



**See Inside Section A**  
Section A is filled with information about arts, people, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

## Livermore District May Reopen Portola School for LVCS Transfers

**By Ron McNicoll**  
More than 300 Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) students have asked the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) for inter-district transfer forms to enable them to switch from their current charter school to district schools.

describing procedures to switch to district schools. It was sent to families that had expressed interest in transferring, said LVJUSD Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Chris Van Schaack.

As of the morning of Oct. 18, the district had received 346 requests for the transfer forms, of which 54 were middle school students. The remaining 292 were

K-5 students, said Van Schaack. The district is able to put middle school transfers into classrooms now. However, there is not enough room in elementary school classrooms to accommodate K-5 students. It will require opening an overflow school, said Van Schaack.

Almond Avenue and Arroyo Mochos schools are in use now with other programs. Portola School would be the logical solution for

an overflow problem, said Van Schaack.

The school was used by Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP) for more than four years before it moved to new quarters at 3090 Independence Drive. The modern converted office building also houses the private charter Squaw Valley Academy Bay Area (SVABA), whose parent company,

(See LVCS, page 3)

## LCAC Marks 50th Year

**By Carol Graham**  
On October 5th, the Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC) celebrated five decades of challenges and successes. More than 100 people attended the 50th Anniversary celebration in the Cresta Blanca Room at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

"Appreciation for the cultural arts is the glue that holds a community together," said LCAC President Lynn Seppala. "Divisions that tend to separate a community disappear when you laugh or cry at a performance with people of diverse ethnic, religious or political persuasions."

It is this shared vision that has propelled the council since its inception in 1966, when bookstore owner James Crockett noticed that arts groups in Livermore were flourishing but lacked public support.

"The public must be encouraged."

(See LCAC, page 12)

## Final Tesla Public Hearing In Sacramento Tomorrow

The final public hearing on a controversial California State Parks and Recreation plan to expand off-road vehicle recreation into the Tesla site in eastern Alameda County is scheduled for 10 a.m. tomorrow, October 21, at City Hall in Sacramento.

The purpose of the hearing is to collect input on the final environmental impact report on the existing Carnegie recreation site, which is heavily used by off-road vehicle enthusiasts, as well as on the planned expansion into Tesla immediately to the west.

Both Carnegie and Tesla are owned by the California Department



Clouds contributed to a colorful sunrise over North Livermore.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Pleasanton School Board Endorses Prop. 55

**By Ron McNicoll**  
The Pleasanton Unified School District Board unanimously endorsed to Proposition 55, the initiative that would extend for 12 years the current tax rate on incomes of \$500,000 or more.

The taxing level was set by Proposition 30 in 2012. It is due to expire in 2018, with a stepping down of the tax rate between now and then. Approval of Proposition 55 will not raise taxes.

The board members did not discuss their vote, but instead took turns reading from the draft resolution. Among points cited were the state's reduction of billions of dollars of education and health care funds affecting children since the Great Recession. California ranks 42nd in the nation in per-pupil revenue. Failure to pass Proposition 55 would drop the state even lower in the rankings, says the resolution.

The board also heard a report on the California Student Performance

(See PLEASANTON, page 5)

## Community Groups Question Council, Mayoral Candidates

Community groups hosted a forum last Thursday featuring city council and mayoral candidates from Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton. Tri-Valley @ a Crossroads, held at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, focused mainly on questions regarding growth.

Dubliners for Change, Pleasanton Voters and Friends of Livermore invited candidates for city council and mayor in each city to participate, with the exception of John Marchand, who is running for re-election unopposed in Livermore. In Pleasanton invitations were issued to Mayor Jerry Thorne and Councilmember Jerry Pentin and council candidate Herb Ritter declined to participate, citing previous commitments. Dublin Mayor David Haubert did not attend.

KPIX channel 5 news reporter Juliette Goodrich served as moderator.

### DUBLIN

Dublin candidates on hand included council incumbent Doreen Wehrenberg and challengers Mona Lisa Ballesteros, Arun Goel, Melissa Hernandez-Strah, and mayoral candidate Shawn Costello. They were asked if they

were willing to make changes to the general plan and specific plan to address unforeseen issues, such as school overcrowding and traffic. They responded to questions about how they stood on IKEA, whether they took campaign donations from developers, and their stand on rezoning from commercial to housing. They were also asked how they would deal with the predicted city budget deficit.

All of the candidates reported they did not take campaign donations from developers. They were all willing to look at an ordinance prohibiting such donations to campaigns.

On changes to the general plan and East Dublin Specific Plan, Wehrenberg was willing to revisit it, looking at each project and comparing it to projected impacts. She would not favor an increase in housing density.

Hernandez-Strah said the plan should be revisited. "We did not think it would be as impactful as it has been."

Costello favored revisiting the plans for East Dublin.

Ballesteros said that the city should look at the overall picture of the city on a regular basis, not just the eastside. It is important

to address incorrect projections on numbers, such as students and traffic.

Goel said that the East Dublin Plan should and must be opened up for review. Planning was based on demographics established in 2020; we need to look to 2040 demographics to make sure that infrastructure issues are addressed correctly as the city builds.

With regard to IKEA, Goel, and Ballesteros spoke to the issues that need to be addressed. Goel was concerned about traffic and the aesthetics of a big box store in an important corridor. Ballesteros also did not like the size of the building nor the traffic that would be generated. She said it was not the right company for the site. Costello was opposed to IKEA. Hernandez-Strah and Wehrenberg wanted to have more information on traffic impacts. Wehrenberg noted that sales tax income would provide more money to hire police personnel.

Goel, Ballesteros, Costello and Hernandez-Strah were opposed to rezoning from commercial to residential. Wehrenberg said rezoning would depend on what was surrounding the site. She would like

(See FORUM, page 12)

## Dublin Schools Have Three Seats in Election

**By Ron McNicoll**  
The Dublin Unified School District Board has two seats open for four year terms and one seat for a two year term.

Vying for the four-year term are incumbents Dan Cunningham and Amy Miller. They are being challenged by Gabrielle Blackman, Joe Giannini, and Xiaozhao (Betty) Zhuang.

Sameer Hakim, who was appointed to the board a year ago, is running for the two-year term. He faces challenger Dan Cherrier.

Candidates were asked to say a little about themselves and why they are running. They were questioned about whether they thought the schools were overcrowded, and if so, what can be done about it?

A series of questions focused on providing adequate school construction as residential growth continues at a fast pace.

Proposition 51 on Nov. 8 will ask voters to approve a bond sale that could raise as much as \$6 billion for K-12 school construction

and modernization. That would be a big help to fast-growth districts like Dublin, where thousands of approved residential units have been on the books for years. If Prop. 55 does not pass, can local bonds and developer fees, even at the highest level, be adequate to do the job?

Candidates were asked about any educational program improvements they think are needed. They were told they could raise other topics not covered in the interview.

Candidates for the long-term seats are listed before the short-term seat. Candidates in each of those two races are listed alphabetically.

**FOUR-YEAR TERMS**  
**GABRIELLE BLACKMAN**  
Gabrielle Blackman has lived in Dublin for 12 years. She has three children in the school district. "I understand some of the challenges, and family needs," she said. Blackman works in the architectural industry, helping institutions with

(See DUBLIN SCHOOLS, page 8)

## Alameda County Affordable Housing Bond Measure on November Ballot

Alameda County residents are being asked to approve Measure A1, the Affordable Housing Bond placed on the November ballot by the Board of Supervisors.

The measure will require a two-thirds majority countywide to gain approval. In response to what is referred to as a severe shortage of housing that is affordable for lower income households in the county, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to place the \$580 million general obligation bond on the ballot.

The Livermore City Council

voted to support Measure A1. The Dublin City Council decided not to take a stand. In Pleasanton, Councilmember Arne Olson suggested the council take a stand in favor of the measure. However, no vote was taken.

The cost to property owners would be \$14 per \$100,000 assessed value.

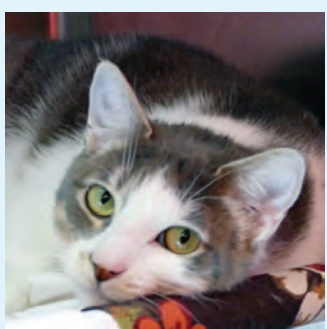
The \$580 million would be divided into two pots. In the first, \$120 million would be used to fund homeowner programs, such as down payment assistance loans, and home preservation loans. To

allow access for middle income homebuyers looking to purchase in high costs areas such as the Tri-Valley, this program would be available for households with incomes up to 150% of Area Median Income.

Median income in Alameda County for a family of four is \$97,500, for an individual, \$68,300.

The remaining \$460 million would go to a rental housing development fund to support new construction and preservation of

(See HOUSING, page 2)



### PET OF THE WEEK

We have a truly felinestastic group of adoptable cats this week! Like this one-year-old cutie pie Sasha. One look at this playful princess will warm your heart, and comfort you as the winter months approach. Come visit Sasha, and all the other adoptable animals at the Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 4pm. For more information, visit valleyhumane.org or call (925) 426-8656. Photo - Valley Humane Society/G. Subramonian

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# BART Seeks Approval of Bond Measure to Finance Upgrades of System

The BART Board has placed Measure RR on the November 8, 2016 ballot. If approved by a two-thirds vote, the bond measure would raise \$ 3.5 billion dollars to finance repairs and upgrades to the BART system.

Projects include, among others, replacing and upgrading the system's tracks, tunnels, and train control systems.

BART estimates that the average yearly rate for property owners over the life of the bond program will range from \$8.98 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation to \$17.49

## HOUSING

(continued from page one)

existing affordable units targeted to low income residents. It would include an innovation and opportunity fund that could be used for activities such as land and market rate unit acquisition.

Local cities will be eligible for a base allocation. Pleasanton would be eligible for \$13.7 million, Dublin \$8.8 million, and Livermore, \$12.7 million. All three cities would have access to an additional \$27 million regional rental development funding pool for East County. Allocation to cities is based on population and property values.

Tri-Valley cities would be able to leverage local funding for down payment assistance and home rehabilitation in conjunction with other County home ownership program funds.

The bonds are expected to be 20 year bonds in several issuances over an approximate six year period, so some amount of the bonds will be outstanding for approximately 26 years.

No argument in opposition to the measure was filed. However, during public hearings, concern was expressed for homeowners on fixed incomes or low income having to pay the tax. It was pointed out that there are no exemptions, everyone must pay. This could price some out of their homes. It was suggested that some type of rebate system be established.

According to arguments in favor of the measure, many working families spend more than half of their income on housing. More are being priced out of their homes or even onto the street. Experts estimate a shortfall of more than 60,000 affordable homes in the county for low-income families, with at least 5,000 left homeless.

Supporters state that every dollar Measure A1 raises stays in Alameda County, allocated according to a detailed plan, available online. "Independent annual audits ensure funds are spent as approved by voters," the argument in favor states.

