

The job hunt

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vandalism

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Remembering Chris Amick Schlytter

Last Saturday, Kelly Amick Hilton did what every loving daughter does for her mother on her birthday, especially a benchmark year such as her 60th. Hilton, a mother of three herself, and her husband Bryan, hosted a get-together for family and friends, something she's done every year since her mother Christine Amick Schlytter died on Christmas Day in 2004. It was a light-hearted affair where the houseful of people talked about grandma, mother and good friend Chris, sharing stories and passing around their favorite photos. Everyone shared in the German chocolate cake Kelly had made from her mother's favorite recipe and the warm chocolate chip cookies that were another Chris Amick treat. Kelly's son Travis, 14, an eighth-grader at Harvest Park Middle School, was close to his grandmother and had his own special stories to tell. The younger children, Jackson, 6, and Hunter, just 18 months old, have only the photos as memories, and great admiration for their grandma's cooking skills. Kelly's brother Sam Amick, a reporter for the Sacramento Bee, was at the party with his wife Emily and their son Ryder. So was Kimberly Amick, Kelly's sister, who is now an attorney.

Like so many in Pleasanton, I knew Chris and was at her funeral in the packed sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran Church a few days after Christmas. Many well-known business, school, non-profit organization and political leaders filled the pews. Chris had battled brain cancer for 18 months before her death, but only a few weeks before that had turned over the association management company that she owned and left to Kimberly to operate. A business that served homeowners associations, Chris prided herself on providing entry-level jobs and training for young women as well as older women who were return-

ing to the workforce after raising their families.

"Chris was probably one of the most compassionate, caring and fun-loving individuals in our community," said her close friend and City Councilwoman Cindy McGovern. "She was involved in activities at Walnut Grove Elementary School, with parent groups, and at one time was on the board of the PPIE (Pleasanton Partnerships in Education) Foundation." Another friend, Kay Huff, said Chris was also part of the "race track girls," a group of women who participate each year in Huff's special Ladies Day at the Races during the county fair. She was also active in scores of social and charity events in Pleasanton.

Son Sam said the family moved to Pleasanton in 1979 and that his mother started the association management business in the early 1990s. Through that organization, she knew members of homeowners associations throughout Pleasanton and joined them often for their regular business meetings and at social functions. In the end, it was amazing to see such a large number of friends who became a daily support group for Chris in her final months.

Those at last Saturday night's birthday celebration said that what made Christine Amick Schlytter so special is that she included everybody in her life, was someone to turn to if there was ever a problem and was a spirited optimist who loved her job, the people she served and the community. For her children who attended Walnut Grove Elementary, Harvest Park and Amador Valley High schools, she was just as involved in classroom, sports and extracurricular programs, always there to raise money and support academic and social fundraisers. Kelly summed up the thoughts of family and friends: "My mother was a central part of all of our lives and we're grateful we had her as long as we did." ■

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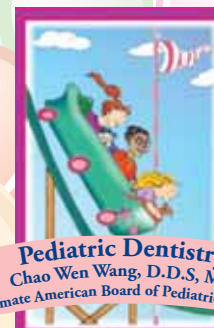
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welcome

About the Cover

George Gregoiri, a World War II veteran, drives his power wheelchair down Main Street in the Nov. 2 Veterans Day Parade. Like so many in the parade, "Georgi," as he's called, who lives in Pleasanton, is a member of the local VFW Post 6298. Photo by Dolores Bengtson. Vol. IX, Number 42

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Streetwise

Q: What are the priorities for Pleasanton now that the election is over?

Asked at Muirwood Community Park



Hillary Bessiere with son Jack, 8

My priority would be to re-establish businesses in our downtown and make sure that we continue to have a vibrant community and that our downtown maintains the look and feel that it's always had.

Greg Arellano

Based on the results of the election, my priority is to save my money. I am very uncertain of the future with the markets the way they are and the possibility of a significant tax increase.



Kevin Goon

In my view it's to protect the hill-sides because I want to preserve the beauty of Pleasanton. That's the most important thing we can do right now.

Susie Robinson

I'd like to see the downtown continue to grow and with no vacant buildings. I think our downtown is one of the draws of Pleasanton and something that's enjoyable for our community.



Ron Imperiale

I think we should put the hillside controversy to bed for once and for all. I think we should do this for the betterment of the people, not for what the mayor wants.

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

Compiled by Jeb Bing

Newsfront

News Digest

Hope Hospice remembers

In its 23rd year, Hope Hospice hosts Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. tonight at St. Philip Lutheran Church, 8850 Davona Drive in Dublin. The Threshold Choir will perform and there will be candlelight and reflection for those who have lost a loved one. Following the service will be a potluck social.

There is also the annual Lights of the Valley Illumination Ceremony, which will take place at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Heritage Bank of Commerce, 300 Main St. It is a night where those who have lost loved ones can enjoy music, reflection and hope. Symbolic lights, keepsake ornaments and inscribed names on the Wreath of Remembrance are available. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

Bankhead gives students a break

Students will be able to purchase discounted tickets for many Bankhead Theater shows, at 50 to 75 percent off the best available seat. To see if Student Rush Tickets are available, visit the website calendar at www.bankheadtheater.org and go to the ticket office two hours prior to show a student ID and pay for the ticket. The theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

Is it priceless?

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women holds an Antiques Roadshow with tea from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at Lynnwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. A local antique dealer will assess items. The cost is \$15 for one item or \$25 for two. The cost to attend is \$5. Call 846-136 to reserve a evaluation ticket.

Once upon a time

Children in preschool to third grade can have fun learning history at the Museum On Main's "Once Upon a Time" program, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at the museum, 603 Main St. The theme is the Ohlone and Founding Fathers and includes stories, games and a treat. The fee is \$5 per child. To learn more, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Oak Grove developers sue city

The Lin family wants court to force signing of hillside development agreement

by Jeb Bing

Developers of a 600-acre tract in the southeast hills that would include 51 "estate" custom homes and provide 496 acres free of charge to the city of Pleasanton for public use have sued the city government that approved the plan but so far has refused to sign the agreement.

Landowners Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic filed a court action Nov. 13 against City Manager Nelson Fialho that asked Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch to order Fialho to sign the

Development Agreement.

The case, which has not been discussed publicly by city officials until now, was scheduled to be heard yesterday in Roesch's courtroom. For an update on the proceeding, go to the Pleasanton Weekly's daily online edition at www.pleasantonweekly.com.

The Lins' suit, filed by their San Francisco attorney Andrew Sabey of the law firm Cox, Castle & Nicholson, is the latest legal move by the Lins to proceed with their Planned Unit Development (PUD) of the 51 home sites and the Development Plan, which includes

the land gift and \$1 million in contributions for public streets, traffic signals, crossing guards and other "mitigations" to the city, as well as an all-terrain fire fighting vehicle.

The City Council approved both the PUD and the development plan Nov. 6, 2007 in a 4-1 vote, with only Councilwoman Cindy McGovern objecting. By city statute and provisions in the development agreement, that agreement was to take effect 30 days after the approval.

But, according to the Lins' suit, Fialho, who has "ministerial duty to exercise the development agree-

ment," has refused to sign it. City Attorney Michael Roush said the city wants to await the outcome of a related legal action now under review in the state Court of Appeal that could affect the validity of the council's Nov. 6 action.

That action, filed by a citizens' coalition opposed to Oak Grove, seeks to overturn an earlier ruling by Judge Roesch that invalidated its petition, signed by 5,000 registered Pleasanton voters, calling for a referendum to overturn the council's Nov. 6 approval. In his ruling,

(continued on page 7)



Jeb Bing



Jeb Bing

\$20,000 haircuts

Talk about wearing your school's name on your sleeve, the eighth grade student body officers at Harvest Park Middle School have gone a step—or shoulder—farther.

To generate student action in a magazine sales fundraiser to help pay for school activities and athletics, Associated Student Body President Jordan Nally and his fellow officers agreed to have the initials of the school's name shaved on the back of their heads. The catch was that sixth, seventh and eighth grade students had to raise \$20,000, which promised to be a tough challenge in today's economy. The students responded and the boys followed through, in the end each sporting one of the initials: HPMS. Only class secretary Emma Wicks and her long blonde hair was spared as Blake Barkdull, class vice president; Ryan Mahoney, treasurer; and Nate Vickers, sports commissioner, joined Nally for the special trimming in the school's quad as students watched.

Principal Jim Hansen said the students actually sold \$40,000 worth of magazine subscriptions in an agreement with the circulation company that Harvest Park could keep half of the funds, or \$20,000.

The money will go toward paying for student activities, such as dances and movies night, and as stipends for coaches and referees at Harvest Park games.

Job crisis being felt locally

Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center offers on resume critiques, computer training, counseling

by Janet Pelletier

It seems like every day there's news of a company going under or announcing a string of layoffs, so it's no surprise that many unemployed workers are turning out in large numbers to the Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center.

The financial meltdown may be on a national scale, but it's certainly being felt locally, where companies such as Washington Mutual, Mervyn's and Circuit City, the mortgage and real estate industries and others are laying off workers.

"The first DHL person came in Monday," said Pat Donovan, who is the job developer at the Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center in Pleasanton.

Shipping company DHL announced Monday it would be reducing its ground and air operations in the U.S., resulting in the loss of 9,500 jobs country-wide. Donovan said she expects more unemployed workers will be filtering in soon after this latest announcement and word of more WaMu layoffs. There's also Mervyn's, which has filed for bank-

ruptcy and is closing its Bay Area stores, including ones in Dublin and Livermore. Add to that Circuit City, which announced last week it will be closing nearly 20 percent of its stores, including a Dublin location. At the top of that pile? The real estate and mortgage companies amidst the ever-increasing home foreclosures. Pleasanton-based E-Loan, an online mortgage lender, announced late last month that they would stop issuing new loans. Donovan estimates about 270 jobs have been lost from E-Loan.

And a bleak statistic confirms

what local residents are seeing: the federal Department of Labor announced last week that the unemployment rate increased in October from 6.1 to 6.5 percent, a 14-year high.

The Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center is poised to help, though. The nonprofit center, which is funded by the federal government, offers an array of free programs and services. From as little as getting a resume critiqued to taking a typing test to perusing a bulletin

(continued on page 7)

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Police haven't ruled out hate crime possibility

Kern Court home may have been racially targeted in recent vandalism

by Emily West

Reports of officials writing off the recent vandalism of a home on Kern Court may have jumped the gun, according to police.

Lt. Jeff Bretzing of the Pleasanton Police Department said that while the spray painting of the Patrick family's cars included vulgarities, there were no direct racial slurs to make the immediate conclusion of a racially motivated crime. He said the incident is still under investigation and they have yet to determine whether it was a hate crime.

California penal code defines a hate crime to be "a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: 1. disability, 2. gender, 3. nationality, 4. race or ethnicity, 5. religion, 6. sexual orientation, 7. association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics."

The code further describes it to be unlawful to threaten, force, injure, intimidate a person, or deface or damage real or personal property because of the "perceived characteristics."

While Bretzing said police have not ruled out the possibility of a hate crime, they have no new information in the investigation to make a determination at this point.

Having patrolled the neighborhood and spoken with neighbors, he said they are looking for help from the community in finding leads.

In the early morning hours after America elected its first black president, the Patricks, a black family



Vandals spray painted the Patrick family's cars and slashed their tires and Obama sign the day after the election. The home was also littered with toilet paper and eggs.

residing in the 3900 block of Kern Court, were the victims of vandalism. Toilet paper and eggs had been plastered to their home and cars, and their Barack Obama sign had been slashed along with their car tires. Vulgarities were also spray painted onto their cars.

Phil Patrick said he believes it was racially motivated, as neighbors with Obama signs saw no damage to their property. He said it wasn't the first time his family had trouble this election season, as their Obama signs were trashed prior to Tuesday.

"It's a great accomplishment that

Obama was elected, but what's happened to us is evidence that there is still a lot of strong feelings burning in the hearts of some people," he said. "We still have a ways to go."

Patrick also mentioned that a friend parked in front of a house with an Obama sign had their car windows smashed.

As of press time, police were still developing reports and couldn't confirm the number of politically-motivated vandalism.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call police at 931-5100. ■

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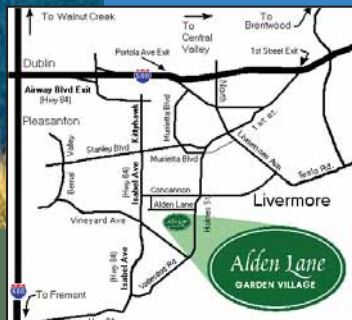


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Dire straits

Open Heart Kitchen plans emergency fundraiser Nov. 20

by Janet Pelletier

Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Open Heart Kitchen, which serves hot meals to people in need, will host an emergency fundraiser Nov. 20 in the hopes that it will raise enough money to keep it from shuttering its doors.

The nonprofit, which serves low-income families, seniors and other vulnerable populations in the Tri-Valley has already begun tapping into its reserve food supply, a victim of the worsening economy. The soup kitchen's situation is what Executive Director Linda McKeever describes as the perfect storm—less people donating and more people needing hot meals.

More people than ever are turning out at Open Hearts meal programs, which have been offered in

Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore since 1995. Demand for meals has increased nearly 25 percent. The nonprofit also provides a children's weekend box lunch program and dinner service to seniors, such as the Monday program at Ridgeview Commons.

