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550
Dated: April 12, 2021 /s/ Judge Tara M. Desautels. The Independent Legal No. 4854 Published April 22, 29, May 6, 13 2021.

PUBLIC NOTICE
T-Mobile USA is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 1111 E. Stanley Boulevard, Livermore, Alameda County, CA 94550. Antennas and RRUs will be installed at varying heights not to exceed 57.5 feet above ground level on the 60-foot tall building (measured to the highest appearance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6121002657 - TC EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (339) 234-2597. The Independent Legal No. 4855. Pub-

lished April 29, 2021.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 578119

The following person(s) doing business as: FancySchmancy, 525 63rd ST, Oakland, CA 94609, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tabitha Brown, 525 63rd ST, Oakland, CA 94609. 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: 03/01/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Tabitha Brown, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2021. Expires April 13, 2026. The Independent Legal No. 4856. Published April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 2021.

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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.

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Federal Contract Specialist -Send this ad & resume to Sogen Company, 569 Leisure Street, Livermore, CA 94551

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Dublin Registering Kindergartners for Fall Classes

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the The Dublin Unified School District is now registering kindergarten students for the 2021-2022 school year.

To be eligible for kindergarten, students must have been born on or before Sept. 1, 2016.

The district is also registering younger students for its Developmental Kindergarten Academy (DKA).

To be eligible for the developmental kindergarten program, students must have been born between Sept. 2 and Dec. 2, 2016.

The district expects both kindergarten and DKA to be in-person, five-days-per-week classes for the 2021-2022 school year.

For more information, go to www.DublinUSD.org/Registration, or email Registration@DublinUSD.org.

Tri-Valley Writer Wins First Place in Pandemic Anthology



Author Violet Carr Moore

A short story by Violet Carr Moore, a member of the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Writers Club, received first place in a statewide competition for pandemic-related fiction sponsored by the High Desert Branch.

Moore's tale of a travel writer under government quarantine for a terminal condition was also published in the California Writers Club anthology, "Survival: Tales of Pandemic," along with stories by 23 other authors.

Although the story, "Fatal," was written before the COVID-19 pandemic, a Writers Club summary notes that Moore's main character, "Laura," "wants to leave a protected environment to photograph the Mississippi River, but she is declared terminal and denied a travel permit... Nathan, a governmental employee assigned to keep her quarantined, becomes Laura's ally and plans her escape..."

Moore received \$150 from the High Desert Branch for her winning entry. In addition, profits from the sale of the anthology, which is available on Amazon, were divided evenly among the top three award winners and donated to charities of their choice. Moore donated her \$400 share to Open Heart Kitchen.

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Dublin Offers Brain Games for Seniors

Dublin Parks and Community Services is offering a free class for seniors to improve their memory by playing online brain games with the California Game Girls from 10-10:40 a.m., on Wednesday, May 5.

The class will be taught via Zoom. To register, go to www.DublinRecGuide.com and type "Brain Games" in the search box.

Livermore Rotarian Foundation Distributes \$81,000 in Grants

The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore has awarded more than \$81,000 in grants to 22 community organizations.

The grants were announced at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley on April 13. Since 1999, the foundation has distributed more than \$1,385,000 in community grants.

Receiving grants this year were: Agape Villages Foster Family Agency, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Culinary Angels, Down Syndrome Connection, Fertile Groundworks, Granada Supporters Safe and Sober Grad Night, Good News Bears, Harmony & Healing, Hope Hospice, Kids Teach Tech, Leo Croce Elementary School, the Livermore Lab Foundation, Missing Man Ministries, Paws in Need, Quest Science Center, Shakespeare Associates/Festival, Spectrum Community Services, Sunflower Hill, Teen Esteem, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Haven, and Tri-Valley REACH for Special Adults.

Earlier this year, the foundation also gave \$61,000 to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for distance-learning equipment needs during the pandemic.

