Thursday,
AUGUST 5, 2021
VOLUME LVIII, NUMBER 31

# THE Independent

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## Park District Manages to Secure Fund Reserves

**By Tony Kukulich**

LIVERMORE — When the books closed on fiscal year 2020-2021, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) had about 665,000 reasons to feel pretty good.

Make that 665,548 reasons to be exact.

The prior year was challenging from a number of perspectives, including financial. The district ended the 2019-2020 fiscal year $1.2 million in the red. Just one year later, the district wrapped up with a $665,548 contribution to its reserve funds.

"We had a real bleak 2019-2020 fiscal year," said Jeffrey Schneider, LARPD administrative services manager. "We were not quite sure of the duration of the pandemic or its significance. We kept people on payroll even though we didn't have work. We didn't make any significant organizational changes until October of that year. We really struggled financially."

Schneider said that although the organizational changes were difficult, they served as an impetus for the district to take a more analytical approach to its program offerings and staffing levels. The increased rigor in financial planning paid dividends for the district in the fiscal year that ended on June 30 this year.

"We were able to maintain and expand our ESS (extended student services) programs," he added. "It was a real success story, frankly, to be able to operate those programs during the pandemic. Now we're starting

(See RESERVES, page 3)

## Union, PUSD Reach Pay Agreement

**By Ruth Roberts**

PLEASANTON — The California School Employees Association (CSEA) and the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) reached an agreement this week on a long-standing negotiation over compensation for classified employees.

The PUSD unanimously approved the tentative contract during a July 27 special board meeting.

The collective bargaining agreement between the district and CSEA will provide staff members with a 1.5% across-the-board raise, along with a 3.68% district contribution for medical benefits. Both items will be paid retroactively as of July 1, 2020.

"Every employee is at a certain placement in the salary schedule, and this 1.5% moves the entire salary schedule 1.5% higher," said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, assistant superintendent of business services. "And so that's the additional compensation and the additional cost to the district on an ongoing basis."

The cost of the increases will leave the district with an approximate $400,000 deficit. However, Sheikholeslami said that, if necessary, additional adjustments to staff and programs will be evaluated in the long

(See UNION, page 3)



**During tearful interviews, the Kreycik family expressed their gratefulness for the community's help during the search for their missing son and husband, Philip Kreycik, who disappeared July 10. From left are his father, Keith; mother, Marcia; and wife, Jen.**
(Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

## Body Found at Pleasanton Ridge Believed to Be Philip Kreycik

**By Aly Brown**

PLEASANTON — The Pleasanton Police Department announced on Tuesday this week that a body has been found at the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park, believed to be that of missing jogger Philip Kreycik, 37.

Announced during an Aug. 3 press conference at the police department off Bernal Avenue, officials said that the body was found by a citizen volunteer at 2:30 p.m. that day, about 250 feet from a game trail in the northern part of the park. The cause of death is still under investigation, and the county coroner has not yet confirmed the identity of the body.

Officers and detectives from both the Pleasanton Police Department and the East Bay Regional Park District Police Department (EBRPD) will continue to investigate the scene and recover any pertinent evidence. The location where the body was found is part of EBRPD, approximately a quarter mile outside of Philip's intended route.

Lance Brede, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Police Department police captain, said that search and rescue teams had worked tirelessly to locate Kreycik.

"Unfortunately, today, we've (received) the news that we did not want, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the Kreycik family," Brede said.

After the press conference, Mayor Karla Brown expressed her deep appreciation for the hundreds of volunteers who came to help the Kreycik family search for Philip.

Since the 37-year-old Berkeley resident — a husband and father of two children — disappeared July 10 after telling his wife, Jen, that he was going for a run at the Ridge, several public agencies and hundreds of volunteers have scoured the area for signs of the missing jogger. Local businesses — such as Grocery Outlet, Safeway, Costco, along with family-owned operations — contributed food to help feed volunteers, while nearby hotels have provided lodging for the Kreycik family as the search endured.

"We have been the recipients of so much kindness and so much courtesy and respect," said Philip's father, Keith. "We want the people of Pleasanton and the surrounding areas and all of the volunteers who have helped us through this difficult time to know how much we respect the efforts that they've done."

Jen explained that on the day of Philip's disappearance, he had planned to stop for a jog in Pleasanton before picking her and the kids (ages 3 years and 10.5 months) up from her parents' house in Stockton. For the avid athlete, the 45-minute run was considered a short stint. However, the heat wave that hit the area at the time had been a point of concern for those who later participated in the search. Police found his car

(See KREYCIK, page 10)



**From left, Pleasanton Police Department Lt. Erik Silacci and East Bay Regional Park District Police Department Captain Lance Brede stand before reporters during an Aug. 3 press conference to announce the discovery of a body believed to be the missing runner Philip Kreycik.**
(Photo – Doug Jorgensen)

## County Mandates Masks in Public Indoor Settings

**By Larry Altman**

REGIONAL — As hospital beds fill with unvaccinated patients infected with COVID-19, Alameda County joined six other Bay Area counties Monday in issuing health orders requiring everyone — including those who are vaccinated — to wear masks in indoor settings, including restaurants, gyms and workplaces.

The order, imposed by eight health officers across the region, took effect at midnight Tuesday in Alameda, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, along with the City of Berkeley, which operates its own health department.

The order comes with a surge in hospitalized patients — primarily unvaccinated — infected with the extremely contagious Delta variant, which health officials said is substantially more risky indoors and transmissible than previous forms of the coronavirus.

"We've been seeing a rise in cases for several weeks," said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County's Health Officer, during a joint news conference with colleagues from the other locations.

Moss said evidence has grown to show that even vaccinated people who become infected, but don't necessarily become ill, can pass the Delta variant to others.

"For that reason, the added layer of protection of masks on everybody in public settings becomes much more important," Moss said.

The health officials did not call for lockdowns or business closures as they did during the early parts of the nearly year-long pandemic. They did, however, suggest bar- and restaurant-goers wear masks except when eating; movie-goers should wear masks during shows.

Repeatedly, they urged people aged 12 and older to get vaccinated and emphasized that those who are now hospitalized and dying are overwhelmingly people who refrained from getting the readily available inoculations.

"We are alarmed at the rate at which COVID patients are filling our community hospital beds," Contra Costa County Health Officer Dr. Chris Farnitano said. "The number of patients in local hospitals due to COVID have doubled in just the last 10 days and increased by more than 400% in the month of July."

Four out of five patients

(See MASKS, page 12)

## Workers Return to Lab After Bargaining Session

**By Larry Altman**

LIVERMORE — Skilled trades workers returned to their jobs at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) on Friday following a three-day strike, but the effects of a bargaining session that followed might not be known for some time, a union official said.

Steve Balke — chief bargainer with the Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers (SPSE), a part of the larger University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE-CWA, Local 9119) union — said the three-hour session with LLNL officials ended amicably Thursday night.

"It was cordial," Balke said. "Management did not bring up anything about the strike."

About 200 union members walked a picket line along East Avenue from Tuesday to Thursday to protest what they called unfair labor practices. Workers — including electricians, heavy equipment mechanics, sheet metal workers, welders, painters, laborers, riggers, plumbers, pipefitters and trades helpers — said they took the action because laboratory management had failed to negotiate in good faith in a dispute over mandatory on-call rotations.

"It's going to take us a little bit to see the results of the strike," Balke said. "I do believe it was a good strike. I believe it got the message across to all individuals that work there as to what was going on as to how they are treating us. It has garnered a lot more support from the scientists and researchers."

The strike and Thursday night negotiations followed

(See LAB, page 12)

## Contamination Testing at Eden Housing Site Begins

LIVERMORE — The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) last week announced the possibility of a public meeting regarding the contamination found at the site planned for Eden Housing in the Downtown Core and the city's plan to clean it up.

Work began at the area bound by Railroad Avenue, Veterans Way, L Street, and the extension of K Street on Monday this week to retrieve samples at the project location; it's expected to last up to six weeks. Work will occur Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Data collected from the sampling will help to "inform an Interim Remedial Action Plan (IRAP) to address contamination found on-site," according to the Water Board website.

"Prior to IRAP approval, the Water Board will distribute another fact sheet announcing the proposed remedial actions and offer the public 30 days to review and comment on the document," the Water Board site states. "The Water Board may also hold a public meeting during the comment period."

The site of the future Eden Housing project approved by the council May 25 once housed a train depot

(See TESTING, page 8)



**Work began this week to gather soil samples at the site of the planned Eden Housing affordable housing complex in Livermore's Downtown Core. Data gathered will confirm the extent of contaminants at the location. Work will last up to six weeks.**
(Photo – Doug Jorgensen)



THEO

### PET OF THE WEEK

**At 13 months old, Theo is basically a kitten with manners. He is playful and active, yet won't use your pant leg as a ladder. He is affectionate and people-oriented, yet knows how to entertain himself. Get the best of feline personalities with this lanky boy! Apply to adopt Theo today by sending an email to info@valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society coordinates adoptions by appointment only.**
(Photo - Valley Humane Society /E. Scholz)

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# Schools Prepare for Return

**By Dawnmarie Fehr**

As administrators and teachers prepare to welcome students in the Tri-Valley back to school this week, a new mandate has been issued for Alameda County requiring all individuals to wear masks indoors in public settings — whether or not they are vaccinated.

Tri-Valley school districts had already planned on requiring masking indoors per state guidelines and will continue to comply with the new directives.

*"We are planning to follow the guidance of the Alameda County Public Health Department. As we learned more than once last year, that guidance can change often."*

"We are planning to follow the guidance of the Alameda County Public Health Department," said Michelle Dawson of the Livermore Valley Joint School District, who also noted those guidelines can be fluid. "As we learned more than once last year, that guidance can change often."

Patrick Gannon, spokesperson for Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), said masking has been put in place to remove the need for physical distancing, which has been a barrier for certain activities.

"We are focusing on everything that goes into ensuring our staff and students feel as comfortable and safe as they can when they walk onto campus the first day of school and are excited," Gannon said.

As districts comply with the new mask mandates, teachers and staff remain focused on building strong connections with their new and returning students.

"Two-thirds of our middle school students have never set foot on a middle school campus, so we are looking at orientation processes for those students, and that would go for high school as well," said Chip Dehnert, public information officer for Dublin Unified School District (DUSD). "As far as events focused on returning to school — nothing other than making sure we are transitioning students back to an in-person environment in a way that takes into account the fact they haven't been on campus in some time and some of these students haven't been on the campus they are now attending at all."

Gannon said his district is also prioritizing getting kids comfortable and making up for learning loss.

"Our schools are very focused on investing a lot of time in connections and reconnecting both with each other as staff as well as with students, because it's been a minute since everyone has been in the room," Gannon said. "Students learn better when they feel connected to school and those around them, so we are going to be investing a lot of time in building those relationships right off the bat."

Sunol returned to school this week on Aug. 4, and Pleasanton returns next week on Aug. 11. Dublin will open its doors the following week on Aug. 16, and Livermore will welcome students back on Aug. 24.

# Dublin Extends Its Rent Support for Local Businesses

**By Ruth Roberts**

The city council has extended the support it began in June 2020 for local businesses recovering from COVID-19.

Following the unanimous passage of a resolution on July 20, during the council's regular meeting, the board approved two new small business support grant programs: Commercial Rent Relief and Outdoor Operations, using American Rescue Plan Act funding. The original, temporary program started in June 2020, which waived zoning requirements for 41 local restaurants and expired on June 15, 2021. The new program will now run through September 2022.

"I think staff has worked hard with the restaurants in the community, and this is the kind of work strategies that we need going forward," said Councilmember Michael McCorriston. "As things change, we are going to need to do all we can for the restaurants and businesses, and this is one way of doing that. I think it is a good plan."

The state authorizes local governments to recover reasonable costs of providing services to the business community including the issuance of temporary use permits (TUP) and site development review waivers (SDRW). Dublin's current TUP application fee is $271, and the current SDRW application fee is $380. However, according to staff, those fees do not cover the full cost to process applications, as well as other administrative costs.

The recommended changes approved by council are: $1,536.50 (up from $271.00) for TUPs; and $2,776 to $4,292 for SDRWs (up from $380.00). Costs are based on time and materials. Monies for the expenditures are built into the economic development budget and will be reimbursed through the American Rescue Act. According to staff, there is $235,000 earmarked for the program, which will run through September 2022 or until the funds are exhausted.

### Splatter Returns

During the same meeting, the council welcomed plans for the return of the popular Splatter festival in Emerald Glen Park. The event will return on Sept. 18, following a year off due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Splatter is an annual event that celebrates the diversity of Dublin and surrounding communities through the incorporation of multicultural components. This year's festival will showcase community performances including Bollywood, Chinese dance and West African drum and dance groups. A diverse blend of food vendors will also be on hand in the Dine Around the World food court, featuring cuisines from various regions of the world. Similarly, guests will have the opportunity to shop in the Arts and Crafts World Market, which will offer goods from around the world. The festival's grand finale will kick off with a 15-minute performance by Imagine Circus. The performance will feature fire dancing, juggling, and throwing. The night will end with a 10-minute drone light show customized to celebrate Dublin and the Splatter festival. The cost of the event according to staff is approximately $135,000.

"Splatter is one of my favorite events, and I'm just happy we are able to have it this year," said Mayor Melissa Hernandez. "I am sure it will be a great outcome. I also want to make sure of regulations and just having everything in place since this is going to be one of our first big outings for the City of Dublin."

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


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# Some Zone 7 Weed Mowers Have Four Legs

**By Ron McNicoll**

When it comes to getting the job done, goats are some of Zone 7 Water Agency's most versatile workers.

