

Cuts imminent

Schools may lose small classes, staff > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 51 • January 16, 2009

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Out of the gates

County fair adds four days of racing

> **page 5**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Here to help

Tri-Valley YMCA revamps programming

> **page 20**

YEAR OF THE OX

Growing Pleasanton Chinese community welcomes Lunar New Year on Jan. 26 **PAGE 16**



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Nickie Hoppe: Our downtown booster

Nickie Hoppe has only been the event coordinator for the Pleasanton Downtown Association for just over four years, but it seems much longer. That's probably because we see her so frequently doing what she is an expert at: putting on the popular First Wednesday street parties five months of the year, the Concerts in the Park series that start at the end of May and run past Labor Day, booking the wines and shops that participate in the twice-yearly Wine Strolls and making sure that Santa has a comfortable and appealing spot to see the hundreds of youngsters who look for him at the Magical Holiday Evening, a kick-off event the Friday night before Thanksgiving to bring shoppers downtown.

Hoppe will leave Feb. 18 to join her husband Michael on more leisurely pursuits. He retired a year and a half ago as division fire chief for the city of Alameda. Both of them like to travel (she's been to Italy four times now), enjoy camping and hiking with Yellowstone one of their favorite national parks, and Yosemite not far behind. In May, Nickie will leave her spouse at home while she embarks with several lady friends on a grueling hike up Half Dome. She plans to use the time after Feb. 18 to start the organized training necessary to get in shape for the hike.

I've worked with Hoppe all of the four years she's been aboard the PDA, joining her at planning meetings, posting event flyers and standing alongside her at the Friday night concerts to pull Pleasanton Weekly coupons out of her make-shift brown bag "vault" to announce winners of prizes local merchants offer. Each concert brings a sigh of relief that it went smoothly, it didn't rain, that thousands still came despite the heat and a myriad of other concerns that weigh down event planners, especially when

they're outdoors as most PDA festivities are.

And the work never stops. No sooner are the First Wednesday booths packed up and put away for the winter in September than Hoppe is on the phone and email preparing for one the following May. Bands have to be booked well in advance, city, county and other permits have to be renewed, even the reservation to post a banner under the Arch promoting First Wednesday must be turned in nine months ahead of time. By the time the first First Wednesday rolls around, Hoppe has handled hundreds of emails from PDA members, associate members and non-members who want to participate and has re-grouped the large teams of volunteers that are needed to help.

Concerts in the Park are no easier. Bands aren't paid to perform at these events although it's rare for any to suddenly cancel out. With up to 3,000 filling Lions Wayside and Delucchi community parks, bands get widespread recognition that helps them gain profitable gigs. Hoppe also searches her time-worn Rolodex for previous sponsors to see if they want to do it again, which gives businesses a change to promote themselves and even do some marketing near the stage. Loud speakers, water, clean-up crews, and working and backup lighting are all on Hoppe's plate, and she hasn't missed a beat in the four years on the job.

As part of the PDA team, Hoppe gets around and she's seen that few communities are as fortunate as Pleasanton to have an organization that focuses on one area—in our case, the city's historic downtown. Unlike the Pleasanton Chamber or the Rotary or other groups, the PDA works to increase just the vitality of the downtown, to keep it beautiful, vibrant and prosperous. Hoppe's been a big help in getting that done and I wish her well. ■

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Town Square Forum

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About the Cover

Jieping Huang teaches students who are taking an easy learning Chinese language class at the Chinese American Collaboration Council's Chinese School. Since the school began offering courses in 2003, enrollment has steadily risen. On Jan. 26, more than 2,000 people will gather for celebration of Chinese New Year at two events in Pleasanton hosted by the CACC. Photo by Janet Pelletier.

Vol. IX Number 51

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Streetwise

Q: What should be President-elect Obama's top priority when he takes office Tuesday?

Asked around town

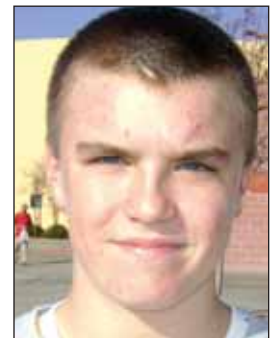


Bill Peachee

He needs to reach out to automakers in Detroit and continue with the stabilization plan that the Bush administration started, making sure they're headed in the right direction. It's important because it's a manufacturing industry and if you think about it, it's one of the only ones left in the U.S. What people don't realize is that all other foreign makers are subsidized by their own countries.

Brad Buenz

Improving our economy. As a high school student, the poor economy worries me because I'm uncertain as to what my future is going to look like. We're going to have to work harder to get better jobs. If he's going to give more money to the lower class, then he needs to show the other people in different economic classes how the money is being spent.



Heidi Cannon

He should make sure that if the government is going to continue giving financial handouts to companies, then they are held 100 percent accountable to the American people. If I owe the government, I can't get away from being held accountable, why should they? There has been too much secrecy about this in the past and the American people are owed an explanation.



Dan Bermingham

I would like him to focus his efforts on getting our troops home because of the lives lost and the strain it has had on our economy. I was opposed to the war from the beginning because it was started under false pretenses. All this talk about weapons of mass destruction went away because they didn't find any and we are still over there. Bush just tried to finish what his father started and it's time for it to end.



Leo Vergara

I think he needs to focus on fixing the housing market. I am a stay-at-home-dad and I've been forced to look for a job because our interest rate on the home we own in Dublin will be increasing in March and we're unable to refinance. Our quality of life will be changing since I'll have to pay for daycare and other expenses that we didn't have before.



Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Hillary Bessiere



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Newsfront

News Digest

Money for future educator

Delta Kappa Gamma will award a recruitment grant to a female student pursuing a career in education for \$500. The student must be a graduate of high school in Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin; full-time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2009; and must have a good GPA. Application deadline is May 20. For information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Kathy Brooks, 1581 Oslo Court, Livermore, CA 94550.

Sip and shop

Tickets are now on sale for the Pleasanton Downtown Association's annual Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting event. Held from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 5, participating downtown businesses will be pouring red and white wines, ports, dessert wines and champagnes paired with treats. Advance tickets are \$25 and only 800 are available. Buy them at the Rose Hotel, 807 Main St.; Clover Creek, 670 Main St.; Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St.; and the PDA office, 830-A Main St. For details, call 484-2199, ext. 4 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Observing MLK Day

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., schools, city buildings and the post office will be closed Monday. The Tri-Valley Peace Network will honor his legacy with "Peace and Healing Through Action," at 10:30 a.m. Monday at UCC Livermore, 1886 College Ave. A march to downtown will begin at 11:30 a.m. The YMCA will also honor him with a breakfast, scheduled for Jan. 26. Visit trivalley.ymcaeastbay.org for details.

Fixing for free

Animal shelters around the Bay Area are teaming up to spay and neuter pit bulls and pit bull mixes for free during the week of Jan. 26 as a part of Bay Area Pit Fix Week. The goal is to curb the problem of pit bull overpopulation. To sign up and get more information, call 1-877-474-8349.

Corrections

The photos on pages 18 and 19 with the story, "Restoring a quality of life," (Holiday Fund, Jan. 2) were taken by Jay Flachsbarth.

Amy Sluss' website, mentioned in "Resolving to be fit," (Living, page 13, Jan. 9), should have been www.chartyourownhealth.com.

Budget crisis threatens class-size reduction, staff

School board urges community to consider parcel tax to save programming

by Emily West

In the last week, Superintendent John Casey warned that the state's growing deficit problems could force the district to cut as much as \$8.7 million from this year's and the 2009-10 budgets, which could mean reductions in faculty, programs, five days of classroom instruction and an end to class size reductions for kindergarten to third grade classes.

At Tuesday night's school board meeting, trustees and a few parents as well as Casey urged the community to consider a parcel tax to

help preserve small class sizes, programming and staff.

This is the fourth of his seven years at Pleasanton Unified School District, Casey said, where there is concern about the amount of funding coming from Sacramento.

"It's unpredictable from one year to the next," he said.

Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, attended a conference last Monday on the details of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget. The status, she explained, is that much of the \$41.6-billion deficit is the result too much spend-

ing by the state and not enough tax revenue to support it.

"We're not generating what we were anticipating in property taxes," she said. "We're not expecting that problem to change in the next 18 months."

Schwarzenegger's solutions to bring balance to the deficit would be expenditure reductions, new revenue and borrowing. The latter two options are fairly risky, Cazares said, as borrowing requires a promise to repay and California has the lowest credit rating of any state. It also assumes \$10 billion from a state lottery proposal that

would need a two-thirds approval by the state legislature and a positive response from ticket buyers.

"At the end of next year, if all of the governor's proposals are adopted, then the state anticipates ending with a reserve of just over \$2 billion," Cazares said. "If the revenue doesn't come through, the state will be in a hole of about \$23 billion. One piece expected to pass at some level is the expenditure reductions."

Cazares also said that this most recent proposal is not very different from the one put forward in

(continued on page 9)



Pleasanton could soon play a bigger role in horse racing, but for this year, four racing days will be added.

County fair adding four more days of horse racing this year

Increase will help fill gap after Bay Meadows race track closure last fall

by Janet Pelletier

In just six short months, the Alameda County Fair will draw hundreds of thousands of people for ferris wheel rides, concerts, pig races, cotton candy and horse racing.

This year's dates have changed, a result of an additional four days of horse racing that's been added to make up for the closure of Bay Meadows race track in San Mateo, which shut down last September. This summer, the fair and horse racing will run from July 1-19. The track goes dark on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The additional days, allo-

cated by the California Horse Racing Board, which governs horse racing in the state, usually go to the Solano County Fair in Vallejo. The decision was made by the board in November to transfer them to Pleasanton because the Solano County Fair will be ending horse racing operations, although Solano is requesting the board approve a week-long run this summer as a last hurrah.

That closure and the one at Bay Meadows is a trend statewide, with more and more race tracks shutting down, including the possible closure of Hollywood Park in Southern California. Golden Gate Fields

in Berkeley is now the primary race track in the Bay Area, absorbing Bay Meadows' racing dates. The Pleasanton track is poised to be a secondary racing facility.

Since the fall, the Alameda County Fairgrounds has taken in more than double the amount of horses who train at the year-round facility, the only one of its kind in Northern California.

"Currently, we have over 600 horses stabled and training in our barn area," said Rick Pickering, who is the CEO of the Alameda County Fairgrounds. "Normally, this time of year we would have a

(continued on page 9)

Local bank receives \$5.5m in TARP funds

Program aimed at supporting economic development

by Jeb Bing

Valley Community Bank has received \$5.5 million as an approved participant in the U.S. Treasury Department's TARP Capital Purchase Program, bank President and CEO Richard Loupe said this week.

Loupe said the bank issued 5,500 shares of Series A preferred stock and a related warrant for 275 shares of Series B preferred stock, which represents 5 percent of the Series A preferred stock amount or \$275,000, to the U.S. Treasury.

The TARP Capital Purchase Program, created by the Treasury Department, is a voluntary program in which selected, healthy financial institutions were encouraged to participate. Such participation is intended to support the economic development of the community and thereby restore the health of the local and national economy. The investments are not part of the bailout application program for banks.

Treasury created the Capital Purchase Program, a part of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), to help to stabilize and strengthen the U.S. financial system. It allocated \$250 billion under TARP's Capital Purchase Program to invest in these institutions, with Treasury now having invested \$187.5 billion into 215 banks, getting preferred stock and warrants from participating institutions.

"We are pleased that the Treasury has chosen to invest in our bank," Loupe said. "The additional capital will enhance our ability to continue lending to our local communities."

Other local banks, including Fremont Bank

(continued on page 8)

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Germain pleads not guilty

*Former tennis pro charged with molestation
to appear in court Jan. 26*

by Emily West

Henry Germain will appear in court Jan. 26 after he plead not guilty last week to alleged sex crimes against six female victims.

The former Castlewood Country Club tennis pro is charged with 16 counts of child molestation. He pleaded not guilty Jan. 9.

