

December 29, 2006

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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LIVING

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It's that time of year again where we say goodbye to the old and hello to the new. That's right, New Year's Eve is this Sunday night and everyone's looking for a way to ring in 2007 right. For those wanting a celebration not too far from home, there are plenty of events happening in and around Pleasanton.

Pleasanton Hotel Early Dinner

Sometimes, midnight is just too late to stay up. After all, it will still be 2007 in the morning, so why say hello at midnight? But going to bed early doesn't mean forgoing festive fun. The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting its annual Early New Year's Eve Dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to couples and families and includes a three course dinner and champagne toast. Cost is \$49 plus tax and gratuity. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling 846-8106. Visit www.pleasantonhotel.com for more information.

Aura Nightclub

Who says Pleasanton isn't a happening spot? Aura Nightclub - located at 4825 Hopyard Rd., is hosting its second annual New Year's Eve party and count down.

The evening starts at 8 p.m. with music and dancing in two rooms featuring Top 40, mash ups, rock infused house and more. At midnight, there will be a balloon drop and a five minute "confetti rain." Tickets are \$40 and include a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and coffee after midnight. Call 416-0777 or visit www.ticketweb.com for tickets. Visit www.nightclubaura.com for more information.

Main Street Brewery

The Main Street Brewery, 830 Main St., is always rocking, but on New Year's Eve they pull out

all the stops. This year, band Rockslide will keep the party going with classic rock, alternative and blues music. In addition to dancing, there will be a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets for the event are currently on sale at the Main Street Brewery bar. Call 462-8218 or visit www.main-stbrewery.com for more information.

Pure Girls NY New Year's Eve Bash

This is the second year Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting its NY New Year's Eve Bash, a party for girls ages 6 and older. The party, deemed a "parent free zone," offers parents a place to drop off

their daughters for a few hours and spend some time to themselves, as well as giving girls a place to have a little New Year's fun.

Girls will get "glammed-up" with clothes and makeup from the store, dance and win prizes as they count down to the New Year in New York City. As the ball drops on the other side of the country, the girls can get a feel for the festivities here in California at 9 p.m. The party goes from 6 to 9 p.m. and cost is \$35. Girls who bring a friend get \$5 off. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space.

Not too far away...

If you're willing to travel a little outside of Pleasanton, there are

other interesting New Year's Eve events for the whole family.

The USS Hornet is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. on the decks of this historic aircraft. The party includes live music, party favors and a midnight countdown. David Martin's House Party is providing the music, playing a mix of jazz, swing, pop, disco and rock, and even brings its own dancers as accompaniment. The USS Hornet is a registered state and national historic landmark docked in Alameda.

Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$65 for reserved seating and \$95 for premium reserved seating. All tickets include party favors, but food and beverages are purchased separately. Proceeds from the event will benefit the restoration and preservation of the Hornet. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282 or visit www.hornet-events.com for tickets.

Just next door in Dublin, Stacey's at Waterford is hosting a New Year's Eve party and dinner designed for both the late night partiers and the early birds. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. for those calling it an early evening, with a second dinner seating from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Then the party starts at 9:30 p.m. with music and dancing. It runs until 12:30 a.m. with a champagne toast at midnight.

Tickets for the party are \$25 and reservations are required for both dinner seatings. Visit www.staceyswaterford.com or call 551-8325 for tickets.

Going out to San Francisco?

If you just can't imagine counting down anywhere but the big city, BART is selling its "New Year's Eve Flash Pass." The pass costs \$6 and gives riders unlimited riding access from 6 p.m., Dec. 31 to 3 a.m., Jan. 1. ■

Enter 2007

Pleasanton offers plenty of parties to ring in the New Year

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by Rebecca Guyon

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Living

Now Showing

The Pursuit of Happiness

★★★

Rating: PG-13 for language
1 hours, 57 minutes

Will Smith gives a surprisingly rich performance as a suburban dreamer who refuses to say die.

"You got a dream, you gotta protect it. If you want something, go get it. Period." Words of wisdom passed from struggling medical supply salesman Chris Gardner (Smith) to his 5-year-old son Christopher (real-life son Jaden Christopher Syre Smith). The sentiment bears heavy meaning considering the hardships Gardner faces. He's

a suddenly single parent trying to break off a piece of the American dream by enrolling in a risky unpaid internship program with high-profile stockbroker Dean Witter.

San Francisco circa 1981 is a city ripe with potential if you know how to work it. And Gardner works like a madman to protect his boy and pull himself out of a perpetual hole. When it gets as hard-luck as it can—a dissatisfied wife (Thandie Newton) who abandons father and son, faulty bone-density scanners that won't sell, no rent for the apartment and the IRS nipping at his heels—Gardner somehow reaches into untapped



reserves of tenacity and courage.

Inspirational? You betcha. It's based on the real-life struggles of self-made gazillionaire Chris Gardner. But the film is darker than Smith's standard fare, sidestepping easy comedy in favor of a jaggedly desperate narrative that makes you work for its climax if not its message. The despair runs deep, a striking complement to Smith's on-

point performance as a closet braniac anxious to unleash his inner genius.

"Pursuit" looks like a big slick Hollywood production, the kind generally trotted out at the holidays for maximum sentimental consumption. Unlike most box-office giants, though, this quasi-rags-to-riches tale only occasionally overplays its hand, edging close to

maudlin and depressing but generally retreating on the cusp.

Smith has real chops as a dramatic actor, his talent running the gamut from facial expressions to timing to body language. The younger Smith—he of the mouthful moniker—is a pleasant surprise, hitting genuine notes where it would be simpler to ham it up kid-style. San Francisco is its glorious self with a hard-edge focus on the Tenderloin.

A real-life story that feels real—uncommonly refreshing.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

Ready to Rent

Little Miss Sunshine

Fox Home Video DVD
1hr 41mins

Director(s): Jonathan Dayton & Valerie Faris

"Little Miss Sunshine" is a weird retro-hybrid of "Hollywood" meets "independent" eclectic and, 10 years ago, would have been seen as a herald of the new attitude in movies. However, it seems curiously old-fashioned now with its mixture of irreverent humor and choreographed profundity that contributes to a type of aesthetic *deja-vu* for the audience.

The recipe almost spells itself out: take (A) one middle class family with ominous yet entertaining problems and insert (B) crisis that leads to a road trip in a quirky vehicle with (C) resolution in an equally quirky situation with a retrograde song (in this case Van Morrison's "Everyone") to guide our way through the credits and confirm the "unique" (but familiar) experience we've had. It's the final product of all the large corporations buying up the small independent studios in the '90s with their own branding of "safe and sane" stamped on the movie's rear end.

The Hoover family seems to have been hit with too much unbridled life and is not so much ready to explode as is take the day off. We meet sister Sheryl (Toni Collette) and brother Frank (very good Steve Carell) after his suicide attempt due to a discouraged love. Frank is being discharged due to lack of benefits (which explains the state of his life) and it's Sheryl who takes him on and into her home where madness seems to reign supreme. Home includes her husband Richard (sleazy everyman Greg Kinnear) an unsuccessful motivational speaker; his father Edwin (Alan Arkin), a cancer and drug-addled thrill seeker; their son Dwayne (Paul Dano) whose obsession with Nietzsche has taken him to a vow of silence; and 7-year-old Olive (Abigail Breslin), the most

sane and uplifting of the bunch.

It's Olive's obsession with beauty pageants that ignites the road trip of the Hoovers with a call from the "Little Miss Sunshine" sponsor as the real culprit of the film. Against all better judgment, the family piles into the vintage banana yellow Volkswagen bus and they head out to California from Albuquerque with only two days to spare. On the way, yes, lives are changed and personal epiphanies exchanged, but, it's the movies and nothing terrible can happen to a family as unique as the Hoovers. It's only when they actually experience the pageant with its creepy pedophile-cum-voyeurism that the movie takes off and real dysfunction takes over.

However, I actually liked the movie because of its simulated nostalgia. The directors/writers Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Finn have managed to squeeze out some genuinely funny and moving moments from what is essentially a 1970s formulaic Disney comedy as drawn by authors Paul Auster. Who actually makes the film is Alan Arkin's quietly desperate grandpa, whose dying-mantra "everything permitted" has him shelling out money at rest-stops for porn magazines and defending shooting up to take the pain of dying away. His is the best drawn and, tragic, of the characters expressed on the yellow ship-of-fools.

—Joe Ramirez



Taking it 'One Poem at a Time'

Friends and family of former Poet Laureate publish poems posthumously

Pleasanton's first Poet Laureate Charlene Vilella died last year after a struggle with breast cancer, but her spirit lives on in Pleasanton through fond memories and now a collection of poems compiled by her daughter and friends. "One Poem at a Time" is a collection of Vilella's last poems, most of them concerning her battle with cancer. In addition to the 65 poems, it also includes a half-dozen of her nature photographs in full color.