Last year, the kitchen served 160,000 meals. That was accomplished by a small staff of two full-time and five part-time workers and hundreds of volunteers. In addition, contributions from the public have decreased by 45 percent. Food costs have risen by 10 percent.

Because the food being provided is Open Heart's reserves, that supply is only anticipated to last another four or five weeks at the most if the community doesn't step in to help.

The Nov. 20 fundraiser will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at Blacksmith Square

in Livermore, South Livermore and Railroad avenues, rain or shine. There will be live music by acoustic folk rock singer Roger Kardinal, also known as the "voice of Livermore." There will also be wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres, according to Wendy Weathers, a volunteer who is organizing the fundraiser.

"A representative from Open Heart will be there to take donations and speak to the crowd a little bit about what's going on with Open Heart Kitchen," she said. "There's no cost for the event and we just want to encourage people to come and donate their money. It's serious."

Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted forms of donations. Weathers said Open Heart is also looking for local businesses to donate food trays for the fundraiser. For information, call Weathers at 963-8019. ■

Jobs

(continued from page 5)

board of job listings or enrolling in a computer training program to learn Excel and PowerPoint, workers can take advantage of the resources that will help them get back into the workforce.

"We take them through the very first layoff all the way through employment," Donovan said. "We also follow up with people after they've gotten a job to see how it's going. It's a real package deal."

Asked what the center's typical clientele is, Donovan said: "There's nothing typical anymore with the economy the way it is. We're seeing more people from the mortgage industry, banks, construction and real estate."

For many unemployed workers, finding a new job means acquiring a few additional skills first to pad a resume, Donovan said.

Take the mortgage industry: Donovan said she's seeing many people moving into the customer

service sector after learning Excel, Power Point and Microsoft Word.

Getting help through the center begins with filling out an application.

"Every service here is free," Donovan said. "We recommend people attend our weekly orientations, which are every Tuesday. Then, you can sit down with a counselor."

Donovan said key things each person needs to consider are: looking at what you like to do, what job fields are available and what skills you have. Resumes are the way for job seekers to sell an employer on their services, Donovan said.

"Sometimes, it's just revamping it slightly," she said. "You want to make sure you get all your skills on there. Look at the job description and make sure you're addressing that."

The career center also counsels people on the job interview process.

"Some people who have lost their job after having it for many years are afraid of interviewing," she said. "Our job is to get them

used to the interview process, how to answer those questions and be prepared."

Through a federal grant called the Workforce Investment Act, the career center is able to fund up to 50 percent of a worker's salary for up to three or four months for on-the-job training. The employer pays the rest.

The career center has built connections in the local business community, Donovan said, and also works with staffing agencies. Employers often hold recruitment events there. It is one of 13 comprehensive One Stop Career Centers located in the East Bay, according to Ed McMillan, who is the coordinator for the network of centers called East Bay Works.

McMillan said there's been a roughly 25 percent increase in people seeking assistance at the East Bay centers.

For more information on the Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center, located at 5020 Franklin Drive, visit www.trivalleyonestop.com or call 485-5262. ■

expected that the Court of Appeal would send the case back to Roesch or another judge on the Superior Court bench for a new hearing. Even if Roesch's earlier decision is reversed, the citizens' group would still need to take their petition to voters, who would then decide whether to accept the council's decision to approve the Lins' housing and development agreement or to reverse the council's action, a process that could take another year after the Appellate Court makes its decision.

In his response to the Lins' suit on the development agreement, Roush said Fialho, as city manager, actually "has no ministerial duty (to sign the development agreement) and the petition (by the Lins) should be denied."

"The Pleasanton City Council approved the project and the agree-

ment but expressly joined the two at the hip," he explained. "The project ordinance was suspended because a referendum petition was filed before its effective date and the ordinance remains suspended today."

"Not satisfied with that, petitions (the Lins) have filed this baseless lawsuit to compel the City Manager to perform a function that the law does not permit him to do," Roush continued. "The court should deny the petition."

Asked why the Lins are taking this new court action now, city officials said they can only conjecture that a favorable order by Judge Roesch might help influence the Court of Appeal to deny the Save Pleasanton's Hills appeal of Roesch's earlier ruling so that work on the project can get under way. ■

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

Roesch ruled that the petitioners, a group called Save Pleasanton's Hills and organized by former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala, failed to show those signing the citizens' petition all of the documents they should have seen related to the council's action, including the development agreement.

Roush, who will defend Fialho and the city government that approved the development agreement at Thursday's court hearing, said that in his opinion it makes no sense to sign either the development agreement or the PUD measure until the Court of Appeal decides on the Ayala group's appeal.

If the appeal is granted, it's

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Take Us Along

Weekly bridging borders

The Miller and Truax families shared the Weekly with their new amigos during a Corazon home-building trip to Cumbres, Mexico. The project was organized by the local group Tri Valley Hearts.



Hurricane Weekly

A team of Hurricane Katrina relief workers from Pleasanton Presbyterian Church traveled with the Weekly to Slidell, La. Mizz Alma, 87, was able to move back into her home with the help from volunteers.

Weekly in Pleasanton—Texas

Chris Miller took the Weekly along to our unofficial sister city, Pleasanton, Texas. While there, Chris exchanged a couple of issues of the Weekly with the editor of the Pleasanton Express newspaper. Chris said: "It was a cool experience for sure. Cute little town about 1-2 miles off the Interstate about 35 miles from San Antonio." He was in town for a Rotary meeting in nearby Jourdanon.



What a day

Heather and Debby Day took the Weekly along on their trip back to Chautauqua, New York to see family. Their vacation also included seeing Lake Erie.

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Opinion

Editorial

Despite pranks, we've seen a dream come true

While much of the country was celebrating the election of Barack Obama as president on Nov. 4, Pleasanton was fairly quiet. As we wrote in a column last Friday, after the polls closed here "you could roll the proverbial bowling ball down Main Street without striking a car (or a shopper)." Even the celebrations in the mayoral, City Council and school board victories, as small as they were, ended early so that everyone could go home and watch the news coverage out of Chicago and Washington, D.C. Everyone, that is, but a few who roamed the streets with anger or pranks in mind, eventually striking out at the Kern Court home of Allison and Phil Patrick where this lone or several individuals went on a late night crime spree that included smashing the Patricks' Obama yard signs (see page 6), spray painting profanities on a garage door, throwing eggs at the house and slashing tires on the family automobile parked outside. Did these thugs know the Patricks are African-American like the president we had just elected? Was this a hate crime? Vandalism? An election night prank? We don't know and, despite ongoing and thorough police work, we may never know. What we do know is that this is a sad but unusual incident for Pleasanton, which election after election encounters some stolen or trashed political signs, but not the appalling and targeted damage that we saw on the Patricks' property.

The incident was especially troubling because more than a million had been cheering the election of Barack Obama in Chicago, a national turning-point vote that came just 45 years after Dr. Martin Luther King exhorted an equally impressive crowd in Washington, D.C., calling on them to "not wallow in the valley of despair...And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Messages on our TownSquare forum (www.pleasantonweekly.com) show the outrage of our community over the Patricks' vandalism, along with other incidents where homes have been egged, signs torn or stolen and graffiti written on lawn signs and houses. Elaine Olson, who knows something about despair, wrote:

"We can not let this happen in Pleasanton and go without helping in some way. How can we show support to this family without making them feel they are in the spotlight? Many of us are disgusted...I would love to head up a headquarters to receive offers from restaurants, businesses and people's good wishes for this family that was affected. We need to show them, the town and the country that we will not accept this behavior. If we are to move on as a nation, we need to respect those who live in our community."

We agree. It's time to move on and celebrate the historic moment we are living in which speaks so deeply to the greatness of America. Dr. King had a dream. We've seen his dream come true. ■

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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Letters

Thanks for opportunity to serve

Dear Editor,

I am honored that you elected me to a second term so I can continue serving you in Washington. I want to thank everyone who made this victory possible: the voters, volunteers, contributors, campaign workers, and, of course, my family. Your support inspires and fills me with awe. Our freedom and democracy would not be possible without your involvement. I'd also like to commend my opponent for his courage to undertake this effort.

I am thankful to be an American, in this incredible system that renews itself every generation and inspires people around the world.

We now face great challenges. First and most urgent is rebuilding our economy so that all Americans have a fair shot at success. We must protect our nation and our citizens from those who would harm us. We must achieve energy independence by becoming more efficient and by producing clean energy in our country—and create hundreds of thousands of stable, family-wage jobs in the process. Our nation also is in critical need of major health care reform, and we must come together as a community to help our schools provide a quality education that prepares our students for these and other great challenges.

I will strive to work together, across partisan lines, to live up to the honor and responsibility that has once again been bestowed upon me by the voters. I will continue to be open and accessible

and to listen to your concerns so I can best represent you in Washington.

I look forward to seeing you at a supermarket, coffee shop or hardware store near you soon.

Jerry Mc Nerney

11th District Congressman

Participation good, using children not

Dear Editor,

On the day before the election, while driving across Pleasanton, I passed through the Valley and Hopyard intersection. Standing on the eight safety islands were probably two dozen people holding signs either for or in opposition to Proposition 8. I was filled with great pride to see the citizens of this great city turned out—in driving rain no less—to encourage people to vote on this measure. Part of my pride was to see the two sides, roughly equal in numbers, share the islands peacefully. This is something I'm not sure that I could have done.

What I did not like seeing is the children present holding signs. It disturbs me that adults are pushing their agenda on (presumably their own) children and having them stand so close to moving traffic for something they cannot even vote on. This is an adult issue, voted on by adults. No one under 18 should be holding a sign, taking a side for something most kids do not completely understand. This is inappropriate, and physically dangerous as well. I will not tell you my thoughts on this proposition (that is irrelevant), and while I write this on Monday night, I have no idea what Tuesday brings as far as an outcome of this or any other item on the ballot. But once again I will say how proud I am of the Pleasanton people. But next time, please call a babysitter and leave your kids at home. They can decide for themselves how to vote when they turn 18.

*Paul Stewart
Pleasanton*

Thank you for costume donations

Dear Editor,

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and families who so generously supported our ninth annual Halloween Costume Drive. We received a fabulous abundance of new and 'gently used' costumes to outfit our young neighbors in need. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of some grateful goblins, super heroes and fairy tale characters who otherwise would have had to go without this Halloween.

Bob and Deb Cilk

What do we want downtown to be now?

Dear Editor,

There has been much written lately about the shortage of

retail businesses in downtown Pleasanton, but little about why.

A significant and "measurable" amount of today's retail deficiencies can be traced directly to the current Downtown Specific Plan and its application. The plan was written a decade ago or so, mostly by those who neither lived, worked or supported downtown on a regular basis and approved by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Only now are the results of their strategies being recognized.

Today, only about 16 percent of Main Street Pleasanton sidewalk frontage is occupied by a pedestrian-retail business. Restaurants use about 35 percent; parking lots consume 26 percent; and five-day 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. automobile-oriented businesses like banks use 18 percent with 4 percent vacancies. Now one can certainly argue the definition of success, but it seems reasonable to believe that retail business along Main Street will continue to struggle when anywhere close to 87 percent of the space a pedestrian shopper walks past is either a restaurant, asphalt or closed. Ask yourself, how often do you see someone walking down Main Street carrying a shopping bag?

One thing is for certain. Main Street Pleasanton today is what it is—it's what we made it or allowed others to make for us. The debate today should be: what do we want downtown to be now? You decide. And remember, if you decide not to decide, others will always be willing to decide for you. In fact, some are counting on it.

*Kathleen Clark-Morrison
Pleasanton*

Amador Class of '78 reunion a blast

Dear Editor,

After having spent a glorious four days back in Pleasanton (Oct. 9-12), we are compelled to write and thanks all those who welcomed home Amador Valley alums from the Class of '78.

The town has changed greatly in the 30-plus years since many of us departed, but the charm and warmth of our quiet little town remains. We hope you who make Pleasanton your home today realize and appreciate how special your "hometown" is.

From the staff at our home base at the Pleasanton Sheraton and gang at Gay 90's who hosted our post-game celebration to the staff at Sunol Golf Course who handled our Reunion Weekend Memorial Tournament without a hitch, to the wonderful administration, staff and parents of today's students at Amador, the 100-plus returning alumnae were truly welcomed home in stellar fashion.

Here's hoping it won't be five years before we do it again. Until then...cheers.

*Dennis and Lisa Jones
Idaho Falls, Idaho*

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Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Fake solicitors foiled in alleged burglary

Three suspects were recently arrested by Livermore police after allegedly trying to burglarize a Livermore home.

According to police, 42-year-old Kevin Morgan of Modesto knocked on doors in Travis Circle in Livermore Oct. 16, pretending to solicit for a business. While knocking on one door, the homeowner watched from inside and saw a gray Jeep Cherokee idling in front of the home.

Police said Morgan continued to knock and ring the doorbell for several minutes before he burst open the door and entered the home. Seeing the homeowner, Morgan reportedly fled to the Jeep and the homeowner called 911.

The vehicle was stopped by police and Morgan; Joshua Mederios, 20; and Jodi Northcutt, 38, both from Modesto, were arrested on probable cause.

