

All aboard!

City adds bus service for seniors > **page 5**

Clean sweep

Clutterers find solace in local support group

> **page 18**

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Nonprofits in need

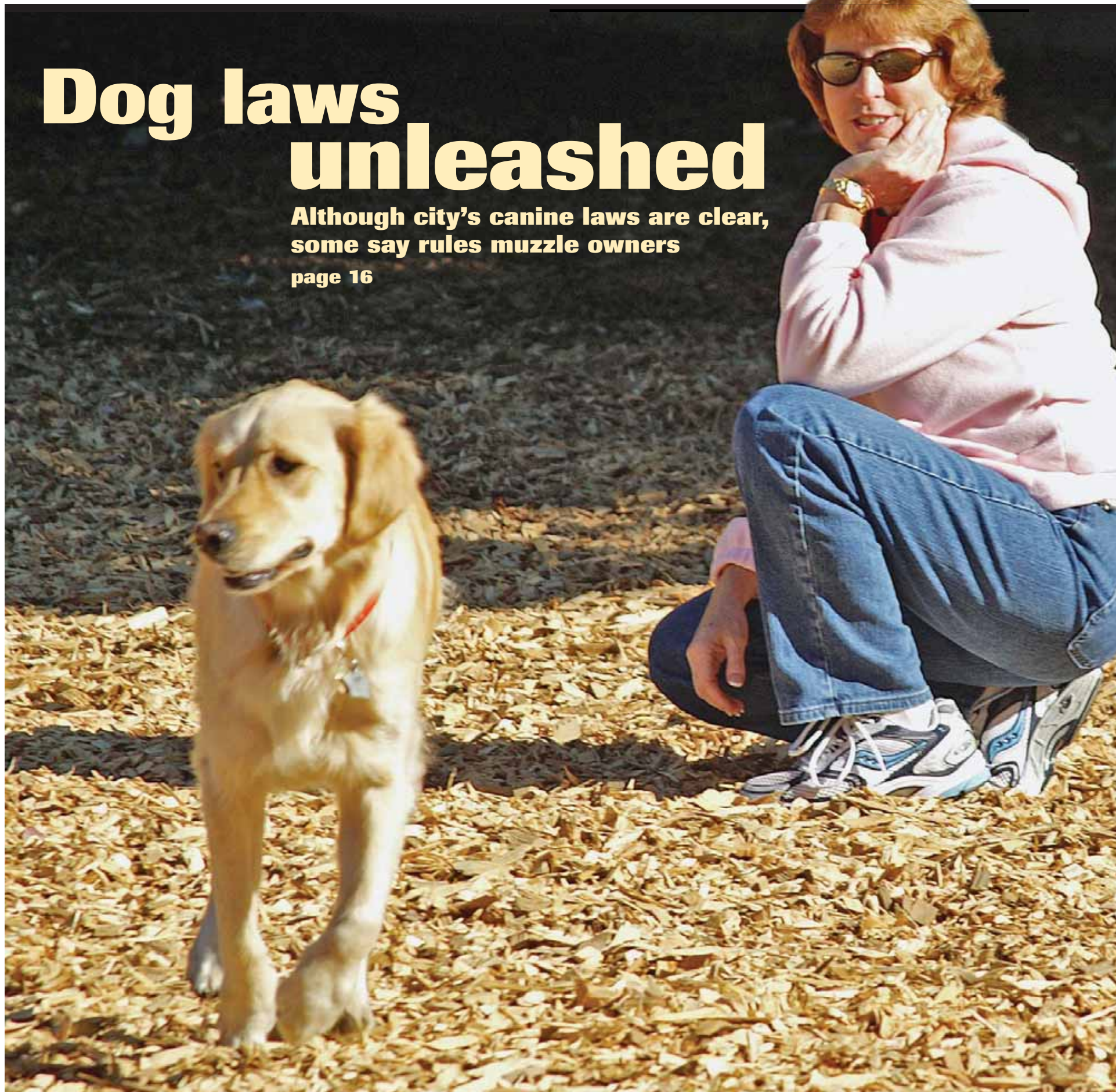
Weekly needs help to meet \$150K Holiday Fund goal

> **page 12**

Dog laws unleashed

Although city's canine laws are clear, some say rules muzzle owners

page 16



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ALL TIRES ON SALE THRU THE END OF JANUARY



Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Baker leaves city in good shape

Pleasanton's Assistant Public Works Director Scott Baker is arguably the best guy around when it comes to earthquake preparedness; high tech street, water line and sewer infrastructure and management; and the emerging era of solar and other alternative energies that are being considered as part of the city's new General Plan update. But now he's gone, retired at the age of 58. So Baker, with his wife of 33 years, Dolores, at his side, said farewell to his 60-person city operations team that he's headed for the last eight years. They'll soon move to Copperopolis where they already own property.

Dolores, who has been with the Santa Clara Valley Water District for the past 12 years and is now its business manager, will take early retirement when their house in the Saddle Creek Country Club area is completed, giving Dolores time to enjoy golf—her passion—every day, and Scott to do more boating and skiing in the winter months. It's what the Bakers and their two children, Aaron and Vanessa, have been doing for years, but commuting to the recreation areas from San Jose, where they all now live.

Baker has a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in public administration from Cal State University Stanislaus. He spent his early career in construction, first as a general contractor and later owning his own roofing business. He then became the building inspector for the city of Modesto, taking a better job in Los Gatos in 1989 as director of parks and public works. Two months later, the Loma Prieta earthquake hit, causing major damage to the city. Gas lines broke; some buildings tilted precariously and even the historic downtown's vintage brick buildings had to be shuttered until inspections and repairs made them safe again.

Deborah McKeehan was city manager of Los Gatos at the time, and Baker followed her to Pleasanton a few years after she took the city manager's job here.

At her urging, he embarked on programs in earthquake preparedness, which continue today, and also brought high tech management systems to Operations Services, which he headed. That department includes 180 miles of streets, several hundred miles of sewer and water pipes and 19 water reservoirs and lift stations. Everyone from the crews that paint the lines on city streets to the mechanics who repair city vehicles reported to Baker. His background in dealing with utility companies after Loma Prieta also made him a natural to be the staff liaison the city's new, but short-lived Energy Committee. It was formed in 2001 after Enron (yes, that Enron) sought a permit for a small "peaker" generating plant at Valley and Stanley Boulevard.

The public was outraged and the Planning Commission turned it down. But officials found that the city had no land use provisions in place to stop another applicant asking for the same—this at a time when emergency state rules were trumping local regulations during a statewide energy crisis. Baker and the energy committee developed a sitting ordinance to solve the problem, and then Baker moved on to help develop guidelines for the city's General Plan that is now being updated with a new focus on energy savings and sustainability. Baker met with other cities, some that had adopted tough, unpopular regulations on energy conservation and others that had retreated. His proposals, considered beneficial in terms of energy savings and costs to consumers in the private and public sectors, will soon be reviewed as the City Council completes its work on a final draft of the General Plan. Baker deserves a round of applause, both for his work in streamlining the city's Operations Service group and his work in developing an energy policy that could make Pleasanton a working municipal model in the promotion of alternative energy resources and environmental safeguards that will benefit all of us. ■

About the Cover

Millie McKnight of Pleasanton enjoys taking her golden retrievers Cooper and Logan to Muirwood Dog Park. The park is one of a few places where dogs can run without being leashed, according to a recently debated city ordinance. Photo by Jay Flachsbarth. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

Q: What is your reaction to the Mitchell Report revealing baseball players who are alleged to have used steroids?

Asked Downtown



Jim Scholhamer
Manager

I think baseball is a business and all businesses should regulate whether their employees use drugs, so I think the same standard should be held to baseball. We teach our children not to do drugs and to play fair. Kids look up to professional athletes and there is no reason why they can't do a better job regulating drugs in sports.

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It's time for baseball to clean up the athletes and make them better role models for youth. Major League Baseball didn't have any rules applying to this; they kind of turned their heads. You can't have no rule and then make one and bust everyone for having used steroids in the past. Whatever happened in the past stays there but we have to move forward in a positive way.



Jason Ziswasser
Consultant



I don't like the fact that we are calling people out without proof. Do I think baseball players use drugs? Absolutely. Do I think there's a problem with it? Absolutely. I don't like the message it sends to youth. The fact of the matter is I don't like naming names without due process. There is privacy issue here. If you are going to throw around names you better be right. It doesn't matter what happened in the past it's about what we do now.

Heather O'Connell
Hairstylist

Baseball is a business; it's entertainment. What people use in their personal life is their business. Steroid use adds to the excitement of the game. They hit more home runs, play harder. It raises the bar. It's not like they are out there promoting steroid use, telling everyone "Hey, use these." It is part of their career choice and it's private.



Petra Atkinson
Office Manager



I am not very concerned with baseball and I don't care if they take steroids. These days, professional athletes have to run faster, break records and compete at a level that no normal human being can do. You have to take something in order to be competitive, so if you want to ruin your body go ahead. People don't really care about the athlete, it's the competition they care about.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Adams home project discussed Wednesday

"Dilbert" cartoonist Scott Adams' proposal for an addition to an existing one-story home on Crellin Road will be heard at the Planning Commission meeting next Wednesday. The plans will be heard in the form of a work session, meaning commissioners will receive a presentation on the project and make comments and suggestions. No action will be taken. The commission meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

City accepting grant applications

Local organizations and nonprofits take notice: the city is now accepting applications for grant funding. Groups that can apply are nonprofit, community-based organizations providing human services, youth programs and services or promoting culture and the arts.

Interested groups can pick up packets at the Department of Parks and Community Services main office, 200 Old Bernal Ave., request packets by mail by calling 931-5346 or download packets on the city Web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. The deadline to apply is March 5. For more information, call Kathleen Yurchak at 931-5346.

Ring in New Year with poetry

Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer is kicking off the New Year with poetry activities for children and adults. Children ages 7 to 11 are welcome to join Meltzer for a haiku workshop at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. An adult poetry writing group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. the first Monday of each month starting next Monday at Towne Center Books. Experience is not required, as Meltzer said the group is for people who are writing poetry, trying to write more poetry and are thinking about writing poetry.

Minimum wage raised

California's lowest-wage workers wages were increased from \$7.50 to \$8 per hour. The state expected 1.5 million Californians would be affected. Art Pulaski, executive secretary-treasurer for the California Labor Federation, said in a statement that while the increase is good, it doesn't reflect the rate of inflation. Therefore, the CLF will advocate an indexed wage and other wage standards in 2008.

City launches new bus service for seniors

Paratransit buses will serve downtown area at half price; help seniors with grocery shopping needs

by Janet Pelletier

Seniors who are itching to go downtown or shop for groceries now have a new way to do so. The city will launch a new pilot service using paratransit buses to transport senior citizens. The service will begin Jan. 14.

Operating throughout downtown, the service will connect senior housing complexes such as Kottinger Place and Ridgeview Commons to Main Street and adjoining areas.

The mini-bus service will be available to anyone who has reg-

istered with Pleasanton Paratransit and will cost half of a typical paratransit ride—\$1.25 for service all day.

The route does not include Stoneridge Shopping Center or Wal-Mart, but does include a stop at First and Neal streets where passengers can transfer onto a Wheels bus. Passengers 65 and older can travel free between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday on Wheels.

"The purpose of the downtown route is to provide seniors with another transportation alternative that does not require an advance

reservation for a spontaneous trip downtown or to the grocery store," said Pam Deaton, supervisor for the Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard. "The reduced price is an additional enhancement for seniors and because a fixed route is more fiscally efficient, we are able to pass that savings onto the rider."

The service will be helpful for all seniors, many of whom don't drive, and particularly for those with minimal mobility. The new route includes seven scheduled runs per day along two routes operating on alternate days. Hours of service

are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Senior housing complexes included on the routes are: Ridgeview Commons, Kottinger Place, Deer Ridge Apartments, Stanley Junction, Gardens at Ironwood, Vineyard and Hacienda Mobile Home Parks and Pleasanton Gardens.

Stops on Route A, which runs Monday and Wednesday, include: the Senior Center, Pleasanton Library, Deer Ridge Apartments, Round Table Pizza, Stanley Junction Apartments, Gardens at Ironwood, Safeway, First and

(continued on page 7)



Emily Atwood

Braving the cold to walk for wellness

Mr. Pedometer, a.k.a. ACCUSPLIT CEO Ron Sutton, handed out pedometers to the dozens of people who attended the inaugural Walk to Wellness last Monday. The cold winter wind didn't keep the crowds from circling the Pleasanton Sports Park and learning about the 10,000 Steps a Day program. To learn more about the program, visit www.walking10000.org.

Fire Marshal Eric Carlson retires

Gave 26 years of service, looks forward to time with family

Eric Carlson attended his last "roll call" with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Dec. 14. The fire marshal is retiring after 26 years of service.

Uniformed LFPD employees lined up to salute Carlson as he officially entered into retirement.

After joining the Livermore Fire Department in 1981, he enacted a fire sprinkler system ordinance that included all new residen-

tial construction—making Livermore the third in the state. He also facilitated the process for both cities to become certified for hazardous material regulation, managed the



Eric Carlson

Fire Prevention

Bureau through the consolidation of both city's departments in 1996 and participated in the development of the Alameda County Fire Investigation team, which provides fire investigation expertise to cities in the county.

Scott Dever is acting as fire marshal until a replacement is found.

Carlson is said to spend his retirement time traveling, fishing and spending time with his family.