Vilella became Pleasanton's first Poet Laureate in 1999 and in that role established the Century House Poetry Reading series, which still goes on today. She also taught poetry workshops, began teen workshops in cooperation with the Pleasanton Public Library and brought poetry to schools. She was instrumental in establishing Pleasanton's annual Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival, which is in its sixth year. The first place adult poetry prize, considered the festival's top honor, was renamed the Charlene Vilella Memorial Award last year in her memory. In addition to being Pleasanton's Poet Laureate, she was named the Tri-Valley's honorary Poet Laureate.

"One Poem at a Time" costs \$20 and all profits will be donated to the Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival. The book can be purchased by contacting current Pleasanton Poet Laureate

and close friend of Vilella, Cynthia Bryant, at 938-8846 or visit www.poetslane.com. It is also for sale at the Century House Poetry Reading series, held on the first Sunday of even numbered months at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Rd.

A special reading of poems from "One Poem at a Time" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Jan. 25 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Poets and friends Bryant, Blanche Abrams, Cher Woolard and Livermore Poet Laureate Connie Post will read selections and answer questions.

—Rebecca Guyon

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

- Due to the New Year's holiday, City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007.
- The January 1, 2007 Civic Arts Commission meeting has been cancelled. A special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 8.
- The January 2, 2007 City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next City Council meeting will be held on January 16.
- The January 3, 2007 Human Services Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next Human Services Commission meeting will be held on February 7.

January 2007 Meeting Calendar

- Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee – January 8
- Civic Arts Commission Special Meeting – January 8
- Planning Commission – January 10
- Youth Commission – January 10
- Library Commission – January 11
- Parks & Recreation Commission – January 11
- City Council Meeting – January 16
- Economic Vitality Committee – January 18
- Housing Commission – January 18
- Trails Ad-Hoc Committee – January 22
- Planning Commission – January 24

TV30 At-Large Representative Recruitment

TV30 Board of Directors is now accepting applications for an at-large member. This is a non-paid position.

Tri-Valley Community Television is a California non-profit public benefit corporation under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)(3). The corporation is governed by a seven member Board of Directors comprised of four citizen volunteers appointed by the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon and three at-large representatives selected by the Board. Approximately 66% of the \$651,000 operating budget for fiscal year 2006-07 is appropriated by the four cities from revenue generated through cable television franchise fees. The balance of revenue is derived from production fees, grants, and sponsorships and underwriting.

Applicants must reside within the viewing area of Tri-Valley Community Television and be able to view Tri-Valley Channels 28, 29 and 30. An at-large member is appointed for a two year term. The Board of Directors meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are currently being held at Dublin City Hall.

Applications are available at the Pleasanton City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton, on the City's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us or at the TV30 website at <http://tv30.org/boardapp.asp>

For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk (925) 931-5027. Applications must be received no later than Friday, January 12, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.; postmarks are not accepted. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, including any agenda amendments, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Two drivers arrested at checkpoint

At the Dec. 15 sobriety checkpoint, Pleasanton police arrested two drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol and impounded 16 vehicles for DUI and driver's license violations. The presi-

dent of MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) joined the police at Santa Rita Road just south of Pimlico Drive to pass out educational materials to screened vehicles.

Police screened 913 vehicles, with 10 drivers given field sobriety tests and 34 drivers investigated further for various license violations.

Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

Police Report

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

December 16

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 3
- Vehicular theft:
 - 10:39 a.m. in the 600 block of Abbie Street; worth \$50-199
 - 2:05 p.m. in the 2800 block of Foothill Oaks Drive; worth over \$400
 - 11:55 p.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot; stolen vehicle

• Vandalism:

- 10:04 a.m. in the 600 block of Neal Street; worth less than \$1,000
- 11:41 a.m. in the 3300 block of Norton Way; vehicle, worth \$1,000 or less

• Vehicular burglary:

- 4:04 a.m. in the 1200 block of Harvest Road; worth over \$400
- 9:19 a.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard Place; worth \$50-199
- 11:20 a.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard Place; worth over \$400

• Possession of paraphernalia:

- 11:18 p.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue

December 17

- DUI: 3
- Theft:
 - 12:29 a.m. in the 400 block of Mission Drive; worth over \$400
 - 1:45 a.m. in the 4600 block of Mirador Drive; worth over \$400
 - 3:04 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Benzon and Laurel Creek drives; stolen vehicle
 - 10:23 a.m. in the 3900 block of Blacow Court; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 1:13 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
 - 2:43 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; bicycle, worth over \$400
 - 3:39 p.m. in the 4000 block of Schween Court; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
 - 4:46 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue; from building, worth over \$400
 - 5:31 p.m. in the 1500 block of Kolln Street; from vehicle
 - 8:56 p.m. in the 4100 block of Garatti Court; from vehicle, worth over \$400

- 11:36 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Drive; worth over \$400

- 11:43 p.m. in the 4300 block of Mirador Drive; worth over \$400

• Residential vandalism:

- 10:28 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less

• Burglary:

- 2:52 a.m. in the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road
- 10:47 a.m. in the 7200 block of Valley View Court; from residence
- 7:58 p.m. in the 300 block of Mall Lot; from vehicle, worth over \$400

• Assault:

- 12:01 a.m. at the intersection of Grapevine and Badger drives
- 2:09 a.m. in the 1400 block of White Stable Drive

• Public Drunkenness:

- 2:04 a.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive

December 18

- Found property: 1
- Threatening phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 8:39 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; forged checks
 - 1:30 p.m. in the 8000 block of Horizons Court; identity theft
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
 - 3:52 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; forged bills/notes
 - 11:27 p.m. in the 800 block of Concord Street; worth over \$400

• Burglary:

- 6:22 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
- 9:28 a.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive
- 11:37 a.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive

• Brandishing a weapon:

- 7:43 a.m. in the 2900 block of Liberty Drive

December 19

- Theft:
 - 8:06 a.m. in the 6800 block of Via Quito; identity theft
 - 8:39 a.m. in the 4500 block of Lin Gate Court; identity theft
 - 2:33 p.m. in the 7800 block of Meadowbrook Court; from vehicle
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 2000 block of Cotterell Court; forged checks

- 4:00 p.m. in the 3600 block of Virgin Islands Court

- 4:30 p.m. in the 2600 block of Rasmussen Court; from vehicle, worth \$50-199

December 20

- Found property: 2
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 10:22 a.m. in the 3100 block of Weymouth Court; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
 - 10:24 a.m. in the 1500 block of Trimmingham Drive; worth over \$400
 - 2:03 p.m. in the 4400 block of Oracle Lane; from building, worth over \$400
 - 7:05 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50

• Residential burglary:

- 12:53 p.m. in the 4200 block of Holland Drive

• Assault:

- 10:47 a.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive

December 21

- DUI: 1
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 12:12 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; bicycle
 - 9:59 a.m. in the 4200 block of Ruby Hill Drive; worth less than \$50
 - 10:19 a.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive, from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 1:00 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; credit card fraud
 - 9:59 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
 - 11:20 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement

ACCIDENTS

December 16

- 3:57 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Deodar Way and Stoneridge Mall Road

December 17

- 6:22 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hansen Drive and Valley Avenue

December 20

- 5:45 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard and Golden roads

December 21

- 9:52 a.m. - Injury accident in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive

Calendar

Auditions

Playhouse West Academy Winter Session

The Playhouse West Academy is holding interviews for the winter quarter of acting classes which begins the week of Jan. 24. The Academy will be offering professional in-depth training for beginning, intermediate and advanced students in stage and film acting for adults ages 15 and older. Playhouse West Kids, ages 7-13 will also be holding its winter session. Tuition for an 8-week session is \$235 for adults, \$295 for children. Classes are held at Playhouse West Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Call 943-6464.

Valley Concert Chorale

Valley Concert Chorale will hold auditions by appointment for experienced singers Jan. 15 and Jan. 29. The Chorale is looking for singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to contemporary, folk to jazz. Call 426-4205 to schedule an appointment.

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton

The Great Books of Pleasanton Book Club meets at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie, 846-1658.

Political Book Club

The Political Book Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1000 S. Livermore Ave. Call 462-7495 or visit www.trivalleydems.com for more information.

Civic Meetings

City Council

The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 2.

Housing Commission

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 18.

Human Services Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 3.

Library Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 11.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 11.

Planning Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 11.

School Board

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 9.

Youth Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is Jan. 10.