Going where human contraptions, such as mowing machines and tractors can't maneuver, the four-legged employees from Goats R Us provide effective and efficient service to a variety of public agencies and private landowners year-round.

Zone 7 has been using the goats to eat bushes, weeds and even small trees in summer and winter, since a pilot program in 2017, said Colter Andersen, head of maintenance and operations at Zone 7.

In summertime, the problem with tall grass and bushes is the fire danger. In winter, the vegetation forces clumps of landscape into flood control channels, so the goats help stabilize the ground.

Unlike other grazing animals, goats leave the plant's roots in the ground, an important consideration when dealing with protected plant species. Preservation also prevents denuding the landscape.

"The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department appreciates the goats' work because having relatively short grass results in a smoldering level of fire instead of a fiery blaze by the time firefighting crews arrive," said Andersen.

The program has worked so well, that Zone 7 currently has a two-year contract with Goats R Us, and Anderson said he intends to ask the board for another two-year deal. The cost is $160,000 per year.

This year, the goats started working on May 4, on the Arroyo Las Positas, near the auto dealership lots. The herd moves from time to time to different locations as additional customers are scheduled.

The goats draw the attention of people walking along the Zone 7 areas and the Pleasanton linear park west of Zone 7's Lake 1, where water is stored. Andersen said people like to take their grandchildren to see the animals, but they need to keep a safe distance.

"It's not a petting zoo," he said.

The Orinda-based business was founded by Chilean-born Egon Oyarzun, whose father taught him how to train oxen to pull carts. After moving to the Bay Area, Oyarzun met his wife Terri, who also loved working with animals, and together they formed the business in 1995. Today, their son Zephyr works with them as well.

The business uses border collies, known the world over as the best breed to herd sheep because of their single-minded concentration on one animal in the herd; they also work well with goats.

The goats are tended by shepherds from Chile and other South American countries whose jobs include hiking the terrain with the crew, whistling commands to the dogs and ensuring all the goats are accounted for and penned up at the end of the day. The shepherds stay the night in a nearby trailer to make sure the goats are safe.

Goats R Us recently undertook a big project for the national nonprofit group, In Defense of Animals, rounding up 120 feral goats in 10 weeks on Catalina Island. The feral goats were eventually transferred to the Goats R Us ranch and have adjusted comfortably according to the company's website.

For more information, visit www.goatsrus.com.


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### Clarification:

In the July 29 issue, an article on Dublin's new grant programs should have stated that the application period for the Commercial Rent Relief Grant Program began July 23 and will end Aug. 8.


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**Seven-year-old Kai Cumbers plays the piano that made its debut at Persimmon Place in Dublin during Piano in the Plaza, which started Aug. 1 and will run through Aug. 8. The event will help raise funds for Pennies for Kids, a nonprofit that helps provide back-to-school clothes for kids in need throughout the Tri-Valley. Called the "American Beauty" piano, the instrument is decorated with American musicians, singers and composers.** (Photo – Doug Jorgensen) **[*See photo gallery at www.independentnews.com/multimedia*]**

## RESERVES

**(Continued from first page)**

out with opportunities again. We've been running camps, and a lot of our rec programs are back up and running."

As district operations are revving back up, the spread of the Delta variant is becoming greater. For now, the district's plans are to continue offering programs in accordance with all guidance from county health officials.

"We are optimistic that we are in a position to adjust to whatever direction the pandemic takes us," said LARPD General Manager Mathew Fuzie. "We will be able to provide the services we are allowed to provide."

Another headline-dominating issue that impacts LARPD operations and finances is the worsening drought. Diminishing water supplies have resulted in an increased water expense. While the year ended positively for the district, increased water expense did contribute significantly to a $115,000 negative variance in the year-end contribution when compared to the district's mid-year budget forecast. A modest shortfall in tax revenue also contributed to the variance.

"Water is one of the real concerns that we have going forward (with) managing our water usage in the face of the drought," Schneider said. "It's a big expense, and we're thinking intelligently about how to manage our water, so we don't kill the turf. We focus on the athletic surfaces, and maybe the neighborhood parks get a little less water, but we keep them alive."

According to Schneider, the outlook for the current fiscal year is positive. The budget forecasts a $1.4 million contribution to reserves, more than double the contribution booked this past year.

"That's a combination of things. We will see an increase in property tax revenues, though not as much as normal, roughly 2%," Schneider said. "The rest of it is coming from improvements in our operating revenues from programs. We'll see more revenue from programs and improved expense controls related to those programs. So we'll see an improvement in the bottom line because of that."

The district took one additional action during the last fiscal year that is expected to result in a noteworthy expense reduction. A pension obligation bond was issued to pay down approximately 95% of the district's unfunded pension liability.

"The interest rate on the bonds that were issued was pretty low, certainly in comparison to the increases that we were seeing in our pension expansion," Schneider explained. "What we're staring at on an ongoing basis is some pretty significant savings. If our assumptions are consistent with reality, we'll save a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year in pension-related obligations. Effectively, we swapped one form of debt for another. It was a fun project to work on and a successful one."

## UNION

**(Continued from first page)**

term.

"We are increasing our deficit spending, but we are going to be looking at additional revenues … and we will tighten staffing throughout the district if necessary," he said. "If enrollment is where it is currently, we need to tighten enrollment; we need to tighten staffing throughout the district."

The agreement also includes a one-time payment of $350,000 to be split among all CSEA members. The money is part of the bargaining agreement to close the negotiations and to elevate everyone within the CSEA classified program at or above the 50th percentile in compensation and benefits.

Only 80 classifications approved in 2019-20 were moved to the 50th percentile or above, said Julio Hernandez, assistant superintendent of human resources. The approval of the contract now raises all of the classifications to 50% or above.

"It has been a journey in negotiating, and I appreciate our CSEA partners in getting an agreement," said Hernandez.

The hard-won contract follows last month's announcement of contract raises for five new employment agreements in the PUSD, including Superintendent David Haglund and assistant superintendents Ed Diolazo, Julio Hernandez, Ahmad Sheikholeslami and Janelle Woodward. Benefits included a 3.5% salary increase and full coverage of health, vision and dental for employees and their spouses and dependents.

For more information, visit https://www.pleasantonusd.net.


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# EDITORIAL

## Aiming for Mental Wellness

Last week, Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles' decision to withdraw from the gymnastics competition in Tokyo came with disappointment, but it also made us proud. Citing her own well-being, Biles brought much-needed attention to the discussion of mental health.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five U.S. adults — or 51.5 million people — live with a mild to severe mental illness. Statistics show 45% received mental health services.

The recent actions of Alameda County, Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore officials to jointly fund the Axis Community Health Pilot program will continue to prove their value. Axis' locations in Pleasanton and Livermore plan to offer mental health services to up to 500 people during a year-long pilot program. Patients will receive up to five sessions with a psychiatrist until each can become connected with his or her own insurance provider.

The plan comes at a time when police have seen increases in mental health calls, and when we have gone through a pandemic, with many coping with illness and death, subsequent unemployment and money issues and the effects of staying locked down at home. Sometimes talking to a professional is needed.

And now, as Tri-Valley students return to classes in the coming weeks, it will be critical for our county to offer continued resources to support mental health.

Biles returned to the balance beam early Tuesday, taking the bronze medal with a terrific performance. She wasn't sure if she would compete again and offered some words of wisdom.

"I'm just going to take it day by day," she said.

# 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.*

### The New Miasma
**Owen Brovont, Livermore**

Miasma, first appearing in 1665, was defined as a vaporous exhalation believed to cause disease, or as an influence or atmosphere that tends to deplete or corrupt. An intellectual miasma has apparently settled snugly into the bowels of America's higher education, and is currently matriculating simultaneously into preschools and into primary and secondary education! Given the subjects being taught, including Critical Race Theory and the 1619 Project, the definition of miasma seems quite apropos.

So, what is happening to American culture, and why is it happening? America is being assaulted by an ideology whose goal is taking power from a culture that is dedicated to the freedom of the individual with the apparent intention of replacing it with what appears to be a platonic structure where ultimately the 'most qualified' occupy the seats of power and the remainder of the society is distributed amongst groups assigned to functions in society tailored to their 'capabilities.' Just 'coincidentally' the most qualified are the leaders of the revolutionary movement, and they will determine the capabilities and social place of everyone else. Important to this ideology is the appropriate collection of implements necessary to conduct the revolution successfully. One of the more subtle techniques is balkanization. The American people are balkanized by creating cleavages in society that separates people into different groups. It is relatively easy to foment hostility and conflict among and between groups when they do not have effective forums to resolve differences. Today, asserting that one or more activist groups or government policies support systemic racism and that it has become an effective cleaving device which not only sets various groups against one another, it also cleverly sets governing political parties against one another.

The idea of 'systemic racism' is an appealing and effective weapon that is empowered by the moral and ethical sensitivity of the society against which it is aimed, in this case, as it turns out, it is aimed at itself! The process of inculcating this idea of division began in the sixties cleverly obscuring its actual objectives by demands to reject judgmentalism and exercise tolerance – meaning inclusion of any and all cultural characteristics from all sources – which we now reverentially refer to it with the sacred euphemistic shorthand as diversity.

### Rethink Eden Project
**Ben Barrientos, Livermore**

Kindness matters. At times it appears that most of the messages sent to the paper are negative. How about a slight change of pace? I believe that Livermore is becoming a little more tolerant, a little more diverse. I have neighbors from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Africa, Asia and other parts of the world. We keep an eye out for each other; we share foods with each other, etc. We like each other — imagine that.

Livermore has a lot to offer, such as Sycamore Park and Del Valle Lake. If you haven't been, do so. If you like wines, we have 45 wineries. If you like cowboys, we have the rodeo. If you want a diversity of food, we have many restaurants on First Street.

We do need to share more especially with those who wish to live here. Here is an idea: since the building of the massive housing complex on the Groth Brothers lot is stalled — we name it Eden Housing and offer more affordable units there. Then, OMG, we can build the park as the people of Livermore wished. We can designate a portion of the units to our service people (teachers, police, fire etc.), and keep the rent low and not raise it. It is just a thought.

### So Long to Christmas in Livermore
**Thomas Isenburg, Livermore**

No more Christmas in Livermore. I returned after one month away from our town to see that the Mayor and Council had our Christmas Tree and shade trees at the corner of First and Livermore destroyed and removed. I understand that we have no more Christmas celebrations in Livermore. We are only allowed "December Holiday Celebrations."

So, Mr. Mayor and Council what replaces our "December Holiday Tree?" A three-story apartment building? And, when will the flag pole be taken out too since we will only have July Celebrations and no Celebration of Liberty?

After almost 30 years here, I guess my love of Country and of Christmas is gone with the town. Hello Pleasanton. See you in December.

### Seek Compromise on Eden Housing Plan
**David Coats, Livermore**

My wife and I have lived in Livermore for approximately 45 years and have seen many changes during that time. We have been very happy with the improvements that have been made to the downtown area to date, and enjoy walking downtown and eating at the many fine restaurants. However, we, like so many others, are concerned that the current Eden Housing Plan is not a good fit for downtown Livermore. It certainly is not the plan that we voted for in Measure P.

We understand and support the need for affordable housing, but believe the current plan is one that citizens will look upon with regret and anger. Many have expressed this view, and a number of counter proposals to the Eden Housing Plan have been made. These include moving the housing north of Railroad Avenue, and more recently exploring the possibility of purchasing some of the Legacy Apartments to use as affordable housing. It does not seem that any of these proposals have gotten serious consideration from the city council or the planning department. Is it possible that some combination of these proposals could result in a much smaller footprint for the current Eden Housing site?

A large four-story monolithic building with virtually no open space in the old Lucky's site is a mistake that we will have to live with for many years to come. Maintaining the ambiance and welcoming character of our downtown should be our primary goal here. I urge our city council members to seek a compromise solution with which the majority can agree.

### No on SB9
**Dawn Plants, Dublin**

SB9 is a bill currently being rushed through the state government and will specifically end single-family home zoning in California. Property owners will be allowed to demolish a home and rebuild up to 6 units on the same lot. This will allow wealthy developers and investors to outbid home buyers, so they can make a fortune building extra market rate units all over the place, since it does not provide for affordable housing. This ridiculous idea will allow dense housing all over suburban areas, not just near transportation corridors.

SB9 is an aggressive law that is unfair to voters, who deserve a voice on the elimination of single-family zoning. This affects the estimated 7 million California homeowners who have worked hard and saved, to have their piece of the California Dream; a single-family home.

The Legislature should NOT enact a sweeping statewide law like SB9, without the proper outreach, feasibility studies and overall transparency on what this proposal really means for millions of Californians … as well as our state's future economy.

Enacting this law without complete transparency with the voters is incredibly irresponsible. This drastic proposal affects millions of homeowners, who should at least have the chance to fully understand the implications of SB9's uncompromising concepts.

SB9 should be a ballot measure put to California's voters in November 2022, instead of using covert tactics to get this bill passed under the radar. SB9 appears to be deliberately hidden by legislators and not even mentioned on the local news.

SB9 will be voted on (and possibly pass) August 15, 2021, unless voters flood Sacramento with opposition.

### This is No Win-Win
**Dave Biggers, Livermore**

Ok, this is getting ridiculous. First, I was in three of the early outreach meetings, including a couple forums designed to actually extract and organize citizenry input, but what evolved had almost nothing in common with the consensus voiced in those early sessions. For a refresher, this was the consensus of what came out of that Outreach program (in no order).

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

And for those who claim otherwise, that's not what I heard ... IN THE ROOM.

There's been a lot of activity since then, but I've noticed one common thread as well. The City seems to be unwilling to share/discuss the reasoning behind the earlier decision and now, Mayor Woerner's apparent fanning on his promise to seek a Win-Win alternative just conjures up a feeling that maybe there's an issue with the decision process itself, or its influences that are best kept under wraps.

