

School District Seeks to Extend Parcel Tax with Measure M

By Patricia Koning

In 2004, Livermore voters showed their support for the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District by approving a parcel tax, Measure D, with a 71% margin. This election day, the District is asking voters for that same support in approving an extension of that parcel tax, Measure M.

Measure M calls for a \$138 per parcel annual tax, beginning in 2010. Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller says the District is bringing the re-

newal before the voters now to take advantage of the high turnout for the presidential election and ensure the extension is in place before the original measure runs out in 2010.

Measure M increases the current parcel tax by \$18 per year, or \$1.50 per month. If approved, it would raise about \$3.8 million a year for schools, about \$500,000 more than the current tax generates. The increase, says Director of Fiscal Services Susan Kinder, is to keep up with inflation.

Many credit Measure D with

saving the Livermore School District from deeper cuts over the last four years and protecting popular programs such as class size reduction, elementary science, counseling, and music. Proponents of Measure M say it is necessary to protect such programs from being impacted by State budget cuts.

"The biggest reason to support Measure M is the \$1-8 million in mid-year budget cuts we are expecting from the State," says Livermore School Board President Tom McLaughlin. "If

we don't renew this parcel tax, kids will be hurt with the loss of programs."

Kathleen Reardon, President of the Livermore Education Association (LEA), the teachers' union, says that if Measure M does not pass, about 120 teachers will have to be laid off. "From LEA's perspective, that's very bad. The parcel tax is great for our kids—it lowers class sizes and supports programs like art, music, foreign language, and counseling," she says.

LEA has supported the Yes!

for Livermore Schools campaign extensively. Members have been phone banking three nights a week for the past month and precinct walking. LEA has made financial contributions to the campaign. Other supporters of Measure M include former Livermore mayor John Shirley and local businessman John Mahoney, past chairman of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce.

According to the Yes! for Livermore Schools campaign, Measure M will protect Livermore schools by maintaining essential

programs and preserving academic performance. The ballot language specifies that the funds generated can be used only to attract and retain quality teachers; maintain small classes; provide college and career preparation classes; maintain art, music, and foreign language programs; provide computers, infrastructure, and instructional technology upgrades; continue elementary science programs; and maintain high school counselors. Measure M is intended to maintain (See MEASURE M, page 3)

Council Candidates Discuss Issues

Pleasanton City Council candidates made their final pitch for votes at a League of Women Voters candidates forum.

Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan are seeking re-election for what would be their final four years on the council. The challenger is Jerry Pentin, a first time candidate. Among the issues discussed were traffic congestion, affordable housing, and protection of ridgelines. All of the questions came from members of the audience.

McGovern described the upcoming election as "crucial to Pleasanton's future." McGovern said she would work to preserve open space, ridgelines and scenic views, monitor the city's financial status quarterly, complete the general plan and encourage and appreciate public participation.

Pentin is currently a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He says as a business owner he knows what it takes to keep the doors open and meet payrolls. He hopes to make the city more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Pentin says he would bring a long history of public service and activities as well as strong business knowledge to the council.

Sullivan wants to preserve the small town character in Pleasanton. "I have continued the legacy of former mayors Ben Tarver and Tom Pico to make sure your voice is heard at city hall." He would advocate for land use and transportation strategies that would reduce congestion and provide opportunities for affordable housing. Sullivan also said he would work to reinvigorate the local economy.

The first question had to do with how the candidates would provide affordable housing, given the city's housing cap.

Pentin noted that he supported the housing cap. He felt that the best opportunity to provide affordable housing would be true transit oriented development (TOD) around the BART station in the Hacienda Business Park. Pentin added that the issue of where students from the development would attend school and how to get them there would have to be dealt with.

McGovern said that there needs to be different approaches to providing affordable housing. She supports continuation of inclusionary housing, in which developers build affordable (See COUNCIL, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore held its annual trick or treat in downtown Livermore on Wednesday. The streets were filled with kids and, in some cases their parents, dressed in a variety of funny, scary and cute costumes.

Mayoral Candidates Respond to Questions Raised by the Public

The two Pleasanton candidates for mayor are the same as in the 2006 election: incumbent Jennifer Hosterman and challengers Steve Brozosky.

The two answered questions from the audience at a recent League of Women Voters candidates' forum. Issues included traffic, housing, and ridgeline protection.

Brozosky served on the council for four years prior to running for mayor. He is currently serving on the school board. Brozosky said challenges are facing the city such as traffic congestion, revitalization of the downtown, and balancing the budget. He said he would set a tone for council meetings based on community of character traits, particularly respect.

Hosterman is seeking her third term as mayor. She listed projects completed over the past year, including restoring Kottinger Creek, refurbishing the Veterans' Building, opening the Alviso Adobe Park, and breaking ground on the new Firehouse Arts Center. The city needed to acquire the old train right-of-way in

downtown in order to move forward with the arts center. "I am proud to have been a part of that acquisition."

Candidates were asked how they would provide workforce housing given the fact that the city has made little progress in zoning for it. Also, how would they make infill development acceptable to the public?

Hosterman stated, "We have arguable the most expensive dirt in the entire region. It is difficult to pull together projects of affordable housing. In addition, we are working with a voter approved housing cap. We will have to see what the courts decide." She pointed out that the city had approved a 350 unit apartment building with many affordable units and that the city is working on three other projects that could provide affordable housing.

Brozosky said, "No one has defined what workforce housing is. We need to talk to the community in order to determine what types of housing are needed." He pointed out that no (See MAYOR, page 4)

Clear Choices Ahead For Voters

Voters head into the November 4 election with some clear choices for congressional seats, the Pleasanton school board, a judgeship race, and a regional park district measure.

In the 11th Congressional District, Democratic Rep. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton was elected to represent the 11th Congressional District in 2006. He replaced Republican Richard Pombo of Tracy. McNerney was a wind-power consultant, but shelved his business when he ran for Congress.

McNerney's lone opponent is Republican Dean Andal of Stockton. Andal served in the California Assembly and on the state board of equalization.

More than one-half of the district's population is in San Joaquin County, with the remainder in Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara counties.

The 10th Congressional District is comprised primarily of Contra Costa County. It also includes Livermore, part of Solano County and a sliver of Sacramento County.

Andal and McNerney differ on the federal rescue plan for banks and credit. McNerney voted for the economic recovery package. "We need to provide confidence in the market and the economy," he said.

Andal called the recovery package "a mess," and said he would not have supported it. He prefers discount lending through the federal reserve, making it available to banks. (See VOTE, page 2)

Pleasanton voters will decide between two ridgeland measures on the November ballot.

Measure QQ was placed on the ballot by three councilmembers. Measure PP is an initiative that qualified for the ballot with over 5000 signatures.

The council measure (QQ) asks residents to confirm a statement in the general plan calling for establishment of an ordinance to protect the southeast hillsides. Some type of community collaborative effort would be used to develop the ordinance. The ordinance

that would result would be subject to environmental review. It would identify such things as elevations and major ridgelines. Measure QQ contains a poison pill that nullifies Measure PP should both be approved and QQ receive more votes.

The citizens' initiative (PP) would prohibit the building of structures and grading on slopes of 25 percent or greater or within 100 feet of a ridgeline. Development of 10 or fewer units are excluded. The initiative also includes a definition of a housing unit that is to be counted under the city's 29,000 cap. A housing unit is defined as having a bathroom, and a kitchen with a sink, cooking device and a refrigerator.

Measure PP supporters declare that the measure would protect all ridgelines, and do so immediately. Parcels that could build ten units or fewer are already prevented by city policy from building on ridgetops. Those protections would remain in place. Measure QQ opponents call

the measure an attempt by development supporters to confuse the voters and defeat Measure PP, the citizens' hillside initiative. Further, it would not give all residents a direct say in hillside development, because it leaves the decision on any hillside policy to the mayor and four councilmembers. They point out that the general plan calls for creation of an ordinance to protect hillsides from development. The council does not need voter permission to proceed with an ordinance.

They argue that Measure QQ does nothing to protect ridgelines or control growth. It sets no restrictions on hillside development and provides enough time for developers to build out the remaining hillsides.

In response to charges that passage of Measure PP would prevent construction of affordable housing and count such things as residential hotels as housing, supporters say that is "absolutely ridiculous." They were never counted in the past. (See MEASURES, page 4)

The Independent recommends:

- Pleasanton Mayor: Steve Brozosky
- Pleasanton City Council: Cindy McGovern (i), Matt Sullivan (i)
- Pleasanton Measure PP: Yes
- Pleasanton Measure QQ: No
- Pleasanton School Board: Chris Grant (i), Rasad Rallapalli, Jamie Yee Hintzke
- Livermore School Board: Stewart Gary, Chuck Rogge
- Measure M (extension of Livermore school parcel tax): Yes
- Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board: Steve Goodman (i), Beth Wilson (i)
- BART, Ward 5: Linda Jeffery Sailors
- Measure WW (extension of EBRPD park bond): Yes
- 15th Assembly District: Joan Buchanan
- 11th Congressional District: Jerry McNerney (i)
- 10th Congressional District: Ellen Tauscher (i)
- Superior Court Judge: Dennis Hayashi

Livermore Winter Farmers' Market Opens Sunday

The Livermore Winter Farmers' Market will be opening for its second year on November 2. The Thursday evening market in Carnegie Park that closed on October 16 will be replaced for the winter with a market from November 2 through April 26 on Second St. between J St. and K St. The market will be open from 9am to 1pm, rain or shine.

Shoppers at the Livermore Winter Farmers' Market can purchase winter squash, apples, persimmons, oranges, walnuts, sweet potatoes, grapes, broccoli, turnips, beets, parsnips, mixed greens, mushrooms, strawberries, tomatoes, fresh cut flowers and other seasonal favorites. The market will also feature eggs, hot foods like falafels, barbecue, kettle corn, and Afghani foods, and artisan breads, freshly-baked

pies and other gourmet items like olives and salsas, as well as orchids and potted plants. Layce Baker and his band will be present to entertain on opening day.

The Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association is the state's largest operator of Certified Farmers' Markets, with over forty Certified Farmers' Markets weekly in the Bay Area during the peak summer months. All PCFMA markets accept WIC FMNP (Woman Infant and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons) and EBT (the Golden State advantage food stamp cards).

For more information on the Livermore Winter Farmers' Market, call (800) 949-FARM, (925) 825-9090, or go to www.pcfma.com.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Work is underway on I-580/Fallon Road - El Charro Road interchange improvements. The project began in Spring 2008 and is scheduled to be complete by Summer 2009. Improvements include carpool lanes leading onto I-580 E and I-580 W, traffic signals at the I-580 E and I-580 W off-ramps, an opening eastbound and westbound loop on-ramps to I-580. Additionally, Dublin will expand Fallon Road approaching the intersection and on the overpass, and increase the number of turn lanes at intersections of I-580 E and I-580 W off-ramps.

Veterans Day Parade Slated

The 12th annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony will be held Nov. 2 in Pleasanton.

This year's event will honor "Thunder in the Sky," paying special honor to the men and women of the United States Air Force.

The parade will take place starting at 1 p.m. down Main Street. The parade will include military honor guards, bands, horses, Jeeps, Humvees, soldiers, sailors, singers, Scouts and veterans.

Each year the Riderless Horse in the parade is led by a member of the Alameda County Sheriff's posse. The honor guard caisson is an active member of the US Armed Services that walks solemnly next to the horse.

To the Veterans of Pleasanton, this is the most honored unit in (See VETERANS, page 8)

VOTE

(continued from page one)

McNerney says health care insurance should be fully accessible to all, and there has to be choice about a provider. On earmarks, "It's part of my job to bring home projects and money for my district, as long as they are good, solid projects, and serve a national need and create jobs," said McNerney.

On health care insurance reform, Andal wants to allow health insurance companies to sell plans across state lines, to end "an artificial scarcity of competition."

Federal earmarks are all right with Andal, but not in their present form. He would submit them on behalf of public agencies, but only after they have been nominated by the public agencies through their own public hearing process.

Incumbent Ellen Tauscher, a Democrat, was elected in 1996, by defeating Republican Bill Baker. Challenging her are Republican Nicholas Gerber and Peace and Freedom party member Eugene Ruyle.

Gerber is a portfolio manager of a mutual fund that he founded with others in 1995. Ruyle is a retired anthropology professor who lives in Oakland. He ran for Congress in 1982 on the Peace and Freedom ticket in Long Beach.

Tauscher supports Sen. Barack Obama's plan to "withdraw out troops in a responsible way over the next 16 months." On the Afghanistan war, "We have to get it right, and not let it fall into the hands of the Taliban again, or it will be a haven for Al Qaeda."