Classes

Fruit Tree Pruning Class

Western Garden Nursery is hosting free pruning classes in January. The

Weekend Preview



Ryan Gordon soccer game tomorrow

The fourth annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game is tomorrow, Dec. 30. Alumni from the '70s, '80s, '90s and '00s from both high schools will face off in a men's and women's soccer match. The event is held in honor of Ryan Gordon (above), a 2003 Foothill graduate who died in a boating accident shortly after graduating. Proceeds go to the soccer programs at both high schools. Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$4 for students. The women's game is at 4 p.m.; the men's game is at 6:30 p.m., both at the Amador soccer field. Contact Curt Gordon, 426-1540 or curtgordon@comcast.net for information.

first are 10 a.m. Jan. 6 and 1 p.m. Jan. 7 and will focus on pruning fruit trees. Western Garden Nursery is located at 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760.

International Folk Dancers

The Del Valle International Folk Dancers welcome beginning and experienced dancers for Balkan, Israeli and other world dances. Weekly classes meet from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the upstairs studio at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Avenue. Cost is \$4. Call George Pavel, 447-8020.

Widow/Widowers Grief Recovery Class

This 10-week class for widows and widowers focuses on finding hope and providing support for successful ways to process this significant life event. The course is open to all widows and widowers. Winter enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Classes are held at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call Linda Husted, 833-9013.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmasters

Amador Valley Toastmasters meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Mimi's Cafe Restaurant in the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center, Dublin Blvd. and Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Contact Mark Triska, mtriska@colliersparrish.com or 227-6210 for more information.

American Legion Post 237

American Legion Post 237 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133

Regalia. Call Rene, 846-7532, or Dan, 846-7320.

Boutique Textile Art

Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins. Call 935-8972.

Crossroads Business Network

Crossroads Business Network meets from 7 to 8:30 a.m. every Friday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Call Bill, 469-1111.

Diablo Valley Soaring Society

This radio control glider club meets to fly their planes on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Call Wayne, 846-8617.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly to critique poetry and the third Saturday monthly for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Express to Success Network

Women's Express to Success Network meets from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday monthly at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Visit www.expresstosuccess.org or e-mail info@expresstosuccess.org.

Fly Fishers

Fly Fishers Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at Livermore Rod and Gun Club, 4000 Dagnino

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Buying a house that is under construction gives you the opportunity to customize your new home by adding "extra" features to the basic home. When deciding on special features, consider how they will affect the resale value of the home and whether these additions will over-improve your home.

Money spent to improve and modernize kitchens and bathrooms is almost always a good investment. Corian countertops, side-by-side refrigerators, quality flooring and whirlpool tubs are good ideas. Hardwood floors in the living and dining rooms are a plus when selling a home. If the builder's standard flooring for the foyer is linoleum, it is definitely worth upgrading to wood or ceramic. And even if you don't enjoy sitting around a

roaring fireplace, the next owner may want one. If you plan to finish the basement later, you may want to "rough-in" the plumbing for a bath during the original construction. You should consider your own enjoyment--and what will increase the value of your home when you sell.

Diana Korpi is a multi-national award winner. She specializes in residential sales and is a Certified Relocation Specialist and holds the prestigious Re/Max Luxury Homes Designation.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying or selling, contact Diana at Re/Max Accord. Diana is committed to professional, attentive service to her clients - always willing to go the extra mile. When you deserve the very best, call 925-830-4764.



Tri Valley

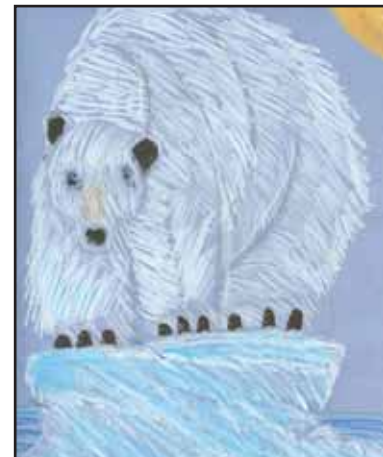
MONART

Fine Arts Classes for All Ages 4 & up!

our next session of classes begins
January 8th!

Space is limited so sign up now!

For more information on class schedules and prices, visit our website at www.pleasantonart.com or call us at 484-0126.



Sam, Age 11

3015-I Hopyard Road • Pleasanton, CA 94588

(continued on page 34)

dren and meets at noon the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Call Corrine, 846-6644.

Tri-Valley Leads

Tri-Valley Leads meets from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. every other Wednesday, at Carrow's, 7505 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Call Donna, 586-3952 or e-mail donna@diamonddonna.com.

Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group

TMUG meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday monthly and at 9 a.m. the Saturday following the third Thursday, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Call Izak, 830-8838 or visit www.clubtmug.com.

Tri-Valley Rotary

The Rotary Club meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Call Marlene, 846-1000.

V.F.W. Auxiliary

V.F.W. Post 6298 Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. Call Dan, 846-7320.

Events

Funeral for a Gangster

The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting "Funeral for a Gangster," a mystery dinner theater event where participants attend a "memorial service" for Vito "The Gut" Marzetti and attempt to solve the mystery. Cost is \$60 and includes a three course dinner and four course act. Call 846-8106.

Ward Connerly Speaks

Author Ward Connerly will be the guest speaker at the Jan. 11 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated. Connerly is the author of the autobiography, "Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences" and is founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a national nonprofit organization aimed at educating the

public about the need to move beyond racial and gender preferences. The event will be 6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel (formerly the Wyndham Garden Hotel), 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd. New members and visitors are welcome. Call Marilyn, 485-9869 for reservations.

Exhibits

Dee Haag at WaMu

Local artist Dee Haag's work is on display now through the end of January at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main Street. Haag's work is a variety of original landscape watercolor paintings. The public is invited to view her work during regular bank business hours.

Local Artists Display Work

The Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit has made its fall rotation. New pieces by local artists can be viewed at the Pleasanton branch of Bank of America, Keller Williams Realty and Towne Center Books, all on Main Street; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on Peters Avenue; and R.E. Realty Experts on Hopyard Road. For additional locations, call Lisa Davis, 518-4436.

Up Close and Far Away

Worthington Gallery West opens its new exhibit, "Up Close and Far Away" Jan. 27 and it runs through Mar. 3. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m., Jan. 27. This group show features landscapes and still lifes by regional and international artists. The gallery is located at 739 J. Main St. Call 485-1183 for more information.

Film

Heroes and Villains

Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Library present "Heroes and Villains: A Classic Film Series," at 7 p.m., every first Thursday monthly until June 2007 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free.

Call Penny, 931-3405.

Fundraisers

Bingo

Choice for Children Education Foundation hosts Bingo at 4 p.m. every Sunday at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. All proceeds benefit Livermore Valley Charter School. Call Maria, 201-3422 or e-mail ccef@lvcs.org.

Dictionary Project

Bay East Association of Realtors partners with a national non-profit, The Dictionary Project, to provide dictionaries for third graders in local schools. There are more than 200 classes waiting to be adopted. Call Marla, 730-3269 or e-mail marlak@bayeast.org.

Gently Read Book Sale

The ValleyCare Auxiliary will be holding a "Gently Read" book sale from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 8 and 9 in the lobby of the LifeStyleRX building, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd. in Livermore.

Operation: S.A.M.

The Museum On Main, 603 Main St., is an ongoing drop-off place for donations for Operation: S.A.M., a non-profit organization that sends packages to American troops deployed all over the world. Visit www.operation-sam.org for list of needed items. Call 462-2766.

Recycle for Breast Cancer

Recycle electronics, empty ink jet and toner cartridges to support the fight against breast cancer. Free pick up, drop off, or prepaid envelopes and shipping labels are available. Call Larry, 735-7203 or e-mail larry@recycleforbreastcancer.org.

Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game

The fourth annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game will be Dec. 30 at the Amador Valley High School soccer field. Foothill and Amador

soccer players from the '70s, '80s, '90s and '00s will face off. Women play at 4 p.m. and men at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. Proceeds benefit the soccer programs at both schools. Call Curt Gordon, 426-1540 for more information.

Health

Axis Immunization Clinic

Axis Community Health offers drop-in immunization clinics for low-income and uninsured families. The first winter clinic will be held from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 6. All immunization clinics are held at Axis' Pleasanton location only, 4361 Railroad Ave. The clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured. Families enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care programs are also eligible. Parents are required to bring their children's immunization records and any information they may have about family income and medical insurance, including Medi-Cal. Call 462-1755.

Blood Drives

The American Red Cross is holding a mobile blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 3 at the Pacific Plaza, 1340 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek. Call (800)-GIVE-LIFE or visit www.BeADonor.com (code: PACIFIC) to schedule an appointment.

Dublin Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 20 at St. Raymond's Church, 11557 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Call the Parish office, 828-2460 or Bob Rawlings, 828-7727 to schedule an appointment.

