

## Twice rejected

Industrial park childcare center denied > **page 5**

Vol. XI, Number 50 • January 9, 2009

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

## Lone gnome

Christmas decorations looted from homes

> **page 6**

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

## Getting fit

Get healthy with help from local experts

> **page 13**

# IN THE DUMPS

State of garbage, recyclables could be nearing crisis **PAGE 16**



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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## From websites to mailbox delivery, New Media is changing

As readers, viewers and advertisers shuffle the ways they get their news and sell their products as if they have some sort of a universal remote capable of switching media, those of us in the business of conveying information to this news-thirsty crowd are using technology to keep up with the changes. Contrary to some reports that the media as we know it is dying, panelists at Wednesday's Media Day discussion at Las Positas College pointed out how it's getting better. Look at the Pleasanton Weekly. I talked about how we have evolved in just the nine years we've been publishing our Friday paper into an online leader where readers can surf 24 hours a day for updated news, advertising and a popular free-access blog under the heading Town Square. Several months ago we started Express, an abbreviated report that we send as an email to more than 6,000 subscribers who have signed up for this free service. Starting next Monday, we'll be publishing Express with an email sent at 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

We're not alone in making changes to accommodate the New Media, as Mark Curtis, former news anchor at KTVU in Oakland told Wednesday's group. Suddenly laid off by the station, he used technology to launch his own video news service, traveling the country during the presidential campaigns last year and signing up to media users to broadcast his material. As advertising revenue dries up for TV stations such as KTVU, and news staffs are downsized, enterprising entrepreneurs such as Curtis are filling the information gap. Others are trying, with Curtis pointing out how the lines are increasingly blurred between professional reporters and writers and the Internet postings such as the Huffington, Limbaugh and Drudge reports that offer opinion in the name of news. Even though readers and viewers want to know about breaking news now, not

at 5 p.m. or the next morning, they also need accurate, objective reports which is what the established press can do best.

Other panelists at Media Day, which is part of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's annual Leadership Pleasanton program, were Kori Hulac, co-editor of the Tri-Valley Herald/Valley Times news bureau on Spring Street in Pleasanton, and Dory Culver, managing editor of KCBS News Radio. Hulac, who started at the Herald 10 years ago, has the toughest job of those who spoke Wednesday. She finds herself surrounded by empty desks and few reporters although the missions of the two daily newspapers are still the same. With five reporters to cover three counties, she has to carefully sort out the important meetings and newsmaker luncheons. Her staff has shrunk 40 percent since the merger of Knight-Ridder and Bay Area News Group, but she's still very upbeat. As a part of the papers' News Paper task force, Hulac is working with the technology side in "reinventing" the publications, as she put it, with increased emphasis on a website that offers videos, live interviews, special reports, even music. She doesn't expect the New Media to ever fully replace printed newspapers, but readers will have more choices and can be interactive in how they receive their news, advertisements and in their ability to influence what's covered.

Culver at KCBS seems less directly affected by the deterioration in advertising revenue, but technology at her station is giving drivers more options, including membership satellite radio. Few listeners apparently tune in the all-news station in their homes, so KCBS has added FM to their news outlet as well as a website. One of the station's newest promotions is "KCBS Radio, now in HD." And this in a state that just banned text messaging as a distraction for safe driving. ■

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#### About the Cover

Recyclables are sorted out from among the trash at Pleasanton Garbage Service. The facility on Busch Road is overwhelmed with stacks of materials, since the market has reached historic lows. Photo by Emily West.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What is your 2009 New Year's resolution and how do you plan to keep it?

Asked around town

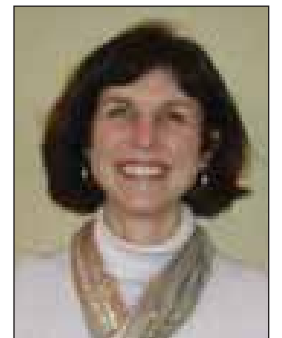


**Alex Thome**

I would like to get a job that coincides with my major. I am graduating from Columbia University this May with a major in international affairs and my ideal job would be to work somewhere in the Latin American region working in development or education reform.

**Jenn Bell**

I would like to become more environmentally conscious by recycling our food in the green waste bins versus throwing it out in the garbage can every week.



**Geoff Haskell**

I would like to visit new places and meet new people. I am venturing into a new career change for the first time in 12 years. I was recently a pastor and now I am going into medical sales so I am looking forward to the new opportunities in the new year.

**Sara Marek (with her son Nathan)**

I have two resolutions: The first one is to live a healthier lifestyle by exercising more and eating better. I'm not looking to lose weight but I just want to feel better and healthier. My second resolution is to get my son to sleep consistently as he still wakes up twice in the middle of the night.



**Andre McKenzie**

I am going to try to spend more time at home with my family. I currently commute to Fremont and I work approximately 70 to 80 hours a week as an engineer. I never have dinner at home and I work on the weekends so my goal is to change that a bit.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)  
Compiled by Hillary Bessiere



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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Vandalism update

After Election Day, the Patrick family's home on Kern Court and their car were spraypainted, toilet papered and egged, and the car tires and Barack Obama sign were slashed. Thought by many to be racially motivated, because the family is black, police said it was hard to determine whether it was a hate crime since the vandalism didn't explicitly include racial symbols or language. A little more than two months later, Lt. Darrin Davis said the case is still open, but they have exhausted all leads.

### Design a license plate

The California Coastal Commission has announced its Whale Tail License Plate Design Contest, with submissions being accepted until Jan. 15. The winning artwork will be featured on a new official DMV license plate that will be available for purchase by all California drivers. The contest is a chance to give widespread exposure and visibility to the work of local artists, as well as promoting the preservation of the state's ocean and coastal resources. Submissions must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the commission's San Francisco office by 5 p.m. Jan. 15 to be accepted for the contest. For guidelines, entry forms and other questions, visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/newplatecontest.html>.

### Inauguration event is moved

An Inauguration Ball once planned to be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, which had been featured in the Pleasanton Weekly's calendar, has been moved to Berkeley. The celebration honoring President Elect Barack Obama will be from 6 p.m. to midnight Jan. 20 at H's Lordships Restaurant, located at 199 Seawall. Tickets range from \$100 to \$250 per person. For details, visit [www.oaklandinaguralball.myevent.com](http://www.oaklandinaguralball.myevent.com) or call 510-878-2480.

### Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

## Incomplete background check foils bid to open childcare facility

*Council nixes earlier approval by Planning Commission, city staff*

by Jeb Bing

The Pleasanton City Council Tuesday night rejected for a second time a bid by a martial arts professional to operate a childcare facility for 20 children at a time in the Valley Business Park off Valley Avenue.

The council voted 4-1 to support Councilwoman Cindy McGovern who successfully sought to overturn the city Planning Commission's approval of the project on Nov. 12 and a subsequent recommendation that the council abide by that decision.

Brian Dolan, director of Community Development, said his

staff had determined that John Pfund had met—or would soon meet—all requirements needed for a conditional use permit to operate his Martial Arts Academy in a section of a building at 1262 Quarry Lane, which is zoned for industrial uses.

But in a nearly two-hour-long discussion with the council, Pfund and Dolan acknowledged, under questioning by McGovern and others on the council, that the facility still lacked approvals by the fire department and building inspectors because final approval by state authorities has not been obtained.

Although McGovern said she opposes placing childcare facilities

in an industrial park, she was even more concerned that state authorities have yet to complete a background check on Pfund, which he asked for in April of 2008. He needs a background check approval by the state to obtain a childcare operating license.

Dolan said Pfund is in a "Catch 22" situation, with the state contending that it cannot issue a license until he has a facility to operate and Pleasanton fire and building officials saying they can't approve the facility until he is prepared to operate it.

Dolan suggested that the council approve Pfund's request for an operating permit on condition that he can open the facility for child-

care only when he has the required state license. In the end, that was a condition of approval favored by Councilman Jerry Thorne, who said Pfund had worked hard over the last year to satisfy conditions imposed by both the Planning Commission and City Council and should be allowed to proceed once he has the license.

Others disagreed, however, and supported McGovern in voting against the project because of concerns beyond the childcare license problem.

Asked why it is taking so long for

(continued on page 8)



Stan Montalbo II

### Marching into the New Year

Amador Valley High School made quite a presence in London as the Marching Dons and two cheerleaders were invited to take part in the annual New Year's Day parade. The marching band and colorguard also took part in the event in 2004 and was one of 16 bands from the United States to be chosen to participate in the internationally televised event.

AVHS Cheerleaders Kaja Rassmussen, a junior, and Baqiyya Bent, a sophomore, also took part in the parade. The two, along with other teammates, were invited this summer at the Camp of Champs. It was the first trip for Rassmussen and the second for Bent, who attended last year.

## Police continue search for stolen paintings

*Local artist Charlotte Severin puts value at \$2,000*

Police are continuing to search for three paintings by noted Pleasanton artist Charlotte Severin that were stolen last week from the front lobby of the Pleasanton Hotel restaurant Dec. 30. She estimated the value of the three paintings at \$2,000.

The theft, which Severin noticed when she went to the hotel for a New Year's Eve dinner, apparently took place during a late night party the night before for restaurant owners Bill and Vernie Laube. The Laubes,

who had owned and operated the restaurant since 1983, closed it New Year's Day after building owner Sue Martinovich of Alamo refused to extend their lease beyond Dec. 31.

Severin said two of her paintings, "Second Street Victorian" and "Pleasanton Ranch," were left untouched on the walls near the restaurant's bar, but the three that were taken were hanging on both sides of the front lobby walls, where they've

(continued on page 6)



Artist Charlotte Severin holds a copy of one of the three paintings stolen from the Pleasanton Hotel.

## Gunman robs man at mall

*Robbery is Stoneridge's second in a month*

Pleasanton police are still searching for an armed man who robbed another man in a parking lot at Stoneridge Shopping Center Sunday evening. It's the second parking lot robbery to have occurred there in just over a month.

Two men driving a late-model 1980s Toyota Tercel approached a man walking in a southwest parking lot near Macy's department store at 1300 Stoneridge Mall Road at 7:25 p.m., according to police.

Sgt. Jim Knox said they are not aware of any witnesses. If anyone did see the event, they are encouraged to call police at 931-5100.

The passenger of the Toyota reportedly got out of the car and pointed a gun at the victim, demanding he hand over his wallet and cell phone.

A woman leaving Stoneridge Mall on Dec. 2 was followed by a man who threw her on the ground in the course of stealing her purse, according to Pleasanton police.

The thief was later arrested when two witnesses chased after him and kept him from driving off in a motorcycle. The suspect fled to a wooded area near the mall where officers caught up with him, police reported.

The suspect wielding a gun in Sunday's parking lot robbery is described as a man standing 5-feet 10-inches to 6-feet tall and wearing a black ski mask.

The gun was reported to be a black semi-automatic handgun.

Carrie Williams, marketing director at Stoneridge Mall, said the center implements a holistic approach when it comes to security, which includes, "continuous

(continued on page 8)

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## Senior center to be site of monthly consumer affairs clinics

Residents can get help resolving complaints by meeting with a counselor

The Pleasanton Senior Center will begin offering a consumer affairs clinic the first Tuesday of the month, beginning on Feb. 3, the city of Pleasanton announced.

The clinic, offered by the California Department of Consumer Affairs, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon.

While aimed at mature adults, who are often vulnerable to scams, the clinics are open to all age groups. Residents can call 931-5365 to make an appointment with a consumer affair counselor that will help resolve consumer-specific

issues. The type of disputes typically handled through the program relate to refunds, repair/rework, service, product exchange, electronic and appliance service contracts and warranty issues.

The free Complaint Resolution Program is part of the Consumer and Community Empowerment Division of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. The program is responsible for resolving consumer complaints that pertain to the following industries: automotive repair, home furnishings, electronic and appliance

repair, private investigator, private security, burglar alarm, repossession, locksmith, security guard, baton and firearm training, hearing aid dispenser and cemetery and funeral.

The state consumer affairs department approached the center about holding the monthly clinics. They will set up an information booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at the senior center where those interested can learn more about what services the consumer affairs department offers.

—Janet Pelletier

## Hotel restaurant relics for sale Wednesday

Cocktail tables, gas hanging lights, china among items on auction block

On Wednesday, Pleasanton residents will be able to purchase a piece of local history as auctioneers will be selling off antique furniture and other restaurant materials at the Pleasanton Hotel.

A number of historic restaurant relics will be auctioned off, including cocktail tables, lounge chairs, a fountain statue, antique mirrors, cabinets, gas hanging lights and china. The auction will be conducted by J.G. Bonilla Auctioneers of San Leandro.

The auction starts at 11 a.m. but viewing of the items is available at 9 a.m. at the hotel, 855 Main St.

For information, visit [www.jgbonillauctions.com](http://www.jgbonillauctions.com).



On Wednesday, a variety of items in the Pleasanton Hotel restaurant will be auctioned off to the public, including gas hanging lights, above.

—Janet Pelletier

## Paintings

(continued from page 5)

been hanging on a "loan" basis for six months. Apparently, they were taken sometime after 10 p.m. Dec. 30, when they were last seen, and the morning of New Year's Eve Day when an employee noticed they were gone. Laube, however, didn't learn they were missing until Severin told him that night.

The three missing paintings are:

- "Downtown Pleasanton"—A view of the Kolln Hardware building and the Pleasanton Arch, which Severin painted from her canvass at the Blue Agave Restaurant. The painting measures 12x16 inches and is mounted in a large frame with matting. The painting was being offered for sale at \$495.

- "The Old Cavestri Ranch"—A watercolor painted from the bottom of a church parking lot off First Street near the Arroyo del Valle, the scene is of a group of farm buildings and an old Victorian house that was once owned by the Cavestri family. Severin often takes students in her art classes to this

spot to teach painting techniques. The painting measures 15x22 inches and is mounted in a large frame with matting. The painting was being offered for sale at \$650.

- "The Old Game Warden's House"—Painted on location from the corner of the Lighthouse Baptist Church at Second and Neal streets, showing the Game Warden's house at 4512 Second St., where he lived in the late 1800s. The beautifully restored Victorian is now owned by Christine and Brian Bourg. The painting measures 18x24 inches and is mounted in a large frame with matting. The painting was being offered for sale at \$850.