Attorney Elizabeth Grossman, who is representing Germain, said she would file a formal demurrer, which would challenge the legitimacy of the charges.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrance said there were changes in the language of charges one through five.

There have been questions regarding the statute of limitations for the victims. In previous hearings, Grossman had said the alleged victims came forward with their information after the time allowed in the state of California,

which is currently 10 years.

Torrance said she couldn't comment on details of the case, except that she believed it was a "very strong case."

The 62-year-old Dublin resident remains out on a \$1.14 million bail since he was first arrested Sept. 2.

Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department said no more victims had come forward since Dec. 16. Prior to that, about a half dozen other alleged victims came forward, according to Kelly, saying they were abused by Germain dating back to the early '80s when he worked as a tennis pro at the now closed Desert Club of La Quinta in Palm Desert, Calif. While Germain can't be charged from these alleged incidents, the victims can testify in court.

The next hearing will be at 9 a.m. Jan. 26 in department 704 at the county courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. ■

Weekly named sponsor of key 2009 downtown events

'Perfect fit for us,' says Pleasanton Downtown Assoc.

The Pleasanton Weekly will be this year's sponsor of major downtown events, including First Wednesday street parties and the 2009 Concerts in the Park series, the Pleasanton Downtown Association announced this week.

Nickie Hoppe said the newspaper's online and print media organization's proposals to sponsor the main PDA events were accepted because, "Yours is a news organization that is Pleasanton-based, well read throughout Pleasanton and is a strong booster of business vitality in Pleasanton."

"Since starting your newspaper nine years ago, you have become the voice of Pleasanton and the PDA is honored to have so much support from the Weekly," Hoppe said.

Hoppe said the Weekly's sponsor-

ship will include First Wednesday street parties, Concerts in the Park, Magical Holiday Evening and the upcoming Hops & Vine Fest, held twice-annually in February and again in the summer.

"The Pleasanton Weekly is a perfect fit for us," she added.

Hoppe, who has handled scores of events for the PDA, also announced that she will be leaving the organization Feb. 18 to join her husband Michael, a retired division fire chief for the city of Alameda, in a more leisurely lifestyle, which will include some travel. The couple lives in Pleasanton.

"You'll still see me around," said Hoppe, "only at the concerts, for example, I'll be out in the crowd instead of handling the Friday night events and on stage announcing prize winners." ■

Of Note

7th grader takes 3rd in piano competition

Nisha Kale, a seventh-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, took third place in the California Music Teachers Association Piano Sonata Competition, held in Orinda on Dec. 6. Nisha, 12, competed at Level 6, playing a Haydn sonata in D major. She's been playing since the age of 6 and she also enjoys, reading, writing and basketball.



CNN features letters by Carden West 3rd graders to Obama

Cite global, energy concerns in messages gaining national attention

by Emily West

Third graders at Carden West School in Pleasanton have been receiving widespread attention recently for their interest in national politics.

"The class was very interested in the election," teacher Lisa Harp said. "We did a mock election."

The group decided to write letters to their presidential hopefuls, sharing their ideas to make the country better. CNN caught wind of the project and the class was recently on its programs.

Now that the inauguration is a week away, CNN has re-used the footage on its website.

Of all the letters, Harp said what stood out most to her was their idea that Democrats and Republicans need to work together. This concept, she added, is a crucial part of the nine-member class.

"Some children supported one candidate or another," she said. "When Obama won, the McCain



Alexa, a third grader at Carden West School, is featured on CNN.com for writing a letter to President-elect Barack Obama.

supporters were inspired by his speech and wanted to see them work together."

Other ideas they wrote about were ending the war and breaking down race barriers. One imaginative student came up with a new car that focused on using less gas.

The class keeps up-to-date with

current events each week by reading Time for Kids.

"I think our kids have some marvelous things to say about the future," principal Mark Silzer said. "They will be great leaders in the future."

To learn more about Carden West School, located on Willow Road, visit www.cardenwest.org. ■

High-speed rail officials to hold local scoping meetings

Closest meeting will be held Jan. 29 at Santa Clara Convention Center

Plans for California's 800-mile high-speed rail system are about to get specific, according to an announcement late last week following a meeting of the California High Speed Rail Authority.

A Northern California series of "scoping sessions" will be held in the Bay Area later this month, giving residents and elected officials their first chance to weigh in on particulars of the rail system since giving it the green light by approving Proposition 1A in November.

"This is something we've all been looking forward to," Authority chairman Quentin Kopp said in a prepared statement. "It signifies that we now are moving forward with actual development of the system. This enables people to learn more about and contribute to specific routing, connections and other details necessary to build the system and begin operation."

The authority has already approved environmental impact reviews of broader aspects of the planned network of trains that will travel at 220 mph, including the adoption of a resolution in July 2008 which designated Pacheco Pass, state Highway 152 terminating in Gilroy, as the main east-west artery connecting the Bay Area to the Central Valley.

The scoping meetings are designed to localize plans in greater detail with public input, and have already taken place in some Southern California locations, according to

Rail Authority officials.

The closest meeting location to Pleasanton is from 3 to 8 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Santa Clara County Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, in Great America Meeting Rooms 1 and 2.

Specific meeting time and locations are announced on the Rail Authority's Web site, www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov, where prospective routes and station designs have already been posted.

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Water agency contributing funds to Delta study

Study will look at solutions to help with water supply reliability, protection of habitat

by Janet Pelletier

Zone 7 Water Agency has agreed to contribute \$1.5 million towards a study that aims to find alternative solutions for a reliable supply of water from the Delta.

The decision was approved by the water agency board last month. The agreement to fund the effort was made jointly with other State Water Project contractors, and with federal Central Valley Project contractors that also receive their supply from the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta.

Eighty percent of Zone 7's water supply comes from the Sierra snowmelt and is conveyed by the State Water Project through the Delta's canals. In turn, 80 percent of Pleasanton residents receive their water from Zone 7. The remainder receive their water from the city of Pleasanton.

The Delta crisis is not a new issue, and alternative solutions have long been sought. Pumping has decreased due to concerns about a fish species called the smelt, which are being sucked up through the pumps. The court-ordered decrease was also further limited last month after additional smelt-related regulations were issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There are also threats of flooding, seawater intrusion from earthquakes and rising sea levels from global climate change, according to Zone 7.

Aside from the fish kill, the way the system operates now, there

are concerns about water quality, which is degrading as fresh water flows through the Delta and gains salt and organics along the way.

Zone 7's funding portion is part of a total \$140 million toward the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program. An environmental impact report and a preliminary design of projects will be identified in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The work is necessary before any decision on selecting a project or building a new conveyance facility can be made, according to Zone 7.

The plan will provide a framework for protecting endangered species as a whole and will include conservation measures such as habitat restoration.

"This is a study of how to conserve habitat and the ecosystem by changing the way we plumb the Delta and a piece of that is a way to do conveyance," said Zone 7 board president Sarah Palmer. "There is bound to be much debate over how to achieve the co-equal objectives of water reliability and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, and controversy over proposed projects to achieve those goals."

An "around-the-Delta" channeling of water is different than a peripheral canal, a project that was rejected by voters in 1982. The conveyance facility would be smaller, and built and operating with habitat protection and water-supply reliability in mind, according to Zone 7. ■

A opportunity from The Pleasanton Police Department Citizen's Academy

Do you live or work in the City of Pleasanton and want an inside look into law enforcement? Then enroll in the Pleasanton Police Department's 2009 Citizen's Academy.

Academy students enrolled in the 14-week program will get hands-on experience learning about patrol duty, crime scene investigations, SWAT, the K-9 program, traffic enforcement, animal control, and much more.

Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every Thursday from March 5 through June 11, 2009, (no class during Spring Break). Students must be 18 years or older, pass a brief background check, be free of any felony convictions, have no misdemeanor arrests within one year of application and be available to attend all classes.

The goals of the academy are to create closer partnerships with the community, educate and explain principles and procedures of law enforcement, and discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process.

Applications are available at the Police Department or by calling Sgt. Mike Tryphonas at (925) 931-5169 for more information.

By working together, we can build a community of character.



TARP

(continued from page 5)

and Heritage Bank, also are participating in the TARP program.

Before receiving the TARP funds, Valley Community Bank was well-capitalized as measured by all regulatory guidelines. On Sept. 30, 2008, the company's Tier 1 Leverage Capital Ratio was 9.67 percent, and its Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio was 11.04 percent. Based on the Sept. 30, 2008 financial statements, the addition of new capital through the Treasury's Capital Purchase Program will increase the Bank's Tier 1 Leverage Capital Ratio to approximately 12.57 percent and Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio to approximately 14.02 percent.

The Series A preferred stock issued by the Bank will pay a 5 percent dividend for the first five years, after which the rate will increase to 9 percent if the bank does not redeem the preferred shares, Loupe said. The Series B preferred stock issued by the bank will pay a 9

percent dividend. These preferred shares do not carry voting rights, except in certain limited circumstances. The bank issued the preferred shares and warrants only to the U. S. Treasury, not to any other third parties.

Terms and conditions of the transaction and the preferred stock will conform to those provided by the U.S. Treasury. A summary of the Capital Purchase Program can be found at the Treasury's website: www.ustreas.gov/initiatives/eesa.

Valley Community Bank, which is locally owned and operated, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. The bank opened for business on Aug. 10, 1998 in the historic Johnston Building at 465 Main St. A second location opened in 2000 at 1986 Second St. in Livermore; a third in 2003 at 2355 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 101 in San Ramon, a fourth in 2005 at 1150 So. Bascom Ave., Ste. 29 in San Jose; and a fifth at 540 Front St., Ste. 310, Santa Cruz. More information about Valley Community Bank can be found on its website at www.vcb-ca.com. ■

Budget

(continued from page 5)

November, which has already been rejected.

At the conference, Cazares said she listened for hope that the solutions could produce a better picture in time for the budget revise in May.

"I didn't hear a variable that made me leave even a little bit optimistic," she said. "But I left with a lot of questions. Is it possible for this to get worse if some of these things don't come true for us? There are a lot of assumptions in [the proposed budget] and I have some serious concerns about them."

Regardless of the questions, the school district must use the most recent budget to move forward with their own.

Another problem facing the district is the state's cash shortage problem with the state expected to run out of cash as early as next month. It has been suggested that the state could hold back on April's payments to the school districts until July, resulting in cash shortages for schools statewide.

At Tuesday night's meeting, veteran trustees Pat Kernan, Jim Ott and board president Chris Grant spoke passionately about making education a priority in Pleasanton by passing a parcel tax.

"For 14 years, we have fought to get this district to where it's at," Kernan said. "It could go away, literally, overnight."

Kernan said he wanted each of the 20 kindergarten students in the class his daughter teaches to have the same opportunities his six children had.

"If those cuts are implemented, this is going to be a crap district," he continued. "I didn't move here to have my kids go to a crap school. I'll

be damned if [the kindergarteners] are going to get a secondary education while I'm on this board."

These comments were met with loud applause by those in attendance.

Ott petitioned for support from the community, by way of a parcel tax, to help the district.

"The state has taken away our ability to fund," he said. "We can say what we want from up here, but it has to come from out there in the community."

"I was actually a little disappointed," he continued. "I had hoped to see this room packed with people standing up to talk about how we need a parcel tax; how we need to take our destiny in our hands."

Instead, there were three speakers--one teacher and two parents--who voiced concern over the budget crisis.

Joan Larsen, a parent and current member of the district's budget advisory committee, offered a "historical perspective," as she has been involved in the district since 1995 and was born and raised in California.

"I'm here today to urge the Pleasanton school board trustees to protect our children's education and, in fact, our very homes by seeking a parcel tax this year," she said.

The tax, combined with the reduction of administrative expenses and good faith proposals from unions, she argued, would keep schools stable instead of waiting for education finance reform from the state.

Trustee Valerie Arkin said losing class-size reduction would be "detrimental to our children." Yet, she doesn't think a parcel tax is the sole answer.