While no similar incidents have been reported in Pleasanton, Lt. Matt Sarsfield of Livermore police said the group is believed to have operated throughout the Tri-Valley and as far as Brentwood.

Some crime prevention tips released by Livermore police include: always verbally acknowledge a knock at the door or the doorbell and talk through the door; a "beware of dog" sign is a good deterrent; and always secure windows and doors, even when someone is home.

Police Report

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

Nov. 3

- Petty theft:
 - 9:08 a.m. in the 5600 block of Belleza Drive
 - 9:17 a.m. in the 6700 block of Rancho Court
 - 9:26 a.m. in the 800 block of Bonita Avenue
 - 9:40 a.m. in the 800 block of Bonita Avenue
- Embezzlement:
 - 2:57 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Burglary:
 - 7:43 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 8:33 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

Nov. 4

- Theft:
 - 10:38 a.m. in the 4000 block of Sherry Court; petty theft
 - 10:50 a.m. in the 5100 block of Franklin Drive; petty theft
 - 11:36 a.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 1000 block of Riesling Drive; petty theft
 - 4:01 p.m. in the 600 block of Del Sol Drive; petty theft

•Vandalism:

- 9:21 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Arbor Drive
- 10:11 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Kolln Street
- 3:30 p.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road

•Burglary:

- 12:36 a.m. in the 300 block of Lone Oak Drive; vehicular
- 1:09 a.m. in the 800 block of Crellin Road; vehicular
- 1:38 a.m. at the intersection of Mataro Court and Arbor Drive; vehicular
- 12:08 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

•Battery:

- 10:19 a.m. in the 4100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Nov. 5

- Theft:
 - 9:31 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive; petty theft
 - 12:51 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity

- theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:44 a.m. in the 3900 block of Kern Court; worth more than \$400
 - 8:46 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive
 - 12:13 p.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Tanager Drive
 - 1:42 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive
 - 2:20 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road
- Burglary:
 - 7:29 a.m. in the 2600 block of Curry Street; vehicular
 - 8:25 a.m. in the 2700 block of Foxglove Court; vehicular
 - 9:41 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 11:24 a.m. in the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue; vehicular
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:07 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard and Golden roads; marijuana possession
 - 9:46 p.m. at the intersection of Heritage Lane and Neal Street; DUI

Nov. 6

- Theft:
 - 8:08 a.m. in the 3300 block of Busch Road; grand theft
 - 9:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; petty theft
 - 11:19 a.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles; identity theft
 - 7:21 p.m. in the 700 block of

Nov. 7

- Theft:
 - 8:08 a.m. in the 3300 block of Busch Road; grand theft
 - 9:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; petty theft
 - 11:19 a.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles; identity theft
 - 7:21 p.m. in the 700 block of

- Main Street; petty theft
- 8:18 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 8:47 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 11:58 p.m. in the 3800 block of Mohr Avenue
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:56 a.m. in the 3500 block of Rathbone Way
- DUI:
 - 2:18 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Owens Court

Nov. 7

- Theft:
 - 7:46 a.m. in the 3300 block of Busch Road; grand theft
 - 11:06 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; grand theft
 - 11:13 a.m. in the 7800 block of Driftwood Way; stolen vehicle
 - 12:55 a.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle
 - 1:33 p.m. in the 7900 block of Winged Foot Court; grand theft
 - 6:06 p.m. in the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 1:47 a.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 3:23 a.m. in the 7800 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 6:43 p.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

The November 18, 2008 City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regular council meeting will be held on December 2, 2008.

Housing Commission

Thursday, November 20, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Application by HOUSE, Inc., for HOME Funds to Acquire Housing in Pleasanton for Developmentally Disabled Adults

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, November 20, 2008 @ 7:30 a.m.
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Economic Development Strategic Plan
Discussion of key strategies and actions and reports from subcommittees

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunities

- Assistant House Manager – Part-Time, Temporary
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For more information, visit our employment page at
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

2009 Grant Application workshops

The Cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton are co-sponsoring application workshops for the following programs for FY 2009 (09-10): Dublin Community Development Block Grant, Livermore Housing and Human Services Grant, Pleasanton Community Development Block Grant, Pleasanton City Grant. Staff will discuss the application processes, and will distribute application packets. **Attendance is mandatory to apply for City of Livermore funding and strongly encouraged for the Cities of Dublin and Pleasanton.** Please choose one workshop to attend and RSVP as indicated below.

Date: Monday, December 8, 2008
Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Location: Pleasanton City Council Chambers
200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Location: Livermore City Council Chambers
3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore

To RSVP for a workshop, please contact Tim Shurtleff at 925-960-4016 or tmshurtleff@ci.livermore.ca.us

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
For complete information, please visit
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

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\$250 gift- receive a hand cast angel ornament from our new collection.

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Lights of the Valley Illumination Ceremonies are open to the public at no charge.

Heritage Bank - 300 Main St., Pleasanton
Wednesday, November 19th at 6:30 pm



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Transitions

Obituaries

Barbara Elaine Swartzwelder

Barbara Swartzwelder died Oct. 20 after a long illness at the age of 79.

Mrs. Swartzwelder was born Feb. 7, 1929 in San Jose.

A Pleasanton resident for the past 40 years, she was a member of the San Jose Eastern Star as a Star Point.

She is survived by her beloved spouse of 60 years, Robert (Dean) Swartzwelder of Pleasanton; son, Bryce (Mary Frances) of Nipomo, Calif.; sister, Lynda Sherry of Sonora; and cherished grandchildren, Bryce II and Jessenda of Nipomo, Calif. Private services will be held.

John Holland, Jr.

John Gordon Holland Jr. died Oct. 30 after a brief battle with melanoma at the age of 65.

Mr. Holland Jr. was born Jan. 5, 1943 and raised in St. Joseph, Mo. and moved to California in 1964 after discharge from U.S. Army. He was a resident of Pleasanton since 1975.

He owned and operated Holland Pest Control for 27 years.

Mr. Holland Jr. is survived by his wife, Bette; daughter, Regina Holland of Stockton; son, John G. Holland III of Castro Valley; stepson, Adam Brissette of Pocatello, Idaho; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers, Richard Holland of St. Joseph, Mo.; Jim Holland of

Avenue City, Mo.; and sisters, Ann Yama, BettyJo Ross and Elizabeth Roberts, all of St. Joseph.

Services were held Nov. 4. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Eugene Barnett

Eugene Clyde Barnett died Nov. 1 at the age of 89.

Mr. Barnett was born Feb. 3, 1919 in Dibble, Okla. He was married to his wife Jill for 67 years and they lived most of their lives in both the Bay Area and Lower Lake, Calif.

Mr. Barnett served the United States with distinction during World War II in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater.

He was a finish carpenter for most of his professional life, working for Design Workshop in San Francisco. He was a master at working with his hands, but was just as comfortable solving complex mechanical problems. He was very active with the Southern Baptist church where he served as a deacon. His legacy was his family.

He is survived by his two daughters, Genie Finch of Pleasanton and Betty Lopez (Art Lopez) of Northridge, Calif.; sister, Hilda Cherry of Benicia; one grandson; three granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 5 with burial following at Memory Gardens in Concord.



Susan Pratt and husband David of Antioch, George Cushing, Jr. of Lathrop, Sheryl Thompson and husband Allan of Pleasanton, Gregory Cushing and wife Thu of Palo Alto; brother, Donald Cushing and wife Dale of Walnut Grove, Calif.; sister, Maryann Schumacher and husband Gary of Daly City; grandchildren, Alexa, Sophia, Bradley, Joshua, Ronald and Erika; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Services were held Nov. 10 at St. Augustine Catholic Church with burial following at St. Augustine's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway, Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568.

Delores Ferraro

Delores (Dee) M. Ferraro died Nov. 9 at the age of 79.

A native of Jamestown, N.Y., she was born March 15, 1929, a daughter of the late Mary and Charles Landy Raeon.

Prior to her retirement she was employed by the Southwestern Central School District at Lakewood Elementary School as a teacher's aide. As an active member of the Girls Scouts of America for over 50 years she was the proud recipient of the Green Angel Award for her many years of helping to shape the lives of so many young area girls. She was the Girl Scout Area chairperson for many years.

She was a very active sports enthusiast, playing on many local softball teams including the Sacred Heart Church team. She was a very caring and wonderful mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend. Her greatest joy was watching her grandchildren walk through her front door.

She is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, John Ferraro, whom she married May 27, 1950; four children, Daryl (Cindy) Ferraro of Lakewood, N.Y.; Lori (John) Johnson of Pleasanton; Steve Ferraro of Boca Raton, Fla.; and Johnneen (Joe) Hoose of Lakewood, N.Y.; 11 loving grandchildren, Colette and Carly Johnson of Pleasanton; Alexandra Ferraro of Lakewood, N.Y.; and Tanner; Ga-briella; Mason; Gianna; Giuseppe; Dontae; Neves; and Tavio Hoose; all of Lakewood.

Beside her parents, she was preceded in death by brothers and sisters, Fannie Donato Donald Raeon, Frank Raeon, Mary Palmisano and Clementine Gulino.

George William Cushing

George William "Bill" Cushing, died peacefully Nov. 1 at home.

Mr. Cushing was born and raised in San Francisco, where he met his beloved wife of 51 years, Barbara. He graduated from Archbishop Riordan High School and went on to serve his country proudly in the U.S. Army. As a professional, he retired in 1999 after spending 28 years with Bank of America. He was a longtime member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, and was a classic car buff, belonging to the California Chrysler Products Car Club. He was affectionately known among his friends and family as the guy who could fix anything.

Mr. Cushing is survived by his wife, Barbara; cherished children,

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Births

Sydney Kathryn Vittoria

Sydney Kathryn Vittoria was born at 10:28 p.m. Sept. 16 at Kaiser Walnut Creek. She weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces and was 18 inches long. Parents are Perry and Tianne.



Calendar

Class Reunions

AVHS Reunion Amador Valley High School's Class of 1998 will be holding its 10-year reunion Nov. 28. The event will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. at Roe Restaurant and Lounge, 651 Howard St., San Francisco. Advance tickets cost \$40 and include an Asian fusion buffet-style dinner and free admission to the restaurant's nightclub. A no-host bar will also be included on site. For more information, email avhs98@gmail.com.

Granada High School Class of 1989 Reunion The reunion committee for Granada High School Class of 1989 in Livermore is searching for classmates to celebrate their 20th year reunion. It will be held Sept. 5, 2009. For information, visit www.GHS1989.NET.

Clubs

Democratic Victory Party TriValley Democratic Club victory party and meeting invites the public to eat, gloat and schmooze from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 17 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Members are encouraged to bring goodies to eat. The public and elected officials are invited. The venue is wheelchair accessible. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network The group meets at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Dr. James Stalker will discuss Advanced Allergy Therapeutics (AAT), which is a non invasive method of allergy elimination without drugs, shots, supplements or herbal remedies. AAT applies to all forms of allergies. Call 922-7615 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

Concerts

Free Family Concert If you like the music The Carnival of Animals, Pictures at an Exhibition, Peter and the Wolf, and Star Wars, then you will enjoy the free Family Concert, presented by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Doors open at 1:40 p.m. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Events

Antique Roadshow and Tea From 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 15 a local antique dealer will do appraisals at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. while the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch American Association of University Women

provide tea and refreshments. Cost is \$15 for an appraisal, and \$5 for tea. Call 846-9136.

Blue Star Moms Donations Drop Zone The East Bay Blue Star Moms will be holding a Holiday Hugs Care Package donation drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 15 at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive. They will be collecting items to include in their annual holiday care packages for troops. Call 648-1549 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Express to Success Networking The group meets for an educational and networking event at 6 p.m. Nov. 18 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road. Joy Broughton will be the guest speaker. The cost is free for members or \$5 for non-members.

Family and Friends Marching Band Field Show The second annual Family and Friends Field Show is from 8 to 9 p.m. Nov. 18 at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Road. The Foothill Marching Band and the Amador Valley Marching Band and Colorguard present their 2008 field shows in full uniform.

Lights of the Valley Tree Lighting Join neighbors and friends for a warm and meaningful evening of holiday entertainment and treats from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Heritage Bank of Commerce, 300 Main St. A donation to Hope Hospice adds a symbolic light or star to our Tree of Life in honor of a loved one. Add their name to our lighted Wreath of Remembrance. Porcelain angels also available. Call Pattie, 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

National Survivors of Suicide Loss Day The 10th annual national broadcast is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 22 at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, West Las Positas Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive. It is part of a network of healing conferences that helps survivors connect with others who have survived the tragedy of suicide loss. Speakers will be Bridget Melson of Trinity Life Solutions and Bruce Massarsky, a survivor and life coach. There will be group discussions. Registration is \$15 and scholarships are available. Call 872-5634 or 336-1633.

Exhibits

Come Home for the Holidays The exhibit at Museum On Main, 603 Main St., runs through Jan. 11 and will showcase winter holiday traditions in Pleasanton and Pleasanton's sister cities Tulancingo, Mexico, and Blairgowrie, Scotland. The cost is a \$2 donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museummain.org.

Disney Fine Art Event Alexander's Fine Art hosts the fine art of Rodol Gonzalez, Disney Fine Art's newest

sensation. Rodol will hand embellishes six never-before-seen limited edition releases from Nov. 1 to 15 at the gallery, 608-G Main St.