Severin is an award-winning Bay Area Plein Air artist whose works are displayed in public and private collections in the U.S. and many foreign countries, including Japan, Guatemala, France, Germany and Mexico, as well as the foreign consulates and embassies in San Francisco. Some corporate collectors have acquired as many as 25 of her works in permanent collections, and she has completed commissions for international corporations as well.

A founder of the Pleasanton

Art League, she has championed a number of city and civic art projects and shows and was instrumental in winning public and City Council support for the Firehouse Arts Center, now under construction on Railroad Avenue.

Along with other local artists, Severin frequently loans out her work for exhibits in Pleasanton and Livermore, including the Museum On Main, Livermore Public Library, corporations, retail businesses and restaurants, and the Pleasanton Hotel.

"In all the time that I have exhibited my paintings, never has one been taken," she said. "It's just unbelievable."

Severin said it's possible that someone mistakenly took the paintings as souvenirs because the hotel restaurant was closing. She asks that anyone with information contact her, police or the Pleasanton Weekly.

The paintings also can be dropped off at the front desk of the Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with no questions asked.

—Jeb Bing

## Donations still being accepted for Zuffa family

*Police decline to reveal any new information in ongoing investigation*

by Janet Pelletier

Donations are still trickling in for the family of a woman who received second- and third-degree burns to her body after her home exploded and a fire ensued.

Pleasanton Middle School, which is where the family's youngest son attends classes, has been leading a fundraising drive since early December. School secretary Karen Buchanan said the school has received \$3,595, which includes cash and checks written out to PMS. That amount does not include checks written out in the Zuffa's name and dropped at the front office, she said, which were handed over to the family. The community has also supported the family through gift cards, totaling at least \$2,000, Buchanan added. In addition to PMS's drive, Andrew Ochoa, a fellow classmate and friend of the youngest son, collected both monetary and clothing donations. To donate to the family, call PMS at 426-4390 or stop by the front office at 5001 Case Ave.

The woman who was injured, Deonna Zuffa, 40, is listed in critical

but stable condition at St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Bothin Burn Center in San Francisco, according to police. A woman who answered the phone at the burn center Wednesday said the family was declining press inquiries.

Discussion has mounted on the Weekly's Town Square online discussion forum with users posting a number of their theories. Police, who were asked to investigate the fire by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, have classified the case as "suspicious," but have remained tight-lipped.

Here are the known facts about the incident: the fire broke out at about 11 a.m. Dec. 8 in the 800 block of East Angela Street. Deonna Zuffa, who was the only person home, was witnessed by neighbors running out of the home, engulfed by flames. The family's two dogs were not injured in the fire as they were being taken to a pet groomer. Neighbors said they heard a loud explosion that shook the ground, followed by the blaze that has left the single-story home located across the street from St. Augustine

Catholic Church a total loss.

Police have ruled out natural gas as being the cause of the explosion and fire, but have not released an official cause. Police acknowledged that the Zuffas owned muscle cars and go-karts and had gasoline containers stored in the garage, but declined to say whether the gas may have contributed to the explosion or fire. Police have also declined to say where the fire was started, which also damaged two neighboring homes and displaced a second family.

Sgt. Jim Knox said police won't have any new information to reveal especially since they have yet to speak with Deonna Zuffa.

Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in June, according to public records. The case was dismissed on Oct. 30, but a court commissioner said it is still open and a court date was set for Feb. 9. Records also show the home was sold for \$75,000 in a foreclosure sale on Sept. 30 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg.

To comment on this topic, visit [www.pleasantonweekly.com](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com). ■

## Bring the gnomes home

*Decorations stolen from two residential Christmas displays*

by Emily West

In the 10 years John and Tracey Weber have put up their popular Christmas light display in their yard, they never had any trouble. This year, however, thefts out for lighted gnomes put a damper on the fun-spirited tradition.

While Tracey Weber said their annual display is not as extensive as Bob's World, it is filled with several eclectic pieces that John picks up when traveling. She got the gnomes one year at Urban Outfitters in San Francisco and hasn't seen anything like them in other displays.

A week before Christmas, the Webers noticed two of their nine 18-inch tall gnomes were missing from their Gray Fox Circle home. Thinking it was a neighborhood prank, Tracey Weber said they drove around to spot them, but with no luck. A few days later, they noticed two more were missing.

"Someone had unplugged the other decorations and even took extension cords," Tracey Weber said. "Who would come back and steal twice?"

Soon, all but one gnome was gone. And sometime between New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, one of the three kings from their lighted nativity scene was taken.

"It took my son at least 45 minutes to wire each gnome and the wires were cut," she continued. "Someone came prepared to take them."

While the family has not gone forward to the police, they recalled reading a similar story in the



Gnomes and one of the three kings were taken from the Weber family's home on Gray Fox Circle.

"We don't want [the thieves] to ruin it for everyone else," she said.

In the meantime, the lone gnome awaits the return of his counterparts.

Dick and Linda Sanders, who live on Greenwood Road, were also the victims of a Christmas display theft. A 5-foot-tall Frosty the Snowman was stolen around Sunday night.

Linda Sanders said they had intended to take down the display on Sunday, but were too tired after church. When they arrived home from helping a hospital take down decorations, Frosty was gone.

"He was a gift from our daughter and delighted many over the Christmas season," she said.

She, too, hoped that the snowman would be returned undamaged. ■

Weekly, where stolen decorations were anonymously returned.

Their home on Gray Fox Circle is listed on [LightsoftheValley.com](http://LightsoftheValley.com) and has always had a large line of cars passing by, especially on Christmas Eve. Tracey Weber said they will continue to decorate next year despite the damper put on this year's display.

Paid for by Robert Byrd

# Downtown

Pleasanton Part II



## Reborn or Rebuilt?

In a recent letter to the Editor ("Let's hear solutions, not complaints") the writer criticizes Kathy Clark-Morrison for providing us with an accurate picture of what downtown Pleasanton looks like today and then criticizes her for not providing a picture of what downtown should look like tomorrow. In all due respect, if the gentleman is looking for someone to decide for him, I'll go first. Morrison informed us that, currently about 35% of Main Street's sidewalk frontage is occupied by a restaurant – parking lots use 26% – automobile-oriented businesses, like banks 18% – pedestrian-oriented businesses 16% – with 4% vacancies.

Success to me would be more retail and less parking lot frontage on Main Street and a commercial district that's continually increasing its pedestrian environment without the aid of staged events. The goal – a self-functioning, self-sustainable pedestrian environment where staged events are added attractions, not the main event.

### How do we get there?

I've always argued that the ingredients for success for our little one street downtown are "density" and "location". Density measured not so much by building square footage, but more so by the number of pedestrian customers served daily and environment created by building square footage and linear feet of sidewalk frontage consumed. As an example of my way of thinking, I'll compare the Rose Hotel located on the north side of Main Street, to the Tully Building on the south side. Both beautifully designed, built, maintained and both located on a Main Street corner, and both unquestionably good for downtown.

The 38,000 sq. ft. automobile-oriented Rose Hotel occupies about 320 linear feet of sidewalk frontage and was designed, and approved to serve 39, or so out-of-town business people or visitors daily. Roughly 1/1000 sq. ft. of building space, or 1/1000 sq. ft. of sidewalk frontage. The pedestrian-oriented Tully Building is 1/3 the size, uses 1/2 the frontage, and serves 100s and 100s of Pleasanton citizens and visitors daily.

But much more important to downtown's revitalization efforts by my way of thinking are the pedestrian environment the Tully building creates and the 100s of potential pedestrian customers its pedestrian-oriented businesses generate for other businesses in that area. Assisting them to succeed and generate even more potential customers for even more nearby pedestrian-oriented businesses. "Life attracts life", wrote urban activist, Jane Jacobs. I believe Tully's

success demonstrates this view.

In "Downtown, reborn or rebuilt, Part I" (Pleasanton Weekly 2002) written in opposition to placing City Offices on Main Street, I wrote, "With downtown's meager development limitations clearly understood why consume prime pedestrian street frontage with automobile-oriented businesses or institutions which would attract equal patronage if located at less desirable locations. It seems to me this accommodates co-existence thereby more efficiently intensifying downtown's density." Over time I believe the Firehouse Theatre will reveal the logic in this thinking.

And let's not forget time has already revealed that since the majority of customers arrive downtown by car, filling the commercial district with one-dimensional restaurants and low vitality 5-day, 9 to 5 automobile oriented institutions and businesses with no parking, or private parking, that sit vacant when parking is needed the most, can only lead to parking shortages at peak parking hours and empty sidewalks and retail stores and vacant parking spaces at other hours. Analyze it – accept it – it is.

### Where do we go from here?

Depends on one's view of what success looks like? But if it looks like more retail and less asphalt on Main Street and a commercial district "jump started" in the direction of self-sustainability with the least amount of character assassination, then by my way of thinking the logical solutions begins at Gay Nineties Pizza and Domus parking lots and the key to the gate is density. Density and Location.

After literary studying hundreds of downtowns the authors of "Cities Back from the Edge" wrote, "A walkable community does not guarantee a walking community. Sidewalks without interesting things to walk by or destinations to walk to will not easily draw pedestrians."

But what about others? What would success look like to downtown's most influential group, the Pleasanton Downtown Association? How would they get us there? Where should downtown go from here? Remember, above all, time has revealed (time reveals everything) that its not silence or criticism, but accurate information (like Morrison's) and a variety of opinions and solutions from a variety of sources (like anyone) presented openly that is needed in order to sort out the "right" solutions. What do you think? Give us your thoughts.

—Robert W. Byrd

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## Childcare

(continued from page 5)

the state to complete his background check, Pfund said it could be because of his arrest several years ago on a charge of child molesting. He said the charge was dismissed after the state's attorney determined that there was no truth to the charge.

"I have a top secret clearance from working at the Sandia National Laboratory and also in Dublin in 2003, where I had a background check as required," Pfund told the council.

Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio countered, however, that in her 32 years of teaching, she has never heard of a state-required background check, which all school districts require, taking so long and without any explanation from state authorities, Pfund or the Planning Department.

"Although Mr. Pfund plans to operate a martial arts program, he also plans to enroll children as young as kindergarteners who will be there for up to six hours a day," Cook-Kallio said. "That's not a recreational facility, it's childcare and he needs to have an approved background check before operating that facility."

Councilman Matt Sullivan agreed.

"When my daughter was taking martial arts, she would be there for two hours and then come home," he said. "We're talking here about a program that could keep kids there for up to eight hours."

Dolan, in a staff report recom-



Job Bing

City Councilwoman Cindy McGovern holds a stack of paperwork regarding a childcare facility proposal that the council rejected Tuesday on the grounds that the owner had an incomplete background check.

mending approval of the Pfund application, said his staff continued to support the approval by the Planning commission.

"The applicant has fulfilled the application requirements and followed through to meet the intent of the direction provided by the City Council in May, 2008," Dolan stated in his report. "The time that has been taken for the background check by the state is out of the applicant's control and there is nothing more that he can do to expedite the

state's process."

After voting to overturn the Planning Commission's approval of the project, as well as Dolan's recommendation, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman told Pfund that the council, planners and others have spent months researching and debating the issue.

"I hope that your background check will be completed and everything in order before you ever come back to this city with another application like this," Hosterman said. ■

## Scottish supper

*Honoring Burns  
in memory, song  
and poems*

The Pleasanton-Blairstown-Fergus-Sister City Organization is celebrating its 15th annual Burns Supper along with the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth.

Born in Alloway, Scotland Jan. 25, 1759, Burns lived only 39 years and is known around the world as the Bard of Scotland. He collected and wrote many poems, lyrics and songs. To remember him, Burns Suppers will be held in countries around the world.

The PBFSCO will celebrate Jan. 31 at the Pleasanton Marriot, located at 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner following at 7. Tickets are \$65 or a table of 10 is \$600. The reservation deadline is Jan. 17.

For more information, including a registration form, visit [www.pbfsco.org](http://www.pbfsco.org) or contact Malcom Carden at 510-654-7627 or at [mcarden@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mcarden@ix.netcom.com), or Kathy Tollworthy at 462-6378.

—Emily West

## Take Us Along



### Over the wall

Mac Hoffman, 12, and his dad Joe read the Weekly at the Great Wall of China. The pair were traveling in China with Mac's basketball team.

## Mall Robbery

(continued from page 5)

exterior vehicle and T3 patrols, interior foot and Segway patrols, security escorts, closed circuit television, parking lot emergency call boxes and other security measures." They also maintain close contact with the Pleasanton Police Department.

In addition, Williams said Stoneridge also has a "Tenant Awareness" program that encourages the network of over 180 tenants and their employees to watch for any unusual occurrence, suspicious activity or potential issue.

Knox said the incidents haven't caused police to increase patrols around the area.

—Bay City News, Emily West

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Hats in hand, Tri-Valley mayors head to Washington

Tri-Valley mayors are hoping that Washington's willingness to spend billions of dollars to shore up a faltering economy could also speed along big ticket projects needed here. That's why the mayors—Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton, Danville's Newell Arnerich, San Ramon's Abram Wilson, Dublin's Tim Sbranti and Livermore's Marshall Kamena—are heading to the nation's capital next week. They'll attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting and also spend time meeting with the California congressional delegation to lobby for federal funds to support regional projects. These include help on completing the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS) to provide unified and coordinated emergency communications among police, fire, hospital and other emergency response teams, funds for affordable housing and transportation funds needed to carry out improvements to regional streets and highways, including completion of carpool lanes on I-680 and I-580, State Route 84 and other intra-city arterial roadways.

With the uncertain economic climate and California's growing budget crisis, fiscal year 2009-2010 projects are not being adequately funded. With infrastructure investment a key tenet of the economic stimulus plans being discussed by President-elect Barack Obama and congressional Democrats, as well as at the Conference of Mayors meeting, there's good reason for the five mayors to coordinate their travel and meet together as a unified regional force, which they plan to do with Congressman Jerry McNERney, Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, and Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. Other cities across the country are submitting similar lists for their share of a federal stimulus package that, if approved, will pour billions of dollars into infrastructure projects.