Come on Mayor. Just meet openly and honestly with the Central Park folks. That could save the city a lot of money one way or the other and may even result in your Win-Win outcome. After all, that would be in keeping with both your promise and your web site that touts your "collaborative leadership," e.g., another Win-Win.

### AB1512 and Eminent Domain
**Estelle Miller, Livermore**

In the Independent's article "Committee Aims to Grow Trust with Landowners," the subject of eminent domain was brought up. It reminded me of AB1512, a bill in the Senate which proposes the take the Alameda Tesla Expansion Area from its rightful owners -- the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR).

The article says that at the time the Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee (ALOSC) purchased Brushy Peak, the East Bay Regional Park District asked ALOSC to condemn nearby properties. The ALOSC said "No, we will not give any of our money unless the landowner is agreeable." Was this done because the Open Space Committee is fair-minded and respects property rights or was it because eminent domain is not allowed by the settlement agreement terms?

It's called 'eminent domain' when the government takes private property but what do you call it when a local government entity (ALOSC) is part of a State Legislative action (AB1512) to take property owned by the State of California OHMVR Division? I call it wrong.

ALOSC has a procedure for purchasing properties: 1. A grant proposal is submitted for a property that is for sale. 2. The property is identified as meeting requirements for significant environmental value, and 3. The land is then bought. How does a property that is not for sale and for which no grant proposal was submitted, end up on their agenda at almost every meeting for the past five years? And how is $9 million promised to be donated without a formal approval or vote by the committee, City of Livermore or Alameda County?

Actions speak louder than words and if I was a landowner in Eastern Alameda County, I would be studying AB1512 to see what methods the Open Space Committee uses to try to acquire the expansion area. Like the expansion area, you just might end up as an agenda item or a legislative action.

### Something is Amiss
**Thomas Soules, Livermore**

I read last week's mailbox including the letter by our former Mayor Marchant. To read his letter it sounds like the city's hands are tied. The $14 million dollars comes from the county Measure A and is earmarked for the Eden Housing project. The city agreed to it. Book closed.

Wait a minute. According to the internet, Measure A, which passed, is a 1/2 cent tax for Essential Health Care Services for low-income people. OK I am not the expert. However, who decided that the $14 million dollars should go to Eden Housing for this development in the city plan? Measure A did not specify how the money was to be spent. The county's money is our money, and the county should be representing us, not dictating a specific course of action. If it makes sense to put the low-income housing north of Railroad or if the Legacy apartments across the street are available, why shouldn't we be able to do this with this money? We are the county. Unless the county has some other revenue stream that I am not aware of, that money is ours.

### Non-Prophet
**Paul Stone, Dublin**

I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But I am confident in making this assertion: If Gavin Newsom is not recalled on September 14, our state will further continue its dizzying decline. You need only look at Newsom's actual record, not the propagandistic hype and tripe in his blizzard of TV campaign commercials.

You who have resided in this state as long as I have (70 years) know from whereof we have fallen. We used to hear, "Anybody but Trump." Now the rallying cry is, "Anybody but Newsom

### Move Eden Project
**Marlene Brown, Livermore**

I was not happy about the trees that were cut down next to Peet's coffee shop. Thanks to Nextdoor neighbors, I was told that the soil was contaminated from when Chevron gas station was there. Now, Chevron will be paying for most of the work for cleaning up the contaminated soil, and adding new soil. Then, this will be a Livermorium Plaza on the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue. But I would like to reiterate that the City Council needs to move the Eden housing lower income project across the street to Railroad Avenue. This will leave more room for a park. I know you have Stockmen's Park, but there isn't enough room for people to walk around, and children to play on. We need this for the people who live in Livermore and/or those visitors that come to Livermore. We have a wonderful town, so let's improve your downtown plan.

### Seppala Should Resign
**Alan Marling, Livermore**

As embarrassing as it is to have your own newspaper write about why you're such a good person, that's not why Joan Seppala should resign. On the page following that June 10 editorial, she published another ad attacking affordable housing and the city officials who voted unanimously for it. This, and many other ads and articles Joan Seppala has paid for and distributed through her newspaper, misinform. In this case, she misrepresented the appearance of the Eden project, and she called into question the location's safety without mentioning that every area downtown is likely to be equally suspect.

Joan Seppala seems to be more interested in getting her way than publishing truth, or even doing what's best for Livermore residents. As the smoke of the next fire season looms, it bears repeating that a political group she funds, the Friends of Livermore, argued against solar energy on Earth Day in front of the Alameda supervisors. Though the climate crisis endangers us all, and we're in desperate need of renewable energy, Joan Seppala's group said, "The public need for solar is overstated or does not exist." That's what they said, on Earth Day.

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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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# Stanford Hospital is once again ranked as one of the nation's top hospitals.

Stanford Hospital is proud to be recognized for quality and patient safety by *U.S. News and World Report* for the seventh year in a row. Thank you to our staff and the entire Stanford Medicine community for your exceptional response in an extraordinary year.

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# MAILBOX

(Continued from page 4)

For The Independent to be a truly independent and credible source for local news, Joan Seppala should resign. For the safety and welfare of Livermore residents and those who work here, Joan Seppala should divest herself from local politics.

### "Facts" versus Truth

**Jim Hutchins, Livermore**

Last week, former-Mayor Marchand's letter to the editor presented "facts" that he said can't be negotiated away. His "facts" lack context, so do not present the truth. Here is the truth:

Truth – 13 years ago the city purchased the land with funds requiring housing to be built, but the obligation is transferable, as was done with Stockmen's Park where a Land Use Swap moved 140 of the required units to another site. The remaining obligation can be swapped with land north of Railroad.

Truth – The Approved Downtown Plan was created with input from residents, but the Eden plan violates much of what people said they did and didn't want in the heart of their city.

Truth – After the last election, the new mayor refused to look at alternatives as he promised, saying they weren't feasible, so SLD created conceptual plans to show there are feasible ways of moving the housing. Since the city refused to participate, SLD had to work "with no public input." That is the city's and mayor's fault, not SLD's.

Truth – The County has indicated site control is needed for Eden to receive the $14.4M Measure A1 Loan, which they must have by the time of the loan funds are disbursed in 2023. Sufficient parcels north of Railroad can be acquired in time to satisfy the needed viability requirement, with the remaining parcels (if any) acquired later.

Truth – A change in the location of the hotel isn't part of SLD's proposal, so this is a red herring.

Truth – Moving the housing a block north will greatly reduce the impact on First Street's traffic. The Central Park Plan included off-site Hotel parking, same as included in the Measure P proposal, but again the hotel isn't part of SLD's proposal.

Truth – While it was known the site contained contaminates, the contamination has recently been found to be much worse than previously known, but the City Council voted the site was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. A Sierra Club representative suggested disturbing the contaminated soil and building residences over it, resulting in residents being exposed constantly, was not acceptable. Children playing for a short time on an infrequent basis, as is the site's current exposure levels, wouldn't compare with residents' constant exposure.

Marchand did get one thing right – now that the level of contamination is exposed, they will be forced to mitigate it.

### Junior Rodeo Cruel to Animals

**Eric Mills, Action for Animals**

The COVID-19 resurgence notwithstanding, the Livermore Jr. Rodeo and the Rowell Ranch Jr. Rodeo are joining forces for a Jr. Rodeo at the Rowell Ranch rodeo grounds in Castro Valley on August 6-8. EVERY animal welfare organization condemns rodeo due to its inherent cruelty and the negative message that such mistreatment of animals sends to impressionable young children (not to mention insensitive adults). California Education Code 60042 mandates that "Humane education and kindness to animals" be taught in the public schools, K-12. Surely Jr. Rodeos are a violation of that mandate. Where are the kids' teachers on this, pray?

The Rowell Ranch rodeo policy states that, "The Animal Control Officer, the SPCA representative,

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# There's Still Time




## *A Downtown Alternative is feasible. Here are the reasons why:*

### 1. Land is available to move the housing to a nearby location.

All but one of the seven parcels that the City would acquire north of Railroad Avenue are either for sale, have been involved in informal sale discussions, have no buildings or active businesses located on them, or are already owned by the City.

### 2. The cost to acquire the land is affordable.

Metrocal Appraisal provided $9.3 million as the high estimate of the land-only value for the seven parcels. A real estate development and sales consultant has provided rough calculations of demolition and business relocation expenses that add up to $1.3 million, which leads to an estimated acquisition expense of $10.6 million. While other circumstances could increase the total, requiring additional funds, the preliminary estimate is not unreasonable.

### 3. There are 3 sources of money to fund the land purchases, demolition and business relocation expenses.

**a. The City's Low Income Housing Fund.** If Eden Housing relocated 130 units north of Railroad Avenue, and added 55 lower income units to its development as part of a 230-unit project, it could ask the City to cover 80% of the cost of the land and related expenses, amounting to $8.5 million. Recently, the City projected its Low Income Housing Fund would have a balance of $14.2 million as of June 30, 2021, leaving a surplus of $5.7 million. The City will continue to receive in lieu fees for this fund from market rate developers who prefer to pay fees, rather than build affordable housing units. On an ongoing basis, the City will review all of the affordable housing developments needing funds, and prioritize them. The downtown Eden Housing project should rank high.

**b. Housing Successor Fund.** Some of the $3.2M remaining in the Housing Successor Fund (formerly known as the Low-Moderate Income Fund) would also be eligible to purchase the parcels.

**c. Sales of School District surplus property to fund teacher housing.** The third source involves the potential to acquire land for teacher and staff housing with funds secured from the sale of LVJUSD property that has been identified as surplus. If this option was pursued, according to LVJUSD Deputy Superintendent Chris Van Schaack, the door would be open to participation in the Eden Housing project. For instance, proceeds from the disposal of the surplus land could pay for 20% of the land and related costs of the new site, providing space for 45 affordable teacher and staff units at a cost of $2.1 million. Van Schaack notes, "The District is still in the exploratory stages, though the prospect of workforce housing has been met with great excitement."

**d. Cushion is available.** Should circumstances arise that add to the estimated $10.6 million acquisition, demolition and relocation costs, the City could provide additional funds from its surplus in the Low Income Housing Fund and Housing Successor Fund. The school district could also contribute its proportional share from its sale of surplus property.

## It's not too late to Save

## *Sign the Petition at Save*

Paid For By Save Livermore Downtown

# for A Better Plan.

Eden Housing's 130 affordable units could be moved to parcels north of Railroad Avenue, freeing the current site for a destination park and preserving the historic character of Livermore's downtown.

The size of these parcels could provide an additional 100 units, enabling Eden to develop 230 affordable housing units, as well as an adequate parking supply.

**4. Housing relocation would be legal.** Eden Housing's proposed 130 affordable units can be moved across Railroad Avenue to the north and meet applicable laws. The Notice of Affordability Restriction recorded on the Eden Housing's current site in January 2009 in connection with the CalHFA RDLP loan enables the City to allow a land use change under certain conditions. It states, "Owner may propose a change of use only in the event that the Property is no longer needed for the purpose specified in this Notice & Declaration and the Property will be used to benefit individuals or families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of median income for the area." If the site north of Railroad Avenue accommodates the relocated 130 units, then the currently proposed site would no longer be needed for affordable housing. Instead, the site could become an inspiring park that Eden's tenants could use for their recreation. The park would benefit the community living north of the railroad tracks as well, many of whom have incomes below 120% AMI. The City could even include in Eden's project site a portion of its current location if needed to meet its project's public open space requirements. (SLD has received advice on this legal issue from the law firm Latham & Watkins LLP.)

**5. Less expensive robotic garage would serve residents without contamination issues.** Experts have advised that spaces in an above ground robotic garage cost $19,000 less per stall than those in underground garages. In Livermore's case, the savings of the proposed robotic garage compared to Eden's underground parking plan is even greater, because no contamination issues affecting the safety of residents need to be confronted as they must in Eden's development proposal. Retrieval time in the robotic garage is projected to be only 3 minutes.

**6. With a robotic garage, traffic jams caused by Eden Housing would be avoided.** Thirty to fifty percent of traffic congestion in city centers is generated by drivers searching for a parking space, Robotic Systems reports, based on studies by MIT, Transportation Alternatives and others. Insufficient parking results in drivers circling the downtown looking for empty stalls. For its 130-unit development, Eden is only providing 117 underground stalls, and 16 in the City's proposed L Street public garage, instead of the City's standard 230 stall requirement. On the location north of Railroad Avenue, an approximately 450-stall robotic garage could be constructed to serve 230 units, exceeding the City's parking stall standard.

**7. Schedule could move faster.** It may take less time for the City to acquire the parcels north of Railroad Avenue and work with Eden on a new design than to wait for the conclusion of the court case and acceptance of a revised contamination plan. If the City's positions on either the court case or the contamination remediation were rejected, the current Eden project would be delayed even longer.

**8. Eden's loan from the County could still be retained.** Although the current County Housing Director stated earlier this year that Eden Housing would lose its $14.4 million A1 Alameda County Affordable Housing loan if it relocated to another site, her assessment of this issue did not consider the additional number of units that could be provided north of Railroad Avenue and that Eden could potentially maintain ownership of a portion of the original site. In fact, the prior County Housing Director, who retired in March 2020, took a different approach in addressing this issue, stating, "If the result of changes [to the Eden Housing project] were higher scores on ranking criteria and a larger number of affordable units, it is likely that the funds would remain with the project." If parties agree to move the project to north of Railroad Avenue, it is reasonable to believe that the County could find a way to ensure that the project is still eligible for its A1 loan.

e Livermore Downtown!

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Save Livermore Downtown!