Ott said surrounding communities have parcel taxes ranging from \$190 to \$225. It would be \$350 a parcel to completely neutralize

cuts, he added.

The audience may have been small at the meeting, but much discussion has been occurring at the Pleasanton Weekly's "Town Square" online forum since notice of a potential cut list was released. Many comments have been critical towards the district and its staff. Janet Sears, a district teacher who spoke at the meeting, mentioned the "not nice" online comments and urged the district to correctly inform the community.

Casey said they welcome any calls and emails from district staff and the community about the budget. In addition, they are also planning community forums and a weekly question-and-answer series to address issues from the community, as well as those on the Pleasanton Weekly blogs.

"The people who are blogging and making critical comments about our teachers and administrators, really there's just a disconnect from what they're saying to reality," he said. "[The staff has] brought to this community award-winning schools. It's a place that people move to because of the schools. That doesn't happen by accident. If you were to believe what some of the bloggers are saying about our staff, you would think that we had the worst schools in the nation."

The budget will continue to be on the board's agenda. By the end of February, however, the board will need to make decisions on the impact to staff, so pink slips can be sent by March 15.

Dates about the community forums will be made available by visiting the district's website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

To read online discussions as well as a copy of the district-issued list of potential reductions, visit PleasantonWeekly.com.

Jeb Bing contributed to this report.

Horse racing

(continued from page 5)

little over 200."

What does it mean?

"It means more workouts each day on the track, so additional soil amendments to the track are being made," he said.

The Pleasanton race track is different than Bay Meadows and Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley because it has a natural track made of sands and soils, as opposed to a synthetic surface.

But the stalls' composition of cinderblock and concrete will hold up well, Pickering said, adding that all of the race barns also have new roofs as part of the fairgrounds' 1-megawatt solar panel project installed four years ago.

Outside the traditional summer fair racing, Pleasanton could begin adding racing as soon as 2010 during different parts of the year. The matter will continually be discussed by the horse racing board.

Pickering said he sees the possibility of additional dates as a plus.

"In 2008, we celebrated our 150th year as a one-mile track," he said. There's certainly a large amount of support for continuing

that history."

What is unclear is if Pleasanton begins to play a bigger role in horse racing to help Golden Gate Fields take some of the additional dates, who will pay for the needed improvements to the track. With a larger schedule, the track would need to be updated to a synthetic surface, which Pickering said could cost \$9 million to \$12 million. Currently, Golden Gate Fields, Del Mar, Hollywood Park and Santa Anita race tracks all have synthetic tracks.

"As a nonprofit corporation, we do not see ourselves going into debt, borrowing money for improvements," he said. "We are a training operation and the horse racing industry wanted to bring more horses here, so they are financially supporting our training operation. If the California horse racing industry supports a synthetic surface and capital improvements in Pleasanton, they would need to come forward with the financing tools to make that happen."

Aside from the track, parts of the grandstand would need to be enclosed with glass if winter racing were to be added. As for noise and traffic, Pickering said he doesn't expect racing outside of the summer fair to have a negative impact

in the community. Racing typically runs outside of peak traffic commute times and fans would typically have the reverse commute, Pickering said. Also, there would be no nighttime racing, and noise levels aren't expected to be high as year-round racing attracts roughly 2,500 fans, as opposed to more than triple that during the county fair.

Of course, all talk of future improvements and additional dates is preliminary, Pickering said.

"It's the infamous chicken and egg discussion," he said. "It makes no sense for anyone to come forward with money to do major improvements without the guarantee of additional days of racing. We have the luxury of talking about it and strategizing on those developments, but short of additional days of racing and a mechanism of paying for the improvements, they're wonderful ideas and concepts."

The struggling economy could also push back any expansion plans in the horse racing industry.

Traditionally, gambling holds its own during bad economic times, but as we've seen in the last six months, gambling, whether it's slot machines or table games or horse racing or even lottery sales, have been down. ■

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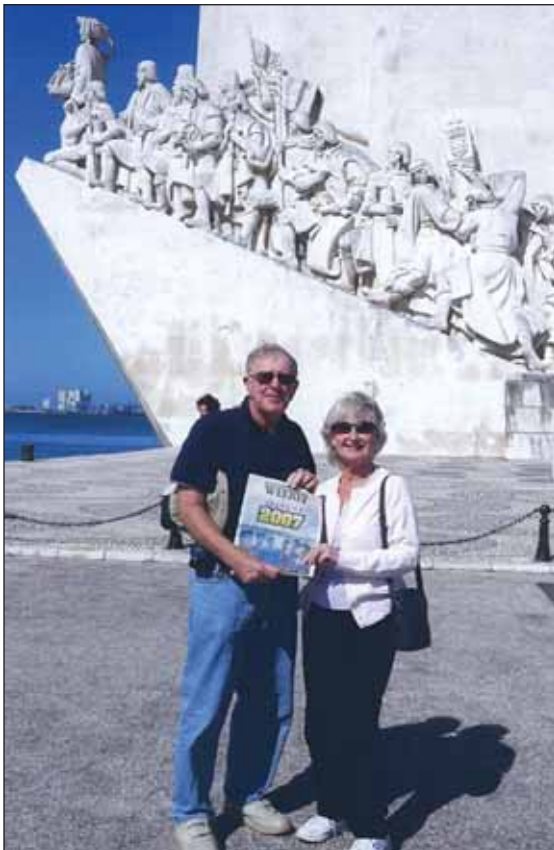
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Take Us Along



Weekly origins

Joyce and Norman Pacheco took the Weekly along to the Monument to the Discoveries in Lisbon, Portugal. The pair took a 17-day trip to Spain and Portugal. Joyce said they especially enjoyed Portugal because her husband's family originated there.



Hey Mon, it's the Weekly

Jerilyn Zephrin poses with the Weekly and a local Jamaican newspaper on her honeymoon in the Caribbean country. We know which paper is better.



Island of the Weekly

Emily, Allison and Joey Nickel read the Weekly at Waimea Canyon on the island of Kaua'i.



Weekly fodder

How resourceful! Tom and Vicki Harland and Pat and Jim O'Laughlin used the Weekly to start a fire in a 300-year-old wood oven to cook their dinner in Tuscan. We hope they read it first. Buon appetito!



Belize, please

Marguerite Platt reads the Weekly in Belize. Here she is at the entrance to Chan Chich Lodge. Chan Chich means "little bird" in the Mayan language. Marguerite said she saw over 100 different bird species. The spot was only reachable by a chartered, three-seater plane, 2 miles from the border of Guatemala.



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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100 Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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Opinion

Editorial

In this economy, a business assistance package might help

In a report prepared for the City Council's meeting next Tuesday on the Pleasanton economy, Economic Development Director Pamela Ott cites so many multi-million-dollar projects under way or planned that it's hard to believe this city is feeling the severe impact of the national economic downturn just like everyone else. Among the pluses in Ott's report are Roche Molecular Diagnostics, which consolidated its West Coast operations into a new three-story building in Hacienda Business Park last April, bringing another 500 employees to Pleasanton. 24-Hour Fitness Super Sport Club bought the empty Tri-Valley Herald building, also in Hacienda, which it will expand this year into a 56,000-square-foot, two-story main gym with an indoor swimming pool, spas and a sauna. Oracle Corp., which acquired PeopleSoft and for a time indicated it might close the city's largest employment center, changed its mind and is currently building a five-story, 181,000-square-foot building and parking garage near the BART station. The company now has 1,500 employees in Pleasanton.

On the drawing board, South Bay Development has submitted plans to build seven office buildings at the 40-acre site it owns between I-680 and the newly-extended Valley Avenue at the Bernal-Valley avenue junction. Safeway is asking the city to approve its plans for a 65,000-square-foot superstore at that location. The new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station is expected to be completed and opened this year, with a 416-vehicle parking garage on the Pleasanton side and another garage for 713 vehicles on the Dublin side. New retail and residential units are planned on both sides of the freeway, including Windstar, a 350-unit apartment complex next to the new BART garage already approved by Pleasanton and scheduled to start construction shortly. Across Stoneridge Mall Road, Simon Corp. also is advancing its expansion plans for its Stoneridge Shopping Center, including a new 140,000-square-foot Nordstrom store and a 30,000-square-foot expansion of Macy's women's store. Simon is also searching for a new, major anchor store as it completes up to 380,000 square feet of new development rights already granted by the city.

Last year, Golfsmith opened its new 30,000-square-foot sports store in the Rose Pavilion, and this summer, Fresh & Easy, a British grocer, will open one of its first East Bay stores in the Pavilion, taking over the space now occupied by Express Fitness, which will move in May to another part of the center. On Feb. 3, the City Council will consider final site plans for Staples Ranch, a 124-acre undeveloped land parcel at the junction of El Charro Road and I-580. Hendrick Automotive is working with city staff to finalize its development plan for an auto mall on the site, with Continuing Life Communities, moving forward on a 45-acre senior care complex and Fremont Land with an 11-acre retail site, also on Staples. To top it off, Pleasanton's new Firehouse Arts Center is under construction with an opening planned in 2010.

Still, as everyone who drives down Main Street or through other parts of town knows, empty storefronts, office buildings and vacant lots paint a less prosperous picture of our city. Tuesday, Ott and the council will consider areas where the municipal government might help. Already in place now is a Downtown Design Assistance Loan Program to help businesses and property owners maintain the appearance of their buildings. A sewer permit loan program provides financing for new restaurants and other businesses that use large quantities of water. More is needed, such as bonuses for real estate brokers who bring new restaurant and retail businesses to the downtown, relocation assistance for those that move their businesses here, city-financed assistance for interior rehabilitation, incentives for building owners (including those who live out of town) to reduce rents, even for a year or two, and possibly to revisit the first-floor retail-only ordinance proposal that was rejected several years ago when economic times were better. We're talking about a business assistance package that will enable troubled businesses that are here to weather the storm and encourage other restaurants and retailers to move here and fill up the available space. Those with other ideas should speak up at Tuesday's City Council meeting. It starts at 7 p.m. ■

Code of ethics

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DID YOU KNOW?

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If you'd like to know more about the Tri-Valley's community health centers or donate to Axis Community Health online, please visit www.axishealth.org.

Axis Community Health...here when you need us.

Letters

Clean up after your dog

Dear Editor,
Has anyone out there ever tried to clean dog poop off a child's foot, shoe and pants with cold water and a single tissue?

Well, that's what I had the pleasure of doing the other day after my daughter stepped in yet another pile of dog poop left in our park by a discourteous dog owner. And during the rest of our cut-short visit to the park, I counted no less than four more piles of excrement scattered around. I am appalled at the amount of poop left behind by dog owners who use the local parks as their dog's personal toilet and then don't pick up after them. Whenever I walk at the sports park, my eyes are glued to the sidewalk, lest I unwittingly hit a pile left by the numerous untended dogs. And when they are allowed to run off leash and do their business in the grass they leave behind a poop mine field.

Don't get me wrong, I like dogs just as much as the next person. I would just like to remind all those dog owners out there to remember that the parks are not only here for their dogs, but also for all of us who like to run, play and practice our sports without fear of getting nailed by dog poop. Until someone comes up with "Vapoorize" you're just going to have to pick it up.

Laura Harris

DVDs for vets a success

Dear Editor,
The Rotary Club of Pleasanton North and the School of Imagination would like to give sincere thanks to our many generous donors from the Tri Valley who have contributed to our "DVDs4VETS" project. We have well exceeded our goal of 1,000 DVDs for our injured veterans and we could not have done so without your generous support.

We would like to acknowledge and give thanks also to Valley Community Bank, Chief Bill Cody and all the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Stations, all Uncle Credit Union locations, the Big O Tire stores in Pleasanton and Dublin, the Dublin Police and Library, and the Chamber of Commerce offices in Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton, all of whom served as strategic collection stations. And, a special thank you to Bill Wheeler and Black Tie transportation for being a collection location, and also for generously sharing their advertising time on KKIQ to promote this worthwhile endeavor.