The Tri-Valley mayors also plan to advocate on behalf of the same three priorities the five cities face: transportation, affordable housing and public safety. The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, which has been lobbying aggressively on behalf of funding its I-580 Corridor Mobility project, considers the mayors' support essential in its effort to fund this and other transportation projects. The mayors' missions have garnered the support of the entire congressional delegation for help in funding affordable housing projects in past visits and now is the time to reinforce that support to deal with the fallout of the housing crisis. EBRCS' Executive Director Bill McCammon is looking for additional funding to build sites that haven't previously been funded. This upcoming coordinated, unified lobbying effort might make that happen.

The Tri-Valley cities are also considering development of a Recycled Water Master Plan to provide guidance to the region to better meet long-term water demands in a more reliable and sustainable manner. Some Tri-Valley water agencies use recycled water for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation and emergency fire sprinkler systems, so developing a regional plan may help to further identify potential uses, projects, infrastructure development, and estimated costs that could be eligible for future Title XVI authorization (or other funding opportunities). The mayors will seek federal funding available through the Bureau of Reclamation or other agencies to develop this master plan. To obtain the funding, which can provide up to 25 percent reimbursement on recycled water projects, cities and regions such as ours must first receive congressional authorization and appropriation, which the mayors have on their lists of priorities to discuss with the California delegation.

President-elect Obama has urged Congress to approve funding for infrastructure and jobs in hopes of resuscitating the economy. The Tri-Valley mayors are hoping for a slice of the \$700-billion stimulus package to fund these priority projects for our area, and possibly more. We wish them well. ■

## Guest Opinion

### Reviving our fight against global poverty

by Brendan Lo

Every Friday, a group of young activists meet together in a school organization at Foothill High named ONE.

Like any club on campus, we meet to address a specific focus: making poverty history. As a club, we aim to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, disease, and efforts to fight such problems in the world's poorest countries. We represent a legitimate national campaign run by celebrities like Bono, Matt Damon and other activists.

This year, we are working harder to get not just the school but the citizens of Pleasanton more involved in charity activities. This means fueling the movement of making poverty with the help of local citizens, as well as our city's leaders. What the community can contribute by acting locally and thinking globally will not just be in the name of charity but we will be standing up for justice.

In the past, ONE has taken part in a number of poverty-related charity events in the Bay Area, the Alameda County Fair, and has been in close collaboration with Mayor Hosterman and the City Council. Back in September, ONE

addressed to the city council the issue of poverty plaguing Africa. We laid out specific ways to get the community as a whole involved in ways to step-by-step fuel the movement to eradicate global poverty.

It's not about what we should do, but we can do as citizens:

1) Recruit more people—ask local residents, city officials, friends to join ONE either by simply online at [www.one.org](http://www.one.org) or texting "City" to 62523.

2) Place flyers, white bands and the ONE declaration at local businesses, churches, and schools.

3) Wrap trees with white ribbon or other materials to creatively get people talking about ONE.

4) Include ONE in city activities; examples include a table at a local festival or a float in a parade.

The truth is a child does die every three seconds due to extreme poverty. That's someone's mother, someone's son. That's ridiculous, at least in the world we live in. ONE is motivated to exploit that truth and take firm action for it. At the end, it's really about making a difference and having the action to back it up with.

*Brendan Lo, president of the ONE club at Foothill High School, is a senior.*

## Letters

### Pleasanton Hotel closure a product of greed

Dear Editor,

My wife and I moved to Pleasanton in 1994 for many reasons. One reason was the small town feeling, which we know many folks share that live here.

The downtown area also enjoys a rich history which we feel is being threatened by this insatiable desire for wealth. How much money is enough? Quality of atmosphere is so apparent at the hotel. It is warm and inviting and the lounge has become a favorite of ours. Its romantic and God knows this society needs all the love and warmth we can generate.

It started with Kolln Hardware, then Hap's and now the hotel. Our society is kneeling at the altar of profit instead of preserving that which was so special to begin with. Our heart goes out to the operators of the hotel and all their employees who are losers as well in this business fiasco. The face of

Pleasanton is changing and soon it will be a stranger's face.

*Daniel Ormonde*

### Gov. Palin thanks woman for Afghan blanket

Dear Editor,

An employee of mine by the name of "Tena" Hamann sent to Sarah Palin a red Afghan blanket, which she knitted.

To her great surprise, she received on the letterhead stationery of the Governor's Office the following: "Dear Tena, Thank you so much for the most beautiful red afghan! We love it! Your thoughtfulness & talent is sincerely appreciated. God Bless Your New Year! Sarah Palin."

Tena had sent a note to Gov. Palin saying that she was sending this in recognition of how poorly the left wing press and others had treated her in the recent presidential campaign.

*Doug Christison*

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOPS ON PROPOSED FARE INCREASE AND SERVICE REDUCTION

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority is conducting two Transit Workshops and a Public Hearing to receive citizen comment on a Wheels fare increase and bus service reduction proposal planned to take place in March/June 2009.

The public is invited to express any comments or concerns to members of the LAVTA Staff at one of the following workshop locations and times:

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOPS

**Date:** Monday, January 12, 2009  
**Time:** 6 - 8 PM  
**Place:** LAVTA/Wheels Administrative Offices\*  
1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100, Livermore  
*\*This location is served by Route 12*

**Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009  
**Time:** 6 - 8 PM  
**Place:** Dublin City Library\*  
200 Civic Center Drive, Dublin  
*\*This location is served by Route 10*

The Public Hearing will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled LAVTA Board of Directors meeting. Some decisions on the proposal may be made at this time. All persons may appear and be heard at this proceeding.

### PUBLIC HEARING

**Date:** Monday, February 2, 2009  
**Time:** 4 PM  
**Place:** LAVTA/Wheels Administrative Offices  
1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100, Livermore  
*\*This location is served by Route 12*

Details of the proposed fare increase and bus service reductions are available online at [www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com) and at the following locations:

**Livermore Transit Center-Customer Service (925) 455-7500**  
**LAVTA Administration Offices (925) 455-7555**  
**All Tri-Valley Public Libraries**

**Interested parties may submit comments in a number of ways:**

Submit written comments by 10:00 AM February 2, 2009 to the LAVTA Board of Directors, 1362 Rutan Court #100, Livermore, CA 94551, by fax to (925) 443-1375, complete the online comment form at [www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com) or by calling Wheels customer service at (925) 455-7500.

 **455-7500**  
**[www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com)**

## Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## The most regrettable of the regrettable

Most good journalists try to get things right and abhor corrections, clarifications and the like, particularly for what is considered a "stupid mistake." Every year journalist and author Craig Silverman compiles a very humorous list of the best corrections from media around the world at [RegretTheError.com](http://RegretTheError.com). I received a lot of positive response for sharing the "best" blunders of 2007 and thought you would enjoy a few fabulous flubs from 2008.

Leave it to Dave Barry to earn the coveted (coveted?) "Correction of the Year" award to correct a misspelling he made in a column published by the Miami Herald. Barry's correction: "In yesterday's column about badminton, I misspelled the name of Guatemalan player Kevin Cordon. I apologize. In my defense, I want to note that in the same column I correctly spelled Prapawadee Jaroenrattanatarak, Poompat Sapkulchananart and Porntip Buranaprasedsuk. So by the time I got to Kevin Cordon, my fingers were exhausted."

Regardless of how reporters and editors pour over text on a piece that is filled with potential error landmines, such as a crime story or feature with a controversial topic, it never fails that they will slip up on what is seen as a "benign" story. For example, here's a correction from The Guardian "across the pond":

"We said that, in the American TV drama 24, Jack Bauer, the counter-terrorism agent, resorted to electrocution to extract information. You cannot extract information from someone who has been electrocuted because they are dead."

With thousands of words going from fingertips to press plates in the matter of hours, there are thousands of possibilities for typos. Nonetheless, The Valley News, a newspaper distributed in Vermont and New Hampshire, committed what many journalists and editors would agree is just about the most embarrassing typo possible.

"Readers may have noticed that the Valley News misspelled its own name on yesterday's front page. Given that we routinely call on other institutions to hold themselves accountable for their mistakes, let us say for the record: We sure feel silly."

And then of course there's a typo that makes editors want to crawl in a hole. For example, in an Associated Press story about presidential candidate John McCain considering Sen. Joe Lieberman as a running mate, Lieberman was referred to as "the Democratic vice presidential prick in 2000 who now is an independent."

Sometimes a stupid mistake can make you feel like you'll die from embarrassment, or that you want

to die, but an error in a recipe published by Reuters could actually kill someone.

According to Silverman, "Celebrity chef Antony Worrall Thompson apologized after accidentally recommending a potentially deadly plant in organic salads. The chef and TV presenter said in a magazine article that the weed henbane, also known as stinking nightshade, made an excellent addition to summertime meals... Henbane, or Hyoscyamus niger, is toxic and can cause hallucinations, convulsions, vomiting and in extreme cases death. The chef had intended to refer to fat hen, a weed rich in vitamin C, that is edible, media reports said..."

Oops. But then there are times when staffers bring shame and embarrassment upon themselves. I have to admit some of the best practical jokes I've ever seen have been pulled off in the time between when the stories are in and the paper goes to bed because there's a lot of downtime.

However, this joke made it into print and cost an editor at the North County Times in California his job. An Associated Press story reported that a Los Angeles Councilman "held a kitten at a City Hall news conference." The editor and another prankster changed the word "held" to "strangled."

And then there are the technology-induced errors, such as the one that earned "Best Headline Error" for The American Family Association's OneNewsNow website. The association uses the "homosexual" instead of "gay" and set up a filter to automatically make the change in text. This worked against them when a sprinter named Tyson Gay made news at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials and Gay became Tyson Homosexual when the site's filter ran through the Associated Press story.

Far be it from me to mock these publications for honest mistakes. I've made a few of my own...and I'm fortunate none of my own practical jokes ended up in print. (I've since repented of my evil ways, because it's just too darn easy for it to show up.) However, I do appreciate the good-natured way some journalists handle their corrections. Take, for example, a correction from the New York Post: "The source who told us last week about Michelle Obama getting lobster and caviar delivered to her room at the Waldorf-Astoria must have been under the influence of a mind-altering drug. She was not even staying at the Waldorf. We regret the mistake, and our former source is going to regret it, too. Bread and water would be too good for such disinformation."

Send questions to [gallen@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com).

# Community Pulse

## Police Report

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

### Dec. 27

- Theft:
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
  - 12:22 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; petty theft
  - 3:27 p.m. in the 900 block of Clinton Place; grand theft
  - 4:03 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 5:59 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- Vandalism:
  - 1:40 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400

- DUI:
  - 12:44 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street
  - 1:11 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Springhouse drives
  - 1:28 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Mall Road

- Public drunkenness:
  - 1:35 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

- Battery:
  - 1:41 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

### Dec. 28

- Theft:
  - 1:41 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
  - 2:31 p.m. in the 3900 block of Empire Court; petty theft
  - 7:18 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle

- Burglary:
  - 11:34 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; vehicular
  - 4:17 p.m. in the 2200 block of Goldcrest Circle

- Vandalism:
  - 4:19 p.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane

- DUI:
  - 2:07 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue
  - 2:21 a.m. at the intersection of Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road
  - 9:34 a.m. in the 3400 block of Old Foothill Road

- Found property:
  - 8:18 a.m. in the 3000 block of Calle de la Mesa

### Dec. 29

- Grand theft:
  - 8:56 a.m. in the 800 block of Bonita Avenue

- Vandalism:
  - 8:34 a.m. at the intersection of Creekside Drive and Cameo Court; worth more than \$400
  - 1:28 p.m. in the 5900 block of

- Stoneridge Drive
  - 10:32 p.m. in the 5600 block of San Carlos Way

- DUI:
  - 7:31 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Puerto Vallarta Road

- Trespassing:
  - 3:33 p.m. in the 4100 block of Suffolk Way

### Dec. 30

- Identity theft:
  - 3:29 p.m. in the 300 block of Mullin Court
  - 5:15 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
  - 5:54 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

- Vandalism:
  - 10:57 p.m. in the 2900 block of East Ruby Hill Drive

- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:24 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Gibraltar Drive; DUI
  - 4:34 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Bernal Avenue; non-narcotic controlled substance possession

### Dec. 31

- Theft:
  - 1:33 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; petty theft, stolen property possession
  - 2:03 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen property possession

- Burglary:
  - 8:52 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

- Public drunkenness:

- 10:42 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

- Battery:
  - 11:47 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

### Jan. 1

- Theft:
  - 6:26 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 6:59 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 2:54 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Trails Drive; DUI
  - 3:05 a.m. in the 900 block of Sherman Way; public drunkenness
  - 3:34 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and I-580; DUI

- Public drunkenness:
  - 3:05 a.m. in the 900 block of Sherman Way

- Arson:
  - 12:45 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

### Jan. 2

- Theft:
  - 11:48 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; grand theft
  - 1:21 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pimlico Drive; stolen vehicle
  - 5:25 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue; forgery
  - 5:48 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
  - 11:07 p.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft

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## THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

#### Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PTR 7952, Jerry Raney**  
 Application to merge and re subdivide two existing parcels located at 4693 and 4715 Augustine Street.
- **PUD-77, Dutra Trust**  
 Application for a PUD approval to subdivide a ten acre site located at 1053 Happy Valley Road.
- **PUD 75/PSPA-3, Robert Wentworth**  
 Work Session to consider amendment to the Happy Valley Specific Plan to rezone a 6.13 acre parcel and a development plan for six single family residential parcels at 1157 Happy Valley Road.
- **PAP 130, Anne Fox, Appellants (PDRW-13, Katie Belmonte/ Complete Wireless Consulting, Applicant)**  
 Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of a design review to install a wireless communication facility at 7050 Johnson Drive.

#### Housing Commission

Thursday, January 15, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discuss results of Pleasanton Homeownership Assistance Program (PHAP) Resident Survey
- Update on the Kottinger Place Redevelopment Project
- Update on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application Process

Please visit our website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) to view agendas and meeting locations for the following:

#### Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, January 15, 2009 @ 7:30 a.m.

#### Library and Youth Commissions

Thursday, January 15, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

#### Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, January 12, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

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

#### City of Pleasanton Commissions

- Civic Arts Commission
- Housing Commission

#### Alameda County Paratransit Advisory Committee (1 member)

#### Energy and Environment Committee

(7 members including one Youth member)

#### Economic Vitality Committee Representatives

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

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 (YMPIC).

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

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton and on the City's Website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://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, JANUARY 16, 2009**. Postmarks are not accepted.

