

Partly on track

BART station moves forward, apartments on hold > **page 5**

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Hot button issue

Staples Ranch talk moves to Feb. 24

> **page 5**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Downtown splendor

Discover Main Street's hidden gems

> **page 13**



Courting Washington

McNerney, mayors reach for stimulus funds to help the Tri-Valley **PAGE 16**



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

A 'sentinel' of freedom moves to Pleasanton

Jay Wilkerson was honored by the City Council last Tuesday. A former Army sergeant who suffered severe head injuries three years ago when rocket-propelled grenades struck his Humvee, Wilkerson has now moved to Pleasanton under a Sentinels of Freedom program that helps seriously wounded veterans re-start their lives. Championed by Councilman Jerry Thorne and its founder Mike Conklin, Sentinels is unique in the U.S. in that it uses contributions and grants to provide comprehensive support systems for some 30 recovering soldiers like Wilkerson to again assimilate in communities and fulfill their ambitions. In Wilkerson's case, Pleasanton mentors in the Sentinels organization include David Cooper, Doug Miller and Judy Lloyd who will be working with Wilkerson to move into an apartment the Sentinels organization is providing in the Promenade apartment complex on Case Avenue. He also has been given a car and a full four-year college scholarship, and he's already signed up for summer classes at Los Positas College.

Wilkerson's positive, forward-thinking attitude is remarkable given what he's endured since the attack on March 28, 2006, which killed his buddy sitting next to him and left him almost brain-dead and in a coma for the next 39 days. Flown to the Army's main hospital in Germany and then to Walter Reed in Washington, Wilkerson was startled when he first awoke, unable to speak, talk, walk or to recognize most friends and family. He had a nurse post an American flag by his bed so he would be reassured he was actually back in the States. He credits the Army's skilled medical teams and their strenuous physical and mental therapies for starting him on the road to recovery. In some injuries, brains cells rebuild and reconnect, and Wilkerson found his own responding to the treatments. As he recovered, he was transferred to the Veterans clinic in Palo Alto, one of four special treatment cen-

ters for brain damaged soldiers with a high success rate for nearly full recoveries. Once he'd crossed that threshold, he became a candidate for the Sentinels of Freedom for the life-changing opportunities the organization provides.

Wilkerson stopped by the Pleasanton Weekly Tuesday in advance of his City Council tribute. Knowing about his injury, I was amazed at how far he's come in just three years. He's agile, smart, excellent in conversation and has a great sense of humor, some of it a bit deprecating even. In the early days of his recovery, he told me, he had to write everything down, including what we were saying, because short-term memory still wasn't functioning. Then he bought a PDA to make that part of recovery easier. Wanting to drive again (the Sentinels provide a free car along with an apartment), he took a driver's ed simulator course in Palo Alto, passing the course only after showing that he could keep driving while tuning the radio. Still a problem, though, he joked, are groceries. He likes to eat and enjoys certain foods, such as fish, the most. But often he'll come back from a shopping trip with chicken instead of fish and, the next day, more chicken. He has stacks of the same cereal boxes and canned foods. "I guess it's back to writing everything down," he said.

With the Sentinels' help, Wilkerson has a temporary job with the city of Pleasanton, helping out in different departments as needed until he finds permanent employment, again through the Sentinels. When he can, Wilkerson also plans to work with the Sentinels and other organizations to help those with disabilities. In his recovery, he has found shortcuts around obstacles, such as testing the temperature of liquids with his elbow since his fingertips have lost their sensitivity. Most important, he has found outreach and friendships to be healing forces, maintaining a positive can-do attitude that he says makes the future brighter—and do-able. ■

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About the Cover

In Washington, mayors from Tri-Valley cities, including Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman (facing camera) confer with Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) on local projects in need of federal assistance. Cover photo by Andy Stone. Design by Rick Nobles.

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Streetwise

Q: What steps do you take to monitor your children's Internet usage?