We have distributed DVDs to the Medical Centers in Menlo Park/Palo Alto, Yountville, Fort Miley in San Francisco and Sacramento, which has jurisdiction over the Clinics in Martinez, Vallejo, Oakland and Livermore. All of your contributed DVDs will serve the men and women who have served us, while in their recovery and rehabilitation process. Thank you again for your overwhelming support! We are planning to do this again next Christmas and will again look forward to your kind support.

Ron Hyde, co-chair, Pleasanton North Rotary; Mitch Sigman, co-chair, School of Imagination and Pleasanton North Rotary

1 DUI arrest? Checkpoints a waste

Dear Editor,
I was dismayed after reading the quote in the Jan. 2 Police Bulletin article about the Dec. 19 sobriety checkpoint on Hopyard Road. According to the article, 1,158 vehicles were screened, and the results yielded one DUI arrest and four impounded vehicles.

Despite the worse than 1000:1 ratio of inconvenienced drivers to arrested drivers, the Pleasanton Police Department considers the operation a success because of "the sheer volume of drivers who passed through and were educated about the hazards of driving under the influence."

An education at gunpoint is only an education about who is holding the gun. If anyone thinks that I am using hyperbole concerning gunpoint, try driving through a sobriety checkpoint without stopping. You will get a very quick education about who has the guns and why they have them. The only reason that I stop at a sobriety checkpoint is because they will arrest me if I don't.

Perhaps we should consider that there are better uses for the police officers' time and our taxpayer money than barricading a street and questioning everyone who drives by. In fact, the only thing that sounds worse is to go door-to-door and question people at home. Perhaps that is next.

When drivers stop and politely answer the questions about where they are going and what, if anything, they have had to drink, they do so out of fear. They do not stop for the educational opportunity. They just don't want to risk getting shot. At least not yet.

Jeff Hansell

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Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Chimney fire extinguished

Quick action by firefighters extinguished a potentially dangerous chimney fire in a large two-story home at 4397 Second St. Sunday. The fire caused minimal damage and there were no injuries.

The fire alarm was sounded at 10:30 a.m. and fire trucks from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department were on the scene minutes later using an extended aerial ladder to reach the top of the chimney.

Smoke spewed out of the chimney but the fire was contained in the flue and were quickly extinguished.

John Benson, who owns the home with his wife Cheryl, was home at the time and called 911 when they saw the smoke. Their house was originally built in 1874.

Since the LPPFD was in the process of conducting a training meeting at the training tower on Busch Road



Jay Fachsbarrh

at the time the 911 call came in, crews moved out in six different firefighting vehicles at once, prepared to handle a larger fire if the chimney fire had spread.

Police Report

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

Jan. 3

- Theft:
 - 8:48 a.m. in the 800 block of Abbie Street; identity theft
 - 2:45 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
 - 4:25 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:03 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court
 - 2:12 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue
 - 2:49 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 6:59 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
 - 10:25 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

Jan. 4

- Grand theft:
 - 1:14 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:44 a.m. in the 200 block of Del Valle Court
 - 9:36 a.m. in the 7200 block of Stonedale Drive
 - 6:07 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road
- Vandalism:
 - 2:52 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
 - 7:36 p.m. in the 4100 block of Georgis Place; worth over \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:39 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
 - 1:50 a.m. in the 6300 block of Single Tree Way; public drunkenness
 - 4:07 a.m. at the intersection of Hacienda and Owens drives; DUI
 - 5:20 p.m. at the intersection of Main and St. Mary streets; marijuana possession
- Battery with deadly weapon:
 - 1:04 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 10:26 a.m. in the 4800 block of

Bernal Avenue

- Robbery:
 - 7:23 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Jan. 5
- Theft:
 - 7:11 a.m. in the 300 block of West Angela Street; grand theft
 - 12:47 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- Forgery
 - 10:21 a.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way
 - 1:31 p.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
 - 7:57 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 9:23 a.m. in the 3500 block of Stacey Court; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:51 p.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; DUI
 - 11:05 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; public drunkenness

Jan. 6

- Grand theft:
 - 8:39 a.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
 - 10:39 a.m. in the 7600 block of Flagstone Drive
 - 12:43 p.m. in the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive
 - 1:42 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court
- Theft:
 - 11:58 a.m. in the 200 block of Abbie Street
 - 12:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery
 - 10:40 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
- Burglary:
 - 12:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Vehicle break-in:
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 300 block of Old Bernal Avenue
- Jan. 7
- Theft:
 - 10:36 a.m. in the 5500 block of Corte Sonora; petty theft
 - 10:46 a.m. in the 4900 block of Dolores Drive; identity theft

- 1:11 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; forgery
- 1:38 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; stolen vehicle
- 1:39 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall road; embezzlement
- 8:55 p.m. in the 2100 block of Greenwood Road; petty theft
- 9:10 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft

Jan. 8

- Theft:
 - 12:04 a.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way; grand theft
 - 5:12 p.m. in the 800 block of Abbie Street; forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 7:32 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Kolln Street; worth less than \$400
 - 7:49 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:00 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; DUI
 - 12:21 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness
 - 1:31 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 7:36 a.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive
- Jan. 9
- Identity theft:
 - 1:00 a.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 1:56 p.m. in the 5200 block of Dolores Drive; worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 4:48 p.m. in the 800 block of Division Street
- Public drunkenness:
 - 11:41 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Adopt a resolution accepting the Mid-Year 2008-09 Operating Budget Update and amending the 2008-09 Operating Budget
- Review and discussion of Economic Development activities
- Public Hearing: PAP-121, Phillip and Joanna Segundo, Appellants (PCUP 205, Janny Rocha, Applicant) – Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit to relocate and replace the 10,000 gallon wood tank with a new 5,000 gallon poly tank in the rear yard of the existing residence located at 481 Sycamore Road
- Public Hearing: PUD-76, Nathaniel Morales/Cody White – Consider an application to rezone an approximately 7,500 square foot parcel located at 344 and 346 West Angela Street from the RM-1,500 (Multiple Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and for Planned Unit Development plan approval to remodel and convert the existing duplex unit into one single family residential home and to construct two new attached single-family units in the rear of the property

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

- The Monday, January 19, 2009 Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting has been cancelled.

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. 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.

Learn About Solar Energy for Your Home

The cities of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin developed the Solar Cities program to serve as an educational resource and a networking link to the solar industry. This free program features educational workshops, web resources, and targeted information to assist owners in making a decision about investing in a photovoltaic solar system. Residents of all three cities are invited to attend a Solar Cities workshop scheduled on Thursday, January 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Larkspur Room of the Robert Livermore Community Center at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore. Peter Shoemaker from PG&E will present an overview about residential solar energy and rebate programs, followed by a Q & A session with staff from all three cities, and the opportunity to meet with solar installers. Please call (925) 960-4413 for more information.

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

Transitions

Obituaries

LaDonna Marcene Burns

LaDonna Marcene Burns died Jan. 4 at the age of 90.

Mrs. Burns was born July 26, 1918 in South Dakota.

She and William James (Billy Jim) were married Dec. 23, 1938 and made their first home in Minneapolis, Minn. Their Burns family adventure began with the birth of their first



son, James Edward in 1941. Their two daughters, Susan Kaye and Patsy Jane, were born in 1944 and 1945. Sixteen years later, their life changed with the arrival of the "light of their lives," Richard (Ricky) Paul in 1961.

Mrs. Burns was active in her church, Valley Community Church in Pleasanton, and was an admired long-term daily swimmer at Club Sport where she enjoyed the friendship of many people of all ages. She retired at 84 from golfing, a sport she enjoyed playing with Bill and Rick; she loved to remind us all that she never used a golf cart. She always carried her own clubs. She loved gardening and always had beautiful roses and other flowers as well as fruit and vegetables to give all her friends. She laughed a lot when she was with "Eddie and Oz," Rick and Joy's little dogs

as well as "Soleil and Rasa," who lived in Santa Barbara with Jason and Anne.

Friends in her local cancer support group and the prayer group at her church were important to her this past year. The family wishes to thank her friends in these groups, her pastor at Valley Community Church, her many loyal friends at Club Sport and her numerous friends and neighbors who came by to visit with her all these years.

Her family considered her a source of strength and inspiration for how to live as a strong but caring person. She was a shining example of how to live with respect for others and dignity for herself and her family. She will be missed by all her family and friends who always felt happier in her presence.

She was preceded in death by

her husband, Bill, in 1999; her beloved daughter, Patsy in 1966; her greatly loved niece, LaDonna Mary Parks in 2008; and her one and only very special sister, Marian Velma Parks in 1997. She also had two brothers who died in infancy.

She is survived by her children, Jim, Susan and Rick Burns; her grandsons, Eric, Chad and Jason; great-grandchildren, Devinee, Brooklyn, Whitney, Dylan, Summer and Joshua; nieces, Paula, Patty, Peggy; and nephew, Tim, from the marriage of Marian and Patrick Parks.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate gifts be made to the Valley Community Church Benevolence Fund or a charity of choice. Services were held Jan. 6 at Valley Community Church.

Mrs. Henley has been a resident of the Tri-Valley area for the last 30 years. She was a homemaker and loving mother of three. Known by her friends as Jonnie, she enjoyed spending time with her family and grandkids. She often could be found at the Pleasanton Sports Park watching her grandsons play baseball.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 39 years, Terry Henley.

She is survived by her children, Rosalie Henley of Livermore, Shawn (Angela) Henley of Pleasanton, Amber Henley of Livermore; and loving grandchildren, Chase and Braxton Henley of Pleasanton and Isis Henley of Livermore.

Friends are invited to attend a funeral mass at 2 p.m. today at St. Gertrude's Catholic Church, 1663 E. Main St., Stockton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ValleyCare Foundation, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore, CA 94550 to benefit the "Emergency Room Expansion" at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton.

Juanita (Maldonado) Henley

Juanita (Maldonado) Henley died Jan. 1 at the age of 70.

Born Dec. 27, 1938 in Stockton,

HIP AND KNEE PAIN FREE EDUCATION SEMINARS



Presented by:

Aaron Salyapongse, MD
Medical Director of the Joint Replacement Institute at ValleyCare
Fellowship Trained in the Treatment of Hip and Knee Pain
Orthopedic Surgeon

Date

January 29, 2009

February 5, 2009

February 12, 2009

Topic

Causes of Hip/Knee Pain and Options for Treatment

Hip Replacement: Advances in Surgical Techniques and Current Technology

Knee Replacement: Advances in Pain Control, Surgical Techniques, and Implants.

Customized Surgery, Rotating Knees, and Partial Knees: No longer just one option.

Time: 7:00PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

We invite you to register for these seminars by calling our Health Information and Physician Referral Line at 1-800-719-9111 or visit our website at www.valleycare.com — go to the Education/Events tab and click on the education/support link.



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Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

Nov. 25

Amanda and Matt Richert, a girl
Laura and Charles Dimiceli, a boy

Dec. 3

Susan and Gregory Tonkin, a girl
Nina and Stephen Simi, a boy

Dec. 19

Marni and Jon Decoite, a girl

Weddings

Torrey Ann Rider & David Russell Swan

Torrey Ann Rider and David Russell Swan were married Dec. 6 in Nashville, Tenn.

Torrey is the daughter of Allan Rider and April Rider-Helm of Nashville. She is also the daughter of the late Karen Elsnab-Rider of Pleasanton and granddaughter of Nancy Elsnab, also of Pleasanton. The bride is a graduate of Nashville Christian School and received her undergraduate degree in nursing from Belmont University. She is a pediatric nurse at Old Harding Pediatrics in Nashville.

David is the son of Bruce and Donna Swan of Holly Springs, Ga. He is a graduate of Lassiter High School in Marietta, Ga. and also



received his undergraduate degree from Belmont University in music business. He is currently serving as an aviator in the United States Army.

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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.



BUSC U12 take home the win

The BUSC U12 Division III Black team took home an impressive win at the CYSA Association Cup Championships.