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

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

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Paul Rupert Mayes

Paul Rupert Mayes died Dec. 14 after battling cancer at the age of 87.

Mr. Mayes was born Sept. 5, 1921 in Susanville, Calif. He was raised in Alameda by his mother Anna B. Williams Mayes, a school teacher. He never knew his father who was killed in a hunting accident before his birth. Left an orphan after his mother died when he was 16, he lived with friends until he graduated from Alameda High School in 1939. He lived in Pleasanton and Livermore many years ago for a brief time.

Mr. Mayes served in the National Guard then joined the Army Air Force when World War II broke out. Nicknamed "gunner" by the flight crew of his B-24 Liberator called "My Akin Ass," he was the tail gunner with the rank of tech sergeant. During the war he served in North Africa then was based near Brindisi in the boot of Italy. From there, air raids were launched on targets in Southern France, aircraft factories in Czechoslovakia, and the Ploesti oil fields of Romania and Bulgaria. Although shot down three times, he survived the war and joined the Reserves upon return to the U.S.

Following the war, he worked in aircraft factories in Southern California and flew with Howard Hughes on the maiden flight of the first Super Constellation deliv-

ered to TWA. Later, he became a deputy sheriff, deputy coroner, and then was elected coroner, public administrator and conservator in Ventura, Calif. There, he met and married his wife of 40 years, Mary Reeves. They retired first to Scio then Prineville, Ore. He was a 50-year member of Masonic Lodge 248 in Ventura and an active member of Eastern Star of Oregon, Hillah Temple of the Shrine and the Scottish Rite.

He will be remembered by his family and friends for his fine wit, patriotism, charity, stubborn independence and friendship. He is survived by his wife, Mary; four children from a prior marriage; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His final resting place will be Eagle Point National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers con-

tributions may be sent to Prineville Hospice or the Shrine Children's Hospitals.

### Frank M. McGuire

Services for Frank M. McGuire will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave.

Mr. McGuire was born Sept. 28, 1923 and died Dec. 27 at the age of 85.

He was a loving father and grandfather who enjoyed spending time with his family.

Mr. McGuire was a resident of



Pleasanton and a former resident of the greater New York area for 70 years. He attended the University of Virginia and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a bomber pilot.

He is survived by his sons, Tom (Pat) McGuire, Chris McGuire and Dan (Beth) McGuire all of New York and Tim (Valerie) McGuire of Pleasanton; grandchildren, Samantha, Colin, Tyler, Jake, Maddie and Nicholas. He was preceded in death by his son, Ted; his brothers, Edward and Tom McGuire and his sister, Kathleen Regan.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to be made in his memory to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin CA 94568 or the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Pkwy, Ste. E., Dublin CA 94568.

### Lola Palladino

Lola Palladino died of pneumonia Dec. 21 at the age of 96.

Mrs. Palladino was born April 26, 1912 and was raised in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco.

She worked as an aircraft riveter in San Francisco during World War II and was known as "Rosie the Riveter." She was a member of the Office of Civilian Defense, Woman Day Time Air Raid Warden and worked for the Bakery & Confectionery Union while raising her two daughters. A Pleasanton resident for the past six years, she was also a member of the "Over 50 Club" in San Francisco.

She enjoyed playing bingo and cards at the Pleasanton Senior Center and will be remembered enjoying lunch with her many friends. She will be missed by all those who were truly touched by her kind and loving spirit.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony, whom she married in 1932, as well as brothers, Armando and Edward Bertolozzi.

She is survived by daughters, Diana O'Neill and Barbara Barsanti; grandchildren, Lisa Messinger, Tina McCaig, Carrie Harris, Roberta Barsanti and Michael O'Neill; and great-grandchildren, Christopher Messinger, Jenae and Alexis O'Neill, Brittany McCaig and Kalyssa Harris.

A private service was held for family at Holy Cross Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial mass celebrating her life at 10 a.m. Jan. 17 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Donations may be made to Hospice of the East Bay or The Heart Fund in her name.



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# Living

# Resolving to be fit

*New book, website could be your ticket to keeping New Year's goals*

by Emily West

Topics like health and wellness seem to naturally come to the surface with the dawn of the New Year. Resolving to be fit can be daunting, especially when it comes to sifting through all the options to find the right treatment.

Realizing the challenge, two Pleasanton residents are offering their expertise to the world. Through Amy Sluss' book, "Health Care Your Way" and Dan Taylor's new website, Tri-Valley Wellness, resolutions could be achieved by this time next year.

Sluss recently published a book with tips on how to manage your health. It's like tapping into the brain of the 30-year registered nurse who has worked in doctor's offices, hospitals and home care, and who has also been a community health educator.

She was led to write the book when questions from patients, friends and family centered around a similar theme: how to get the right kind of attention in the medical care system. The common misconception is that doctors are in charge of an individual's health. In her experience, Sluss said it's up to the patient to be in charge and proactive.

"If you don't get better [after treatment] those are the people who fall through the cracks," she said. "When there are multiple health providers and issues, the complexity increases so much. Things pile up and issues compound and people get sicker and they don't know that it's really in their court to access care next."

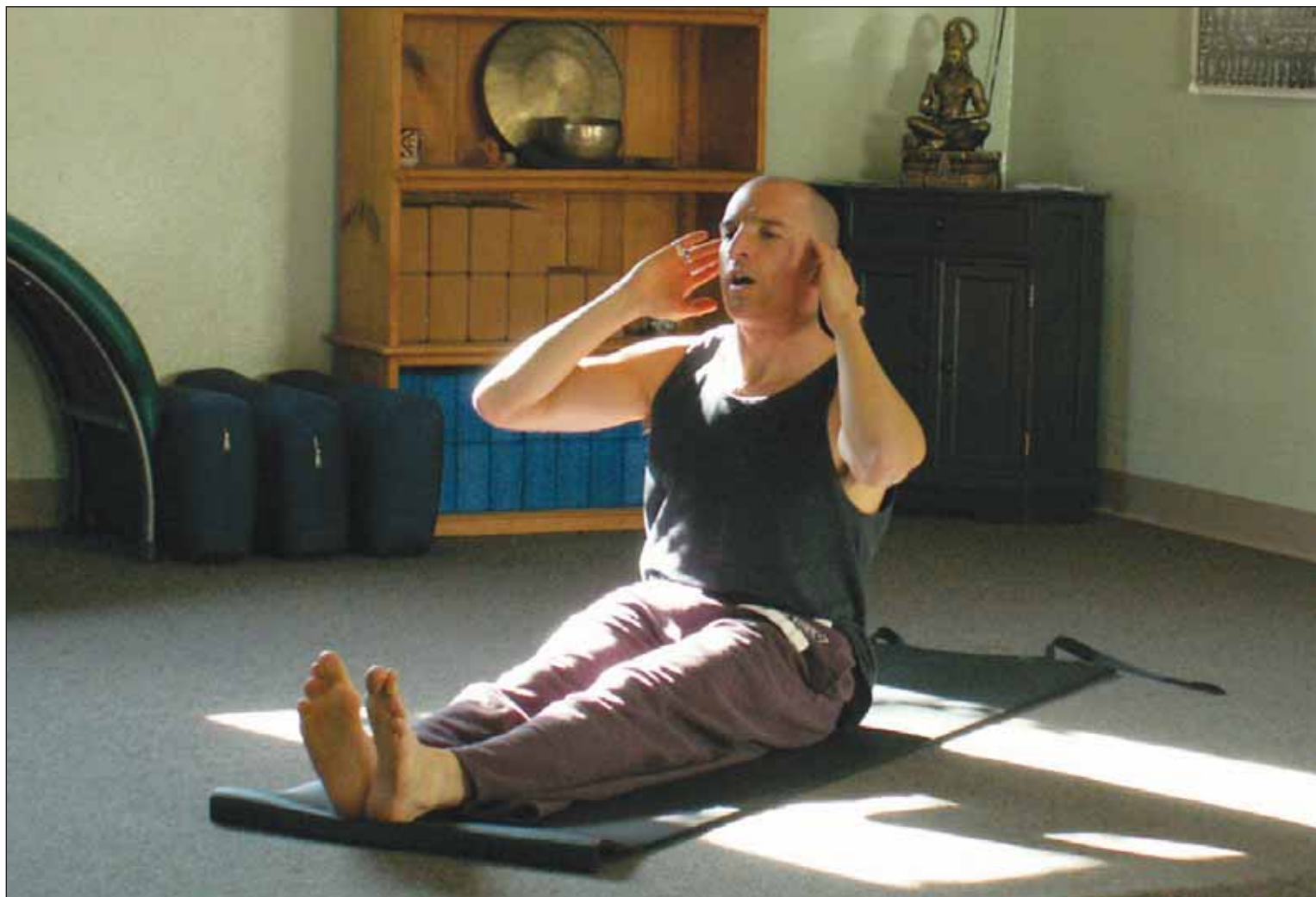
Another problem is people giving up on their treatment.

"People who say 'I didn't like the side effect of the medication, so I stopped taking them,' especially cardiac medication, they're falling through the cracks," Sluss added. "That person didn't get complete care, and it was that person's issue; they dropped the ball. You should call in, go back to the doctor. There are always other answers."

One practical way to jumpstart a healthful mentality would be to put together a personal health record. The book dedicates a 40-page section to just this.

"People are under the misconception that their information is available [to doctors], but in the vast majority, it's not," she said.

She recommends compiling information such as current and past medications, allergies and underlying conditions to bring to the doctor. It's also wise to carry the key papers with you regularly,



Dan Taylor, creator of TriValleyWellness.com, teaches a Pilates class at Downtown Yoga on Division Street.

in case of a medical emergency, as well as to the doctor.

"Care providers love to take care of people with good, complete information," Sluss said. "They can actually provide more efficient care."

The effects of the economy are far reaching and the medical field is not exempt. Health costs are soaring, which could cause people to no longer consider health as a priority.

"Investing in your health is always a good investment," she said. "Seventy-five percent of all illness can be preventative. That's a costs savings and it's a quality of life issue."

Sluss got first-hand experience in this when caring for her mother in the last few years of her life. She had to manage her mother's increasingly complex health care from across the country. While she knew the ins and outs of the system, she wondered about all the people who didn't have a nurse in the family to help in these situations.

"Health Care Your Way: How

to Get the Best Patient Care from Doctors, Emergency Medical Personnel and Hospitals" is available on Amazon.com. Sluss also writes about health, happiness and health care on her blog, [www.charyourownhealth.com](http://www.charyourownhealth.com).

Dan Taylor held a 15-year career in corporate finance, but left in 1998 to pursue a career in fitness training. Locally, he has presented educational workshops, served on the American Council on Exercise and the National Academy of Sports Medicine, and teaches group Pilates at Downtown Yoga and Roche Molecular Devices.

Now fully immersed in the world of fitness, he realized there wasn't much of an online presence for the synergy that is often shared between the alternative medicine practices. He also saw the frustration of the Internet generation trying to find a good preventative health professional.

"The phone book tells you next to nothing about the business, and if they have a good website, good

luck finding it," Taylor said.

If you search online review sites, many of the listings are no longer in business and some searches don't bring up relevant results, he said.

All this led Taylor to create TriValleyWellness.com, which launched Jan. 1. It includes a free, complete listing of area practitioners in a number of preventive wellness categories, such as massage, acupuncture, chiropractic, training, gyms and specialty exercise studios like yoga and Pilates. The listings and information are listed for free, not paid for by the practices.

With help from Taylor's contacts in the field, the site provides information about each type of treatment, in addition to general standards to look for when selecting a practitioner. Additional resources include links to health-related events and restaurants, a blog and a weekly video called Wellness Minute.

In his experience, Tri-Valley residents are open to the idea of steer-



ing away from the treatment model of medicine to being proactive and using preventative health practices. Taylor said he hopes people will become familiar with the various disciplines and that the site could provide a "measuring stick" for quality service. ■

# Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2008 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 453 donors have contributed \$117,688 with the match. Seventy-nine anonymous contributors have given \$10,624.

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Jim & Donna Zarrillo.....	100
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## As A Gift For

Open Heart Kitchen from Hacienda Bunco Group.....	100
The teachers and staff at Hearst Elementary from Kim Hereld.....	100
Axis Health Center from Lee & Clare Carlson.....	**
Open Heart Kitchen from Barbara Daniels.....	**
Amanda Strickhouser.....	45
John, Leisa, Jeff & Mike Giguere—Merry Christmas.....	**

Axis Community Health from Jeff Ulatoski 150	
Hope Hospice from Annie & Kevin Sjodahl.....	150
Nick & Chris from Gary & Sue Bartolotti.....	100

## In Honor of

Grandma Adeline.....	**
Pleasanton Community Band from Jerri & Rob Long.....	**
Dashell, Desmond, Sarah, Chelsea & Karissa.....	**
Our Mom Lora.....	**
Teddy & Arthur Adams.....	50
Alisal Elementary School from Chris & Debbie Scott.....	100
Daggett Children & Grandchildren.....	500
Our Military from The Gualandri Family.....	100
The Oxe Family.....	250
John A. Silva from Manny & Cathy Silva.....	100
My Grandchildren from Doris A. Slater.....	25
The Kearns Family from Randy & Stacey Shurson.....	**
Open Heart Kitchen from The Frost Holiday Party.....	200
The Kassler & Pickert Families.....	**
Natalie & Cameron from Douglas & Pia Moore.....	100

## Businesses

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Bay Valley Medical Group at Civic Center Station.....	150
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Chicago Title at Civic Center Station.....	150
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Hometown GMAC Real Estate at Civic Center Station.....	150
Isberg Nott Company at Civic Center Station.....	150
Karen E. Morliengo, MFT.....	75
Landmark Lending at Civic Center Station.....	150
Livermore - Amador Valley Legal Professionals Association.....	250
Mathnasium at Civic Center Station.....	150
Mission Pipe & Cigar Shop.....	150
Pleasanton Kiwanis Club.....	1000
Pleasanton Pet Sitting.....	**
Ponderosa Homes.....	**
Randick, O'Dea & Tooliatos, LLP Attorneys at Law.....	**
Tahara Detox Weightloss Center at Civic Center Station.....	150
The Fabulous Properties Team.....	750
The Home Works Group.....	200
Tri-Valley YMCA at Civic Center Station.....	150
Understanding Behavior, Inc. at Civic Center Station.....	150
UNITS Mobile Storage.....	**
Walt Lupeika, CPA.....	100
Walters Financial at Civic Center Station.....	150
Wholesale Autos "R" Us.....	**