Signing the argument in favor is David Barron, Treasurer, Habitat for Humanity East Bay; Tamra C. Hege, Alameda County Council Chair, League of Women Voters; Igor Tregub, Vice Chair, Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter; Coco Ramirez, Board Member, United Seniors of Alameda County; and Bishop Jerry W. Macklin, Senior Pastor, Glad Tidings Church.

per \$100,000 assessed valuation depending on interest rates at the time the bonds are sold. A Bond Oversight Committee will provide independent oversight over the expenditure of the funds.

Arguments in favor of Measure RR and responses to opposition include the following:

BART is the backbone of Bay Area transportation. A system that originally carried 100,000 people per week now serves roughly 430,000 riders per day. Ridership is expected to increase 75% by 2040. However, the 44-year-old system is showing its age. It is time to reinvest to keep BART safe and reliable, reduce crowding, keep cars off the road, and protect the environment.

All expenditures are subject to an annual audit by an independent oversight committee of engineers, auditors, and other community members.

Funds can only be used for infrastructure improvements, and cannot be used for operating expenses. Every dollar from Measure RR will be invested in the BART system, and cannot be taken by the State or Federal government.

BART will invest \$584 million of this year's capital budget on system reinvestment, but that funding alone is not enough to meet urgent safety needs. To perform critical repairs to keep BART safe and reliable, we need Measure RR.

Transportation and rail safety experts from UC Berkeley and private industry have studied the Measure RR program plan. They endorse Measure RR because it focuses on the core BART system by replacing and modernizing:

"When BART breaks, the Bay Area waits. Measure RR is essential for maintaining BART's safe track record, and for increasing BART's capacity in order to relieve highway gridlock." The statement is signed by the following:

Offer Grembek – Transportation Safety Engineer and Co-Director, UC Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center; Luis Amezcua – Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter, Executive Committee Member; Thea Selby – 35-year BART rider and San Francisco Transit Riders Board Chair; Alan B. Smith – BART Accessibility Task Force Board Chair; and Jim Wunderman – President and CEO, Bay Area Council – the Voice of Bay Area Business; Lisa Nielson – Rail Safety Officer; Sylvia

Stadmire – Board Member, United Seniors of Alameda County; Gabriel Metcalf – President and CEO, San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR); Renee Rivera – Executive Director, Bike East Bay; James F Bisso – Small Business Owner, 43-year BART Rider.

Those opposed to the measure offer the following arguments:

"BART doesn't deserve your trust.

"BART should be making regular repairs; and it should be saving enough money to replace train cars. Instead, BART made its transit employees among the highest-paid in the nation.

"Up to \$1.2 billion from the November bond measure could essentially backfill labor costs instead of paying for promised capital improvements." BART's pay and benefits are unaffordable.

"BART should master the fundamentals before expanding the BART system. BART needs to stop talking about rebuilding and actually start rebuilding.

"Measure RR is a 48-year property tax increase. We don't know exactly how big the tax will be; it's based on many factors. Interest rates will go up; property values will go down. The tax rate estimates are just guesses because, over 48 years, many things will change.

"One thing we know for certain: Once voters say yes, BART can charge any tax rate necessary to repay bond debt. The real tax rate will be whatever it takes."

BART has proven that it values popularity more than responsibility. While BART makes big promises, it refuses to save for them. Last year BART collected over \$883 million in rider fares, parking fees, sales taxes, property taxes, investment earnings and state and federal subsidies. Yet BART hasn't properly maintained its systems.

"BART chooses platinum labor contracts and unprofitable expansion projects over saving money to replace train cars and other equipment."

Signing the opposing arguments are Kersten Institute for Governance and Public Policy – David Kersten, President; Alliance of Contra Costa Taxpayers – Kenneth Hambrick, Chairman; Tom Canaday – San Francisco resident; Engineer; Frequent BART Rider; Arne Simonsen – Former Councilmember, City of Antioch; Susan L. Pricco – Hercules resident; Retired Court

Clerk, Contra Costa County Superior Court; Libertarian Party of San Francisco – Aubrey Freeman, Chair; Linda

Harmeson – IT Professional; Alameda County resident; Deborah Davidson – Legal

Secretary; Alameda County resident; Daily BART Com-muter

## Diwali 'Festival of the Lights' Planned Sunday

Diwali "Festival of the Lights" will be celebrated in a free family event on the Bankhead Plaza this Sunday, October 22th. The event is a joint project of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and the Youth and Education Hindu Cultural Community Center in Livermore.

An ancient Hindu festival in Nepal and India, Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," is celebrated in autumn or spring every year. The tradition originated as a harvest festival marking the last harvest of the year before the start of winter and spiritually

signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. The festival is celebrated for five continuous days, with the third day honored as the central Diwali festival or "Festival of the Lights."

The event will include such traditional Diwali activities as diya decorations, heena, rangoli art, dhol drumming, Indian classical songs and dancing, as well as a storytelling of the history and meaning of Diwali. Free craft projects for children will be set up and food and jewelry will be available

for sale. All activities will take place in front of the Bankhead Theater at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore.

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# ROUNDUP

## County Innovation Recognized

Two innovative Alameda County programs were recently named as winners in the 2016 Savvy Awards competition, sponsored by the Washington D.C. based City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA).

The award winners were celebrated in a presentation by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors at the Board's October 11 meeting.

In the Digital Interactive-Customer eGovernment Services category, Alameda County won a SAVVY Award this year for its new Permit Portal, an online one-stop-shop that helps residents through the permitting process to complete major property upgrades, start businesses or undertake many other tasks regulated by local government. Available at <http://permit.acgov.org>, the Permit Portal allows individuals and business operators to easily access information about required permits issued by Alameda County and other local jurisdictions. "This project has a broad reach and uses technology to create a direct improvement in the lives of residents," 3CMA judges wrote about the Permit Portal.

Alameda County's Green & Healthy Awards program was also recognized. This employee engagement effort won a Silver Circle Award for Go Green Communication Program Efforts. Organized by Alameda County General Services Agency's Sustainability Office, the Green & Healthy Awards recognized county employees for their game-changing resource conservation efforts at events and meetings. More than 9,200 County employees and residents were engaged in green and healthy practices as a result of the awards outreach.

## Mayors' Summit

The 2016 Tri-Valley Mayors' Summit will take place Wed., Oct. 26 at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

Assemblymember Catharine Baker will moderate the event presented by the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce.

On hand will be the following mayors: Karen Stepper, Danville; David Haubert, Dublin; John Marchand, Livermore; Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton; and Bill Clarkson, San Ramon.

This last in the Chamber's Wine Country Luncheon series begins at 11:30 p.m. For information or reservations, go to [www.livermorechamber.org](http://www.livermorechamber.org) or call 447-1606.

## Corrections

Errors appeared in the candidate interview about Mona Lisa Ballesteros. In her remarks about future growth, she is quoted as saying, "I do not like rezoning residential to commercial." The sentence was supposed to say, "I do not like rezoning commercial to residential." Also, Ballesteros' job title Dublin San Ramon Services District is Administrative Technician. The numbers of vested and unvested units in the Dublin general plan were misstated. There are 4000 vested units left citywide, and 3400 unvested units.

A story in the Oct. 13 issue erred in stating that Dublin City Council candidate Arun Goel signed an on-line petition opposing IKEA's proposal for a store at Hacienda Drive and Martinelli Way. Goel's statement of opposition to several impacts of the IKEA plan was posted on the petition web page, but Goel did not sign the petition. Goel told The Independent he wanted to make it clear that "we don't have any information relative to the applicant's stance on the EIR," so he has not commented on that subject. "The issues that I have identified are traffic concerns, aesthetic impact and negative impacts for local businesses. The latter two are not being addressed at this time," he said.

# LVPAC Expects to Be in the Black

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) expects to be in the black by the end of the year.

Executive Director Scott Kenison reported LVPAC's financial status as part of a Livermore City Council Oct. 10 agenda item focusing on the status of the Host Community Impact Fee (HCIF). The fees are used as the source of funding to pay off the certificates of participation (COP) issued by the city to purchase the Bankhead Theater, which is operated by LVPAC under a lease agreement with the city.

Kenison also noted that LVPAC has enrolled 900 members, the highest level of memberships to date.

Turner commented, "I asked for the information on the HCIF because people had been saying the fees could be used to build a project in the downtown. I don't want to ever talk about closing the doors of the Bankhead Theater."

Mayor John Marchand said we all are concerned about the long term viability

of the Bankhead. There has been a lot of discussion about a 299 seat theater next to the Bankhead. He wondered how that would impact the Bankhead Theater.

Kenison stated, "I have never said I wanted a 299 seat theater. What is important is a hotel with meeting space." He added that 299 seats would be an asset for resident companies that would like a smaller venue.

Joan Seppala, speaking for herself, not as president of LVPAC, told the council that there are no plans to build a 299 seat theater, nor has any request been made. Those interested in the performing arts have had discussions with the city's chosen hotel developer, Presidio, to use their proposed conference center on weekends during the non-wedding season November through April. Retractable raked seating that can provide flexible space for 299 or less would be installed in the conference center to enable educational and small performing groups to stage productions that would

not be appropriate in the 500-seat Bankhead Theater. Citizens have already raised \$1.4 million for the retractable seating equipment, she concluded.

The HCIF money comes from fees paid at both the Altamont and Vasco Road landfills to offset the impacts of having landfills located near Livermore. According to an agreement with Alameda County, HCIF revenues can only be spent on a performing arts venue.

Alameda County transferred the use of the funds from LVPAC to the City of Livermore to pay off the \$9.2 million COP issued to purchase the Bankhead Theater.

As part of the lease agreement, LVPAC is required to provide monthly check-ins on finances. "LVPAC has complied with all requirements in a timely manner," reported Doug Alessio, Administrative Services Director.

He told the council that scenarios that look at the income from the HCIF over the life of the COP range from a low of \$13.5 million to a high of \$24 million, which include San Francisco leaving the landfill. "Actual revenues are right on target with projections," he stated.

Excess fees are set aside each year to create a reserve for maintenance and repair of the theater.

## Science Posters on Display

A series of 16 informative posters based on the scientific research of Las Positas College (LPC) students is currently on exhibit at the Livermore Public Library through October 31. The library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore.

The posters were developed through the LPC undergraduate science research poster session held last spring and represent student course research, honors projects, and independent study in the topics of microbiology, psychology, chemistry, zoology, anatomy, and cell and molecular biology.

The public is invited to attend an Author Reception at the library on Sunday, October 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Community Room A to meet the student researchers who created the posters. Light refreshments will be served, compliments of the LPC Library.

## LVCS

(continued from page one)

Charter Preparatory Academy (CPA) is responsible for most of the \$2.1 million annual bond payment for acquiring and adapting the building for school use.

The Livermore district was going consider what to do with the Portola property. With the need for more classroom space, the district is getting an early start on refurbishing the building, said Van Schaack.