Farm Life: A Century of Change in America Dublin Heritage Center will offer a National Endowment for the Humanities traveling exhibit on Farm Life: A Century of Change in America. It runs Oct. 21 through Nov. 19 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. Call 828-1315.

Film

The End Of America This brand new film, based on the bestseller by and starring Naomi Wolf, will be shown at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m., while a short discussion follows. Snacks and beverages provided. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Holiday

Breakfast with Santa Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., hosts a pancake breakfast, storytime with Santa, puppet show by the Fratello Marionettes, face painting, crafts and more from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 20. Tickets are \$5 before Nov. 20 or \$7 after. Call 727-7094. Register online at www.livingvinefellowship.com.

Craft Show Country Folk Art is back at the fairgrounds Nov. 14-16 for the Home, Holiday and Gifts craft show. Admission is \$7 or \$6 with online coupon. Visit www.countryfolkart.com.

Downtown Magical Evening From 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 21, the public will celebrate the holidays at Downtown Magical Evening. Downtown will come alive with the sights and sounds of the holidays including Santa, elves, carolers, choruses, bell ringers, Dana Smith and Lacey, balloon sculptors, face painters and Crackers the Clown. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasanton-downtown.net.

Holiday Extravaganza A holiday luncheon from noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 16 benefits the Museum On Main. A fashion show featuring fashions exclusively from downtown merchants will be one

of the highlights. Tickets are \$30. Call 462-2766 to reserve a spot.

National Charity League Holiday Boutique Shop for fashionable accessories, unique jewelry, artisan chocolates, pet accessories, school graduation leis and cosmetics in a home uniquely decorated for the holidays by Milfeur of Pleasanton. The boutique is from 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at 1279 Hearst Drive. All proceeds will fund our philanthropy projects.

NBC Bay Area/John Farley Holiday Food Drive From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 22, NBC Bay Area anchor/reporter Jessica Aguirre and local Kiwanis volunteers will be at the NBC Bay Area Holiday Food Drive held at Lucky supermarket on W. Las Positas collecting food for needy families. Visit www.nbcbayarea.com.

Remembering our Heroes Winter-Holiday Drive The Remembering our Heroes Winter-Holiday Drive, sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. (Supporting All Military), will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive. They will collect goodies for holiday packages to send to military men and women. Visit www.operationsam.org for details.

Lectures/ Workshops

Improve Communication Skills Learn to improve communication skills at the Livermore Valley Business and Professional Women at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 at Cafe Nordstrom at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Dinner and the program is \$20. Call Mona, 828-3006, by Nov. 17 to reserve a spot.

Researching, Writing and Marketing Historical Fiction At the next meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, Janis Cooke Newman, author of a novel about Mary Todd Lincoln, and Jordan Biro of the California Council for the Promotion of History discuss how to research, write and market historical fiction. The meeting is at 11:30 Nov. 15 at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. The cost is \$21 for members or \$27

for non-members. Call 462-7495 for reservations.

On Stage

Shakespeare on Tour The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's "Shakespeare on Tour" presents Romeo and Juliet at 2 p.m. Nov. 16 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This production has a unique Californian twist with Day of the Dead style masks and costumes. Call 931-3405.

ADVERTISEMENT

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

DIVINE ASSISTANCE

St. Joseph is the patron saint of carpenters and, in more recent times, homesellers. In order to hasten a sale, some people bury a small statue of the saint in their front yard. We have no data on the effectiveness of this marketing technique, but we do know from those running religious supply stores that the little statues are "flying off the shelves." In California's capital city, you can even buy statues at the Sacramento Association of Realtors® store.

The use of buried statues of St. Joseph has been traced to St. Teresa of Avila, who buried a statue in the ground where she hoped to erect a convent. (It should be added that St. Joseph is a patron saint of family... and of patience.) Though buyers are not necessarily Catholics, sellers generally strongly advise the buyers not just to bury the statue, but also to include prayer in their search for a buyer.

At the very least, then, the practice gives them a prayer, and possibly even a sense that something mysterious is helping to get the home sold. With a firm faith in praying and then paddling the boat to shore, rather than just waiting for help, may we suggest that you work with the real estate professional of your careful choice to arrive at the best possible asking price for your home, to help prepare the home to look its best to potential buyers, and to build a marketing program, including relevant buyer incentives, that will generate interest in the home. With all of this going for you, the best possible results could come quickly. For professional assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Recreation

REI Ridge Trail Service Day The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and REI host REI Ridge Trail Service Day from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 15, with 10 volunteer trail work projects around the Bay Area. Call 415-561-2595 or visit ridgetrail.org.

Spiritual

Returning Catholics Program
Inactive & Returning Catholics: Consider this an invitation to take another look at the Catholic church. We provide discussion of important issues in today's church, education on current belief and practice. Tell your story and renew your faith in a supportive and non-judgmental

environment. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 474-2760.

Tri-Valley Unity Church In Your Very Midst: Living the Christ in Church and Community is the topic of Rev. Steve Maynard's Sunday morning lesson Nov. 16 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, at 10 a.m. We'll also be celebrating the church's 14th birthday, with special music by the Serendipity Singers. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

PLC Girls New Player Festival
Pleasanton Lacrosse Club is hosting a Girls New Player Festival for girls

in first through eighth grades from 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 16 at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. It costs \$39 and includes stick and ball. Register at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com. Space is limited and sign-ups for 2009 spring season are also open.

Volunteering

Tri-Valley Basket Brigade Join us for a unique Thanksgiving food drive where volunteers gather as a group to assemble Thanksgiving baskets and personally deliver them to Bay Area residents in need. The Brigade will occur at, but isn't affiliated with, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 22. To sign up, visit www.trivalleybasketbrigade.com.



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Sports

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Heard it on TownSquare...

Experience the best of Pleasanton

For anyone looking for an inexpensive and fun night out, (tonight) is the "Battle of Pleasanton" at Amador Valley High School when the visiting Foothill Falcons travel to Amador Valley to take on the Dons in the season finale for both teams. Foothill looks assured of an NCS playoff spot regardless of the outcome based on its 7-2 record, but the Dons have everything on the line as an upset win would likely get them to the "big dance" as well. For the \$5 admission, you'll be treated to an electric environment matched by few high school venues anywhere in the state or even country. Last time these two teams met at Amador the crowd was estimated at approximately 5,000! Let's show our typical Pleasanton support for these two great schools and celebrate senior night for the outgoing senior football players and cheerleaders for the Dons. Pre-game festivities start around 6:15 p.m., and gametime kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Be sure to arrive early as parking and seating is likely to be at a premium!

Posted by Don Fan, a member of the Amador Valley High School community on the Pleasanton Weekly's online TownSquare forum, www.pleasantonweekly.com.

Rage 18U ends season with 4-1 victory

The Rage 18U AC ended their season with a 4-1 victory over Delta United to clinch first place in league going undefeated with nine wins and one tie. The Rage had to win both of their games this weekend to secure the title with a 5-0 win over Fremont on

Saturday, then the win on Sunday v. Delta. Rage will resume play after the high school season with State Cup in the spring.

Jags clinch JV championship in overtime

In a thrilling contest played in front of huge crowd at the Sports Park, the Jaguars claimed the Pleasanton Junior Football League

JV championship with an overtime decision over the Vikings.

After the two teams played to a 14-14 tie through regulation play, they went to an overtime tiebreaker. The Jags won the toss, took defense, then went out and held the Vikings without a yard on four straight plays. The big play of the series came when Nick Reyes picked off a pass on fourth

down. Needing one yard to ensure the championship, Josh Miller got much more, pounding right through the middle of the Vikings defense for 15 yards on the first play. Three straight kneel-downs from quarterback Jack Moroney ensured the title for the Jaguars, who were also the regular season champions and finished with an 8-1 mark, while the Vikings finished 6-2-1.

Girls' volleyball beats cross-town rivals

Team finishes East Bay Athletic League season in second place

Amador Valley (20-8, 11-3 EBAL) girls' volleyball completed the 2008 EBAL season in second place with a win over cross-town rival Foothill before a raucous crowd. Sophomore outside hitter Rachel Kinnard led the Dons offense with a career-high 14 kills. Senior libero Lauren Sutter had 15 digs and sophomore setter Kelsey Williams had 14 digs to go along with 28 assists.

In the first set, Kinnard sparked the Dons offense with seven kills. Two consecutive kills by Kinnard broke an 8-8 tie to give Amador a 10-8 lead. Kinnard got two more kills to put the Dons up 15-10. With both teams playing great defense, the Falcons rallied back to take a 16-15 lead before a kill by Williams tied the set. But it would be the Dons who

would prevail, 25-22.

Amador took the second set 25-15. Foothill took an early 8-4 lead in the third set, but Amador rallied behind a back-row kill from McPherson, a solo block by junior middle Jessica Atkins and an ace by Williams to cut the Foothill's lead to 8-7. Junior outside Nikki Baker tied the game at 9-9 with an ace and went ahead 11-9 on a kill by Kinnard and a back-row kill by Baker. An ace by Atkins put the Dons up by 3, 13-10, but Foothill came back to tie the game with a kill at 13-13. The set remained tight, but the Dons held on and junior middle Grace Vickers ended the game with a kill from the middle for the 25-23 win. The Dons will advance to the North Coast Section Division 1 Playoffs. ■

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The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for a position on the following standing commissions and committees:

- Civic Arts Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Housing Commission
- Planning Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Youth Commission (Youth and Adult)
- Library Commission

Economic Vitality Committee

Representatives are being sought in the following categories:

- Business At-Large
- Citizen At-Large
- Commercial Real Estate Development
- Commercial Service Firm
- Community Based Organization
- Environmental Industry
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Medical Services
- Medical Technology
- Residential Real Estate Broker

Energy and Environment Committee

Alameda County Paratransit Advisory Committee

The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District Liaison Committee invite you to apply for a position on the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee.

- Senior Citizen Representative
- Village High School Representative (2 Positions)
- Hart Middle School
- Harvest Park Middle School
- Pleasanton Middle School
- Parent at Large (Pre-School Student)

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008. POSTMARKS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.



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Saluting our vets

For military men and women, Pleasanton's a good place to call home

by Jeb Bing

If you're in the military or a veteran, Pleasanton's a good place to call your hometown.

Veterans organizations here honor returning soldiers, provide counseling and economic help to families left behind when their loved ones—and often the breadwinner—ship out. They send food and supply packages to troops in the field, and make sure through media and other communications that no member of the military or veteran is ever forgotten.

As a city, Pleasanton recognizes its men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan by posting yellow ribbons on light poles along Main Street, each bearing the name of a serving soldier. When they come home for good, their ribbons are "retired" and given as a token of the community's appreciation for their service.

And, when they come home, it's usually with a flourish with whole neighborhoods turning out for street parties as the Patriot Riders offer a motorcycle escort from their airport arrival to Pleasanton.

Pleasanton Military Families, along with Operation S.A.M. (Supporting All Military), also work together to take care of the military and their families. Both keep track of men and women who are serving overseas and provide updated contact lists to organizations, such as churches and the Blue Star Moms of Danville, who offer special services for the military throughout the year. These include "care" packages that are sent to the troops year-round, but especially during holiday and on their birthdays.

Even the Pleasanton Weekly joins in, sending this newspaper each Friday free of charge to Pleasanton military serving in the Gulf region and Afghanistan.

Operation S.A.M. is about to launch its major "Remembering our Heroes" winter holiday drive. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 22, volunteers will be at the organization's large gift barrels in front of the Pleasanton Wal-Mart store, 4501 Rosewood Dr. Donations can be made at anytime during those hours and shoppers are encouraged to take a list of needed supplies with them into the store to buy items such as miniature Christmas stockings filled with treats that soldiers can tack onto their barrack's walls, unbreakable ornaments and decorations, DVDs, CDs, battery-operated games and word puzzle books.

Still, the most exciting tribute to the military comes each year with the annual Veterans Day Parade on Main Street, held this year on Nov. 2, and Memorial Day services at the city's Pioneer Memorial Cemetery. Both events, conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, with participation also by the city's American Legion Post 237, involve hundreds of volunteers and several thou-

sand who cheer on the military contingents.

This year's parade, followed by a packed hall of more than 400 at the newly-restored Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building, offered band music, floats, politicians and hundreds of marching men and women of all ages, from all military branches and veterans who have served in every war since World War II.

The 60 separate parade entries included Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, airmen from Travis Air Force Base, military vehicles from Camp Parks in Dublin, and a long list of active and retired officers from such units as the Rescue and Recover Group from Portland, the commander of the military airlift wing in Charleston, S.C., and 100 uniformed Air Force officers and enlisted men and women who accompanied keynote speaker Col. Mark Dillon, base commander at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, who was also the parade's grand marshal.

Of course, nothing stirs a crowd, especially in a packed auditorium of military enthusiasts, than marching music and patriotic songs. Bob Williams and his Community Concert Band played a dozen songs, including "The Caisson Song" for Army vets, "Marine Corps Hymn" that brought a loud group of Marines to their feet, "Anchors Away" for former sailors, "Semper Paratus," the Coast Guard's song that brought the lone Coast Guard veteran to his feet with a round of applause from the audience, and then "The Air Force Song," which brought a thunderous responses from veterans and the Travis airmen.