The boys tied their first game 2-2 against the Hayward Badd Boys and won the next two matches against Redwood Palo Alto 2-0 and CAP Valley Rush 3-0.

The Black team's defense held all appoints scoreless during regular play other than two converted penalty kicks in the first game. The boys continued to dominate offensively through a well balanced attack with eleven different players registering shots on goal for a three match total of 55 to opponents' 7. Goals were scored by Bradley Pilkington, Ben Smedley, Mason Picone and Jared Siegel with assists from Brian Kinnee, Roberto Beard, Chris Goldhawk, Mason P icone and Ben Smedley. Rounding out the offensive squad was Brendan Gold and Joey Repac.

Pictured: Back row (l-r): Sammy Hanson, Matthew Teng, Jared Siegel, Brian Kinnee, Andrew Griehshammer, Roberto Beard, Ben Smedley, Mason Picone, Chris Goldhawk, Jack Geasa and Ryan Vicencio; front: Coach Tyrone Tuell, Joey Repac, Brendan Gold, Alex Lee, Bradley Pilkington and Joshua Cole.



Rage U11 Premier top all at tourney

The RAGE U11 Premier team beat all opponents at the Bullard Classic Tournament in Fresno Jan. 3-4. The team handily won all four games due in large part to the tenaciousness of a strong defensive unit, anchored by an outstanding performance by goalkeeper Sophia Brown who only gave up one goal. The strong defense was provided by Juliana Leedeman, Katlyn Franciskovich, Hannah McGillivray, Kennedy Truex and Eilis Hegarty kept the opposing offenses off-balance throughout the tournament. Sophie Santos was phenomenal in midfield and was able to consistently deliver the ball to the forwards. The midfield was also supported with excellent work by Brookey Villanueva, Olivia Christensen, Heather Jackson and Maggie Kilday. The forwards were led by Carley Robertson, Malissa Shadle, Sami LaBella, Hailey Mann and Hanna Mallie.

Pictured: Back row (l-r) Nick Mangiardi, Malissa Shadle, Sami LaBella, Maggie Kilday, Eilis Hegarty, Kennedy Truex and Jamie Mangiardi; middle: Heather Jackson, Olivia Christensen, Hannah McGillivray, Hanna Mallie, Brookey Villanueva, Katlyn Franciskovich, Sophia Brown and Juliana Leedeman; front: Sophie Santos, Carley Robertson and Hailey Mann.

Ballistic Boys charge Mustangs in invitational

The Ballistic United boys U-13 soccer team played in the Mustang Winter Turf Invitational soccer tournament Jan. 3-4 in Danville.

In the first game, Ballistic played against Milan and controlled the game from the beginning and took a 1-0 lead on a goal by Joey Devivo halfway through the first half. Eric Toombs and Devivo, the two Ballistic forwards, had many other chances to put the game out of reach, but could not close the deal with many scoring opportunities going wide or stopped by the Hillmar goalie.

In the team's second day, Ballistic played the defending State Cup champions, Placer Prestige. Both teams played hard and the game was tied going into half time. Shortly into the second half, Placer was called for a foul and Nate Grixti launched a 45 yard cross into the box and Marco Neves fought to reach it and headed the ball past the Placer goalie to put Ballistic up 1-0.

From that point, the intensity of the game increased and with 3 minutes left, Placer played a long diagonal through ball to their right forward who out ran the Ballistic defense and tied the game at 1-1. Neither team was able to create any additional scoring chances and the game ended tied 1-1.

The last day of the tournament, Ballistic played the Ceres Earthquake in the final pool game needing a

win to move into the championship game. The game see-sawed back and forth with both teams having scoring opportunities, but neither being able to finish. The game finally ended when a Ceres forward received a

pass and beat Ballistic goalie Daniel Slominski to put Ceres up 1-0. Ballistic pushed hard to try to regain that goal, but the score remained 1-0.

Ballistic took out their frustration on the Mustang team from Danville

from their earlier loss and jumped out to a 2-0 lead. Devivo scored the first three goals of the game. A couple more goals by Devivo with help from Eric Toombs and they beat the Danville rivals 5-0. ■

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by Janet Pelletier

More than 2,000 people are expected to help ring in the Chinese New Year in Pleasanton with planned celebrations for the Year of the Ox.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, falls on Jan. 26 this year and is the equivalent of the Christmas and New Year's holidays in the Chinese culture. The Chinese American Cooperation Council, established in Pleasanton, will host a gala to mark the occasion Jan. 24, featuring stage performances at the Amador Theater. The 15th day of the month proceeding, according to the Chinese calendar, is when the celebrations culminate, and a carnival featuring cooking demonstrations, tastings and a potluck dinner will be held Feb. 15 at Amador Valley High School.

This is the sixth year the Chinese council has organized the celebrations and with each passing year, they grow in popularity and size.

"(The council) was established because there are so many people, especially Chinese-Americans, moving into the Tri-Valley area," said Dr. Amy Qiaoming Liu, the media director for the council. "Pleasanton is a great place and I think a lot of people come here for the community and especially for the schools."

Liu is the director of the sociology graduate program at Cal State Sacramento, where she is also a professor. She lives locally in the Tri-Valley, commuting two days a week to the state capital, and has seen a demographic change here.

"I think a lot of people moved here in the 1990s, but by the time when we started this organization, there were so many families, Chinese-Americans, in this area, that they were looking for a place where they could gather to share cultural events," she said.

It's true that Pleasanton has become more diverse as the decades pass, as have many Bay Area cities. In the 1970s, Asians, which include Chinese, Taiwanese, Korean, Thai and others, made up 1 percent of the population. That number steadily increased each ensuing decade and in 2007, the Bay Area Census showed that 19.7 percent of people living here, or one in five, are of Asian descent. About one-third of Asians in Pleasanton are Chinese.

To meet that growing trend, the Chinese American Cooperation Council Chinese School opened in 2003 and enrollment has remained strong. The school offers Chinese language courses and a variety of enrichment classes such as martial arts, chess, music, tennis and sketching, all held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays at Amador.

"It's really like a family activity for Chinese-Americans on Sundays," Liu said.

School Principal Richard Xu agrees, adding that it's not uncommon for three generations of families to sign up, since there are classes for children, adults and seniors.

"One indication is the enrollment, which is going up steadily year after year," Xu said.



Brett Jackson teaches martial arts at the Chinese American Cooperation Council Chinese School, held on Sundays at Amador Valley High School.

YEAR OF THE

Growing Pleasanton Chinese community welcomes Lunar

"We started with an enrollment of 400 the first year, 800 the second year, the third year was 1,500 and fourth year 1,200 and this year, our total enrollment is 1,400."

Growing diversity can also be seen in looking at Pleasanton school demographics. The most diverse school in the district is Mohr Elementary. In the 2006-07 School Accountability Report Card for Mohr, nearly 53 percent of students were listed as being of Asian descent. On the high school level, nearly 13.5 percent of students are Asian at Amador, while Foothill counts 21.5 percent of its student body as Asian. Districtwide, that number is 24 percent. Those figures include people of Chinese, Japanese and Asian-Indian descent.



A dancer performs in last year's Tri-Valley Chinese New Year festivities. A gala featuring stage performances will be held at Amador Theater.

Pleasanton demographics

	1970 ¹	1980 ¹	1990 ¹	2000 ²	2007 ²
White	98%	94.9%	90.9%	80.4%	68.3%
Hispanic Origin	2.2	6.6	6.6	7.9	10.4
Black	0.3	1	1.3	1.4	2.3
American Indian	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5
Asian	1	2.5	5.8	11.7	19.7
Chinese	0.3	0.6	1.8	4.5	6.3

1: <http://census.abag.ca.gov/cities/Pleasanton70.htm> 1970, 1970 and 1990 Census

2: <http://census.abag.ca.gov/cities/Pleasanton.htm> 2000 Census and 2007 estimates for Pleasanton



Janet Pelletier

traditions alive.
 “They come at 9 and stay most likely until 1 o’clock,” Xu said. “The parents want their children to have something to do on Sunday. They don’t want them to play around on the computer, chatting.”

From his contacts with other Chinese schools, Xu said he thinks the growing popularity of Chinese language courses in particular is due to the increasing importance of China’s economy on a global scale.

“The Chinese economy is becoming bigger and bigger worldwide and they realize that it’s a language that’s very important,” Xu said. “If they are future-oriented, they think it is important to speak Chinese.”

One new change to this year’s curriculum is a language program for high school students that will fulfill their two-year foreign language requirement set by the University of California system. Previously, students only received elective credits for those courses. Fourteen students are enrolled in the level one Chinese course and 17 are enrolled in level two.

The council and the school are non-profits and the money that’s raised from tuition pays for teachers’ salaries and for rental of the classrooms at Amador through a partnership with Pleasanton Unified School District.

“(The school district) didn’t have enough (money) because of the budget cuts to open the Chinese language for everyone at the high school, so we worked with them on offering that,” Liu said.

Xu said next school year, they plan to open a level three Chinese language course for high school students as well as one that’s advanced placement. Each course is \$336. He said he hopes as more people find out about the new program, that it will encourage not just teens of Chinese or Asian descent, but all races and ethnicities to learn the language.

“Now, the kids have a lot more choices for foreign language,” Xu said. “In this way, I think we can attract more students and also students from different cultural backgrounds. That’s our mission.”

Liu said that message also transcends to the Chinese New Year celebrations.

“It’s a celebration of diversity, so we do want to invite people from other racial groups to join us,” she said.

On Feb. 15, Liu said there will be a variety of food demonstrations featuring regional dishes, such as barbecue lamb (Kao Yang Rou Chuanc).

“You don’t get that from most Chinese restaurants,” she said. “It’s a very famous Chinese dish and a popular finger food.”

The most popular food for the Chinese Lantern Festival is Yuanxiao, a kind of sweet dumpling made of glutinous rice or wheat flour, which is another dish that will be demonstrated and available for tasting. There will also be Taiwanese delicacies.

For more information about the school or the Chinese American Cooperation Council, visit www.caccusa.org. ■

THE OX

Chinese New Year on Jan. 26

The district prides itself in the quality of education it provides to students who are learning English as a second language. Jane Golden, who is the director of elementary curriculum for the district, said 5 percent of students are English learners.

“Every single English learner this year has passed the high school exit exam,” she said. “Our teachers are amazing. They really tailor the program for these students.”

“We’ve had more and better success in getting textbooks and reader materials in Chinese,” she added.

For parents who have children at the CACC Chinese School, attending class can be a way to meet new people and socialize while also keeping culture and

Upcoming events

Jan. 24: Chinese New Year’s Eve Gala with VIP introductions, awards and professional stage performances 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road Tickets (\$10-\$15) are available online at www.caccusa.org. For more information, send an email to newyear@caccusa.org or call Jane at 577-5850.

Feb. 15: Chinese New Year’s carnival with food and entertainment 5 to 9 p.m. at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road cooking demos, competitions and food tastings are from 5 to 6 p.m.; potluck dinner is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and festival performances, vendor booths and children’s games and raffles are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. RSVP at www.caccusa.org.

Chinese American Cooperation Council

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ON THE TOWN



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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

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

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

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

CATERING

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Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

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CONTINENTAL

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ON THE TOWN



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www.amaronepleasanton.com

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349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299.

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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.

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

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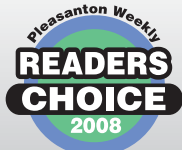


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Living

Where there's a need, there's a Y

Tri-Valley YMCA
sponsors MLK Jr.
breakfast Jan. 26

by Emily West

The goal of the YMCA since beginning in 1844 is to meet the needs of the community. Despite its affluence, many people living in the Tri-Valley are struggling. With new leadership, the local program branch of the YMCA is revved up and ready to make a difference.

Kelly Dulka, executive director of the Tri-Valley YMCA, which serves Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and Sunol, was hired in August 2006 to help revamp the organization. With an all-new staff, they have been working hard to continue the current programming as well as develop new ones.