Tauscher voted twice for the economic recovery plan. "It is necessary to move quickly to restore liquidity to short-term capital markets. It's important to invest in these commercial banks that have seized up like overheated engines, and are not lending to each other, or to American consumers."

All Americans should have health insurance, Tauscher believes.

Gerbersaid, "We need a clear, definable, achievable goal (regarding Iraq withdrawal). It can't be in six months, or (waiting until) there is peace in the Middle East." On Afghanistan, the same thing should be done. "It's all one war against terrorism. That has to be defined better. It probably is best fought with butter, not guns. It's a war of ideas."

Gerber opposes the bank-rescue plan. "It's a band-aid approach that increases systematic risk and increases government debt. It doesn't

solve many of the underlying problems."

Ruyle favors bringing troops home from Iraq as soon as possible, after devising a plan to ease the transition. "I think that the U.S. owes reparations to Iraq, because we bombed their country. That (payment) would have to be worked out." The United States should withdraw all troops from Afghanistan, and pay reparations there for destruction of the country.

On the economic recovery plan, Ruyle said, "Put the crooks in jail, with no bail. I was surprised when Congress initially turned down the bail-out, and the huge response of the American people: Don't give these crooks our money. Then (on the second vote), both parties supported it."

REGIONAL PARKS MEASURE

Measure WW on the November ballot asks approval for a \$500 million bond measure for East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) so that it can acquire land and finish development of parks and trails throughout its 55-park system.

The measure would be financed by extending a property tax that would be levied at \$10 annually per \$100,000 assessed valuation. EBRPD officials emphasize that it is the assessor's valuation, not the property's market price, that is the basis for computing the tax. It is the same tax levy amount that was used for Measure AA, which was approved by voters in 1988. Measure WW would not be a new tax, but a continuation of Measure AA.

Measure WW needs approval from two-thirds of the votes cast in order to pass.

EBRPD has a long list of proposed projects in the voter pamphlet for Alameda and Contra Costa counties, the district's jurisdiction. In the Valley, Sunol Regional Park would receive \$5 million to replace aging facilities such as picnic and camping facilities and the visitors center. The money would also go to expansion of the wilderness area to provide more protection of Alameda Creek, preserve wildlife habitat, and remove barriers to steel-head migration.

On the Pleasanton Ridge, \$13 million would be earmarked to buy more scenic land on the Pleasanton and Sunol ridges, complete a bicycle loop trail system, and build picnic, camping and visitor facilities. Another \$2 million would build a bicycling,

hiking, and horse trail from Garin Park to the Pleasanton Ridge. Some \$2 million would go to extending the Iron Horse Trail further south in Pleasanton, and farther north in Concord.

Some \$11 million would buy open space and park corridor for a trail linking six regional parks on the Interstate 680 corridor from Sunol to the Carquinez Strait.

Measure backer Ayn Wieskamp, who represents the Valley on the EBRPD board, said that the park district has done "a terrific job in 20 years" with the bond money authorized in 1988. "We've done more than what we promised originally, by leveraging the money that the public gave us."

Opponents of the measure say that open space can be preserved better by having farmers and ranchers get the money from selling development easements on their property. In that way, the land remains on the tax rolls, instead of costing taxpayers money.

PLEASANTON SCHOOLS RACE

Six people are running for three seats on the Pleasanton school board. They are incumbent Chris Grant, and Valerie Arkin, Jeff Bowser, Jamie Yee Hintzke, Stephen Page and Prasad Rallapalli. Incumbents Steve Brozosky and Kris Weaver chose not to run again.

Page was the only candidate who declined an interview by the Independent, and did not appear at any of the candidate forums. He is listed on the ballot as doctor/consultant/educator.

Arkin, the mother of two students, is a school volunteer, former PTA chair, and has a health science degree and an MBA. She serves on the city library commission, and is a YMCA director.

Arkin said that her approach to governing as a trustee would be to think independently, but work as a team, and reach consensus with people. She pointed to her work on the library commission, YMCA board of directors and other service as examples of her cooperative work.

Having an MBA with an emphasis in organizational behavior has helped her get things accomplished in a cooperative way, Arkin said. One important issue for the next school board will be student growth, as well as the "kids who are not succeeding at the big school level."

Bowser is the father of two

district students. He worked in the district as a teacher at Village High School, and assistant principal at Amador Valley High School. Later he worked in the Castro Valley and San Ramon districts. He works for AT&T, dealing with major business clients.

Bowser described himself as a centrist. "I work to bring groups together, to find common ground. I consider myself a voice of reason, a voice of logic." Bowser said he knows the education code, and is "a quick study on budgets. I have a fundamental understanding of them, and it's fairly easy to get up to speed (on current budgeting)."

Grant is the only incumbent running. He was appointed to the board early in 2007 to succeed Steve Pulido, who became a judge. Grant has a bachelor's degree in business. Grant is on the board of the Pleasanton Partnership in Education foundation. He is a senior vice president at Kaiser Permanente Foundation, where he oversees national corporate development and investment. Grant has three children in the schools.

Grant said that it's important to identify long-range goals and measure for accountability. The district needs to "see where we want to be. What are the programs and resources? What do we need to get there?" Grant would like to see energy education added to the curriculum. He also would like to see class size reduction added to fourth and fifth grades, and then in sixth through 12th in English and math.

Hintzke, who grew up in Pleasanton and attended the public schools, has two children in school. She has volunteered in the schools, and helped found the PTA council in 2003, and still serves on it. She was named "Woman of the Year" in the 18th Assembly District by Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi in 2007.

Hintzke emphasized communication. "What I'd like to bring to the table is to let folks in town know I'm accessible. I can help them learn how to be advocates for their kids. Let them learn the process."

Paired with communication is customer service. "If you are communicating with the teacher, or a principal or someone, how quickly do they get back to you?"

Having a Challenge Day, a technique used in some school districts, can help reduce bullying, said Hintzke. It sets aside a

special seminar for some students, usually on a Saturday, to talk about their feelings as a bully or a victim.

Rallapalli has a bachelor's degree in physics, an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, and a Ph.D in database security. He is a database architect for a Peninsula search engine firm. He co-founded the Pleasanton Science League, which helps students in the district prepare for science competitions. He has two children in Pleasanton schools.

Rallapalli wants the district to enable 95 percent of graduates to be in a position to go on to college, even if they don't all choose to go. He spoke about adopting the International Baccalaureate, which is recognized by colleges and employers in many nations.

Promoting resources to aid students who are below median academic achievement is important. The schools could borrow an idea from universities, and have funded "chairs" fully funded by a five-year program. The chairs would be occupied by guest teachers who do not want to commit to a full-time teaching schedule. They would have a "proven ability to help those below the median to get to the median," then help them move higher.

JUDGES' ELECTION

County prosecutor Phil Daly and public interest attorney Dennis Hayashi are running for a judge's seat made vacant by the retirement of Kenneth Kingsbury. Daly lives in San Leandro with his wife and three children. He has cited his 23 years' experience in the courts as preparation for the job, especially his familiarity with criminal justice.

Hayashi lives in Castro Valley with his wife, Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi. He was director of the Office of Civil Rights in the Clinton administration. Later, he headed the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Daly emphasized his 23 years of service with the district attorney's office, prosecuting various kinds of criminal cases. He also spent a year as a public defender in Napa County. "I am supported by the people who are the most familiar with the court system," said Daly.

Hayashi emphasized his public interest court work. He said that he stands for accessible courts, an independent judiciary, and impartial decisions.

Police Plan Program on DUI

Livermore Police Department Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association next community education presentation will focus on what Livermore is doing to combat impaired driving.

The program will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue on Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be made by Officer Wes Morgan, who is assigned to the Livermore Police Traffic Unit as a Collision Investigator.

Officer Morgan has worked for the Livermore Police Department for more than thirty years. He has investigated more than 6,000 traffic collisions and made more than 1,700 DUI arrests. He will discuss impaired driving and the impact it has on our community. He will talk about the department's efforts in education and enforcement in combating this DUI.

Morgan will discuss DUI related collisions that have occurred in Livermore in the past and how lives were changed by the impaired driver's poor decisions. He will also provide information on L.P.D.'s partnerships with the Office of Traffic Safety, "Every 15 Minutes," "Avoid the 21" and Mother's Against Drunk Driving. This presentation will include a short video of an eighteen year old impaired driver telling her story, including being ejected from her vehicle and lying in a Livermore vineyard for more than 7 hours.

Officer Morgan will demonstrate the sequence of events during a typical DUI investigation and a volunteer from the audience will display symptoms of impairment through the use of "DUI goggles." Finally, Officer Morgan will provide information on what community members should do if they see a suspected impaired driver.

There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions and to share their concerns regarding impaired driving.

"I truly believe this is information that can save lives," said Officer Morgan. "I hope by sharing my experience as a Collision Investigator, we can make our community a safer place to live."

Although reservations are not required, signing up for the program (#2733) at 373-5700 helps LARPD plan seating arrangements.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE PRESENTS

A White Christmas

Thursday, November 20th • Friday, November 21st • Saturday, November 22nd
Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008
FAMILY STROLL: 5 - 8PM
Photos with Santa • Children's Secret Santa Shoppe • Stroll in Winter Wonderland • \$10.00 per adult. Kids 12 and under free.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008
TINSEL TEAS: 10AM - NOON AND 2 - 4PM
SILENT NIGHT SOIRÉE: 6:30 - 11:00PM
"Almost High" Tea • Christmas Trees Preview • Silent Auction • \$30 per person
Sit-down Dinner • Entertainment • Silent Auction • \$75 per person

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2008
SILVER BELLS LUNCHEON: 10:30AM - 1:30PM
Gourmet Luncheon • Live Entertainment • Christmas Tree Drawings • \$85 per person

For advance tickets, complete form and return with check, payable to: ValleyCare Foundation,
1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550 • Phone (925) 373-4560 • Fax (925) 373-4117

<p>Family Stroll - \$10.00 per adult. Kids 12 and under free. children will attend - free</p> <p>Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 10AM - Noon, ticket(s) \$30 per person</p> <p>Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 10AM - Noon, table for 10 at \$300</p> <p>Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 2 - 4PM, ticket(s) \$30 per person</p> <p>Tinsel Tea, Nov 21, 2 - 4PM, table for 10 at \$300</p> <p>Silent Night Soirée, Nov. 21, ticket(s) at \$75 per person</p> <p>Silent Night Soirée, Nov. 21, table for 8 at \$600</p> <p>Saturday Luncheon, Nov. 22, ticket(s) at \$85 per person</p> <p>Saturday Luncheon, Nov. 22, table for 10 at \$850</p> <p>I am unable to attend. Enclosed is a contribution.</p> <p>Please charge <input type="checkbox"/> M/C <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Amex</p>	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Tel (W) _____</p> <p>Tel (H) _____</p> <p>Email _____</p>
<p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>Card# _____</p> <p>Exp. _____</p>	<p>Signature _____</p>



ValleyCare Health System
A not-for-profit health system

Proceeds will benefit ValleyCare's Emergency Room Expansion Campaign and the ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center.

COUNCIL

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homes in conjunction with developments. McGovern also advocates construction of second units, requiring affordable units as part of condo conversion projects, and maintaining a high level of rental properties. She also likes providing down payment assistance to allow people to purchase market rate homes.

Sullivan declared that he agreed with both candidates proposals, noting that he had been a long time advocate for TOD within the Hacienda Business Park. It is the one place where it is possible to build at a density that would provide affordability.

Candidates were asked their positions on the two ridgeland protection measures on the ballot.

McGovern said she had gathered signatures for Measure PP, the citizen initiative. She is concerned about provisions in Measure QQ. It says that ridgeland to be preserved would be chosen, that means some won't be saved. McGovern also did not like the poison pill in Measure QQ. That would nullify Measure PP if QQ receives more votes.

Pentini is a supporter of Measure QQ, the council sponsored measure, because it provides for an open process to create a hillside ordinance. Once an ordinance were created and vetted, the ordinance should be placed on the ballot for ratification by voters, Pentini stated.

Sullivan supports Measure PP. He called the issue "a very unfortunate symptom of a larger problem in Pleasanton, political divisiveness. Measure PP came about because citizens were concerned with the approval of housing on hilltops. Instead of reaching out to residents and dealing with their concerns, the council chose to place a competing issue on the ballot. Once the dust settles, I think we need to come together to work through issues and end some of the divisiveness."

The next question was what strategy a candidate would use to ensure a large public accessible greenbelt in the southeast hills.

Sullivan noted that he was one of the first to come up with the vision of the greenbelt. The first time the city tried to implement the vision was with Oak Grove. People didn't like it. Sullivan said he believes there are multiple ways to reach the goal. One is the purchase of conservation easements. "The vision is still valid. I will work hard to make it happen."