## In Memory of

Bonnie Zentner from Jeff & Debi Zentner.....	100
Jack Harnett from Michael & Kris Harnett.....	**
Mary L. Erickson from Al Copher.....	**
Grandma Eva.....	**
Tony Paradiso from Dorene Paradiso-Carroll.....	**
Dick Waldron from Virginia Waldron.....	**
George Spiliotopolous, Hank Gomez, Ed Kinney & Roger Dabney from Ken Mercer.....	300

## Holiday Fund

### The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

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

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation for the first \$50,000 in contributions and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

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

Richard Marshall from Jason & Sandy Holliday.....	100	Tom & Karen Elsnab.....	**
Bob Williams from Mavis Williams.....	**	Fred Elling from Mark & Cindy Priscaro...	50
Rick Aguiar from Nancy Aguiar-Fargis.....	**	Etsuyo Marshall from John H. Marshall.....	100
John A. Bell from Phoebe Bell.	250	Rob Meierding from Sue, Dave & Mika.....	200
Virginia Finegan from John & Julie Finegan.	350	Snooky from Terry & Judy Scavone .	40
Nicholas Daniel Lesser from Bruce & Kathleen Lesser.....	25	George Callahan.....	50
Garn & Papa Abbott from The Casey Family.....	**	Roselle Grimes, Joe & Evelyn Schrick from Steve & Pam Grimes....	**
Dan Gabor from Ann Gabor..	100	Denise Zarcone & Roger Dabney from Paul & Marty Zarcone...	**
Beverly Ann Howe-Merrill from Howard Merrill.....	100	Donald D. Reid from The Reid Family.....	100
Roger Dabney, George Jacobsen, Skip Mohatt & Chuck Volante from Don & Carol Bush.....	**	Carl & Lottie Arndt.....	200
Gene Strom, Keith Strom & William Kolb from Carol (Kolb) Strom.....	300	Ernie Bridges from The Bridges Family.....	**
John D. Steiner.....	50	Charles Sebahar Sr. & Charles Sebahar Jr.....	100
Rich Gluck.....	100	Ron McInnis from The McInnis Family....	250
Kyle J. O'Connor.....	200	Nan & Pop from The Rutledge Family..	225
Brian Melin from Patricia Melin... **		Betty Patrick & Karen Oldemeyer from Chuck & Joan Brown....	**
Carolyn L. Juniper from Robert Juniper.....	**	Our Parents.....	50
Leo Scully.....	**	Doris Cink & Charles Glass from Vernon & Tracy Cink....	50
Our Parents from Harold & Gena Gatlin... **		Margaret Duke & Victoria Polvorosa Perry from Mike & Katherine Ferreira..	100
Eleanor M. Powers from Tom & Shirley Myers.....	50	Joe Hatfield.....	**
Doris Walberg.....	100	Our Parents from Hans & Gisela Telm...	100
Kyle O'Connor from The Dadrass Family.....	**	Dan & Daniel Chen.....	75
Harry & Toshiko Stewart from Rod, Christina, Alyssa & Danielle Browning.....	100	Sol MacDonald from Robert & Marti Gastineau.....	100
Marilyn Bowe from Jim Bowe ..	100	Stan Kallo from Blake & Suzanne Heitzman	150
Irene & Theresa Baeta from Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tegtmeyer.....	**	Will Forney.....	**
Marv & David DeBernardi from Connie DeBernardi.....	200	Kerry Caprista.....	50
Juanita Haugen from The Bob Group.....	**	Maurice I. Smith from Carol, Joan, John, Donelle, Josh & Eric Smith... **	
Michael & June Carboni from Richard & Nancy Shockley..	200	Gene Riga.....	25
John A. Mavridis from Mom & Dad.....	**	Mo Ching Chang & Elizabeth Stewart from Elite & Gordon Stewart... **	
Hank Gomez from Dorothy, Frank & Debra Gomez.....	150	Lewie W. Burnett.....	**
Ruth DeFreece from Joe & Janice Biggs.....	**	Tony Prima from Richard & Emily Prima.. **	
Sandy Hiles, Mary Jancoski & Thom Jancoski from John, Cathy & Lauren... **		John Morley from Dan & Teresa Morley & Family.....	**
Brenda Lathlean Faggiano from Bill & Ellen Lathlean...	100	Ron Silva.....	**
James Reynolds from The Riggins Family.....	50	Tom & Karen Elsnab & Chuck Volonte from Jon & Linda Elsnab ...	100
Philip Crumpler II from Phil & Shirley Crumpler.....	**	Maxine Smith.....	**
Our Papa from Jenny, Tommy, Valerie & Danny.....	100	Verna Silva from Steve & Kathy McNichols..	500
		Karen Rudolph.....	**

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



Debbie Lopes

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# IN THE DUMPS

State of waste could be nearing crisis



Stacks upon stacks of recyclables line the walls and take up space around Pleasanton Garbage Service's facility.

story and photos by Emily West

**T**he difficult economic times have trickled down into the garbage, literally.

Pleasanton Garbage Service opened in Pleasanton in 1969 and has grown to meet the challenge of a swelling population: from 12,000 to over 67,000 in 40 years' time. Owners Bob Molinaro and Tom Macchiano built the transfer station in 1976, to help with a landfill space crunch. PGS has also led the way in technology by collecting with an automated service—where mechanical arms instead of garbage men picked up bins—in 1984.

Now, it's seeing its share of hard times, made more difficult with the state of the economy as well as changes in international recyclable sales.

The life of Pleasanton waste begins with residents tossing items in a single trash can, which is picked up by PGS, then sorted by hands and machines into waste and recyclables. From there, it is baled, sold and destined for China, as are most West Coast recyclables. Whether China actually recycles the materials, a subject which has recently been under scrutiny, the scrap is said to be used to make cardboard and plastics for product packaging, computers and cars.

In October, the demand for recyclables collapsed, making the stacks at PGS and other waste management companies virtually worthless. These companies are still required to recycle 50 percent of their total waste, in adherence with the state's waste diversion law.

HF&H Consultants, waste advisors to municipal management, said the economy is partly to blame.

"Credit has been frozen due to the sub-prime crisis in the U.S., making it difficult for brokers to obtain short-term financing to purchase recyclables in the U.S. before they are sold to secondary processors overseas," reads a Nov. 21 HF&H newsletter. "With the actions of governments worldwide to infuse money into the banking system in order that loans can be made, this is probably the shorter term problem."

As the demand for consumer products slows, so does the need for recyclable materials, which are often used to build and package the products.

Tom Padia, recycling director for StopWaste.org, the public agency of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, put some perspective on the current situation.

"Prices went from historic all-time highs last summer to close to historic all-time lows at the end of October," he said. "They have rebounded some since then, but are still weak. Historically there have always been cyclical swings in commodity markets."

Padia said that for a week or two, some county waste management companies were getting paid less than the cost of shipping and bundling, but that was only the case for that time.

A tour of the facilities on Busch Road revealed stacks upon stacks of baled mixed paper, cardboard and plastic with nowhere to go. Similar conditions



At Pleasanton Garbage Service's location on Busch Road, workers sort through waste to fish out recyclables, which are bound and sold, destined for China. Yet the market has quickly gone south, and waste management companies are trying to sell the stacks of baled recyclables taking up space in processing facilities. Residents can also drop recyclables at the transfer station and recycling center (left) and receive the state redemption value.

have been reported across the state and nation. "We're selling [recyclables] for whatever we can get," Molinaro said. "We're lucky to get rid of it."

When asked how bad it was, Molinaro said he considered it a crisis that could have a big impact in Pleasanton.

While residents shouldn't expect to be wading knee-deep in garbage, they may see increased rates in the future in order for the waste management companies to stay afloat.

"The garbage crisis is OK," Molinaro said. "We will still be picking up garbage, but we hope the markets come up in recyclables, or there's going to have to be some kind of surcharge."

"I have five or six men [baling recycling]," he continued. "That's about \$120 an hour to bale recyclables that I can't sell."

If nothing is done to improve the situation, some experts say recyclables could be destined for landfills.

According to HF&H Consultants, the following markets are down: mixed office paper, by 52 percent; newspaper, by 52 percent; cardboard, by 39 percent; aluminum, by four percent; tin, by 29 percent; and PET (plastic), 16 percent. Adding to it, prices for steel are down 80 percent, with buyers in Asia canceling purchases.

"Some processors are considering charging (rather than paying) for processing materials," their newsletter reads, adding that some processing plants have closed or planned to close.

Padia said recyclables are still "moving," and the same goes for PGS.

"The big fear among recyclers is not being able to move your recycled commodities at any price," he said. "To the best of my knowledge, as a bureaucrat, people have been able to move material."

"It's not going to hurt our business," Molinaro said. "It's going to hurt our bottom line."

HF&H offers some short-term solutions for waste management companies seeking financial relief. As for the long-term financial state, Padia said in looking at the two-to-three-year average, the market in the last two years was well above previous years.

"If you assumed the risk of revenue fluctuations, the benefits you received in the rising market of the past many years are being eroded," according to the HF&H newsletter.

While trying to acclimate to the current conditions, the garbage and recycling industries join with other industries and wait for the projected 2009-10 market rebound.

"In the long run, we would be best served trying to promote more local markets for the materials that we use and discard," Padia said. "It's a very weak market, but so long as people are able to move the materials at any price, I think we'll be able to weather the hard times and get back." ■

To learn more about PGS, call 846-2042 or visit [www.pleasantongarbage.com](http://www.pleasantongarbage.com).



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# ON THE TOWN



## AMERICAN

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### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails.

[www.eddiepapas.com](http://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](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).

## BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

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3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

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

## CATERING

### Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton,

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## CHINESE

### Chinese Szechuan

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

### Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern

Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit [www.pandapleasanton.com](http://www.pandapleasanton.com).

## CONTINENTAL

### Barone's

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

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# ON THE TOWN



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## ITALIAN

### Amarone Ristorante

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### Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299.

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

### La Vite Ristorante

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

## JAPANESE

### Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner

Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

## PIZZA

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To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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# Calendar

## Auditions

**Valley Concert Chorale** The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills. Auditions are by appointment from 6-7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Call 462-4205.

**Youth Music Festival Auditions** Auditions will be held for solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under, from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, Jan. 14-15, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Appointments are required; call 931-3481.

## Book Clubs

**Deepak Chopra's 'The Third Jesus'** Rev. Steve Maynard of Tri-Valley Unity will lead this study group that will review and discuss both the book and the DVD interviews between Dr. Chopra and Rev. Wendy Craig-Purcell of "The Third Jesus" at 7 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 21-Feb. 25, at 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Ste. 120, Dublin. The book is available at Towne Center Book Store or in class. Call 998-0038 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

## Classes

**College Admissions 101** Learn how colleges evaluate applicants, discover how to find "best fit" colleges and find out how to prepare a strong application from 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Parents and students welcome. This event is free. Call 963-2932.

## Clubs

**Amador Valley Quilters Meeting** This club will meet for its January meeting featuring Karen Boutte with a lecture about African American Quilters and their Quilts from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave.

**Art Association Meeting** Livermore Art Association and Pleasanton Art Association will host an art demonstration by Bryan Mark Taylor at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Ave., Livermore. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

**Hearing Loss Association** Glen Phillips of the FCC will talk about the television differences with the new HDTV at this club's meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. This meeting is free and refreshments will be served. E-mail Hiram Van Blarigan at hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

**Pleasanton Mothers Club** The Pleasanton Mothers Club provides

a social, supportive and educational outlet for moms and their families in the local community. They meet at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly. Call 927-2444 or visit www.pleasanton-mothersclub.org.

**Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network** This club will host a member led discussion on detoxing at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Learn techniques others use to rid their bodies of toxins. This event is free for members and first-time visitors. Call 922-7615.

## Events

**'Show and Tell' Night** Bothwell Arts Center continues its monthly artists "Show and Tell" night at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. All artists are welcome. Bring a drink or snack to share. Call 337-0567.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast** Tri-Valley YMCA will host a celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. at a Fellowship Breakfast on Jan. 26, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Winners of essay contests will be announced. Call 475-6107 or e-mail tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

**Open House** Hacienda School is having an Open House from 4:30-5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Dr. The school has individualized curriculum and superior academic. This event is free, but reservations are required; call Jo Anne at 485-5750.

**Pleasantonians 4 Peace** Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., the second Wednesday of the month. Following the vigil is a peaceful march to City Hall. Contact Cathe Norman, 462-7495; Matt Sullivan, mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.

**The Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.** Tri-Valley Peace Network presents "Peace and Healing Through Action: the Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr." at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at UCC Livermore, 1886 College Ave. A march to downtown at 11:30 a.m. Call 433-7184.

**Tri-Valley Chinese Culture Day Celebration** Chinese American Cooperation Council presents the sixth annual Tri-Valley Chinese Culture Day Celebration at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Visit www.cacusa.org.

## 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.museumonmain.org.

**PAL Artist Exhibits** Pleasanton Art League presents a series of different art exhibits from members including: Heidi Mann and Tricia Leonard's paintings until Jan. 15, at Jim's Country Restaurant, 5400 Sunol Blvd., Suite 1; Nova Starling's "The Vineyards and the Valley" until Jan. 28, at Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore; "East Meets West" exhibit until Jan. 31, at the Art Gallery in the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave.; Dorothy Maestas' watercolors until the end of January, at Me & Mai Friend's Deli Cafe, 4713 First St.; Karen Fleschler's watercolors and prints until Jan. 31 at the LAA Gallery, 2155 3rd St., Livermore; and Norma Webb's oil paintings during January and February at Garre, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

**Picturing the Constellations** Pleasanton Artist Elaine Drew is

showing a collection of illustrations inspired by astronomy until Feb. 27, at Washington Mutual, 561 Main St. The illustrations are from an upcoming book by her and her husband, local astronomy teacher Rob Drew. The bank is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday. Call 461-9871.

## Film

**Free Documentary** Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Come learn how simple it is to improve your health from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This film was created by people who had their health restored and want to share their secrets. This event is free, but reservations are required by calling 209-9871.