Asked At Starbucks



Julie Jackson

I have two girls who each have a computer in their bedroom. I trust my girls and they know not to talk to strangers on the Internet. They are on instant messaging a lot so I make it a point to check in on them frequently and look at their list of friends to make sure I know everybody. If I see an unfamiliar name I always ask them who the person is.

Sheryl Trembley

I bought a program called KidSafe that allows a parent to set up how much time their child is on the Internet, and it filters out websites or key words that may be inappropriate for children. My kids are 7 and 9 so they basically use the Internet to play games but that still doesn't ensure that inappropriate sites won't pop up, which is why I bought the software.



Matthew Grabowski

My 17 year old has a computer in her room and my 13-year-old daughter is only allowed to use the family computer in an open area. When my oldest daughter was younger, we set up a software program where we could limit the of hours she was on the Internet. The program also allowed us to set up her friends list on instant messenger so we knew she couldn't add anybody new without approval first.

Darlene Philippe

My children are older now, but my youngest was in high school when MySpace first became popular. I had heard horror stories about things happening on the site, so I made an effort to make sure I was taking the right steps to monitor her usage. We wouldn't allow her to be alone in a room while she was on the computer and I limited her usage to one hour a day.



Cindy Kryslar

We use the computer a lot for school research projects or book reports, but I always make it a point to type in the subject matter for my kids so they don't see anything inappropriate. My friend's daughter needed to find information on the book "Little Women" and when she did a search using those words, there were a ton of inappropriate sites that popped up so I don't want to take any chances.

zzz If Santa didn't finish your list, maybe Cupid will!

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Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

Newsfront

News Digest

Wheels bus fares to increase

The board of directors for the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority approved fare increases to Wheels bus routes Monday. Executive Manager Paul Matsuoka said ticket prices will rise from \$1.75 to \$2 and monthly passes will go up from \$53 to \$60. Seniors, who rode free from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays and the disabled, who rode free, will now have to pay \$1 to ride. Paratransit rides increased to \$3.50, up 50 cents. The increases will help LAVTA make up for a projected \$1 million budget shortfall, Matsuoka said, adding that there is the threat of further revenue decline upwards of an additional \$1 million. Also approved were changes to routes 3, 12, 18 and 20. Saturday service will be cut on Saturdays for Route 18, while other modifications will include pickup times, a reduction in buses, and the merging of routes.

LPC welcomes new state chancellor

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-18th) and LPC President DiRionne Pollard welcomed on Wednesday the new State Community College Chancellor Jack Scott the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. Currently 2.7 million students attend California's 110 community colleges. Scott said the schools have been mostly spared from the budget cuts because the department of finance believes they play a role in stimulating the economy by quickly turning students into the workforce.

Be a fearless creator

Artists and art coaches Tricia Poulos Leonard and Kim Pace will teach the Fearless Creating class through Amador Valley Adult Education starting Feb. 12. It meets from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays through April 9 and is based on the work of Eric Maisel, Julia Cameron and other experts in the area of creativity. The nine-week class is \$65 for Pleasanton residents. Learn more by calling 426-4280 or visiting www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/EducationalServices/AdultEducation.

Corrections

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

Residents share concern over parcel tax

School board needs to cut \$8.7 million despite special election outcome

by Emily West

As the state continues to negotiate its budget, the Pleasanton Unified School District board is listening to residents' concerns over the program cuts and a possible parcel tax.

In an effort to be transparent, the district held a special workshop meeting was held Tuesday night, and was followed by the second of two budget forums Wednesday night at Foothill High School.

Tuesday night, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Luz Cazares said there wasn't much

to report on the state's \$41.6-billion deficit, but had anticipated news in the coming days. The federal government's passage of the stimulus plan may be helpful for the district, however, it doesn't appear to be much help to their current situation.

According to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal, PUSD would need to cut \$8.7 million in order to maintain a balanced budget. With the 2008-09 school year halfway over, the cuts would directly impact the 2009-10 school year. A list of potential reductions has been released by the district, and includes cuts to counseling and

specialist staff, administration and the elimination of class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grade as well as ninth grade.