Pentini felt that Oak Grove as well as the Callippe Golf Course were templates for open space preservation. Both included large public open spaces. "It is important to work together with all the stakeholders to obtain the open space," he said. Once it is made public, it should be made accessible.

McGovern felt that clustering development rather than spreading it out over ridgetops would provide more open space and more agriculture.

This raised the question of how candidates would preserve the city's agricultural heritage.

Pentini pointed out that the new Alviso Adobe Park provides a link with its history of the dairy industry. In addition, the Bernal property will have agriculture segments.

McGovern commented, "I wish we had started long ago to preserve agriculture. We need to be careful how we zone property." She also mentioned the Alviso Adobe Park and Bernal property.

ACE Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

October marks ten years of the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) providing passenger rail service from the Central Valley to the Bay Area. ACE is the first and only commuter rail service to link San Joaquin County to the East Bay and Silicon Valley. Since 1998, 6,829,141 people have commuted using ACE and today 3,800 ride everyday, up 153% from the first months.

"Ten years is an important milestone that we all feel proud to celebrate," said Chairman Mike Restuccia. "In light of the various fiscal issues at the national and state level, we don't plan to commemorate the 10-year anniversary in a traditional way."

Each week throughout the

Sullivan said there are two very important ways to preserve agriculture. One is the voter approved urban growth boundary. There are working cattle ranches outside the boundary. Purchasing ag easements has been effective in making one of the ranches viable. The city also has established ag easements in the Vineyard Corridor for vineyards or other crops.

The issue of council meetings and public input was raised. The concern is that the council is not getting to the agenda in a timely manner because of all of the other activities that take place at the meeting.

McGovern said that council meetings are an opportunity for the public to interface with the council. She suggested that recognizing people, handing out awards and the public comment segment could be held between 6 and 7 p.m. with the regular agenda addressed starting at 7 p.m. She would return to the 5 minute time allotment for speakers. She added that she believes that some agendas are way too full. Perhaps, an additional meeting or limiting controversial issues on one agenda is a possible way to reduce the time of meetings.

Sullivan stated, "We need to do everything to encourage public participation. That's why we are here. It is also important to get the business done. However, sometimes people forget our business is not the agenda; it's the public."

Pentini said he agreed with both Sullivan and McGovern's ideas. "Public participation is very important. Sometimes we see the agenda slides. However, we do need to listen to residents." Perhaps the meeting open to the public segment could be limited to 15 to 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting, then brought back when the agenda has been completed.

The candidates were asked if they supported construction of a new city hall to replace what was described as an inefficient city hall spread out among different buildings.

Sullivan said he would like to see a master plan created that included the current civic center, ACE train station, library and San Francisco property across from the library. The plan could include a new library, a permanent ACE station and high density housing. The buildings along Main Street that currently houses city offices could be sold to create new retail space.

McGovern also liked the idea of opening up the downtown for more retail and possible housing on the second floor. Before any decision, she would like to hear from the public on what options the council should consider.

Pentini felt that with the city near buildout a new, expensive civic center is not needed. Staff does a pretty good job where it is. He felt that the public would rather see the money spent on the Bernal property projects or a new library.

The candidates were asked their views of the Stoneridge Drive extension.

Pentini said that extending the road is not a matter of if, but when. "When is now. We need to extend it because of Staples Ranch." Alameda County would pay for the extension in conjunction with the development of the Staples property. "It makes sense to build the extension when someone else is paying." Pentini added that the city needs to be a partner in the region when it comes to transportation issues.

month of October, ACE staff has been on station platforms from Livermore to San Jose handing out gift bags to passengers. "We felt that celebrating with our passengers would allow us to show our appreciation for their loyalty to our service," said Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director of ACE. "Several of our private sector partners stepped up to ensure that our passengers enjoyed a series of appreciation events."

Passengers have been treated with anniversary t-shirts, raffles for monthly passes, food and other ACE memorabilia.

The ACE service began under the direction of late San Joaquin County Board Supervisor Robert J. Cabral. Cabral was

"When we talk about what we want, it's hard to convince our regional partners to go along with our needs if we are not doing our share."

Sullivan noted that he had agreed to leave the road in the general plan. However, he would not extend it until conditions are right. If it were extended now, studies show that cut-through traffic in Pleasanton would increase by 50 percent. The most important way to prevent the cut-through traffic would be to build the Highway 84 improvements.

McGovern said, "We have tried to work as a region only to have our neighbors not provide the trust." She referred to the Triangle Study, which she said was to have been a consensus decision and become a majority decision, one that removed Highway 84 improvements. "Dublin is building tremendous amounts of development along I-580, Livermore is coming towards us. Studies show that traffic leaving the freeway and coming into Pleasanton would increase by 50 percent if Stoneridge were extended. If Highway 84 improvements were built, the increase would be 10 percent.

Candidates were asked to list their top three issues.

Pentini said traffic circulation including the Stoneridge extension was important. He would work in synchronization with regional partners to achieve congestion relief. Providing workforce housing is another, with TOD near BART and perhaps the ACE station.

McGovern listed water conservation, moving forward with solar projects, and improving traffic.

Sullivan's highest priority is to provide government that is representative of and listens to people and involves them in the process. The second is to plan for a sustainable future economically, environmentally and with social equity. Social issues include affordable housing and funding for nonprofits. The third and one of the biggest challenges is dealing with traffic.

Each was asked to list an issue not mentioned in questions.

McGovern called herself a person who advocates for children. She would like to see implementation of background checks for those working with children and creation of guidelines for child care centers.

Sullivan would like to see more funding for the city's non-profit grant program, which has not increased for ten years.

Pentini's goal is to create a bicycle and pedestrian friendly city. He would work to change the culture, to get people out of their cars.

MEASURE M

(continued from page one)

tain current programs, not establish new ones.

"If Measure M does not pass, the Board of Trustees will have to determine what programs they may want to fund out of the General Fund dollars," says Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller. "I don't believe we will have the budget to maintain all of the programs currently paid for by Measure D."

The only difference from Measure D, in terms of what the ballot measure covers, is replacing library technicians with technology. "These programs will remain in place. However, the funding source will change," explains

instrumental in garnering support in San Joaquin County as well as leading the way to form partnerships with Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Today the ACE service makes four roundtrips between Stockton and San Jose on weekdays.

Two Incumbents, Two Challengers Vie for Two Livermore School Board Seats

Four candidates are running for two seats on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Trustees.

The incumbents seeking re-election are Tom McLaughlin and Bill Morrison. They are challenged by first time candidates, Stewart Gary and Chuck Rogge.

Gary is the former chief of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. He was instrumental in merging the Livermore and Pleasanton Fire Departments. Gary has degrees in public administration. He serves on the board of the Livermore Valley Education Foundation.

He says he is running for the school board because he believes it is time for the district to have some strong leadership to enact positive change. "I have a proven record," he declared. "I believe my expertise in public policy, fiscal planning and labor relations would be an asset to the board." All were part of his job as fire chief. Gary added, "I believe in leadership, discussion and consensus building in an effort to do what is best for students."

The way to improve test scores is to allow individual schools more freedom to deal with the issues each faces in providing education to students.

One area of instruction he would like to see improved is vocational education, or career tech.

He sees the role of a board member as working with experts to develop policy guidelines for the experts to flesh out, then measure the effectiveness of the policies.

Math, science, art, music and sports are all important in educating students. Gary says he knows that art, music and sports tend to be the first cut when funding is low. He would like to see all stakeholders get together to find a way to provide unmet funding needs.

"This is about 13,000 plus young souls. Teaching and growing that number of young minds is an incredible responsibility. I would bring a broad set of skills to the discussion. I know what I don't know. I would go onto the board with an open mind, bring what I do know in an effort to do a better job in going forward," Gary concluded.

Tom McLaughlin is seeking his third term on the school board. He has lived in Livermore for 43 years. He taught at different grade levels for 35 years in San Leandro.

He believes his experience on

the board and his past teaching experience in different grade levels, including special education, has provided him with the awareness of the different needs of students when it comes to education.

He is running again because he says he would like to see the outcome of some of the programs that he has worked to have put in place this past year. One is the trimester system at the high schools, which includes reducing classes from 90 minutes to 70 minutes.

He continued, "One of the problems facing the district is the terrible budget situation."

McLaughlin said any one plan for improving test scores would not likely work at all schools. Each school has different issues it faces.

Art and music, as well as math and science, are well done in the district and provide an important part of education said McLaughlin. He would like to see more after school activity made available in the form of clubs or tutoring.

Vocational education is important. The ROP (regional occupation program) program is working.

He favors tougher standards set for both teaching and learning. "All children need to be prepared for future challenges. Working together as a group, parents, educators and support personnel can pave the way for their successful education," he concluded.

Bill Morrison says he is seeking re-election for 13,184 reasons (the number of students enrolled this year). "I'm here for the kids. Even if I weren't on the board, I would be involved with the district." He refers to the fact that he has children in school and a son who teachers in the district.

He was appointed to the board in 2003 and voted on in 2004.

Morrison believes he brings expertise that other candidates may not bring to the board. He has an MBA with thirty years in senior management in private industry. "I understand budgets and management." In addition, Morrison teaches. He offers a variety of business courses on-line through the University of Phoenix and Axia College. He has a real estate brokers license.

He sees the role of a board member as one of oversight and guidance. The board looks to the superintendent to provide expertise in many educational areas. The board and the superintendent can bring in policy proposals.

We must improve the district's overall test scores.

While Morrison believes there may be too many tests, he noted that the board has never

instituted a test that was not mandated by either the state or federal government. School funding is judged on a set of test scores.

Morrison said he supports reduced class sizes at all levels, an enhanced elementary science program, and access to libraries with skilled support staff at all grade levels.

Chuck Rogge worked as a firefighter with the Alameda County Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, retiring as a captain. He held various positions that included training firefighters. In the early nineties, he served on Livermore's growth review committee. Rogge has worked at both small and large companies, including Intel, Automatic Data Processing and Radiant Systems. He is a life-long resident of Livermore.

He is a parent volunteer at Croce Elementary and coaches track and field at Livermore High School.

Rogge says his decision to run for the school board is a continuation of his involvement within and concern for the community. He also wanted to ensure that there were at least two candidates for each of the seats on the November ballot.

In discussing changes, he believes the school board has left parents out of the equation when it comes to discussing the future of the schools. "The current board and staff use a top down, dictatorial method of management. I believe that needs to be turned about. It needs to be bottom up with students, teachers and parents part of the discussion," said Rogge.

He sees the role of the board as creating policy and being active in doing so.

The district should consider all types of educational opportunities.

He also believes that the school day is not long enough. More after-school programs, such as tutoring, sports and clubs keep kids engaged with learning. He would like to see more cooperation among the city, park district and school district in providing after school programs for students.

The schools need to bring back vocational training, such as woodworking and metal shop.

Art and music are important. They very much have to be a part of learning. Learning to be creative can be helpful in future jobs.

"I want kids to be taught to learn. No matter what they do in life, they will be able to move forward. Testing has put constraints on some of the creativity teachers could bring to the classroom. There are a lot of jobs and money riding on those test scores," Rogge says.

BANKHEAD THEATER

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 <p>The Kyle Eastwood Band Critically Acclaimed Jazz Trio As someone with a myriad of opportunities to shine, Kyle Eastwood has truly carved his own path as a musician (yes, he's Clint's son). Having dabbled on electric bass as a teenager, he now also plays the upright, acoustic and double bass. Resonating with swing, groove, and funk overtones, Kyle's "Paris Blue" album climbed to #1 on the French Jazz charts. Kyle has also composed music for the Academy Award winning film, <i>Mystic River</i> and <i>Million Dollar Baby</i>. Nov 11 • 8pm \$50/\$35/\$30/\$25/\$12 students</p>	 <p>The Felici Piano Trio Del Valle Fine Arts A microcosm uniting three continents, the Felici Piano Trio is the musical home of Taiwanese pianist Wei-Ting Huang, German violinist Rebecca Hang and American cellist Brian Schuldt. This vibrant threesome has performed concerts in Europe, South America and the U.S. and has distinguished itself by coming to Mammoth Lakes as grantees of Chamber Music America's Rural Residencies Program and as a California Arts Council's (CAC) Touring Roster ensemble. Nov 15 • 8pm \$29/\$24/\$19/\$11</p>
 <p>Chopin For Lovers! Keyboard Conversations™ with Jeffrey Siegel Romantically inspired, stirring compositions by one of music's most popular composers. The heroic Polonaises, the vivacious Waltzes, stormy Preludes, fiery Scherzos, and dreamy Nocturnes. This distinguished concert pianist and conductor takes listeners on an intimate journey through classical music. Siegel creates a unique learning experience, providing lively commentary about the music before performing each work in its entirety. Nov 18 • 8pm \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students</p>	 <p>Miss Saigon Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Oct 31 - Nov 9 • 2/8pm \$36/\$34/\$26</p>
 <p>Magic of Gerald Joseph Award Winning Magicians Oct 30 • 8pm \$22/\$18/\$10</p>	 <p>Warren Miller's "Children of Winter" The Largest Action Sports Film on the Planet Nov 6 • 8pm \$18</p>

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EDITORIALS

Skyline At Stake

Measure PP, on the ballot as the result of a citizens' initiative signed by more than 5000 voters, places the fate of Pleasanton's southeastern skyline in the hands of the electorate.