The 346 asking for transfer forms are in addition to approximately 350 LVCS students that the district took in between June and September, said Van Schaack. Another 75 LVCS students were accepted from September until now. Van Schaack said that adds up to 425 students attending district

schools now that were enrolled in LVCS last year.

If all of the 346 who have asked for transfer forms apply to the district, the total would be 781 that the district would see enrolled in district schools.

The LVJUSD school board was scheduled to conduct a public hearing Oct. 18 about a requested extension of the charters from both Livermore public charter schools. The hearing was postponed for 30 days at the charter schools' request.

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**LIVERMORE** \$1,299,000  
2651 Cowan Way  
LIVERMORE WINE COUNTRY HOME  
Elegant & Unique Home that backs to Vineyards w/Majestic Views, Granite Kit, Formal DR, FP & More!  
Andy Knuth, CalBRE# 01896749 925.984.3262



**LIVERMORE** \$1,199,000  
2665 Cowan Way  
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Andy Knuth, CalBRE #01896749 925.984.3262



**LIVERMORE** \$729,000  
930 Verona Avenue  
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Thomas Ivarson, CalBRE #01242205 925.200.3600



**LIVERMORE** \$680,000  
849 Comanche Court  
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Lucy Lizarraga, CalBRE #01393413 925.984.1518



**LIVERMORE** \$599,000  
5871 Cedarwood Common  
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3 BR 2.5 BA Lovely Birchwood Park Home featuring tile flrs, formal dining, inside laundry & 2 Car Grg.  
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**LIVERMORE** \$575,000  
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# MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

important to our city, I am concerned with the hyper focus of this project. However, wanted to share my thoughts as there has been significant misinformation.

First, the downtown specific plan was created in conjunction with the very people who are now fighting the development in the downtown. To their credit, at that time, the increased housing was needed to support BART to the downtown. All of this was to provide the needed funding for the Regional Theater. Now that both the Regional Theater and Bart are not coming to downtown, we carried forward with the previously adopted plan. This was for many reasons. Primarily, we did not receive responses from developers to the prior RFP so we changed direction and went with a market driven RFP. In hindsight, times have changed. Livermore can and should be choosy about what we do with this final block.

However, during the process, we settled on finalist, Lennar. I chose a different developer as I felt that they were more responsive to the community. However, I am one of 5 votes. On a 3/5 vote the developer was chosen. My peers voted for Lennar for sound financial reasons as well as their ability to bring in a high quality hotel.

The next step was to engage in community meetings to further develop the project. That is where we are now. What we have found is that people are most concerned about traffic and parking. A interesting item that we found that was somewhat surprising given all of the demand for increased parking that we have heard over the past few years was that there is no tolerance for a large parking structure. Additionally, the tolerance for housing has changed now that it is not needed for the finance to support the Regional Theater.

So, in the August meeting – the first meeting where city council members had the opportunity to direct staff on the project since the selection of Lennar, I asked for parking and traffic flow studies to be completed before we moved forward. I asked specifically for studies to be completed with full build out in mind so that we are truly planning for the long-term future. These

studies will not be ready for consideration until January at the least.

I did not vote for a 50% reduction in housing for the sole reason that I do not know if 50% is the correct number. We may need to reduce by more, we may need to eliminate it altogether on this site – I do not have the information at this point to make an informed decision. I felt that voting for a 50% reduction without the proper information would have been reckless so I voted against it. Please remember, this is all a work in process.

For the record, I have never said I want tall buildings in our downtown. What I do want is better parking, better traffic flow, additional retail, a high quality hotel with its own meeting space that meets the needs of our business and tourism community, and workforce housing. We do have other sites in our downtown that can provide housing but until we revise the specific plan and have the needed parking and traffic studies – I honestly do not know.

I am trying to make decisions that are well-intentioned and in the best interest of Livermore. If you have read this entire letter, ... I am impressed. Thank you for the time you took to read my musings. If you would like to have a conversation about the downtown or any other city project, I am certainly happy to talk. Feel free to email me at leturner@cityoflivermore.net

### Support Maher Julie Frey Pleasanton

Steve Maher is the best possible candidate for School Board. He brings a level of experience and dedication that is needed at the helm of our growing, competitive District. He is incredibly hard-working and is the most caring educator and administrator I know, always striving for the best possible outcome for each of our students. For Steve Maher, "kids come first" is not just a slogan, it is truth. As the parent of two students in this District, I am grateful he has stepped up to run for the School Board.

### Support Cook-Kallio Sharon Piekarski Pleasanton

With the election less than one month away, voters are being bombarded by mail and

TV supporting the candidates.

The smears perpetrated by Assemblymember Baker and the California Republican Party are so farfetched as to be completely unbelievable.

That's why I am supporting former Pleasanton Councilmember and award-winning teacher Cheryl Cook-Kallio. When she speaks about what she's done for improving access to women's health care, she can actually back it up with facts – like the women she's helped or the funding she's secured for a women's clinic in Pleasanton.

As a Pleasanton resident who's seen Cheryl's work up close and has lived in this community for over 30 years, I can vouch for her work and encourage others in Assembly District 16 to vote for Cheryl Cook-Kallio.

### Re-Elect Jerry Thorne Howard G Seebach Pleasanton

Re-elect Jerry Thorne as Mayor of the City of Pleasanton.

Jerry's experience as a manager in the corporate world led to his ability to manage budgets, hiring and firing, setting goals and objectives, team incentives – all qualities essential for city management. He has demonstrated these abilities in his past service as Mayor.

Under his leadership Pleasanton continues to be a desired place to live, work and do business. Under his leadership the city has kept its image as a small town and a great place to visit. Under his leadership Pleasanton has received acclaim as an outstanding community. As a veteran he has kept the city respectful of those who also give service to our country.

Re-elect Jerry Thorne as Mayor of the City of Pleasanton.

### State of the City Kathy Streeter Livermore

I went to Mayor Marchand's State of the City presentation at the Livermore Library. He spent significant time explaining the regulations the Council must follow during their work on the downtown development project and all of the time and energy they have spent, and continue to spend, to make sure that development is the best it can be and reflects what the citizens of Livermore want. His talk was clear and

concise and should put Council criticism to rest.

Unfortunately the Independent did not cover this annual event. I wonder why?

### Students Come First Emmeline Chen Pleasanton

I wholeheartedly support and endorse Steve Maher as a candidate for the Pleasanton School Board.

I met "Mr. Maher" when he served as interim principal for two of my children's schools. At both schools, Steve brought much-needed stability, wisdom, and clear-eyed focus stemming from his experience as a Pleasanton principal and teacher.

I trust Steve to always have the best interests of students at heart. His constant refrain is "Students come first." When asked about school issues, Steve usually starts with, "Well, first I would consider – what's best for kids?"

Steve treats everyone with civility and respect, and he actively seeks mutual understanding and collaboration. He is a man of principles and integrity with the courage to make unpopular decisions – if he believes that's best for students.

Steve was a beloved school principal and had an extremely successful career in Pleasanton. He could easily rest on his laurels – having the Hart Middle School gym named after him, the many awards, etc.

Instead, Steve is running for Pleasanton School Board because he cares for our community and wants to help restore trust in our school district.

I urge everyone to put students first and vote Steve Maher for Pleasanton School Board!

### Campaign Donations Andrew Barker Livermore

Jeff Kasky has some nerve complaining in last week's letter to the editor about small donations from local business owners to city council candidates, when he has single-handedly given

more to the campaigns of Bob Carling and Bob Coomber than any other candidate has received in total this election cycle.

There is a legal technicality involving the difference between campaign committees and independent expenditure committees, but the plain fact is that a donation to Friends of Livermore is a donation to Carling and Coomber. Kasky is both a hypocrite and a liar when he says the \$250 donations of others are the legal "maximum" while he himself gives \$7000 to buy seats on the city council.

If Kasky wants to buy an election and prevent anyone with less money than him from ever living in Livermore, the least he can do is be honest about it.

### My Record John Stein Livermore


I would like to thank the Friends of Livermore PAC

for the expensive, glossy and misleading mailer describing my record and positions on open space. It indicates that their polling shows me to be a leading candidate for election to the Livermore City Council.

In the past I helped develop the successful South Livermore Plan that balances the desires of environmentalists, property owners, wine growers and the City of Pleasanton, Alameda County and the park district. I initiated the vote on the Urban Growth Boundary on the south side of Livermore. I helped to defeat the proposed Las Positas New Town. I support protecting sensitive habitat, scenic vistas and potentially productive agricultural land north of Livermore and retaining local control of its future. I also would like to see a sports park and site for a third high school north of the freeway.

Friends of Livermore has in the past supported over

(continued on page 6)



**Karla Brown**  
Pleasanton City Council  
Karla@Vote4Karla.com  
www.Vote4Karla.com

**Re-Elect**

*The ONLY Pleasanton Councilmember endorsed by The Independent!*

**My GOALS for 2016 - 2020:**

1. Continue to be the lone voice for the **SLOW and SMART GROWTH** policies that formed our award-winning town.
2. More **QUALITY DRINKING WATER** is needed. We should expand recycled irrigation to help "drought proof" Pleasanton.
3. Plan for a larger **LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER**, currently the "busiest building in town." A larger library will provide support for all ages: Students, Seniors, ESL readers, tots, tutoring, Wi-Fi, e-books, meeting rooms, books on CDs, movies, music and more.
4. Protect **OPEN SPACE & RIDGELINES**. Scenic hills and open space should be preserved for all to enjoy, not just a few.
5. **CONTINUE TO GET THINGS DONE!** I supported: the Veteran's Memorial, Bernal Park-2, Workday Campus, Preserving historic homes, reduced pension debt, a dog park, 10 miles of recycled water pipe and more. I also support our hardworking police & fire personnel that protect us and keep us safe.

Paid for by "Karla Brown for City Council" FPPC#1348596.

# PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

and Progress (CAASPP) results. They address how the district staff works to improve the performance of all students, including those who need more resources in instruction.

District Director of Assessment Michael Kuhfal said that all grade levels improved in math compared to the first year of the newly developed statewide testing in 2015. With the of the exception of the eighth grade, students improved in English Language Arts (ELA) over last year. The 8th grade dropped from 83 percent to 79 percent. Changes of 3 percent or more are considered significant.

The overall scores in ELA for grades 3 through 8, and 11th grade rose from 80 to 81 percent. That compared to the average of Alameda County schools with an average rise from 52 to 55 percent and from 44 to 49 percent statewide. In math, Pleasanton's scores went up from 72 to 76 percent. The county showed an increase from 44 to 46 percent; statewide the numbers went up from 33 to 37 percent.

Trustee Joan Laursen said such comparisons are fine, but the board needs to be able to compare the results to districts of similar socio-economic status to learn what Pleasanton might do better.

Kuhfal said that the state will issue data on socio-economic comparisons later in the school year.