"Uncle Sam," portrayed by Pleasanton's Ward Belding on many occasions, also sang. He was a favorite of the younger crowd who stood in awe at this colorfully-dressed actor, asking for autographs. Remarkable, too, is that Belding, who is "somewhat mature," still fits in his Uncle Sam outfit that he acquired as a youth.

Speakers included Mayor Jennifer Hosterman; Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart; Susan Pierce, chapter regent of the Jose Maria Amador Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Col. Dillon; and Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), who rode in the parade with his son Michael, who served in the Air Force and is credited with encouraging his father to seek the congressional seat.

"With a big parade and hundreds of people here to listen to words about your service, no one can say that Pleasanton doesn't honor its veterans," McNerney said to the assembled veterans. "It's a great day for Pleasanton and I'm proud to be a Pleasanton resident."

McNerney also presented Army veteran Robert Vannatter of Pleasanton with a Congressional proclamation recognizing the former paratrooper's service in World War II. Vannatter, a paratrooper, served from 1942 until the end of the war in 1945.



The Veterans Day Parade gets under way on Main Street, led by the Veterans of Foreign



Above: Robert Vannatter, a paratrooper, was given a Congressional proclamation recognizing his service in World War II.

Left: Army veteran Robert Vannatter, a paratrooper, was given a Congressional proclamation recognizing his service in World War II.



Dolores Bengtson

Wars colorguard.



Jeremy Pentlin

At Veterans Day ceremony, McNerney awards Congressional citation honoring Robert Vannatter, an Army paratrooper in World War II who jumped behind enemy lines during D-Day 1944 and later became one of first Americans to land on German soil.

Specialist Mariela Meylan, who is recovering from severe injuries suffered in an accident in Kuwait, joins with her mother Lisette in Veteran Day ceremonies in Pleasanton, where she receives special recognition by Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton). Meylan, who was born to her parents in Livermore, turns 29 today.

Blue Star Moms “drop zone” Saturday

The East Bay Blue Star Moms will be holding a Holiday Hugs Care Package donation drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 15 at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive. They will be collecting items to include in their annual holiday care packages for troops. Call 648-1549 or visit www.bluestarmoms.org.

Part of the Army’s famed 507th Paratroop Infantry Regiment, he parachuted behind German lines on D-Day, June 6, 1944, with fellow paratroopers who were later recognized with a Presidential award for bravery in their mission’s success in cleaning out machine gun nests and opening lines from the rear as troops landed on Utah Beach.

Vannatter also participated in the Battle of the Bulge and was one of the first paratroopers to land on German soil, where he captured his first prisoner of war.

McNerney also recognized Mariela Meylan, who was severely injured Dec. 18, 2005 in Kuwait. Slowly recovering from massive injuries suffered when a civilian vehicle ran her down as she changed a tire on her vehicle, she now lives with her parents Emile and Lisette in Livermore. All three were at the veterans’ ceremony in Pleasanton to hear McNerney’s praise, where Meylan received a standing ovation.

Dave Ham, who has served as commander of the Pleasanton VFW post for the last three years and is now its chaplain, said the VFW is one of the most active community organizations in the Tri-Valley. It sponsors leadership and patriotic programs and education for Scouts and other youth groups and raised funds for veterans’ needs, including help for the Veterans Hospital in Livermore.

Although one of the oldest major veterans groups in the U.S., the Pleasanton chapter was organized in 1947 to serve the large number of returning veterans who had been in combat during the war years. The VFW is made up entirely of combat veterans.

Ham, who served in Vietnam, returned from the war and then earned one of the country’s first environmental technology degrees in a program offered at the University of Iowa. He is now an environmental safety engineer and manager of the Palo Alto Research Center. He and his wife Carol have three children, including Alex, a freshman at Arizona State University who is majoring in another unique field, sustainability.

Ham sports several rows of medals he received while a Marine in Vietnam and wears them with pride both at VFW events, such as the Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Day ceremonies, which he conducts, and in meetings throughout the week with Scouts and other youth organizations.

Ham and the VFW also host a coffee from 7:30 to 9 a.m. every Saturday morning at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. It’s open to the public, including veterans interested in learning more about the VFW, which has 186 members and was one of 10 chapters in the country this year to win the prestigious All-American VFW award. ■

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

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www.eddiepapas.com

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.

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. 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.

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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.

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CONTINENTAL

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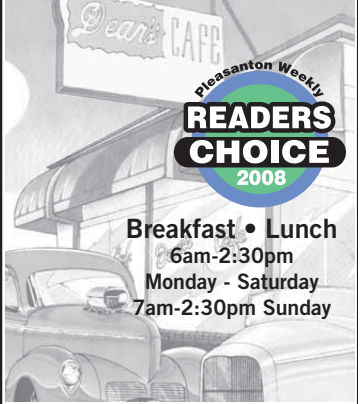


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ON THE TOWN



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Caitlin Boldt, Eric Tagg and Kurt Hall fill the fruit tarts.



Instructor Kit Little (center) shows a student's completed spun sugar project before giving instructions for their catering assignments.

Stirring things up

Village High school students learning skills to live and eat by

by Emily West

Running a catering company out of a classroom is a pretty daunting task. Yet when the culinary students at Village High School hear the words "production day" from instructor Kit Little, they are quick to wash up and don aprons to get the job done. Preparing ingredients and taking the role of head chef or sous chef of the project, the cooks in training do it all, keeping to their slogan, "we like to stir things up."

About 35 students will take the class over the course of the year. Two classes meet during fourth and fifth period each day, meaning there is about an hour and a half for work to be done.

Local businesses, the city and school district often employ the Village Catering staff for various events, including feeding volunteers at the Alviso Adobe Community Park opening last month.

A church in Livermore also requested 36 pies for a fundraiser they were doing. Caitlin Boldt, 17, was up to the task, as she's considered the group's pastry chef. She's so talented, in fact, that Little had

her make some pies for a recent family gathering, which received rave reviews.

Taking both periods of the class, Boldt said she looks forward to the chance to move around the kitchen, as it is a welcome break from sitting at a desk and writing.

"It's my favorite class," she said. "I like working, moving around and making something."

Students come to Village High School for various reasons, whether it is class credit deficiency, drug or alcohol issues or because some just don't do well in a large school setting.

Very often, there is a negative connotation about alternative high schools. Little said she thought that too, even though she always had a soft spot for at-risk students she came across in her 23 years at Foothill High School. When presented with the opportunity to design and teach the then non-existent home economics program at the school, she decided to take a tour of the campus first.

There she saw a troubled student she had tried to help while at Foothill who was in her element, smiling and interacting with teacher and other students. It was then Little

realized Village was the place for her.

Eight years later she still teaches home economics and serves as a work experience coordinator, in addition to overseeing the culinary program. Last Thursday the group got straight to work making a spread of Asian chicken lettuce wraps, focaccia bread and fruit tarts, which are just a few of the options Village Catering company offers.

After just a couple months in the program, Maria Hintze, 17, has already put a high-profile event under her belt. She and several classmates provided food for a fundraising event for John Garamendi, lieutenant governor of California who recently announced his intention to run for governor.

"It was a really good opportunity," Hintze said.

It wasn't just about the food, she added, saying the group had to polish their manners and professionalism because they did everything from cooking to serving to presenting.

Little has seen some students from her Foothill and Village days go on to great careers in the kitchen, including one who

is a private chef in Las Vegas. She believes these are great achievements, but she doesn't measure success by the number of students in the industry.

"It's about teaching soft skills," she said. "They learn teamwork, communication, leadership and time management."

Little added that while some days there are discipline issues, she holds her ground and encourages them, helping them develop a curiosity.

"Everything I do [as a teacher], I set the bar really high," she said. "I set it higher than they think they can achieve."

She requires a 90 percent or higher to pass an assignment, which is critical when it comes to the success of a dish. Yet, most of the students haven't scored that high in school. So when they pass, it's a boost to their self esteem and keeps pushing them forward.

While Hintze's not sure if a profession in food will be in her future, she is thankful for the program because she is eating healthier and the easy recipes have her cooking for herself and her family.

To learn more about Village Catering, email klittle@pleasanton.k12.ca.us. ■

Now Showing

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

★★

Rated: PG for some mild crude humor
1 hour, 29 minutes

If you like your animated animals cute, you'll find Alex the Lion Cub absolutely adorable. He twirls and moves with joyous abandon, training his big blue eyes on a butterfly flitting about him on the African plains. He could care less about his alpha-father's fighting lessons.

In a few economical minutes, co-directors Eric Darnell and Tom McGrath and their team at DreamWorks Animation establish a memorable character, loving father-son relationship and hints of things to come in the sequel to their 2005 hit. But as soon as Alex gets cub-napped from the game preserve and deposited at New York's Central Park Zoo, the promising opening switches gear. The narrative likes "to move it, move it" at a frenetic pace.

Little Alex becomes the show-off King of New York City. Blink. Alex (voiced by Ben Stiller) and friends Marty the Zebra (Chris Rock), Melman the Giraffe (David Schwimmer) and Gloria the Hippo (Jada Pinkett Smith) escape from the zoo, gain transport on a shipping freighter and end up washed ashore in Madagascar. Blink. And now the four friends intend to catch a flight home on a wreck of a plane, piloted by those pesky penguins. Blink again. The CG-movie has hardly begun.



Like the plane, this set-up may not fly for small children with fears of flying. After a harrowing flight and crash-landing in Africa, the story scatters into pieces—none of them particularly interesting or amusing. Alex, the prodigal son, has returned to the pride and must earn his mane. His loving father, Zuba (the late Bernie Mac), has an ongoing rivalry with Makunga (Alec Baldwin), who hopes to get Alex banished from the lion kingdom. Friendships are slightly tested, as the four zoo characters run with their own herds.

There's less fun than the barrels of monkeys working to repair the plane—and more idle dialogue than monkey chatter. King Julien (Sacha Baron Cohen) and his sidekick (Cedric the Entertainer) add to the movie's choppy quality, offering comic bits for the sake of comic bits.

Knockout, fist-fighting violence with a little old lady from Yonkers sends a bad message. Faces get punched. Teeth fly. The feisty Nana (voiced by Elisa Gabrielli) wears a "Jambo" T-shirt and teaches her fellow New Yorkers—stranded when the penguins steal their safari tour jeep to salvage parts for the plane—how to survive in the wild. Although the plot turns are essential to the climax, the maim-and-pain of the running gags is not.

Adults will experience déjà vu with the sequel, although appreciating the animation and music-and-dance numbers. And kids will be kids. What don't they like?

—Susan Tavernetti

Ready to Rent

OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies

Music Box DVD
1 hour, 35 minutes
Director: Michel Hazanavicius

In anticipation of the new James Bond movie out Nov. 14, I offer up a very sly French spoof "OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies" which plays as cheeky and kitschy as its title implies. The real treasure to this movie, besides its deadpan sense of humor, is star Jean Dujardin as the blithely bigoted superspy Hubert Bonisseur a.k.a. OSS 117 who takes to 1950s Cairo with a stereotypically French attitude of superiority and abhorrence—a colonialist Inspector Clouseau. In fact, Dujardin is so expressive and physically agile that he should be awarded the role of the bumbling detective in any further loathsome remakes of the franchise because he might just be enough of a presence to pull off Peter Sellers' manic timing while keeping the groovy European tone of the movie, as he does with Bonisseur.

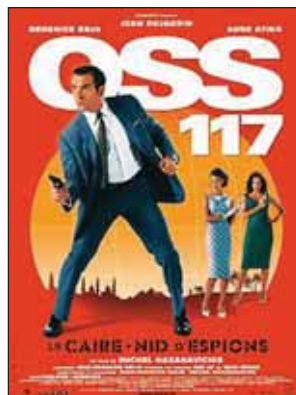
As a sidenote, I must comment on the 007 franchise, which had a complete makeover in 2006's "Casino Royale" and not only revamped the 50-year-old spy into a tough, very human man of action (courtesy of gifted actor Daniel Craig), but also came through as one of the best movies of that year. James Bond was lifelessly iconic before the '60s even came to a close, and the gentleman superspy character so inane for its time (essentially, a sexist fascist), that the numerous parodies that followed during the Age of Aquarius were inevitable. While Bond fought for king and country with detached irony, Matt Helm, Derek Flint, The Beatles (in "Help!"), Diabolik, Austin Powers and a host of Turkish, Indian and Mexican superspies saved the world mostly because its destruction would get in the way of their discotheque time.

OSS 117, however, harks back to that surly Bond of the '60s and pokes fun at his narrow values. It's a daring plane rescue during WWII that pairs fellow spy Jack Jefferson and Bonisseur together,

forming a unique comradeship. So, when Jack shows up dead in Cairo 10 years later, the French government calls upon OSS 117 who, hearing of Jack's death (and anytime his name is mentioned henceforth), launches into a long lament and flashback involving a day at the beach they shared (insert juvenile homoerotic thoughts here). As soon as his plane touches down in Egypt, Bonisseur has nothing but scorn for the place, which is too dusty, too loud, and really too foreign for his delicate tastes (when someone tells him that millions speak Arabic he scoffs "Millions?! Do you even know the meaning of the number?"). Given his attitude, it's not long before he touches off an international incident, with several dead chickens along the way.