The measure — which will take effect immediately if it passes — will ban new homes on hilltops and higher slopes. Perhaps more importantly it will signal to the city's decision-makers that the community wants this range of hills saved from urbanization, much like Pleasanton Ridge on the west.

Also on the ballot is Measure QQ. It calls for a planning process leading to the adoption of a hillside ordinance. The process could take several years to complete and would be advisory in nature. The City Council would have no legal obligation to adopt the recommendations.

There is no substantive reason for Measure QQ to be on the ballot. The Pleasanton General Plan already permits the City Council to undertake this kind of process.

In other words, QQ is a total sham. It was put on the ballot in a 3-2 City Council vote, its real purpose to muddle the voters and subvert the citizen initiative.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman spearheaded it, betraying her constituents in doing so.

Steve Brozosky, challenging Hosterman for mayor, staunchly backs Measure PP and opposes QQ. Councilmembers Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern stand the same. McGovern has been especially active on this issue, writing the ballot arguments for PP and against QQ. Jerry Pentin, the lone challenger in the council race, opposes the citizen initiative, PP, and supports QQ.

The preservation of the southeastern hills, combined with the lands of Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park on the west, would create a beautiful greenbelt encircling Pleasanton in perpetuity. What a glorious gift to leave future generations!

Pleasanton citizens, vote "yes" on the citizens' initiative, Measure PP; "no" on that phony Measure QQ.

We urge your votes also go to the three candidates who support PP and oppose QQ: Steve Brozosky for mayor and Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan for reelection to the council.

Judge — Dennis Hayashi

After interviewing Phil Daly and Dennis Hayashi, candidates for superior court judge, we find ourselves tempted to endorse them both. These are two fine candidates. We believe each would be fair and wise in his administering of the law.

Hayashi has a solid background in public interest law, ranging from environmental to civil rights cases. He says he would bring "diversity" to the court, and not just the racial/religious kind. Most judges come from the district attorney's office or from prestigious law firms associated with big business. Few are from the public interest sector, he observes.

Phil Daly is an Alameda County deputy district attorney who has worked in almost all of the county's judicial courts during his 23 years of service. Daly is endorsed by many of the people who are most familiar with the court system, including a number of defense attorneys.

A factor we consider important is the resident vs. developer issues that frequently wind up before a judge. With his experience in public interest law, Hayashi has the stronger background for hearing such cases. For that reason, we give our endorsement to him.

Buchanan Vs. Wilson

Joan Buchanan, Democrat, and Abram Wilson, Republican, are competing for the 15th Assembly District seat in what appears to be a very close race. With growth issues raging within the district, the contest transcends your usual Democrat vs. Republican politics.

As mayor of San Ramon, Wilson has consistently assisted developers in their efforts to extend urbanization.

Joan Buchanan, meanwhile, is a strong advocate of limits. She would work with those who are attempting to revitalize agriculture in North Livermore. She's voiced total commitment to the urban growth boundary now in place in that area.

The 15th District assemblymember will have enormous influence in the direction of Tri-Valley growth. Joan Buchanan's election, in our opinion, will best serve the public interest.

MEASURES

(continued from page one)

The definition proposed in the measure is consistent with the one used by the federal government when it conducts a census. Secondary units could not be counted as units, because state law prohibits that practice.

Opponents say Measure PP was written by only a few people. Supporters point out that the final initiative wording went through lawyers, a number of planning commissioners, and retired elected officials.

The argument against Measure PP is that while it promises ridgeline protection, it cannot deliver. Measure PP, according to opponents, encourages development of large ultra private estates due to the exemption for ten homes or less, does not immediately protect the ridgelines because they are private property, and provides for no environmental review.

Supporters of Measure QQ state it was placed on the ballot by councilmembers at the urging of Pleasanton's open space and trails advocates. It would provide for an open, public process that includes all stakeholders in developing a hillside protection ordinance.

Supporters of Measure QQ say that it protects the vision that the

community and council have of creating a greenbelt within the urban growth boundary. If approved, it would incorporate and expand existing hillside protections, allow time for environmental study, and ensure careful deliberation with public input, supporters of the measure state. Any ordinance created, if Measure QQ were approved, would become part of the general plan, providing protection against hillside development.

Opponents say Measure PP say that it could prevent construction of affordable housing. They argue that the way units would be counted would leave fewer units left under the housing cap. They say that Measure PP would also delay ridgeline protections, because it will be in the courts.

Measure QQ advocates point out that the urban growth boundary is what distinguishes the western ridgelines from Measure PP lands. Much of the eastern lands are inside the boundary, and under the general plan they have been zoned for development. The way to preserve the land is to work with landowners on a plan that provides some development while protecting the majority of the hills.

MAYOR

(continued from page one)

zoning changes had been made, because the general plan update had not been completed. It has been a six year process, one that he would have sped up if he had been on the council. Brozosky also likes the idea of working with Habitat for Humanity to build housing.

Do the candidates agree with the housing numbers assigned by ABAG?

"No" declared Brozosky. The methodology looks at one city at a time, not at the region. There is no way to meet the numbers. The city can't provide 5000 low income units. The city is not in the business of building housing. It is an unfunded mandate. "The state needs to come back with an idea of how to finance the housing."

Hosterman agreed that the numbers represent an unfunded mandate. She argued that housing should be regional rather than city specific. Housing should be built where land is more affordable, such as Brentwood. Hosterman said the city is working hard to rezone land and come back into compliance with the state. "The reality is that 5000 were assigned. Now 3500 more units have been added. Those numbers are simply not attainable."

What about a jobs housing balance?

Hosterman said one way to keep people off of freeways is to have them live where they work. That could happen on a regional basis. At one time, Pleasanton was a bedroom community; now it is a jobs center.

Brozosky said that a jobs-housing balance is an old idea that made sense when there was one job holder in a household who stayed in a job for a long time. Now people change jobs all the time, and most households have dual incomes. In Pleasanton, 70 percent of the people commute to jobs. The way to keep people here is to bring in better jobs that match the skills of the people living here.

The candidates were asked where they stood on the ridgeline protection measures.

Brozosky said he is one of the authors of Measure PP. Measure QQ was placed on the ballot at the request of developers and

others who want a delay in putting protection procedures in place. All QQ does is plan for a plan with a poison pill. With PP, the city can obtain open space. Development could be clustered and not spread out such as Oak Grove. The developer could have had the same number of houses and not destroy the environment and views.

Hosterman was one of the councilmembers who voted to place QQ on the ballot. She said PP was created by a small group of people. It wasn't done correctly in an collaborative open process. QQ fixes that and at the same time prevents massive lawsuits that would be generated if PP were approved. Hosterman noted that QQ has been endorsed by the Greenbelt Alliance.

Another question related to extending Stoneridge Drive.

Brozosky said that studies show if it were extended, cut-through traffic would increase by 50 percent unless other improvements were in place. Extending Stoneridge has to be coordinated with regional projects, such as extension of El Charro to Stanley Blvd. The most important way to prevent cut-through traffic would be to widen Highway 84.

Hosterman agreed Highway 84 is important to reduce cut-through traffic. However, if the city builds Staples Ranch projects, it will need to provide access to residents. It's not "I" we extend the road. We know we need to build it. In needs to be constructed in conjunction with other arterial punch throughs.

The candidates were to name the most serious financial situation is faced by the city.

Brozosky said it is the retirement costs, which will go up at the same time that sales tax and property tax income are not going up. "We have a huge mess ahead of us."

Hosterman said the city has been proactive in addressing retirement benefits. The national economy is one of the biggest issues. The city had to make a \$4 million adjustment in spending. However, there are reserves. "Pleasanton is in a better position than other cities. We will be able to weather this."

The issue of why Pleasanton does not have a seat on LAFCO

was raised. LAFCO is the agency that determines sphere of influence and annexations in the county.

Hosterman said only two cities in Alameda County have representation. They are highly coveted spots. "I believe that when Mayor Lockhart retires, I may well be taking her seat," said Hosterman.

Brozosky said that the city did have an alternate seat on LAFCO 2006-2007, held by the mayor. He didn't know why it was taken it away. "I read that it was because of a lack of attendance."

Hosterman replied that as an alternate she had attended every meeting that she was asked to attend.

How would the candidates preserve the city's agricultural heritage?

Brozosky said he has been involved with 4-H. Land on the Bernal property has been reserved for a demonstration farm. That will provide an opportunity to educate people about sustainable agriculture.

Hosterman said that the Alviso Adobe Park provides an insight into the dairy heritage. In addition, she envisions a swath of open space in the southeast hills. Grazing will be required to maintain healthy forest and hillsides. The city would use cattle for that purpose.

What are their top three issues?

Hosterman said that traffic is the main thing. Planning, timing and funding of transportation improvements are at a critical point. "We can't pave our way out of the mess. We need to look at transit opportunities." Job creation is another issue. Her other two were affordable housing and a sustainable future.

Brozosky also listed traffic. He would work with the region to improve congestion. "We will never have enough revenue to do everything that is needed. Each city wants projects that impact the others. I would work as a region to agree on projects and to get the money to build them." Another issue is retaining jobs. To do so, there is a need to provide a job force. The third issue is education. "The whole state has to figure out how to continue to fund education," he declared.

The mayoral candidates were

asked how they would shorten council meetings and allow for public participation.

Brozosky agreed that meetings do go too long. He would move awards, proclamations and meetings open to the public to an earlier time. He would not reduce the length of speaking time. "Reducing the speaking time has not shortened meetings. I think it has cut off public participation," declared Brozosky.

Hosterman said that meetings are an opportunity for members of the public to voice opinions on issues important to them. "We do provide an open process. I do ask people to keep their remarks to three minutes. I also tell them to take more time if they need to."

Would they support building a new city hall to replace the 4 to 5 buildings now housing city staff.

Hosterman stated that she thinks people are more excited about spending dollars on a new library rather than a new city hall. Perhaps the library could be built on Main Street.

Brozosky said spending money on a library and Bernal property projects makes more sense.

What would they like to achieve as mayor?

Hosterman said, "I am very excited that we are to a point where we can implement policies in the new general plan. There are new water and energy elements with great programs."

Brozosky went back to traffic. He would work to synchronize lights in the city. He said it is not just a congestion issue, but raises concerns about the environment and safety.

Other issues were also raised.

Hosterman said she is proud of the city's green building ordinances, and the solar energy efficiencies implemented by the city. In conjunction with water conservation and renewable energy, increased water storage, the city is working towards a sustainable future.

Brozosky was proud of the campaign reform he helped to bring about. Voters can now see where the money is coming from as reports are posted on line. They can also see where it is being spent.

Choice of Three Candidates for LARPD Board

There are three candidates for two seats on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Board of Directors.

Incumbents running are Steve Goodman and Beth Wilson. The challenger is Barbara Kraybill.

Issues include budget cuts, a sports park, and how the district provides programs to meet changing needs.

Steve Goodman is seeking his second term. He says he is running because he enjoys serving the community through his work on the board.

Goodman, who grew up in Livermore, at one time worked for LARPD. He has also worked for two cities in their recreation departments. He is currently employed in the recreation department at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The budget is the top issue facing the district. The state continues to take \$6.9 million a year from the district to balance the state budget.

It may not be possible to provide all of the amenities listed in the master plan. The district will have to establish priorities, Goodman added.

A sports park has been mentioned as something people want. Goodman stated, "I'd love to have one. However, if the district were given a sports park tomorrow, the funds may not be there to maintain it. There would be a need to identify a revenue stream for maintenance of the park."

He advocates working with all segments of the public from the city to the school district and Chamber of Commerce to Las Positas College to provide the amenities residents want.

Barbara Kraybill worked for LARPD for thirty years, retiring as Superintendent of Youth Services. She said of her decision to run for the board, "I said five years ago, I would like to be on the board once I retired. At that time, I didn't know when I would retire."

Kraybill believes she would bring unique knowledge and experiences to the board. While as a staff member she worked mainly with youth, she was involved in writing grants for senior programs, for trails and recycling in the parks. "I know I have a good working knowledge of the entire district," she declared.

clared.

The state is not going to give back the money it has taken. The district needs to acquire different styles of funding.