"My main goal is to build partnerships and relationships, as well as build strong kids, families and communities," she said. "We are looking where there may be gaps in services. In the last six months, we've seen a tremendous increase for services and financial assistance."

While most programs have fees attached, scholarships and financial assistance are available. Tim Stier, associate program director at the YMCA, said no kids are turned away.

Not only has Dulka built relationships with city leaders, she has also made partnerships with local businesses to build a new mentoring program, which will begin this year. Five corporate sponsors—ValleyCare Medical Center, Sybase, BBNT/Tanner Insurance, Colliers International and FunMobility—will provide funding and mentor volunteers to link adults with junior high school-aged kids. Axis Community Health and Be a Mentor of Hayward are also teaming up to help.

"We make an effort to get out into the community," Stier said. "We get to know people, gain trust and build relationships and find out more and more what the needs are."

The YMCA is not without needs itself, as it operates as a "program branch" because it doesn't have its own facility. By its 50th anniversary in 2015, they hope to have a formal home to call their own. For now, they must rent out other facilities, which is costly and venues are not always ideal or even available for the programming.

Another future program is a model United Nations program for junior high-aged kids, which is part of the national YMCA program.

Children are a primary focus of the YMCA and one of the priorities



Above and below are photos from the pinewood derby put on for the Y-Guides and Y-Princesses. With monthly and bi-monthly events, the programs are designed to bond fathers with their sons and daughters.

is addressing health and wellness. Last year the organization received a \$10,000 grant from the Kellogg's Foundation and another grant from the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame to buy sports equipment for use in their non-competitive sports programs.

They also have a fun and fitness camp coming up this summer and Healthy Kids Day April 18.

"Kids can find out how fun it is to exercise and learn about nutrition," Dulka said. "We want to get kids up and moving."

Through building relationships in the community, they have discovered a need for helping teens dealing with stress and risky behaviors, dealing with issues such as alcohol and sexuality.

Perhaps the most popular program put on by the Tri-Valley Y is its child care program, followed closely by its summer day camp.

"We try to address the holistic needs of the child," Dulka said. "It's not just a child care setting, it's a chance for kids to grow and thrive."

"We have a very successful Y-Guides and Y-Princesses program," Stier said. "It bonds fathers to daughters and fathers to sons with

monthly and bi-monthly events. It includes a pinewood derby, a father-daughter dance and camp outs."

One of their biggest events of the year, which also is their main fundraiser, is coming up Jan. 26 with the ninth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast.

"It's an opportunity to bring together leaders from different communities in the Tri-Valley and to be inspired by the life and legacy of Dr. King," Dulka said, adding that Dr. King participated in local Y events as a child. "With the essay and art contests [by students] we will be looking at it multi-generationally and embrace the message of a world and a community that is inclusive of all."

The winners of the contests will be announced at the breakfast, which goes from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. Bernard Tyson of the Kaiser Foundation will serve as the keynote speaker.

Tickets are \$40 and should be purchased by Jan. 19.

To learn more about Tri-Valley YMCA, call 475-6108 or visit tri-valley.ymcaeastbay.org.

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. The winners of the essay and art contests will be announced. Tickets are \$40. Call 475-6107 or e-mail tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.



Poetic Pleasanton

Poet Laureate Martha Meltzer shares poetry inspired by the city around her

Like many writers, I have a day job. One day one of the fifth grade girls at my school challenged me to write a poem about them. Of course I accepted the challenge.



Martha Meltzer

On mornings when frost and fog hang low, a group of young girls flock to the school library to wait in warmth until the bell rings.

winter birds

at dawn
on this slow grey day
I sit behind my desk
in anticipation of their arrival

they find me
brown sparrow fledglings
flock as if to feeder and branch
somber coats interrupted
by scarlet of a cardinal's wing
the yellow throat of oriole

they peck and preen
on this January day
young bird song
fills the air
layer upon layer
until with rustle and swoop
they fly away

Luck be a lady

Tri-Valley Rep presents 'Guys and Dolls' Jan. 23

Take a chance on "Guys and Dolls" and odds are you'll fall in love with the oddball romantic comedy.

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's production brings the vivid characters who have become legends of the canon: Sarah Brown (Chelsea Nenni), the upright but uptight "mission doll" out to reform the evildoers of Time Square; Sky Masterson (Eric Neiman), the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide (Jennifer Bell), the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit (John Maio), her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game.

The classic score includes such gems as "Fugue for Tinhorns," "The Oldest Established," "A Bushel and a Peck," "Adelaide's Lament," "Take Back Your Mink," "Luck Be a Lady," "Sue Me," "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat," and of course, the titular song, "Guys and Dolls."

Other notable characters include Nickolas Quintell as Nicely, Ron Houk as Benny Southstreet, Chris Olson as Rusty Charlie, Tim Nolan as Harry the Horse, Bryan Pangilinan as Angie the Ox, Jim Snell as Big Jule, Loren Struss as Brannigan, Gary Bennett as Arvide, Sharon Kantor as General Matilda B. Cartwright, Martie Muldoon as Agatha, Phoebe Stinson as Mim and Savannah Stratton as Drunk.

"Guys and Dolls" is directed and produced by Kathleen Breedveld.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays



Eric Wood

Chelsea Nenni (Sarah Brown) and Eric Neiman (Sky Masterson) star in the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's production of "Guys and Dolls."

and 2 p.m. Sundays from Jan. 23 through Feb. 8 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore.

Tickets are \$35 for adults (18-60), \$33 for seniors (60 and older) and \$25 for juniors (under 18). There is a substantial discount for groups purchasing 20 or more tickets.

To learn more about the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, formerly the Pleasanton Playhouse, visit www.trivalleyrep.org.

—Emily West

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1 hour, 59 minutes



Kate and Leo may be the Bogie and Bacall of their generation, and their second shared effort (following "Titanic") positively oozes quality chemistry.

Not the kind of chemistry that makes for happy endings. Winslet and DiCaprio are literally at each other's throats as April and Frank Wheeler, the classic 1950s golden couple who suddenly find the luster lost from their white-picket-fence union.

Through a series of deft flashbacks, director Sam Mendes builds a story of suburban ennui, a stifling boredom compounded by two kids and dead-end jobs. No honeymoon period in this examination of domestic gloom; there's a sometimes quiet, sometimes rage-filled unraveling of dignity, pride and shallow sense of self.

Mendes focuses on the subtleties: the '50s landscape in shades of gray and beige, with no spark of color to augment joy. When the couple attempts to get "the special back" by pitching it all and moving to Paris, the futility of the plan is positively painful.

Kate and Leo bounce off one another like blazing

comets, all heat and light and friction. Smaller roles lend dramatic clout: Kathy Bates as a busybody real estate agent, Michael Shannon as her schizophrenic mathematician son (Oscar!) and Dylan Baker as Frank's jealous, washed-up co-worker who knows his time has passed.

Scripting, much from Richard Yates' 1961 novel of the same name, is spot on, everyone bleeding dissatisfaction and expressing such with a hopeless emptiness that hurts.

The build-up gains slow momentum but once "Road" finds its rhythm it's positively devastating.

—Jeanne Aufmuth

Ready to Rent

Brideshead Revisited

Miramax Home Video
1 hour, 40 minutes
Director: Julian Jarrold

Director Julian Jarrold's abridged version of "Brideshead Revisited" is very faithful to the book, if not in spirit, albeit with most of author Evelyn Waugh's cheekiness buffed away. It's a handsome movie, and I mean that without the imposed face-tiousness that the word "handsome" can elicit, but in the wrong way. Yes, Waugh's thinly veiled account of maturing in between war England, and his doppelganger, Charles Ryder's, exposure to the dying upper echelon's ways of life, with their endless catalog of balls, mansions, pieces of art and fountains of champagne sumptuously photographed for us, to alternately salivate and adorn over. But Waugh's underlying naughtiness is sadly absent. I find it an insult when someone calls a production "the Masterpiece Theater" treatment, as if the program is there only to act as neutered cliff notes version to show English classes; however, this "Brideshead" has a small feeling of that mentality.

It's unfair, however, that this new "Brideshead" has a famous lineage in the 1981 Masterpiece Theater version that has loomed largely in the minds of the public since its airing. That version made Waugh popular again. It also had an Olympian cast, including a young Jeremy Irons and Lawrence Oliver, which would be an intimidating clientele at the coffee cart between breaks. In retrospect, that 1981 version had one flaw in that it was maybe too concerned with austere following the book and, at 11 hours, you felt every word. What was missing, however, in that microscopic approach was Waugh's overall feeling of sadness at time passed, and at his subtle, anarchic anger towards the confines of time and tradition, especially religious, which is what this new "Brideshead" captures.

It is the drunken revelry on the Thames that draws

Oxford student Charles Ryder's (aptly subdued Matthew Goode) attention to the beguiling Sebastian Flyte (perfect Ben Whishaw), whose life is one of a mannered Jim Morrison with a teddy bear companion. Charles is dreadfully middle class, and Sebastian belongs to an appropriately rich and daffy family, whose Catholic conventions make them even more exotic in rigid English society. Sebastian commandeers Charles one afternoon, and takes him to his stately home of Brideshead to see its collection of art, but inadvertently introduces Charles to his sister Celia (Anna Madeley), both of whom sense an attraction. The trio later spends a drunken holiday at Brideshead, sans Sebastian and Celia's rigid mother, whose emotional implications will last for 20 years, and will haunt Charles into the war.

Driving director Jarrold's "Brideshead Revisited" are his actors, especially the three leads, all of whom give superb, contemplative performances. Goode is an actor that has a strong everyman quality without being boring; Madeley is appropriately high strung without feeling inflated; but it is Whishaw who takes a dangerously embellished character—the tragic, drunken effeminate eccentric—and resists the urge to play it up. Whishaw finds a subtle poignancy of a man rotting away and walks away with the movie without leaving the rest of the film stranded. It is a feeling that Waugh, the clandestine optimist, would have appreciated.

It is the drunken revelry on the Thames that draws

—Joe Ramirez



Calendar

Author Visits

Gurbaksh Chahal Towne Center Books will host Gurbaksh Chahal, author of "The Dream" who will sign his book at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal. For information, call Penny Johnson at 931-3405 or visit www.chahal.com.

Saturday Salon Fourth Street Studio and People Who Write and Tell Stories hosts Saturday Salons on the third Saturday of every month, at Fourth Street Studio, 2235 Fourth St., Livermore. Each reading includes one or two featured writers (prose and poetry), followed by open readings. Contact Karen Hogan at 456-3100 or e-mail 4thstreetstudio@pacbell.net.

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 10 a.m., Tuesdays, or alternately at 7 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 21-Feb. 25, at TVU's Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Ste. 120, Dublin. Call 998-0038 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Clubs

American Business Women's Express to Success Stephany Gonser, owner of Work Simplified, will be the guest speaker at this club's meeting at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. This event is free for members; \$5 for non-members. For information, e-mail emailinfo@expresstosuccess.com or visit www.expresstosuccess.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.pleasantonmothersclub.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

Fenestra Winery's Soup and Wine SOUPer Bowl! Weekend Fenestra kicks off the New Year by pairing some warm and tasty soups with our award-winning wines Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 24-25,

at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$10; \$5 for non-drinkers and children, including a glass, buffet plate, soup samples and recipes. Call (800) 789-WINE (789-9463) or visit www.fenestrawinery.com.

Friday Night Funnies Johnny began performing comedy in 1984 after quitting graduate school in a move his parents named: Operation \$40K Down The Drain. Come hear his "Friday Night Funnies" from 8-9:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at Willow Tree, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$15, plus two item minimum. Call 519-0280.

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. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. 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.

Film

'Epic Recession and Global Financial Crisis' This public event opens with a potluck and meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. At 7 p.m., an one hour filmed lecture will be given by Dr. Jack Rasmus with a Q&A afterwards. This event is free, but donations of \$3 are accepted. Call 462-3459.