Exercise Class

The Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services offers a month-to-month fitness class in the morning and Exercitement Fitness class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from \$3 to \$4.50 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for Exercitement Fitness.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop

This 16-week workshop is for women who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment. Guest medical experts will present information to assist in understanding the disease and the group assists in finding the tools for coping and provides support of others who sharing similar experiences. Meetings are from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday from Jan. 10 through April 25 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. The class is free. Registration is required. Call 933-0107.

Reiki Workshop

Reiki is a gentle and non-invasive Eastern tradition used to channel energy for self-care, stress reduction and healing. This class teaches how to give Reiki to yourself and to others. This is a four-session class facilitated by Gisela Mehta that meets Jan. 16 and 30 and Feb. 13 and 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This class is specifically for cancer patients, their families and friends and is free. Reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

Holiday

Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show

Civic Arts Presents will host political satirist Will Durst and friends in "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIV" 8 p.m. Dec. 29 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. This show is appropriate for adult audiences. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Visit www.civictickets.org or call 931-3444 for tickets.

Christmas Tree Pick Up

Boy Scout Troops 941 and 943 are picking up old Christmas trees Jan. 6. There is a minimum donation of \$5 for residential trees, \$10 for residential trees over 8 feet, businesses or flocked trees of any size. This service

is only available for trees in the city of Pleasanton. Requests for tree pick up must be received by Jan. 4. Call 417-5177 or register online at www.troop943.org or www.troop941.org.

NY New Year's Eve Bash

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting its second annual NY New Year's Eve Bash for girls ages 6 and older from 6 to 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. This is a "parent-free" event and girls will get glammed-up, dance, win prizes, dine and drink as they count down to the ball drop in New York City. Cost is \$35 and girls who bring a friend get \$5 off. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space.

Outdoor Ice Rink

Downtown Walnut Creek opened its annual outdoor ice skating rink, scheduled to run through Jan. 15, 2007. The rink is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mon.-Thu.; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun. Cost is \$11, including skate rental, Mon.-Thu. and Fri. until 5:30 p.m.; weekends are \$10, plus \$5 skate rental. Call 935-SNOW or visit www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com for more information.

Teddy Bear Tea Service

The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting a Teddy Bear Tea Service during the month of December. Bring your child to enjoy a festive tea in the holiday decorated Victorian dining rooms. Each child will receive a teddy bear to take home. The teas are Mon. through Sat. from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$18.95 for adults, \$15.95 for children. Reservations required. Call 846-8106.

USS Hornet New Year's Eve Party

The USS Hornet Museum is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. featuring music by David Martin's House Party. Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$65 for reserved seating and \$95 for premium reserved seating. All tickets include party favors. Food and beverages are separate. Proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of this national and state historic landmark. For ticket information, call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

Kids & Teens

Movies at the Library

The Pleasanton Public Library will show movies for preschool-age children starting at 11 a.m., Dec. 29. "Ice Age II: The Meltdown" will be shown at 2 p.m., Jan. 5. Call the children's desk, 931-3400, ext. 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

Art Collecting 101

Claudia Hess, owner of Worthington Gallery West, will teach "Art Collecting 101," a workshop for those trying to get into art collecting, from 3-4 p.m., Jan. 20. Topics covered include where to start, art as an investment, getting children to start collecting and how to sell your old collection. Admission is free. Worthington Gallery West is located at 739-J Main St. Call 485-1183.

Child Care Initiative Project


Licensed and license-exempt child care providers are encouraged to participate in the CCIP project to receive technical assistance and support, free training and support materials, and more. No cost for this workshop. Call Donnamarie, 249-3923.

Entering the Entrepreneurial World

Technology Ventures Corporation is hosing "Entering the Entrepreneurial World," a workshop to learn what it takes to start a technology company, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 17 at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. The event is free. Call 960-1600 or e-mail tvc.ca@techventures.org. Visit www.techventures.org.

Free Employee Training for Tri-Valley Businesses

(continued on page 35)



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Rd., Livermore. Call Bob, 989-2358 or visit www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org.

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club meets from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com.

Genealogical Society

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday monthly at Congregation Beth Emek, 13400 Nevada Ct. Call Jane, 447-3898 or visit www.1-ags.org.

Hacienda Park Toastmasters

Hacienda Park Toastmasters meets from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday at Tyco, 4280 Hacienda Dr. Call Brett, 737-1000.

Horseshoe Pitching

The Horseshoe Pitching Club meets at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Call Martha, 462-4283.

Ladies Choice Investment

Ladies Choice Investment meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday monthly to discuss educational stock selections and investments. Call Jeannie, 846-5106.

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club

The Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Call Marilyn, 462-1461.

Mothers Club

The Pleasanton Mothers Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Dr., room C2. Call 927-2444, or visit www.pleasantonmother-sclub.org.

Mt. Diablo Rose Society

Mt. Diablo Rose Society meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the second Wednesday monthly, except in December, at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call Pat, 846-4913.

P-Town Street Rods

Truck or car enthusiasts club meets from 6 to 9 p.m. the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday monthly at Chicago's Metropolitan Deli, 6003 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call George, 846-5550.

Phi Delta Kappa

This international organization includes professional educators and those interested in education and meets at various locations four to six times during the school year. Call Pat, 443-5526.

Pleasanton Amador Valley Lions Club

Meets at noon on the first and third Thursday monthly at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St. Call Tom, 846-4749.

Pleasanton Art League

Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association features demonstrations by nationally recognized artists held at the Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. Call 462-5917 or visit www.pal-art.com.

Pleasanton Downtown Association

Pleasanton Downtown Association meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Suite A. Call Frances, 484-2199.

Pleasanton Kiwanis Sunrise

Pleasanton Kiwanis Sunrise Club meets at 11:45 a.m. every Friday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main St. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com.

Pleasanton Lions Club

Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday monthly for dinner at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St. Call Rick 462-1062.

Pleasanton Newcomers

Newcomers Club meets at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday monthly for coffee and at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday monthly for lunch. Call 215-8405 or visit www.pleasanton-newcomers.com.

Pleasanton North Rotary Club

The Pleasanton North Rotary Club meets at 12:15 p.m. every Friday at the Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call Wayne, 426-2510.

Soroptimist

Soroptimist International is dedicated to issues affecting women and chil-

(continued on page 36)






HOLIDAY SPARKLE 'tis the season

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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Loard's Ice Cream is celebrating the holidays with new owners, a new look and these new menu items

-  FRESH MADE FUDGE
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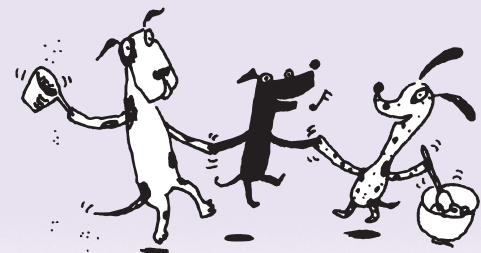
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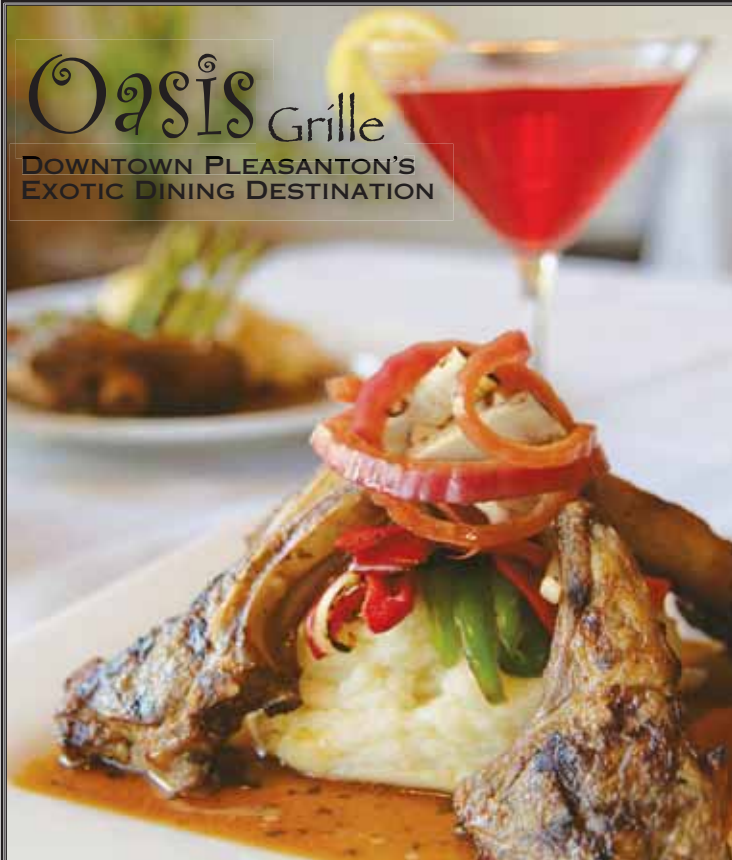
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- Cataract Surgery
- Dry Eyes
- Keratoconus



Dr. Gagnon did his undergraduate studies at St. Mary's College in Moraga and his Doctorate of Medicine degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Wake Forest University, and then spent an additional year of subspecialty training in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the University of Utah, Moran Eye Center.