One of her goals would be to create an endowment, so funds would be available when such things as new carpeting are needed at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

A sports park is one of the facilities in the master plan. Kraybill says, "I don't see anything happening." There could be grants available, such as the one that paid for the Bill Payne Park.

Kraybill feels it is appropriate to provide social programs, such as adult day care and ESS (extended student services).

The district needs to be flexible in determining what programs should be funded. If interest is waning in one program and growing for another, there needs to be discussion.

Beth Wilson was appointed to the board in August 2007 to complete the term of Dale Turner, who resigned.

Her main reason for applying for the board and now running for a seat is to get kids outdoors.

She feels that in these days of increasing child obesity, it's "vital to introduce them and their families to parks, trails and open spaces. I want to make outdoor places friendly, welcoming, safe and fascinating," says Wilson. "I think kids have lost their sense of wonder."

She believes nature camps and the junior ranger program can be effective in encouraging kids to go outdoors. At the school where she teaches, she has created a garden, which she says is another way to get people outdoors.

Wilson says that the top issue, and one that impacts everything else, is the budget and continuing loss of funds to the state. The board, in discussing what should be funded, has to determine whether a new program is feasible or if it can be handled down the road.

One of her areas of focus is creating trail connections.

When it comes to a sports park, Wilson said she hopes the board is not seen as being opposed to one. "I can't tell you how much we want one. Finding a piece of property, building it and maintaining it are all issues."

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Brozosky Endorsed Manika Talati Pleasanton

I am thrilled to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Brozosky. As the Rotary Advisor for Amador Valley Interact Club, Mr. Brozosky served as a support while I was President of Interact. Through working with him, I have come to recognize his sheer dedication to students, commitment to service, and genuine concern for others.

Mr. Brozosky demonstrates utmost care and compassion in every aspect. He was present at each Interact meeting to share

information about service events, to communicate with members to help run meetings, and to actively suggest methods to improve Interact.

In addition to contributing to the betterment of our club, Mr. Brozosky integrated Interact members into the Rotary experience. Each month, he took members to Rotary Club meetings to network with and to learn from Rotarians. Mr. Brozosky gave me to opportunity to gain insight into Rotary's service projects, spirit, and dedication to the community. This opportunity has helped strengthen the bond between Rotary and Interact, and enabled Interact to become more interconnected with society.

Mr. Brozosky truly takes an active interest into others' well being. I am positive that as Mayor of Pleasanton, he will continue to support and care for the community, just like he has been supporting our Interact Club.

No on Proposition 8 Christine Hanna Livermore

There is no such thing as a fraction of a human being. We are each whole entities, and in the United States — whole citizens; each of us entitled to 100 percent of the rights described in our Constitution. It is an ethical impossibility to arbitrarily segment the population and deny the rights of all to some. It is unethical, irrational, and unpatriotic. No mortal has the perfect moral wisdom to deem someone fractionally entitled to what is due every American.

The beauty of democracy is that since there is no such perfect wisdom, we may publicly disagree and engage in civilized and dignified expressions of (often divergent) personal beliefs. It is an elegant, legitimate, and healthy way to exercise our intellects and challenge our minds against the sometime stagnant ideas we stubbornly (and inex-

plicably) cling to. Public debate and discourse is always good. But, beyond that, we also have the right (in complete privacy) to officially declare these opinions in the voting booth, apart from any distracting influence.

With these ingenious and exciting liberties, I am astonished that people are still so fearful and distrustful of the process that they turn to anger and hatred. What would cause an American citizen to trespass and vandalize; fear and ignorance?

I am a wife, a mother, and a fully engaged member of my community. My husband has served in the military proudly. We vote and are productive members of society. Occasionally I feel strongly enough about an issue to place a small sign in my yard. For the upcoming election, my sign displayed my desire to hopefully persuade a "no" vote on proposition 8. It was of average size - maybe 12" X 24". I

(continued on page 5)

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

placed it my yard on Friday afternoon (I had gotten it from a church – it was the last that they had). By Saturday morning it was gone. Someone had trespassed on my property and taken the sign. I found it later, down the street in a park, vandalized, along with several other signs urging a “no” vote on 8. Every “yes” sign remained, intact and right where the property owners had put them. It was puzzling that someone was so fearful and angry that they would break the law and act so violently.

One needs only to peruse the literary chronicles of this great nation and read the first hand accounts of those whose civil rights were denied or curtailed. Our perspective has been sharpened over time and the flaws from past oppressive policies are revealed as so shockingly wrong. We all can look back in collective cultural shame at the way we treated various groups throughout our history. Frankly, I find it astonishing that there is still debate over whether it is “O.K.” to deny civil rights based on someone’s sexual preference. Of course it’s not, and one day we too, will look back and puzzle over why we were so mired in this issue.

Please vote no on Proposition 8. Vote like a patriot; with pride and conviction. Equal rights for every single American citizen and just leave the signs alone...respect your neighbors.

PP – Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing Kevin Close

Wake up Pleasanton. Citizens with special interests disguised as hillside protectors are trying to pull the wool over your eyes. PP key supporters claim their goal is to protect the hills; their real goal is to satisfy their own self interest – keep traffic off their street and the public out of the hills around them.

I urge you to follow the solid line of PP yard signs up Sycamore Creek Drive or Hearst Drive. Sycamore Creek residents are working to eliminate the planned development beyond Bridle Creek that will fund the Callippe Golf Course bypass road. The fact that the City promised the bypass road to residents of Sycamore Road, Alisal and Happy Valley to relieve them of the golf course traffic seems to mean nothing to Bridle Creek residents. They purchased their homes fully aware Sycamore Creek would serve as the access road to Callippe Golf Course. Now they are working to stop development that would provide the bypass road funding.

And Hearst residents? They want to stop any development above their homes to limit traffic and to make sure the existing private open space is not opened to the public.

It is disappointing that the consequences of the self-interest of a few can result in the loss of a publicly accessible extensive greenbelt in the southeast hills as well as placing an unfair traffic burden on other neighborhoods.

Vote “yes” on QQ; “no” on PP.

Hosterman & Housing Cap Greg O’Connor

Mayor Hosterman believes the housing cap is going away (The Independent, 9/25/08). In regard to the lawsuit with affordable housing advocates, she was quoted saying, “If the (Supreme) Court does not take it up, there would be a reversal of our cap. If that happens, there is a plus side. The cap has given the city an opportunity to carefully look at what types of housing it would like and where it would be built.”

City Attorney Roush said the obstacle has been updating this General Plan since 2003, when everyone thought it would take 2½ years. Roush said the city will rezone for the 800 required low cost housing units once it

completes the update. He said the city could appeal the lower court’s decision with the California Supreme Court, assuming it accepts the case, or litigate in Superior Court.

Hosterman has been mayor since 2004; the root cause of Pleasanton’s lawsuit is she cannot get the city’s General Plan done in a timely manner. And now she’s willing to let the housing cap go instead of litigating in Superior Court?

Elect a mayor that will fight for what you vote for. Vote for Steve Brozosky for mayor.

Measure QQ Becky Dennis Citizens for Ridgeline Protection

YES on QQ Co-Chair
Our General Plan has long designated Pleasanton’s Southeast Hills as the location for a future public greenbelt and trail system. This greenbelt is now threatened with a new proposal that allows large lot estates in the hills, and exempts developers from the current requirement to dedicate open space to the City for a long-planned park and trail system.

On November 4th, vote YES on Measure QQ to ensure that Pleasanton’s 2000 acre greenbelt plan for the Southeast Hills becomes a reality.

Pleasanton’s most experienced open space advocates, environmental organizations, Parks & Recreation Commissioners, Planning Commissioners, Councilmembers, and Mayors, both present and past, have endorsed Measure QQ. They know the permanent damage Measure PP’s new loopholes will do to Pleasanton’s ability to secure publicly accessible open space in the Southeast Hills. Make no mistake: PP’s proposed exemptions for developments of 10 units or less when combined with poorly thought out rules about grading and citing, create a powerful incentive for property owners to develop 100% of their land and dedicate nothing for Pleasanton’s greenbelt.

Facing the loss of our long-standing plan to permanently protect 2000 acres of rare oak woodlands, open space, environmental and trails advocates requested that the City Council place Measure QQ on the ballot. Measure QQ strengthens Pleasanton’s ability to preserve the majority of land in the Southeast Hills, to protect the natural resources there through professional environmental management, and to make it accessible to our community.

Save your greenbelt. Vote YES on Measure QQ.

Vote No on Prop. 8 Paul S. Brown Livermore

Prop 8 TV ads contain outright lies. What’s fiction and what’s fact?

Fiction: Teaching children about gay marriage will happen unless Prop 8 passes. Fact: Not one word in Prop 8 mentions education. No child can be forced against their parents’ will to be taught anything about health and family issues at school. California law prohibits it.

Fiction: Unless Prop 8 passes, CA parents won’t have the right to object to what schools teach their children. Fact: California law clearly gives parents authority to remove children from instruction conflicting with religious beliefs/moral convictions.

Fiction: What happened in Massachusetts will happen here. Fact: One ad focuses on a Massachusetts case where parents sued the school district for allowing a book about two princes who marry. The parents lost. But unlike CA, MA gives parents a very limited right to opt-out of teachings on health and family.

Fiction: Pepperdine University supports Yes on 8. Fact: Pepperdine has publicly disassociated itself from Pepperdine Professor Richard Peterson, featured in the ad, and has asked not to be

identified in Yes on 8 ads.

Prop 8 eliminates the rights of many Californians. This is wrong. Vote No on Prop 8.

YES on QQ Ward Belding Pleasanton

Pleasanton’s legacy of preserved ridgeline open space is a wonderful civic asset that could be compromised in the future if measure PP passes next month. The 5000 folks who signed the PP petition thought it would preserve open space, but the unintended consequence of this poorly drafted measure is that it probably won’t. The fatal flaw in PP is the 10-unit development exemption. Future developers wouldn’t have to set aside most of their land in accessible public open space but could simply carve it up into ten big lots. Voters who want to preserve open space as future development proceeds and expand public access to it should reaffirm the process that has worked so well to date and vote “no” on PP and “yes” on QQ.

No on Prop. 8 Claire Nelson Livermore

The “Sanctity of Marriage” is often mentioned as a reason for voting yes for Prop. 8. My marriage, which I consider blessed, was performed in a church, as most marriages are. Your church may or may not recognize a marriage union between people for various reasons. That is a right that churches have.

The state however, grants certain rights to marriage partners. If these marriage rights, such as hospital visits, benefits, property inheritance, are forbidden by the state because of the sex of couples, the state becomes discriminatory. I want the laws that govern our state to be fair. Proposition 8 does not allow the State to recognize marriages between people of the same sex; I think that is unfair. That’s why I’m voting “No” on Proposition 8.

Protect Marriage William Daily Livermore

Societies protect marriage, regulating it by law and encourage it by granting special privileges. From this institution, by virtue of the natural force inherent in the union of a man and woman, society is perpetuated by addition of the strength and optimism of a new generation. Also, from the stability and wisdom of the previous generation the new one learns from the family the cultural knowledge required to preserve a civil society.

Trouble is ahead when a society does not protect marriage but allows it to become diluted by other institutions. Biologically sterile and culturally deficient unions such as marriage of two men cannot long sustain any society. These unions can do nothing to add a new and vital generation but can only contribute to a weak and aging population with a limited future. Neither can they transmit a healthy and stable social structure to society.

Pentin, Hosterman, QQ Bill J. James, Retired Supt. Pleasanton Unified School District

We’re just a few days away from the November election and, in addition to everything on the state and national slate, Pleasanton has some important choices including: a City Council opening, the Mayoral position, and a pair of measures to protect the beauty of our hillsides.

On November 4, I encourage you to vote for Jerry Pentin for City Council, Jennifer Hosterman for Mayor and “Yes” on Measure QQ and “No” on Measure PP.

Jerry Pentin is a proven leader who has demonstrated his passion for our community through philanthropic work, his position on the Parks and Recreation

Commission and numerous community committees and task forces over many years. He has shown himself to be a person of strong character—honest, truthful, reliable, and a man of his word. We can continue to count on him to work for the total community as well as individual segments. To read more about Jerry, go to www.Pentin.com.

Our current Mayor, Jennifer Hosterman, is the best candidate for the job. She is devoted to serving Pleasanton and is positioned well to have a continuing influence within adjacent counties and the Tri-Valley. She is working hard to make sure local and regional roadways are provided to better manage traffic in and through our area. She is visible and is approachable and has proven herself to be effective in getting important things done. To read more about Jennifer, go to www.jenniferhosterman.com.