—Emily Atwood

Hacienda celebrates 25 years

Party draws hundreds to CarrAmerica center

by Jeb Bing

Hacienda Business Park celebrated its 25th anniversary recently with a special event at the CarrAmerica Corporate Center that attracted hundreds of well-wishers and long-time supporters.

The Pleasanton City Council also marked the anniversary, giving a plaque to James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Owners Association, that cited the benefits and international business notoriety that the business park has brought to city.

Hacienda opened 25 years ago as one of the largest business parks west of the Mississippi. Developed by Joe Callahan and, later, his partners, Patrick O'Brien and Mark Sweeney, Hacienda was approved for an 876-acre site at the northern edge of Pleasanton. As co-developer, the Prudential Realty Group, part of the Prudential Insurance Company of America, brought the power and expertise of the number one owner/developer of commercial real estate in the nation at that time. The firm also owned other high-profile projects in the Bay Area, such as Embarcadero Center, San Francisco Hilton and Towers, Park Hyatt, and Pacific Telesis Center that included Crocker Galleria and Telesis Tower.

In a report in the Hacienda Network newsletter, Barbara Lewis wrote that Joe Callahan had been a client of Pat O'Brien, a CPA in San Jose in the early 1970s when Callahan was with Coldwell

(continued on page 8)

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Water agency gains
'climate action
leader' status

Zone 7 working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, exploring alternative energy

Zone 7 Water Agency, which supplies 80 percent of drinking water to city residents, has been recognized as a "climate action leader" for its efforts to diminish releasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The honor was given by the California Climate Action Registry, a nonprofit public-private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas registry to protect, encourage and promote early actions to reduce greenhouse waste.

The registry certified Zone 7's greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2006. The report is available at www.climateregistry.org.

The water agency has also begun exploring alternative, renewable sources of energy to help address the amount of carbon emissions that result from conventional electrical power used at its water treatment plants and in groundwater pumping, according to Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig.

"We are conscious of the issue

of global climate change and, as staff, aim to make significant strides in identifying energy improvements that can be made both operationally and from a construction standpoint," Duerig said.

Beginning in 2012, the state will require mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for "significant" sources and sets goals to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

Zone 7 doesn't expect to be required to report due to its relatively small size, but the agency does want to do its part to address climate change and has begun that effort by becoming a member of the Climate Action Registry.

The agency, which purchases most of its supplies from the State Water Project, is also supporting state investments in measures to stabilize future energy costs associated with State Water operations and in long-term energy sources that contribute less to global warming.

—Janet Pelletier

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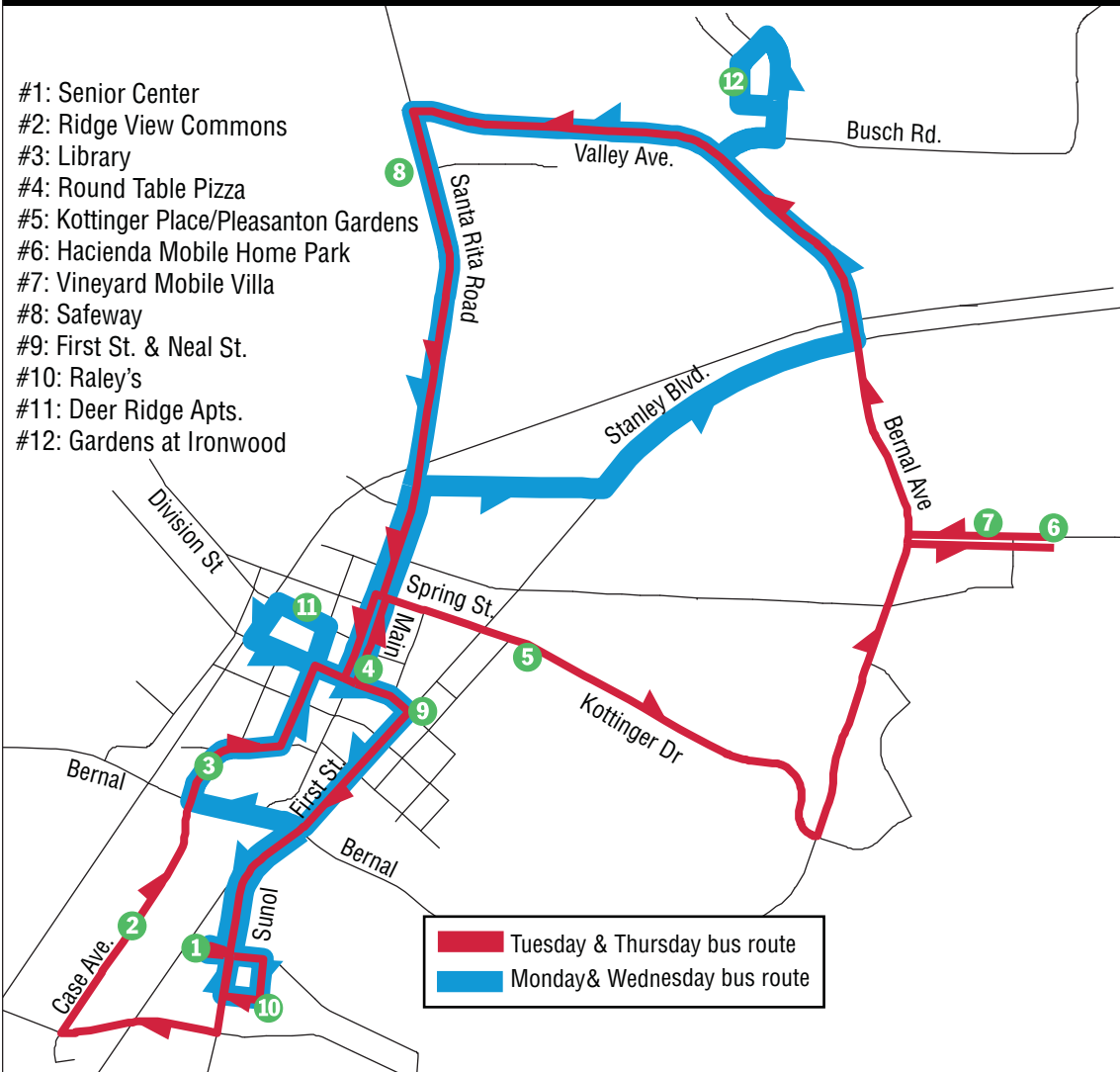
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City bus route and schedule

- #1: Senior Center
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- #3: Library
- #4: Round Table Pizza
- #5: Kottinger Place/Pleasanton Gardens
- #6: Hacienda Mobile Home Park
- #7: Vineyard Mobile Villa
- #8: Safeway
- #9: First St. & Neal St.
- #10: Raley's
- #11: Deer Ridge Apts.
- #12: Gardens at Ironwood



Bus service

(continued from page 5)

Neal streets and Raley's. Stops on Route B, which runs Tuesday

and Thursday, include: the Senior Center, Pleasanton Library, Deer Ridge Apartments, Round Table Pizza, Kottinger Place/Pleasanton Gardens, Vineyard Mobile Villa, Safeway, First and Neal streets

and Raley's.

For more information about the service, call the Pleasanton Paratransit Service Office at 931-5376. ■

Torrico honors downtown businesswoman as 'local hero'

Leslie Braga praised for community service, involvement

State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico (D-20th) has honored local businesswoman Leslie Braga "for her tremendous contributions" to the community.

Braga owns and operates Leslie Marie Body & Skin Care on the second floor of 289 Division St.

Braga was one of seven individuals honored as "local heroes" in the 20th State Assembly District, and the only one from Pleasanton.

"At a time when much apathy exists around us, we take a night to

honor these ordinary people who do extraordinary things," Torrico told 500 constituents at his second annual "State of the 20th Assembly District" address at the Newark Hilton Hotel.

Braga has been active in the Pleasanton Downtown Association and working with other merchants to improve downtown business and pedestrian traffic.

She has been doing massages for the last 18 years including the last nine years in Pleasanton. A day

spa, the business features facials, body treatments, waxing and nails.

"A lot of places use a lot of equipment for the services they offer," Braga said. "My goal here is to be really hands on and treat each person individually, not by machine."

Braga has five employees and also has a retail store where customers can purchase facial and body cleansing supplies.

—Jeb Bing

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Hacienda

(continued from page 5)

Banker. In 1983, O'Brien became a partner in the project. The next year, Mark Sweeney, who also had been with Coldwell Banker, joined the two in their effort to create a major business center in the Tri-Valley region. Originally, the property had been zoned for heavy industry, but Joe Callahan had another idea, a mixed-use office development that would house high-technology companies and support businesses.

In her article, Lewis pointed out that although development of the I-580/I-680 region was inevitable, not all Pleasanton residents saw it that way. On April 10, 1985, the Hacienda project went to a vote by the citizens.

"The night before the referendum election, the project hung in the balance," she quoted Mark Sweeney as saying. "A severe rainstorm threatened to keep voters away," Sweeney added. "We thought that the older residents of Pleasanton, if they came out, would vote in favor of the project because they would understand what benefits Hacienda would provide to the community with the tax base it would bring."

That the myriad public improvements made by the project and the commitment that Hacienda would maintain its own infrastructure (a commitment valued today at more than \$1 million annually) in perpetuity made the project palatable to budget-conscious citizens. The rain stopped. Voters came out in record numbers and the partners were proven correct. The project passed by just less than a two-



The Hacienda Business Park, one of the largest west of the Mississippi, opened 25 years ago to much fanfare. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman gives James Paxson of Hacienda a proclamation from the city.

thirds majority.

"There were fun and exciting times mixed with the very difficult issues," O'Brien told Lewis. "I have fond memories of the community parties and fundraisers we hosted in some of the buildings like the Saratoga Center and

the Willow Center that were just shells at the time. They were grand affairs with guests in their finest attire arriving at unlandscaped, vacant buildings. It was the beginning of the spirit of cooperation between Hacienda and community groups that still exists today." ■

Truck kills Pleasanton pedestrian

Second jaywalking fatality on Dublin Boulevard in two months

by Emily Atwood

A Pleasanton resident was killed around 6:30 p.m. Monday when she was crossing Dublin Boulevard east of Regional Street in Dublin.

Lt. Glenn Moon of Dublin Police Services identified her as Harve Sroy, who lived on Muirwood Drive.

He said she appeared to have taken

the bus from her home to Dublin. There instead of entering a crosswalk, Moon said she allegedly jaywalked. She made it to the median, but was struck by an Isuzu truck driven by a Hayward man.

Sroy was transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley where she was pronounced dead.

Moon said the driver was cooperative with police and won't be charged. Witnesses reported seeing the man swerve in an attempt to avoid the woman.

While typically not viewed as dangerous to pedestrians, Moon said it is the second jaywalking fatality on Dublin Boulevard in two months. ■

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Opinion

Editorial

Absentee ballots speed up campaigns

With the Iowa caucuses now behind us, Californians have an opportunity to look at the campaigns and results of the Democratic and Republican Party candidates in this early and always confusing Hawkeye State contest. That's important because California's Presidential Primary is now just 32 days away. With the candidates facing three major primaries before then—New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida—and then other equally significant primaries on the same day as ours, including New York and Illinois, candidates will have little time for campaigning personally here as we watched them solicit votes in Iowa. That will make media and Internet coverage more influential in the California primary races.

Then, too, time's especially short for those who vote absentee. The Alameda County Registrar will begin sending absentee ballots to registered voters on Monday, including the 36,721 registered in Pleasanton as of last February. A California Field Poll shows that nearly half—or 47 percent—of the state's voters cast absentee ballots in the last General Election, a figure that's expected to top the 50 percent mark in most, if not all, of the three upcoming elections this year: the Presidential Primary on Feb. 5, the state primary on June 3 and the General Election Nov. 4. For candidates who've yet to campaign here, a majority of voters may have cast their primary ballots before any of the front-runners arrive.

Besides the presidential primary candidates, the Feb. 5 ballot also calls for votes on three propositions which call for state constitutional amendments and have received scant attention. These are Prop. 91, a Transportation Funds Initiative, Prop. 92, Community College Funding, Governance and Fees and Prop. 93, changing the term limits legislation for state legislators.

Prop. 91 shouldn't even be on the ballot. Its proponents, Mark Watts of Transportation California and Jim Earp of the California Alliance for Jobs, are even urging a "no" vote. Two years ago, their coalition qualified this measure for the ballot as a means of stopping the governor and state legislature from taking the state sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel (6.25 percent), which is supposed to be used on transportation projects, and using these funds for non-transportation purposes, as had been done. However, as this initiative was being qualified, Gov. Schwarzenegger and a bipartisan group of legislators put a different constitutional measure on the November 2006 ballot that also accomplished what Prop. 91 was supposed to do. That measure, Proposition 1A, was approved by an overwhelming 77 percent of California voters in November 2006, making Prop. 91 no longer needed.

Next week: Our analysis of Propositions 92 and 93.

Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.PleasantonWeekly.com.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PUD 81 28 05M, City of Pleasanton**

Application for a major modification to an existing PUD development plan to consider whether an existing six foot tall masonry wall along a portion of the westerly property line between Pleasanton Station and Hap's Restaurant should be retained or removed. The property is located at 30 W. Neal Street.

- **PDR 602, Michael O'Callaghan**

Application for a modification to a previously approved design review application for a two story commercial building with an attached apartment unit at 725 Main Street to reconsider Condition No. 15.c. regarding the installation of pavers in front of the building and Condition No. 72 regarding the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system for the building.

- **PDR-623, Scott Adams**

Work session to review and receive comments on an application for design review approval to replace an existing one-story single family home with a two story tall single family home including 8,325 square feet of building floor area, 2,215 square feet of attached garage area, and an attached 8,476 square foot two story tall indoor tennis court located at 2751 Crellin Road.