## MAILBOX

(Continued from page 6)

and/or the veterinarian shall have complete and unilateral authority over the treatment and utilization ofanimals/ livestock."

They could all put a stop to much of the abuse.Many of the Jr. Rodeo events have nothing to do with life on a working Ranch -- chute dogging, steer riding, calf riding, steer stopping, et al.

In the bogus "goat tying" event, terrified baby goats may each be thrownand tied as many as five times per day. Not acceptable. The United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands have all outlawed rodeos. Can the U.S. be far behind? As Gandhi famously noted, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

### A Different City

**Tom Ramos, Livermore**

Well, we now have a mayor who told us he could work to move housing away from downtown. Instead, he and his city council have orchestrated to place a housing project within earshot of the heart of what should be our vibrant commercial downtown. Take a walk down L Street from First Street to Railroad Avenue; glance at those four-story monstrosities to your left and imagine yet another set of monsters going up to the right — yes, over there, where our politicians promised to build a city park. That 'park' they want to place in between two rows of four-story apartment houses. Our politicians want to have a row of housing projects stretching east from P Street almost all the way to Livermore Avenue. Citizens of Livermore - is that what you really want for our city? Well, unless you do something very soon, that's what you'll get.

The city council tells us the housing project will promote business downtown - it will be good for us. Really? Exactly who is going to brave driving downtown after the housing project is built and we've lost even more parking space than we now have? What families are going to take their young children down to that excuse for a city park stuck between apartment backyards and then go shopping? Exactly who thinks the direction the city council is heading us on is a good idea?

The city council wants to change Livermore into a different city. If we allow them to do that, we will only have ourselves to blame.

### Setting the Nuclear Bomb Clock

**Greg Scott, Livermore**

Seventy-six years ago this August 6, over Hiroshima, Japan, neutrons were propelled into 141 pounds of uranium-235 by conventional explosives and re-directed by beryllium reflectors to cause less than 2% of that uranium to go into the uncontrolled fission of a nuclear bomb named "Little Boy."

Around 80,000 human lives vanished instantly, along with the concept of "Long Now" for human civilization. By the end of that year, 1945, another 60,000 individuals approximately would be lost to the incurred injuries, including burns from highly energetic photonic gamma radiation.

Three days later, with a fissile core from plutonium produced at Hanford, Washington, the "Fat Man" nuclear bomb detonated above Nagasaki. Though the explosive force from the initial implosion was greater than the blast in Hiroshima, fewer people perished because of the shielding from the topography. Regardless, tens of thousands were killed, died in the aftermath or were wounded. Six days later Imperial Japan surrendered and World War II ended.

In 1947, the same year the Cold War began with the Soviet Union, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists members initiated a Doomsday Clock that is currently set to 100 seconds before midnight.

There are nine members

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# MAILBOX

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of the nuclear bomb club in 2021: The United States, Russia, People's Republic of China (PRC), Great Britain, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel. (South Africa has dismantled its nuclear bomb program). This makes for an extremely dangerous and tense global environment, especially given the rising aggressiveness of the PRC and Russia.

Then there is the problem of nuclear bomb proliferation. The development of a nuclear bomb by Iran would lead to war. It would be an affront to the critical strategic importance of that area of the world, to the United States and to the survival of Israel. Iran has formidable mid-range missile capabilities.

Nuclear war is unthinkable. The U.S. requires a strong non-nuclear deterrent. In the latest annual U.S. budget, 5.7%, or $42.9 billion of the $753 billion for the military is to be spent on nuclear weapons. This needs to be reduced. The world cannot endure another event anything like the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima or Nagasaki. We must be setting the Doomsday Clock away from the fateful midnight, not closer to it.

In the inspiration to the founding of our country, Thomas Paine prophetically stated, "We have it in our power to begin the world over again."

### Don't Put the Community at Risk

**John Marchand, Livermore**

It was astonishing to read the near full-page ad in the July 29, Independent. The ad refers to the long-known organic and heavy-metal contamination on the old Lucky site, the area now approved for Eden Housing. "Save Livermore Downtown" said in their ad, "LEAVE THE CONTAMINATION BEHIND." That is exactly what it said. The ad goes on to say that the contaminated site should be turned into a 'park.' That ad implies that families and children could safely gather on the contaminated soil. I spent my career as a chemist, protecting the safety of our drinking water from organic chemical contamination and monitoring the clean-up of toxic sites.

Experience shows that leaving the contamination in place, and doing nothing to mitigate it, is very irresponsible and short-sighted. Many residents may remember the gas station that contaminated the soil under Livermorium Plaza across from Lizzie Fountain. That contamination contributed to the death of our beloved holiday tree. The 'big oil' corporation who owned the land also wanted to leave the contamination behind despite knowing that its future purpose was as a park.

"LEAVE THE CONTAMINATION BEHIND." The City of Livermore spent years negotiating the clean-up of the Livermorium Plaza site. It was the right thing to do for the public to safely use that park. The members of Save Livermore Downtown are recommending that no clean-up should take place at the Eden site. "LEAVE THE CONTAMINATION BEHIND."

One of their justifications included the city could save the 'costs' involved by avoiding clean-up.

For me and all of the parents and grandparents that I know, leaving contaminated soil on the site of a future park is unacceptable and unjustifiable. The city is currently working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board developing a plan to mitigate the hazardous materials on the Eden site first, before any construction starts and before Veterans Park is built. Veterans Park was just awarded Federal funding; it will be 30% larger than originally proposed and will include a playground.

It appears that Save Livermore Downtown does not care about saving our citizens from toxic soils. The approved Downtown Plan does. The Livermore that I know believes in protecting our children and families, not endangering them.

### Fix Local Government

**Anthony Beckett, Pleasanton**

I found the curious letter to the editor last week about the fate of the country hinging on the election of a single politician in Ohio not only hyperbolic, but another sad example of Democrats looking to fix things in faraway states while ignoring the clown car of their own here in California. Elizabeth Warren is running an ad here that laughingly equates the recall of our inept governor to some sort of assault on civil rights. Investigations into Eric Swalwell's finances and foreign influence are overdue. Politicians who forget what and who they represent are sadly a dime a dozen, on both sides of the aisle,

We are unfortunately heading into steeper inflation, higher taxes, and, with a completely broken border, further complications to our socioeconomic situation. I was hopeful that Joe Biden would at least be able to keep the ship of state afloat. It's painfully apparent that captain and crew aren't seaworthy.

Our only hope against a flailing federal government is a strong local government. Let's take a look at our own backyard and clean up here. Our employees (aka elected officials) in the city, county and state governments need to be direct voices of the people they were elected to represent. Not "independent voices" for changes they personally envision, or worse, voices for those they don't represent, like the US-Qatar Business Council.

### Why Take Unnecessary Risks?

**Donna Cabanne, Livermore**

The Livermore City Council plans to release treated volatile organic compounds (VOCs,) specifically benzene, perchchloroethylene (PCE), and trichloroethylene (TCE), into the Eden Housing underground garage. These particular VOCs are known to cause cancer, learning disabilities and serious health issues. Using a parking garage as an 'engineering control' for contamination is new and poses many perils. This plan could allow VOCs vapors to travel to upper housing floors.

According to the water board, studies in Minnesota show the flow of vapors was "Greater on the upper floors." With this type of health risk, would you want your family to live there? Should we accept these additional hazards? Do we want an experimental plan that has major design concerns and constraints? This plan would trigger the need for continuous indoor air sampling and/or additional remediation measures, even after the units are occupied. What are these additional measures? Have these additional measures been tested in multifamily units in the Bay Area? Where? How much would these additional measures cost? Do we want to be guinea pigs for this type of experimental remediation?

A previous example cited by the city involved a "property with different characteristics " and less serious contamination levels. The presence of PCE, and TCE require more stringent remediation than the city's proposal. Other Eden soil contamination issues include the following problems: Subsurface contamination can be transported by subsurface utility cables and utility vault airspace. How will utility contamination be addressed? Moreover, the garage excavation requires soil sampling for each 5-feet of vertical sidewall. High levels of contamination could lead to soil removal and disposal in a Class One landfill, $300 per ton.

Consider the serious water issues. The plume of VOCs is located in groundwater used for drinking water; the plume could increase with excavation. How has the city determined 50% cleanup of groundwater is sufficient for your drinking water? How can we avoid these hazardous and expensive risks?

Move Eden Housing to a safer location. We have been kept in the dark. It is time for the public to have ALL of the facts. Email Mayor Woerner, Council members Munro, Bonanno, Carling and Kiick at www.cityoflivermore.net. Request a hearing after all documents, correspondence between the water and air boards have been posted on the city website. We have a right to know the total clean-up costs for Eden Housing.

### Supporters are Appreciated

**Jean King, Livermore**

Save Livermore Downtown thanks all supporters who signed the petition, wrote letters, volunteered and are making financial contributions. For more information on those opportunities, please go to saveLivermoredowntown.com.

### Money and Conflicts

**Carol Silva, Livermore**

In 2000, voters passed Measure D to enhance agricultural land and to protect it from the fragmentation of development. The Aramis Project is an industrial facility, with acres of eight-foot solar panels and battery storage stations, which was approved in an agricultural-zoned district. This is a violation of Measure D. It is the duty of all-involved officials to honor voter-approved Measure D.

Public wildlife agencies and independent biologists reviewed Aramis' environmental impact reports and found it deficient in regards to plant and animal-threatened species and their habitats. Many people expressed concerns about the harm to endangered and special status plant species and wildlife, such as California tiger salamanders, California red-legged frogs and birds.

When the Aramis Project was voted upon by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments, two of its three members had economic ties to South Livermore. I think that if the Aramis Project had been proposed on land covered by Measure D in South Livermore, it wouldn't have been approved by the East County Board of Zoning Adjustments, due to violating Measure D and agricultural zoning.

Supervisor Haubert falsely promised to support the development of a solar policy before approving a solar project. He probably views Livermore as a way to nurture future campaign contributions by supporting solar generation companies.

Larry Gosselin co-wrote Aramis' agricultural management plan while also working on solar issues as an Alameda County agricultural advisory commissioner. Gosselin's work on the Aramis Project is in direct conflict with his position on Alameda County's agricultural advisory board.

Intersect had intended to use 38-acres within the Stanley Ranch. Before the Stanleys had legal representation, the project developer made misrepresentations to induce them to sign a county permit application. The Stanleys hired an attorney. The attorney made extensive comments to the proposed lease agreement. Then Intersect gave the Stanleys an execution-ready set of documents to sign, without addressing their attorney's comments nor notifying their attorney of the meeting. Between Intersect's misrepresentations and the inadequate information in Aramis' EIRs, I would not reward Intersect for their unethical behavior by approving their project.

Rooftop and urban solar installations should be the county's priority, in addition to maintaining agricultural lands and open space for storing carbon out of the atmosphere, and eliminating methane emissions. Cutting methane emissions is the most effective way to slow the rate of global warming.

North Livermore Valley is beautiful. Please help Save North Livermore Valley.

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, September 3, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

**Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee (1 vacancy)**

The City of Livermore manages more than $3 billion in community assets that include our streets, sidewalks, traffic signals, storm drains, public facilities, and more. Join the Community Asset Management Program (CAMP) Outreach Committee and advise the City on how we can ensure the sustainability of our essential infrastructure investments. CAMP members will provide input and serve as outreach ambassadors—sharing our efforts and educating the broader community about the important decisions we face.

***Unexpired term ending 12/31/2022.***

*Meets 3rd Monday of the quarter at 6:00 PM.*

**Historic Preservation Commission (1 Vacancy)**

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.

***Unexpired term ending 5/1/2025***

*Meets 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.*

*Next Meeting: September 2nd – Virtual*

**Housing Authority (1 At-Large Vacancy)**

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

***Unexpired term ending 1/1/2023.***

*Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM*

**Human Services Commission (2 Vacancies)**

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

***(1) Unexpired term ending 11/1/2021 with a regular term ending 11/1/2025. ****

***(2) Regular term ending 11/1/2025.***

*Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM*

**Library Board of Trustees (1 Vacancy)**

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.

**Unexpired term ending 6/1/2022.**

*Meets 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM*

*Next meeting: August 26th – Virtual*

**Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission ((3) Youth & (1) 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.

***Regular terms ending 9/1/2023.***

*Meets 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM*

**SAVE THE DATE!** Interviews will be tentatively held the week of September 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 applicable advisory body before applying.

*At their discretion, Council can appoint to an unexpired and regular term extending the total time for appointment.






# TESTING

(Continued from first page)

and dry-cleaning businesses. The city has been tasked with remediating the volatile organic compounds and other chemicals of concern present at the site due to its previous uses.

A June 25 report published by the Water Board had called the city's proposed cleanup for the site "neither appropriately justified nor acceptable." In response, Livermore City Engineer Bob Vinn sent a letter to the Water Board, noting that the city met with the Water Board on July 12 to discuss the preliminary comments.

"Consistent with this discussion, the city's environmental consultant, Pangea, is preparing a detailed technical response to the Water Board's comments," Vinn wrote. "The response will be submitted to the Water Board for review prior to submitting a revised IRAP. The city appreciates working with the Water Board and recognizes that site development and building occupancy involves Water Board review of potential vapor intrusion/mitigation, which we understand is typical of the Water Board's oversight process. Should you need additional information or have any questions or concerns to discuss, the city is eager to assist."