Measure QQ, the Pleasanton Ridgeline Protection and Growth Control Initiative, calls for the kind of open, public planning—without loopholes and lawsuits—that brought us the 11,869 acres of open space and recreational amenities we have now in and around Pleasanton. Unlike Measure PP, Measure QQ requires:

- An open, public process that maximizes resident participation
- Expansion of existing hillside protections, incorporating those already in place
- Identifying specific ridges, needing protection, based on new lines and geotechnical data
- Setting an elevation above which no development will be allowed
- Criteria for protecting Pleasanton’s voter approved housing cap

Make your vote count—join me in voting for Jerry Pentin, Jennifer Hosterman and “yes” on QQ and “no” on PP November 4.

Thieves in the Night Judy Martini Livermore

Throughout the Tri-Valley we, as private homeowners, are waking up to look out our front window only to see that the signs for “Yes on 8” have been stolen. Most likely by people who are so ashamed of what they believe in, they must resort to the stealing of the “Yes on 8” signs at night. They know that by doing it during the day they would be arrested.

Are they so ashamed of the way they live and believe that they would only steal in the darkness of the night? I have seen and told the people who have taken the signs off property that what they are doing is against the law. This is the way they have lived their lives and now they want us to believe that “No on 8” would be the only thing they would want to change in our laws.

People who believe in our system would not be thieves in the night taking what doesn’t belong to them. The Mayor of San Francisco laughs at all of us on the TV commercial and says that we can’t do anything about it! We must stand up for our beliefs the way that we were brought up. They fooled us once on our vote for Prop. 22, do not let them do it again on Prop 8. Vote “Yes,” and be proud that marriage is between a man and a woman only. Let them take all the “Yes on 8” signs that they can carry. The only ones who know they are wrong in their beliefs would be the thieves in the night; due to the way they live their lives.

Vote for Hintzke Elizabeth L. Kolar Pleasanton

I have known Jamie Lee Hintzke for three years and have always been very impressed with her dedication and commitment to both public school and pediatric health education. She has served tirelessly as a volunteer on the Pleasanton PTA Council, including a term as President, and represents our community’s educational interests at many conferences throughout the state. She joined the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club to fine-tune her public speaking and leadership skills and has developed many fine educational programs as a result of her involvement in that organization.

I support Jamie Yee Hintzke for School Board for many reasons. Her wide variety of volunteer experiences, the extraordinary contacts that she has cultivated in the States’ educational community and her relentless quest for new knowledge to advance the excellence of our local schools are an asset that we need to keep our schools functioning at their current high achievement levels. Please join me in voting for Jamie on November 4.

Hintzke Endorsed Susan Han, RN Pleasanton

As the election date is drawing near, I would like to give my support to Jamie Yee Hintzke who is running for Pleasanton School Board.

Jamie has been actively involved in many committees that directly benefit the students in the district. I got to know her when I started working as the district nurse two years ago. Jamie, along with the members of Lifetime Planning Committee, advocated hiring a licensed credentialed school nurse. As the chairperson of the Pleasanton Wellness Committee, Jamie worked tirelessly on several projects—sun safety, food allergies prevention, mental health issues, and most recently, “Re-think Your Drink” campaign. These are just a few examples.

I have been so impressed with her dedication, her intelligence, and her knowledge around issues on public education. Please join me in voting for Jamie for School Board; she will be an outstanding contribution to the community.

Brings Experience Cherub Halperin Pleasanton

I am writing today to urge you to join me in voting on November 4 for Jamie Yee Hintzke for Pleasanton School Board. No other candidate offers the experience, breadth and diversity of background that she brings to the table.

There is still much work to be

done to assure that the Pleasanton Unified School District maintains and improves the outstanding quality of education it currently provides the community. Jamie would be a key new contributor to the PUSD Governance Team.

She has been actively involved in many constituencies that are impacted by the Pleasanton Unified School District. Her passion for children is clear from her deep involvement with the PTA at the local and state levels. In 2007 she was asked to join the CA State PTA Board. For the past 8 years she has sat on various school district level committees: Excellence, Strategic Planning for Lifetime Planning and Budget Advisory Committees. She has the courage to express her convictions while working in a professional manner. She will push the Board to continue to raise the academic bar and to improve the District’s health services, communication, and ensure academic excellence for ALL students.

Jamie is a true ambassador for all children, with dogged determination, passion, spirit and awareness about the importance to be active at the local, state and national levels to advocate for public education.

Jamie will do her utmost in fulfilling our District’s Mission “To foster an educational environment that develops the confidence and full potential of each student resulting in a commitment to long-long learning.”

Vote for Hintzke Michele Barta Pleasanton

I am writing to encourage voters to support Jamie Yee Hintzke for School Board. I have known Jamie for only a couple of years, but during this time have been extremely impressed by her professionalism, passion, energy, and creativity in working to improve our children’s education, safety, and health. She has served as President of two different PTA’s in Pleasanton, was one of the founding members and President of the Pleasanton PTA Council, and was voted “Woman of the Year” from the 18th District for outstanding service and dedication. Jamie has worked to expand health-related programs and education in our school district. She also currently works as a School Health Consultant for Alameda County. I think that with the problems prevalent in our school district such as obesity, alcohol and drug abuse, and teen depression/suicide, we need someone on the school board with this background.

The main thing that makes Jamie stand out in my mind is her energy and drive to make Pleasanton Schools the absolute best. She is a woman of ideas and a plan to make those ideas a reality. You can’t meet with Jamie

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GARY

for
SCHOOL BOARD



- Former Livermore Fire Chief
- 14-Year Livermore Resident
- 2 Kids in Livermore Schools

**Proven Leadership
Fostered Positive Change**

Led the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Consolidation

Committee to Elect Stewart Gary
FPC #1310111
www.stugaryforlivermoreschools.com

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

SCOPING MEETING & OPEN HOUSE

for the Notice Of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning Project

Tuesday, November 25, 2008 • 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue

The City of Livermore will hold a Scoping Meeting and Open House for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning Project.

The proposed Project involves the rezoning of a 395-acre ± portion of the Livermore Municipal Airport to the proposed Airport (AIR) Zoning District, and would consist of two zoning subdistricts: 1) the Airport Operations (AIR-OP) Zoning Subdistrict; and 2) the Airport Service (AIR-SE) Zoning Subdistrict.

These subdistricts would not permit the development of new land uses other than those already permitted as part of the existing Master Plan.

The purpose of the Scoping Meeting and Open House is to receive comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR for the proposed Project.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Copies of the NOP are available on the City’s website: www.ci.livermore.ca.us or at Livermore City Hall, 1052 South Livermore Avenue. **Comments on the NOP may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed no later than Monday, December 1, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. to:**

Susan Frost, Principal Planner
Community Development Department
1052 South Livermore Avenue
Livermore, CA 94551
FAX: (925) 960-4459
Airport-Resoning@ci.livermore.ca.us

MAILBOX

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without coming away with many new ideas and a renewed vigor to achieve whatever goals you have set.

Please join me and my family, neighbors and friends to vote for Jamie Yee Hintzke on November 4.

Brozosky for Mayor Julie Lewis Pleasanton

It's great to live in a town where impassioned and talented people dedicated to serving our city and citizens are running for mayor and city council. Both mayoral candidates bring their individual talents to the race this year and there are some differences in their focus.

I am supporting Steve Brozosky for mayor because my major concerns for our city are traffic, preserving our ridgelines, and fostering quality of life through the arts. Steve is dedicated to all these causes and has demonstrated during his years as a councilman and school board member that he listens to citizen's concerns and ideas. He finds creative ways to work through challenges such as partnering with Pleasanton Schools to increase sports fields, suggesting a landscaping contest to find the best plan for the Bernal Park, and funding for the Firehouse Arts Center.

Please join me in voting for Steve Brozosky for Mayor.

Support Brozosky Josie Buzzell Pleasanton

I have known Steve Brozosky for many years. I am impressed with the amount of time he spends helping out in the community. Steve has always been supportive of the Filipino-Americans of Pleasanton Group with his wife being Filipino. He supports the cultural events, school scholarships events, and for the last several years he even helped cook and serve Filipino food at the St. Augustine church picnic.

Even though Steve has a lot on his plate being a dad, a husband, a businessman, and a Rotarian, he always finds the time to help the community in any way he can.

When longtime School Board Member Juanita Haugen passed away, he volunteered his time and expertise to be on the Pleasanton School Board. With Steve's financial expertise, it was good that he was there to help the School District.

Steve has volunteered his time in the community as a 4-H leader, soccer coach, classroom volunteer, organizing school activities like the Senior Breakfast, and you even find him at high school track meets where he works the finish line.

Steve has recently told me the stories about his recent trips to Mexico, Ecuador, and Honduras where he delivered wheelchairs to the needy. He certainly has compassion and always steps up to help others.

I am voting for Steve Brozosky for Mayor of Pleasanton. I have seen firsthand his commitment, his expertise, and his compassion.

Trimester Problems Sophie Libkind LHS, Class of 2010

The article "High School Trimester a Success" (October 16, 2008) defies reason and common sense. The survey mentioned was an ambiguous set of multiple choice questions that prohibited students and teachers from expressing their opinions and exposing the problems we face in the trimester system.

Although the trimester appears to be the perfect compromise on paper, in practice it is far from ideal. The school district advertises the advantages of the trimester; they fail, however, to point out its faults. The administration puts extreme pressure on teachers and students to excel in standardized testing, yet they instituted a system that hinders achievement. On a daily basis, teachers meet with 15% more students, a number which translates into 15% more papers to correct, 15% more tests to grade, and 15% more report cards to complete. Overburdened teachers, such as my AP English teacher, are regrettably forced to reduce the number of homework, essays, and readings assigned. Consequently, come spring, we will be less prepared for the AP and SAT tests than students at neighboring districts where schedules are more conducive to academics.

With the block system, students attended classes for the entire year and completed 85% of instruction (as dictated by the state) by the STAR test dates. With the trimester system, 66% of students will complete only 75% of instruction by the test dates. These students are therefore less prepared.

Livermore parents should not be deluded by a biased and vague survey. Instead they must ques-

tion whether the pressures and limitations in the trimester system are benefiting or hurting their children.

Vote for My Dad Richelle Brozosky Pleasanton

My dad, Steve Brozosky, has always been an active member of Pleasanton; constantly trying to make Pleasanton the best it can be. Growing up, he has always been there educating and helping our community. During my elementary school years, he continually helped in my classrooms with the computers, setting up and helping run fall carnivals, and even helping create a garden. As I was growing older, becoming more aware of what my dad has been contributing, it was clear to me that he was the type of guy who would help everyone out, even when he had enough on his plate. He continues to be a leader for Abbie 4-H since my older sister and I have been involved; always volunteering to run different projects to teach younger generations.

Even up until today, my dad has eagerly been involved with my high school by actively participating with the schools' Interact Club through the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, which he is soon to be president. My dad has always been the type of person who would help out wherever he could. He has learned the route in which Pleasanton should be leading while being on the Pleasanton City Council for four years and now on the Pleasanton School Board. My dad knows what would be in the best interest for Pleasanton, and knows how to make it happen.

In order for Pleasanton to succeed and becoming the best city it can, please vote for Steve Brozosky for mayor on November 4th.

Vote for Arkin Joan Nibert Pleasanton

In these difficult times with state budgets constrained and a sagging economy, we in Pleasanton are fortunate to have Valerie Arkin running for the Pleasanton School Board. Valerie, a parent of 3 school-aged children, a library commissioner, and who serves on the YMCA Board of Directors, is fair-minded and will make the right decisions that will benefit the children and teachers of Pleasanton. Valerie understands that early intervention is key to a struggling child's success.

Valerie brings a wealth of formal education, as well as her personal experience of 13 years of volunteering in the Pleasanton schools, to the job of School Board member. Just ask the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, who endorsed her. Just ask Steve Brozosky, Cindy McGovern, and Kris Weaver, who have served on the School Board. They know what it takes to get the job done, and they know that Valerie is the right person to do it.

I ask you to join me in voting for Valerie Arkin on November 4th. You'll be glad you did.

Yes on PP Nickie Nieves Livermore

It feels like deja vu from Livermore. Remember 2005, Pardee Homes and the whole Livermore Trails fiasco? Developers there put a bunch of money into defeating the Citizen's Measure to Protect their hills and open space. The citizens prevailed, and Livermore will have beautiful hills to look at for years and years to come. Pleasanton has a similar issue coming to a vote and the developers are back again, with their money flowing to promote the flawed Measure QQ. Pleasanton-citizens' David versus the Developers' Goliath! Might doesn't make right (and neither does money!), so hopefully the Pleasanton voters will see through this scam and vote Yes on PP.