## Fundraisers

**Claws for Paws Crab Feast** Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 7 for all-you-can-eat crab dinner with a no host bar. The event includes a live and silent auction as well as a cash drawing raffle. Tickets are \$45 by Jan. 17 or \$50. Call 323-8517 or visit www.tvrar.org.

## Health

**Immunization Clinic** An immunization clinic for children will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 10 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. Open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. Fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755 or visit www.axishealth.org.

**Learn at Lunch Program** Free Learn at Lunch program featuring Prevention and Treatment of Lymphedema from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., 2nd Floor Conference Room. This event is free. Call 734-3319.

## Kids & Teens

**'Music and Movement'** Andrea Gaspari kicks off the new year with rollicking movement and music fun for pre-schoolers (18 months-4 years old) from 3:30-4:15 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 11, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. These events are free, but registration is required by calling 931-3400, ext. 8.

**Fairytale Comes to Life** Enjoy a magical morning of winter fun as the Pleasanton Russian Children's Theater presents Hans Christian Andersen fairytale "The Snow Queen" at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Features children acting and singing in Russian, with a storyteller providing English narration. This event is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

**Masked Marvels & Wondertales** Michael Cooper's one-man extravaganza features stories of courage and wonder, handcrafted masks, stilt dancing, and more. He performs at 2 p.m. Jan. 11 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$12-\$30. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Health, Healing and Happiness: A Guide to Optimal Health & Weight Loss** Pamela McDonald will

host a workshop on "Health, Healing and Happiness: Optimal health and Weight Loss" at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.; and at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 27, at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd.; cost is \$20, including dinner. Call 931-3405 or visit www.apoegenediet.com.

**Stress Reduction and Guided Imagery** This workshop will help those with cancer and their loved ones focus and relax the mind and body to experience relief from negative emotional states. The group will meet from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 22, at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 West Las Positas Blvd. This event is free for cancer patients, their friends and family. Call 933-0107.

**The Power of Flight** Learning to fly at 16 was only the beginning for a man who later joined the team receiving the two largest prizes in the history of aviation. Dr. Grosser helped design and build components for three human-powered airplanes. He will speak at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$50 for adults and \$15-\$20 for students 21 and under. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

## Live Music

**Civic Arts Presents ScrapArts Music** Five athletic musicians will play 140 instruments fashioned from industrial scrap to entertain in a high-energy performance at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35 for adults; \$15, \$20 and \$25 for students; purchase online at www.pleasantoncivicarts.org, by phone (925) 931-3444 or at the box office.

## Political Notes

**Death by a Thousand Cuts** Tri Valley Democratic Club will host a meeting for the election of its 2009 officers with guest speaker, Craig Cheslog, who will speak about "Death by a Thousand Cuts" at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Q&A and discussion will follow. Free refreshments and wheelchair accessible. Call 451-4303.

## Recreation

**2nd Annual Mitzvah Day** Join this group for a day of community service with rewarding projects for every age and interest from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 19. Register at www.paloaltojcc.org/mitzvah.

**Nature's Wonder Club: Dinostory** What is a dinosaur? Explore the truth, legend and lore of this subject at 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at the Nature House. Cost is \$16 for residents; \$19 for non-residents. Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 931-3483.

**Nature's Wonder Club: Winter Ramblers** Why is it when we are unwilling to go out because of the cool winter weather, some animals are at their busiest? Explore the mystery of these wonders at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, meeting at Augustin Bernal Park, Staging Area. Cost is \$16 for residents; \$19 for non-residents. Call 931-3483.

**Team In Training Informational Meeting** Take on the physical challenge of a full or half marathon, triathlon, cycle century ride (100 miles) or distance hike event with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. Attend the informational meeting at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call 800-78-TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf.

## Seniors

**Senior Decorating 101** Want to create a space in your home or apartment that is more comfortable and updated? Learn to apply simple design principles to enhance the quality of your life and home at 10 a.m. Jan. 13 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Bring your decorating dilemmas, and get a professional opinion from Toni Berry. Fee is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

## Spiritual

**Artist Way Group** Start out your year on the path to higher creativity at an Artist Way Group meeting from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesdays, starting Jan. 14, at UCC Livermore, 1886 College Ave. For a complete schedule, call Jen at 449-6820.

## Sports

**Cyclepath Sprint Distance Adventure Race** Compete in the Bay Area's only sprint distance adventure race, a multi-sport, off-road competition at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at Lake Del Valle, Livermore. The race will feature 2+ miles running/trekking, 2+ miles kayaking & 10-15 mi mountain biking. Cost is \$100 per team of two. Mountain bike and helmet are required. Register at www.cyclepath.com.

**Stretch Ministry Winter Boot Camp** Improve your game and learn life lessons at the Stretch Ministry Winter Softball and Baseball Boot Camp from 4:30-9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23; 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24; and 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 25; at 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. For girls 5-8 grade; boys 10-14 years old. Cost is \$125. To register, visit www.gostetch.org.

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

### KEEP YOUR CREDIT CARDS, BOOST YOUR CREDIT SCORE

An expert on the subject, Liz Pulliam Weston, says it plainly. "If your goal is to improve your credit score, don't close any of your current accounts. Closing credit cards and other revolving accounts can never help your score, and it might actually hurt it."

Three simple points: First, if you close accounts without actually reducing the amount of debt you have, the ratio of the amount of debt you have to the amount of debt your credit cards qualify you for goes up. As a result, your credit score can go down.

Second, if you close out old accounts, it makes your credit history look younger. The older your credit records are, the more your credit score likes them.

Third, your credit score looks most fondly on accounts in which you keep the ratio between how much you've owed and how much you can borrow relatively low...but it also likes to see regular activity in those accounts, however small.

This is counter-intuitive to many of us who assume that we should lower the number of credit cards we have, getting rid of—and not using—as many cards as possible. But remember that the credit report seeks to measure how well you've borrowed and repaid on your credit cards and other accounts. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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# Sports

## Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.



**Pleasanton wrestling makes splash on competitive scene**

Wrestlers from the Pleasanton Unified School District's Winter Program took home the title at the tournament for junior high kids that was held at Kerr High School Saturday. Students are from Harvest Park, Hart and Pleasanton middle schools.

The team competed against seven other teams and won five of five Dual Meets even though they were missing five of its 21 weight classes.

Tommy Yozzo (5-0), Austin Hamilton (5-0), Brett Lewis (5-0), Louis Deprez (4-0), Josh Goodman (4-0), Connor Veit (4-1) and Josh Pease (4-1) were voted by all the other team coaches as the best wrestlers in their weight classes and won 'All Tourney' awards. Torin Nelson, Zac Wilner, Andrew Christian, Alec Strzemp, Tommy Barrera, Henry Person, Vas Stover, JP Parisi, Matt Maria-Cui, Grif Gates and Justin Goodman all had multiple wins for the team.

Pictured: Torin Nelson, Zac Wilner, Andrew Christian, Alec Strzemp, Tommy Barrera, Henry Person, Vas Stover, JP Parisi, Matt Maria-Cui, Grif Gates and Justin Goodman Coaches; Pete Yozzo and Eric Veit.

hard and matched up evenly with the Premier team. The midfield of Makenna Elias, Monica Martinez and LisaDeFeo played tough and moved the ball deep, with great distribution by Sadie Moore and Darcy Kron. Julia Densmore scored the first goal of the game with an assist by Sadie Moore. Rage White's entire defensive squad played vigorously to keep the Premier team out of the goal with the exception of one goal which ended regulation play in a 1-1 tie. Rage Premier scored first in overtime and advanced to the final game. The good news for Rage as a whole is that the Premier team ended up winning the tournament.

Pictured: Makenna Elias (#19) goes for the ball while teammates Taylor Campbell, Darcy Kron and Jenna Crawford look on.



**Adventure race challenges all next weekend**

Up for a challenge? If so, get together with another person to create a team of two for the second annual Cyclepath Sprint Distance Multi-Sport Challenge, which will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 17 at Lake Del Valle in Livermore.

Challengers will participate in a sprint distance adventure race, a multi-sport, off-road competition featuring running/trekking, kayaking and mountain biking. Participants must run/trek 2-plus miles, kayak 2-plus miles and mountain bike between 10-15 miles, to collect points by correctly navigating (using map and compass) to gather hidden items at various checkpoints. The race takes between two and five hours to complete, with top teams finishing in approximately two hours.

Part of the fun of adventure racing is the unknown. The course (or course "guide") is not released until the day of the event. Strategy comes into play as teams must assess their abilities when deciding between shorter, more difficult routes or longer, more direct routes.

Cyclepath owner Joel Davis ensures, "This course is designed for success at all levels, whether you are an athlete or your inner athlete has been screaming to come out." He says that longer distance races are often intimidating to novices and this race appeals to all.

The idea for a local adventure race was hatched two years ago on one of the shop's weekly mountain rides at the Pleasanton Ridge. The rides are often attended by the Cyclepath-sponsored adventure racing team, Karl and Cynthia Royer, whose enthusiasm for the sport got other riders excited about trying adventure racing. Davis said that there are very limited local opportunities to try the multi-sport event, so he decided to put together his own.

Prizes will be awarded to all divisions and SWAG bags with free goodies and post-race food and beverages will be provided. Registration is \$100 per team, including kayak rental, and is limited to the first 50 teams. Participants must have a mountain bike and helmet to participate. To register, visit [www.cyclepath.com](http://www.cyclepath.com). ■



Tamara Elias

**Rage White plays in foggy tourney**

Pleasanton Rage U11 AC White team played well in the Bullard Classic tournament in Fresno Jan. 3-4. They began by winning their first game against the Fresno Monarchs 4-0. Goals were scored by Sadie Moore, Madison Avery, Julia Densmore (assisted by Madison Avery) and Monica Martinez (assisted by Julia Densmore). The defense of Nicole Tsuno, Megan Martin, Megan Shackley, Christina Echavia and Jasmine Dessouky played skillfully, and goalies Juliet Allen and Bryanna Schreiber kept the balls out of the net for a shutout.

Rage White played another strong game against the Bullard Soccer Club out of Fresno despite losing 2-1. Pleasanton's one goal was scored on a penalty kick by Julia Densmore after Makenna Elias was fouled in the box. Offensive players Taylor Campbell, Sadie Moore and Madison Avery created several more chances to score with their strong play.

Rage White's final game of the weekend came down to a matchup with Pleasanton Rage's Premier team played on an icy field in fog so thick that the far side of the field wasn't visible. Rage White fought

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**825 Homes/Condos  
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Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$1,450,000

**Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA**  
\$132,500 Mobile home in Mtn View, built 2001. 1100 sf, large kitchen, lots of windows. Near downtown. Low space rent of \$577/month. For info: Peter Lee, Keller Williams Palo Alto, at 650-454-8518.



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For Sale or Lease! An Elegant Custom Home with its "Old World" Charm. 4 bed + executive office + large loft, 5600+ square feet. Grand marble entry with beautiful medallion. Gorgeous spiral staircase with wrought iron railing. Custom Cherry cabinets throughout. Great Location! A Must See! Asking \$2,499,000 to Purchase or \$6000/month to Lease. Call Anita Ramchandani @ 925-351-6212. Re/Max Accord Realtors

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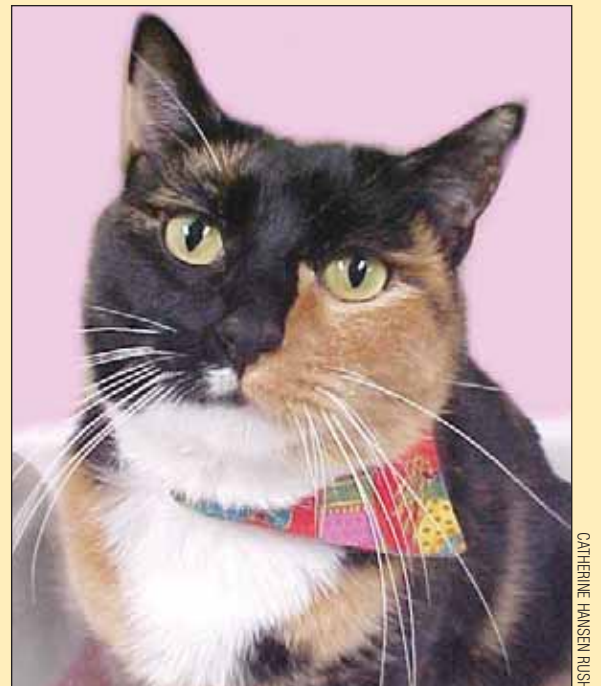
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Home Staging, Marketing

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CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

**Sweet Olivia**

This 2-year-old, spayed female Calico housecat has the sweetest purr-sonality. As a matter of fact, she purrs all the time! You can hear her purr from clear across the room. Olivia loves treats and she is also very playful. You should see her chase a laser light around the room! Olivia likes to snuggle and she has soft fur with beautiful Calico markings of black, orange and white. Olivia would prefer to be an only cat and she will be an affectionate and entertaining indoor-only pet for some lucky person. Visit Olivia (pet # 6683) and her friends at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton, open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 426-8656. Also see [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) Visit Valley Humane Society's "Kitty City" and you'll find several beautiful housecats that are currently available for adoption.

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# Real Estate

## Home sale of the week



### 4834 Smith Gate Ct Pleasanton – \$675,000

This 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bathroom home is approximately 2,103 square feet including an updated kitchen with granite counters and hardwood floors. The family room features a fireplace and vinyl dual pane windows with low-E tinting. The home also offers a large yard with a pool and spa, and is walking distance to Pleasanton Sports Park and Sutter Gate Park. Sold by Brad and Ann Walker of Hometown GMAC Real Estate. (925) 426-3824

## Mortgage application refinances decrease

*Fixed-rate mortgages jump slightly on national average*

by Jeb Bing

The Mortgage Bankers Association reported in its Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey for the week ending Jan. 2 that mortgage loan application volume was 1143.8, a decrease of 8.2 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis from 1245.7 one week earlier.

This week's results included an adjustment to account for the shortened week due to the New Year's Day holiday. On an unadjusted basis, the Index decreased 8.9 percent compared with the previous week and was up 28.3 percent compared with the same week one year earlier.

The Refinance Index decreased 12.3 percent to 5904.5 from 6733.8 the previous week and the seasonally adjusted Purchase Index increased 7.3 percent to 344.2 from 320.9 one week earlier. The seasonally adjusted Conventional Purchase Index increased 2.3 percent while the Government Purchase Index (largely FHA) increased 19.2 percent.