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, January 7, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Library Commission

Thursday, January 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Human Services, Special Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Avenue

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Notice of Pleasanton City

Grant Application Availability

Nonprofit, community-based organizations providing human services, youth programs and services, or promoting culture/arts.

Civic Arts, Human Services and Youth Commissions

Welcome Applications

Application Packets will be available to the public

Beginning December 5, 2007.

- Pick-up packets -
Department of Parks and Community Services Main Office
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton
- Request packets to be mailed by calling (925) 931-5346
- Packets available through the City website: www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us

Application Deadline Wednesday, March 5, 2008

- Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.
- No postmarks/Fax/emails.

If you have any questions regarding the City Grant process, please contact Kathleen Yurchak, Community Services Manager at (925) 931-5346

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Burglars hit up grocery stores on Christmas

On Christmas Day, when a number of grocery stores across the Bay Area were closed in observance of the holiday, some thieves took advantage by breaking in and looting. One such store was the Lucky supermarket on West Las Positas Road.

Burglars are believed to have entered the store sometime before 8 p.m. Dec. 25, according to

police.

The break-in was discovered after an employee mistakenly showed up for work and noticed that the front entrance was wide open, police said.

Other burglaries occurred in Pinole, with the first occurring on Christmas Eve, Vallejo, San Leandro, Martinez and Hayward. The last reported break-in occurred at the Lucky store in San Ramon.

Police believe the crimes are all related.

Police Report

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

Dec. 23

- Vehicle break-in:
-12:02 p.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive

Dec. 24

- Theft:
-10:34 a.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft auto
- Burglary:
-10:56 a.m. in the 5300 block of Sonoma Drive
- Alcohol and drug violations:
-1:11 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; DUI
- Other:
-10:38 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Dec. 25

- Burglary:
-8:19 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Drug and alcohol violations:
-1:39 a.m. in the 5200 block of

Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession

- 1:50 a.m. at the intersection of Greenwood Road and Shearwater Road; marijuana possession
- 1:50 a.m. at the intersection of Greenwood Road and Shearwater Road; minor transporting alcohol
- 11:19 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Dec. 26

- Theft:
-10:29 a.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 4:03 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street
- 6:53 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
-7:44 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; worth more than \$400
- 4:35 p.m. in the 300 block of Ray Street; worth more than \$400
- Alcohol and drug violations:
-5:31 p.m. at the intersection of

Franklin and Johnson Drives; DUI

- 5:31 p.m. at the intersection of Franklin and Johnson Drives; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 7:49 p.m. at the intersection of Rose and Peters Avenues; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 5:52 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 10:33 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road; selling a controlled substance
- 10:33 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road; DUI
- Mental health danger
-6:32 p.m. in the 4600 block of Augustine Street
- Other
-12:53 p.m. in the 4800 block of Fair Street; prank calls

Dec. 27

- Drug and alcohol violations:
-1:47 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

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Transitions

Obituaries

Robert Armknecht

Robert "Bob" Armknecht died Dec. 19 at the age of 70.

Mr. Armknecht was born April 4, 1937 in San Francisco. He grew up in San Lorenzo and made his home in Pleasanton for the past 34 years.

Mr. Armknecht was the managing partner of Pleasanton Plastics for more than 30 years and was still working in sales and consulting for countertop manufacturers. A mentor to many, he was very well respected in his industry and he will be missed by many friends and colleagues.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Janette; and brother, Steven and family. He was preceded in death by his children David and Jodi.

A memorial gathering will be held at 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Contributions may be made to Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc., 2672 Bayshore Pkwy., Ste. 520, Mountain View, CA 94043-1012.

Ann Macedo

Ann Macedo died Dec. 11 in Pleasanton at the age of 87.

Mrs. Macedo was born in Maui,

Hawaii Feb. 2, 1920. She was a 38-year resident of Pleasanton.

Her favorite hobby was shopping. She is survived by her sister, Irene Carasco of San Leandro; brother-in-law, Anthony Carasco; sister-in-law, Margie Fernandes of San Lorenzo; many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Alvin Macedo and her son, Brian Macedo.

A mass was held Dec. 17 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton. Burial followed at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Ann Marie Riebli

Ann Marie Riebli died Dec. 12 in Manteca at the age of 91.

Mrs. Riebli was born Feb. 19, 1916 in Switzerland. She was married to Joseph Riebli, who preceded her in death in 1958.

Mrs. Riebli was a school bus driver for about 25 years in Pleasanton and was a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Ann Marie (Charlie) Bagnasco of Manteca; daughter, Frances Way of Livermore; son, Albert (Jana) Riebli

of Livermore; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; siblings, Marcus Reichmuth of Walnut Creek and Hedy Burgi of Modesto.

She was preceded in death by her son, Joseph A. Riebli; two brothers and two sisters.

A mass was held Dec. 18 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Burial followed at St. Augustine's Cemetery in Pleasanton.

Kenneth E. Sill

Kenneth E. Sill died Dec. 10 at the age of 89.

He was born in Illinois, came to California in 1941 and was a resident of Castro Valley for 46 years.

Mr. Sill served as a member of the United States Merchant Marine during World War II and was a contractor for many years in the Bay Area. He spent his retirement years enjoying his family and particularly his grandchildren. He also devoted a great deal of time to his favorite hobby of carpentry.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Vena; his children, Dennis (Sharon) Sill of Napa, Linda (Philip) Scherer of Pleasanton; grandchildren, Stephen, Kevin,

Allison and Brian Scherer; and many nieces and nephews.

No services are planned at this time, but donations in his memory may be made to a favorite charity.

William "Bud" C. Lunde

William "Bud" C. Lunde died Dec. 20 at the age of 70.

Mr. Lunde was born June 17, 1937 in Cooperstown, N.D. He lived in Pleasanton for the past 38 years.

Mr. Lunde graduated from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served in the U.S. Army and was a retired airline pilot for United Airlines. He was a member of RUPA (Retired United Pilots' Association).

His hobbies included boating, camping and being with family.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Louise Lunde; son, Scott Lunde; stepsons, Greg, James and Mark Hudson; daughter, Suzanne Hole; sister, June Trimble; and grandchildren, Joshua, Jacob, Eric, Travis and Trent.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clarence and Irma Lunde

and his first wife, Diane.

A memorial service was held Dec. 28.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, Hope Hospice or a charity of choosing.

Nettie Vestina Cavagnolo

Nettie Cavagnolo died Dec. 16 at the age of 91.

Mrs. Cavagnolo was born Nov. 28, 1916 and was a native of Liberal, Mo. She made her home in Pleasanton for the past 47 years.

She was a dedicated accountant for 20 years.

She is survived by her loving family: beloved husband of 46 years, Henry; children, Robert Cavagnolo, and Lynne Lauritson; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sons, Ernest Mendicki, and Richard Cavagnolo.



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The Choir of The Tri-Valley Presbyterian Church	50
The HomeWorks Group	**
Walt Lupeika CPA	100

The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



For 30 years, Tri-Valley Haven has assisted abused women and their children in finding temporary shelter while they get back on their feet.

A place to turn to

Tri-Valley Haven, a shelter for the abused, offers counseling, food, housing, crisis hotline

by Janet Pelletier

It's not easy to leave an abusive relationship—especially if it involves children. But the women who have found the courage to do so often turn to a place such as Tri-Valley Haven.

The women's shelter opened in 1977 and continues to provide a high level of service for those in need. That's why the Pleasanton Weekly continues to include Tri-Valley Haven in its annual Holiday Fund as a beneficiary.

The shelter is not only a place for mothers and their children to sleep, but also offers counseling for survivors of sexual assault, molestation and domestic abuse. A 24-hour crisis hotline for victims of domestic violence and the region's only rape crisis center are also offered. Housing assistance and long-term support services are available through a case manager as well as CalWORKS assistance with job searching and legal assistance with restraining orders.

In 2002, Tri-Valley Haven opened Sojourner House in Livermore, the only homeless shelter around that offers a temporary home for two-parent families, single fathers with children or families with teenage boys.

The nonprofit also serves thousands of people meals with its Food Pantry distribution program.

Money raised from the Holiday Fund will help pay for such things as housing clients, electricity and phone bills, food and other operating costs. Vicki Thompson, associate director for Tri-Valley Haven, estimates that \$5,000 is the cost of one full day of operation for all of Tri-Valley Haven's programs.

Thompson said while many might mistakenly think Tri-Valley residents are well-to-do, that's not the case. Food Pantry distribution has increased in the past couple of years and she estimates that Tri-Valley Haven serves 3,000 people per month. ■

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the fifth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.



How to Give

Your gift helps seniors, children and others in need

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 total will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation to the eight agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

This year, due to the tremendous need of all nonprofits, donations will be shared equally among the eight recipient agencies.

For more information call us at 600-0840 or e-mail editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

- **Axis Community Health:** Provides medical, mental health, addiction counseling and health education services to more than 20,000 patients and clients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. An estimated 70 percent have no medical insurance or are underinsured, including some that have recently lost their jobs and health benefits. Call 201-6017 or visit www.axishealth.org.
- **Emergency Room Expansion at ValleyCare Medical Center:** ValleyCare, a nonprofit health system, needs funds to expand its emergency room, built in 1991 to accommodate 13,000 patients a year and now handles more than 26,000. It will cost \$6.7 million to replace the facility and upgrade equipment, and the Holiday Fund will help get that started. For more information, contact Ken Mercer at 373-4566.
- **Hope Hospice:** Hospice care is unique because it works to not only meet the needs of those at the end of life but also supports the emotional and spiritual needs of the family as well. Hope Hospice care is provided regardless of the ability to pay and relies on contributions such as those raised by the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Visit www.hopehospice.com.
- **Open Heart Kitchen:** As the only nonprofit free soup kitchen in the Tri-Valley area, this service provides nutritious meals for low-income people in the Pleasanton-Livermore area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. Visit www.openheartkitchen.org or call 580-1616.
- **Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation:** The PPIE is a community-based organization whose mission is to enhance learning experiences for Pleasanton students through a partnership of business, education and the community. Its foundation offers education grants which will now benefit by Holiday Fund contributions. For information, call Debi Covello at 846-5620.
- **Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley:** This independent, nonprofit organization offers a variety of services at no cost to seniors or to their families. Programs include health maintenance, nutrition, fitness, disease prevention, partners-in-safety, in-home counseling, friendly visiting programs and nurses on staff who regularly visit clients. Call 931-5379.
- **Tri-Valley Haven:** Runs a domestic violence shelter as well as a homeless shelter for families and a rape crisis center. Its mission is to aid those who have experienced abuse and offers counseling, a legal clinic and other practical advice. Call 449-5845; 24-hour hotline: 800-884-8119 or visit www.trivalleyhaven.org.
- **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group is all volunteers, with the mission to educate on responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center on Nevada Street in Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its Web site: www.tvcfund.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2007, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

Bridges

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Neil Marquis offers exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees. Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and

patio service. Visit us at www.pleasantonhotel.com for menus and private party and catering details.

Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and

Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and specials.

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu

includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit www.staceysatwaterford.com.

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade

soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

831-4888. Offering affordable and elegant catering, Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate provides quality food and generous portions at a fair price. Services include: decorated buffets with hors d'oeuvres and carving stations; sit down meal service; strictly hors d'oeuvres, both buffet and server passed; and a variety of beverage packages with no corkage fees. Visit www.ppcastbay.com.

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.panda-pleasanton.com.

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

6512 Regional St, Dublin, 828-9111. Since 1978 Willow Tree has offered

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Dining Out

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Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kabobs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Greek

Simply Greek

4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit www.simply-greek.com

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials—including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal—served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, classically "Italian" restaurant. Watch cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-Valley pizza Mecca. It's perfect for romantic couples and the entire family. Authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini, Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

La Vite Ristorante

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday

and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

Japanese

Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! We have a daily fresh fish delivery, teriyaki and tempura. We are open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 4:30-9:30, Saturday until 10 p.m. Party platters are available. Visit our Web site: www.umesushi.com.

Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

625 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-1224. Come downtown for fine dining and casual lunches in our outdoor patio. Our menu includes a variety of selections from classic tortilla soup and mole poblano to grilled salmon (a house specialty) and filet mignon with a spicy Chipotle Chile sauce. We also specialize in premium "sipping" tequilas and carry over 200 different varieties. Visit www.blueagaveclub.com.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

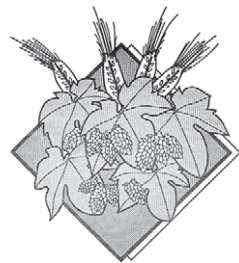
288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Steakhouse

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2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 838-5678. Relax in our

luxurious imountain lodge with a quintessential martini. Experience the aroma and flavors of our wood-fired grill. Enjoy a savory steak, traditional prime rib, smoked ribs, fresh seafood, and a variety of signature dishes. Fabulous wine list and two private banquet rooms. Visit www.bighorngrill.com.



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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

ZERO INTEREST?

It should be obvious that few people are excited about lending us money and receiving no interest on the loan. Parents may do this, or friends, but money almost always costs money.

So—what happens when a retailer or other lender offers a certain amount of money for a certain period of time at no interest? What we have here is a glaring need to read the fine print! You may even find a homeseller who advertises that he or she will carry a certain amount of the purchase price of a home for, say, six months without charging you any interest.