"OSS 117" has more chuckles than laugh out loud moments, but it's just as fun. Again, the movie works because actor Dujardin is in full command of his presence, and he is at his best in throwaway moments where his brilliance manifests in what seems like impromptu outbursts of silliness (an Elvis shimmy after a commanding mambo is one of my favorite scenes). He has the looks of a star from the '60s, chiseled chin and oiled hair, but, Dujardin wisely plays those looks against OSS 117, who is, in essence, a grinning dope. And, thankfully, like James Bond, Bonisseur will return as they are in production with a sequel right now, "OSS 117: Rio Does Not Answer," which is something to look forward to if "Casino Royale" was sadly only a fluke.

—Joe Ramirez



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Laurel Drummond (left) plays Puck and Jeremy Schlitt is Oberon in Las Positas College's production of "Shakespeare in Hollywood," which plays through Nov. 23.

Shakespeare meets Tinseltown

Las Positas College's madcap farce opens tonight

Shakespeare has been plucked from the 17th century and put into 1935 Hollywood for the Las Positas College theater department's latest performance.

"Shakespeare in Hollywood" opens tonight and tells the story of the creation of Max Reinhardt's film, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The madcap farce follows the making of the movie that is determined to move forward, despite tantrums from temperamental starlets and threats from Hays Office. When Shakespeare's "real" Oberon and Puck magically appear and are cast in the film, all havoc breaks loose.

Director Reinhardt is played by Tim Ackerman, with Adam Neyland as the studio head Jack Warner, and Mike Stark portrays Will Hays of the infamous Hays Office. Jeremy Schlitt plays king of the fairies, Oberon, with Laurel Drummond as his sidekick, Puck.

Audiences may recognize some Hollywood celebrities in the cast, including Luella Parson

(Terra Balbuena), James Cagney (Matthew Hofstad), Joe E. Brown (Salim Razawi) and Dick Powell (Tyler Dragoni). Elise Christian and Lisa Darter are cast as aspiring actresses with distinctly different personalities and Felix Perez is the studio "yes" man.

The production is directed by Wesley Morgan and produced by Ken Ross, with set and lighting design by Jeremy Hamm. "Shakespeare in Hollywood" is written by Ken Ludwig, author of "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Moon Over Buffalo."

Performances are at 8 p.m. tonight, Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22, as well as 2 p.m. Nov. 23 in the Las Positas College Theater. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for students and seniors. To purchase, visit the college bookstore or Fine Fretted Friends in downtown Livermore. The campus is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. Advance reservations may be made by calling 424-1166.

—Emily West

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Pleasanton Weekly

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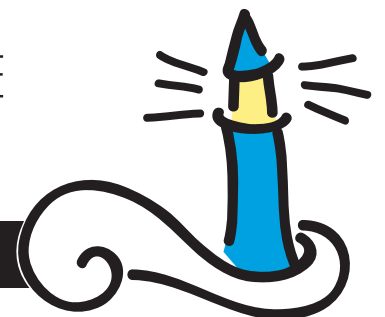
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Real Estate

Home sale of the week



**5664 Ellis Court
Pleasanton –
\$1,695,000**

This spectacular end of court location offers views and privacy and abuts to permanent open space. The one story home has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a formal living room, formal dining room, gourmet kitchen with huge family room/great room, round foyer and gallery. It is approximately 3,201 square feet on 1/3 acre premium flat lot. The beautiful interior is loaded with upgrades. Sold by Kelly Patterson of J. Rockcliff Realtors.

Pleasanton among nation's most expensive markets

City comes in 21st on Coldwell Banker survey

by **Jeb Bing**

It's often said that the three rules of real estate are location, location and location.

Nothing underscores that more than Coldwell Banker's annual Home Price Comparison Index, which this year found three East Bay communities—Fremont, the Oakland-Piedmont market and Pleasanton—among the most expensive nationwide.

Fremont ranked 14th nationally with an average price of \$957,000; the Oakland-Piedmont area was 17th at \$916,667 and Pleasanton was 21st at \$860,000. Three Bay Area cities, led by Palo Alto, were in the top 10 while San Jose came in at 13th.

The 2008 HPCI, which compared similar homes in 315 U.S. markets, ranked Palo Alto as the fourth most expensive market in the U.S. with an average home price of \$1.74 million. San Francisco was the eighth most expensive while San Mateo was 10th, with average home prices of \$1.51 million and \$1.37 million, respectively. La Jolla in Southern California was the nation's priciest market at \$1.84 million.

For the price of a single home in Palo Alto, you could buy an entire block of homes in Sioux City, the nation's most affordable market. Palo Alto's average was 13 times that of the heartland community in Iowa, which averaged \$133,459.

The contrast in prices between California and the Midwest is exemplified by the fact that eight of the 10 most expensive cities are in the Golden State while eight Midwestern cities make the list of the nation's 10 most affordable home markets.

Several other Bay Area and Northern California communities were among the more expensive markets in this year's survey, including San Rafael (23rd), Santa Cruz (27th), the Monterey Peninsula (35th), Davis (45th), Santa Rosa (46th) and Napa (48th).

On the other end of the spectrum, Sacramento ranked 164th at \$295,000.

The cumulative average sales price of the four-bedroom homes surveyed in the 315 U.S. markets (including one in Puerto Rico) covered in the Coldwell Banker HPCI is \$403,738, a 4.4 percent decline from the \$422,343 reported in the 2007 Coldwell Banker study.

Unlike most housing reports, which compare median prices, the annual Coldwell Banker HPCI, which first launched in the late 1980s, provides an apples-to-apple comparison of similar 2,200-square-foot, four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath homes in 315 markets across the United States, in addition to Puerto Rico, Canada and a sampling of countries/territories outside of North America where Coldwell Banker has a presence.

"This year's study reaffirms that the Bay Area is one of the more expensive housing markets because of our strong economy, excellent universities, beautiful communities and overall quality of life," said Joe Brown, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the East Bay, Silicon Valley and Monterey Bay Area.

"But for buyers, the good news is that there may not be a better time to get into the market when you consider the easing of prices, a large number of homes on the market and historically low interest rates," he added. "All of this has combined to bring affordability levels down."

Brown said the annual HPCI is a valuable tool for those thinking about relocating into or out of the Bay Area. Through the comprehensive HPCI section on www.coldwellbanker.com, prospective homebuyers and sellers can calculate what their homes may be worth in other areas in the U.S. and gather preliminary intelligence about the affordability of housing from one market to another.

(continued on page 27)

The Fabulous Properties Team
Cunningham • Garrison • Johnson-Abarta • Schall



Dear Pleasanton: OPEN HEART KITCHEN Needs Our Help!

The Fabulous Properties Team at Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty is urging everyone to join them in helping to raise the \$100,000 Open Heart Kitchen needs to continue feeding underprivileged kids and families in the Tri-Valley area. By donating, Open Heart Kitchen can provide warm, nutritious meals free of charge to those in need in a dignified, no-questions asked environment. Open Heart Kitchen currently serves 160,000 meals a year to people living in Pleasanton, Livermore, and Dublin and has been the Tri-Valley's only soup kitchen since 1995.

Without the community's support, Open Heart Kitchen may have to close its doors just when guests need support the most. Call 580-1616 to donate or better yet, go online @ www.openheartkitchen.org and donate using Pay Pal.

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Visit www.FabulousProperties.net for listing details, photos and virtual tours!

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- 3651 E. Ruby Hill Dr. 7 BR/6.5 BA, 7,673 sq. ft. w/ full Guest House, Grecian Pool \$3,600,000
- 4256 Brindisi Ct. Beautiful European style 5 BR, (or 4+office), 3 BA, 3,895 sq. ft. home \$1,649,000
- 4132 Parma Ct. 23, 800 sq. ft. LOT. Gorgeous views \$1,250,000
- 532 Rosso Ct. 4 BR, 3 BA 2,806 sq. ft. lovely backyard \$1,149,000
- 2578 Grappa Ct. 4 BR, 3.5 BA w/pool, premium lot, 3,618 sq. ft. \$1,675,000
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PLEASANTON WEEKLY OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: www.PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

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Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC 997-3966

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3659 Deer Trail Road \$1,099,000
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308 Sunset Road \$1,098,888
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 260-8883

1220 Dutch Mill Drive \$1,179,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4
Alain Pinel - Yasmine Austere 998-9747

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11120 Bay Laurel Street \$1,299,000
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1898 Peary Way \$299,999
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff 784-2870

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Sun 1-4
Suzanne Dominguez, Keller Williams 596-1918

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2690 Tuscany Court \$1,047,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 366-8275

5684 Mollie Circle \$559,900
Sun 1-4
Betty Burke, Old Towne Realty 426-9122

2801 Vine Court \$949,900
Sun 2-5 J Rockcliff 583-2169

6 Bedrooms

635 Travis Circle \$948,000
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PLEASANTON

3 Bedrooms

530 Dolores Place \$1,220,000
Sun 1-4 United California Brokers 456-7810

336 Christina Court \$499,968
Sun 1-4 Rick Hempy, Valley Brokers 484-0506

7748 Creekside Drive \$614,999
Sun 1-4
Angela Ochs, Hometown GMAC 510-612-0719

6322 Alisal Street \$869,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
Mike Carey, Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

4 Bedrooms

213 E. Angela \$1,149,000
Sat/Sun 1-4
Mike Carey, Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

3907 Arrowwood Court \$1,399,999
Sun 1-4
Angela Ochs, Hometown GMAC 510-612-0719

4914 Middleton Place \$1,475,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential, Glna Piper 462-9175

3491 Park Place \$780,000
Sun 1-4 Phyllis Weiner, J Rockcliff 872-1416

5083 Muirwood Drive \$898,000
Sun 1-4 Phyllis Weiner, J Rockcliff 872-1416

5 Bedrooms

2784 Calle de La Loma \$1,049,000
Sun 1-4 Sally Martin, Alain Pinel 998-4311

1368 Royal Creek Court \$1,288,888
Sun 1-4:30
Brigitte Huntemann, Keller Williams 260-2508

862 Summit Creek Lane \$1,475,000
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff 200-0426

3641 Huff Court \$930,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 621-4064

5114 Mount Tam Circle \$949,000
Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones, Alain Pinel 398-6706

5058 Blackbird Way \$949,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Blaise Lofland 846-6500

899 Oak Manor Way \$2,389,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel - Doug Buenz 463-2000

SAN RAMON

3 Bedrooms

2401 Cuenca Drive \$579,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential, Glna Piper 462-9175

4 Bedrooms

30 Pamplona Ct \$689,888
Sat/Sun 1-4:30
Brigitte Huntemann, Keller Williams 260-2508

148 Victory Circle \$799,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 510-774-8929

5 Bedrooms

220 Dandelion Court \$797,900
Sun 1-4 Prudential, Glna Piper 462-9175

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7393 MINES RD AWESOME OPPORTUNITY \$1,999,000
5 BR 3.5 BA 4.5 acres of usable land on quiet lot, w/live oaks, views of the hills, custom 4400sf home 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
Open SAT 1 - 4 737 CENTRAL AVE \$559,800
UPGRADED HOME ON LRG LOT
4 BR 3 BA 9193 sf lot, bd/ba dwn, plntation shuttrs, bmboo hrdwd flrs, grnite in kit, bckyrd w/ mult ptios 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SUN 1 - 4 3263 VINEYARD AVE #140 \$214,500
PREMIUM LOT!
2 BR 2 BA bckyrd w/rdwd dck, seller help w/rent spce w/6800 at close! Refrig incl, tile in kit/ba/entry 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open SAT/SUN 11 - 6 145 COPPER RIDGE RD. \$330s
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES PRICES START IN THE 330s
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

7517 OXFORD CIR, UNIT 120 \$399,000
VIEWS OF THE GREENBELT
3 BR 2 BA newer crpt/paint, lrg mstr, wlk-in closet, 2 car gar, clse to Alamo Creek/Dougherty Hills Park 925.847.2200

10894 GLENGARRY LN \$389,900
DESINGER TOUCHES
2 BR 2 BA Apx 1103 sf, vaulted ceilings, att gar, spacious kit/gas stove, open flr plan, views of hills 925.847.2200

7086 DUBLIN MEADOWS ST. E, UNIT E \$299,500
GORGEOUS CONDO
1 BR 1 BA Living Room w/Fireplace. Approx. 805' w/ VIEWS. Washer/Dryer/Fridge/Micro/Dishwasher Stay 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

3300 DYER RD. \$1,290,000
LOTS OF LEVEL LAND
3 BR 2 BA 29.25 acre parcel w/2000+sq. ft. home, dutch barn w/2 flrs, steel framed shop w/2 rll-up drs 925.847.2200

113 PONTE COURT \$1,050,000
DESIRABLE PRIMA COMM
4 BR 3 BA amenities galore, grnite ctrs, maple cab/ flrs, cust media ctr, 1 bed down, lrg loft. 3 car garage 925.847.2200

1687 QUAIL ST \$1,500,000
GORGEOUS HOME!
5 BR 3 BA circular drive, 3 cr gar/2 car detached gar, 5bd, 3ba, 2 bonus rms, kit w/corion cntr, SS appli 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

4353 W RUBY HILL DRIVE \$1,650,000
STYLE & COMFORT
5 BR 4 BA grt rm, chrry-wd/rose-wd flrs, kit w/ nook, grnite cnters, aprx. 1/2 acre lot, bckyrd w/bbq/ spa 925.847.2200

3204 HARVEY CT \$849,000
BEAUTIFUL REMODELED HOME
4 BR 3 BA 3 car garage, kit w/chrry wd cabs, fam rm w/granite frplc/wine bar, updated ba, 1 bd/1 ba down 925.847.2200

1061 DIVISION \$659,000
DESIRABLE PLEASANTON
3 BR 2.5 BA high ceilings, neutral colors thruout, granite cnters in kit w/brkfst bar, hrdwd in kit/eat-in 925.847.2200

6098 SEQUOIA CT \$599,000
FORMER MODEL
3 BR 2 BA deck off kit/mstr. Lots of energy eff. upgrds. Lot nxt to grnbelt, wlk to park, shppng/trans 925.847.2200

2149 RHEEM DRIVE \$575,000
A TASTE OF TUSCANY
3 BR 2.5 BA 1490sq.ft., upgrd/rem, granite slab kit/ bth, bmboo wd flr, mrbl tiled frplc, vaulted ceilings 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

4270 CANYON CREST RD W \$835,000
CHARMING HOME
3 BR 2 BA living/family rms w/vaulted ceilings & fireplaces, bckyrd ovrlls greenbelt w/cov patio/spa 925.847.2200

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Home prices

(continued from page 25)

2008 Coldwell Banker HPCI: Highlights and top market lists

- La Jolla, Calif., edges out Greenwich, Conn. (\$1,787,000) as the most expensive U.S. market in the study. Beverly Hills was the most expensive U.S. market last year at \$2.21 million. Note: Manhattan in New York City was not included in the study because of the lack of comparable single-family homes.
- In total, 13 U.S. markets exceed the \$1 million average price for the surveyed home. Joining Greenwich and Boston on that list outside of California is Wellesley, Mass. (\$1.2 million).