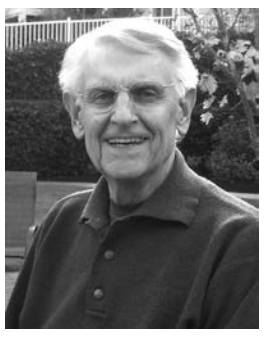


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# OBITUARIES

## Kenneth Leroy Tschritter

**Nov. 3, 1938 - July 26, 2021**



Kenneth Leroy Tschritter, 82, passed away on July 26, 2021, in Redmond, Washington. He was born in French Camp, California, and raised in Lodi where he met and married his wife Gayl. They moved to Livermore in 1963 where Ken worked for Sandia National Laboratory for 37 years, retiring in 2002. He was a proud Navy veteran, an avid car enthusiast, woodworker and winemaker.

Ken was predeceased by Gayl in 2015. He is survived by his loving daughter Lynn Glover and son-in-law Christopher Glover of Woodinville, Washington; and granddaughters, Kaitlyn and Sophia. A private memorial service will be held, and the family asks that any donations in Ken's name be made to the American Cancer Society.

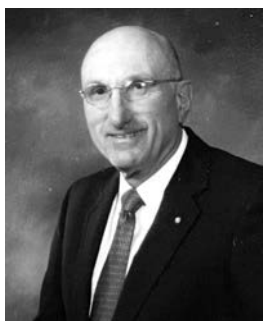
## Martin Haskell Plone

**Jan. 10, 1940 - July 8, 2021**

Martin (Marty) Haskell Plone passed away suddenly in Livermore California on July 8, 2021, at the age of 81. He was born on January 10, 1940 in Worcester, Massachusetts. His parents were Louis and Irene Plone. Marty is survived by his sister Marilyn Liddicoat; her children Britt (Joseph) Haselton; Dr. Rebecca (Steve) Yamarik; Brian (Zenaida) Liddicoat; and her grandchildren Celeste and Alecia Haselton; Anna and Samuel Yamarik; and Richard and Siena Liddicoat.

Marty received his bachelor's degree in biology in 1963 and went on to the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1967, both at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. Marty was always grateful for the education he received at Washington State University and has recently arraigned a bequest to the college to establish the Dr. Martin H. Plone Endowment.

After he graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1967, he spent two years in the United States Air Force stationed at Itazuke, Japan working in the area of public health but also taking care of pets and sentry dogs on the base. Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Plone went to California, practicing first in Berkeley



and then in Livermore. Five years after graduation he set up his own American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) certified practice in a storefront in downtown Livermore. He then bought a lot and built his own building, The Del Valle Pet Hospital, a thriving small animal practice, in 1979, where he stayed until he retired in September of 2000.

His good friend Dr. John Shirly a fellow veterinarian invited Marty to join The Rotary Club in 1971 and he became the president in 1986 and soon after was instrumental in starting The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore. Marty loved dogs and had owned several long-haired Dachshund's. Frustrated with the lack of a dog park in Livermore, Dr. Plone along with the Del Valle Dog Club, helped establish Livermore's first dog park which was located at Max Baer Park. In part, due to his advocacy, Livermore now boasts seven dog parks.

Retirement for Dr. Plone did not mean staying at home or not working anymore. After he sold his practice Marty continued his involvement with Rotary and he also became active in legal circles promoting mainly criminal restitution laws, a field in which he is well-known in California as a self-made expert. He worked with the Attorney General's office developing and reviewing bills about victims' rights, a subject that had been important to him for many years.

Marty spent many of his retirement years traveling the western United States and Canada, playing golf, visiting friends, enjoying the National Parks, visiting his beloved Washington State University and catching a Cougars game. He was a long-time member of Castlewood Country Club. Dr. Plone rarely missed a Rotary meeting and his quick wit, sense of humor and fellowship will be missed by his many friends in the Rotary Clubs of Livermore.

At his request there will be no services or memorials. Any donations in his name should be directed to the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore, a 501(c)(3) charity at P.O. Box 2181, Livermore, California, 94551.

## Kenneth (John) Beede

**April 7, 1928 - July 16, 2021**

John passed away peacefully at the age of 93 at his home in Pleasanton, California with his loving wife Getra by his side. It was a sunny day and he had just finished eating some blueberries, which were his favorite because they reminded him of his childhood in Maine.

John was born in Portland, Maine to Ken Sr. and Virginia Beede. He was called into World War II his senior year of high school and served with units of the United States Fleet in the Atlantic and Caribbean theaters and completed his tour with the Submarine Forces in Central and Southwest Pacific. Then once again, he was called to the Korean War and served on the USS Toledo, a heavy cruiser warship.

Upon discharge, he pursued civil engineering at the University of Maine and UC Berkeley, California. Upon graduation he joined the Pacific Gas and Electric company in the construction division with the tower and hydro departments. He joined the Navy Reserves in the Seabee's Construction Battalion and retired from the Navy in 1978.

His work with PG&E led him to the Oroville Dam Project where he met his wife Getra. John's wife Getra is an identical twin sister to Greta and there were three other sisters; Helen, Aleta and Karen on the Circle J Ranch that he had to impress including their father, Leonard Kendall. So, with that in mind, John bought a red convertible, and the city



boy was able to impress the rancher and his daughters proving that he was worthy of Getra. They were married in 1956 In Durham California. John is known for being the "Grandfather of Concrete" and was registered in California in both the civil and quality engineering branches. After retiring from PG&E, he became an independent consultant and then joined Caltrans where he completed the Bay Bridge project with his son Kenneth III. He mentored many people in his field of work.

John was a proud father and grandfather. He enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren at their sports games and with their 4-H projects. Just to name a few of his grand children's accomplishments; Megan a 4-H All-Star; Trey and Joel also in 4-H and raised a pig in 4-H and played football for Livermore High School; Sean, an Eagle Scout; Kenny IV is a local town hero with his music and tried out for the show "The Voice"; Jordan a Cal State East Bay graduate; and Blake an essential worker and the life of the family. He was most proud of his son learning the cement trade as a technician and of his daughter who is a registered nurse and married to David, also a Navy Veteran.

Always compassionate towards others, he would ask everyone who entered the house "Are you okay?" Kenny IV, Sheryl Bettencourt, Lynn Hahlbeck and family provided the physical and emotional care for John and Getra over the last several months while John was on Hospice. He is survived by his wife Getra Beede of 65 years; his daughter Linda and son-in-law David Daniel, and their children Sean, Megan, Ryan, Madison; son in law Jayden Williams, a Specialist in the US Army; and one great-granddaughter, Lilly Williams. Son Kenneth Beede III; his late wife Stephanie; their two sons Kenneth IV and Blake; and with Lynn Hahlbeck their children Jordan, Trey and Joel of Livermore. John's brother Benjamin Beede passed away July 4, a few days before John's death.

John will be remembered for his kind heart, generosity, storytelling and being a positive mentor. He was a selfless man who enjoyed taking care of his dogs and making memories with his family. A celebration of life will be held on Sept. 4 at 2 p.m. at Graham Hitch Mortuary, Pleasanton, California. Please join the family and share your stories. Burial will be at a future date at Clear Creek Cemetery in Orville, California.

## Robert Allen Thompson

**Resident of Pleasanton**
**Aug. 21, 1949 - July 20, 2021**

Robert "Bob" Thompson passed away unexpectedly at the age of 71. He was a wonderful musician, as well as a skilled athlete and tradesman who loved spending time outdoors. He touched many lives with his generosity and loved to entertain others with his great sense of humor.

Bob was born in Richmond, California on Aug. 21, 1949. After receiving his pilot's license, he left home to serve in the United States Air Force as an airplane mechanic during the Vietnam War. Upon returning home in 1971, he went on to pursue his bachelor's degree in music at Sonoma State University. Bob maintained a lifelong passion for music. He especially loved practicing with his band members and playing guitar every morning in the music hut that he built.

Bob ultimately settled for a career in telecommunications.



He worked for PG&E for 30 years until his retirement in 2011. Bob loved retirement and kept himself busy with new challenges and adventures. In 2014, he embarked on a journey to receive his helicopter pilot's license. He also took up an interest in backpacking and hiked portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and Tahoe Rim Trail. Bob stayed active by taking dance lessons, going on bike rides and playing in tennis tournaments. He liked to brag that he could outrun a 30-year-old any day on the court.

Bob is preceded in death by his wife, Gayle Yost-Thompson, who passed away in 2009. He vowed that he would honor her memory by living every day to its fullest and by continuing to be a loving, inspiring and devoted father. He is survived by his daughter, Erin Yost Thompson; his son, Kevin Yost Thompson; his brothers, Donald and Greg Thompson; his sister, Supriya Kathleen Deas, and his stepsisters, Susan Thompson and Elizabeth Elewski.

Bob's wishes were to be cremated and to have his ashes spread in Yosemite. A celebration of life ceremony will be held in his honor. Donations can be made to the Sierra Club Foundation, the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, or a charity of your choosing.

## Dolores Grant Hiskes

**Dec. 26, 1930 - June 21, 2021**

Dolores Grant Hiskes, our beloved "Drammy", mom and wife passed peacefully in her sleep on June 21, 2021 at The Redwoods Retirement Community in Mill Valley, California.

Daughter of Leslie and Dagmar Grant, Dolores was born in the Scandinavian neighborhood of Chicago the day after Christmas in 1930. Always a performer, she loved to be in plays, dance (tap and ballet) and had to be dragged off stage when she was young for not wanting to leave.

She met the love of her life, Johnny, at University of Illinois at Navy Pier right after the Korean War. He was just back from two years' service in the Coast Guard and was a physics major on the GI Bill. They married two years later, moved to Berkeley, California and had two children, Robin Hiskes Caproni and John Grant Hiskes.

After focusing on putting Johnny through UC Berkley for his PhD, they moved to Livermore. While raising two kids, who were having difficulty reading, and hearing



Robin's teacher tell her "20% of students never learn to read," Dolores found her mission and passion knowing the nearby Catholic school used phonics and had 100% literacy. Dolores became set on a mission to improve literacy via phonics which became her life's work and legacy. In addition to teaching her own kids how to read, Dolores worked tirelessly for years on her own phonics book which she self-published and that resulted in a best seller on Amazon. "Phonics Pathways" is now used world-wide and a favorite among home schoolers.

Dolores and Johnny had the good fortune of having a wide net of diverse friends with whom they enjoyed engaging their kids and grandchildren. They enjoyed adventure; debates, hosting study groups on various topics, extensive traveling, camping, attending the opera, plays and ballets. But most of all Dolores loved pies, whipped cream and playing her "magic egg trick" with her grandkids, extended family and last but not least, doting on her grandkitties: Lucy, Clumsy, Frick, Frack and Foops. She will be very,very much missed.

Dolores is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Robin Hiskes Caproni and Christopher Caproni of Mill Valley, California; son, John Grant Hiskes of Oakhurst, California; grandchildren Connor Grant Caproni of Los Angeles, California and Austenne Nicole Caproni of West Hollywood, California. Dolores is preceded in death by her husband John Robert Hiskes and sister Beverly Grant Stevens. In lieu of flowers, it is the family's wish that you please donate a copy of "Phonics Pathways" to a local charity, organization or family that supports literacy.

## Marion "Evie" Eckard

**April 29, 1933 - July 24, 2021**

Marion "Evie" Eckard passed away at the age of 88 on July 24, 2021. She was born to Wesley and Susan McAuley in McAuley, Manitoba, Canada. Evie attended high school in McAuley and then moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada where she attended the University of Manitoba to receive her Bachelor of Science degree and then continued on to the University of Minnesota for her internship as a registered nutritionist and dietitian.

She and Larry Bakken were married in 1956 after she graduated and they moved to San Diego, California where she worked at the Sharp Hospital as a registered nutritionist and dietician.

They moved to Livermore around 1968 where she worked for the Livermore Valley Memorial hospital and then worked and retired from the Livermore Valley Care hospital after 27 years. Sadly, Larry passed away in 2011 after her retirement. In retirement she has been very active in the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore.

Evie and Royce Eckard



were married in 2013 and continued to live in Livermore until 2019 when they moved to Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton. They continued to fulfil their lifelong dreams to travel and be with their family and friends. Evie was a gentle, gracious and positive thinking person and she always had a twinkle in her eyes; that is how she will always be remembered. Never did I hear her say anything bad about anyone. She enjoyed being with others, traveling and helping people in need. She belonged to the Valley study group; the Sara Circle Ladies group; the Top Galant Mariner couples' group; and was a leader in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

She belonged to two bridge groups, was a member of American Association of University Women, and was involved in many other activities. She was a great fan of Tom Jones and enjoyed all his music.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, "Doug" McCauley, in Winnipeg; her brother Keith McAuley in McAuley; and her first husband, Larry Bakken. Evie will be buried in her hometown of McAuley. Evie is survived by her husband Royce Eckard of eight years; daughter Lauren Van Maren; brother Robert McAuley in Red Deer Alberta; sister Beth Puddicombe in Saskatoon; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 1041 N Grand Ave #185 Covina, California, 91724. Friends and family are invited to the celebration of life service at the First Presbyterian Church at 2020 Fourth St., Livermore, California at 1 p.m. on August 7, 2021.