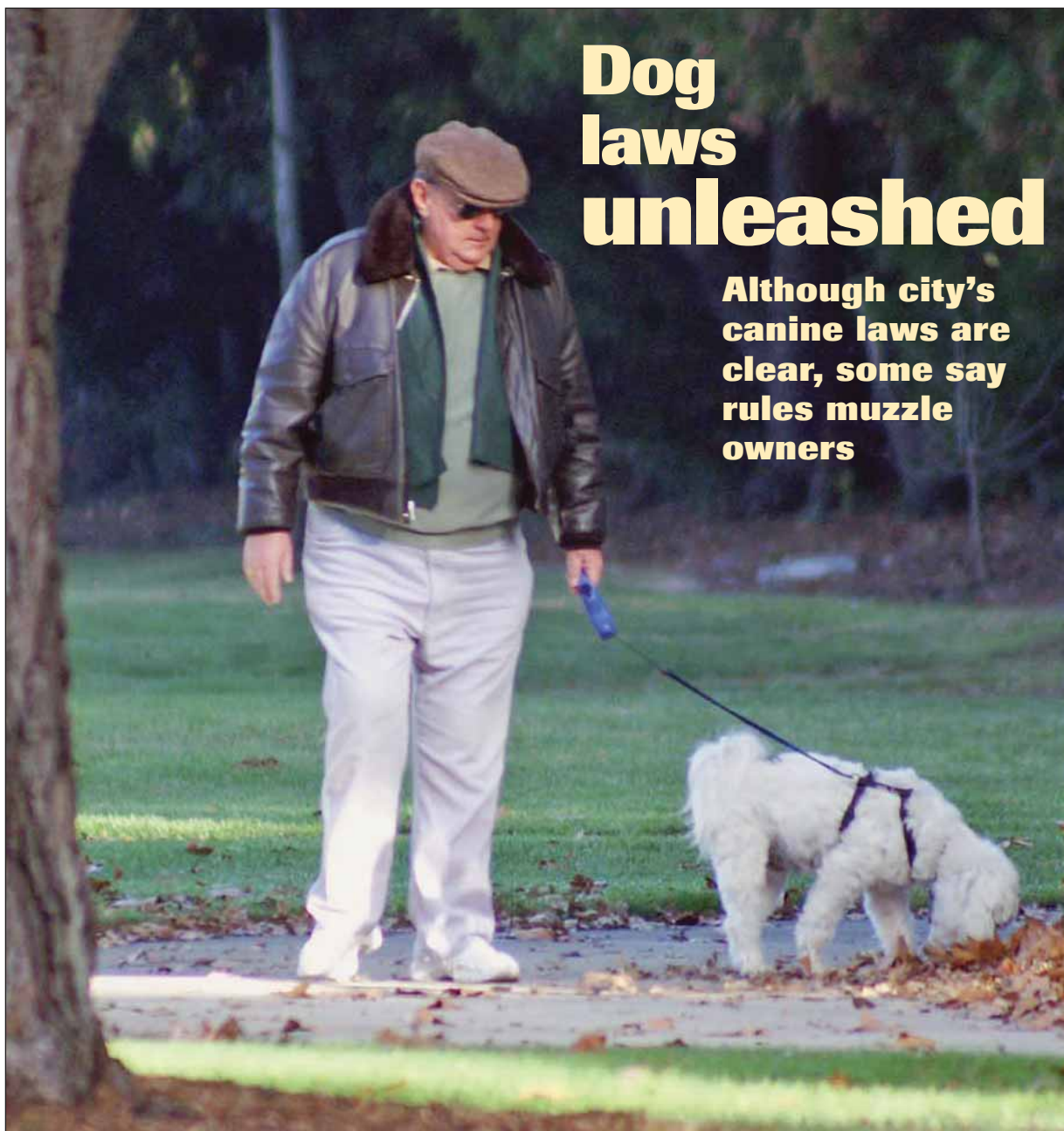
What problem could arise? Whether it's a private individual or department store, the offer of money at no interest obviously means they want to make the purchase of what they're selling all the more enticing. It's a bit like the TV ad that promises special bonuses if we act immediately and call their eagerly-waiting telephone operators to place our orders.

Here's the fine-print question: What happens if we don't get the full payment to them precisely on time at the end of the introductory period? The answer, all too often, is that all of the interest that was going to be "free" suddenly comes due. Read the loan documents—always—and get the help of trusted real estate and mortgage advisors. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Dog laws unleashed

Although city's canine laws are clear, some say rules muzzle owners



Jay Flachsbart

Whether it's jogging through a park or walking through a neighborhood, dogs must be leashed, according to the city's longstanding ordinance, which was recently debated.

by Elizabeth Campos Rajs

While the subject of Pleasanton's dog leash law can inspire debate among local residents—dog owners or not—the ordinance is actually pretty clear.

All dogs—from the smallest Chihuahua to the tallest Great Dane, from the cutest ball of fluff to the scruffiest mutt—are required to be on a leash when they are on public property in Pleasanton. The only exceptions to the rule are the dog park inside Muirwood Park and the trails in Augustin Bernal, Pleasanton Ridge and Shadow Cliffs parks.

That's the law and it's that simple, said Animal Services Officer Roy Ficken.

"Once your dog hits the sidewalk in front of your house, it needs to be on a leash," said Ficken, who added that he's unaware of a city in California that doesn't have a similar leash law. "The concept of a leash law is to make sure everyone is safe. I can't tell you how many times over the years I've picked up injured animals that were off leash and ran into the street."

"We've had problems in the parks with loose dogs going after other dogs. The concept of the ordinance is very simple and logical," he added.

Pleasanton's leash law, which was enacted in 1989, states:

"No owner or keeper of a dog shall allow or permit the dog to be or run at large in or upon any public place or premises, or in or upon any private place or premises other than those of the owner or keeper except with the consent of the person in charge of the private place or premises, unless such dog is securely restrained by a substantial leash not to exceed six feet in length and is in the charge and control of a person competent to keep such dog under effective charge and control."

First time offenders can receive a verbal warning from

a police officer or Animal Services officer, be issued a courtesy citation warning them of the violation or be given a citation, according to the city's Web site.

Citations carry a \$100 fine for the first offense, \$200 for a second, \$500 for a third offense and \$750 for fourth and subsequent offenses.

Last year, the Pleasanton Police Department issued 268 citations to dog owners for everything from courtesy warnings to vicious dog citations.

Ficken, who patrols the city with his police dog, Gandalf II, said he tries to educate dog owners about the city's ordinance.

"In my 35 years of doing this, it's never the dogs that are the problem and always the humans. People use poor judgment," Ficken said.

The city employs two full-time Animal Services officers and both are responsible for enforcing the city's animal laws, including dog licensing, leash law and "pooper scooper" laws, among other duties. Many of the city's parks, however, are difficult to see from the street, Ficken acknowledged.

"The key for Animal Services is we don't want to be neo-Nazis about this; we want people to learn. That's why we give courtesy citations," Ficken said. "You will even see professional canines on a leash, unless they are working."

Despite the simplicity of the law, it's a subject that can stir up a debate, as evidenced in two separate online forums on the Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square. In one, more than 60 people dialoged about the need for a leash law. While some of the commenters defended their practice of allowing their dogs to go unleashed in parks, others had plenty to say about the merit of the law.

One anonymous poster wrote: "I have been with my kids in park/playgrounds in Pleasanton when an unleashed dog has run up to them."

"They're little kids, and they don't know your dog,

and whether it is friendly or not," wrote one. "I wish people would keep their dogs on leashes. People are supposed to do in our parks. People are supposed to be sorry! He's friendly! But it's too late. I've given my kid a heart attack when we were at the park. 'Sorry' doesn't help. You have to have your dog on a leash."

One resident who defended his dog run in the park off leash was a German Shepherd. "I have an American Brittany hunting dog. He's friendly and responds to a whistle. I have seen him and this dog to obey. I realize all of the reasons, however, I often let my dog run in the middle of a park together and a leash does not do it. I am not mad at his behavior. I know it is deemed wrong."

"I guess the only thing that bugs me is that we have become so uptight that we don't allow any type of dog being off leash," he wrote.

In response, another anonymous poster wrote: "I have one question for you...would you give me a chance of having your dog attack a child? I feel all dogs should be on leashes?"

There are a couple of places in Pleasanton where dogs are permitted off leash. One is the end of Muirwood Park. Inside the gates, dogs are off leash, but owners are expected to maintain control of their dogs, if necessary.

People who use that park rave about it. "I live up the street and walk over to the park. It's in (my dog's) contract," joked Jack Jacobson, a dog park regular who visits with his dog, Maedchen.

Jim Sievers is also a regular at the park. "It's one of the few places I can go with my dog," he said. "Although, I do wish they would have a leash law."



Jay Flachsbart



Jay Flachsbart

Animal Services Officer Roy Ficken, along with Gandalf II, patrol the city ensuring the safety of animals and humans.



Jay Flachsbart

ed on the Pleasanton Weekly's online TownSquare forum.

the poster continued. gs on leashes as they ple usually say, 'I'm late, you've already e were supposed to be n't make up for it; put

s practice of letting explained: "I own an ears an orange collar pent \$3,000 teaching laws are in place for y dog off leash when ther. He needs to run making excuses for my "

e is that in Pleasanton, can get shook up over continued.

poster wrote, "I just u really want to take a ild because you don't

pleasanton where dogs closed dog park with- dogs are permitted off ntain voice command

ut the facility. here two times a day. k Smith, a Muirwood Tibetan terrier, Kybu. ne dog park with his let her off leash," he ould put in an agility

course. She likes to jump, do a catwalk and weave poles." Pat Wood is part of the 9 a.m. group that visits daily. She's been bringing her dogs to the dog park since it opened.

"We love it. In our group, we know all the dogs so we don't have to worry about fights," said Wood, who was accompanied by her Australian Shepherd-Lab mix, Kayla.

In the Augustin Bernal Park, dogs are permitted off leash on the trails. Owners are expected to maintain voice command of their dogs and to restrain them if requested by another trail user, Ficken said.

At Shadow Cliffs and Pleasanton Ridge—two parks that are overseen by the East Bay Regional Parks District—dogs must be on leashes in the parking lots and staging areas, but are permitted off leash on the trails, said EBRPD spokeswoman Shelly Lewis.

"We ask people to have voice command of their dogs and to carry a leash six feet or less," Lewis said.

Calls about dogs rank among the top three complaints the park district receives, Lewis said. (The largest number of complaints is about bicyclists.)

"People who are hiking and using the park have a right to ask people to put dogs on a leash. We want people to be comfortable in our parks," Lewis said. "Dog owners need to know that not everyone is comfortable with dogs. It's not enough to call out that your dog is friendly if someone asks you to put it on a leash."

At Shadow Cliffs, dogs are not permitted in the lake or in the recreational area, but may go off leash in the arroyo area and on the trails, she said.

Anyone who encounters an aggressive dog (or dog owner), particularly if it's a recurring offender, should call the park district's police department at 510-881-1833.

"If we don't know about it, we can't do anything about it," Lewis said. ■

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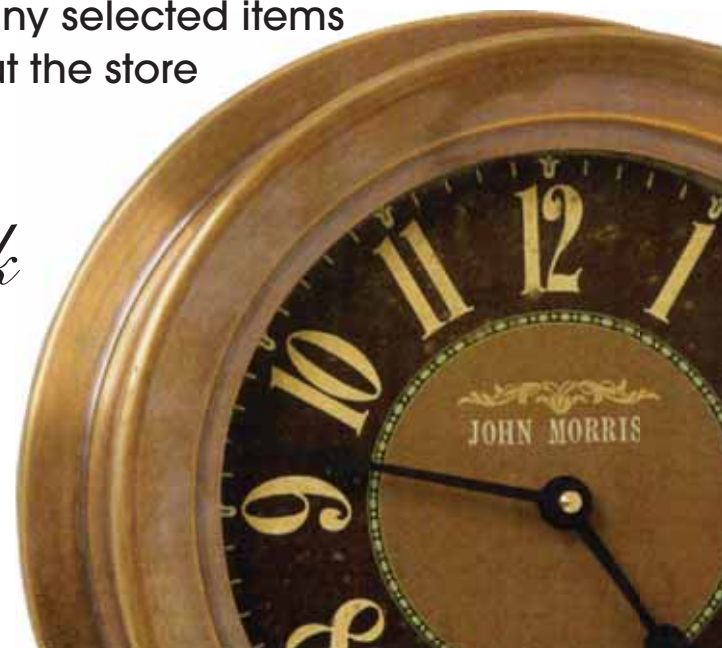
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Living



Removing the clutter

ClutterLess self-help group focuses on the psychological reason behind the mess

by Emily Atwood

A neglected pile of mail may seem harmless, but to the many who suffer from chronic clutter, the growing stacks of paper and stuff can turn a home into a personal prison brooding with shame.

Each January brings motivation to many seeking positive changes to their life. Of the many local support groups, one is ready to help clutterers break free.

Mike Nelson founded ClutterLess (CL) Recovery Groups Inc. on the belief that clutter is often a psychological problem. He has authored three books on the subject, including "Stop Clutter from Stealing Your Life." On his Web site, Clutterless.org, he writes that "cluttering is a physical expression of our emotional condition."

A spokesperson for the Pleasanton chapter of the ClutterLess self-help groups, which meets weekly, said cluttering isn't a problem until it interferes with life. There are different extremes of cluttering, with hoarding—a psychological term—being at the top.

"There's a lot of emotion associated with that stuff," the spokesperson, who declined to give his name, said. "It's the concept of perma-clutter—it's been in your house so long that you may not even know it's there."