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

14th Hats Off America Run and Walk Join Sparky George at the 14th annual Hats Off American Run and Walk from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at Sycamore Valley Park, 1211 Holbrook Dr., Danville. Cost is \$35. Proceeds benefit Gold Star Military families. Call 855-1950.

Book Locker Books Fundraiser BookLockerBooks.com sponsors several local charities including Amador Valley High School. During January from 3-7 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, if you order a pizza from You-Be's Pizza, 6280 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite C, 20% of your purchase will go to the school. Visit www.booklockerbooks.com or call You-Be's at 462-3500.

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.

Kids & Teens

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 chil-

dren acting and singing in Russian, with a storyteller providing English narration. This event is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

The Zoo Drives to the Library! Children from Pre-K through 1st grade are invited to meet and learn about various small animals as the Oakland Zoo's ZooMobile from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free tickets will be issued a half an hour before each session at the Children's Desk. Attendance limited to 100 per show. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

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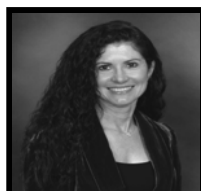


For more information, contact Nickie Hoppe at events@pleasantondowntown.net or (925) 484-2199

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Weekend Preview



'Offbeat' music to the ears

Recycling and music go together hand in hand with high-energy ScrapArts Music. Five athletic musicians play 145 original instruments fashion from industrial scrap and offbeat materials that range from accordion parts to artillery shells. Put on by the city's Civic Arts program, the show is described as "power percussion" and includes unique choreography.

ScrapArts Music performs at 8 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$25-\$35 for adults and \$15-\$25 for students. To purchase, visit www.civkartstickets.org, call 931-3444 or go to the box office.

Lectures/ Workshops

Best Time to Buy Apartments and Learn Financial Strategies Come and learn "Why Now is the Best Time to Buy Apartments" and "Learn Wealth Building Financial Strategies" at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, at Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. This event is free, but registration is required by calling 272-4667.

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.

Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Metreon, City View, 4th and Mission streets, San Francisco. Tickets are \$75, \$100 and \$125; visit www.inaugurationwest.com. Some proceeds will benefit All Stars Helping Kids, Omega Boys Club, Museum of the African Diaspora and San Francisco Black Film Festival's Urban Kidz Program.

Live Music

The Best of Doo Wop It's a blast from the past with music of Doo Wop legends and rock 'n' roll hall of famers at 8 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$55, or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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: 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.

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.

Obama Inauguration Northern California will celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama from 6-10 p.m.,

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Seniors

Day Trippers Come and enjoy an outing to the Great Mall in Milpitas from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 28, meeting at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$20 for residents; \$23 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Dessert Dance "Put on your dancing shoes" and dance the night away at the Friday Night Dessert Dance featuring the "Trebblemakers" from 6:30-9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 23, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advance tickets are \$7 for residents and \$8 for non-residents; \$8 for residents and \$9 for non-residents at the door. Advance reservations are recommended; call 931-5365.

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.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A general support group for people with cancer and their loved ones meets from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcoba.org.

Caregiver Support Group Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group ClutterLess (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. They meet at 7 p.m. every Monday at the St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 200-1943 (woman) or 297-9246 (man) or visit www.clutterless.org.

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

Death Support Group The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden or one with warning, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock. Join this group at 7:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. The meetings are open to all, regardless of religious orientation. Call Mary at 846-5377.

Domestic Violence Support Group On-going support for women dealing with conflictual issues is available at Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. A fee of \$40 for every eight weeks or based on a sliding scale. Call Elizabeth, 667-2799.

Family Members of Frail Elders This group is to support family members as they experience the many emotions involved in supporting, caring for and loving the frail elders in their family. It

meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Eden Villa Assisted Living, 4115 Mohr Ave. Call 872-8721.

Fibromyalgia "Plus" This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Please come fragrance free. Call Teresa at 443-5707 or JoAnna at (510) 276-0530.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 27. Call 443-4098 or 447-6158.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group

meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Volunteering

Tri-Valley Haven Training Course Volunteers are needed for Tri-Valley Haven's 65-hour domestic violence and sexual assault volunteer training course starting Tuesday, Jan. 20. Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older. After the course, volunteers will be certified and required to volunteer one shift per month for one year at Tri-Valley Haven. Applications can be found at www.trivalleyhaven.org; call Jean at 449-5845, ext. 2711.

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by Gerarda Stocking

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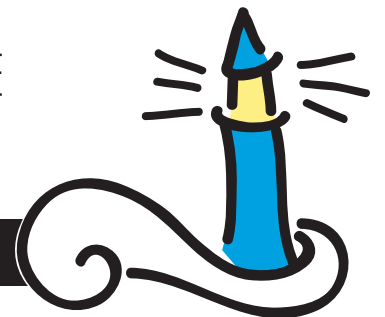
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Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)
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The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 21 - Aug. 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator & employer. (AAN CAN)
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 Seeking full/part-time help for a family daycare. Hours are 2-6pm. Someone with prior childcare experience preferred, but open to those who truly love working with children and energetic. Must be TB tested and fingerprinted if possible, hopefully you can begin this week. Email us your resume....lindahobbs_091@yahoo.com

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 Pleasanton Downtown Assoc. seeks an organized, detail-oriented, assertive, diplomatic and energetic individual to coordinate downtown events. Flexible schedule and community event experience required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office. Fax resumes to (925) 484-3064 or email director@pleasantondowntown.net

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 Great location near bart, mall, quiet location, avail. now.

809 Shared Housing/Rooms
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Danville, 1 BR/1 BA
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 Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$675.00
 Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - 600/Month

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Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA
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Pleasanton, 4 BR/4+ BA
 Prestigious Ruby Hills! 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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Lot 14,070+/- sq.ft.

Information Deemed Reliable but NOT Guaranteed



Bank Owned
1153 FETZER LN, OAKLEY
Listed at \$229,900
4 Bed/2 Bath



Bank Owned
263 MARTIN AVE, LIVERMORE
Listed at \$294,900
3 Bed/2 Bath



2 Unit Duplex
256 MCLEOD ST, LIVERMORE
Listed at \$829,000
2 Bed/1 Bath

Real Estate

Home sale of the week



10 Crested Oak Ct
San Ramon –
\$1,025,000

This 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom single story home features hardwood floors, a gourmet granite & maple kitchen, a 3 car garage, and a prime private cul-de-sac location with views of the valley. Home listed by Jackie George of J. Rockcliff Realtors. Buyers represented by Doug Buenz of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 463-2000.

Sales at a Glance

Source: California REsource

Dublin	Livermore	Pleasanton	San Ramon
Total sales reported: 1	Total sales reported: 10	Total sales reported: 8	Total sales reported: 36
Lowest sale reported: \$364,500	Lowest sale reported: \$205,000	Lowest sale reported: \$303,000	Lowest sale reported: \$159,000
Highest sale reported: \$364,500	Highest sale reported: \$759,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,650,000	Highest sale reported: \$1,134,500
Average sales reported: \$364,500	Average sales reported: \$455,000	Average sales reported: \$864,000	Average sales reported: \$736,333

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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**



OPEN SUN. 1-4

5517 Corte Sonora, Pleasanton

Spacious 3 Bedroom 2.5 bath home located in the popular Del Prado neighborhood with approx. 1886 sq. ft. of living space. Light & bright kitchen with breakfast nook area. Lovely formal dining and living rooms. Large backyard with side yard access and covered patio. Amazing value for Pleasanton.

Offered at \$664,000



Visit our websites to view all of our current listings
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3651 E. Ruby Hill Dr., Pleasanton



7 BR/6.5 BA, 7,673 sq. ft., with guest house & Grecian pool. **HUGE PRICE ADJUSTMENT**
Offered at \$3,200,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

836 Piemonte Dr., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Located on 11th & 12th fairways of Ruby Hill Golf Course. 4 BR/3.5 BA + Bonus, 3,845 sq. ft. **Offered at \$1,699,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

1691 Orvieto Ct., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Exquisite European estate home features 4 BR/4 full, 3 half BA, bonus room, office, 5,803 sq. ft. **Offered at \$2,575,000**

2130 Alexander Wy., Pleasanton



COMING SOON! 2 BR/2 BA. Stylish and impeccable! Call Susan Schall at 397-4244 for a preview. **Offered at \$442,000**

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

4 Bedrooms
106 Danvilla Court \$1,450,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 734-5052

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms
3637 Carrigan Common \$219,000
 Sat 1-4 J Rockcliff 583-2169
1929 Monterey Drive \$259,950
 Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 339-3077
306 Clarke Avenue \$369,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 339-3077
2177 Shetland \$399,950
 Sat 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 583-2177

4 Bedrooms
1061 El Caminito \$530,000
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 580-4513
6299 Owl Way \$595,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential Ruby Hill Realty 417-2250

PLEASANTON

1 Bedrooms
7880 Canyon Meadows Circle #E \$264,950
 Sat 12-3 Hometown GMAC 426-3834

2 Bedrooms
5589 Baldwin Way \$479,000
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-1909
3913 Alma Court \$475,000
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

3 Bedrooms
5573 Baldwin Way \$490,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 683-8708
475 East Angela \$538,000
 Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569
7748 Creekside Drive \$599,950
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 998-1798

2283 Camino Brazos \$619,900
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3826
673 Abbie Street \$899,500
 Sat 2-5/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

4 Bedrooms
1531 Greenwood Road \$649,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ruby Hill Realty 417-2250
4128 Pleasanton Avenue \$1,036,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569
321 Diamond Court \$1,125,000
 Sun 1-4 ReMax Accord 484-0700
4914 Middleton Place \$1,475,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 462-9175
611 Merlot Court \$600,000
 Sat 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

2320 Crestline Road \$645,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080
4306 Columbine Drive \$669,000
 Sun 1-4 Remax Accord 918-3395
1766 Orchard Way \$710,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

1831 Halcyon Court \$819,000
 Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653
1898 Halcyon Court \$699,850
 Sun 1-4:30 Re/Max Accord 998-5312
2586 Skimmer Court \$875,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

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

SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms
3417 Bermuda Court \$790,000
 Sun 1-4 Prudential 918-0500

PLEASANTON—HUGE LOT!



3913 Alma Court
 3BR/2BA rancher in Val Vista features a newer roof and side yard access. Hardwood floors. Walk to shopping and award-winning elementary school. Call Fred at 437-5830. *New Price \$475,000*

Rick Hemy 484-0506
Fred Hemy 437-5830
Rick@ValleyBrokers.net Fred@ValleyBrokers.net

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Featured Properties



Livermore – An adorable 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with approximately 1573 square feet of living space. Many nice features including new carpet in the family room, Wilsonart flooring, tile accents, and decorator paint. The bathrooms have been upgraded and there are dual pane windows and crown molding. You won't want to miss the large rear deck and will appreciate the trees offering privacy.
559 Oriole Avenue \$449,000



Livermore – Very open and spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with approximately 2004 square feet and a large 8000+ square foot lot. Nice kitchen with granite slab counters, stainless steel appliances and a center island. Tile flooring, decorator paint, new lighting and ceiling fans, custom window coverings, wood blinds and a 3rd car parking added. Large yard with great privacy.
6299 Owl Way \$595,000



Pleasanton – New price on this desirable 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, Pleasanton Valley home with approximately 1854 square feet, fresh paint and hardwood and tile floors. Lovely living room, dining area, eat-in kitchen, and family room with fireplace. Nice yards with large screened in room. Great location that allows you to walk to shopping, schools, and the park too.
1531 Greenwood Road \$649,000



San Ramon – Lovely five bedroom, 3 bathroom home located on a deep 1/3 acre cul-de-sac lot that's perfect for backyard play. Updated throughout, including a remodeled kitchen featuring maple cabinets and granite counters. Additional features included remodeled baths, raised panel doors, newer carpet, crown molding, dual pane windows, and newer A/C. Move in condition!
124 Marsh Place \$829,999