In ELA scores in Pleasanton, some subgroups made dramatic increases, with a 6 percent rise in ELA for Hispanic/Latino students and socio-economically disadvantaged students. There was a 9 percent increase among English learners. However, there was a 5 percent drop among African-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Odie Douglas said that the district is focusing on certain subgroups, meeting recently with African-American families. "They were appreciative that we took enough

interest in what the data said. We told them the answer (leading to improvement) is in this room. We will work diligently," said Douglas.

In math, improvement ranged from 4 percent among students with disabilities, to 8 percent for Hispanic/ Latino, 9 percent for Filipinos, and 14 percent for English learners.

In other action, the board approved an agreement on developer fees for 36 single family units at 6900 Valley Trails Drive. The fees from Ponderosa Homes total \$775,000, but could change with any square footage adjustments in final building plans, according to a school district document.



Trustee Valerie Arkin said that she has been hear-

ing from the community that some people have been told that the school district approves development. She said, "I've never heard it before. It's almost like the school district is endorsing this project," she said.

Deputy Superintendent of Business Services Micaela Ochoa explained that the city approves development. The school district's role is to decide on accepting the development fees. School board sign off is required before a development can proceed. Ochoa said the district has some information about it on its web site. The district's fees for the development are based on \$7.50 per square foot of the buildings.

Paid political advertisement

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FOR CITY COUNCIL

**TWO FOR LIVERMORE**

- Protect Urban Growth Boundary
- Oppose 260 downtown housing units up to 5-stories
- Reduce traffic and parking congestion

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EVENT TIME & LOCATION

Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM

Robert Livermore Community Center  
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We did our part to keep America free!



# MAILBOX

(continued from page 5)

3000 housing units in the downtown and now is trying to force their new and expensive vision of the old Lucky site on the community. They want councilmembers who unquestioningly support their current vision and the use of public funds to support their private agenda. They have also supported bringing BART into the downtown and using property tax to support the construction of a multimillion dollar theater. To many Livermore voters being opposed by Friends of Livermore is a form of endorsement for an independent, knowledgeable candidate who supports broad based community input.

## Facts About Friends of Livermore Lee Younker, Chair of Friends of Livermore

Over the past few weeks, Friends of Livermore (FOL) has been attacked and misrepresented in a few letters to the editor of The Independent, local blogs and in a couple of articles in the East Bay Times. Some have suggested that FOL is simply two or three people trying to use the organization to get their way. Others have gone on to suggest that political action committees (PACS) shouldn't be a part of the local election process because they may overwhelm city campaign limits. Before addressing these charges, I would like to briefly restate the role and impact of Friends of Livermore on the City of Livermore.

Friends of Livermore (FOL) is a community-based group that formed under a simple but powerful vision for Livermore to protect the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), prevent sprawl and preserve open space. Over time it has been repeatedly demonstrated that

the core values of FOL are indeed shared by a large cross section of the community. With these shared values and through the hard work of many citizens, elected officials and city staff, much has been achieved. Livermore is a special place to live, work, raise a family and visit. Preservation of important open space and agricultural land in eastern Alameda County through the Urban Growth Boundaries is a key cornerstone of what makes Livermore special. This enormous achievement has in many ways fueled and enabled the resurgence of the wine industry and allowed the city to focus attention on the revitalization of the downtown. Taken together these accomplishments have produced a city and environment that is unique in the Bay Area. While many deserve credit, it is clear that Friends of Livermore has played a significant role in the process.

Now, on to the charges. First, the assertion that FOL is a handful of individuals trying to further their own narrow special interests and get their way. Nothing could be further from the truth. FOL has always been totally transparent about their values and objectives. As noted above, these values are indeed broadly shared across the community, as evidenced by elections, polls, meetings and public testimony over many years. To date, about 100 citizens have contributed to this year's campaign. FOL is not 2 or 3 individuals trying to impose their will and desires on the community.

Second, in a recent East Bay Times article and in other letters and blogs, there is the strong suggestion that citizen-based PAC's are somehow inappropriate or unfair in a local election. I have come to a very different conclusion. The FOL PAC was formed in 2005 in response to a massive housing proposal north of the freeway.

The forces for development were strong and without the work of the citizen-based PAC to rally and inform residents about what was at stake and what could be lost, Livermore would today be a very different place.

The arguments for a PAC today are perhaps even stronger. The pressures for development in the Bay Area are great, greater than they were in 2005. The regional economic boom, the growth of jobs and the need and demand for housing combine to put pressure on communities throughout the region. One only needs to drive throughout the Bay Area to realize that it is very difficult to preserve open space on the boundaries of a city and to prevent massive, dense, high-rise structures from dominating the hearts of downtowns. What Livermore has achieved and valued with the Urban Growth Boundaries and the revitalized downtown will always be difficult to sustain in the face of the pressures to develop. It is so easy to slip and lose something special. PACs representing broad community views and interests are needed to balance effectively this pressure in important elections in which significant growth and development issues are in play.

## Misconceptions Dawn P. Argula CEO & President Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce

I am writing to clear up any misunderstanding or misinformation readers may have regarding local businesses, or organizations representing local businesses that may lead to the belief that these entities have no standing on matters relating to issues of importance to this community. On the contrary, local business is very much a part of the very fabric that makes up the Livermore community.

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce membership represents more than 600 businesses and organizations, small and large. These businesses and organizations are located within Livermore, employ thousands of workers, many of which reside in Livermore. Start-ups and small business owners, national and international corporations and multiple-generations of family owned businesses, member professions and industries include realtors, accountants, consultants, retail, restaurants, wineries, high-tech, low-tech, construction, agriculture, ranchers, wineries, the City, school districts, utilities, healthcare, the national laboratories – the list goes on.

LVCC members provide goods and services, contribute to the local economy and pay local, state and federal taxes and fees and, collectively donate millions of dollars and hundreds of volunteer hours every year to numerous Livermore community organizations in education, sports, cultural arts, health, environment, and social services – to name a few. Indeed, they deservedly take their place beside every single member

of this community, as they actively engage, contributing towards enhancing, protecting and expanding the qualities of life of which we all enjoy. Whether we live and/or work or do business here, young, middle age or senior, our members are an integral part of the Livermore community. Local business has a huge stake in the success of this city and we believe that there is "room at the table" for all voices to be heard on matters of importance.

Much has been made about the planning and implementation of the current phase of the Livermore Downtown Specific Plan. This is a plan that had been developed and executed over a period of years. In keeping with this early blueprint, its main elements include a hotel, parking and housing on two city-owned parcels. It is an opportunity to deliver upon the city's obligation to fulfill these needs and do so with no taxpayer subsidy. This is prudent use of a public asset. LVCC and its members support the City of Livermore in these efforts and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with all community members to achieve mutual goals of a secure, prosperous and vibrant Livermore community, now and in the coming years.

## Involvement in Community Jean King Livermore

There has been criticism

of my financial support of candidates for city council elections. Here is some background information about my years of involvement in many aspects of the city.

Since moving to Livermore in 1962, I have been involved in community organizations, citizen sponsored initiatives and local government. I have been chair, served on the Board and/or on a committee of numerous non-profit organizations and Livermore City commissions - League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Jackson Avenue Elementary School parent/teachers organization, Student Education Loan Fund, City of Livermore General Plan Review Steering Committee, Valley Volunteer Bureau, Friends of the Vineyards, Del Valle Fine Arts, Livermore Cultural Arts Council, Tri Valley Conservancy, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association, Pedrozzi Foundation, Livermore Valley Opera, Axis Community Health, Livermore City Commission for the Arts and Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

In addition, I support other local organizations including Open Heart Kitchen, Hope Hospice, Ohlone Audubon Society, Valley Concert Choral, Friends of the Livermore Library, Valley Dance Theatre, Valley Humane, Fertile Groundworks, Sunflower Hill, Livermore Heritage Guild, Rae Dorrough Speakers Bureau, Shepherds Gate and Tri

Valley Haven

Community organizations and elected officials are both important to the betterment of our community.

Our elected officials are very important to the well-being of the community. I have campaigned, supported and numerous times been treasurer for candidates for Zone 7, LARPD, LVUSD and Livermore Mayor and City Council. I have been involved in citizen initiatives such as SAVE (Save All Valley Environment) and establishing the County and Livermore Urban Growth Boundary and supported the passage of school parcel tax and bond measures for the city, schools and park districts.

I have less energy now to physically be involved but can still support financially those entities which I believe make our community better.

The citizens of Livermore will not settle for anything less than what is best for our city whether it is open space protected by the Urban Growth Boundary or a revitalized downtown that all will enjoy. Livermore is special because of the citizen involvement in every aspect of our community.

## Elect Maher Egor Iakovlev Pleasanton

Steve Maher was my principal 7 years ago, and I can still say with confidence that he had one of the biggest

(continued on page 9)

# SPORTS NOTES

MORE SPORTS NOTES CAN BE FOUND IN SECTION A



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Amador Valley High School defeated Dublin High 24 to 7 in varsity football action last week. With the win, Amador is now 2 and 2 in conference play.

PAID POLITICAL AD

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We have made the protection of life and property our life's work. We believe strong public safety and City services are essential to keeping Livermore a great community. Public Safety depends on committed, responsive leaders.

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**Stu GARY**  
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**Lauren TURNER**  
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Join us Friday, October 21, from 5:30-8:30pm

**Live Music**

Check out NOVA, the Bay Area's hottest cover band featuring #1 hits of the 80s and today.



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Food & craft beer pairings by Altamont Beer Works. Entry includes 3 craft beer tastings paired with 3 small plates.



Plus merchandise giveaways throughout the evening  
One lucky attendee will win a drawing for free golf for 2017!\*

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Advance purchase tickets available at [PoppyRidgeGolf.com](http://PoppyRidgeGolf.com)  
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## Acoustic Alchemy to Perform Grammy Nominated Fusion Classics



### Acoustic Alchemy

British instrumental and smooth jazz ensemble Acoustic Alchemy, fronted by guitarists Greg Carmichael on nylon guitar and Miles Gilderdale on steel and electric, has for more than three decades been recognized as a force in contemporary jazz. Their unique chemistry, backed by keyboards and rhythm, embraces a broad range of styles including jazz, rock, folk and world. With a repertoire of Grammy-nominated fusion classics, Acoustic Alchemy has reached across genres to build a loyal following worldwide. They will appear for one performance only on Friday evening, October 28, 2016 as part of LVPAC Presents tenth season at the Bankhead.