Marriage and family therapist Bridget Melson of Trinity Life Solutions in Pleasanton, said she's seen chronic clutter issues present along with other issues like memories of an unpleasant past, weight, depression and fatigue. Piles of stuff in the home become physical manifestations of psychological barriers, she said.

The spokesperson for CL said it's easy for non-clutterers to deal with a mess by cleaning up. Yet, with emotions deeply rooted to their possessions, clutterers and hoarders approach it from a psychological standpoint. It's also difficult to help someone because people are ashamed of their mess.

Organization problems have been made popular through TV shows like "Clean Sweep" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Yet with the psychological aspect so closely tied to the stuff,

it could be difficult to declutter without causing anxiety.

"One of the problems that we have with the news," the spokesperson said, "is that a picture of a big mess is fascinating, like a car wreck. But looking at that doesn't really solve anybody's problem."

While saying cluttering has psychological associations, Bridget Melson said it's also a bad habit. She recommends people do the following to help with the clutter:

- Get out of denial
- Clear it out now, not later
- Call a non-cluttering friend for help
- Get organized quickly with the help of containers
- Tell your brain "no!" when justifying a need for something never used
- Use positive self-talk
- Make lists when shopping and stick to it
- Ask yourself if you need things you're tempted to purchase and practice saying "no"
- Change old, unhealthy traditions that cause you to clutter
- Replace needless shopping by taking day trips to the park or to the city

ClutterLess is always looking for new members and anonymity is respected. The group meets Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. At the meetings, various topics related to clutter are discussed and people are encouraged to make a pledge to help themselves. Call 294-9246 or 846-5060 box 2. The group is free, but a contribution of \$2 to \$5 is appreciated.

The CL spokesperson said there are many success stories, some of which tell of people no longer needing to go to the group and others who continue to make progress each week.

At the end of the day, Mike Nelson stresses that stuff is secondary, whereas friends, family and pets are important.

To learn more about chronic clutter and the ClutterLess groups, visit Clutterless.org. ■

A Self-Help Test from ClutterLess

1. Do you feel overwhelmed by your clutter?
2. Have you tried to clean up or organize repeatedly, with no lasting results? Do you feel like, What's the use, it will just get messed up again?
3. Are you ashamed to have guests in your home?
4. Do you feel more confused in your home than in the outside world?
5. Do you buy more of everything because you never know when you will run out?
6. Do you have multiple copies of books, software, clothing, etc., because you can't find what you already own?
7. Has your spouse or partner expressed dismay about the way you live?
8. Do you hold onto broken items because they might come in handy someday or I'm going to fix them someday?
9. Do you hold onto relationships that do not serve you, saying, This is the best I can do?
10. Do you feel like there will never be enough for you?
11. Do you believe that you do not deserve any better than what you have?
12. Do you feel more lack than prosperity in your life?
13. Do you want to change these things?

If you said yes to half of these questions, you may want to attend a meeting.

Now Showing

Charlie Wilson's War

★★★

Rated: R for strong language, nudity/sexual content and some drug use.
1 hour, 37 minutes

Whether playing a boy-man in "Big" or a sleepless widower in Seattle, Tom Hanks effortlessly exudes childlike charm and everyman likeability. But can you picture him as a cocaine-snorting, boozing womanizer? He's more convincing as a castaway who befriends a volleyball called Wilson than the Texas congressman sharing the same name in Mike Nichols' oddly toned movie.

"Charlie Wilson's War" attempts to walk the razor wire between comedy and drama. Good-time Charlie (Hanks) trades playful barbs—in the bathtub and the bedroom—with Houston socialite Joanne Herring (a stiff Julia Roberts) as though in a screwball comic romp. The politically savvy pretty woman wants the U.S. to provide arms to the Afghans fighting invading Soviet forces. She sets Charlie off on a serious mission that will become his crusade. Screenwriter Aaron Sorkin's snappy dialogue veers the dramedy more into the halls of "West Wing" and "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" than into George Crile's gripping 2003 report of the secret war that changed history.

During the Reagan era, the relatively unknown Texan politician partnered with a rogue CIA agent to launch a covert operation that funded the mujahideen rebels against the Red Army and helped



the Afghans topple a superpower. By clearly positioning Wilson as a hero and provoking laughter through good banter, the movie never addresses the pressing questions raised in Crile's nonfiction page-turner. It also never encourages the viewer to consider that a solitary congressman appropriated more than \$40 million of taxpayer money for his cause.

The movie lionizes rather than criticizes the fact that two mavericks hijacked American foreign policy. The film's satiric edge never cuts to the heart of the matter: Charlie Wilson headed an extra-government conspiracy. For this, he deserves CIA honors and our admiration?

Although Hanks and Roberts are often unconvincing in their roles, Philip Seymour Hoffman

owns the part of the CIA loose cannon and Wilson co-conspirator Gust Avrakotos. His booming voice and screen-filling presence create a vivid character in seconds. Angry at the Agency and clever in clandestine ways, Avarakotos aids Wilson in brokering a deal between an Israeli arms dealer and the leader of Pakistan to deliver weaponry to the "freedom fighters."

Without implicating Wilson in wrongdoing, the ending spins the stranger-than-fiction true story as a cautionary tale. The Soviet Union fell, and the Cold War melted. But Charlie Wilson helped arm an Islamic group that later turned those weapons against us. Nichols' celebration of Wilson's secret war sweetens an irony that should taste of cold metal.

—Susan Tavernetti

Ready to Rent

Once

Fox Home Video DVD
1 hour, 25 minutes
Director: John Carney

Director John Carney's "Once" is a curio of sorts, a stripped down version of a let's put on a show musical whose economy enhances it a dramatic octave or two. The movie is now famous for being made on the budget of several modest houses in California, about \$150,000, and the results are vastly more entertaining than the process of buying one as well. Due to its economy, the immediacy of the story and song is felt in at its most emotional, so even if there is not a lot going on at certain points of the picture, the musical force certainly makes the movie resonate. Real life couple Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova are the talented leads, but the real star is the creative process itself; the agonizing method from unsure start to nerve wracking finish with only your thoughts to guide you through the perilous landscapes of feeling.

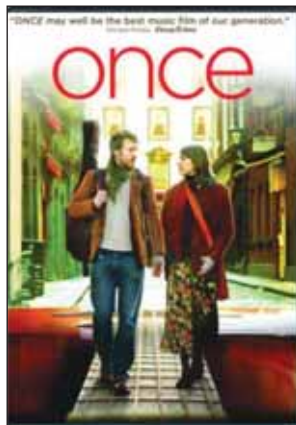
Hopefully, Carey's "Once" will also be the herald of a new crop of Irish directors, whose monstrous wave of talent climaxed in the nineties. That decade saw directors Neil Jordan with "The Crying Game," Pat O'Connor's "Dancing at Lughnasa" and especially Jim Sheridan with "In the Name of the Father" playing to packed art houses and even multiplexes (as in the case of the "The Crying Game") as well. Not that there hasn't been stagnation in the country's output, especially from Sheridan's daughter Kirsten whose "August Rush," another sung drama, has recently found an audience, but there really hasn't been that one movie to focus an audience's attention back to Ireland until "Once."

Lonely and dispossessed, the guy (Glen Hansard—his character is never named) plays his guitar among the modern streets of Dublin, shouting

out the spoils of his heart. On one particular evening, his playing is so intense it seems to manifest a girl (Irglova) who is drawn by the yearning of his chords. She learns he is a Hoover repair man by day and finds an excuse to bring down her broken vacuum while showing off her musical talents at a local piano store, where both duet to a song he wrote. The guy learns she is a Czech Emigre with a child; she discovers his broken heart as the source of his crooning (what else should it be?) and both begin to playing music together until they get the idea to record a demo. Love, however, does not follow in the way we want it to.

I can't recall a movie so dependent on its soundtrack than "Once" is. The music, instead of acting to just enhance a moment, is in itself a character, interacting with the drama as to shape its co-star's fates. It also comments continuously as a melodious stream-of-conscious technique, where one character may pick up another's thoughts and both sing through the other's pain. I personally did not care for the songs, so the narrative became tedious if only because some tunes were achingly repeated. However, I can recommend "Once" because of its energy and especially Hansard's amazing voice, which could stop a buffalo from stampeding.

—Joe Ramirez



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The Weekly in the 'palm' of their hands

Doug, Richard and Vicki Coleman, Vicki-Dawn and Jim Rader all enjoy some sunshine and some newsprint by the Wailua River on the way to Fern Grotto on the island of Kauai.



The Weekly on the green

John Cordano and Maria Ramirez stop for a moment with the Weekly while in picturesque South Lake Tahoe. Here they are near the 18th hole at the American Century Championship Celebrity Golf Tournament at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, where they met Bay Area native and basketball star Jason Kidd.



A race to read the Weekly

Anne Stark takes a break from racing her 1966 Honda CB 160 at Willow Springs International Raceway in Rosemond, Calif.

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Auditions

Auditions for Carmina

Burana The Valley Concert Chorale will hold auditions for Carmina Burana will be held by appointment from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 14 and 21 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. To schedule an appointment, call 462-4205. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org for details.

Youth Music Festival Auditions

Solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, are welcome. Rock bands are not included. Audition appointments are required; call 931-5353. Performance at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Amador Theater.

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 at 846-1658.

Civic Meetings

City Council The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Housing Commission The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Human Services Commission The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Parks & Recreation Commission The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

School Board The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Youth Commission The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Classes

Pruning classes Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave., is hosting pruning classes during the month of January. Dates include: Jan. 6 and 7 fruit trees and grapes; Jan. 12 and 13 roses; and Jan. 26 and 27 Japanese maples. Saturday classes start at 10 a.m., Sunday classes at 1 p.m. Learn about pruning techniques, care and feeding requirements for best fruit and flower production. Call 462-1760 or visit www.westerngardennursery.com.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 12 we welcome fiber artist and teacher Leora Raiken, who is noted for her knowledge of African folklore embroidery. Leora will

Weekend Preview



Boat show comes to the fairgrounds

The largest boat show in Northern California is at the fairgrounds Jan. 4-13. This event features nearly 800 boats and yachts from 7 feet to 50 feet, Marine accessories, ski and wakeboard accessories, fishing and boating seminars, debuting boats and classic wooden boat display. There will also be a Splasher Kids Theater and Bouncing Day. Tickets are \$10 for adults, children 15 and under are free with paid adult. Parking is \$8. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat., and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun. Call 800-698-5777 or visit www.alamedacountyfairgrounds.com for details.

conduct a workshop exploring these techniques on the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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.

CommArt Meeting CommArt meets from 11:45 to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Mudd's Restaurant in San Ramon. Tickets are \$20 cash, which includes lunch. The organization is for professionals inter-



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Daughters of the British Empire
Come for a friendly "cuppa" and a chat with your sister Brits in the local chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in Pleasanton. Call 875-0828 or 494-1273. Visit www.dbenca.org or www.dbesociety.org.

Everything Poetry This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday of the month to critique poetry and the third Saturday for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem.

Garden Club Meeting The January meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will take place at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 at Walnut Grove School, 1991 Harvest Road. Bobbi Feyerabend, owner of Feyerabend and Madden in Emeryville, will talk about garden structures. Call Sally, 417-8809.

Local Writers Meet for Support and Learning The California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch meets the at 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Oasis Grill, 780 Main St., to support experienced and aspiring writers in learning about their craft and sharing their work. Anyone who is curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Call Kathy Urban, 296-0447 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

MOPS- Mothers Of Pre Schoolers If you have children from birth to 6 years old, come join us and be refreshed, equipped and encouraged. MOPS meets from 9-11 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month through May 2008 at 7106 Johnson Drive. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and speakers. The cost is \$60 per semester. Call Silvia, 560-1411.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Calendar's 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Toastmasters Pleasanton Community Toastmasters holds meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Learn the art of public speaking in a fun-filled supportive environment. Call Bobbi at 846-8654 or visit pleasantontoastmasters.com.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network The group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Monday of the month at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. Dads and children are welcome. See www.holisticmoms.org.

Tri-Valley Homebrewing Club Want to meet other brewers and advance your brewing techniques? Mad Zymurgists of the Tri-Valley meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. We welcome brewers of all levels of expertise, and have sponsorship from Hoptech in Dublin. See www.madzymurgists.org for more info and location of the next meeting.

Tri-Valley Wood Carvers Tri-Valley Wood Carvers meet each Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, wood shop room, from 12 to 4 p.m. The regular business meeting is held the second Saturday of the month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call Ken Morgan, 462-6586.

TwinValley Mothers of Twins Meeting Join us for our monthly Twin Valley Mother of Twins meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Our goal is to provide support, information and friendship to Mothers of Multiples. Roundtable question and answer time is at 6:30 p.m.; dads are encouraged to attend the roundtable. Call DeAnna at 948-0004 or visit www.tvmtc.com.

Wendy Tokuda to speak at Alpha Chapter Meeting Wendy Tokuda of Channel 5 news, will speak on her project "Students Rising Above," Jan. 12 at the Castlewood Country Club. Meet and greet with open bar is at 11 a.m., noon lunch and Tokuda to speak at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20. RSVP by Jan. 8. Call Joan at 462-1976.

Events

3rd Annual Hats Off America Blood Drive Hats Off America and the American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 13 at the San Ramon Community Center, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Sign up at www.beadonor.com or call 855-1950.

Guide Dog Training Pleasanton Public Library presents Guide Dog Training at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Leslie Graham will offer an informative talk, complete with guide dogs, demonstrations and answer questions about opportunities to raise a guide dog.

Teen Games Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., welcomes teens (sixth grade and up) to Teen Game Days: from 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 17 and 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Play classic board games, D&D and Magic the Gathering. Snacks provided.