Developer-Funded QQ! Maryse Wheelock Pleasanton

I was livid when I read in the Independent that Fremont and San Ramon Home Builders and developers had contributed so much money to promote a Measure that has been put on the ballot to confuse Pleasanton voters. What really galled me was that I have personally walked over 10 hours to put citizen-generated flyers supporting Measure PP on over 900 Pleasanton voters' doorsteps.

The backers of PP are truly a "grassroots" citizens groups who don't have the money for fancy, glossy flyers or expensive mailings. We feel such a passion for protecting our Southeast hills, that we are walking and walking and walking to make sure that every Pleasanton voter gets the real facts before they vote. What is \$20,000 to developers who know they will make millions building houses on our hilltops?

As the saying goes, "Follow the money." Vote "yes" on PP and "no" on QQ!!

No on 8 Fran English Livermore

This election has served to bring out the best and worst in all. An example of one of the least insightful commentaries published in the Independent recently was Susie Loomis' take on the CTA's donation to the "No on 8" campaign. Ms. Loomis says it doesn't matter that she's in favor of 8, it's just that she's terribly worried about the unraveling of the CTA as a result of this donation. She's concerned that the CTA didn't just send the money to the schools in California-which she described as "decaying"—instead, Susie-the CTA is a union-a union funded and supported by educators who do not support initiatives that take direct aim at fundamental human rights. Would you expect an educational association to take any other stance? Our judgment as educators cannot be clouded by fear tactics and religious bias which dictate that only heterosexual marriage is valid. This prospect would require us to disregard the lives and rights of children in our classes who are either gay or whose parents are gay. It would require us to turn a blind eye to the underlying belief of Prop 8 that homosexual people are somehow less worthy of basic protections under the law.

Ms. Loomis did make one intelligent comment in her letter-it does indeed take a man and a woman to create a child. That's correct, Susie. However, there is no shortage of individuals willing to create children. Many married and unmarried people create children. This isn't about the ability to bring a child into the world—it's about the ability to protect that child's civil rights regardless of sexual orientation.

Get a grip, Susie. Your precious way of life as an individual who believes that you must be able to biologically engineer a child in order to be happily married will not be compromised if 8 loses. Gay folks aren't taking over the world—they've always been there. No on 8.

No on 8 Leo M. Mara Livermore

Proposition 8 is a ballot initiative backed by bigotry. It puts discrimination into our Constitution and government into our private lives. It eliminates the rights of same-sex couples to marry. It undermines equal protections under the law. One of the founding principles of this country is the separation of church and state. Let's keep individuals' religious beliefs out of our government.

It's wrong to support an initiative that bars any part of society from voting or freely practicing its religion. Why should marriage be different? Imagine if Prop. 8 discriminated against a Latino's or Asian Pacific's right to marry? What if it limited marriage to only those under 50? We can not amend the California constitution to include discrimination of any kind or take away fundamental rights from any Californian. That's why I'm voting "no" on Prop 8 and asking you to join me.

Some Good News Dorene Strand Document Control, Engineering Dept.

I would like to take a moment not to report bad news, but instead some good news and good people! I recently withdrew \$40.00 on my lunch and put it in my pant pocket. I wondered about it falling out but by the time I got back to work I had forgotten about it. When it was time to go home, I started my car and noticed a piece of yellow paper on my windshield. I noticed the car to my left had a similar yellow piece of paper and my first thought was it was some sort of advertisement, then I noticed it looked like it was handwritten, so I removed the paper from my windshield wipers and read it. It said, "Hi, I found some money on the road behind your car. If you have lost some, please call me at xxx-xxxx. (I am a Formfactor employee) Thx"

I immediately began to search for the money I had withdrawn then I began to doubt myself as to what I did with it. I didn't want to jump to conclusion that I had lost it because I am always misplacing things. When I realized it might be mine I placed the phone call and said that I think I might have lost \$40, and that it was two twenty's and proceeded to leave my phone number. The next day I received a phone call from the anonymous good deeder, who confirmed the denomination that I had lost and agreed to meet with me to return it.

As I walked to the front of the building to meet with her, I saw from a distance a woman with a

great smile coming from around the corner. I knew immediately this was my good deed person, lively and cheerful! It was a brief encounter, as we both had to return to work, but I did introduce myself and she did as well. I gave Uma a hug and told her how grateful I was for her honesty and how much this meant to me. After meeting with Uma, I made sure all my co-workers, family and friends new of this great thing that just happened to me. I will always remember this day and Uma too! We should all be grateful to have such wonderful people such as Uma in our community.

Thank you Uma for your honesty and integrity!

Grassroots Efforts Louis Astbury Pleasanton

Pleasanton is a well planned and beautiful city today because of the efforts of local citizens to prevent special interest groups from determining our city's future. The 1996 General Plan established a housing cap of 29,000 units. Also, The General Plan provided that a ridgeline preservation ordinance would be developed. Twelve years later no ridgeline protection ordinance exists. Additionally, we have a City Council majority that makes exceptions to the housing cap and approves projects that bulldoze ridgelines.

QQ is sponsored by three Council members and is a stalling tactic that will allow excessive ridgeline development and a build out above 29,000 units. The stakes are high for outside special interest groups as the units built and approved already add up to over 27,000 units. Greenbriar Homes from Fremont and the Home Builders Assoc. out of San Ramon have each donated \$10,000 for Measure QQ.

PP is a citizen sponsored initiative signed by over 5,000 concerned Pleasanton voters. Please vote yes on PP as it will immediately protect the ridgelines and enforce the housing cap. Vote no on QQ. In addition, please vote for candidates in support of PP: Brozosky, Sullivan and McGovern.

Arkin for School Board Fred Carter Pleasanton

I am writing this on behalf of many parents who live in Pleasanton, to explain why we support Valerie Arkin and why she will be a great trustee for the Pleasanton School Board. Valerie is a person of integrity and treats everyone with respect. She is very personable and is the type of person who can work with others and get things done.

Valerie has been on the various boards as a trustee for the past several years and she has done an excellent job. She has three children in Pleasanton Schools, understands our school system, the needs of our children, and she is able to communicate effectively with the parents. She will truly listen to the community and will do what is in the best interest of our students.

We need someone who embodies the Community of Character traits. We always see Valerie working as a parent volunteer at extracurricular events such as Band and other sports events, in fact at virtually all school-related events. So join us and elect Valerie Arkin as our next School Board Trustee.

Vote for Gary, McLaughlin Scott Kamena Livermore

I am supporting Stewart Gary for School Board. He has deep roots in the community and impeccable public executive experience as our former fire chief. He knows how to write a balanced budget in tough fiscal times, while maintaining positive, respectful relations with union employees. We need his background and fresh perspective right now.

I also urge a vote for Tom McLaughlin for School Board. I have known Tom since he was my Den Leader in Cub Scouts. He is hard-working and has a lot of integrity. He has had children and now has grandchildren in our public schools and truly wants what is best for our kids.

Freedom of Speech David Hartley Livermore

Today on my partner's way to work he had the great misfortune of finding a couple of the "Yes on Prop 8" signs tossed in the street. First and foremost I must state that I am a firm backer of "No on Prop 8." I have a "No on 8" sign in my front yard.

I think that it is shameful and completely Un-American for someone to step on someone's private property and violate that homeowner's right to free speech. It is a sad state of affairs when a person cannot enjoy our most basic rights without fear or some form of reprisal for it. Taking

something off of a piece of private property is not free speech it is vandalism and should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. We live in the United States of America. I am dismayed that there are citizens out there that feel it is okay to trample on the basic Freedom of Speech that we are all supposed to be able to enjoy.

Goodman for LARP Jim Willis Livermore

I have known Steve Goodman for about 36 years, as he was a student of mine at Granada in the early 70s. Steve is dedicated, hard working, responsible, creative, a total "character," and the perfect choice for the LARP board. Please support him.

Stop Spending Connie Cox Pleasanton

Californians just went through the annual embarrassment of the budget/no budget ritual.

The problem is, as everyone knows, we are out of money and Sacramento has a spending problem! They continue to spend more money than they take in. There are three ways to solve that problem - increase taxed, continue to be in debt or spend less.

For years our legislators have chosen a combination of increase taxed and continue to be in debt. In the 90's, we went through a modern day gold rush in California when Silicon Valley raked in money for the State. Unlike Alaska, which made a lot of money on oil leases in the 70's, there was no long range planning for what to do in the future, but only the short sighted thinking of how fast can we spend this money.

Even then, our legislators continued to spend more than they brought in by expanding all sorts of social programs.

I look at Alaska and I wonder when was the last time our State of California gave me a dividend check? Exactly right - never. They just keep spending more money than they bring in and raise taxes to support their habit.

We need a change in attitude in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C. I say vote for Sarah Palin - the change will be refreshing.

Yes on Measure QQ Sharrell Michelotti Former Pleasanton City Council Member

I urge voters in Pleasanton to vote YES on Measure QQ as it is "A Better Way" to save and protect all ridgelines and acquire accessible open space. QQ was placed on the ballot by a majority of your City Council in response to Measure PP—a competing initiative that will cost you, the taxpayers, money and more!

The desire to preserve the views of the Southeastern hills became the initiative PP written by individuals without any public input or process. It contains ambiguous language and undefined key words that will be challenged in court and costly to Pleasanton.

PP's 10 unit exemption nullifies our General Plan requirement for open space dedication and could have the opposite effect desired—large housing units placed in any location without regard to "tops of ridges" or "slope"—and loss of hundreds of acres dedicated to accessible open space.

In contrast, QQ calls for an open public process to develop a well defined ordinance accepted by all—citizens, environmentalists, and property owners that protects and guarantees scenic views of all ridges, controlled development in appropriate locations, and dedicated accessible trails and open space for all to enjoy.

Adoption of Measure QQ is the way to ensure the completion of the greenbelt and trail's system from Callippe to Kottinger Ranch and Shadow Cliffs, and has been endorsed by the Greenbelt Alliance.

On November 4th please join me in voting "yes" on Measure QQ!

Re-elect Goodman James and Ysleta McCarty Livermore

We are longtime residents of Livermore and have served in the public school system for a combined total of more than 55 years. As retired public servants, we are casting our votes to re-elect Steve Goodman for a seat on the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors. Steve is a candidate who has proven to be honest, open-minded and passionate about Livermore parks and recreation programs.

Steve has a wealth of recreation experience in addition to the four-year term he has already served as a board member. He has worked in the parks and recreation field for more than 30 years, 17 of those as a senior staff member with LARP. He is very in-

involved in community activities and has volunteered countless hours at high school sporting events, Safe and Sober Grad night events, elementary school reading programs, youth summer programs, and as a Sunday school teacher and basketball coach.

LARP continues to face serious budget challenges, as the state redirects precious property tax dollars away from LARP and other special districts. Steve is well equipped to handle the diverse set of challenges facing the district, because of his experience in the field and his tenure on the board. Steve is currently serving as Board President.

We urge you to cast your vote to re-elect Steve Goodman for another term on the LARP Board of Directors. Steve truly cares about Livermore and its parks and recreation programs.

Re-elect Cindy McGovern Mrs. LaDon Albertson Pleasanton

We are fortunate to have Cindy McGovern serve as a member of Pleasanton's City Council for the past four years. In this capacity, she has continually proven her unwavering commitment to preserve the quality of life in Pleasanton no matter what pressures she has faced.

Cindy has extensively studied and researched the issues brought before the City Council with a full understanding of what is of benefit to our residents. She has voted for and stood up for what are in the best interest of our community in spite of pressure from special interests groups. Cindy is an honest, dedicated leader with a true loyalty to our community.

Please vote to re-elect her during this critical election so she can continue to stand up for what is best for all the residents of Pleasanton.

Staying with Steve Douglas W. Miller Pleasanton

Like Frank Capilla who wrote to the Independent last week, I supported Steve Brozosky for mayor of Pleasanton two years ago. We both worked very hard to get him elected. This year there is one new issue, the development of the southeast ridge. On this single issue, people disagree and old alliances have changed dramatically.

But there are many other issues involved in the race for mayor. Sadly, they are the same issues that were at the forefront two years ago. Traffic is still a huge frustration to residents. The "update" to the General Plan is still not complete. The city is still on the edge of losing Staples Ranch and the \$5 million in annual tax revenue. The mayor's lack of attendance at Tri-Valley planning meetings has given us no voice in regional traffic plans. The mayor's penchant for bringing her favorite national and international issues into council meetings is plainly divisive. The mayor's personal bias for or against a business is well known. She urged a developer to avoid leasing space to Starbucks because she doesn't like the company and urged that developer to bring in one of her favorite businesses. Several years ago she tried to negate a contract the city had with Walmart because she doesn't like that company. And after she approved commercial development at Bernal and Stanley, she led the effort to overturn the decision.

The mayor's leadership on the city's most difficult issues has been a big disappointment. I will stick with Steve.