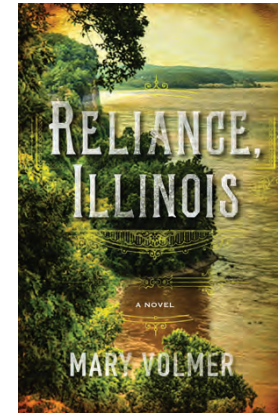
Acoustic Alchemy initially gained attention in the late 1980s when Carmichael, together with guitarist Nick Webb, provided Virgin Airlines with a recording used for inflight entertainment on Trans-Atlantic flights from England to America. From there, they landed a recording deal for their debut album, 1987's "Red Dust and Spanish Lace." Webb originally had worked with another guitarist some years earlier but when he came together with Carmichael, the two officially established the group's style and sound. After the tragic loss of Webb to cancer a decade later, Carmichael turned to Gilderdale, who had already

been playing with the band, to step up into the front role. Their collaboration sparked a new level of creative evolution in the band's contemporary jazz sound.

Acoustic Alchemy has released more than 20 albums and been nominated for three Grammy Awards. "Live in London," issued in 2014, is an extensive compilation that showcases their unique musical chemistry. The album features songs from their studio recording, "Roseland," as well as numerous other selections from their catalog. The overriding mission of Acoustic Alchemy remains reaching the broadest possible audience by expanding the potential of instrumental music and embracing a broad spectrum of styles without being limited to any specific genre.

As Carmichael has said, "For a lot of people, instrumental music is just a sound that plays in the background...but we put a lot into it, we've learned how to take people on a journey. The band has been through a lot of changes over the years, but the concept of two acoustic guitars has always been the emotional centerpiece which draws people close."

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets to all events may be purchased at the box office, online at [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or by calling 373-6800.



Author Mary Volmer to offer tips on writing.

### Programs Planned As Part of National Novel Writing Month

At midnight on November 1, 2016 armed only with their wits, the vague outline of a story, and a ridiculous deadline, more than 250,000 people around the world will set out to become novelists. November is National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, the world's largest writing challenge and nonprofit literary crusade. Participants pledge to write 50,000 words in a month, starting from scratch and reaching "The End" by November 30.

In support of local writers, the Livermore Public Library will host programs to inspire and motivate, as well as offer its space as a novel writing zone—a place to research, write and connect with other would-be writers.

"National Novel Writing month is a wonderful opportunity for people to dive into their imaginations and do one of the most crucial things in life: create," said Grant Faulkner, Executive Director of NaNoWriMo. "Everyone has a story that needs to come to life, so the shelves of the NaNoWriMo library stretch endlessly. NaNoWriMo helps people find their voice in the act of writing and through the encouragement of the writers in the NaNo community."

A program to celebrate NaNoWriMo will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2016, 2:00 pm, at Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Light refreshments will be served. Author Mary Volmer will offer tips on getting started, discuss the ups and downs of novel writing, and answer questions from attendees. Everyone is invited to this free event, and no sign-up is needed.

Mary Volmer has been awarded residencies at

(continued on page 2)

# Jimmie Vaughn and the Tilt-A-Whirl Band in Concert

Called “a living legend” by Guitar Player magazine, blues guitarist Jimmie Vaughn provides a link between contemporary music and its blues and soul heritage. Together with his horn-heavy Tilt-A-Whirl Band, Vaughn will bring his hot blues-rock style to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore for one show only on October 27, 2016.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Vaughn picked up the guitar at the age of 13 when he was sidelined by a football injury and never looked back. By the age of 15 he had started his first band, The Swinging Pendulums, and was soon playing in local nightclubs. Inspired by such blues greats as Muddy Waters and Freddie King, Vaughn began a lifelong commitment to the blues, bringing other musical influences together to establish a clean, rhythmic style of his own.

In the late 1960s he helped found The Texas Storm, a blues soul band with a Texas twist that soon migrated to Austin’s lively college music scene, where they were joined by Vaughn’s younger brother Stevie Ray on bass. However it was his next band, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, that truly sparked Vaughn’s career. Starting as the house band for Antone’s nightclub in Austin, they went on to record eight albums together and were nominated for two Grammy Awards. The Fabulous Thunderbirds, fronted by Vaughn’s inimitable sound, helped bring the blues back onto the pop charts in a revival that continues to this day.

Vaughn had just completed an independent recording with his brother, when Stevie Ray was killed in a helicopter crash in 1990. After the tragedy, Vaughn left the

Thunderbirds and retreated from touring and recording for several years. He returned to performing in 1993 as a solo artist and released his critically-acclaimed first album, “Strange Pleasure,” nominated that year for Best Blues Album at the Grammy Awards. He has since followed it up with four other solo albums.

As a singer, guitarist, and songwriter, Vaughn is adept at using his music to convey powerful emotions. “I try to speak with my guitar in sentences,” he explains. “The people that I enjoy and the music that I enjoy are not about just a bunch of licks strung together. If you just play a bunch of guitar licks that aren’t connected, it’s like throwing a lot of words into a bowl. It doesn’t make any sense. It’s just words. When I listen to Gene Ammons, the great saxophone player, I get the feeling he’s telling you a story. That’s the goal. That’s what I enjoy.”

Arguably as passionate about cars as he is about music, Vaughn’s 1961 Cadillac Coupe DeVille took first place at the Sacramento Autorama in 1999 and second place at the 50th Annual Grand National Roadster show. Whether on a concert tour or showing his latest custom hotrod, music connects all the points of Vaughn’s life and he says not a day goes by without him picking up the guitar. “I’ve been playing since I was 13. I play every day. I’ve never stopped,” he says. “I can’t imagine that I could exist without it.”

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets to all performances are available at the box office, online at [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or by calling 373-6800.



**Jimmie Vaughn**  
Photo - Tom Wolfson

## JFK University to Present Laureate Award to the Wente Family

John F. Kennedy University continues its tradition of promoting lifelong learning and community service through the Kennedy Laureate Award. The Award is bestowed on individuals who embody these ideals through excellence in their respective fields and service to others and their community. This year the award will be given to The Wente Family of Livermore for their Wente Foundation for Arts Education.

The Wente Family Vineyards has been a hallmark of northern California, operating longer than any other family-owned

winery and now led by fifth-generation vintners focused on creating the region’s finest wines. The Wentes have expanded their reach into hospitality and entertainment with their restaurant, golf course and concert series. They have pioneered new agricultural techniques in order to be good stewards of their land. The Wente Foundation for Arts Education extends the family’s legacy of leadership into the world of philanthropy by creating opportunities for talented students.

The Wentes, represent-

ing their Wente Foundation for Arts Education, will receive the Kennedy Laureate Award at a dinner on November 12 at the Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville. Consistent with the University’s themes of lifelong learning and service to the community, the dinner is also a fundraising event directly funding educational scholarships. A generous 1:1 matching grant up to 100,000 has been set up to support the University’s Undergraduate Success Center, which offers dedicated services and resources to support

Hispanic/Latino and underserved students.

Kathleen Townsend Kennedy of Maryland and Eric Rudney of Alamo will also be awarded the Kennedy Laureate Award that evening.

The awards program will include dinner and tour of the auto collection, silent and live auctions, and comments from the award recipients. Tickets are \$300 each for a VIP Reception and dinner or \$200 each for dinner and are available by contacting Anne Marie Taylor at 925.969.3491 or [amtaylor@jfk.edu](mailto:amtaylor@jfk.edu).

## WRITING MONTH

(continued from front page)

the Vermont Studio Center and Hedgebrook and now teaches at Saint Mary’s College. Ms. Volmer’s non-fiction has appeared in Full Court Press, Women’s Basketball Magazine and NPR’s This I Believe series. Her short fiction has appeared most recently in The Farallon Review. Crown of Dust is Volmer’s first novel. Her second novel, Reliance, Illinois, was published in May 2016 by Soho Press. For more information about this author, visit [www.maryvolmer.com](http://www.maryvolmer.com).

Throughout the month of November, the Civic Center Library will host Write-Ins, informal meet-ups where local NaNoWriMo participants get together to write and cheer each other on. Hosted by local writer and NaNoWriMo participant Jake LeBeau, these Write-Ins will be held at 6:00-8:30 pm on November 1, November 8, November 15, November 22, and November 29. No sign-up is needed to attend these free Write-Ins.

For more information on National Novel Writing Month, visit [www.NaNoWriMo.org](http://www.NaNoWriMo.org).

The library’s NaNoWriMo programs are made possible through the support of the Friends of the Livermore Library. For more information about other library events, visit [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net).

# Zombie Pub Crawl Scheduled in Downtown Livermore

Zombies will infest downtown Livermore on Thursday, October 27th, 2016. They will emerge beginning at 6:00 p.m. from the Bothwell's Downtown Art Studios and

## Discussion Planned of 'Night of the Living Dead'



John Stack, the creator of ZombieNights.com will host a screening and discussion of George A. Romero's Night of the Living Dead (1968, run time 96 minutes) on Sunday, October 30, 2016, 1:30 pm, at the Liver-

more Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore.

There is no charge for this event. Free popcorn will be served. Zombie and scary costumes are highly encouraged.

Night of the Living Dead is not rated, but parental discretion is strongly advised. John Stack will give a short introduction about this classic horror film and facilitate a post-film discussion on all things zombies.

This program is part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series, supported by the Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events, check the library's website at [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net).

## Spooky Films at Rincon Library

Just in time for Halloween, the Rincon Branch Library will host a free screening of a spooky animated collection from Walt Disney Productions. Two short stories are featured in this 1949 production. One story involves a character obsessed with motorcars, who has a theme park ride in his honor at Disneyland. The other story includes the infamous "Headless Horseman."

These films will be shown on Friday, October 21, 2016, at 725 Rincon Ave., from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Free popcorn will be served. The features are rated G, however are deemed most appropriate for children ages 6 and up. Call (925) 373-5540 or visit the library's website at [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net) for the exact movie title.

## Crafts at the Springtown Library

Celebrate Halloween at the Livermore Public Library. The Springtown Branch Library is hosting a craft program on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Participants will create jack-o'-lantern masks out of paper plates, tissue paper, and construction paper. Instructions and craft supplies will be provided.

Children of all ages are welcome to attend. No registration is required for this free event. The Springtown Branch Library is located at 998 Bluebell Drive.

For more information, visit the library's website: [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net), or contact Springtown Branch Librarian Caitlyn Lung at 925-373-5576.



2015 Zombies having a Romantic Meal

the meet mART Clay Studio next door, and will spread throughout downtown Livermore in "The Night of the Livermore Dead: A Zombie Pub Crawl."

That night, the Bothwell Art Center's studio artists, guests and professional makeup artists will turn normal Livermore residents into horrific zombies and set them loose downtown. Participating bars and restaurants will offer the zombies specially-priced refreshments such as Monster Pizza slices and bloody beer to keep the peace. At 8:45, the zombies will gather to finish off the night with a "Thriller" flashmob and Zombie Dance Party at the Shea Homes Stage in front of the Bankhead Theater.

Tickets for "Night of the Livermore Dead: A Zombie

## Haunted House

Free haunted house, called **Frightmare**, will be open at 697 Sonoma Ave (right across from Granada High School parking lot). Canned foods are collected for Open Heart Kitchen, but no donations are required to enter the haunt. The haunted house will be held be open Oct 28th, 29th 7-11PM and Halloween 7-10PM. There is a "Lights on Tour" for those that don't want to be scared, but want to see the haunt. The "Lights on Tour" is Oct. 29th 2-4PM. The Frightmare is recommend for ages 10 and up. Pictured is the entryway.