Pleasanton – "Coming Soon" A fabulous 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom single story, Milano plan in the Premia neighborhood of Ruby Hill. Almost 2300 square feet and an approximately 8163 square foot lot. Lovely hardwood floor entry, kitchen and family room. The wonderful corner lot is a gardener's paradise, with flowers, rose bushes and fruit trees. A beautifully maintained home and yard.
506 Trebbiano Place \$1,099,000



Livermore – Stunning, Acacia floor plan located in the Alden Lane Estates. Downstairs guest bedroom with private bath. Master suite with fireplace. Kitchen features cherry cabinets, stainless steel appliances, and granite tiles. 4055 sq ft with bonus room in garage, presently a theater room with full screen. Back yard has an elegant pool with 5 waterfalls, 3 fire-pits, and a complete outdoor kitchen.
2498 Allegro Street \$1,245,000



Pleasanton – A four bedroom, four and a half bathroom Ruby Hill custom-built Mediterranean home with a fabulous pool, spa, and waterfall, breathtaking views, a great floor plan, and a motivated seller! Two master bedrooms, one upstairs and one downstairs, a grand foyer with spiral staircase, a large kitchen, nook, family room, a full wet bar, a four car garage and much more!
3863 Antonini Way \$2,299,000



Pleasanton – The best Ruby Hill has to offer in terms of lot, home and features. This property sparkles and its pool and spa are perfect for entertaining. Its lush landscape makes it a secluded oasis, and the views transport you to Napa. Five bedrooms, 6 full bathrooms and 2 half bathrooms, approximately 9200 square feet and an approximately 3/4 acre lot. You won't be disappointed!
1393 Via Di Salerno \$3,999,000



Ruby Hill Division - 101 E. Vineyard Ave., Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550

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FREMONT
42200 VARGAS ROAD \$2,700,000
Once in a lifetime ownership opportunity. Great original horse ranch, over 56 acres. Location, location, location. Barn, easy freeway access, original home, 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, existing caretaker trailer, carport, level acreage and hillside acreage, even views. Property being sold "as is".
KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536

www.DavidAzimi.com

SAN RAMON
2024 FEATHERMINT DR \$1,299,999
Previous Model Home in Gale Ranch, Beautiful Kitchen, Amazing Views of Dougherty Valley, In-Law Quarters with Separate Kitchen! The home is missing various elements and will require work.
DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580

OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-4:30

CASTRO VALLEY
4988 KATHLEEN AVE \$469,999
"Upper Valley" neighborhood. 3 bedroom, 2 bath tri-level home with 2 car garage, large corner lot with newer fences and enhanced landscaping. Stamped concrete driveway and walkway leads to the brick entry. Downstairs is the family room and a full bath which may also be a good in-law or apartment and more!
MICHAEL TESSARO 925.519.9099

Wine Country Unique Opportunity

LIVERMORE
0 HANSEN ROAD \$1,499,000
Under the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan this site is designated for a "Wine Country Retail". Conceptual drawings for 25,000 SF conservatory/retail/event center are available. Owners interested in joint-venture or partnership Carry-back possible. Seller RE agt.
TONNI CHANDLER 925.251.2556

www.RebeccaLEvans.com

LIVERMORE
5665 VICTORIA LN \$1,299,950
Sharp horse property located on a private road nestled amongst custom estates in the heart of the Livermore wine country Almost 6 flat acres with 4 barns & fenced pastures Updated Kitchen w hickory cabinets, newer s/s appl, laminate flooring throughout.
ELIA VALENCIA 925.784.0667

RUBY HILL LAND

PLEASANTON
3748 SELVANTE ST \$868,000
Incredible Views of Mt. Diablo and Pleasanton Hills. Located on a Quiet St. with Complete Approved Building Plans for a 6300+ Sq Ft Mediterranean Style Dream Home. Bldg Prmit Pd. New Retaining Wall is Securely in Place. Owner Financing for Lot.
COREY GREEN 925.899.6011

www.GailHenderson.com

LIVERMORE
776 TRAVISO CIR \$899,000
Gorgeous, stunning, it has it all and at a great price! 5 BR/4.5 Baths, GAME ROOM/home gym, den, formal dining, formal living, LARGE family room. SYA. Slab granite, stainless steel 2bl ovens, WOLF cook top, blt in refrigerator. Crown molding. Huge yard. Don't miss it!!
GAIL HENDERSON 925.980.5648

www.MadelineWalker.com

LIVERMORE
937 VIA SEVILLE \$519,000
Unbelievable 5-bedroom, 3 bath home for the price. Like new inside. Remodeled & updated in 2004. 50-yr roof. Energy efficient - solar electric powered. Almost no PG&E bill! A/C plus attic fan + whole house fan. Dual-pane windows. New patio & walkways. Mini vineyard- make wine with the neighbors!
MADLINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991

www.HuntoonHomes.com

LIVERMORE
674 CATALINA DR \$509,000
Popular 4 bedroom single story in Desirable Sunset West neighborhood. Close to schools/shopping, easy commute location. Gorgeous remodeled oak/tile kitchen. Beautiful hardwood and tile floors. Inviting Cobblestone paver courtyard. This is your dream home! Call Today!
KAREN HUNTOON 925.455.7020

www.wilson-fontaine.com

LIVERMORE
878 WAVERLY CMN \$585,958
Serene sanctuary in the rolling hills! A perfect home for entertaining with high ceilings, a flowing floor plan, a gourmet AEK with a hardwood floor and open living-dining room with a private glassed atrium featuring the tinkling sound of a water fountain. Sanctuary or Party?
KAREN WILSON-FONTAINE 925.583.2171

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

LIVERMORE
1061 EL CAMINITO \$530,000
Perfect for entertaining. Hardwood floors, crown molding built ins. Newer roof, sidewalk, driveway, master bath tub w/jet Close 2 school, shopping in sunset west. Sqft does not reflect addition, done w/ permit.
ANGELA ADAMS 925.580.4513

www.MadelineWalker.com

LIVERMORE
302 ALDEN LN \$1,100,000
Former Model home with many custom extras by builder. Fam. Rm w/surround sound. Soft water system. Backyard re-landscaped in 2006 w/custom self-maintained free-form pool. Outdoor kitchen w/BBQ, 2 refrig's, wine kegger, lights, music! Custom Gazebo. Tropical paradise! 1 story + loft! No HOA
MADLINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

LIVERMORE
564 ANDREA CIR \$675,000
Simply Beautiful! Quality built and impeccably maintained. Move right into this 4 bedroom 2 bath home on private circle. Loaded with upgrades including New Roof 06; New Furnace/AC in 07; Hickory Laminate Flooring, Andersen Windows & More. Close to all conveniences: Parks, Shopping, Labs, Schools.
TOM E. CHANCE 925.487.6360

www.TonniChandler.com

PLEASANTON
6045 ACADIA COURT \$599,990
Beautifully maintained 3 bedroom 2 bath single family home close to downtown Pleasanton. Additional patio/sun room not included in the square feet - great for family entertaining! This home features a spacious kitchen updated with granite style counters, XL farmers sink, skylights, hardwood, etc.
TONNI CHANDLER 925.251.2556

Blackhawk 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.253.7001	Livermore 1983 Second Street Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd., #110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Walnut Creek 100 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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www.rockcliff.com

The latest from The 680 Blog

The Chronicle Hearts Pleasanton

The Chronicle took a break from its seemingly never ending doom and gloom, and featured a nice article on Pleasanton this past weekend. While as residents we are often focused on the issues and problems in the community, it is nice to see an outside writer's take on our town. All in all, we have a lot to be proud of, and Pleasanton remains an extremely attractive place to live. The writer does a nice job of capturing the spirit of Pleasanton:

If the city of Pleasanton - approximately 65,000 people residing on 21.7 square miles of land located about 25 miles east of Oakland in the Amador/Livermore Valley - were somehow miraculously transformed into a person, she would, by all accounts, live up to her name: Attractive, intelligent, naturally charming and imminently sensible, she would be the kind of woman a man would have no qualms about bringing home to meet Mom.

Certainly, Pleasanton has maintained, and many would argue, enhanced its reputation as a premium destination in the

East Bay. There are many factors that have contributed to this, including:

Top quality Schools. Pleasanton has excellent public schools, certainly among the best in the Bay Area. Over 90% of the high school graduates from Foothill High and Amador Valley High go on to colleges or universities. And Pleasanton has been able to attract and retain excellent teachers, most of whom have advanced degrees.

Charming Downtown. Downtown Pleasanton is the heart of the city, giving it a historic and cultural identity that somehow provides a counter-balance to the hustle and bustle of our suburban lifestyle. It provides both residents and visitors alike the opportunity to dine, shop, or just stroll along Main Street, maintaining a link to years past when life was not so hectic. Especially true when Good Guys has their Hot Rod & Custom show periodically >>Go to www.680Homes.com to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

Office
925.251.1111
Direct
925.463.2000
680Homes.com



Expert real estate services

Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.



Stunning 4 bedroom, 3 bath single story with huge bonus room. Over \$300k in recent upgrades, large private yard with outdoor kitchen & sparkling pool, and more!
Offered at \$1,499,000



Luxury 2 BR, 2 BTH condo in premium gated community! Totally upgraded throughout with granite counters, stone flooring, fireplace and private balcony!
Sold for \$309,000



Luxurious single story with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, and a 1/3 acre cul-de-sac lot with views. Represented buyers.
Sold for \$1,025,000



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500
www.blaiselofland.com
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

PLEASANTON HEIGHTS

NEW LISTING



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 TRENERY DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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

OLDE TOWNE

OPEN SAT 2-5 & 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 finished 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

PLEASANTON VALLEY (BIRDLAND)

SOLD



5058 BLACKBIRD WAY, PLEASANTON

Highly upgraded customized home in the heart of Birdland. New remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, hardwood flooring, and appliances. Five bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. Approximately 2,745 square feet. Extensive new interior paint. Tile roof. Professionally landscaped, private rear yard with mature trees. Super location! Walking distance to all levels of school, neighborhood park, and aquatic center. Many upgrades... must see!
OFFERED AT \$899,500

Silver Oaks Estates

SOLD



BRAND NEW SINGLE LEVEL CUSTOM HOME

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 for more information

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



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



SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,599,000
Gorgeous 5bd/3 full/2 half bathrooms, bonus room, 5200+/-sf custom home in Golden Eagle Estates with stunning views on over 1 acre with a pool! With every upgrade imaginable this is truly a find!

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



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

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,295,000
Private Upgraded Custom Single Story. Large Private grounds (16,308+/-sf). Solar Powered Home. 4bd, downstairs bonus room (5th bd opt). 3,437+/-sf including separate guest unit/cabana.

MARY JANE DEERING BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,175,000
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!

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.

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.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$710,000
4bd/2ba, Pleasanton Valley. Refinished wood floors and updated kitchen and baths. Dining room opens to family room. Covered patio in rear yard for all weather entertainment. 1766 Orchard Way

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 backsplash, stainless appliances, alarm, indoor laundry, updated baths, side yard.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$645,000
Country Model, 1854+/- sf, 4bd/2ba, refinished floors, new windows, newer roof, fresh paint with side yard access. Close to schools and shopping. 2320 Crestline Road

ANDY PORYES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



FREMONT \$549,950
This remodeled Morrison Meadows home offers 2 designer baths, 3 bedrooms, pool, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, dual pane windows, granite fireplace and more! Ready to move into. 40720 Robin Street

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$509,950
Beautiful 5bd/2ba Sunset West property. Features include updated baths/formal LR with bay window/custom two-tone paint/central heat and air/dual pane windows/plus a newer roof.

STASIA POIESZ OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



LIVERMORE \$369,000
Cute 3bd/2ba home. Everything has been done in and out. Move-in condition, regular sale. 306 Clarke Ave

MARY JANE DEERING BY APPT



DUBLIN \$357,000
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!

STASIA POIESZ OPEN SATURDAY 1-4



LIVERMORE \$259,950
Darling 3bd/1ba single story in a very nice complex in Livermore. Close to shopping, freeway, schools and parks. Move-in condition. 1929 Monterey Dr