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Fundraisers

Family Pancake Breakfast San Ramon Senior Foundation, holds a monthly breakfast, in January we will hold our first fundraiser from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 13 at 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. This fundraiser helps support the activates and needs for seniors at the San Ramon Senior Center. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults, \$2 for children 12 and under. Call 973-3250.

Knights of Columbus Crab Feed The Pleasanton Knights of Columbus is having its 39th annual crab feed Jan 19 at St. Augustine Catholic Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. The proceeds are used to benefit the church and community through the activities of the Knights of Columbus. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Call 846-7181 or email crabfeed@comcast.net.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue 3rd Annual Crab Feed Join us from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat crab, salad, pasta, French bread and dessert. A no host bar is available. Enjoy live and silent auctions and 50-50 raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1, winner need not be present. All proceeds go towards helping homeless animals. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by Jan. 10, or \$50 afterwards. Visit www.tvr.org.

Health

Holistic Moms at Whole Foods Parents interested in the environment, alternative health and gentle parenting are invited to stop by Whole Foods, at 100 Sunset Drive, San Ramon, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 17 to learn about Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network, a support and resource organization for parents interested in holistic living. Whole Foods will donate 5 percent of the day's net sales to HMN. Visit www.holisticmoms.org.

The 40-Something Flat Belly A one hour seminar on getting and staying lean and healthy for life at 40+ (or any age) at 4 p.m. Jan. 5 at Tully's on Main Street and West Angela Avenue. Presented by Dan Taylor, NASM-CPT, ACE Certified Personal Trainer. Visit www.trivalleytrainer.com.

Kids & Teens

Abbie 4-H Meeting 4-H is a nationwide youth organization for ages 5 to 19 that helps young people gain citizenship, leadership and life skills, and participate in community service. The Abbie 4-H club has numerous animal, non-animal and leadership projects. It meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive. Visit www.abbie4h.org.

Lectures/Workshops

Aerial Photography and the World's Longest-Burning Lightbulb At 7 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., commercial pilot Dick Jones will show aerial photographs of the Bay Area, the California coastline and Pleasanton. He will show a short video of global warming studies using high altitude unmanned and manned airplanes and talk about the longest-burning lightbulb. Tickets \$5-\$10. Call 462-2766.

Kids' Haiku Workshop Kids ages 7-11 are invited to join Pleasanton Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer for an introductory workshop in traditional and modern haiku. It will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 5 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Reservations are required. Call 846-8826.

Live Music

Pride of the Pacific Chorus - Come Sing! Drop by the chorus rehearsal Dec. 5 and make a joyful noise. We are a new women's cappella chorus and we would love to have you join us. We rehearse at 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Call 209-830-7444 or visit prideofthepacific.org.

The Saddle Cats Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the Saddle Cats at 2 p.m. Jan. 13. The Saddle Cats are a Western Swing pocket orchestra dedicated to bringing western music into the new century.

Wicker Vault at Bosco's in Sunol Wicker Vault will be playing their exciting mix of classic rock, country, pop standards (and requests) at Bosco's Bones and Brew, 11922 Main St., Sunol at 8 p.m. Jan. 11 and 12.

Political Notes

Former U.S. Intelligence Officer to Speak Captain Harold K. Strunk, US Navy (Ret.), an epidemiologist and former US Intelligence officer, will be the guest speaker at the 6:30 p.m. Jan. 10 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated. New members and visitors are welcome. Tickets are \$26 or \$30 advance reservations required by Jan. 4. Call 846-5944.

Spiritual

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Sunday services include: All ages Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., and children's church (ages 2 to 12) at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meetings 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 846-8650.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service and children's school at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Pleasanton Rage Winter Academy Come have fun and continue to work on your soccer skills through the winter months from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays at Val Vista Soccer Complex. Pleasanton Girls Soccer will be hosting an academy for U8-U10 girls soccer players. Details can be found at http://www.pleasantonrage.org/docs/Youth_Academy07.pdf. The cost is \$100.

Saturday Morning Beginner Road Ride This weekly no-drop ride is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart at 9 a.m. from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., and will generally be 10 to 15 mph, 20 miles and no more than 2 hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend. free

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. The group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday

at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? We are a self help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. If you are ready to change your life, just come to the meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 846-5060 Box 2. Visit www.clutterless.org or email clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com. The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support groups meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

Grief Care at CCOP The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic or one with warning an preparation, the reality of death leaves most in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Join grieving people at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10 and 24 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious orientation.

Grief Share Are you looking for community, understanding and support? If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. The grief support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. It is \$35.00, with scholarships available. Call 560-6202 or register at www.dublinvcc.org.

Manspeak This weekly men's group meets 8 to 9:30 p.m. Monday nights at Kiva Counseling Group, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 202 in Dublin, and is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, form friendships, and understand and improve relationships. It provides a source of support for personal growth and change in a safe environment so we can become aware of our own emotional habits and attitudes. The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per month. Call 485-9370 or visit www.kivaspirit.org for details.

Pleasanton Military Families Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940 or email jackiebard@pacbell.net.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused and neglected children in the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and even Los Angeles. The easy-to-make blankets are constructed of a soft fleece material with pleasant designs. Volunteers have made more than 10,000 blankets for distribution since the organization began. Those interested in volunteering, or donating money or fleece to the nonprofit organization call Jo, 846-6155.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is not required to attend the orientation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

TV30

Ask the Doctor Getting Healthy is the topic for "Ask the Doctor" TV30's LIVE call-in show at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 on Channel 30. Guests are Eric Gracer, M.D., Dat Nguyen, M.D., and host Dr. Robert Litman. Show will rebroadcast at 7 p.m. on Jan. 16, 23 and 30. Viewers can phone in questions at 462-3030.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich College Hoops Special with Dr. B and St. Mary's College hoops stars - Patrick, Golden, O'Leary, and coaches with highlights. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

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115 Announcements

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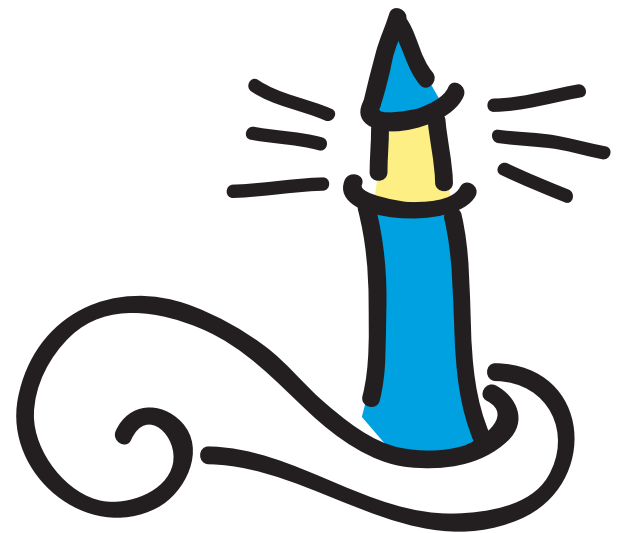
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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Meet Topsy

This six pound, 4-year-old, spayed female blonde Terrier needs a special home. Topsy had a successful spinal surgery but she was left with some impaired motor skills which make her look a little "tipsy" when she walks. She doesn't appear to have any pain with her condition. Because of her impairment, Topsy will need an adult only home where she will receive special attention. Topsy likes to cuddle and she enjoys being held and petted. She's an excellent watchdog, as are most small breeds. Topsy will need to be kept indoors and she walks best on carpeting where she can get some traction. Topsy gets along with other dogs as long as they are gentle with her and respectful of her small size. For more information about this adorable dog, visit the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. It's open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wed. and Thurs., and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri. through Sun. Call 479-9670. See Topsy on the Web at www.eastbayspca.org. She is listed under adoptable dogs at East Bay SPCA—Tri-Valley.

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Real Estate

Home builders see market recovering in New Year

Want Congress to pass FHA modernization bill

by Jeb Bing

With help from the Congress and an accommodating policy from the Federal Reserve, the housing industry will begin its recovery in the second half of 2008, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) said today in a year-end housing forecast teleconference.

“I think the best bet is that 2008 is the year we will be looking at the bottom for various components of the housing market,” said NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders.

“We are in a down time, and many markets that overheated during 2003-05 such as Las Vegas, Phoenix and Miami are undergoing a natural correction,” added Jerry Howard, executive vice president and CEO of NAHB. “But all housing is local, and the reason we think that the market will stabilize and come back is because many smaller markets that did not experience overheating are still performing at a relatively healthy level. If you balance those markets against those that are undergoing major corrections, we see a solid recovery down the road.”

Seiders, who is forecasting slow economic growth next year, said this forecast is based on several assumptions--the economy avoids recession, Congress passes key reforms to address the subprime lending crisis and the central bank remains ready to step in if needed to keep the economy moving forward.

Noting that NAHB’s Housing Market Index, which predicts demand for new single-family home sales, has stabilized at low levels during the past three months, Seiders said that this is an indication that “we are now approaching the bottom of home sales activity, and we anticipate a recovery in sales beginning in the second quarter of 2008.”

Getting sales stabilized is the key to turning around housing production. Housing starts peaked in the first quarter of 2006, and Seiders expects starts to bottom out in the second quarter of 2008, registering a 55 percent decline from peak-to-trough activity.

“As sales begin to improve, this will whittle down excess inventory, allowing the production of new homes to begin moving forward in the latter half of 2008,” he said.

To help the housing industry to begin its recovery next year, Howard said Congress must act quickly to pass an FHA modernization bill and legislation to reform Fannie

Mae and Freddie Mac so that they can play a larger role in restoring stability in the mortgage markets.

“I am happy to report that policymakers have been doing the right thing,” said Howard. “The Fed has stepped in three times to lower interest rates, which underscores how seriously they are taking the issue. The Administration has stepped in with its Hope Now and FHASecure programs—both designed to limit the number of homes that actually go into foreclosure and back on to the market. And just this week, Congress passed mortgage debt forgiveness legislation that the President signed into law today.”

While these are all positive developments, Howard said that Congress still has plenty of unfinished business that must be attended to.

He called on lawmakers to move promptly to reconcile competing bills in the House and Senate that would allow the FHA to provide a viable alternative to the subprime market by increasing its loan limit for high-cost markets and providing flexible downpayment requirements. He also urged the Senate to act on companion legislation to House-passed bill H.R. 1427, a measure that would reform government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

“GSE reform would help to provide much-needed liquidity in the jumbo loan marketplace by raising the conforming loan limit in high-cost areas, allowing Fannie and Freddie to purchase more mortgages in these markets,” said Howard.

Another reason that Howard cited for optimism looking ahead is a new report from Harvard University’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, which found that even with the large inventory of unsold homes on the market today, the long term demand for conventional housing units will run at a strong clip of 1.82 million per year between 2008 and 2014.

The Harvard report concluded: “Do not mistake short-term reactions to the housing slowdown as a harbinger of things to come for the long term. On the strength of demographically-driven demand for housing, the market will bounce back from its currently suppressed levels.”

Still, the fragile housing market and economy show that policymakers must remain vigilant in 2008. ■

Home Sales

This week’s data represents homes sold during November 2007

Pleasanton

3790 Branding Iron Place Silvera Investors to L. Beringuel for \$560,000

3350 Camillo Court K. & M. Ohealy to M. & L. Haas for \$1,165,000

5678 Hansen Drive M. Schwartz to M. Salazar for \$672,500

1621 Hopyard Road S. & H. Kim to G. & E. Lyons for \$838,500

4120 Lethram Court C. Thomas to C. Ancar for \$605,000

1147 Mataro Court Y. & B. Krampfner to G. & A. Richardson for \$913,000

948 Riesling Drive Borden Trust to C. Corson for \$700,000

2505 Via Espada M. & J. McCrea to S. Ow for \$750,000

3297 West Las Positas Boulevard P. White to J. Solis for \$660,000

Dublin

8429 Creekside Drive W. & C. Kuhn to M. & P. Karpinski for \$850,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #313 Western Pacific Housing to L. Yin for \$130,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #459 Western Pacific Housing to C. Bungcayao for \$500,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #508 Western Pacific Housing to J. Wu for \$521,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #601 Western Pacific Housing to M. Sadberry for \$430,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #603 Western Pacific Housing to L. Ong for \$469,500

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #606 Western Pacific Housing to N. Ghoghari for \$660,000

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #608 Western Pacific Housing to C. & L. Wu for \$672,500