- The Northeast Corridor (from Maine to Washington, D.C.) and California dominate all but five of the most expensive "top 40" U.S. markets slots with just one town from those regions (Augusta, Maine) appearing among the top 40 most affordable markets. Texas, led by Arlington, has six of the study's 40 most affordable markets.
- Canada mirrors the U.S. in that its costliest markets are primarily situated on the West Coast. Vancouver, British Columbia tops the Canadian list, with comparable four-bedroom homes averaging \$1,257,000 U.S. dollars. The most affordable studied market in Canada is Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (\$157,000).
- Dubai is the most expensive market studied outside of North America, where an HPCI subject home averages \$2.45 million U.S. dollars, 33 percent higher than La Jolla. ■

Top 10 Most Expensive and Most Affordable Surveyed U.S. Markets in 2008

Rank	Most Expensive	Avg. Sales Price	Most Affordable	Avg. Sales Price
1	La Jolla, Calif.	\$1,841,667	Sioux City, Iowa	\$133,459
2	Greenwich, Conn.	\$1,787,000	Jackson, Mich.	\$134,325
3	Beverly Hills, Calif.	\$1,777,475	Akron, Ohio	\$135,780
4	Palo Alto, Calif.	\$1,740,333	Canton, Ohio	\$139,667
5	Santa Monica, Calif.	\$1,653,333	Grayling, Mich.	\$141,000
6	Santa Barbara, Calif.	\$1,599,667	Minot, N.D.	\$142,000
7	Newport Beach, Calif.	\$1,546,250	Arlington, Texas	\$143,775
8	San Francisco, Calif.	\$1,513,181	Muncie, Ind.	\$144,250
9	Boston, Mass.	\$1,493,750	Killeen, Texas	\$145,812
10	San Mateo, Calif.	\$1,366,475	Eau Claire, Wis.	\$147,300



Pleasanton
2726 CURLEW COURT



PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy gorgeous sunset views from this contemporary Pleasanton home. Situated in a cul-de-sac on nearly ¼ acre of lush front and rear gardens, expansive lawn areas, covered dining patio and a solar heated swimming pool.

The "Gallery" model has an open floor plan spanning three levels with architectural details and special finishes. The main floor features:

- A vaulted entry foyer
- Vaulted living & dining rooms with double French doors
- Beautifully detailed kitchen wing with sunny breakfast area
- Step down family room—a cozy retreat with energy efficient pellet stove
- Spacious guest bedroom/in-laws quarters—complete with a full bath

The generous master suite and bedrooms three and four are situated on the second level offering privacy and solitude. Though it's very casual and open, the floor plan still offers intimacy and elegance.

List price \$848,000



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471 Lincoln Ave Livermore
SOLD IN THREE DAYS! \$455,000

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DUBLIN

862 SUMMIT CREEK LANE \$1,475,000
Gorgeous Bridle Creek Property. 3300+/-sf one story "Greenbriar" home with 5bd, library, 4bd, 3-car garage on 15,000+/-sf level view lot. Many upgrades, not on MLS, brokers welcome!
BILL SHANLEY 925.200.0426

www.AIAyubi.com



SAN RAMON

805 JADE CREST DR \$1,299,000
Enjoy the ultimate in luxury living that this prestigious community has to offer at The Bridges Golf Course, club house, tennis courts, pool and neighborhood parks, close to highly acclaimed Coyote Creek Elementary School and more!
AL AYUBI 925.251.2590

www.KristyandCompany.com



CASTRO VALLEY

32777 PALOMARES ROAD \$1,157,000
Great views from every window. Property is on 5.27+ acres of land, gated. This home is chalet style with the atmosphere of privacy and beauty. You must see this one! A chance to own land and a nice home in the Bay Area.
KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536

www.PhyllisandCarolyn.com



PLEASANTON

3491 PARK PLACE \$780,000
Love this location across from beautiful Meadows Park. Home has been lovingly maintained, remodeled kitchen with granite, new appliances, fresh paint inside and out, plantation shutters, light and bright. Open Sun 1-4PM.
PHYLLIS WEINER 925.872.1416

www.PhyllisandCarolyn.com



PLEASANTON

6415 AMBER LANE \$1,048,000
Enjoy the ambience and charm of country living, walk or jog the scenic Happy Valley Loop, and the new Callippe Preserve Golf Course, and be close to downtown! Truly a comfortable, spacious home with 6 bedrooms. Open Sun 1-4PM
PHYLLIS WEINER 925.872.1416

www.TonniChandler.com



PLEASANTON

6045 ACADIA COURT \$599,990
Beautifully maintained 3 bedroom 2 bath single family home close to downtown Pleasanton. Additional patio/sun room not included in the square feet - great for family entertaining! This home features a spacious update kitchen.
TONNI CHANDLER 925.251.2556

www.RubyHillLiving.com



PLEASANTON

2156 CANOSA CT \$2,700,000
Experience vineyard living in this gorgeous Mediterranean home on a premium cul-de-sac located on the "top of Ruby Hill" with expansive city views. Grand marble foyer with wrought iron stairway.
ANJU BHATIA 925.577.2658

www.CoreyGreen4u.com



LIVERMORE

635 TRAVISO CIR \$948,000
Immaculate and Luxurious South Livermore Beauty! 6 Beds includes 2 Master Suites, 5.5 Baths and 4100 Sq Ft of Total Living Space. Spiral Staircase, Slate Floors, SS Appliances, Bahamian Cherry wood Cabinets and more!
COREY GREEN 925.899.6011

www.SusetteClarkWalker.com



PLEASANTON

4075 NEVIS ST \$765,000
Welcome home to your cottage in the city! This spacious Jensen neighborhood property is ready for you to move right in and call your own. Home features 3 bedrooms (incl. 2 master suites), 3 full baths and 1940+ sq. ft. of living space.
SUSETTE CLARK-WALKER 925.251.2547

www.SusetteClarkWalker.com



DUBLIN

7157 HANSEN DR \$649,000
Features approximately 2200+/- square feet, 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths. One bedroom and full bath on first level. Granite counters and S/S appliances in kitchen. Formal living and dining room.
SUSETTE CLARK-WALKER 925.251.2547

www.HuntoonHomes.com



LIVERMORE

674 CATALINA DR \$524,000
Popular 4 bedroom single story in Desirable Sunset West neighborhood. Close to schools/shopping, easy commute location. Gorgeous remodeled oak/tile kitchen. Beautiful hardwood and tile floors.
KAREN HUNTOON 925.455.7020

www.CoreyGreen4u.com



MOUNTAIN HOUSE

848 FARRINGTON STREET \$298,000
Great price for incredible house!! 4 beds, 3 full baths, 2700+ sq ft. Large lot with upgraded carpets, gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops & built-in island. Formal living room & dining room. Backyard with patio & more!
COREY GREEN 925.899.6011

www.MaxdeVries.com



LIVERMORE

256 MCLEOD ST \$829,000
Unique, Art Deco Beauty in the heart of Downtown Livermore, includes a 2 unit duplex. Main home and 1 unit completely remodeled, hardwood and tile floors, granite counters, too much to list! Walking distance to restaurants.
MAX DE VRIES 925.251.2511

www.RebeccaLEvans.com



LIVERMORE

1898 PEARY WAY \$299,999
Desirable Sunset East Location This home is a rare find Great location, lots of upgrades, two car detached garage, no rear neighbors and no HOA's. Priced to Sell.
REBECCA L. EVANS 925.784.2870

OUTSTANDING HOME



LIVERMORE

1528 HELSINKI WAY \$619,000
Tons of upgrades. Addition built before these owners. New dual pane windows in the front of home. Upstairs second master suite possible. Laminated floor in living room Granite fireplace. Extra large garage.
LINDA E. SMITH 925.998.5112

SHARP HORSE PROPERTY



LIVERMORE

5665 VICTORIA LN \$1,299,950
Sharp horse property located on a private road nestled amongst custom estates in the heart of the Livermore wine country Almost 6 flat acres with 4 barns & fenced pastures Updated kitchen w/ hickory cabinets, S/S appl, and more!
REBECCA L. EVANS 925.784.2870

Walnut Creek
100 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

Orinda
89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Blackhawk
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd., #110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Livermore
1983 Second Street
Livermore, CA 94550
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www.3803MuirwoodDr.com



Karen Kohne

980-1012

GREAT HORSE PROPERTY



2868 BIXLER ROAD, BRENTWOOD
Offered at \$559,500

This charming updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1001 sq. ft. home features an updated kitchen, new carpets, fresh paint, wood burning free-standing fireplace, a new half bathroom with jetted tub and each room has a lighted ceiling fan. A 2,400 sq. ft barn with 5 stalls and a tack room is situated on this 1 acre lot. This property is a MUST see. Please call Gene Williams at 510-390-0325 for a private showing.



Gene & Cindy Williams

243-0900

OH THE POSSIBILITIES!



6198 YARDLEY LANE, SAN RAMON
Listed for \$659,000

This gorgeous town home has beautiful views and many upgrades. Located next to a huge park. Corner unit! Luxurious master bedroom with dual sink, stall shower and soaking tub. Blue Ribbon San Ramon Valley School District. 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1 Bed/1 Bath on 1st Level, Approx. 2345 sq. ft. of living space.

AVAILABLE

- 865 Clara Lane, Pleasanton
Available for \$1,995,000

SOLD!

- 599 Silver Maple Drive, Hercules
Sold for \$480,000



DeAnna Armario

260-2220

POTTERY BARN PERFECT



**6266 GARNER CT.,
PLEASANTON**
Priced in the low \$600s

Simply Adorable – One level home on a quiet court. Beautifully updated kitchen with tile floors, pantry & breakfast nook. Step down family rm with tile floors and cozy fireplace & spacious living room overlooking the garden. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and remodeled bathroom. Dual pane windows & composition roof.



**6438 ALVORD WAY,
PLEASANTON**
Offered at \$599,950

Popular Monte Vista model with over 1800 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with an expanded family room.

Updated kitchen with large dining area. Tile entry and step down living room. Master bedroom overlooking deck and yard. Walking distance to schools, park and shopping.

www.SoldinaFlash.com



Dave & Sue Flashberger

463-0436

PRICED TO SELL!



30268 OAKBROOK ROAD, HAYWARD
Offered at \$639,950

Fantastic 3 bedroom + Master Retreat (4th bedroom option), 2 1/2 bath home in highly desirable Twin Bridges Community, ready for move in! Beautiful upgraded eat-in kitchen featuring granite counters, stainless steel & black appliances, built-in pantry, island, & an abundance of cabinetry. This home is light and bright with over-sized tile and neutral carpet throughout. Call 877-48-TEAM-W for a private showing!