The four-week moving average for the seasonally adjusted Market Index is up 7.9 per-

cent. The four-week moving average is up 3.6 percent for the Purchase Index, while this average is up 9.3 percent for the Refinance Index.

The refinance share of mortgage activity decreased to 79.8 percent of total applications from 82.9 percent the previous week. The adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) share of activity increased to 0.9 percent from 0.8 percent of total applications from the previous week.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages increased to 5.07 percent from 5.03 percent, with points decreasing to 1.16 from 1.24 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent loan-to-value (LTV) ratio loans.

The average contract interest rate for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages decreased to 4.67 percent from 4.79 percent, with points decreasing to 1.16 from 1.26 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans.

The average contract interest rate for one-year ARMs decreased to 5.90 percent from 6.15 percent, with points decreasing to 0.31 from 0.44 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans. ■

## Economic slump weakens home sales nationally

*Job losses add to uncertainties for those about to buy*

After holding fairly stable for a year, pending home sales declined in the face of job losses and an eroding economy, according to the National Association of Realtors.

The Pending Home Sales Index, a forward-looking indicator based on contracts signed in November, fell 4.0 percent to 82.3 percent from a downwardly revised reading of 85.7 percent in October, and is 5.3 percent below November 2007 when it was 86.9 percent.

The current index is the lowest since the series began in 2001.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said a weakening was inevitable.

"Mounting job losses and very weak

consumer confidence deterred home buyers from signing contracts in November," he said. "December's housing market activity could be comparably lower due to ongoing problems in the economy, so a real estate-focused stimulus plan is urgently needed."

Yun said the outlook will depend heavily on the stimulus package.

"With a proper real-estate focused stimulus measure, home sales could rise more than expected, by more than 10 percent to 5.5 million in 2009, and easily begin to stabilize home prices in many parts of the country," he said. "Stable home prices will, in turn, lessen foreclosure pressures and lay the foundations for a solid economic

(continued on page 30)

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4141 W. Ruby Hill Drive, Pleasanton



Beautiful Italian estate home offers 5 BR, 5.5 BA, office & 6,800 sq. ft. Backs to private, open space with amazing views of the hills! Offered at \$2,700,000  
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836 Piemonte Dr., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



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241 Napier Court-Pleasanton

Stunning Castlewood Heights home with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, plus a spacious bonus room. Huge great room with vaulted ceilings and lots of natural light. Gorgeous gourmet kitchen with slab granite, walk-in pantry, wine refrigerator and hardwood floors. Full bed/bath downstairs. Amazing views of the Foot Hills from the front porch. Large resort like backyard with pool and spa that is perfect for entertaining. Approx. 3500 sq. ft. on a 17,500 sq.ft. lot. Offered at \$1,469,000

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3552 Vine Street-Pleasanton

Country living close to downtown. Gorgeous custom home with wraparound front porch, gated pool and upgrades galore. Attached 2-car garage plus a separate 1300 sq. ft garage/workshop... perfect for the car enthusiast. This home has an a great room and an amazing kitchen with upgraded appliances and granite counters. Don't miss this home!

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Great views from every window, property is on over 5.27 Acres of land. Gated. This home is a chalet style home with the atmosphere of privacy and beauty. You must see this one. It is a chance to own land and a nice home in an exceptional anyon in the bay area. Make your appointment today.  
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**PLEASANTON** – Gorgeous custom one-story home w/ pool house (approx. 700 sq ft). Lg. lot with picturesque pool, perfect for entertaining. Main house features 3 beds/2 baths. Gourmet Kitchen w/ breakfast bar and nook. Rich hardwood flooring, upgraded carpet and tile thru-out. Close proximity to downtown.  
455 LINDEN WAY \$950,000



**SAN JOSE** – Great Updated Five Bedroom Property. Laminate Wood Flooring and Tile Throughout Downstairs. Updated Kitchen With New Cabinets, Granite Counters, Updated Baths, 6 Panel Doors, Dual Paned Windows. Bank Owned Home Ready For A New Owner.  
3192 MARTEN AVE \$384,900



**WALNUT CREEK** – Single level wonderful home\*\* Ready for someone's talents \*\* So much potential\*\* Large lot w/ beautiful mature trees\*\* Possible side yard access\*\* Spacious home Don't miss this great opportunity\*\* Bank Owned!  
890 MINERT RD \$489,900



**PLEASANTON** – Desirable 1st Floor home. Highly updated. Granite slab countertops, custom kitchen cabinets with stylish cabinet lighting. Large master bedroom with walk in closet. Stainless steel appliances, including upgraded gas stove with overhead hood unit This home will amaze you with all of it's upgrades.  
3433 NORTON WAY \$249,950



**HAYWARD** – Very nice 2 bedroom 2 bath condo. Great starter home or investment home. Ideal student home very close to college. Extra large master bedroom with walk in closet. Large Swimming Pool and cozy jacuzzi add to the charm of this home.  
25210 COPA DEL ORO DR \$150,000



**SAN LEANDRO** – Move in ready! This lovely home recently updated with fresh paint and refinished hwd floors. This is a beauty and well taken care of. Part of garage converted into an office/ small bedroom. Large bonus room. Not a Short Sale or REO!  
1243 DEVONSHIRE AVE \$399,000



**WALNUT CREEK** – Spectacular home with amazing lush, park-like back yard\*\* Spacious\* Open \* Cozy\* Wonderful yard and home for entertaining\*\* Attention to detail in this home\*\* End of a quiet Culd de Sac\*\* Walk to park and trails\*\* Gorgeous Kitchen / tons of upgrades\* Builder once lived here so many extras!!! Bank Owned!  
741 THOMAS LN. \$949,000



**FREMONT** – Desirable Brookvale Neighborhood! Clean and Ready To Move In. Light & Bright Kitchen and Updated bathrooms. Aggressively Priced Bank Owned Home (REO)! Pool With Spa In The Yard. Quiet Court Location Yet Close To Major Shopping!  
35510 WOODBRIDGE PL \$514,900



6111 Johnson Ct., Suite 110  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

925.463.9500



# INVESTMENT REAL ESTATE COMPANY

RESIDENTIAL SALES • INCOME PROPERTIES  
1031 EXCHANGES • LAND AND DEVELOPMENT

## OPEN SATURDAY 1-4

### 4263 Croce Ct., Pleasanton

Move-in ready home w/ 2400 sq. ft. of living space. Large bonus room could be au-pair/ in-law/game room/bedroom.

\$775,000

### 213 E. Angela St., Pleasanton

Bring offers on this totally remodeled downtown home! 3br + Loft, 2ba, approx. 2400 sq. ft. of living space. Viking kitchen, custom millwork, Two blocks to Main St.

\$1,149,000

### 6322 Alisal St., Pleasanton

Private 1/2 acre rural ranch property features 3br, 2ba home. 4-car garage, ridge views, horses allowed.

\$869,000

### Two Downtown Lots

Two Neal St. lots with fully-approved plans for 23 sq. ft. and 3000 sq. ft. Craftsman-style homes. Go to [www.2downtownlots.com](http://www.2downtownlots.com)

\$799,000-\$819,000

## OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

### 1485 Trimmingham Dr., Pleasanton

Centrally located 1700 sq. ft. Danbury Park home features 3br, 3ba. Priced to sell! Walk to schools and shopping.

\$514,000

### 4128 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton

10 yr old downtown home with 2700 sq. ft. of living space! 4br, 3ba + custom loft. Extensive millwork and custom cabinetry. 3 blocks to downtown fine dining, cafes & more!

\$1,036,000

### 475 East Angela St., Pleasanton

Vintage 3br, 1ba home on corner lot w/ RV access. Original hardwoods under carpets, newer roof, windows. Easy to update and/or expand.

\$538,000

### Downtown Development Opportunities

Investors! Duplex, 5-plex, 6-plex and buildable lots available now! Not on MLS. Call for more information on these developable opportunities.

**MIKE CAREY**, Broker

925.963.0569 Cell  
925.846.0506 Office

# OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

## DUBLIN

### 2 Bedrooms Condo

**7340 Cronin Circle** \$359,500  
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425

## LIVERMORE

### 3 Bedrooms

**3300 Dyer Road** \$1,195,000  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2226

**1986 Cornflower Common** \$399,000  
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 200-4130

### 4 Bedrooms

**6299 Owl Way** \$595,000  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 366-8275

**1823 Vancouver Way** \$599,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 339-3077

## PLEASANTON

### 1 Bedrooms

**7880 Canyon Meadows Circle #E** \$264,950  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-2457

### 3 Bedrooms

**1485 Trimmingham** \$514,000  
Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

**4010 Francisco Drive** \$568,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

**6438 Alvord Way** \$574,950  
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 463-0436

**7748 Creekside Drive** \$599,950  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 510-612-0719

**3375 Harpers Ferry** \$610,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

**1812 Paseo Del Cajon** \$739,000  
Sun 1-4 REMAX Accord 699-3122

**455 Linden Way** \$950,000  
Sun 1-4 Prudential California Realty 463-6113

### 4 Bedrooms

**1332 Bordeaux Street** \$1,199,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425

**857 Abbie Street** \$1,295,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

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

**767 Avio Court** \$1,699,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 426-7957

**836 Piemonte Drive** \$1,699,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 426-7957

**3630 Pontina Court** \$2,574,900  
Sun 1-4 Henderson Properties 918-0481

**1766 Orchard Circle** \$710,000  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

**4277 Garibaldi Place** \$710,000  
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 998-9692

**4263 Croce Court** \$775,000  
Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

### 5 Bedrooms

**1368 Royal Creek Court** \$1,238,888  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 260-2508

**1342 West Lagoon** \$1,274,950  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 963-8871

**241 Napier Court** \$1,469,000  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2018

**4141 W. Ruby Hill Drive** \$2,700,000  
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 426-7957

**2784 Calle de La Loma** \$999,900  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 998-4311

## SAN RAMON

### 2 Bedrooms

**3799 Crow Canyon Road** \$349,000  
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 339-3077

To list your open home please contact Tracey Fordahl at  
(925) 600-0840, ext. 130 or e-mail: [OpenHomes@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:OpenHomes@PleasantonWeekly.com)



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### ALMADEN VALLEY



**HORSE PROPERTY WITH BARN** 4BD/3BA, beautifully updated historic home with formal living & dining rooms and 1200 sq. ft. porch to enjoy the peace & tranquility. **\$1,500,000**

925.998.7747 Jill Denton

### PLEASANTON



**SEMI-CUSTOM HOME ON INCREDIBLE LOT!** 4BD/3BA, 3,486 sq.ft. home on a 22,313 sq.ft. lot. Kitchen has new granite, stainless steel appliances and new carpet. **\$1,399,999**

925.426.3831 Angela Ochs

### PLEASANTON



**FOREST HILLS ESTATES** Built in 1996, this 5BD/3BA home has 3 fireplaces, approx. 3,440 sq. ft. on a 10,700 sq. ft. lot w\elevated views of Pleasanton Ridge. **\$1,375,000**

925.989.6500 Delores Gragg

### PLEASANTON



**BIRDLAND** 4BD/3BA, 2,128 sq. ft., sought after location near Blue Ribbon Schools. Custom upgrades, vaulted entry & kitchen, custom white cabinets, and corian countertops. **\$835,000**

925.580.5793 Wendy Washburn

### PLEASANTON



**WALK TO FAIRLANDS ELEMENTARY.** Single Story 3BD/ 2BA home with dual pane windows, skylights & light tubes, bay window in living room and fireplace w\insert. **\$638,500**

925.872.1275 Tom Fox

### PLEASANTON



**SINGLE STORY IN DEL PRADO.** 3BD/ 2BA, 1,673 sq.ft. w/remodeled kitchen, maple cabinets, center island, built-in subzero refr. Private backyard w/fruit trees. **\$619,900**

925.872.1275 Tom Fox

### PLEASANTON



**PLEASANTON VILLAGE** Enjoy the privacy and comforts of this charming home with 2 Master Suites, 2 1/2 baths, 1,480 sq. ft. No rear neighbors, private & cozy. **\$525,000**

925.858.5400 Sheri Platter

### LIVERMORE



**EXPANDED and UPGRADED!** Like new, 3BD/2BA, totally remodeled and expanded. 1,700 sq. ft. New kitchen w/granite, stainless steel. Motivated Sellers. **\$469,000**

925.487.1427 Tony Leavens

Hometown GMAC Real Estate is an Independently Owned and Operated Firm

COMING SOON



4328 REDLANDS ST., UNION CITY  
Offered at \$550,000

Bank-owned and coming soon! Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath single-family home. This home features a partially remodeled kitchen with granite counters & granite tile backsplash, a new stainless steel sink and new cabinetry. Nice sized yard with patio & deck. Call 877-488-3269 with any questions or for a private showing.



Gene & Cindy Williams 243-0900



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OPEN SAT 1-4



6438 ALVORD WAY  
PLEASANTON  
Offered at \$574,950

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.



3416 MIDDLETON AVE.  
CASTRO VALLEY  
Offered at just \$624,950

Just a short stroll away from Lake Chabot Regional Park with miles of hiking trails, boating & fishing. This stunning remodel boasts 3 bed-

rooms, 2 bths & almost 1900 sq ft. Gourmet granite kitchen with white birch cabinetry, high end appliances, recessed lighting and breakfast bar. The expanded family rm has French doors, built in cabinetry overlooking a serene and private backyard. Master suite with walk-in closet, & beautiful master bath with vaulted ceilings & large soaking tub.



Dave & Sue Flashberger 463-0436



2619 TOY LANE, SAN JOSE  
Offered at \$529,900

Bank-Owned! Contractor's special, bring your tools! This home offers 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1 fireplace, and a 2-car garage. This home has a lot of potential. Please call 877-488-3269 to schedule a showing.



Williams Witters Team 918-2045

PENDING



6198 YARDLEY LANE, SAN RAMON  
Listed for \$549,000

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 sf. of living space.