## Elda Fay Utterback Montgomery

**Nov. 28, 1934 - Nov. 10, 2020**

Elda Fay (Utterback) Montgomery peacefully left her Earthly body on the morning of November 10, 2020. She was born to Leo Utterback and Nellie McCallister Utterback in Clayton, West Virginia on November 28, 1934. One of four children, her family lived in many WV locations before settling in the small lumber town of Rainelle, WV. She was proud of her West Virginia roots and spent much time there visiting family and friends. Elda graduated from Rainelle High School in Rainelle, WV in 1953. She then graduated in 1957 from Glenville State College in Glenville, WV with a degree in Education. She would eventually end up with a Master's degree in Education from West Virginia University. From Glenville College, Elda set off for a lifetime of adventures teaching children in many different locations. First, came Oberlin, OH. Next, she worked for the Defense Department on Midway Island teaching children of Naval Personnel stationed there. After Midway, she settled in Honolulu teaching the children of the workers in the sugar cane industry. It was in Honolulu where she met her ex-husband, Cassel Montgomery, and they decided to settle on the mainland. That brought her to Livermore where she started her career as a teacher for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. Elda taught fifth grade at Jackson Avenue Elementary and English and Social Studies at East Avenue Middle School. She had a way of reaching and inspiring her students and created lifetime relationships with many of them. She retired in 1999 after 43 years as an educator. She wasn't just about education, she was about travel! Whether she was traveling back to West Virginia to see friends and family, trekking to the Holy Land, or to countless other exotic locations, she was always up for an adventure. Elda is predeceased by her parents, Leo and Nellie Utterback, sister Alva Utterback Kinard, and brother Gene Jones. Elda is survived by her son, Barry Montgomery, daughter-in-law, Leslie Montgomery, and her two grandsons, Grant and Garret Montgomery, who she dearly loved. She also leaves behind her sister Evelyn Drake of Gallatin, TN, many cousins, and countless friends that meant the world to her. A huge thank you to her neighbor, Evelynne Schwartz, for helping her stay at home as long as possible. One can only hope to live half of the exciting life that Elda lived and she didn't take life for granted. Until we meet again, Mom! A Celebration of Life will be held on August 7th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church located at 678 Enos Way in Livermore. All are welcome to join us in celebrating Elda!

## Patricia Ann Newman-Nincioni

**Oct. 25, 1964 - July 24, 2021**

Patricia (Tricia) passed away at home surrounded by family and friends. She is survived by her husband Steve; father Jim Newman; mother Charlotte Newman; brother Jon Newman; nephews James Cummings and Luke Nincioni; nieces Lily Cummings, Kayla and Julie Nincioni; mother-in-law Barbara Nincioni; father-in-law Rinaldo Nincioni; brother-in-law Gino Nincioni and many aunts, uncles, cousins and special friends.

Tricia's medical career began at Hacienda Care Center as a licensed vocational nurse followed by working for doctors Schwartz and Blackwell and caring for Jeremey Schwartz (son of Dr Jerrold and Nonie) who was the highlight and very significant love of her life. Following the aforementioned, she worked more than 25 years for Valley Care Hospital (now Stanford Health Care) in Livermore and Pleasanton starting as a phlebotomist and holding various other positions and responsibilities, ultimately aspiring to patient access manager for the hospital.

Tricia loved animals (her babies). She had many cats and dogs by her side throughout her life. In addition to family mentioned above, Tricia leaves one dog, Fallyn; two cats, Gentry and Vincenzo; and three chickens, Thelma, Louise and Molly. Others that will be missing her attention and affection are the loving kitties at Second Chance Kitty where she volunteered her time after retirement.

Donations in Tricia's name may be made to your favorite Humane Society or Second Chance Kitty, P.O. Box



691671, Stockton, California, 95269-1671. A private memorial celebrating her life is planned for August 7, 2021.

(Continued on page 10)

# OBITUARIES

## Ruth Ann Pruss





Ruth Ann Pruss died, peacefully in her sleep, at the age of 95, on July 31, 2021 in Gilroy, California. Services will take place at Callaghan's Livermore Mortuary, 3833 East Avenue, Livermore, California, at 11a.m. on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. Burial will take place at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Oakland, at 4529 Howe St., Oakland, California.

Ruth will be remembered as the loving spouse of Joseph Pruss for 57 years and for the love and devotion she gave to her family. Ruth lived in Livermore for 55 years and was active in local politics, her antique club and St. Charles Catholic Church. Ruth is survived by her children, Joseph, Louis and Helen. Ruth had a special love for her grandchildren; Graham, Trisha, Bob and Julie; and four great-grandchildren; Donovan, Emma, Nickolas and Cordelia; and one great-great-grandchild Elio.

Ruth Ann Martin, her maiden name, was born in Oakland California in 1926 and went to Oakland Interior Design School and began her first career at Capwell's scheduling interior design appointments. After her kids were born, she started to work full time raising her three children as her husband Joe moved around the San Francisco Bay Area looking for a permanent teaching position. They moved a lot in those early years from San Francisco to Oakland to Santa Cruz to Castro Valley to Fremont and finally Livermore in 1966.

Mom and Dad enjoyed the RV traveling life after retiring from their lifelong careers working in education. Mom worked in admissions and records for Cal State Hayward and Dad taught math (Algebra) at East Avenue School in Livermore.

After Dad's passing in 2007, Mom sold the family home on Mayview Way in Livermore and joined many of her Livermore friends at Heritage Estates. Mom enjoyed 10 years of activities with her social network there.

In 2017 Mom moved to Gilroy to be close to her son Louis and she enjoyed the last five years of regular lunch visits from family and friends at Gilroy Elderly Care Home where she received the excellent care and support, she needed. Our family wants to thank the folks at Gilroy Elderly Care Home for everything they did to care for Mom.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends contributions to Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, Congregation of the Queen of the Holy Rosary, 43326 Mission Circle, Fremont, California, 94539-5829.

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

## Fernando Romero Sr.

**May 30, 1933 – July 31, 2021**





Fernando Romero Sr. passed away after a battle with cancer on July 31, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Sonora, Mexico, and became a U.S. naturalized citizen while serving in the U.S. Army. His service in the military began in April 1953, and following boot camp, he completed Armor Battalion training and was stationed in Germany from October 1953 through April 1955. He was a corporal in the 7th Arms, 19th Armor Group, 322 Tank Battallion, B. Company and was proud to serve his country.

When he returned from the service, he married the love of his life, Virginia Diaz, in July 1955. He met her before he joined the service at a community dance hall. She patiently waited for his return. Following their marriage, they were blessed with four wonderful children; George (Becky) Romero, Julie Romero (Scott) Genung, Fernando (Annette) Romero Jr. and David (Ingrid) Romero, while making their home in Madera, California. Fernando attended GM Auto Body Training school in 1956 to follow his career path as an auto body technician in Madera, California. Then he took a leap of faith and accepted a position as an auto claims estimator with State Farm Insurance in Oakland and relocated his family to the Bay Area in April 1968. After living in the Bay Area, he moved his family to Livermore in 1974 where he settled with his family and made his permanent home.

In 1980, he decided to take another leap of faith and opened his own business, an auto body shop in Livermore, with his sons. He invested many hours of work from repairing the vehicles and showing his sons the methods of repairs in the industry to writing estimates and greeting his customers. Being involved one-on-one with customers, he enjoyed making the connection letting his customers know he stood behind his work and that of his employees. To this day, the company continues to receive calls asking if they could see Fernando directly to discuss their vehicle repairs. He worked many evenings and weekends to start his business with his sons alongside him. Tri-Valley Auto Body has been part of the community since that time and still continues to operate under the management of his children. He joined the Livermore Rotary Club as a Rotarian and served for many years until his retirement. He enjoyed being part of the community especially helping to organize the Livermore Rodeo Parade, the crab feeds and other Rotarian events. A long-time parishioner of St. Michael Church, he served as a church usher every weekend. His faith and trust in God was a very important part of his life, and he loved his wife and family above everything else.

Recently, celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary, they received a marriage blessing from their parish pastor Fr. Carl Arcosa at their home. During the 66 years of marriage, their children blessed them with (13) grandchildren; Jose Fernando Garcia, Robert Romero, Christina Garcia (Jason) Ouimette, Melissa Romero, Danielle (Tyson) Lane, Gabrielle (Tyler) Rooffener, Erin (Michael) Ranger, Valerie (Samuel) Tapia, Jessica (Taylor) Kruegar, Fernando Alexander Romero, Lauren Genung, Andrew Romero and Luciana Romero. His two step-grandchildren Shayla & Johnny Owen; eight great-grandchildren, Ashlyn Garcia and Tristin, Caleb and Casey Lane, Talyn Ranger, James, John and Luke Rooffener; and another great-grandchild (Baby Tapia) expected at the end of this month.

Fernando also leaves behind his brothers, Fred (Adela) Romero of Fresno and Antonio (Inez) Romero of Madera; sister; brothers-in-law; and many nieces, nephews and extended family in Madera, California, Fresno, California, San Jose, California and Phoenix, Arizona. He loved them all very much and enjoyed family social gatherings and trips. We can't forget his dog Ringo aka: Roger.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Maria Soza Romo; sister, Lidia Romo Thornton; and daughter-in-law, Kimberly Romero.

Fernando was and will always be the Patriarch to the Romero Family. His commitment in marriage to his beautiful wife and children; his dedication, sacrifices and hard work was a selfless gift of his unconditional love for them. His memories will be shared by his family and friends in the years to come, and he will live on in their hearts and he will be remembered as, The Man, The Myth, The Legend and our Hero.

His life will be celebrated with a Funeral Mass Thursday, Aug. 12, at 11 a.m., at St Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550. Visitation will be held Wednesday, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St Michael Catholic Church.

# Laboratory Researchers Create Electrodes Using 3-D Printing

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) is using 3-D printers to make flow-through electrodes (FTE), core components in electrochemical reactors used to convert carbon dioxide and other molecules into useful products.

As described in a paper published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers were able to print the FTEs using graphene aerogels, highly porous, synthetic materials with low density. Using 3-D printing, they were able to tailor the flow, dramatically improving mass transfer, the transport of liquid or gas reactants through the electrodes and onto the reactive surfaces.

LLNL said the work opens the door to establishing 3D printing as a "viable, versatile rapid-prototyping method" for FTEs and maximizing reactor performance.

"We are pioneering the use of three-dimensional reactors with precise control over the local reaction environment," said LLNL engineer Victor Beck, the paper's lead author. "Novel, high-performance electrodes will be essential components of next-generation electrochemical reactor architectures."

Typical materials used in other FTEs are "disordered" media, according to LLNL, including carbon fiber-based foams or felts, which limits the ability to engineer their microstructure. While cheap to produce, the FTEs suffer from uneven flow and mass transport distribution, researchers explained.

Because the commercial viability and widespread adoption of electrochemical reactors depends on greater mass transfer, the ability to engineer flow in FTEs could make the technology a more attractive option for helping solve the global energy crisis, researchers said. Improving the performance and predictability of 3D-printed electrodes also makes them suitable for use in scaled-up reactors for high efficiency electrochemical converters.

LLNL is exploring the use of electrochemical reactors across a range of applications, including converting CO2 to useful fuels and polymers and electrochemical energy storage from carbon-free and renewable sources.

# KREYCIK

(Continued from first page)

containing his phone and the route he planned to run at the park's entrance. Search and rescue teams employed the use of drones, fixed wing aircraft, off-road vehicles and dogs, which tracked him to the start of the trail, but lost the scent.

During a tearful interview with The Independent last week before his body was found, the Kreycik family still managed to laugh as they recalled heartwarming stories about Philip and his wild sense of adventure. They remembered the marathons he had completed as a teenager; his adventures in the Canadian Rockies for 10-day biking tours; close run-ins with grizzly bears in Alaska while on expeditions 300 miles from the nearest road; and snowshoe journeys in sub-zero-degree temperature when he had to double back to find members of his team before nightfall. Beyond sports, they also proudly shared that he had been the valedictorian of his private school in Virginia and later went on to obtain two master's degrees in city planning and transportation at MIT. He was a principal analyst for PG&E before his disappearance.

Jen remembered the moment she met her husband through an outdoor club at MIT, where she was also enrolled. The first 10 hours they spent together was during a hike.

She spoke through tears when asked what she wanted her husband to know.

"That we're waiting for him and to hang in there," she had said on July 28. "That we're looking for him ... and we will find him, but he needs to be strong. His kids are waiting for him."

Jen further said that Philip loved his garden and growing unique vegetables that can't be found in a store. She slightly chuckled when noting that he also needed to come home to water his plants, only to tear up again when sharing that she and the children had picked his cherry tomatoes the day before.

"I'm trying to maintain (the kids') routine and keep family home life as normal as possible," she continued. "The older one has asked me questions, and (I say) we're still looking for Baba."

Keith said that the family feels Philip's spirit.

"He's served as a role model for me as ... a citizen, and (he) cares deeply about making this world a better place," he continued.

Clare, Philip's younger sister by 20 months, agreed. She said that in the search for her brother, she was flooded with childhood memories of playing in the woods together.

"He's the person that I know who lives by his values the most — he cares so deeply about our planet and our children and just made a lot of sacrifices in order to preserve resources. He had a vision for a brighter future," Clare said. "His work life and his personal life and his family life were all aligned to that goal."

While wrapped in the supportive arms of her family members, Marcia said she wanted the world to know that her son is "enthusiastic, generous, kind-hearted and embraces life."

"I think he cares deeply about the world and the people in it," she said. "And the friends that have shown up (to help search) have proven that to me."

This is an ongoing investigation, and anyone who may have seen Kreycik on the day of his disappearance is asked to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5107.

# TRI-VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Now to Sunday, Aug. 8
### Piano in the Plaza

Persimmon Place's Piano in the Plaza kicks off at 3 p.m., with the unveiling of the piano's transformation by local artist, Thomasin Dewhurst (with help from her students), as well as classical musical performances by student musicians from Amador Valley High School's award-winning music department. Following the launch event, the piano will remain open to the public to play on a first come basis. Come play with us and share your talents with your neighbors! Piano in the Plaza is a fundraiser for the local Hill & Valley Club's PENNIES FOR KIDS program. Donate your loose change at the piano kiosk or make a donation online. For more information, contact Persimmon Place / Polite Society's Marty Griswold at persimmonplace@nwpolitesociety.com or 206-660-0678.