Pub Crawl" are \$25 each, ages 21 and up only. Zombies are provided with a glow-in-the-dark Zombie Pub Crawl mug for use in the participating bars and restaurants.

"This event typically sells out – but it's fun to just head downtown and watch," says Anne Giancola, who is co-manager of the Bothwell Arts Center and is heading up the Crawl this year. Giancola credits Downtown Art Studios makeup artist Val Daft with the idea of making citizens into zombies and turning them loose downtown.

The event benefits the Bothwell's Downtown Art Studios and the meet mART, both projects of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. Downtown Art Studios is located at 62 South L Street in Livermore.

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Thu OCT 27 7:30pm

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# SPORTS NOTES



Battling both rain and a tough Lamorinda team, West Coast Kaos U14G poured on the goals in a 6-2 Norcal state cup victory. West Coast Forward Aliva Ganz recorded her first hat trick of the season by scoring 3 of the 6 goals. Pictured is West Coast outside-mid Nicole Codington battling for the ball. Codington scored the third goal of the match.



Foothill Falcons' team capture fourth at the Western States High School Water Polo Tournament in Modesto.

Photo - Deb McElroy

## Good for the Soul in Memory of Kate Steidle

The inaugural Good For The Soul 5K/10K and Kids' Challenge will be held on Sunday morning, October 30, in downtown Pleasanton, under the Main Street Arch. This event is in memory of Kate Steidle, who tragically lost her life after she was randomly shot while walking arm in arm with her father on Pier 14 in San Francisco on July 1, 2015.

With this run, the organizers hope that people will come together to remember that life is short and tomorrow is not a guarantee. Proceeds from this run will be donated to the wonderful organizations Students Rising Above and the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

There is a race or walk event for everyone, including the 5K Run/Walk, or the 10K Run. In addition, there will be three separate Kids' Challenge Races—for children ages 2-8. The 5K and 10K certified courses are flat and fast, using the monitored downtown streets of Pleasanton and a portion of the paved and unpaved Arroyo Trails. The start and finish lines are located under, or very close to the Pleasanton arch, located on Main Street. The Kids'

Challenge is a number of 100-yard dashes on Main Street, finishing right underneath the arch.

Participants of the 10K and 5K events will receive a commemorative T-shirt, refreshments, and award ceremony.

Check-in and race-day registration opens at 6:30 a.m., and will be held at the parking lot of Workbench True Value Hardware, at 652 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton. The 10K and 5K events will start at 8:00 a.m., with The Kids' Challenge will follow at approximately at 10:00 a.m.

Fees: pre-registration 10/28/16 midnight deadline: kids' challenge \$15, 5K and 10K \$40; add \$5 on race day.

For more information and/or an application, contact On Your Mark Race Events at 209-795-7832, or visit their website.

## Foothill Water Polo

The Foothill High School Girls Water Polo Team captured fourth place out of 42 teams in the 39th Annual Western States High School Water Polo tournament October 14th and 15th in Modesto. They first defeated Modesto's



The Livermore High School Varsity girls water polo team, coached by Sarah and Kristen Wetherell, swept its fourth tournament of the year, improving to 18-4 with a win at the James Logan Autumn Invitational in Newark on Oct. 14 and 15. Sara Sommers, Kayley Clark, Katelyn Johnson, Maddie Potts, Natalie Hawkins, Alexandra Kerin, Gianna Paden, Katie Fournier, Fiona Weaver, Josie Barrantes, Emily Hawkins, Lindsey Clendenen, and Joanna Le Galloudec make up the team.



Pictured are Pleasanton Seahawks (from left) Lleyton Plattel, MacKenzie Lee, Tyler Lu, Miranda Heckman, Chris Jhong, Claire Suen, Calvin Davis, and Elizabeth Balicanta.

Enochs HS 11-3 where the offense was led by senior Maddie David (4 goals, 2 assists) and junior Emily McElroy (3 goals). Defense played a major role with the Falcons retaining possession of the ball most of the game with a total of 12 steals with major contributors being David and fellow senior Brooke Christian with four steals a piece.

Junior Madison Weiglein led the offense in the second game against Menlo-Atherton HS with a total of four goals and two assists including a game winning goal at the buzzer from half pool with only :01 remaining to defeat their opponent 7-6 and to clinch the bracket win.

In the third and final game of the day, Foothill defeated Golden West of Visalia 7-4 to clinch a top four spot in the tournament. McElroy led the offense with three goals and an assist

with the team getting help on defense by goalie senior Negar Tehranian who had seven saves and by Weiglein with three steals. The Foothill Falcons fell short on day two of the tournament falling to Fresno's Sanger HS 1-10 as well as to St. Mary's of Stockton. Tournament offense was led by David and McElroy each with eight goals and defense by Weiglein and senior Negin Tehranian with eleven and eight steals respectively.

## Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks swam at the '2016 Pacific Swimming C/B/BB+' meet on October 1-2/2016. The meet was hosted by the Orinda Aquatics and was held at Campolindo high school in Moraga. Representing the Pleasanton



Livermore Junior Football League Senior Cowboys' Eric Hall takes it around the end for a big TD run.



The U5 Fusion Bandits played a great game on Saturday, staking good shots and working together as a team. Bandits include John Gandolfo, Alex Holloway, Atticus Hu, Luke Lange, Zander Ruiz, Carter Silvey, Christopher Sullivan, and Chase Van Groningen.

Seahawks:

Brooke Bennett age 8 with 4 new person best times, Lillyana Caples (8) 6BT, Claudia Do (8) 2BT, Francesca Lin (7) 1BT, Serena Trifiletti (8), Sabrina Tsai (8) 5BT, Madison Wainwright (7), Casey Nguyen (8), Christopher Wang (7) 5BT, Paige Bennett (10) 2BT, Kaitlin Lee (10) 6BT, Emmy Loftus (9) 2BT, Erin Pan (10) 3BT, Jacqueline Phan (9) 1BT, Brooke Sanders (9) 1BT, Jessica Tai (9) 3BT, Emma Wang (10) 2BT, Chloe Xu (10) 1BT, Ashwin Anugraham (9) 3BT, Aryaa Bhatia (9) 1BT, Devyn Caples (10) 7BT, Anthony Chen (10) 2BT, Connor Chen (10) 5BT, Nabil Danandeh (10) 3BT, Ayan Goel (10) 4BT, Aayush Gupta (10) 3BT, Andrew Kanarsky (10) 2BT, Tyler Ly (9) 3BT, Arnay Murarka (10),

Raghav Vats (9) 5BT, Dominick Wonosaputra (10) 6BT, Ashlyn Anburaj (12) 4BT, Faith Carroll (11) 1BT, Chloe Chen (12) 4BT, Zoe Chu (11) 5BT, Camille Demange (12) 5BT, Adora Do (11), Jillian Fu (11) 1BT, Aria Harris (11) 6BT, Breuklynn Harris (11) 7BT, Lauren Jhong (12) 1BT, Cynthia Li (11) 4BT, Florence Rui Lin (11) 4BT, Sydney Lu (12) 5BT, Jaimie Nguyen (11) 2BT, Jasmine Phan (11) 3BT, Vivian Sun (12) 2BT, Christina Tsai (11) 2BT, Emily Tsai (12) 5BT, Dahlia Versteeg

(11) 6BT, Mica Wang (12) 2BT, Joanna Zhu (11) 3BT, Richard Bai (11) 2BT, Aaron Caparaz (12) 3BT, Jai Channon (12) 2BT, Michael L Chen (12) 4BT, Akshay Gupta (12) 4BT, Joey Huang (12) 5BT, Justin Im (11) 4BT, Tom Li (12) 3BT, Brycen Martin (11) 4BT,

Alexander Quach (11) 6BT, Karen Saini (12) 1BT, Jaden Siu (12), Eric Tandan (11) 6BT, Conan Wang (12) 1BT, Ethan Wang (11) 8BT, Samuel Wang (11) 4BT, Kevin Yuan (11) 4BT, Jolenny Canela (13) 2BT, Emily Chen (14), Jocelyn Martin (13) 3BT, Kylie Peters (14) 2BT, Joya Siu (13) 2BT, Adrianna Trifiletti (13) 1BT, Josh Atre (13) 1BT, Hayden Chen (14) 3BT, Eric Dong (14) 3BT, Ryan Fortani (13) 5BT, Jason Fu (14) 1BT, Kacper Kardasz (14) 6BT, Andrew Li (14) 1BT, Adity Mehta (14) 1BT, Gregory Quach (13) 7BT, Nicholas Quach (14), Divjot Toor (13) 2BT, Justin Tsai (14) 1BT, Madhav Vats (14) 6BT, Andrew Wang (13) 2BT, Ernest Wang (13) 7BT, Samuel Wolf (13) 1BT, Bolyun Yun (14), Nathan Caparaz (16), Aaron Lee (15), Alexander Luo (15) 2BT and Eric Wu age 15 with 1 new best time.

## SUPER LEAGUE

Pleasanton Seahawks swim team competed at the 'Super League' meet on October 2, 2016. The Sierra Marlins





# Gidget's Birthday Celebration Included Cake, Games and Friends



Gidget's birthday cake (above); Gidget at the beach with Donna (right).

By Carol Graham

Of all the birthday gifts she received, one stood out: a picture frame stating "Love is a Four-Legged Word."

It is a sentiment understood by Donna Haggerty, owner of the Yorkshire Terrier who turned 18 on September 28. They spent the day enjoying the windswept beaches of Monterey - an apt locale for the Yorkie named Gidget, a fictional 1950s teenager whose adventures revolve around surfing at Malibu beach.

Yet three days earlier, Gidget had celebrated her first-ever birthday party.

"I always meant to give her a party but never did," said Haggerty. "Then this year, I figured if she makes to 18, she deserves a party. The theme was colorful, paw-print décor for dogs to 'paw-ty.' It was festive - kids were in the pool, adults were enjoying the live music played by Mark Clarin, and dogs were socializing."

Attendees included nine

four-legged friends, including BFF Pookie and 5-year-old "sister" Tiffany, and 45 of the two-legged variety, including Dr. Ayshea Quintana, Gidget's veterinarian.

"Gidget is my oldest canine patient. The Haggerty family has done an amazing job taking care of her," said Quintana. "I'm happy to be able to help them celebrate another year."

Quintana, part of the Arroyo Veterinary Center team in Livermore, said that the average lifespan for breeds like Gidget is 14-15 years. However, owners can ensure their dogs live as long as possible by learning about their dog and its breed, and having regular veterinarian checkups.

"I recommend annual checkups for dogs under 8, and biannual for older dogs or dogs with chronic health issues," said Quintana, adding that her favorite moment at the party was "Watching the dogs eat the specially-made chicken and rice birthday cake. They

loved it!"