Shannon Witters
Williams Wins Real Estate Team

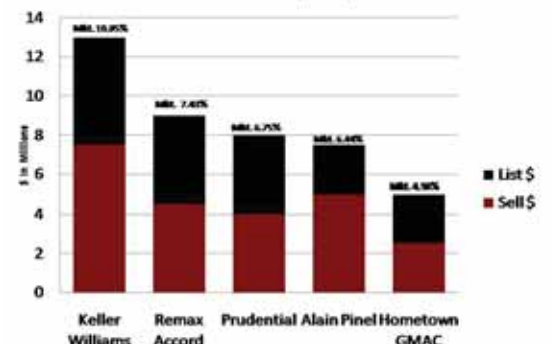


Williams Witters Team

918-2045

**Total 2007
Pleasanton Sales Volume
#1 Keller Williams
Tri-Valley Realty**

Information provided by Broker Metrics



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SAN RAMON – BANK OWNED BEAUTY! \$5000 Seller Allowance Towards Closing Costs! Located in Alta Mira, this home offers a split floor plan with 4 spacious bedrooms with 1 bedroom and full bath downstairs! Great kitchen with granite and full backsplash. Home is situated at the end of a court location.
220 DANDELION LN \$797,900



LIVERMORE – Rhonewood Area-Great Family Neighborhood. Spacious floor plan - serene private yard with fruit trees & retreat. Master with sitting room / 2 fireplaces / finished ceilings / inviting front porch to relax! Walk to pool. Close to schools, parks, baseball fields, ACE Train Stop & convenient free.
882 HAZEL ST \$550,000



DUBLIN – Charming updated home situated on a great cul-de-sac. Updated kitchen w/pantry, breakfast bar w/seating for 4, newer carpeting, heater and a/c, updated baths and two-toned paint thru-out, dual master closets & newer windows. Lovely yard great for entertaining w/ carpeted covered patio.
7352 LIMERICK CT \$505,000



DUBLIN – Wow! Large home on a corner lot in a desirable neighborhood, with a great price! Perfectly situated on a cul-de-sac. Oversized 2 car garage. Spacious floorplan. Needs some TLC or updating.
7031 LOCUST CT \$374,999



DUBLIN – This bright and immaculate home offers 2,009 square feet with 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. The kitchen/family room combination contains granite countertops, rich cabinetry, and a built-in entertainment center. The backyard has been professionally landscaped with an oversized patio.
5179 SAN VICENTE LOOP \$639,900



LIVERMORE – Live in your own private resort! Toland Sports Pool w/fountains & lights, 12 person spa & solar panels. 3200sf-5 Hole Putting/Chipping Green. Movie Room w/145" screen & 8 electric seats. Top quality upgrades. Custom crown molding, baseboards & cased windows. Travertine flooring & SO MUCH MORE!
683 SHADOW MIST CT \$1,749,000



DUBLIN – Beautiful Upgrades!!! Awesome kitchen with granite slab countertops, stainless steel appliances and cherry cabinets. Rich hardwood flooring downstairs and upgraded carpet upstairs. Neutral decorator paint and crown molding. Great landscaped yard.
5008 SHAPLEIGH CT \$815,000



PLEASANTON – Gorgeous VIEWS of the Ridge from this Laguna Oaks home/ BEST location/ RESORT-LIKE yard w/pool, spa, WATERFALL, outdoor island for entertaining. Inside: granite, marble, hardwood, custom paint, huge master suite, bath, walk-in closet. MUCH more, MUST see SELL!!!!
2825 TUDOR CT \$1,559,000



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LIVERMORE



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Panoramic Views of Livermore Valley. 3BD/3BA+ office in main house, + 2nd home & 10 horse stall barn. **\$2,999,000**
925.337.2989 Kim Buerke

SAN RAMON



PRESTIGIOUS CANYON LAKES 5BD/3BA
backs to 16th fairway w/views, open floor plan, newer carpet/flooring, updated kitchen w/granite counters. **\$989,000**
925.858.5400 Sheri Platter

TRACY



STUNNING HIDDEN LAKES BEAUTY 5BD/3BA, master suite w/balcony overlooking backyard, swimming pool & spa. Gourmet Kitchen. **\$799,500**
925.200.2142 Carla Hunter

PLEASANTON



GARDEN HOUSE 4BD/2BA w/new paint inside & out, refinished hardwood floors, updated baths, new front door, inground pool, covered patio. **\$700,000**
925.426.3888 Steve Fast

PLEASANTON



SINGLE STORY IN DEL PRADO. 3BD/2BA, 1,673 sq.ft. w/remodeled kitchen, maple cabinets, center island. Private backyard w/fruit trees. **\$648,900**
925.426.3826 Tom Fox

PLEASANTON



GREAT VALUE 4BD/2BA Valley Trails home is on a flat lot with deck in backyard. Needs some TLC and updating. **\$474,900**
925.426.3888 Steve Fast

CASTRO VALLEY



MINT CONDITION CONDO 2BD/1BA well laid out floor plan w/ lots of upgrades. Dual pane windows thru-out. Updated kitchen. **\$333,950**
925.580.5793 Wendy Washburn

WALNUT CREEK



CONDO NEAR BART 1BD/1BA, 683 sq.ft., freshly painted, new carpets & flooring, granite counter top, new dishwasher & refrigerator. **\$219,000**
925.426.3860 Jo Hunter

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1031 EXCHANGES • LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

213 E. Angela St., Pleasanton

Quality craftsmanship and high-end materials throughout this totally remodeled downtown home. 3br+ Loft, 2ba, approx. 2400 sq. ft. Viking kitchen, custom millwork, 2-car garage. Covered porch, paver stone drive and more. New price! \$1,149,000

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

6322 Alisal St., Pleasanton

Private 1/2 acre rural ranch property features 3br, 2ba, 1800 sq. ft. house + panoramic ridge views! Horses OK, 4-car garage. Close to town, schools and commute! \$869,000

475 East Angela St., Pleasanton

Vintage downtown home on corner lot with side-yard RV access or storage. Original hardwood floors under carpet. Newer roof, windows, fencing & paint, updated kitchen. Easy to remodel or expand. \$545,000

Income Properties

Pleasanton 4-Plex

\$6200/month income. (1) 3br, 2.5ba unit, (3) 2br, 2ba units. 10,000 sq. ft. lot, covered parking, totally remodeled! Not on MLS. \$1,425,000

Pleasanton Duplex

Approx. \$2900/month income. (2) 2br, 1ba units with garages. 7000 sq. ft. lot. Not on MLS. \$699,000

4250 First St., Pleasanton

5 units on 14,000 sq. ft. downtown lot. Possible to subdivide. Owner may carry note. \$1,269,000

Development Opportunities

434 Rose Ave., Pleasanton

Developable downtown lot. Zoned for 5 units. Existing home rents for \$1200/mo. \$649,000

Downtown Lot with approved plans for Craftsman-style home. 9200 sq. ft. lot. 2 blocks to Main St. Not on MLS. \$929,000

MIKE CAREY, Broker

925.963.0569 Cell
925.846.0506 Office

Desirable Ponderosa Trinity Model

OPEN SUN 1-4



2784 Calle de la Loma, Pleasanton

Beautifully upgraded 5 spacious bedrooms & 2.5 baths home. 3,250+/-sf. Fifth bedroom currently an office. Stunning foyer entrance with sweeping staircase and travertine floors. Chef's kitchen with slab granite counters, stainless appliances, expansive island, and cherrywood cabinets. Custom millwork and plantation shutters. Crown molding and upgraded carpet. Two fireplaces. Inviting backyard with patio, arbor, putting green, and spa.

Offered for only \$1,049,000

Please call for a private showing.

Visit my website at www.sallymartin.com for interior and exterior pictures of this desirable home.



Sally B. Martin, Realtor
Marketing and Relocation Specialist

Direct 925.621.4058

Cell 925.998.4311

www.sallymartin.com



apr.com | PLEASANTON 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500
www.blaiselofland.com
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

PLEASANTON VALLEY (BIRDLAND)

OPEN SUN 1-4



5058 BLACKBIRD WAY, PLEASANTON

Highly upgraded customized home in the heart of Birdland. New remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, hardwood flooring, and appliances. Five bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. Approximately 2,745 square feet. Extensive new interior paint. Tile roof. Professionally landscaped, private rear yard with mature trees. Super location! Walking distance to all levels of school, neighborhood park, and aquatic center. Many upgrades... must see! OFFERED AT \$949,500

PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE



3752 TRENERY DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Gorgeous Mediterranean custom home on premium +/- one acre estate lot. Private secluded location. This home has approximately 8,402 square feet (6,141 on main level), seven bedrooms plus private office, and seven and a half bathrooms. Expansive gourmet kitchen. Antique marble, and Brazilian cherry hardwood floors. Extremely private rear grounds—great for entertaining with in-ground swimming pool. Expansive lawn area and beautiful mature landscaping. Circular driveway and oversized four plus car garage. Conveniently located in town near services, activities, and walking distance to desirable Mohr Elementary! OFFERED AT \$3,795,000

VENTANA HILLS

SALE PENDING



1161 HOPKINS WAY, PLEASANTON

Beautiful Carmel Model in desirable Ventana Hills. Four bedrooms (4th bonus room), 3.5 Baths. approximately 3000 square feet. Premium location. Walk to neighborhood park and downtown! Downstairs master suite, extensive hardwood flooring, new carpet, plantation shutters, new exterior paint. Professionally landscaped. OFFERED AT \$1,049,000

Silver Oaks Estates



BRAND NEW SINGLE LEVEL CUSTOM HOME FOR SALE!

Brand new single level custom home. This premium .45 acre lot is surrounded by Oak studded open space. At the gateway to the Wine Country. Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo/the Valley. 4 bd/4.5ba, formal office, plus/bonus room. Approx. 4,716 sq ft. Lg gourmet kitchen with granite slab/stainless steel appliances. Lg master suite with fireplace. Hardwood and marble flooring. Photovoltaic (5 kw) solar system. Professionally landscaped front yard. OFFERED AT \$1,899,000

SILVER OAKS PREMIUM LOTS ALSO AVAILABLE

- Wine Country Location
- Premium Level Lots
- Expansive Views
- Build Your Dream Home!

LOT	SIZE	HOME STYLE	PRICE
1	34,400	Single Story	\$649,000
2	23,670	Two Story	\$649,000
3	30,030	Two Story	SOLD!
4	20,300	Single Story	\$649,000
6	19,547	Single Story	SOLD!
7	22,494	Single Story	PENDING!

Visit www.SilverOaksEstates.com for more information

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



Thinking of selling your home?
Let Alain Pinel Realtors list your property.
We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$3,795,000
Gorgeous Mediterranean custom home. Private secluded location. Gourmet kitchen. Antique marble/hardwood floors. Private rear grounds—great for entertaining. In-ground pool/spa. Beautiful landscaping.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,750,000
Gorgeous 5 bedroom, 3 full and 2 half bathrooms, bonus room, 5200+/-sf custom home in Golden Eagle Estates with views beyond compare on over 1 acre! With every upgrade imaginable. Truly a find!

SYLVIA DESIN BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,725,000
Immaculate 6bd/5.5ba home. 4689+/-sf on a 18,708+/-sf lot. Sparkling pool/spa. Detached guest cottage and 4 car garage. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances. 1bd/1ba downstairs.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,559,000
A true masterpiece! With every upgrade one could ask for, this 4bd/3.25ba, 3220+/-sf custom one story home is nestled on one of the most beautiful 1/2+/-acre lots you have ever seen!

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,399,000
Stunning custom 4 bedroom/2.5 bath, 3474+/-sf home in Castlewood Country Club with breathtaking views of Mt. Diablo and more. Dramatic use of windows and gorgeous updates throughout!

ANDY PORYES BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,299,979
Luxury 5 year old home offers 3265+/-sf with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, pool/waterfalls, outdoor kitchen, high ceilings/lots of light.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,295,500
4bd/3.5ba, 3182+/-sf on a 10,363+/-sf lot. This single level home offers a large open kitchen with granite and high end appliances. Close to schools.

MARY JANE DEERING BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,199,900
4bd/2.5ba built in 1991, 2800+/-sf. 3 car garage, one story. Hardwood floors, slab granite in kitchen, .48+/-acre lot with private backyard. Master with fireplace. Kottinger Ranch. Gorgeous!

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$949,500
Highly upgraded customized home. New remodeled gourmet kitchen. 5bd/2.5ba, 2745+/-sf, new interior paint. Tile roof. Professionally landscaped, private rear yard. Super location!

M. GILBERT/J. JONES OPEN SUN 2-4



PLEASANTON \$949,000
Westside 4bd/2.5ba updated kitchen with granite slab, newer appliances, wood flooring, crown modeling, 3 car garage, 2 fireplaces, no HOA, close to neighborhood parks. Must see! 5114 Mount Tam Cir

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$930,000
Open floor plan features 5bd/3ba/bonus room (1bd/1ba downstairs), 2913+/-sf, formal DR, FR has fireplace. Kitchen has granite slab counters with service island. Pool/spa and firepit. 3641 Huff Ct

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$839,000
5bd/3ba, 2304+/-sf home with updated granite kitchen, renovated baths with solid counters and tile flooring. Dual pane windows, tile roof and pool.

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$799,950
This Del Prado home is absolutely gorgeous. Features include dual pane windows/plantation shutters/ beautiful swimming pool/ downstairs master has walk-in closet/formal LR/DR/central heat and air.

ANDY PORYES BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$624,979
New price. Updated 4bd offers newer stucco finish/50 year roof/landscaping/ dual pane windows/hardwood floors/ crown moldings. Located on quiet court near Donlon Elementary.

MARY JANE DEERING BY APPT



DUBLIN \$363,500
2bd/2ba, built in 1991, one car attached garage, unique travertine staircase, lots of windows, stone-adorned FP, mahogany hardwood floor, slab granite, stainless appliances, view, gorgeous!

PETER MCDOWELL BY APPOINTMENT



DUBLIN \$349,000
Very charming 2bd/2.5ba with wood laminate flooring throughout. Newer stainless appliances in kitchen, 1 car attached garage. Very private patio backs to open space. Nice location close to pool.