### Saturday, Aug. 7
### Quest Science Center - Science of Music

How is sound created? Build instruments from household materials and experiment with sound waves. Play the Space Palette Pro. Enjoy a mini concert from Don Lewis, an electronic music inventor and pion. This event is free and family friendly and will be hosted outdoors. For more information, contact Quest Science Center's Caleb Cheung at ccheung@quest-science.org.

### Monday, Aug. 9
### Researching Your Civil War Ancestor

From 7 to 8:30 p.m., join Jeff Vaillant in a session where he will share stories and strategies he used in finding his Civil War ancestors. Vaillant is career certified facility manager who has worked for federal, state and local agencies, as well as financial institutions, research organizations, consumer games and manufacturing entities. The event is free and will be hosted on Zoom. For the registration link or additional information, contact Tom Mathews, program chairperson at program@L-AGS.org.

### Thursday, Aug. 12
### Signs of Normal Aging versus Dementia

Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss "Signs of Normal Aging versus Dementia," from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Since dementia dramatically changes the ways that individuals think, perceive, and communicate, caring for a loved one with dementia presents unique challenges. Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss the nature and progression of dementia and the various diseases and conditions that can produce its symptoms. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the ways in which dementia can impact the brain and behavior. If you're caring for an elderly family member, Hope Hospice is here to help with a free education series, now offered as interactive classes through Zoom. Recordings of past events are also available on the website, too. To register, visit HopeHospice.com/family. For more information, call 925- 829-8770.

### Thursday, Aug. 12
### "Jesus Christ Superstar" Documentary Release Party

FJoin Ted Neeley for a special "Superstars, The Documentary – Extended Version" Release Party and screening of the remastered 70mm print of the original "Jesus Christ Superstar" film, at Vine Cinema & Alehouse, at 7 p.m. Tickets are limited and sold out quickly for the last event, so advance purchase is recommended. 100% of all general admission ticket sales will go directly to the Vine Cinema. VIP Experience tickets are available at tedneeley.com. General admission tickets are available at https://bit.ly/3eYp1sK. For more information, email jcsevents2020@gmail.com.

### Saturday, Aug. 14
### Valley Dance Theatre 40th Season Gala

Last year was the VDT's 40th season, but due to COVID-19, the entire performing season was cancelled. This coming fall will be their 41st season, 40th year of being able to entertain audiences. Tickets are $40 per person or $300 for a table of eight. All proceeds from this fundraiser are to improve facilities at the school, such as getting a new floor in Studio A. There will be hors d'oeuvres, desserts, Livermore wines and beers, a no host bar, a silent auction, and raffle items, as well as performances from the Valley Dance Theatre's vast repertoire. Please RSVP by July 16 to Madison Adkins at maddie@valleydancetheatre.com.

### Monday, Aug. 16
### VA Palo Alto Health System at Pleasanton Library

The Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Outreach team to facilitate examinations, consultations, and referrals for enrolled veterans. The drop-in event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 16, in front of the library, located at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Veterans uncertain of their benefits eligibility are encouraged to visit as requirements have changed, and VA health care may complement current medical coverage. VA representatives will provide information to veterans, spouses, caregivers, family members, and survivors and assist with veteran enrollment for VA care. Veterans should bring military discharge papers (Form DD-214) and a list of current medications. Those who need to obtain proof-of-service documents prior to the event can find instructions at the library's online Veterans Resource Center, at https://bit.ly/3lmpgBL. For more information, call 925-931-3400 x4 or email information@pleasantonlibrary.zendesk.com.

### Thursday, Sept. 9
### Living with Dementia: Dementia Basics

From 10 to 11:30 a.m., Hope Hospice's dementia specialists will discuss "Living with Dementia: Dementia Basics" Since dementia dramatically changes the ways that individuals think, perceive, and communicate, caring for a loved one with dementia presents unique challenges. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the ways in which dementia can impact the brain and behavior. If you're caring for an elderly family member, Hope Hospice is here to help with a free education series, now offered as interactive classes through Zoom. Recordings of past events are also available on the website, too. To register, visit HopeHospice.com/family. For more information, call 925- 829-8770.

### Monday, Sept. 13, 20, and 27
### Experienced Singers Invited to Sing Mozart "Requiem"

The Valley Concert Chorale will open their doors in September to all Bay Area singers with a bold new project. Experienced singers are invited to sing the Mozart "Requiem" in an October performance with VCC members. Starting Sept. 13 and for the next two Monday evenings, singers will meet in Livermore to rehearse the great choral masterwork. Rehearsals are on Monday nights, Sept. 13, 20, and 27, at 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., in Livermore. Evening performance is Saturday, Oct. 2, at the same location in Livermore, at 7 p.m. There is a $30 participation fee payable at the door. For more information or to obtain a registration form, visit valleyconcertchorale.org or call 925-866-4003.

## 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

# Rotary Supports Axis Health

Members of the Rotary Club of Livermore and Pleasanton North Rotary presented an oversized check for $76,752 to Axis Community Health last month, reflecting more than a year of financial support from for the nonprofit clinic's local response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Axis Community Health CEO Sue Compton and Valerie Jonas, chief development officer, accepted the check on behalf of their primary care clinics in Pleasanton and Livermore. According to Compton, support from the Rotary clubs enabled Axis to purchase equipment needed to make a quick transition from in-person doctor-patient visits to telemedicine for more than 90% of its medical appointments and about 500 mental-health visits weekly. Compton said she anticipates telemedicine will remain a prominent part of the Axis's service delivery model even after the pandemic ends.



**Livermore and Pleasanton Rotary leaders present a check for $76,752 to Axis Community Health, which offers about 500 mental-health visits to patients each week.** (Photo - Jim Brice)

# Museum to Host 'Jacques Cousteau'

Chautauqua scholar Doug Mishler will portray famed ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau in two virtual appearances at Pleasanton's Museum on Main on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The appearances, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., are part of the museum's Ed Kinney Speaker Series, which is being presented virtually this year on the Big Marker webinar platform.



**Actor Doug Mishler**

Cousteau was a French naval officer, ocean explorer, and co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung who brought marine biology to the masses through his many TV specials.

Tickets are $20 ($15 for seniors and students; $10 for museum members) and available on the museum's website, www.museumonmain.org, or by calling 925-462-2766.

Links to the performances will be sent to ticket holders by email.

# Museum to Resume In-Person Story Time for Preschoolers

The Museum on Main will resume its in-person preschool Reading Time program on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

"We missed seeing all the preschoolers and their families learning, creating, and playing together at the museum," said Education Director Sarah Schaefer. "We missed seeing them grow and become more confident in the museum from month to month and from year to year. We are just beyond thrilled to be finally bringing the program back to in-person."

Since 2010, the Pleasanton museum, at 603 Main St., has invited preschoolers and their families for themed reading and crafts the second Wednesday of the month. The program was moved online in April 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pleasanton Foundation, the program's goals are to introduce preschoolers to the world around them while inspiring creativity through books, activities, and crafts.

It also encourages toddlers and their families to learn about the museum and its changing exhibits.

Schaefer, who is also the museum's principal story time reader, said those goals were hard to accomplish virtually.

"We were happy we found a way to keep the program going virtually using our Facebook page," Schaefer said, "but it just wasn't the same."

The sessions, which run from 10-11 a.m., will be held outside the museum under a tent.

All unvaccinated parents and family members over age 2 will be asked to wear facemasks during the program. Parents should also check the museum's website for up-to-date information on COVID-19 protocols.

**Program dates and themes:**

**Aug. 11:** Sailing Away
**Sept. 8:** Celebrate Community
**Oct. 13:** Boil, Boil, Toil and Trouble
**Nov. 11:** November is for Giving
**Dec. 9:** Dance Party

Reservations are not required; however large groups are asked to call in museum in advance at 925-462-2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org.



**Preschoolers show off their monster masks from a previous Halloween-themed Reading Time program at the Museum on Main.** (Photo courtesy of Sarah Schaefer)

# Livermore's Jack Salcedo of Troop 939 Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Jack Salcedo, a member of Boy Scout Troop 939 in Livermore, has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Salcedo is the son of Michael and Amparo Salcedo and attends Granada High School.



**Jack Salcedo**

Eagle is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program. To receive the Eagle award, a Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges and complete a community service project.

For his Eagle project, Salcedo worked with the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District on its native American education program.

He enlisted the help of other Scouts to craft 30 youth-sized versions of an ancient hunting tool known as an atlatl and 60 four-foot darts using turkey feathers collected locally.

Previously, the park district program only had two adult-sized atlatls for school demonstrations. But ranger Dawn Soles said the smaller atlatls allow for a more hands-on experience. "They have made a huge impact with fun and learning had by all," Soles said.

Since joining Troop 939, Salcedo has served as a patrol leader, librarian, quartermaster, assistant senior patrol leader, and senior patrol leader. In 2019, he spent 10-days backpacking more than 100 miles at the Philmont National Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico. He has also volunteered with the Knights of Columbus in collecting food for the needy during the holiday season.


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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR GENERAL PLAN UPDATE COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESIDENTS OF LIVERMORE: The City of Livermore is accepting applications for the General Plan Update Community Advisory Committee. The deadline to apply is September 7, 2021. Applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 5:00 pm.
The General Plan is the City's long-range policy document for growth, land use, sustainability and resource and open space conservation. The Committee will review and provide feedback throughout the update, serve as liaisons to the broader community, and advise the project team on effective outreach and engagement. The committee will be in place from Fall of 2021 until the adoption of the General Plan in late 2023 or early 2024.
For questions, email GPUpdate@cityoflivermore.net, or call the City Clerk's office at (925) 960-4200. Applications are available online at: www.cityoflivermore.net/applygp

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**The second SPARC on the Park concert — featuring entertainment by Los Panderos, Open Strings and Ekobios — took place at Stockmen's Park in Livermore July 31. Dancers of Los Panderos performed Mexican folk dances in colorful costumes.** (Photos – Doug Jorgensen)

## Library Sponsoring Scavenger Hunt

The Livermore Public Library is sponsoring a scavenger hunt inside the Civic Center Library. Participants can pick up a game board at the information desk of any Livermore public library or download one at www.livermorelibrary.net.

To be eligible for prizes, completed scavenger hunt forms must be submitted by 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at any Livermore Public Library branch.

Five winners will be randomly selected from among the correct entries in a drawing on Sept. 2. Participants may also answer two bonus questions about the Rincon and Springtown Libraries to get an extra entry in the prize drawing.

## New Electronics Repair Store Opens in the City of Dublin

An electronics repair shop, uBreakiFix, has open in the Shops in Waterford, 4460 Tassajara Road, in Dublin.

The shop specializes in fixing smartphones, tablets, computers, game consoles, smart speakers, and drones.

The uBreakiFix franchise started in Orlando, Florida, in 2009, after co-founder Justin Wetherill dropped his own smartphone, shattering its display. It was acquired by Asurion, which provides protection plans and repair services for electronic devices, in 2019.

There are now nearly 700 uBreakiFix locations across the U.S. and Canada. The Dublin store is owned by Akash Sawhney, Tarun Tandon, and Anu Tandon, who also own a uBreakiFix franchise in Union City.

## LAB

(Continued from first page)

management's decision to change on-call rotations from voluntary to mandatory. Balke said the lab does not have enough employees and now requires the skilled trades workers to be available from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to be called in for duty.

"You can't drink. You can't go anywhere," Balke said. "You are pretty much stuck at home."

The union says the National Labor Relations Act requires employers to bargain over matters like mandatory on-call rotations, but laboratory management did not provide the opportunity during contract negotiations. The National Labor Relations Board found merit in the union's unfair labor practice charge and issued a complaint against LLNL for violating federal labor law.

Balke said workers are paid a small stipend while on-call but lose their on-call status if they request time for a dentist appointment or to pick up their children from school.

No future bargaining or mediation sessions were immediately scheduled, Balke said.

Breanna Bishop, the laboratory's acting director of public affairs, has said LLNL offered competitive rates and benefits, and maintained full employment and compensation for workers during the pandemic.

"We will continue to bargain in good faith with the union to reach an agreement," Bishop said Friday.

## MASKS

(Continued from first page)

hospitalized in Contra Costa County were not vaccinated, Farnitano said.

Sonoma County Health Officer Dr. Sundari Mase said 86% of those currently hospitalized are unvaccinated and that, of those who are vaccinated, all have underlying medical conditions.

"We have nobody in (intensive care) that is vaccinated," Mase said.

Moss said the situation was similar in Alameda County, where the unvaccinated "far outnumber those that are vaccinated."

"What we are seeing really supports the point that our vaccines protect against severe disease, and the best thing that people who are not vaccinated can do to protect themselves at this point is go out and get vaccinated," Moss said.

The health officials said masks need not be worn in the home with family members, but visits should occur outdoors. They suggested that elderly people and those with underlying conditions protect themselves by taking precautions, even if they are vaccinated.

As Delta variant infections have surged across the country, especially in states with low vaccination rates, California last week became the first state in the country to require all state workers and workers in health care and high-risk congregate settings like homeless shelters and jails to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week. Gov. Gavin Newsom encouraged all local governments and other employers to adopt a similar protocol.

Cities throughout the state are currently grappling with whether to require government workers to become vaccinated or regularly tested.

Through Monday, Livermore had not required its workers to be vaccinated or submit to regular testing to be allowed to come to work, said Douglas Alessio, Livermore's administrative services director.

"Employees who have not confirmed their vaccination status with the city are required to mask up at all times while at work," Alessio said. "Those employees who have provided vaccination status are required to mask up when interacting with the public indoors or whenever utilizing a 'common area' indoors, such as workrooms or hallways."

In Dublin, employees also are not required to get vaccinated but are encouraged to do so, said City Manager Linda Smith.