"We had two cakes - one I made for the dogs with organic chicken, and one for people that was a delicious chocolate cake with Jamoca ice cream from Baskin-Robbins," said Haggerty (no known relation to Supervisor Scott Haggerty). "We had a taco truck, and a bartender making margaritas and Moscow Mules."

No party is complete without games, and Gidget's featured "Guess What Gidget's Thinking" and a doggie dress-up contest.

"Gidget was a gift to my husband Ken from a prior girlfriend, then we started dating and I fell in love with her," said Haggerty. "Ken named her after the movie character because she was so small and cute. Gidget stands for girl-mid-let. She has always been lively and smart. We taught her several tricks like to do yoga, sing, dance and even sneeze on cue. We had to

spell words like 'treat' and 'bye bye' when talking in front of her so she wouldn't get too excited, but then she learned the spelling. She is also headstrong. When she wants something she doesn't give up. I think that's part of the reason she has lived so long - she doesn't want her younger sister to get all the attention."

The party took place in the backyard of the Haggerty's Livermore home, but Gidget's heart belongs to the beach.

"She ran along the sand in Monterey and was so happy," said Haggerty. "But it was bittersweet for me because I know that it could be her last trip to the beach."

Yet Gidget's spirit will live on, forever captured in a photo encased in a frame that expresses the strong bond humans share with their cherished four-legged friends.

## Meet the Artist During Reception at Cuda Ridge Winery

Bryce Beecher's "Natural Influences" art exhibit hangs at Cuda Ridge Winery through December 31st, 2016. An artist reception with Bryce Beecher will be held at the winery on Sunday, October 23rd from 1-4pm. There will be refreshments and complementary wine tasting of two wines.

The acrylic and watercolor "Natural Influences" pieces are available for viewing and purchase during regular tasting hours, and at the Artist's Reception. Cuda Ridge Wines, which produces small lot, handcrafted Bordeaux style wines, is located at 2400 Arroyo Road in Livermore.

Recently, Bryce said that he has been using free-flowing techniques, along with paying careful attention to color and composition, to develop beautifully expressive images. "I can control my pallet of colors and where I introduce them to the canvas, but I am very interested in the uncontrollable and/or unrepeatability aspects in my work," he explains.

Bryce was born in Santa Clara, raised in Idaho, and found his calling in a variety of visual arts as a young child. He has experience in many different mediums, from acrylic and watercolor to glass and welding. Bryce studied fine arts at Las Positas and Chabot Collages, as well as numerous workshops. He has been an active artist in the Livermore and Pleasanton community for the last 10 years working as an artist/instructor for many local businesses and programs such as: DAY Art Studio, Young Rembrandts, Grumbacher, LARPD, and PUSD.

Cuda Ridge Wines features an art-friendly exhibition space with a dedicated hanging system throughout the tasting room for local artists to display and sell their art. Regular winery hours are 12-4:30 Fri.-Sun.; open by appt. at 510-304-0914.



Bryce Beecher at work.

# SHORT NOTES

## Scholarship Available

The Community of Character Collaborative invites all high school seniors in Pleasanton to apply for the annual Juanita Haugen Memorial Scholarship. Long time school board member, trustee and president of the Pleasanton Unified School District, Juanita Haugen inspired the Pleasanton Community of Character initiative. In her honor, annual \$1,000 scholarships will recognize students who have a strong record of civic engagement and have demonstrated exceptional character by role modeling the traits of Compassion, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Integrity and Self-Discipline.

An award will be presented to a student in each of Pleasanton's three high schools. Applications are being taken for Foothill and Amador Valley students, Village will be presented at a later date.

Applications and guidelines are available online at [www.CommunityofCharacter.org](http://www.CommunityofCharacter.org).

The deadline to apply is November 14, 2016. Selections will be made in late-November.

## Submit Sports Quotes

The City of Dublin invites the public to nominate inspirational sports-related quotes for inclusion on the base of Elatus, a new public art statue to be placed at Fallon Sports Park in Spring 2017. Athletes of all ages are especially encouraged to submit favorite quotes.

Elatus is a mirror-polished

stainless steel abstract sculpture which, with its pedestal, will tower 31 feet above the sports grounds. It is expected to become an iconic piece of artwork for Dublin, offering a great backdrop for sports team photos. The abstract sculpture is inspired by the athletic human form in full extension, suggesting a baseball catcher leaping to catch a fly ball, a soccer goalie defending against a high kick or a tennis player at the height of a serve. The classical pedestal, similar in design to the Statue of Liberty's, will feature bronze plaques on three sides inscribed with the inspirational sports quotes, chosen by the community. The fourth side will feature a comment from the artist.

Nominated quotes should be 75 words or less and include attribution to the person who was originally responsible for the quote. In early December, a selection of nominated quotes will be presented for the public to rank in an online survey at the City of Dublin's online forum, "Open City Hall." If the public chooses shorter quotes, it is possible that the artist may be able to incorporate more than three on the artwork.

Submit suggested quotes by November 18 to Tegan McClane, Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager, at [tegan.mclane@dublin.ca.gov](mailto:tegan.mclane@dublin.ca.gov), or mail them to City of Dublin, Attn: Tegan McLane, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568.

## Ghost Tours

An evening of dark and spooky true history will be offered for ages 8 and up, Friday, October 28, 6:30-11 p.m. at Dublin Heritage Park and Museums.

Flashlight tours of Dublin Pioneer Cemetery are offered every half hour beginning at 7 p.m. Tours after 9 p.m. are reserved for older teens and adults only. Cost is \$7 per person. Space is limited and this event is expected to sell-out. Register online in advance.

In addition to the tour, hear haunting ghost stories in the Sunday School Barn, watch an old black-and-white horror movie projected on the Sunday School Barn. See ghostly images of long-dead pioneers in the Old St. Raymond Church, peek inside the parlor of the Kolb House. Fortify yourself with popcorn and hot cider, and stock up on handmade gifts for your favorite trick-or-treaters.

Pre-register on [www.dublin-recguide.com](http://www.dublin-recguide.com) for the tours.

## Prayer Breakfast

Tickets are available now for the fourth annual Tri-Valley Prayer Breakfast to be held Monday, November 21, 2016 at Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club, 7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton. Networking 7-7:30 AM, breakfast/program 7:30-9 AM.

This year's guest speaker is Bay Area author, speaker, pastor, John Ortberg.

Purchase tickets at [\[servetrialvalley.org\]\(http://servetrialvalley.org\); cost is \\$45.00 per person before 10/31/16 & \\$50 after. Table of 10 sponsorship \\$500; CityServe Partner Sponsorship \\$1,000 \(includes table of 10\). All proceeds will go toward serving families in need in the Tri-Valley. For more information contact CityServe of the Tri-Valley at \(925\) 452-8276 or \[info@cityservetrialvalley.org\]\(mailto:info@cityservetrialvalley.org\) for more information.](http://www.city-</a></p>
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## Fit Style Anniversary

Fit Style is celebrating its one year of business on November 10th. But this anniversary party isn't just for Fit Style but rather for the community and county. Owner, Jenn Longworth wanted to do something to give back to the community. "I love having my business in Pleasanton and the

Jenn and the Alameda County Community Food Bank will partner at the anniversary party. Barrels will be placed at Fit Style where customers, clients, friends, etc. can bring their food items. In addition, attendees at the November 10th party who bring a minimum of three food items will be given a special ticket for a raffle prize that evening.

The Alameda County Community Food Bank serves 1 in 5 Alameda County residents. For a list of the most needed food drive items, visit [www.accfb.org/](http://www.accfb.org/)

To learn more about the 1 year anniversary party or how to donate to the Food Bank, contact Marketing Consultant, Frances

Hewitt at (925) 487-4748 at [frances@fhimarketingconsultants.com](mailto:frances@fhimarketingconsultants.com).

The public is invited to attend the 1 year Anniversary Party. RSVP by November 5th to [jenn@fitstyle.com](mailto:jenn@fitstyle.com)

## Nature Programs

Evening Hike for Adults Only will be led by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sat., Oct. 22. Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 6 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Join this casual evening walk in the park. The group will check out the "changing of the guard" as the daytime (diurnal) critters begin to settle down for the night while the nocturnal crew starts their shift. Bring binoculars if you like, and be sure to dress for a possibly chilly evening.

Corpses Close Up will be the topic of the Oct. 23 program. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 2 p.m. at the reservable picnic area at Sycamore Grove Park.

Halloween times are famous for walking corpses and ghoulish things. For those who are not too

squeamish, this program will take a look at some local wildlife bodies and parts. This is the perfect opportunity to learn about some of the critters that share Livermore open space with us.

There is a \$7 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park, and a \$3 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. There is an annual parking pass available that provides significant savings over the daily fee for regular park visitors. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

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## Foothill High Falcon Royale Online Auction and Annual Gala

Falcon Royale, an online auction benefitting Foothill High School is underway through Sun., Oct. 23 at 7 p.m.

Presenting the auction and Falcon Royale are the Foothill High Boosters and PTSA. Go to [www.biddingforgood.com/foothillfalcons](http://www.biddingforgood.com/foothillfalcons) to check out the auction items.

A few of the auction gems include: Warriors tickets, VIP graduation tickets, sports memorabilia, golf, photography packages, Bay Area outings and more.

To attend this year's Falcon Royale purchase tickets for this fun adults-only event to be held on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton.

Tickets are \$95, which includes cocktail hours with appetizers and no host bar, dinner, dancing and exciting silent and live auctions. Purchase tickets at [www.falconroyale.com](http://www.falconroyale.com)

Questions? Contact Brenda McFarlane [brendmcfarlane@att.net](mailto:brendmcfarlane@att.net)

## Wheels for Meals Ride Set for October 29

Join more than 1,100 riders on October 29 for the Wheels for Meals Ride and cycle to end senior hunger at the 7th annual ride benefiting Meals on Wheels of Alameda County. Ride through Livermore Valley Wine Country and then return to a celebration complete with entertainment, a delicious BBQ lunch (with vegetarian options) and family-friendly fun.

Three rides are offered, 15 miles for beginners and

families with kids; 35 miles, and 70 miles.

The event will take place from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the start at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton.

Register at [www.feedingseniors.org](http://www.feedingseniors.org)

Proceeds benefit Meals on Wheels providers so they may continue to serve 530,000 meals to homebound seniors in Alameda County.





Sarah Morgan (top left) pictured with her Xtreme Force Dance Company team.

## Student Collecting Socks for the Homeless

The Xtreme Force Dance Company's 2016 National Competition Team members have joined team member Sarah Morgan, 16, a junior at Granada High School, in her personal sock campaign to clothe the feet of Livermore's homeless community.

Sarah's fellow team members, dance moms and teachers, have purchased and donated new, clean warm women's, men's and colorful children's socks

to her service project. The campaign runs through November 18, 2016.