In addition to his private practice at Valley EyeCare Center, Dr. Gagnon is on the Clinical Faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

Dr. Gagnon will be available to see patients at:

5575 W. Las Positas Blvd.,
Suite 240
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 460-5000

28 Fenton Street
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 449-4000

This free on-going workshop includes learning how to choose child care, parenting skills, child development and work/family balance. Call Kim, 249-3940.

Inner and Outer Peace Through Meditation

Dr. Marshall Zaslove, a Board certified psychiatrist, author and meditation practitioner for over 30 years, will offer simple meditation techniques and demonstrate practical methods of controlling and befriending the mind for better meditations and health benefits 2 p.m., Jan. 14 in the Pleasanton Public Library meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. No registration required. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Rose Pruning Classes

Western Garden Nursery is offering free rose pruning workshops 10 a.m., Jan. 13 and 1 p.m., Jan. 14. Classes are held at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760.

Miscellaneous

Donate to Help Fight Cancer

Help fight cancer by donating new or gently used clothing and accessories, household items and furniture to the American Cancer Discovery Shop, 1987-A Santa Rita Rd. Call 462-7374.

Family Read Night

Read stories and do crafts with the family at Family Read Night, offered in English and Spanish. Admission is free. Space is limited so registration is required. Call Donnamarie, 249-3923, for dates and locations.

Farmers' Market

Shop for fresh produce, flowers, and baked goods from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday on West Angela Street between Main and First streets. Call 825-9090.

Open Heart Kitchen

Open Heart Kitchen provides hot meals to the underprivileged from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd.; noon to 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore; and 4 to 6 p.m. every Thursday at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 460 N. Livermore St., Livermore. Call Carol, 580-1616.

TVAR Cat and Dog Adoptions

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts dog and cat adoptions from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays at Pleasanton's Farmers' Market, First and W. Angela streets and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. at Dublin PetsMart and the Dublin Pet Food Express. There are no adoptions on the fourth Saturday of the month at Dublin Pet Food Express. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tv-ar.org for more information.

Recreation

Enrichment Classes

Pleasanton Parks and Recreation offers enrichment classes ranging from art, aquatics, sports, health and cooking at 200 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-5340 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/parks.html.

Seniors

Bingo

Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Monday monthly and 1 to 3 p.m. every Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

Day Trippers Oakland Tour

Day Trippers is leading an Oakland outing for seniors, traveling to Jack London Square for lunch, then on to the USS Potomac and the Pardee Home of Oakland for docent led tours. The tour is from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 24 and leaves from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$33 for residents, \$36 for non-residents. Lunch is not included in cost. Call 931-5365 for more information.

Emotional Wellness Group

Learn more about depression, anxiety, and how medications and alcohol may

What are you doing this summer?



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YMCA of the East Bay



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For registration or more information:

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YEAR ROUND CONFERENCE/RETREATS

FAMILY CAMP

PHONE: 650-879-0223

FAX: 650-879-2101

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www.jumpstartmedicine.com Conrad Lai, MD

affect emotional well-being at 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Charlene or Jode, 931-5382.

Friday Night Dance

Join the crowd for ballroom dancing once a month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 non-residents, and \$8 for residents, \$9 non-residents at the door. Singles welcome. Reservations recommended. Call 931-5365.

Internet Access Workstation

The Internet workstation is available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays at the library section of the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Luncheons

The Dublin Senior Center hosts special themed luncheons on the second Thursday monthly at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The luncheon fee is \$6.50 for residents and \$7.50 for non-residents and includes special entertainment. Call 556-4511 or visit www.ci.dublin.ca.us. Reservations needed by the Friday prior to the luncheon.

Movie Madness

Seniors are invited to watch free movies on the big screen at 1 p.m. on the first and third Mondays monthly at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Popcorn and refreshments available. Call 931-5365.

Paratransit Service

The paratransit service provides door-to-door bus service to seniors 65 and older, and individuals with disabilities of any age and is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. Call 931-5376.

Personal Computers Group

Meets 10 a.m. to noon the fourth

Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365 or e-mail pleasenor@yahoo.com.

Senior Dinner

Open Heart Kitchen provides seniors 60 years and older with an evening meal from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday at Ridge View Commons, 4200 Case Ave. Suggested donation is \$3. Call 484-5131 for reservations.

Senior Lunch

Spectrum Community Services provides seniors 60 years and older with a noon meal at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Suggested donation is \$3.25. Call 931-5385 for reservations.

V.I.P. Senior Club

The Pleasanton V.I.P. Senior Club meets the second and fourth Monday monthly from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The second Mondays are business meetings and the fourth Mondays are social meetings. Snappy Cafe serves lunch at noon with a \$3.25 donation. Reservations for lunch must be made by the Thursday before each meeting by calling 931-5385 or call Verla, 846-2992.

Spiritual

12 Steps Through Psalm 23

This 12 Step group discusses how Psalm 23 can help with codependency, addiction and other problem behaviors. This on-going women's group meets Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at R-Quest, 40 California Ave., Ste. B. Visit www.rquest.org or call 426-0501, ext. 21 for more information.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God

Sunday school for all ages begins

at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m. and Children's Church Program (ages 3-12) at 11:15 a.m. Singles & Young Married Home Bible Study meets at 7:30 p.m., Mondays. Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., Wednesday evening programs; Choir Practice, Boys and Girls Mission Crusade Club (grades K-5th grade) 7 p.m. Call the church office, 846-8650 for information on any ministry.

New Year's Eve Service

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., is holding a special New Years Eve service 9:30 a.m., Dec. 31. Call 846-4436 for more information.

Tri-Valley Unity Church

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

World Day of Peace

World Day of Peace will be celebrated as part of the regular worship service 10 a.m., Dec. 31 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 6680 Regional St. (at the Radisson), Dublin. Special readings and prayers will be offered. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com

Sports

Sea Devils

The Tri-Valley Sea Devils team is looking for year-round swimmers. Call Hope, 469-8495.

Women Golfers Needed

The Tuesday Morning Callippe Niners, a women's golf club, is looking for new members. Call Sandi Snyder, 462-0288 if interested.

Support Groups

Catholic Community Bereavement Support

The Catholic Community of Pleasanton Bereavement Support Ministry will be offering meetings 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22, March 8 and 22 and April 12 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in the chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call Kim, 735-3741.

CHADD

Meetings are held for parents of children with ADD/ADHD from 7 to 9 p.m. on the second Wed. of each month at Thomas Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Rd. in the library. Call 484-2173 or visit www.chadnorcal.org.

ClutterLess Self Help Group

If clutter is stressing you out, come to the Presbyterian Church from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at 4300 Mirador Dr., room 7. Call 297-9246 or 426-5311. No meeting Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Diabetes Support Group

Groups meet from noon to 1 p.m., on the first Wednesday monthly. Also from 6 to 7 p.m. every third Thursday monthly and for diabetics using insulin pumps, from 6 to 7 p.m. the second Thursday of every other month, Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center, Valley Care Medical Plaza, 5725 West Las Positas, Suite 220. Call 416-6710.

Divorce Care

A nonjudgmental, caring, support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesdays at Valley Christian Junior High School, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$35 for 13 weeks. Childcare/programs provided for infant-grade12. Call Daryl, 968-9398.

Domestic Violence

A Domestic Violence Support Group is meeting from 5 to 6:30 p.m., every Thursday at the Tri-Valley Haven for Women in Livermore. There will be a fee of \$40 for every eight weeks or based on a sliding scale. For information and registration, contact Elizabeth, 449-5845 ext. 109.

DRC

Meet other men and women in their early stages of Alzheimer's disease or any other memory loss related diseases from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. For women, call Angie and for men, call Norman at 210-6196.

East Bay Cancer Support Group

The East Bay Cancer Support Group, Inc. meets on Thursdays at the Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. All services are provided free of charge. Call (510) 889-8766 or visit www.ebcancersupport.org.

Fibromyalgia, Arthritis Chronic Pain

A Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Group will meet from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday monthly at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Call 734-3315

Forty Plus of Northern California

The group is for professionals over the age of 40 who are unemployed or in career transition. The free classes are held 8:30 a.m. to noon Mondays at 770 Edgewater Drive, Suite 626, Oakland. Call (510) 568-7587 or visit www.fortyplus.org.