"They do not need to submit to regular testing, but they are required to have a daily temperature check when they come into the office," Smith said. "We do offer testing through our occupational health provider — Stanford/Valley Care — should our employees feel unwell."

Smith said Dublin is following guidance established by Cal-OSHA that requires masking for those who are not vaccinated and for those who decline to provide their status.

"I have mandated masking for those who are vaccinated when they interact with customers, the unvaccinated and for those who decline to state," Smith said.

Pleasanton has no mandate for employees to be vaccinated, said Nick Binzoni, the city's acting public information officer. Employees who experience COVID-19 symptoms or suspect they are ill would be directed to a testing site, he said. Following the county's health order, employees must wear masks while working indoors.

According to county statistics, 73% percent of Dublin residents are fully vaccinated; along with 76% in Pleasanton; 65% in Livermore; and 73% in Sunol.

Farnitano said it had been hoped that by this time, a vaccinated rate of 70% to 80% would create herd immunity, but that number might need to go much higher.

Most of the cases of vaccinated people who become infected with COVID are mild or asymptomatic, he said.

"People who are in the hospital with COVID, they're really sick, gasping for air — they're struggling to breathe. If they are in the hospital, they're likely to have a tube down their throat on a machine breathing for them, fighting for their life," Farnitano said. "This is what we are trying to avoid. Even if you survive a COVID hospitalization, I wouldn't want to wish a COVID hospitalization on anyone. It's a terrible experience."

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# Dublin Unified School District Welcomes New Staff Members to Various Departments

The Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) last week announced the hiring of four new staff members.

David Wildy, former coordinator of technology services at the Martinez Unified School District, has been named chief technology officer.

Sharon Spivack, former program manager for special education and student services for the Cupertino Union School District, was named senior director of special education.

Sydney Wu, former client support analyst for the Alameda County Office of Education, was named DUSD accounting manager.

Jawan Eldridge, former principal at the Peres K-8 School in the West Contra Costa Unified School District, will become director of human resources.

The hiring of Wildy, Spivack, and Wu were confirmed during a special meeting of the board of the DUSD Board of Education on July 20. Eldridge is expected to be confirmed at the Aug. 10 board meeting.

Prior to joining the Martinez school district, Wildy worked at in the Department of Student Housing and Residence Life at California State University, East Bay for nearly two decades,

He has a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a master's in public administration, public management, and policy analysis from California State University, East Bay.

Spivack has more than 25 years of experience in classroom education, special education, and site administration. In addition to the Cupertino school district, she worked the San Jose Unified School District and Santa Clara County Office of Education and the San Jose Unified School District.

She has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma City University and a master's in special education from the University of New Mexico.

Before joining the Alameda County Office of Education, Wu was payroll account technician for the Castro Valley Unified School District. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego.

Eldridge, who began his educational career as a fifth-grade teacher, has spent the last 12 years in administration and recently completed the Association of California School Administrators Personnel Academy.

He has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of New Haven in Connecticut and a master's in educational leadership and administration from Chapman University in Orange, California.

DUSD serves almost 13,000 students. The district includes seven elementary schools, two middle schools, one K-8 school, one alternative high school, and one comprehensive high school, with a second under construction and due to open in the Fall of 2023.

# LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580611**

The following person(s) doing business as: Gondola, 1678 Feldspar CT, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gondola Exchange, Inc., 1678 Feldspar CT, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Dong Tran, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2021. Expires July 8, 2026 The Independent, Legal No. 4915. Published July 15, 22, 29, August 5,2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580570**

The following person(s) doing business as: Sleeping Tree Pictures, 1011 Jones Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Silvia Turchin, 1011 Jones Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. 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/: Silvia Turchin, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2021. Expires July 7 , 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4916. Published July 15, 22, 29, August 5,2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580571**

The following person(s) doing business as: Bosschart Design, 1011 Jones Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Aimee Bosschart, 1011 Jones Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. 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/: Aimee Bosschart, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 7, 2021. Expires July 7. The Independent,Legal No. 4917. Published July 15, 22, 29, August 5,2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580688**

The following person(s) doing business as: Foss Garden Design, 761 Hilldale Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Reka Foss, 761 Hilldale Ave, Berkeley, CA 94708. 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/: Reka Foss, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 12, 2021. Expires July 14, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4919. Published July 22, 29, August 5, 12, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580593**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Livermore Printer, 2. Livermore Print and sign, 3. American Sign Installation Company, 383 South I Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Daniel Hugh Twomey, 1170 Larkspur Dr, 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: 7/8/2021. Signature of Registrant/s/: Daniel Hugh Twomey, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2021. Expires July 8, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4921. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580813**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. PLVNTLY, 2. Dynatec Industries, 1513 Pearl St. Alameda, CA 94501, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tiny Industries LLC, 1513 Pearl St. Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by a Limitied 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/: Andrew McDivitt, Managing Member. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2021. Expires July 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4922. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580777**

The following person(s) doing business as: Commercial Business Unlimited, 2281 Manzano Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Business Unlimited corp In., 2281 Manzano court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. 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: 7/1/2019. Signature of Registrant/s/: Business Unlimited Group Corp Inc - Narender Taneja, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2021. Expires July 16, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4923. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580785**

The following person(s) doing business as: La Gaviota Transport, 457 Andrews St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Maria del Rosario Arciniega, 457 Andrews St. 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/: Marial del Rosario Arcinieaga, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2021. Expires July 15, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4924. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580794**

The following person(s) doing business as: 1. Dublin Nissan, 2. Dublin Infiniti, 6450 Dublin CT, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Infiniti, Inc.. 4200 John Monego CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jaspreet Dosanjh, Secretary. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 15, 2021. Expires July 15, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4925. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580743**

The following person(s) doing business as: Athens Bar & Grill, 6999 Dublin Blvd, Suite A, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Athens Burgers Corporation, 4251 Holland Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. 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: 6/28/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Peter Theofanopoulos, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 14, 2021. Expires July 14, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4926. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580990**

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Toyota, 6200 Norhtfront Rd, Livemrore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Livermore Sales and Service, Inc., 4200 John Monego CT, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jaspreet Dosanjh, Director. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 26, 2021. Expires July 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4927. Published July 29, August 5, 12, 19, 2021.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

T-Mobile West, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing self supporting lattice tower located at 5310 Treeflower Dr, Livermore, Alameda County, CA. The modifications will consist of collocating antennas at a centerline height of 117'-8" on the 119'-7" lattice tower. 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 6121003457 -
JLD EBI Consulting,
6876 Susquehanna TrailSouth,
York, PA 17403,
or via telephone at
(203) 231-6643.
The Independent, Legal No. 4928 Published August 5, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580995**

The following person(s) doing business as: MCM, 110 Bayo Vista Ave, Oakland, CA 94611, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jae Mei, 110 Bayo Vista Ave, Oakland, CA 94611 and Felix McKeown, 110 Bayo Vista Ave, Oakland, CA 94611. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. 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/: Jane Mei, General Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 26, 2021. Expires July 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4929. Published August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 581018**

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Embroidery and Screen Printing, 2478 Armstrong St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Brentwood Embroidery and Sewing, Inc., 410 Beatrice CT #E, Brentwood, CA 94513. 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: 7/27/21. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Clemente, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 27, 2021. Expires July 27, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4930. Published August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO.580926**

The following person(s) doing business as: Paleteria y Neveria Mi Lindo Michoacan, 4424 Las Positas Road, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jaime Fernandez Arzate, 3414 Madeira Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Jaime Fernandez Arzate, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 22, 2021. Expires July 22, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4931. Published August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021.

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 580987**

The following person(s) doing business as: Paragon Armory, 4847 Winterbrook Ave, Dublin, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paragon Armory LLC, 4847 Winterbrook Ave, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. The date on which the registrant first commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above: N/A. Signature of Registrant/s/: Michael Wiellett, Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 26, 2021. Expires July 26, 2026. The Independent, Legal No. 4932. Published August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021.

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME ORIGINAL FILE NO. 576507**

The person(s) listed below have abandoned the use of the following fictitious busines name(s). 1. Forest Nectar, 2. Hima Solutions, 1491 Cedarwood LN, Ste A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Registered Owner(s): Sakhi Naturals Inc., 1491 Cedarwood LN, Ste A, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The fictitious business name statement was filed on 2/5/2021 in the County of Alameda. This business was conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrants: /s/: Bhuvaneshwari Himakunthala, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 8, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 4933. Published August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021.

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Visit our website, WWW.TVAR.ORG, to see adoptable animals, volunteer opportunities, and how to donate.

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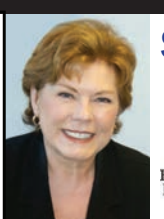
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## Hope Hospice to Sponsor Golf Marathon

Hope Hospice will sponsor its annual Hope 100 Golf Marathon fundraiser on Monday, Sept. 13, at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton.

The marathon challenges golfers to complete 100 holes in one day, which Hope Hospice says symbolizes the challenges that terminally ill patients and their families face.

The marathon was established in 2015 to honor the life of Piper Wagner, former golf pro at Castlewood who died of lung cancer. The fundraiser was not held last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the event will also honor the life of the Steve Thompson, a Bay Area native who started Jerry Thompson and Sons Painting with his father and brother. Thompson, who participated in the first Hope 100 Golf Marathon, died of cancer in 2019.

Play will start at sunrise and end at 5 p.m. Golfers will play in twosomes. Golfers may register as individuals or split the 100-hole challenge with others. To register, or for more information, go to www.hope100golfmarathon.com.

## Chamber to Host Mixer, Business Expo

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will host a mixer on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Garré Winery's Bella Rosa Event Center, 7986 Tesla Road in Livermore. The mixer, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., will include a business expo for companies to showcase their products and services, according to chamber CEO Dawn Argula, along with appetizers and samples provided by local wineries and craft microbreweries.

"Garré Winery has been a supportive business and community partner throughout the COVID-19 [pandemic]," Argula said. "How fitting that it welcomes the business community as it gets back to business."

The mixer and business expo are free for chamber members; $25 for non-members. Registration is required at www.livermore-chamber.org or by calling 925-447-1606.

## REAL Raises Funds for Mental Health

The Real Estate Alliance of Livermore (REAL) and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District are sponsoring a "Brighter Days" fundraiser now through Thursday, Aug. 19, to support mental health resources and training.

In a news release, REAL noted that half of all mental disorders begin by age 14, and the need for mental health services among teens has "been amplified with the Covid-19 pandemic."

"Our fundraising efforts will ensure that current mental health resources and training programs will continue and have expanded reach to additional school sites," according to REAL, which raised $25,000 in a similar effort last year.

For more information, go to the REAL Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LivermoreREAL. To donate, go to https://bit.ly/brighterdays2021.

## LLNL to Support Name Changes On Past Research

Seventeen U.S. national laboratories – include Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) – have agreed to support name-change requests from researchers on previous published scientific papers.

The laboratories will partner with publishers, scientific journals, and other organizations to allow researchers who change their names to more easily claim work from different stages of their careers. LLNL said the effort will specifically address the administrative and emotional difficulties faced by some transgender researchers who have requested name changes associated with past academic work.

"The importance of identity is a foundational element of any individual," said Tony Baylis, director of LLNL's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program.

"It provides a perspective of who you are and how others view you," Baylis explained. "This name-change initiative supports researchers and scientists who want to ensure their publications and research represents them in a way that contributes to their identity and well-being."

Although many scientific publishers had been updating their policies to address a recent increase in the number of name-change requests, LLNL said the collaborative effort would streamline the process and offer a mechanism for researchers to ask their respective institutions to pursue name changes on their behalf.

In addition to gender identity, LLNL said the partnership would facilitate requests for name changes for religious, marital, or other reasons supported by the policies in place at its publishing partners.

"We are proud to participate in this unique partnership between national laboratories and scientific publishers, showing support for our transgender and non-binary colleagues," said Lily Forest, technical editor and a leader for the LLNL Pride employee resource group. "We hope that simplifying the name change process will also set a precedent for those who want to change their names for other reasons."

## County Accepting Applications for Down-Payment Assistance Loans

Alameda County is accepting applications for a new round of its AC Boost down-payment assistance loans for first-time homebuyers.

The program will provide $12 million in no-interest loans – up to $210,000 per household -- to low- and middle-income homebuyers, with priority given to first-responders, teachers, and childcare providers.

To be eligible, buyers must either live or work in Alameda County or have been displaced from a home in Alameda County in the last 10 years.

Household income must be at or below 120% of the Area Median Income.

The loans are interest free and require no monthly payments. Instead, the loans come due once the mortgage term ends, the owner sells before the mortage term ends, or the owner takes cash out in a refinance.

At that point, the owner repays the amount that they borrowed plus a proportional share of any increase in the value of the home.

Launched in 2019, the program has already helped 78 households buy their first homes in Alameda County. The program is funded through the Measure A-1 Housing Bond approved by the voters in 2016.

To apply or learn more about the program, go to www.acboost.org. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 30.

## Cultura y Bienestar to Host Vaccine Outreach

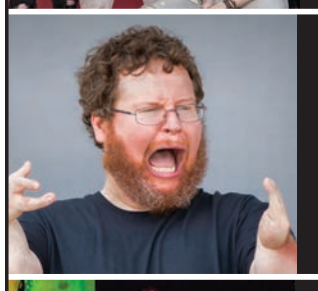
Cultura y Bienestar, a mental health program focused on the Latino community in Alameda County, will sponsor a community COVID-19 vaccination outreach effort from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 14, in the parking lot of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way in Livermore.

Cultura y Bienestar (Culture and Wellness) is a project of La Clínica de La Raza in collaboration with La Familia Counseling Service and the Tiburcio Vázquez Health Center.

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