Proposition 8 Miriam Moran Livermore

In creating California's constitution, our state's founders recognized the need for equality. Prop 8 defies our state's constitution by attempting to deny many people the right to marry. Prop 8 can have many shocking consequences, specifically in the area of healthcare. For example, some employers refuse to subsidize healthcare for their employees' domestic partners but they pay for healthcare for spouses. While a husband can make an emergency medical decision for his wife, a domestic partner does not have the same right. Also, there are times when only immediate family is allowed to visit a loved one in the hospital so a domestic partner would not have the same opportunity.

Unfortunately, many people seem misinformed about some details of Prop 8. In last week's Independent Mailbox, a reader was upset that the CTA (California Teacher's Association) had donated \$1,000,000 to support "No on Prop 8." She worried that this donation took money away from California's educational system and that it should have been spent on "supplies, programs, materials, books - and most importantly qualified educators."

(continued on page 7)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's HOME (Helping Others More Effectively) Campaign, an annual drive to raise money for local charities, kicked off with the Run for HOME on Thursday. Last year the campaign raised more than \$2.4 million. Again this year, the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) Board of Governors has agreed to match employee contributions up to \$1 million.

15th Assembly Candidates Discuss Issues

The 15th Assembly District features two candidates: Democrat Joan Buchanan and Republican Abram Wilson.

The seat is currently held by Republican Guy Houston, who is term limited out. The 15th Assembly District includes Alamo, Brentwood, Danville, Livermore, Oakley, San Ramon, Walnut Creek and a portion of Pleasanton. The district also includes Sacramento Delta communities, Galt and portions of Stockton and Elk Grove.

One area where the candidates differ is in their response to urban growth boundaries.

Buchanan is a strong supporter of urban growth boundaries. She favors agriculture water for North Livermore. She would work with those who are attempting to revitalize agriculture in North Livermore. Buchanan said there is a need to respect the will of voters and follow the right process when planning any development. Voters instituted an urban growth boundary in San Ramon.

Wilson says that he believes local control of development is important. He said that he would respect urban growth boundaries. He said it is important to work as a region to know what each community wants. Wilson has consistently assisted developers in their efforts to open up rural lands to urbanization in the San Ramon area. The New Farm development in Tassajara Valley is an example. The property in question is outside both the county and city urban growth boundaries. Wilson pushed to have the area placed in San Ramon's sphere of influence with the goal of annexing it. Wilson said that he looks to the residents of those areas to determine what they want. "Ultimately, whatever is proposed would go on the ballot," according to Wilson.

Joan Buchanan has served on the San Ramon Valley School Board for 20 years, including four terms as president. Prior to that, she worked in the private sector. She lives in Alamo.

The state budget is an issue. There are not enough legislators in the middle working to create a solution. When it comes to the two-thirds requirement, Buchanan says people don't trust government enough to want it changed. Perhaps 55 percent or 60 percent majority vote would be acceptable.

She believes that education is one of the keys to moving the state forward. There needs to be an educated workforce to take on

higher paying jobs.

Congestion is an ongoing issue. Buchanan supports BART to Livermore. She is also supportive of the high speed rail, which she points out will help take both people and freight off roads.

Planning communities can help alleviate congestion by putting the jobs where people live, Buchanan asserts. "Smart growth, while protecting urban growth boundaries, is a way to take cars off the road. There is also a need to invest more in regional transportation that is linked."

Buchanan supports cradle to grave universal health care.

Asked why voters should choose her over her opponent, Buchanan stated, "I bring valuable experience from the private sector. I have created corporate budgets and run large operational divisions. I know how to work with people. In my public sector experience, I was able to take the school district out of the red to a balanced budget. I leave it with reserves, a rainy day fund and an irrevocable trust to deal with retirement costs."

Abram Wilson was elected to the San Ramon City Council in November 1999, appointed mayor in 2002 and then became San Ramon's first elected mayor in 2003. He was opposed in both his 2005 and 2007 mayoral re-election campaigns.

Wilson said the current state budget crisis is one of the reasons he is seeking the Assembly seat. He supports a nonpartisan effort to deal with the deficit, believing it is in the best interest of all to work together, not support party line solutions.

He supports budget reform as a way of avoiding future stalemates. He points out that as mayor he sun-setted every program in San Ramon to determine which were cost effective. "Every program should be analyzed," he stated.

Education is important for the future economic health of the state. He believes it is possible to stretch education dollars by reducing inflexible categorical grants so that schools can spend those funds as they see fit. Vocational education is important.

To solve congestion, he suggests expanding I-580 to five lanes in both directions, while adding HOV lanes. Vasco Road should be four lanes with a full length median barrier. Wilson supports BART to Livermore. He is less sure of the proposed high speed rail project. He said he still has to evaluate it.

There is a need for California

to attract and retain businesses as a way of providing jobs that will make the state economy stronger.

Wilson believes there is a need to provide more storage for water above and below ground so water is available when it is needed, such as during the current drought. The issue of the safety of the levees needs to be addressed.

When it comes to health care, the state should think outside the box. He doesn't see universal care as a solution.

Asked why voters should choose him, Wilson declared, "I have a proven record of working with constituents on both sides of the aisle. I have balanced the budget in San Ramon and leave it with reserves and rainy day funds. My door is always open. I have already accomplished many of the things other candidates said they will do. I will be fair and honest. I have support from both sides of the aisle."

Livermore Council OKs Changes in Incentives Programs

Livermore has made changes in incentives packages designed to attract businesses to the city.

Revisions were made to the Downtown Economic Incentives Program. A Downtown New Projects Development Incentives Program was approved. The High Wage Business Attraction Program was eliminated.

The city council voted unanimously to support the staff recommendations. John Marchand was absent.

The Downtown Economic Incentives Program included modifications to and expansion of five existing initiatives: new business, marketing, facade improvements/design consultation, relocation assistance, and flexible zone and sidewalk area use implementation. Changes have been proposed to make the initiatives more appealing.

There is a budget of \$275,000 per year allocated to the program. Of that, \$93,372 has been committed for fiscal year 2008/09. Since it was adopted in 2005, the program has provided assistance to over twenty businesses in the downtown.

The goal of the new business incentive initiative was to provide help in reducing the initial monthly lease rates that businesses pay, which helped new businesses cover rent while establishing a customer base. This initiative has now been made a part of the relocation assistance program. Under the revised program, new businesses would be

Got Access? PETA Wants To Tell Amador Ad Class Other Side Of Milk

By Ron McNicoll

An animal rights organization's request to speak to Amador Valley High School students working on a milk-promotion advertising campaign has been rejected by school officials.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) wrote to Amador Principal Bill Coupe and marketing class teacher Joan Thomas on Oct. 28 to request a classroom visit to talk about what they consider the drawbacks of the milk industry. They said that giving them time with the class would amount to granting equal time on the subject of the marketing class's work on an ad campaign for milk.

Amador Valley is one of three California schools chosen to take part in helping to develop the next ad campaign in the "Got Milk?" series. They will come up with a theme, develop it, and make a pitch to an ad agency in San Francisco. The winning school's class will get a prize of \$2000, and the recognition and experience that comes from working on a creative project in the adult world.

The letter from PETA cited two concerns. One is the treatment of milk cows and their calves. The other is detrimental health effects, as discussed by some doctors.

Since the Amador students are working on an ad campaign encouraging teen-agers to drink more milk, it would be appropriate for them to learn exactly what it is they are advertising, said Nicole Matthews, a spokesperson for PETA. PETA found out about the contest because the organization scans the media for references about the treatment of animals, said Matthews.

Coupe declined comment, and referred this reporter to Myla Grasso, the district's public information officer. Grasso said that the district will refuse PETA's request. "The issues are not related to the advertising curriculum. (The students) are not learning about the benefits of milk, or about the treatment of animals.

Otherwise, a teacher might feel compelled to bring in a balancing point of view. It's the administration's decision, but also the teacher's decision."

Teacher Thomas did not return a call. Grasso said that she talked with Thomas. "She said pretty much the same thing (as Grasso did). There is no tie-in to the marketing curriculum. It doesn't matter what the product is. It's a great opportunity for the students."

Matthews, the PETA spokesperson, said that if students did hear their presentation, many would not like what they hear. She cited a Harvard medical research study that found a 30 percent higher risk of prostate cancer in people who daily consume the equivalent of a bowl of ice cream, a pint of milk, or three slices of pizza.

Matthews also quoted the late Dr. Benjamin Spock, a pediatrician who wrote a famous book on infant care. He wrote later in his career that he no longer recommended dairy products. He said that the essential fats needed for brain development in infants are found in vegetable oils. He said that milk is low in the essential fats, and high in saturated fats that "encourage artery blockage and weight problems as children grow."

As for animal rights, Matthews said that the students "should be concerned about the content of their ad. With so much suffering in the world, they should be aware of how their food is produced." She cited confinement of calves in small pens, and "being slaughtered while (they are) babies" to produce veal. Many cows are confined to barns, where they walk around in their own excrement, she said. Cows are forced to be pregnant to produce more milk, because milk production is pregnancy-related in all mammals, said Matthews.

Steve James, executive director of the California Milk Processor Board, commented to the Independent about PETA's assertions about milk and treatment

of animals. The Harvard report cited by PETA was an observational study, not a causal study. Milk drinkers and non-drinkers were interviewed. Although the findings may have found a higher incidence of prostate cancer in the milk drinkers, it was not isolated as a factor in the study. No questions were asked about other foods consumed, or anything else about lifestyle, said James.

"It could be anything that could cause the cancer. Until there is a clinical trial to prove actual causal relationship, it doesn't warrant throwing away the good qualities of milk," said James.

James cited the benefits of milk as protein, calcium and magnesium. "It's a rich complex of nutrients that are good for us. I drink a lot of it. My daughter is 4 years old, and she drinks lot of it. Credible scientists recommend milk, for good reasons." Dr. Spock may have recommended against milk many years ago. However, the modern outlook by the professional association of pediatricians is definitely in favor of milk, said James.

The PETA press release said that it's unlikely a school district would align itself with an ad campaign for cigarettes. The release said that milk is along the same lines as cigarettes, because of its potentially harmful health effects.

James said, "Equating milk, one of the most nutritious products ever, with cigarettes, is ludicrous. PETA is a radical, vegan, animal rights group. Its credibility is next to none." As to conditions on farms, James said that dairy farmers have known "since the beginning of time that they get better milk from cows, if the cows are treated well. There are good actors and bad actors in any field. I'm sure there are horrible examples of how dairy cows are treated."

PETA will wait for a written response from the school district about the request, said Matthews.

defined as those that began operations at their current locations within the past 24 months. New businesses locating to the downtown core area would be eligible to receive reimbursement of physical improvement costs. Loans of up to \$35,000 for smaller businesses and \$50,000 for those 2501 to 10,000 square feet in size would be available.

The marketing initiative includes overall downtown promotion in partnership with Livermore Downtown, Inc. There would be an increase in marketing money available for individual businesses to \$4500, up from \$2500.

The facade improvement and design consultation program is aimed at improving the exterior of buildings, including paint, awnings, signs, etc. It also allows for interior improvements of up to 20 feet within the building. Staff recommends increasing the loan amount for minor facade improvements from \$3500 to \$7500 with a 25 percent match from the business or property owner. The current loan of \$3000 per business for a consultation would remain at that level.

The Downtown New Projects Development Incentives Program would direct unspent Redevelopment Agency funds towards projects that encourage development of small parcels. Funds would be used to purchase in-lieu parking spaces for residential units. The Redevelopment Agency would provide up

to 100 parking spaces that would be available for new development projects rather than paying the in-lieu fees or providing parking on site. Each development would be eligible for 15 parking spaces. The agency would use \$750,000 to construct the surface parking lot adjacent to the current parking structure.

Other funds in the program would be used to pay the downtown revitalization fee for residential projects.

The high wage attractive program was canceled, because there was no interest in the program. The idea had been to reward an employer that located a business to Livermore with 50 or more jobs, 60 percent of which would be at or above the set annual high wage.

VETERANS

(continued from page one)

the parade. This is done in honor of those that gave their full measure in the current ongoing conflict.

The practice of having the charge of a deceased military officer led in the funeral procession is a survival of an ancient custom of sacrificing a horse at the burial of a warrior. The belief was that a horse trained for battle by its rider could not have two masters, and as a result, the horse was retired. The belief is that the

empty boots signify that their owner is gone and that with boots in the stirrups, no one else can ride the horse.

The riderless horse in the Veterans Day Parade is a ceremonial reflection of an ancient military tradition. No animal is harmed.

The ceremony will follow at Veterans Plaza Park.

The event is sponsored by the VFW Post 6298 and Auxiliary, American Legion Post 237, and the Air Force Association Chapter 120.

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