Grandparents Visitation Support Group

Grandparents who have problems visiting their grandchildren meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday in March at Pleasanton

(continued on page 38)

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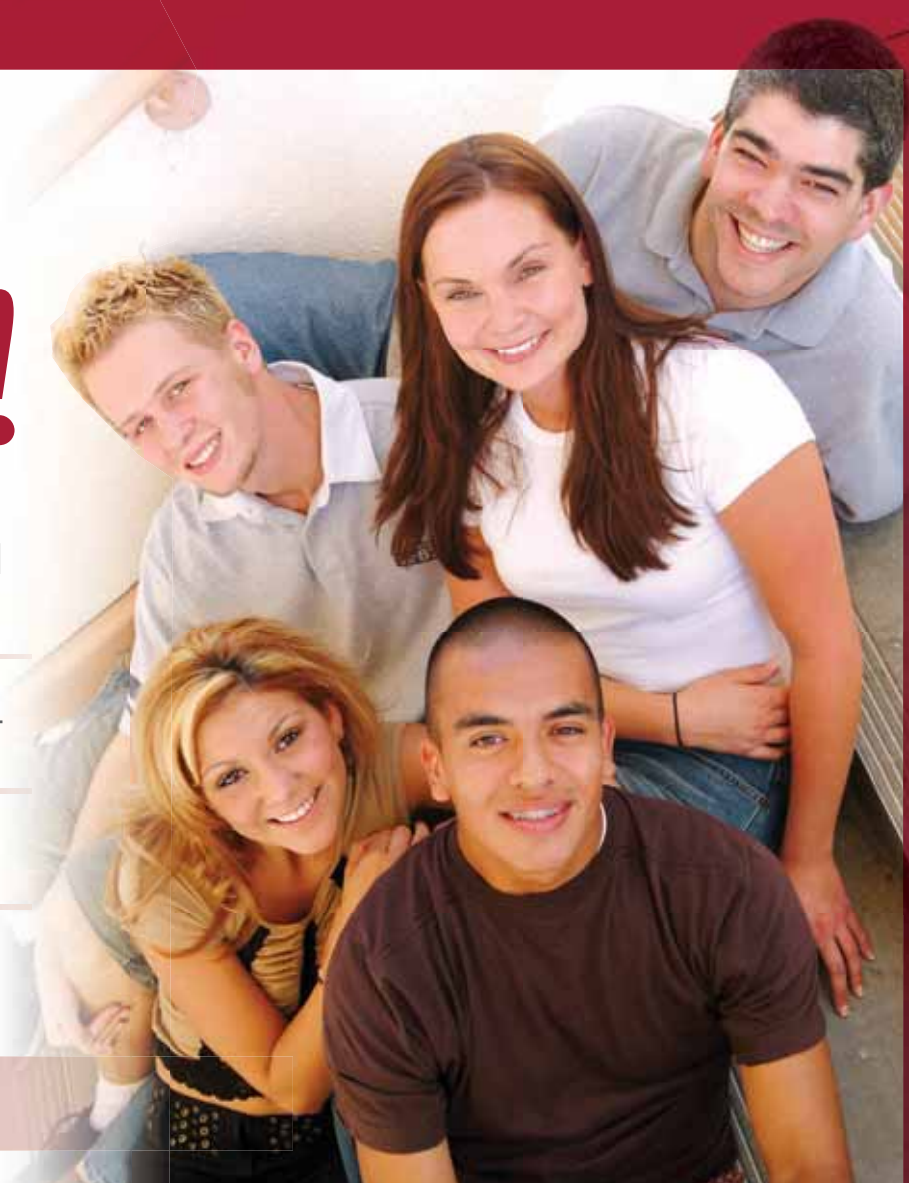
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Public Library in the small conference room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Space is limited. Call Joyce, 339-4700.

Head Injury Support

This group provides support for brain-injured individuals and their caregivers. It meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m. every fourth Wednesday in the Blackhawk Room at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call Jo Ann, 443-4366.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C support group meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday monthly in the ValleyCare Medical Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Dr., Ste. 270. Call 734-3300.

Independent Living

If you or your loved one need a personal assistant to help maintain independent living, Community Resources for Independent Living can help with specific needs. Call 371-1531; TTY, 371-1532. Visit www.cril-online.org.

Jobs Networking Group

CSIX East Bay, helping individuals in career transitions, meets from 1 to 3:30 p.m. every Thursday at WineCentives, 6040 Dougherty Road, Dublin. Cost is \$3. Call Doug Herz, 277-6600.

League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen

This group is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, express feelings, form friendships and understand and improve relationships with women. The group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Anthropos Counseling Center, 326 South L. St., Livermore. Call 449-7925.

Live Beat Dads

Fathers who are raising their children meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 1550 Springtown Blvd., Suite 7E, Livermore, for discussions and speakers on individual's rights, custody issues, networking and parenting programs. Child care is available. Call Pete, 449-8436, or visit www.lbdug.org.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group

The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 Stanley Blvd., Livermore. There will be no December meeting, but the group will reconvene in January. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158.

Men at Work

This Al-Anon group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call Tom, 417-7540.

Men's Support Group

Anthropos Counseling Center provides support for men to improve personal growth and change and become aware of emotional habits and attitude. Group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday, 326 S. L. St., Livermore. Call 449-7925.

Military Group

Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday monthly, held at different group member's home. Call Chris, 730-1604.

Narconon Arrowhead

Narconon Arrowhead offers free addiction counseling, assessments and referrals to rehabilitation centers nationwide. Call (800) 468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com.

Newcomers to Al-Anon

This group, for those who are new to Al-Anon and anyone who is affected by someone else's drinking, meets 7 to 7:55 p.m. Thursdays at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Room H, Dublin. Call 277-7661.

Operation SAM

The group, offering emotional support to families with loved ones in the military, meets at 7 p.m., the second Monday monthly at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Call Kristin, 443-7841.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meetings are held from 7 to 8 p.m., Thursdays at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call Lisa, 931-0994.

Parents of Alcoholics

Parents of alcoholics are welcome

to join this Al-Anon group that meets 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sundays at CalFed Bank, 3101 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 277-7661.

Parents of Children with Autism

For parents of children with autism in the East Bay, this group uses e-mail-based discussions for parent-to-parent support. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/eastbayautism> to join. E-mail autismtrivalley@yahoo.com for questions.

Parents of Diabetics

The POD Squad, a support group for parents of diabetics, meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly, September-May, at the Laguna Oaks neighborhood clubhouse. Call 461-1170 or visit www.podsquad.com.

Parents of Special Needs Children

Receive and give support with other Pleasanton parents in an e-mail-based discussion. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/pleasantonspecial> to join. E-mail pleasantonspecial@yahoo.com for questions.

Parkinson's Support Group

The Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo and the city of Pleasanton co-sponsor a support group for the Tri-Valley area from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday monthly at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5366.

Pleasanton Senior Grief Group

Not limited to seniors, this group is open to all grief issues. It meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5366.

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Men with prostate cancer and their families are welcome to Man to Man, a support group that meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m., on the second Tuesday monthly in the West Day Room in the south building at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

Prostate Cancer Survivors

Tri-Valley Us Too, a support group for prostate cancer survivors, invites husbands and wives to its meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Kaiser offices, 7601 Stoneridge Drive. Men are also invited to meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the same location. Call 846-7460.

R-Quest

R-Quest is a counseling agency for early recover education that serves to help teens and adults overcome addiction to alcohol, drugs, eating disorders or mental health issues. Youth and adult intervention is available. Located at 40 California Ave., Suite B. Walk-in's are welcome. Free alcohol screening. Call 426-0501 or visit www.rquest.org.

Survival to Recovery

The focus of these meetings is for persons who grew up in an alcoholic home or who were affected by the drinking of one or both parents. The group, a part of Al-Anon, meets from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the St. Philips Lutheran Church, 8850 Davona Dr., Room 10-A., Dublin. Call 277-7661.

Temporary Restraining Order Clinic

This clinic is for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and meets 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Mondays at 4471 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. A and 2 to 4 p.m., Thursdays at 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Call Michael, 449-5845, ext. 110.

'When Mom or Dad Has Cancer' Workshop

This workshop is open to school-age and teens. Parents meet concurrently. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 13 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. The workshop is free but reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

TV30

Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel
 Eckankar, a nonprofit organization and

church based in Minnesota, is hosting a show on TV 26 every Friday at 4 p.m. titled, "Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel." Visit www.eckankar.org for more information.

Volunteering

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Volunteers are needed to staff the Emergency Food Hotline from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Food sorters are needed to sort, screen, box and shelve donated food from 8 to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Individual volunteers need to attend a 50 minute orientation held 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the food bank. Call (510) 834-3663 or visit www.accfb.org.