5501 Demarcus Boulevard #657 Western Pacific Housing to T. Gottas for \$410,000

4185 Font Court L. & C. Isleta to R. & S. Joshi for \$700,000

7738 Frederiksen Lane R. Malcom to C. & A. Bloomfield for \$529,000

7561 Langmuir Court Bernesque Trust to Lamb Trust for \$510,000

2730 North Kilbride Lane Aurora Loan Services to K. & K. Ikegami for \$855,000

11480 Silvergate Drive D. & K. Dayton to R. & L. Caputo for \$731,000

11501 Soleado Court A. & J. Owens to J. & P. Gonsiewski for \$750,000

3227 South Bridgepointe Lane S. Zamaryalai to W. Chaudhry for \$855,000

4920 Thorndike Lane Lennar Homes to P. Wu for \$858,000

7774 Woodren Court Carrington Home Equity to M. Akhtar for \$581,000

Livermore

1364 Arroyo Road Arroyo Crossing to M. & R. Pereira for \$869,000

6432 Aspenwood Way S. & R. Anderson to P. & T. Hunter for \$545,000

190 Bluebird Avenue Mccurry Trust to R. & A. Morton for \$410,000

1665 Cairo Street J. Perez to D. Jansen for \$515,000

1061 Canton Avenue Bank of New York to L. & C. Willis for \$465,000

778 Carmel Avenue Noble Trust to C. Eddy for \$480,000

5149 Charlotte Way M. Soong to P. & E. Zullo for \$550,000

2537 Farnsworth Drive JP Morgan Chase Bank to J. Thomas for \$495,000

573 Heligan Lane #3 Shea Homes to M. Henley for \$555,000

1789 Helsinki Way K. & K. Heffelfinger to L. Vicuna for \$600,000

1223 Kings River Road Arroyo Crossing to W. & L. Manley for \$901,500

2843 Lemon Common Shea Homes to Velez Trust for \$623,500

1001 Murrieta Boulevard World Savings Bank to M. Davis for \$200,000

161 North L Street #111 Signature at Station Square to A. & L. Nigro for \$436,500

348 Ontario Drive Amos Trust to H. Lu for \$540,500

1976 Santa Croce Drive D. Link to D. & B. Cannon for \$950,000

5536 Stockton Loop South Livermore Development to F. & G. Natividad for \$1,400,000

San Ramon

9965 Alcosta Boulevard J. & D. Quinonez to B. Babakan for \$670,000

7358 Baknorral Way Lennar Homes to H. Subramaniam for \$950,000

7366 Balmoral Way Lennar Homes to R. & N. Puno for \$1,100,000

7518 Balmoral Way Brookfield Santorini to H. & M. Sherdil for \$1,434,000

3209 Barons Lane Brookfield Emory to P. Vallabhaneni for \$750,500

9832 Belladonna Drive J. Skinner to E. Huestis for \$725,000

8075 Briar Oaks Drive V. Nguyen to J. & N. Carey for \$820,000

3210 Browntail Way Shapell Homes to K. Mani for \$760,000

6375 Byron Lane Centex Homes to M. Thomas for \$642,000

6377 Byron Lane Centex Homes to E. Abuamara for \$620,000

9676 Camassia Way J. Green to R. Lloyd for \$615,000

3011 Cedarwood Loop Shapell Industries to N. Amin for \$580,500

3027 Cedarwood Loop Shapell Industries to J. & V. Patel for \$573,500

3035 Cedarwood Loop Shapell Industries to P. Lieu for \$567,000

3043 Cedarwood Loop Shapell Industries to L. Wei for \$565,000

3137 Cedarwood Loop Shapell Industries to C. & K. Lee for \$565,500

3835 Crow Canyon Road L. Farrell to M. Herrera for \$390,000

337 Eastridge Drive Pacifica 235 East Ridge to E. Carson for \$339,000

2875 Enfield Street Brookfield Saville to K. Koduru for \$755,500

3000 Enfield Street Brookfield Emory to K. Lee for \$950,000

3016 Enfield Street Brookfield Emory to M. Quinlan for \$902,000

3096 Enfield Street Brookfield Emory to S. & A. Kim for \$835,000

5115 Holborn Way Centex Homes to X. Wang for \$941,000

5118 Holborn Way Centex Homes to H. Shim for \$1,010,000

5126 Holborn Way Centex Homes to Y. Lin for \$1,152,500

5207 Kenilworth Way Shapell Homes to Y. & H. Vu for \$897,000

516 La Copita Court J. True to R. Garshol for \$375,000

1965 Lambeth Way Brookfield Saville to N. & T. Flores for \$764,500

1976 Lambeth Way Brookfield Saville to Y. Zhou for \$745,000

110 London Court Centex Homes to S. Raj for \$1,054,000

118 London Court Centex Homes to A. Johansen for \$1,095,000

5517 London Way Centex Homes to B. Xiao for \$910,000

112 Lucy Lane Shapell Homes to B. & K. Gandhi for \$876,000

136 Paddington Court Brookfield Campton to R. & H. Patel for \$801,500

2656 Paige Way Centex Homes to B. Yu for \$995,500

2662 Paige Way Centex Homes to J. Lo for \$1,050,000

2663 Paige Way Centex Homes to S. & H. Vuggumudi for \$1,044,000

105 Reflections Drive #28 San Ramon Reflections to C. Chang for \$300,000

3612 Sandalford Way T. Poh to D. Xie for \$808,000

5301 Sherwood Way Centex Homes to A. & S. Jackson for \$645,000

5303 Sherwood Way Centex Homes to A. & H. Lam for \$605,000

928 Springview Circle Washington Mutual Bank to P. & S. Wu for \$455,000

19 St. Pierre Court D. & K. Miks to L. & C. Randall for \$740,000

192 Teracina Drive Wells Fargo Bank to K. Chan for \$650,000

431 Watsonia Court Shapell Homes to W. Kam for \$975,000

5715 Wells Lane Brookfield Hawthorne to R. & N. Kumar for \$1,057,500

Sales at a Glance

Source: California REsource

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$560,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,165,000
Average sales reported: \$762,667

Dublin

Total sales reported: 18
Lowest sale reported: \$130,000
Highest sale reported: \$858,000
Average sales reported: \$611,778

Livermore

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$200,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,400,000
Average sales reported: \$619,765

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 46
Lowest sale reported: \$300,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,434,000
Average sales reported: \$783,826

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms

3706 Central **\$499,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

4 Bedrooms

7823 Crossridge Rd. **\$779,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 997-2411

5 Bedrooms

10894 Inspiration Cir. **\$1,399,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 398-0234

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

5075 Erica Wy. **\$524,950**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

4 Bedrooms

238 Prato Wy. **\$1,150,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 243-0900

2551 Vintage Ln. **\$1,365,000**
Sun 1-5 Valley Brokers 484-0506

1011 Wynn Cir. **\$819,500**
Sun 1-4 Realty World Town & Country 485-5706

PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms

1306 Stony Brook **\$1,275,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111

3193 Montpelier Ct. **\$695,000**
Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 922-1575

1037 Hometown Wy. **\$749,900**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 447-2723

4 Bedrooms

3302 Prairie Dr. **\$1,098,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

844 Division St. **\$1,195,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 846-0506

900 Roselma Pl. **\$2,800,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 846-0506

4677 Helpert Ct. **\$729,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 463-0436

3459 Park Pl. **\$879,950**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 243-0900

5 Bedrooms

1565 Hopyard **\$869,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 251-1111



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Featured Properties



Pleasanton - Charming, single story end unit with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1173 square feet of living space, hardwood floors, newer carpet and paint, newer appliances, refrigerator and washer stay. Lots of storage space, 2 patios, and a wood burning fireplace. Clean as can be, this is a must see, located next to park like greenbelt!
7303 Stonedale Drive \$499,900



Pleasanton - Lovely setting for this 3 bedroom 2.5 bath duet with over 1700 square feet. Located on a great, tucked away court, near downtown Pleasanton and walking distance to Main Street. Rarely available, this home offers a private back yard, a fireplace in the living room, a formal dining room, an atrium off the kitchen nook, an attached 2 car garage and indoor laundry!
1156 Tiffany Lane \$649,000



Livermore - Beautiful well maintained 4 bedroom 3 bath home located on a cul-de-sac. Light, Bright and Open! Large Family Room, Dining Room and Kitchen. One full bedroom and bath on the main floor. Newer furnace and air conditioning. Large rear yard with a gazebo and a hot tub. Newer paint in various rooms. A great home that does not back to Vasco!
1141 Baltusrol Court \$719,500



Livermore - Lovely single level design in Vinsanto of South Livermore. Soaring ceilings, bonus/playroom could be a den or 4th bedroom. Spacious living dining room and open airy feeling. Kitchen is a delight with granite tile, built in refrigerator, sideboard cabinets and pantry. Master bedroom with retreat and more.
2792 Vernazza Drive \$977,500



Pleasanton - Gorgeous, rare remodel in Ruby Hill with a golf course / vineyard setting. Light, bright, & highly functional floor plan with 4 bedrooms (1 down) & 3 full baths. High quality granite in kitchen & master bath. New stainless steel appliances, new pecan floors, new carpet, paint & fixtures. Beautiful back yard with roses & a play set.

451 Trebbiano Place \$1,295,000



Livermore - Beautiful 5 BR 4.5 BA home within the vineyards! Granite slab counters with upgraded stainless steel appliances, wine refrigerator, Butlers pantry, two tone paint, newer carpet, crown molding, large master suite with marble flooring & counter tops, gleaming hardwood flooring, and a large lot with sport court backing to the vineyards!

2294 Minerva Court \$1,399,900



Pleasanton - Does location matter to you? If so, take a look at THE BEST LOCATION in Ruby Hill. Located at the end of a court, with no neighbors on one side or behind you. This home features 5 BR, 5.5 BA, approximately 5700 square feet, a gorgeous kitchen, a HUGE yard with a sparkling pool and spa, a BBQ fire pit, and tons of lawn for your enjoyment.

4158 Parma Court \$2,699,000



Pleasanton - Formal French Elegance in Ruby Hill! A Stunning "New" Custom Home with 5 BR, 5.5 BA, & Quality Features Throughout. The Sweeping Spiral Staircase, Polished Marble Entry & Rotunda/Dome Ceiling lead to a Fantastic Kitchen/ Nook/ Family Room with 2 Islands & an adjacent Game/ Billiard Room with Walk-behind Wet Bar & More!

1958 Armondo Court \$2,790,000



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Ruby Hill Division - 101 East Vineyard Ave, Suite 103
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BRENTWOOD
697 CANMORE CT
UPGRADED IN & OUT **\$550,000**
 4 BR 3 BA w/Pl/Spa w/Wtrfls, No Rear Neighbors, Granite Slab Kit Cntrs, Slate Flrs, Sep Formal Liv/Din 925.847.2200



LATHROP
235 E WARREN AVE.
PRICED TO SELL **\$310,000**
 4 BR 2 BA new carpet/paint, remodeled, move-in condition, easy commute location. Includes covered patio 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
6490 ASPENWOOD WAY
NEWER SINGLE STORY **\$624,950**
 3 BR 2 BA vaulted ceilings/plan shutters/tile/berber & faux paint. Corner lot w/porch/patio/new sod 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
2630 MINTON COURT
WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE?! **\$840,000**
 4 BR 3 BA cathedral ceilings, eat-in kit/nook. Fm rm w/frplc, spcious mst suite/bth, awesome hill views 925.847.2200

BRENTWOOD
2007 GRANT ST
GORGEOUS HOME **\$569,000**
 5 BR 3 BA w/"park-like" sttng, loft/bnus area, apx. 3150 sqft. Over 10000 sqft. lot, www.MLStrivalley.com 925.847.2200

CASTRO VALLEY
2209 CAMINO DE LORES
GORGEOUS CUSTOM HOME **\$799,900**
 4 BR 3 BA bonus room/game room/home off, 2 master suites, too much to list! Visit www.MLStrivalley.com 925.847.2200

DUBLIN
5700 KINGSMILL TER
DUBLIN RANCH GOLF CLUB **\$2,242,888**
 5 BR 5.5 BA w/library, kit w/Maple Raised Panel

cabs, Grnrite Slb Cntrtps, dual stircse, dramatic ceilings 925.847.2200
5892 KINGSMILL TER
VIEWS VIEWS VIEWS **\$1,859,000**
 5 BR 5.5 BA 4 car garage, apx. 5400 sq. ft. w/dual staircase, lrg kitchen. Guest bed w/full bath. 3 frplcs 925.847.2200
8633 BRIARWOOD LN
CLOSE TO EVERYTHING! **\$674,000**
 4 BR 2 BA Gorgeous home; remodeled bths, huge bonus rm. w/tons of storage spc. huge bkyrd. Great area! 925.847.2200
7448 BRIGADOON WAY
NESTLED IN THE HILLS **\$474,900**
 2 BR 2 BA apx. 1103 Sqft. Vaulted ceilings, attchd gar, comm pl/spa, Shpping/restaurants minutes away 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE
519 CALIENTE AVE
BEAUTIFUL SUNSET HOME **\$699,000**
 4 BR 2 BA remodeled completely, new kit w/ granite, lush rear yard w/pool, new baths, hard wd flooring 925.847.2200
139 WINDWARD CMN # 1
7 YEARS OLD **\$377,000**
 2 BR 2 BA Gated community, beautiful pergo flrng, 1 car garage, pl/tennis courts 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON
1633 LAGUNA CREEK LANE
AN ABSOLUTE MASTERPIECE **\$1,990,000**
 5 BR 5.5 BA Stunning 5,329 sf, w/2 Masters/Li-brary. Distressed cherry HW flr, European kithen w/ Sub Zero 925.847.2200

1167 LAGUNA CREEK LANE
EXQUISITE HOME **\$1,525,000**
 5 BR 4 BA 3992 sq. ft., + salt water pool/spa, 12700 sq. ft. lot, unobstructed views of Pleasanton Ridge 925.847.2200
2859 EL CAPITAN DR
WELCOME HOME **\$580,000**
 3 BR 2 BA Kit w/plenty of cabs, living rm w/ fireplace. Cng fans in lvng rm & all bd rms. Inside Indry 925.847.2200
7730B CANYON MEADOW CIR, UNIT B
GORGEOUS VIEWS! **\$435,000**
 2 BR 2 BA vaulted ceilings/kit w/new cabs/slab granite cntrs/bths remodld w/tile flrs/pedestal sinks 925.847.2200

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Pleasanton 925.847.2200 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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COMING SOON

**238 PRATO WAY,
LIVERMORE
Offered at \$1,165,000**

Gorgeous Prima home with 4 bedrooms/3 baths! Formal dining. Very private with no rear neighbors. Beautiful tile throughout home, built in office. Great yard, side access spa, garden. Must See!