DeAnna Armario 260-2220

### I HAVE PRE-APPROVED BUYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Single level or Master Bed downstairs up to \$1,700,000
- Newer Mohr park or Stoneridge area up to \$900,000
- Tuscan or Craftsman style home up to \$2,500,000

For more information contact Gail at 925-577-5787 or e-mail [homes@gailboal.com](mailto:homes@gailboal.com)

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[www.gailboal.com](http://www.gailboal.com)



Gail Boal 577-5787

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459 Main Street

2300 First Street, Suite 216, Livermore



## Home Sales

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2008

### Dublin

**7553 Brigadoon Way** S. Borer to E. Hackett for \$460,000  
**3678 Finnian Way** D. & K. Patel to D. & C. Marks for \$370,000  
**5705 Idlewood Street** S. & S. Banerjee to R. & P. Sharma for \$585,000  
**4750 Newhaven Street** F. & R. Baton to V. Iurascu for \$620,000  
**4779 Persimmon Drive** Greenpoint Mortgage to T. & S. Mann for \$670,000  
**7271 Sheffield Lane** S. Chung to B. Fischer for \$445,000

### Livermore

**6249 Augusta Way** R. Stalle to F. Umengam for \$455,000  
**1129 Bava Common** Gsaa Home Equity Trust to K. Vakhshouri for \$627,000  
**760 Delaware Way** R. & R. Montes to L. Tabaracci for \$350,000  
**906 Dolores Street** Wells Fargo Bank to M. & M. Micale for \$225,000  
**5808 Elder Circle** P. Jarrett to S. Brooks for \$700,000  
**5781 Fallon Road** Braddock & Logan to S. Loekito for \$730,000  
**965 Lisbon Avenue** Olivier Trust to T. Dunne for \$415,000  
**645 Loyola Way** D. & S. Thiel to M. & L. Debenning for \$515,000  
**739 Mayview Way** N. & P. Nelson to P. Ferreira for \$456,000  
**3032 Rivers Bend Circle** Arroyo Crossing to G. & L. Palma for \$815,500

**4142 Sonia Street** Livermore Grove to M. & J. McLean for \$745,000

**2369 Stonebridge Road** Huber Trust to S. & C. Branda for \$690,000

### Pleasanton

**281 Del Valle Court** Residential Funding to U. & S. Mukherjee \$518,000  
**7508 Flagstone Drive** H. & S. Thompson to M. & E. Lewis for \$785,000  
**4823 Golden Road** R. & C. Mirro to P. & K. Jansson for \$680,000  
**1327 Montrose Place** Prudential Relocation to B. & C. Talbert \$1,725,000  
**691 Palomino Drive #B** D. Lucia to Y. Zheng for \$366,500  
**4834 Smith Gate Court** J. & M. Laprade to Z. Lin for \$675,000  
**2801 Victoria Ridge Court** Wfmb Trust to A. & A. Lipski for \$920,000

### San Ramon

**7628 Balmoral Way** Brookfield Santorini to R. Mohan for \$1,078,000

**1512 Banbury Drive** Chase Home Finance to M. Boothroy for \$690,000

**557 Byer Court** Brookfield Compton to G. Govindasamy for \$839,500

**563 Byer Court** Brookfield Campton to R. Bliss for \$800,500

**9672 Camassia Way** Q. Jiang to A. & A. Hampapur for \$650,000

**2740 Cedarwood Loop** Bank of New York to K. Selvaraj for \$525,000

**242 Copper Ridge Road** Legacy Copper Ridge to Y. Byrd for \$295,000

**10 Crested Oak Court** Schmidt Trust to J. Jones for \$1,025,000

**5100 Fioli Loop** Centex Homes to P. & R. Sphicas for \$550,000

**725 Galemeadow Circle** GMAC Mortgage to P. Sapsford for \$555,000

**1211 Halifax Way** Brookfield Saville to A. Matveyev for \$652,000

**1219 Halifax Way** Brookfield Saville to Q. Guo for \$650,000

**1235 Halifax Way** Brookfield Saville to L. Jalla for \$717,500

**2570 Harlow Lane** Wells Fargo Bank to W. Tao for \$700,500

**6172 Kearny Way** Lennar Homes to O. Lee for \$860,000

**609 Kyler Court** Brookfield Hawthorne to S. Chai for \$961,500

**5615 Lysander Way** Centex Homes to H. Shim for \$945,500

**3019 Paddington Way** Brookfield Campton to D. & A. Walker for \$801,000

**3396 Sleeping Meadow Way** Centex Homes to S. Nelvov for \$910,000

**121 Stone Pine Lane** T. Hillesland to S. Coontz for \$338,000

**3851 Sunrose Road** Shapell Industries to P. Yu for \$940,000

**3065 Sweetviolet Drive** Shapell Industries to M. & G. Kumar for \$640,000

**1520 Thurlow Way** Brookfield Saville to T. & E. Yan for \$700,000

**4 Trillium Lane** R. & L. Rieger to Y. Liu for \$530,000

**2830 Vernon Way** A. & J. Toy to W. Fung for \$725,000

**2237 Watermill Road** Deutsche Bank to J. Lee for \$511,000

## Sales at a Glance

Source: California REsource

### Dublin

Total sales reported: 6  
 Lowest sale reported: \$370,000  
 Highest sale reported: \$670,000  
 Average sales reported: \$525,000

### Livermore

Total sales reported: 12  
 Lowest sale reported: \$225,000  
 Highest sale reported: \$815,500  
 Average sales reported: \$560,292

### Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 7  
 Lowest sale reported: \$366,500  
 Highest sale reported: \$1,725,000  
 Average sales reported: \$809,929

### San Ramon

Total sales reported: 26  
 Lowest sale reported: \$295,000  
 Highest sale reported: \$1,078,000  
 Average sales reported: \$715,000

## Slump

(continued from page 25)

recovery as the nation's 75 million homeowners regain confidence."

The impact of mortgage interest rates declining to near 50-year lows in December is not reflected in current data.

The Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) in the Northeast dropped 7.2 percent to 63.2 in November and is 14.6 percent below a year ago. In the Midwest the index fell 6.7 percent to 74.2 and is 10.1 percent below November 2007. The index in the South declined 2.2 percent to 85.3 in November and is 12.7 percent below a year ago. In the West, the index was down 2.4 percent to 101.2 but remains 19.3 percent higher than November 2007.

NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth, said there can't be an economic recovery without a focus on housing.

"It's crucial for Congress and the new administration to move quickly to remove impediments and offer homebuyers the incentives

they need to tap into today's historic low mortgage interest rates," he said.

"NAR advocates expanding a \$7,500 tax credit to all homebuyers and eliminating the repayment feature, and permanently raising loan limits to bring down interest rates for many buyers in high-cost areas," he added. "We also need to expedite short sales and unclog the mortgage pipeline," McMillan said.

The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage should hold fairly steady through the first half of the year and rise slightly in the second half. NAR's housing affordability index, which looks at the relationship between home prices, mortgage interest rates and family income, is on track to match a record high set in 1972.

"The unique housing affordability conditions in today's market underscore the opportunity in giving consumers the necessary incentives to stimulate our economy through a housing recovery," Yun said.

Existing-home sales for December will be released Jan. 26; the next Pending Home Sales Index will be on Feb. 3.

—Jeb Bing



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**1812 Paseo Del Cajon, Pleasanton \$739,000**

Are you ready to move? This home is ready for you. Extremely updated home in Pleasanton's Del Prado neighborhood. Walking distance to downtown, fairgrounds, schools and more. Single story, 3 bedrooms, 2 updated baths, pool and side yard access. Great home for entertaining. Contact Janice Habluetzel, 925-699-3122 for more info. [www.TheBayEastTeam.com](http://www.TheBayEastTeam.com) Go to [www.1812PaseoDelCajon.com](http://www.1812PaseoDelCajon.com) for more photos.

Open Sunday 1-4



Janice and Joanne—The Bay East Team  
[www.TheBayEastTeam.com](http://www.TheBayEastTeam.com)  
 (925) 699-3122

**4767 Del Valle Pkwy, Pleasanton \$849,950**

Walk to downtown from this beautiful updated Pleasanton Valley home. Featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, approx 2100 sq ft of spacious living. Updated kitchen w/ granite slab counters, maple cab. Tile fls, dual pane windows throughout, updated baths, retext ceilings, newer paint inside and out, newer A/C and heater, soft water system, newer roof, mature landscaping plus so much more! This is the home you have been waiting for!!!



JoAnne Durso  
 (925) 730-4006

Westside semi-custom home at serene Moller Ranch community with 5 BD, 3 BA, 3560 sq. ft. of living space, great open floor plan with soaring ceiling, panoramic view of the valley, nicely updated kitchen with granite slab, maple hardwood floors, surround sound and more. For a private showing or to see more photos, please visit [www.8330MollerRanchDrive.com](http://www.8330MollerRanchDrive.com). Call Steve more information.



Steve Mohseni  
[www.BayAreaHomeFinder.com](http://www.BayAreaHomeFinder.com)  
 (925) 484-0707

PLEASANTON – MONTCLAIR – DANVILLE – LAFAYETTE – SAN RAMON – LIVERMORE – FREMONT – BLACKHAWK



**Tim McGuire**  
 925-462-SOLD  
 WWW.TIMMCGUIRE.NET



**1831 Halcyon Court, Pleasanton**  
 Seller says bring **ALL** offers!  
 4bd/3ba, 2146+/- sq.ft.  
 with full bd/ba downstairs,  
 blocks from schools and parks.  
 Offered at \$819,000



**2586 Skimmer Court, Pleasanton**  
 Beautifully remodeled 4bd/2.5ba,  
 2164+/-sq.ft. home with custom  
 kitchen, hardwood floors,  
 and pebble tech pool.  
 Offered at \$875,000



**2822 Jones Gate Court, Pleasanton**  
 Extensively remodeled 3bd/2ba,  
 1800+/-sq.ft. home located on a  
 secluded court in the "Gates."  
 One block from sports park.  
 Offered at \$729,000



**COMING SOON**

**Coming Soon in Pleasanton**  
 Handsome 4bd/3.5 ba colonial home  
 nestled along the Pleasanton Ridge  
 with views, privacy, a wine closet,  
 and in-law suite with separate entry  
 and driveway. Call for showing.  
 Offered at \$1,250,000

## BUYER NEEDS

- Couple with large family seeks Heritage Model in Birdland up to \$1.2m
- Empty Nesters seek 3bd Townhouse with attached garage up to \$600k



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apr.com

### OLDE TOWNE

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



**857 (UPPER) ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON**

Private upgraded custom single story home on the crest of a hill with floor to ceiling windows to take in panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge, oak studded hills and gorgeous sunsets. You are secluded yet in the heart of Pleasanton. Walk to Main Street and enjoy downtown Pleasanton. Large private grounds (16,308 sq. ft.) with exceptional views, guest unit/cabana, large patio areas with spa, and sitting/viewing deck for relaxing or entertaining! Save money in your solar powered home. 4 bd, downstairs bonus room (5th bd option). Approx. 3,437 sq. ft. including separate guest unit/cabana. Option to expand lower level within existing house footprint! Don't miss it! **OFFERED AT \$1,295,000**

### PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE



**3752 TRENER 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**

### OLDE TOWNE

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



**673 ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON**

Premium secluded location in desirable Olde Towne on .30 acre lot. Walk to Downtown Pleasanton! Professionally landscaped, private rear yard with refinished decks and your own personal vineyard! Three bedrooms, two and a half baths. Approximately 2,000 square feet. Hardwood flooring. Newer roof. Three car garage. Excellent condition!  
**OFFERED AT \$899,500**

## Silver Oaks Estates

**PENDING SALE**



**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/4.5 ba, 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](http://www.SilverOaksEstates.com) for more information



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**SYLVIA DESIN BY APPOINTMENT**



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

**ANDY PORYES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**PLEASANTON \$1,274,950**  
New Price. Luxury 5 year old home offers 3265+/-sf with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, pool/waterfalls, outdoor kitchen, high ceilings/lots of light. 1342 W Lagoon Rd

**MARY JANE DEERING OPEN SUN 1-4**



**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! 1332 Bordeaux St

**SALLY MARTIN OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4**



**PLEASANTON \$999,900**  
Adjusted price.Terrific value. 5bd/2.5ba, 3,250+/-sf. Great home! Granite kitchen/stainless appliances/island/cherry cabinets. Travertine floors. Custom millwork. Crown molding/upgraded carpets. Spa. 2784 Calle De La Loma

**M.GILBERT/J.JONES BY APPOINTMENT**



**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!

**MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT**



**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.

**TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$875,000**  
4bd/2.5ba, 2164+/-sf home on a court. Remodeled custom kitchen with granite, maple wood floors, updated baths. 9000+/-sf lot with pool.

**TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$819,000**  
4bd/3ba 2146+/-sf in Pleasanton Valley. Maple kitchen cabinets with corian counters. New dual pane windows and French doors.

**JOYCE JONES BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$735,000**  
Updates Galore! 4bd/2.5ba, upstairs bonus room, updated kitchen with granite counters, Brazilian Cherry wood floors, Cherry cabinets, Plantation shutters, surround sound, plush yards and pool.

**TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$729,000**  
3bd 2ba 1815+/-sf home on a court one block from the sports park. New Island Kitchen with Quartz counters, maple cabinets.

**SUE MCKINLEY BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$725,000**  
2 master bd suites; 1up/1down. Updated kitchen, baths, windows, paint, flooring. Large guest unit has full ba/extra sink. 4bd/3ba, 1973+/-sf. 3 car garage with huge side access. Formal LR/DR.

**JOYCE JONES BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$699,000**  
4bd/3ba plus family/bonus room with pellet burning stove, kitchen features; granite slab counter tops, tumble stone back-splash, stainless appliances, alarm, indoor laundry, updated baths, side yard.

**MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$610,000**  
Nice 3bd/2ba, 1450+/-sf, home in Valley Trails. Updated in 2007. LR has bay windows, FR opens off kitchen. 2 car garage.

**STASIA POIESZ OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**LIVERMORE \$599,000**  
Nice updated 4bd/2ba home. Over 2000+/-sf of living space. Extensive cherry floors, new carpet, new baths, dual panes etc. 1823 Vancouver Way

**MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT**



**PLEASANTON \$568,000**  
3bd/2ba, 1159+/-sf on a 6575+/-sf lot. Wood flooring throughout and dual pane windows. Corner lot location offering privacy and room to expand.

**MARY JANE DEERING OPEN SAT 1-4**



**DUBLIN \$359,500**  
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! 7340 Cronin Cir