Community Service for Teens

Open Heart Kitchen's Ridgeview Commons Senior Meal Program needs 10 to 12 teens (at least 16 years of age) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Job includes serving seniors from the buffet line, helping seniors get to their tables, bussing tables, cleaning, etc. Adults also welcome to apply. Call 580-1619.

Foster Homes Needed

Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St., is urgently seeking temporary homes for rescued kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Food and medical expenses are provided. Also needed are Adoption Volunteer Coordinators and counselors. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Jewish Community Federation

Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay offers opportunities to volunteer within the community, such as serving meals, tutoring children, and serving on Jewish agency committees or boards. Call (510) 839-2900, ext. 261.

Open Heart Kitchen

If you love to cook and have a passion to end hunger, volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen, the Tri-Valley's only free hot meal service for the needy. There are many volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Call Dianne, 580-1619 or e-mail dadamson@openheartkitchen.org.

Saturday Food Sorting

The Alameda County Community Food Bank needs volunteers to screen, sort, box and shelve donated food from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 6 and 10, Feb. 3 and 24 and March 10 and 24. Call (510) 635-3663, ext. 308 to sign up.

Shepherd's Gate

Volunteer at Shepherd's Gate Shelter, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore or their thrift stores, 7381 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, and 1362 Railroad Ave., Livermore any time Monday through Friday. Call Lyn, 443-4283, ext. 217.

The American Cancer Discovery Shop

The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Call 462-7374.

Tri-Valley Haven

Tri-Valley Haven provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness in the Tri-Valley, and needs volunteers to help with childcare, answer the crisis line and assist clients with restraining order paperwork. Training starts at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Must be at least 21 years old. Call Melissa, 449-5845, ext. 111 or e-mail melissa@trivalleyhaven.org.

TVAR Volunteer Orientation

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue offers volunteer orientations on the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of every month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. For more information, contact Cathy Bergren at cococathy@yahoo.com or 426-2472.

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Real Estate

Windermere's strategy: Value creation

Pleasanton real estate firm helps buyers, sellers move beyond basic transaction

by **Jeb Bing**

Realtors and the firms they represent are reshaping their business strategies in their turbulent, changing housing markets.

Some are turning to the Internet in hope of out-shining the creative Web pages of their competitors to attract more buyers and sellers. Others are buying expensive air time on local broadcast media. Bay East Association of Realtors is even paying TV30 to produce and show regular programs about local real estate issues to be seen by a Tri-Valley audience that watches this taxpayer and Comcast-supported community station.

Most, though, are continuing to focus their ad dollars and promotions on the print media, including this newspaper that circulates to more than 16,000 homes in Pleasanton and stays in the house longer as family members catch up on local news and advertising.

Now, there's an added strategy, which Jahan Honardoost, owner and managing director of Windermere East Bay Realty, which Honardoost calls his holistic approach. It's patterned after the stockbroker firms which he watched close during 26 years in corporate sale and marketing in the Silicon Valley.

"Stockbrokers saw long ago how the dynamics were changing in their business," Honardoost said. "Investors saw that they didn't have to pay \$400 for a single transaction. Discount brokers were handling those transactions for \$9.99 with much of the same service."

To survive, grow and prosper in the fluctuating real estate market today, Realtors must do the same, Honardoost said. They have to respond to much more of the real estate needs of buyers and sellers than just the transaction of selling or buying a home.

"Windermere has become more than a real estate firm," he explained. "Today, we're really in the business of value creation, intensely focused on creating value for our clients. Because the market has changed, we have changed, too, providing buyers and sellers with much more than just those services, serving, in fact, as their financial planners, mortgage planners, CPA, tax analyst and even having advisors to provide them with a holistic approach to their retirement plans."

Honardoost calls his Koll Center Parkway firm a "one-stop" value creation center, where clients first talk about and check their assets, credit ratings, long-term goals and housing interests. When Windermere's affiliates determine it's time for the client to sell, or to buy, Realtors one of its 20 Realtors takes over. By that time, the customer is approved financially to make a purchase, knows the interest rate that will be charged, and has a clear picture of the type of home and the cost that will serve him best.

"Because we also analyze our client's net worth and earning potential and, depending on age, his retirement goals, we might also suggest a second home in the mountains that he and his family can enjoy or lease out," Honardoost said. "So whether our client is

25 or 55 or older, whether he plans to buy a house or already has one, we have representatives in place that can help him and his family plan their future."

Confident that most more buyers and sellers will find that they have unrealized asset opportunities, Honardoost and his Windermere Commercial and East Bay Realty have just opened an office in Auburn, where a number of Pleasanton homeowners maintain second homes and investment properties.

"If we're going to suggest to some of our clients that they add to their holdings, we want to make sure they have the right real estate company to go to," Honardoost said. "What we found is that our customers go to these locations and sometimes they do not get the right level of service. People are different in Auburn than in Pleasanton. That's why we wanted to have a direct link and relationship with the right level of resources there."

Honardoost said that home ownership is the largest investment many in Pleasanton will ever make, and it deserves a higher level of service and dedication. His firm offers a 2-1/2-hour wealth creation session free of charge for first-time clients, whether they're in the market to sell or buy a home or just want to check their financial situation.

"We believe there is a different language required when you work with individuals who want to increase their net worth, so that's why we have so many affiliates who can work with them on a variety of opportunities, including many that have nothing to do with real estate," Honardoost explained. "Even if we don't see them as a client who will buy or sell a home at this time, if we do our job right they will stay in touch. In fact, we ask them to come back every six months for a financial update."

Windermere Real Estate was founded in 1972 and is now one of the largest firms in the West. In opening his Pleasanton-based franchise, Honardoost's experience in sale and marketing on the Peninsula led him to make it a wealth creation real estate company.

"Rather than focusing on a simple transaction of determining the lowest interest or down payment, making the sale and then saying 'goodbye,' we saw that clients needed much more," he said. "They need help in managing their real estate assets and all other aspects of financial planning that go with that. They need a seven-year strategy to help them make sure they're on the right track. They need experts who will meet with them right here in the same office where we always conduct our business to help them with long-range planning."

"That's the strategy we're following in the changing real estate market of 2006 and beyond," he added. ■



Jahan Honardoost

Home sale of the week



3466 Old Foothill Rd Pleasanton - \$1,736,000

One of a kind 5 acre Westside property with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. pprox. 1300 sq. ft. remodeled home and additional 1800 sq. ft. shop/barn. Panoramic views of the valley, private driveway access, horses allowed. Beautiful property! Sold by Mike Carey, Investment Real Estate Company.

Sales at a Glance

Source: California REsource

Pleasanton	Dublin	Livermore	San Ramon
Total sales reported: 17	Total sales reported: 8	Total sales reported: 20	Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$350,000	Lowest sale reported: \$595,000	Lowest sale reported: \$205,000	Lowest sale reported: \$330,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,667,500	Highest sale reported: \$935,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,375,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,061,000
Average sales reported: \$897,500	Average sales reported: \$716,875	Average sales reported: \$643,000	Average sales reported: \$771,482

Home Sales

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2006

Pleasanton

- 5913 Arthur Drive** R. & C. Dickson to S. & B. Karic for \$674,000
- 349 Brienne Court** E. & I. Pestana to N. Grewal for \$900,000
- 7520 Canyon Meadow Circle #C** R. & J. Harvey to E. & A. Martinez for \$350,000
- 7560 Canyon Meadow Circle #F** K. Delcenio to J. Jacobsen for \$358,500
- 4597 Carver Court** J. & J. Noll to M. Lopez for \$635,000
- 1224 Chianti Court** C. Yanagawa to M. & T. Kushner for \$1,033,000
- 2173 Corte Ricardo** D. & L. Modena to J. & J. Moore for \$770,000
- 1588 Foothill Road** Buntin Trust to T. & N. Arnold for \$1,338,000
- 4676 Jefferson Court** Shevelson Trust to R. Romero for \$640,000.00
- 7763 Redbud Court M. & D. Woodcheke to X. Huang for \$831,000
- 3446 Smoketree Commons Drive** D. Chan to A. George for \$410,000
- 1334 Stone Canyon Court** Ponderosa Homes to D. & L. Clegg for \$1,548,000
- 3791 Thistle Way** Dotson Trust to C. Norman for \$425,000
- 4175 Torino Court** S. Boyle to R. Meenakshisundaram for \$540,000
- 3569 Valenza Way** J. Pak to Busch Properties for \$1,552,500
- 3761 West Ruby Hill Drive** Langon Builders to N. Sant for \$2,667,500
- 5168 Willowview Court** Waldman Trust to R. & S. Warrick for \$585,000