Founded in 1987, the foundation includes members of the Rotary Club of Livermore and the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley.

Livermore Library to Host Discussion of "The Farewell"

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the Livermore Public Library will host a discussion of the 2019 film "The Farewell" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 18.

Directed by Lulu Wang and starring Awkwafina, the PG-rated movie centers on a Chinese family who learns that their grandmother has only a short time left to live. They decide to keep her in the dark and schedule an impromptu wedding to gather the family before she dies.

The discussion will be held virtually via Zoom. Library card holders can also watch the film for free on the library's video-streaming platform, Kanopy.

For a link to join the discussion, go to <https://bit.ly/2OXIW2s>. To obtain a library card or for assistance accessing Kanopy, go to www.livermorelibrary.net or call 925-373-5505.

Children's Author to Offer Tips on Creating Picture Books

Jesse Byrd, the award-winning author of "King Penguin" and other works for children, will discuss the creative steps in creating picture books during an online meeting of the Tri-Valley Writers Zoom on May 15.

The Zoom-based meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. To register, email president@trivalleywriters.org.

The cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers, and \$3 for students from 14-22. Payment must be made to www.trivalleywriters.org.

Byrd's presentation, "Creating, Publishing, and Selling Children's Picture Books," will cover inspiration and development, finding an agent and an illustrator, and marketing self-published and traditionally published works.



Stoneridge Creek senior living community in Pleasanton celebrated Earth Day on Thursday, April 22. The community hosted a resident event in one of the community's gardens. More than 100 residents are involved in gardening at the community. This includes resident Audrey Lord-Hausman (above), who planted celery and other vegetables. (Photo - Chelsea Wilson)

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Garden Club to Host Discussion on Basic Beekeeping



Peter Schumacher, of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association, will speak at the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club on May 13. (Photo - Dolores Bengtson)

Peter Schumacher, a member of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association, will be the featured speaker at the May 13 meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club.

Schumacher became a beekeeper in 2008 when a swarm of honey bees settled in his backyard while looking for a new home. With help from the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association and other online resources, he set up his first hive for the swarm to inhabit. Schumacher now keeps 15 hives and harvests between 150 and 350 pounds of honey a year.

In his talk, which is open to the public, Schumacher will cover the basics for anyone who may be considering beekeeping, as well as how everyone can help bees thrive.

The zoom-based meeting will begin at 7 p.m. For Zoom access or more information, send email to president@lavgc.org.

Grijalva Receives 2020 Flowers Spirit Award

Chris Grijalva of Livermore has received the Flowers Baking Co.'s 2020 Flowers Spirit Award.

Grijalva, area sales director for the Modesto bakery, was recognized for his "motivational leadership and community involvement." In addition, the company made a donation in Grijalva's name to Sierra Vista Child & Family Services.

"Chris exemplifies the Flowers spirit both at work and outside of work," said general manager Taylor Cox. "His enthusiasm is infectious."

Grijalva works with the Livermore Police Department to support its annual "Shop with a Cop" program for disadvantaged children, and recently worked with local schools to coordinate donations of bread to families struggling financially because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flowers Bakery is a subsidiary of Flowers Foods.



Chris Grijalva

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Air District to Review Foundry Risk Assessment

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Communities for a Better Environment will hold a joint workshop Friday, May 7, to consider a draft health-risk assessment for AB&I Foundry in Oakland.

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The draft assessment indicates that foundry emissions pose an elevated health risk for the surrounding community. AB&I will be required to submit a risk-reduction plan to the air district.

"Stricter pollution controls are necessary to protect the health of East Oakland residents and this collaborative effort with Communities for a Better Environment is crucial to obtain input from those who live and work near the facility," said Jack Broadbent, the air district's executive officer.

The public will be allowed to ask questions and submit comments during the workshop.

The virtual workshop will be available online at us02web.zoom.us/j/84265732418 using the meeting ID 842-6573-2418. To join by phone, dial 669.900.6833.

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