Gene & Cindy Williams 918-2045

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Williams, we wish
you a prosperous and
Happy New Year!*



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Jim Walker 397-4300



**68 PETERS AVE.,
PLEASANTON
Offered at \$319,000**

Adorable & Affordable 1 bdrm 1 bath condo upper unit in the heart of downtown Pleasanton! Newly updated kitchen with granite counters and new appliances. New laminate & carpet flooring. New paint, new furnace. Indoor laundry. Private covered balcony. Low HOA dues 135\$ month!. Call the serrateam for more info.



**10894 INSPIRATION CIRCLE,
DUBLIN
Offered at \$1,399,000**

Amazing panoramic views from every room! 1/2 Acre lot. Highlander Model 5 br 4.5 ba w/ gourmet kitchen, granite slab counters & stainless appls. Cherry hardwood floors, 1bdrm 1.5ba downstairs. Two fireplaces large master suite w/ private balcony, soaking tub & walk in closets. Many upgrades to see. Beautiful backyard w/ rose garden, lawn and patio areas. Room for a pool. 3 car garage. Private court entry. No rear neighbors just open space. Call the Serrateam for more info



Dennis & Stella Serrao 398-0234



OPEN SUN 1-4

**4677 HELPERT
COURT
PLEASANTON
Priced in the low
\$700's**

Pleasanton- Wonderful one level ranch style with 4 bedrooms, 2 updated baths and over 1800 sq ft. Beautifully updated kitchen overlooking large yard and sparkling pool. Great court location with a two car garage.



LIVERMORE

Priced at \$524,950

Cute as a button! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths home on almost a 9,000 sq ft lot. Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, breakfast nook and bay window. Cozy living rm with brick fireplace. Master bdrm with sliding door to deck and park like yard. Great side access and two car garage.



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GREAT MISSION PARK LOCATION



**5539 SAN JUAN WAY,
PLEASANTON
Offered at \$848,950**

Outstanding home in Mission Park. 4 Bedrooms plus office, 2 1/2 baths with newer windows and doors, newer roof, hardwood floors, updated kitchen/baths and private yard. Best location with easy Commute access, close to schools and shopping.



Melissa Pederson 397-4326



**951 MINGOIA STREET
Price improvement:
Offered at \$1,619,000**

Pleasanton's best kept secret – Private neighborhood just west of Ruby Hill at Vineyard and Machado. 3992 sq. ft. 4+ bed/3.5 bath with 4 car garage. View homes at



Donna Garrison & Susan Schall 397-4165 & 397-4244



**4656 BLACK AVENUE,
PLEASANTON
Offered at \$730,000**

Great Pleasanton Valley home boasts remodeled kitchen with new tile. Dual pane windows w/security & fire alarm systems. All new cut Berber carpet throughout, 40+ yr roof. Professionally landscaped with sprinkler system. Walk to K-12 schools, shopping and 1 block to Aquatic Center.



Melissa Pederson 397-4326

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459 Main Street



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City		
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# of Bedrooms	Street Address	\$ Price of property
_____	_____	_____
Day, Date & Time Open	Agent Name Real Estate Agency	Phone Number
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DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY 10 A.M.

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**PLEASANTON
WEEKLY**



Grandeur in Private Park



OPEN SUNDAY 1-5

2551 Vintage Lane

Livermore wine country home features 4 bedrooms and 4 full baths on a nearly 1/2 acre lot. Lush and private with nearly 3700 square feet of celestory light spaces. Large bonus room or 5th bedroom off bedrooms. Private master suite with fireplace, retreat and private patio. Home theater system. Nearly 1000 square feet of covered porch areas overlooking a private redwood grove. And much more! \$1,365,000
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BRAND NEW CUSTOM HOME



5725 OHANA PLACE, PLEASANTON

Just completed! Brand new custom home with all the features you would expect in a custom home and not see in a production home. Located on a private drive with a premium +/- half acre lot. Built by Ohana Homes, which means quality throughout. This high tech home is owner friendly. Beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge. Five bedrooms plus formal office. Six bathrooms. Approximately 4,500 square feet. Large gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops, cherry cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Large master suite with retreat area. Andersen French doors to covered lanai from formal living, master, and family rooms. Distressed wide plank wood flooring. Custom crown molding and baseboards throughout. Minutes from Downtown Pleasanton. **OFFERED AT \$1,999,995**

BONDE RANCH

SOLD!



812 GENEVIEVE PLACE, PLEASANTON

Single level Shapell home with expansive panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. Three bedrooms, plus formal office. Two baths. Approximately 2,302 square feet. Approximately .25 acre lot. Upgraded kitchen with granite slab countertops, and brand new stainless steel appliances. Plantation shutters. Hardwood flooring throughout. New paint. Professionally landscaped. Walk to Main Street. Don't miss this one!

WALNUT HILLS



1397 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON

Beautiful newer four bedroom, three and a half bath home, built in 2003. Approximately 3,364 square feet, includes carriage house. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, center island with stainless steel sink, custom cherry cabinetry, and built-in sub zero refrigerator. Large master suite with walk-in closet. Custom tile flooring, dual pane windows. Cherry built-ins throughout. Carriage house can be nice guest quarters, or has been rented out for as much as \$1350/month. Beautifully landscaped. Just minutes to Downtown Pleasanton. **OFFERED AT \$1,049,000**

REMODELED DOWNTOWN HOME

SOLD!



4355 2ND STREET, PLEASANTON

Remodeled home on desirable 2nd Street in Pleasanton. Sit back on your expansive front porch and enjoy this quiet Downtown location. Two and a half bedrooms, two baths, plus guest studio cottage with one bath and kitchenette. Remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, and stainless steel appliances. Remodeled bathrooms. Plantation shutters. Newer dual pane windows. Newer roof. Six panel doors with polished nickel hardware. Many upgrades include crown molding and baseboards throughout. Check it out!

PLEASANTON VALLEY

SOLD!



4856 WINGATE DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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EXPERIENCE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE...**

Blaise Lofland has been a resident of Pleasanton for 25 years, and a full -time realtor for more than 20 years. He has been Pleasanton's top producing residential resale realtor from 2000-2007 (cumulative).

Blaise has earned the respect of clients and colleagues alike by helping people maximize their buying and selling potential and providing the facts needed to make well informed decisions. His knowledge of the Tri-Valley market, available financing, genuine concern, follow-through, and straight forward approach has helped many families and investors fulfill their real estate needs



PLEASANTON 900 Main Street

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We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.

UWE MAERCZ BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$2,799,000
Custom estate built by Doble and Son. Impressive views, open space and exceptional architectural design and quality craftsmanship at this private 1.18+-acre estate. 6bd/5.5ba on a 6100+-sf lot.

PETER MCDOWELL BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$2,250,000
7500+-sf of living space on 1+-acre. Custom home theater and game room plus two large hobby rooms. Beautiful waterfalls, built-in pool/spa. There's room for a riding arena or sport court.

ANDY PORYES BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$2,099,950
Beautiful Ruby Hill 4bd/4ba, 4578+-sf home located on a flat .62+-acre premium lot with no rear neighbors. Featuring office, master retreat, outdoor kitchen, large lawn, pool/spa. Circular driveway.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$1,999,995
Brand new custom! Quality throughout. 5bd/6ba plus office, 4500+-sf home. On 1/2+-acre. Gourmet kitchen. Hardwood floors. Vaulted ceilings. Views of Pleasanton Ridge. Located on private drive.

UWE MAERCZ BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$1,799,000
Lowest price ever to own a custom home at Ruby Hills! Formal French home with 4112+-sf, 4bd/3.5ba and 2 bonus rooms.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$1,450,000
Stunning newer 6bd/5ba home with a guest unit. Fireplaces in LR/FR. Backyard paradise with pool and built in BBQ. Owner has thought of everything from top to bottom. A must see!

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Pleasanton \$1,275,000
3bd/2.5ba with possible 4th bedroom 2537+-sf. Single story home with cherry floors, cabinets and gourmet kitchen. Side yard access, central air, and upgraded baseboards. Oversized garage. 1306 Stony Brook

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$1,049,000
4bd/3.5ba, 3364+-sf home with Carriage House. Gourmet kitchen with granite and cherry cabinets. Custom tile flooring. Beautifully landscaped.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



Livermore \$990,000
Gorgeous Savoy Model features 5bd/4ba, 3541+-sf of living space on a 9398+-sf lot near Livermore Wine Country. Highly upgraded with slab granite, GE Pro Series appliances.

SALLY MARTIN BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$990,000
Birdland charmer. 4 bd/2.5 ba, 2,253+-sf tri-level home. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with slab granite and high end appliances. Updated baths. Open floor-plan.

DEAN WAGERMAN BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$944,950
Great 4bd/3ba, 2302+-sf home almost completely redone! New kitchen has gas range, granite countertops and pantry. Bathrooms have been redone. Great yard with possible side yard access.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Pleasanton \$869,000
5bd/3ba, 2538+-sf. 2 master suites. Baths recently remodeled. Hardwood flooring, recessed lighting. Kitchen with eat in area. Walk-in closet in master. 1565 Hopyard

MARK JAMES BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$793,000
Absolutely gorgeous 2040+-sf home with 4bd/2ba, plus bonus room. Private cul-de-sac location. Recently upgraded.

BRAD SLABAUGH BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$749,900
This 2029+-sf home has 3bd/2.5ba. Newer, close to downtown Pleasanton. No rear neighbors, end of cul-de-sac, very private. Indoor laundry and 2-car garage.

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



Pleasanton \$697,500
This beautiful 4bd/2.5ba home has been extensively remodeled within the past year and is located on a tree lined street in one of Pleasanton's most sought after neighborhood.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Dublin \$499,000
2bd/2ba, 1320+-sf luxury home. Attached garage, granite counters, gas cooking, 2 patios. Walk in closets in both bedrooms, recessed lighting, custom paint, indoor laundry. Single story, no stairs! 3706 Central

J. Rockcliff



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CASTRO VALLEY

25339 GOLD HILLS DR \$839,000
NEW PRICE! Panoramic views! 3 Beds, 2 1/2 Baths, 2,357 Sq. Ft., Shows like a model! Pro Home Theatre to be sold separately, call for details.
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LIVERMORE

648 SWALLOW DR \$499,950
Perfect starter home! Newly painted interior & front exterior, newer heater & A/C, with much more to see! Visit www.SavvySalesTeam.com for more info.
STEVEN R. LLOYD 925.251.2550

www.DianeSass.com



PLEASANTON

307 BRIANNE CT \$1,249,000
Amazing ridge views; custom Carriage Gardens home! Sparkling pool & spa w/waterfall. Gleaming hardwood floors. Newly painted inside & out. Tandem 3 car garage. Large patio & deck area w/views of the hills. 4 Bed 2.5 Bath.
DIANE SASS 925.462.2068



OAKLEY

1482 DRAKE COURT \$289,900
Great "starter" or investment property. Fully fenced yard with large level lot, fruit trees and side yard access. 3 Bed 2 Bath.
MICHAEL DELEHANTY 925.251.2516

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LIVERMORE

2648 ST HELENA CT \$1,150,000
Beautiful single story traditional style home located in the South Livermore Vineyards. Spectacular Pebble Tech pool with spa & water features. 3,513+/- SQ FT, gourmet kitchen, large bedrooms & much more!
MAX DE VRIES 925.525.0116



GREEN VALLEY

822 BRIDLE RIDGE DRIVE \$1,450,000
4 Bed, 3 Bath, Formal Dining Room, Master Suite w/Two dimensional fireplace.
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ANTIOCH

5009 DEERSPRING COURT \$449,950
Man upgrades! 4 Beds, 2 Baths, 9 Ft. Ceilings, Crown Molding, Upgraded Carpet, Dual Sinks in Baths, Pantry in Kitchen and Island, Possible Side Access, Court Location.
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LIVERMORE

309 N K ST \$780,000
Updated and gorgeous, with detached garage just blocks from new performing arts center and renovated Downtown. RM zoned possible B&B. 4 Bed 3 Bath.
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LIVERMORE

1579 FRANKFURT WAY \$769,000
Situated in the Sunset East area of Livermore, this complete remodel is ready for a new owner. With 4 large bedrooms and 3 full baths on 7500+ sq ft corner lot, and 2000+/- sq ft of living. Open Sun. 12:30-3:30PM
MICHAEL J. DUFFY 925.251.2523

OPEN SUN 1-4 PM



DISCOVERY BAY

6383 CRYSTAL SPRING CIRCLE \$523,000
NEW PRICE! 6 bed + Den, Family room Clipper @ The Lakes. Many upgrades. RV parking, Spa, custom covered patio, tiled luxury gas grill island, ceiling fans throughout, partial view of lake...beautiful, & more! Assumable Financing
JANE MYRENGET 510.386.2065



LIVERMORE

1836 HEIDELBERG DR \$785,000
Close to the heart of town for a short walk to stores and restaurants. You'll be proud to host a gathering in this gracious home. Large living rm features a tastefully designed kit. that doubles as a dining room. 4 Bed/ 2 Bath.
SHARON WILLIAMS 925.583.2181

www.860divisionst.com



MEDITERRANEAN VILLA

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One of a Kind Downtown Pleasanton Mediterranean Villa 4,500+/- SQ FT. Visit www.860divisionst.com for photos, features, and more!
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925.253.7000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Blackhawk
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
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5075 Hopyard Rd., #110
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Livermore
1983 Second Stree
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