Dublin

- 3421 Castleton Court** Kurotori Trust to S. Nayabkhal for \$895,000
- 11536 Circle Way** M. & E. Diamond to G. & G. Cruz for \$760,000
- 3678 Finnian Way** H. Lu to D. & K. Patel for \$610,000
- 7903 Firebrand Drive** Gentile Trust to J. Newlove for \$598,000
- 7325 Ione Court** G. & G. Cruz to B. Victoria for \$617,000
- 3322 Monaghan Street** D. & C. Garb to R. & C. Jimenez for \$595,000
- 5721 Old Westbury Way** J. Kaul to R. Kadam for \$725,000
- 4072 Rosehill Place** N. Shah to C. Johnson for \$935,000

Livermore

- 2480 Ancona Circle** R. & C. Malone to D. Perry for \$970,000
- 213 Blackstone Common** G. Sanghera to D. George for \$685,000
- 5672 Bobby Drive** J. & K. Hohl to M. Perry for \$739,000
- 1477 Calle De Las Granvas** Wollesen Trust to M. Blair for \$579,000
- 4949 Capriconus Avenue** J. & S. Manuel to V. Andrade for \$590,000
- 1887 Corte Cava** C. Foley to S. & M. Hashimy for \$589,000
- 5134 Crocus Way** P. Souza to M. Wong for \$505,000
- 4261 Drake Way** Haussmann Trust to S. Rago for \$810,000
- 972 El Caminito** P. Livanos to H. Prado for \$495,000
- 1124 Elm Street** F. & M. Glover to R. Gonzalez for \$440,000
- 547 Geraldine Street** S. & L. Perry to A. & S. Valenton for \$675,000

San Ramon

- 54 Meritage Common #200** M. Portteus to M. & A. Steinhilber for \$478,000
- 560 Murdell Lane** H. Chen to M. & D. Alviljar for \$575,000
- 1001 Murrieta Boulevard #114** D. Childs to A. Wilcox for \$205,000
- 309 North K Street** T. & A. Daugherty to C. Boster for \$685,000
- 1948 Railroad Avenue #102** Signature at Station Square to A. Agosta for \$620,000
- 632 Ruby Road** Johnson Trust to K. Hartman for \$710,000
- 708 Swallow Drive** P. Agard to V. Bhatia for \$660,000
- 3050 Talinga Drive** Cartus Financial to R. Baker for \$1,375,000
- 95 Windward Common** P. Rao to H. Soles for \$475,000

San Ramon

- 8985 Alcosta Boulevard #169** T. Gingrich to S. Broom for \$426,000
- 9085 Alcosta Boulevard #414** E. Zeltser to M. McGaston for \$359,000
- 2178 Arlington Way** Brookfield Saville to J. Leung for \$774,000
- 2735 Ascot Drive** L. & L. Todd to E. & B. Goodson for \$900,000
- 1444 Asterbell Drive** M. & S. Gursell to D. Ahn for \$930,000
- 3296 Barons Lane** Brookfield Emory to C. & V. Fernandez for \$982,000
- 450 Bollinger Canyon Lane #191** Siena Hills Limited to L. Stevenson for \$330,000
- 7043 Briza Loop** H. Kou to R. Knibbs for \$724,000
- 7097 Briza Loop** Buckner Trust to A. Wong for \$723,000
- 6372 Byron Lane** Centex Homes to A. Mastro for \$738,500

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4304 2nd St., Pleasanton

Completely remodeled and upgraded with quality craftsmanship. 3bd/2ba + windowed basement w/private access, perfect for office. Natural stone, hardwoods, stainless, outdoor patio. Must see! Quality! \$1,169,000



4444 First Street, Pleasanton

Historic home for sale! 4bd, 2.5 ba., approx. 1900 sq. ft. vintage home is located in the heart of downtown. Brand new kitchen: quality Kraftmaid cabinets, gas cooktop and stainless steel appliances, granite counters and hardwood flooring. Vintage bath with clawfoot tub and completely updated master bath. All this and more! \$1,274,950



480 Amaral Circle, Pleasanton

Downtown Pleasanton on a giant 15,000 sq. ft. lot! 3 bed, 2ba, approx 1300 sq. ft. Hardwood floors, granite, stainless appliances. New everything. Unlimited possibilities to add a guest house, shop or additional garages. Backs to creek. Awesome property! Must See! \$1,049,000

OFFICE ACTIVITY IN THE PAST 30 DAYS

- 5 Acre westside Pleasanton property with remodeled house. 3466 Foothill Rd. Sold \$1,736,000
- Vintage Hills Remodeled/Expanded 4 bed, 3 bath, 1-story. 1224 Chianti Ct., Sold \$1,033,000
- 12 year old Pleasanton home. 3 bed, 2 bath. Remodeled. 2080 Olivia Ct. Sold \$676,000
- Walk downtown, vintage remodeled home. 3 bed, 1 bath. Detached garage. 380 E. Angela St. \$711,500 Pending



701 South L Street, Livermore

Vintage 1907 downtown home! 10,000 sq. ft. lot, totally restored, granite, hardwoods, mint condition. Motivated seller. Awesome property - Must see! \$829,000

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6304 SINGLETREE WAY, PLEASANTON

Wonderful Val Vista home with rare in-law unit upstairs! The main home is over 1600 sf., & boast 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Wonderful step down family room. The in-law quarters are over 700 sf., with one bedroom, living room, dining area & kitchenette.



2593 GILLIAN CT.

Stunning 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with over \$300,000 in upgrades! Tuscan iron doors, plank floors, granite countertops, Wolf appliances, cherry cabinets & travertine floors. Extensive crown mouldings, soaring ceilings, stunning 1000 bottle wine cellar.



6235 ROSLIN CT., PLEASANTON

Splish splash in your own sparkling pool. This adorable 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has an updated kitchen, and large dining area. Step down family room with cozy fireplace overlooking pool. Wonderful court location and walking distance to parks, schools and shopping.



11469 ROTHSCHOLD DRIVE

Stunning West Dublin location. Located on a court! 4 bedroom, 2 bath with bonus room. Gourmet kitchen with oak cabinets, slab granite countertops. Fabulous views, spacious family room with stone fireplace. Pool and spa.



6503 SINGLETREE WAY

Stunning 4 bedroom, 2 bath with 1800 sq. ft. Beautifully remodeled kitchen with white washed cabinetry, corian countertops and large dining area. Cozy family room overlooking patio, arbor and koi pond. New paint, texture and roof. This home truly shows like a model home.



4020 PAGE COURT, PLEASANTON

Popular Val Vista model located in court. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath & upgrades galore, beautiful kitchen with white cabinetry and custom tile countertops. Step down family room with tile floors. Open living room with hardwood floors. Remodeled bathrooms.

Open Homes this weekend

Call the Ad Services Department at the Weekly
to list your open home – (925) 600-0840
or email: openhomes@PleasantonWeekly.com

San Ramon

4 Bedrooms

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Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel

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California Realtors say state hurt by loan limit ruling

Agency holds to \$417,000 for lowest-interest mortgages

by Jeb Bing

The cost of financing a home could remain prohibitive for many households in California as a result of a federal agency's decision to keep conforming loan limits at \$417,000.

Colleen Badagliacco, president of the California Association of Realtors, said homeowners in the state are being "shortchanged" as a result of the decision to not raise the conforming loan limit by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight. The \$417,000 limit, set in 2006, is the maximum size of a mortgage that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac can buy or guarantee.

"By leaving the conforming loan limit unchanged, home buyers in California are being shortchanged," she said. "The median price of a home in California exceeds the national median by 79 percent, yet California

is not recognized by (Oversight office) as a 'high-cost' state."

"Alaska, Hawaii, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands are recognized by OFHEO as "high-cost areas," she added. "Surely California deserves the same consideration. California has the third highest home price in the nation, compared with Hawaii at seventh, and Alaska, which ranks 39th in terms of median home price."

"California has the second lowest rate of homeownership in the nation, where even the most "affordable" parts of the state have home prices in excess of \$300,000," Badagliacco explained. "Non-conforming or jumbo loans typically carry a higher mortgage interest rate than a conforming loan, increasing the monthly payment and negatively impacting affordability for households in California." ■

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 changing with every move.*

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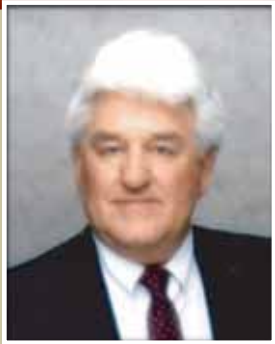


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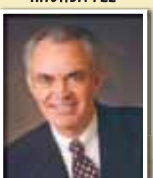
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