Sarah will collect and distribute the socks to the four homeless refuge's temporary locations through late November and December when they are open to the folks who require shelter. There are no permanent homeless shelters for men in the Tri-Valley. Local churches host the shelters during cold weather. Tri-Valley Haven

and Shepherd's Gate will also be given socks.

Xtreme Force Dance Company is located at 847 Rincon Avenue, Livermore. A decorated sock collection box is located in the lobby where donations can be left any afternoon Monday through Friday and most Saturday mornings. Sarah can be reached at 455-0164. For information about the Livermore Homeless Refuge, call 895-4267.

## Vita Voci to Perform Music Set to Shakespeare

Vita Voci, an eight-person vocal ensemble, will present music set to the texts of Shakespeare. The musical settings span the 14th-21st centuries from England's Bennet and Vaughan Williams to Denmark's Jeppesen, Finland's Mäntyjärvi and America's Matthew Harris.

This program will be presented on Sunday, October 23, 2016, 2 pm at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. This program is free for everyone.

The Vita Voci ensemble sings a variety of music without instrumental accompaniment. Their repertoire spans Motets, Madrigals and Ayres of the high Renaissance, as well as early Baroque to 20th century a capella works and novelties.

Vita Voci literally means life voices, and this ensemble makes music the old fashioned way—breath and folds, lips and teeth and tongue and all.

Singing together since 2012, the members of Vita Voci are: Lucy Hair and Susan Moreno, soprano; Susan Anderson and Sally Mote-Yaffe, alto; Mark Rose and John Mark Carter, tenor; Kurt Haller and David Yaffe, bass. They state that it is their pleasure to share such sweet sorrows, sighs, and smiles that only vocal music brings.

This program is part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series, supported by the Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events, check the library's website at [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net).

## Topic to Discuss the Theme Assault on Free Speech on University Campuses

By Carol Graham

All are invited to attend a talk titled "BDS and the Assault of Free Speech on University Campuses" on Thursday, October 27, at the Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS) is a campaign designed to isolate and punish Israel for its policies toward Palestinians and its occupation of the West Bank. Since its beginnings in 2005, the BDS movement has prompted considerable debate about its scope, efficacy and morality.

"Despite the hallowed traditions of academic freedom and freedom of

inquiry, many campuses today are hostile to genuine conversation and debate," according to speaker Mark Yudof. "Freedom of expression is viewed by a vocal minority as a ploy to preserve privilege. There is a fear of listening to those with whom one disagrees."

Yudof - a former president of the University of California, chancellor of the University of Texas and president of the University of Minnesota - is a recognized expert in the fields of constitutional law, freedom of expression and education law.

"BDS is a movement on many campuses in California. Disruption of pro-Israel

speakers is increasingly common," said Yudof, an Orinda resident. "Open and robust discussions on campuses of matters relating to Israel is of critical importance."

Doors open at 7 p.m. for the 7:30 talk at the Congregation Beth Emek, located at 3400 Nevada Court, near the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard. A \$10 donation is suggested.

"Congregation Beth Emek's Israel and World Jewry (IWJ) Committee is responsible for bringing in speakers from all over the world to inform and educate the congregation's members and the broader community on the issues and events of importance to the world's Jewish communities in the U.S., Israel and abroad," said committee member Jennifer Ackerman. "The topic of BDS has been discussed at previous IWJ events. Attendees had many questions. It became apparent that this topic warranted further discussion. Professor Yudof will go into greater depth regarding BDS and freedom of speech on campuses."

Congregation Beth Emek serves Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Tracy. Members are Jews by birth or by choice, interfaith family members, and those wishing to learn more about Judaism in a community that is deeply committed to tikkun olam, the "repair of the world."

"Addressing the disruption of free speech is always timely as it is a constitutional right in the United States," said Ackerman. "We hope that attendees will become more cognizant of the limits to free speech that have been set at some universities."

To learn more, visit [www.bethemek.org](http://www.bethemek.org).



Alex Gomez and Vida Mae Fernandez appear in Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's "In the Heights." The musical opens this weekend at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore with opening night Sat., Oct. 22. Music and lyrics are by Lin-Manuel Miranda; book by Quiara Alegria Hudes. "In the Heights" tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind. The musical was the winner of the 2008 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography and Best Orchestrations. Photo - Robert Sholty and DC Scarpelli

Photo - Doug Jorgensen  
**October 5** saw witches of all ages strolling the streets of Downtown Livermore. The annual event, presented by Livermore Downtown, Inc., included martini locations highlighting local bartender creations. There were also culinary treat locations offering delicacies created by local restaurants and caterers. A witches hat contest was held at the Flagpole Plaza.



## BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to [editmail@compuserve.com](mailto:editmail@compuserve.com). Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

**Health and school,** "keeping you mentally fit: how to manage stress in high school," presentation for parents Oct. 20, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Dublin High School Student Union, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin. 6:30-8 Keynote speaker is George Papa-george 7:00-8; Breakout sessions featuring: Axis community health (alcohol/drug prevention); Alameda Crisis Center (Suicide warning signs); and DHS Health Teachers hosting a talk on anxiety and stress as seen from a student's perspective.

**Granada High School 50th Class Reunion,** first graduating class will celebrate its 50th reunion on Homecoming weekend, October 28th and 29th. On Friday night join Granada Alumni for the pre Homecoming football game BBQ at 5 p.m. The class will be recognized that evening. On Saturday, October 29th at 2:00 attend an Ed Brush Poetry Books Release party at Alden Lane Nursery. Former students and teachers will be reading from the books. Book sale proceeds go to Ed's wife Leona. From 6:00-9:00 Saturday evening the reunion dinner will be held at Cattlemen's Restaurant 2882 Kitty Hawk Road Livermore. The Class of 1966 welcomes classmates from 1967, 1968 and 1969 along with Livermore High School friends. Contact Jacquie Williams-Courtright for more information and dinner

reservations. [jacquie@aldenlane.com](mailto:jacquie@aldenlane.com) or 925-447-0280.

**GNON (Girls Night Out Networking),** 5 to 7 p.m. Mon., Nov. 7. Action 1 Properties, 2340 Santa Rita Rd., Suite 9, Pleasanton. November mixer. RSVP by Nov. 5; prepayment required. [www.gnon.org/rsvp/html](http://www.gnon.org/rsvp/html), questions 487-4748.

**Livermore Community Blood Drive:** Friday, October 21, 1-7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue. Every single day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood to keep sick and injured patients alive. Come donate, bring a friend or family member to the drive and help save a life. Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use ASBURY925 as the Sponsor Code, or call Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 for more information.

**Grants Available,** Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is now accepting applications for 2017 community grants. Grant applicants are limited to organizations serving youth in Livermore. The Livermore Rotarian Foundation now partners with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. Grant applications can be found online at [www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org](http://www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org). Deadline for submitting applications is December 9, 2016. Contact Marty Plone for additional information on grant criteria and the application process (925) 443-2629

**Blood drive,** the Livermore City Clerk's Office will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. The Red Cross mobile unit will be in the Police Department parking lot at 1052 South Livermore Avenue from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Save time by completing and printing the RapidPass questionnaire the



The Pleasanton Public Library co-sponsored the 2nd Annual Korean Culture Festival in partnership with the Tri-Valley Korean American Parents' Association on October 8 at the library. The event included examples of Korean dance, music, martial arts, food and crafts.



## Auditions Set for High School All-Star Jazz Band

The locally based East Bay Jazz High School All-Star Band, sponsored by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC), is holding auditions for the 2016-2017 season beginning in November/December 2016.

Auditions will be held on October 27, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 9:15 PM at the Music Room at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. For more information on East Bay Jazz and the High School All Star Jazz Band, visit the website at [www.eastbayjazz.org](http://www.eastbayjazz.org).

The band consists of 20-25 high school musicians in two groups, a big band and a combo/trio. Rehearsals for band members is once per week at Amador High School.

In addition to supplementing music programs offered in high schools East Bay Jazz provides weekly rehearsals with fellow jazz musicians and performance opportunities at locales throughout the Bay Area. Last year, among other performances, the East Bay Jazz High School All-Star Band played many times at the Bankhead Theater, they performed at The San Jose Jazz Festival and at a conference for an international service organization. For the upcoming season several gigs are booked and others are planned.

East Bay Jazz is the creation of Spencer Sussman, a local trombonist who performs, composes, and teaches individually and in schools.

To register for an audition and to learn more about the program go to [www.eastbayjazz.org](http://www.eastbayjazz.org).



# Milestones



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students, former students, faculty and Livermore School District officials were on hand for the dedication of the new turf on the football field at Granada High School. The ceremony took place on October 7 prior to the kickoff of the conference game with California High.



The piano students of Kim Luty presented an afternoon of music on Saturday, September 17 at Our Savior Lutheran Church. The recital featured piano music from styles ranging from Beethoven and Chopin to Sinatra and Springsteen. Several students ages 8-18 were presented with Certificates of Merit from the prestigious Music Teacher's Association of California. In December the students will perform holiday tunes at local senior homes. The studio is located at Mozart, Einstein and Me (aka ABC Music) at 2156 First St, Livermore.

## All for Music - a Recap of the PSEE Fundraising Show

By Claire Shao (9th Grade, Amador Valley High)

The All for Music Show was a huge success in raising money for Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE) to support the Pleasanton 5th grade strings and band program. The fundraiser was held on Friday, September 30, 2016 at Pleasanton Middle School.

During the pre-show, there were raffles and an instrument petting zoo hosted by Ingram & Brauns and Schwän Violins from Pleasanton. The petting zoo was a big hit amongst children. High school volunteers demonstrated various instruments and allowed children to try them. The sounds of musical instruments clashing together loomed across the multi-purpose room.

The lights started to dim and the spotlights shone onto the strings act conducted by Mr. Aibel, the PSEE Vice-President and Amador Valley High School strings teacher. The sound of the Star Spangled Banner resonated. Special guests - Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne, Superintendent Rick Rubino, City Councilman Jerry Pentin, PUSD School Board Members, employees and PSEE President Susana Lopez-Kruevitch all attended and



The photos are of some of the performers who took part in the All for Music Show.

spoke about their journeys with music.

The show reached its climax when Pleasanton celebrity Barry Mew surprised the audience by dancing on stage with a group of children to the song "Baby" by Justin Bieber. He was a trivia dancer from the "Live with Kelly & Michael" show. Some of the other highlights that night were performers from Triple Threat Performing Arts, Yao Na Dance Studio, opera singer Leland Smith, and youth

organization PLAY. The musical night was concluded with the Harvest Park Middle School Jazz Band conducted by Mr. Perazzo.

Thanks to all the 70 plus volunteers and show organizers: Ivy Chuang, Winnie Liu, and Sherry Zhou for making this show a big success. Over 400 attendees and over \$10,000 was raised for PSEE. To learn more about PSEE or the event, visit: <http://pseefundraising.wix.com/psee>