While a parcel tax could gain substantial revenue to help alleviate the state's funding shortfall, the idea has been hotly debated in recent weeks. At the first budget forum Jan. 26 and the Jan. 27 regular board meeting, participating audience members appeared to favor a parcel tax.

Yet, Tuesday night's public speakers were more concerned about the burden of another tax. Some suggested using business strategies in

looking at cutting expenses. Board member Jamie Yee Hintzke said she wishes regular business practices could apply to the current situation.

"People say, 'Well, just reduce your workforce by 10 percent,'" she said. "It just doesn't work that easily in public education, unfortunately."

Trustee Pat Kernan said there isn't enough information to go forward on a parcel tax at this time.

"Until we know [the final state] budget, we can't go to the public because we don't know what we're

(continued on page 7)



The West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, seen here, is scheduled for completion later this year. Apartments, retail shops and a hotel are on hold due to the economy, according to the project's developer.

BART station moves to finish line, apartments put on hold

Developer Windstar Communities says housing project can't move forward until credit markets open back up

by Janet Pelletier

Next month, work will begin on constructing pedestrian walkways on the Pleasanton and Dublin sides of the new BART station as the project continues on pace for a late 2009 opening. But development on apartments, retail shops and a hotel all walking distance to the rail station has stalled.

"We're on hold right now until the capital markets loosen up

and we're able to secure some adequate construction financing," said Eric Heffner, vice president of Windstar Communities.

La Jolla-based Windstar received approval from the City Council in September for a 350-unit apartment complex adjacent to the rail station and parking structure on Stoneridge Mall Road and had planned to complete construction to coincide with the new station opening.

The transit-oriented development was planned to have mostly one- and two-bedroom apartments where residents are close enough to access BART on foot. The plan includes 70 affordable apartments for low- to very-low-income tenants with rents for those designated as affordable starting at \$861 for a one-bedroom. Plans for the four-story buildings called for ground-floor retail, including

(continued on page 7)

Councilman pulls plug on Staples meeting

Hot button debate on Stoneridge extension now set for Feb. 24

by Jeb Bing

In an extraordinary but not unprecedented move, Pleasanton City Councilman Matt Sullivan pulled the plug on consideration of a development plan for Staples Ranch this week, arguing that the discussion was far a-field from what the City Council had publicized for its meeting.

Sullivan's action came close to 11 p.m. Tuesday after more than 150 had filled the council chambers for what many thought would be the council's approval of the 124-acre site. The public hearing started about 7:30 p.m. with 20 speakers addressing the council.

After a short break requested by Sullivan, the council resumed its meeting to start its review of the comments and the 100-plus pages of documents. City staff, following the Planning Commission's action earlier, recommended approval of the development plan.

Sullivan said the public discussion and comments by some councilmembers were swerving away from just approving the broad Staples Ranch plan and an accompanying environmental impact report to focusing on the possibility of extending Stoneridge Drive.

For years, completion of Stoneridge Drive has called for in the General Plan has been a hot button issue for Pleasanton politicians, with many living along the road-

(continued on page 8)

Pleasanton Sheraton owners default on loan

Hotel occupancy rates in Tri-Valley down 12 percent in fourth quarter from previous year

by Janet Pelletier

According to Alameda County property records, the financiers of the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel filed a notice of default Jan. 16.

AG Inn at the Mall LLC, which owns the 170-room hotel on Stoneridge Mall Road, has not made payments on a \$12.2-million loan by Mesa West Real Estate Income Fund LP, confirmed a partner with AG Inn at the Mall.

Rick Swig, of hotel consulting firm RSBA & Associates, said a sharp decline in hotel occupancy in the Tri-Valley is to blame for the financial situation. He said many companies have reduced or completely cut off discretionary spending—meaning no business travel for conferences and meetings. He estimated that the Pleasanton hotel occupancy rate declined 28 percent in December.

The hotel is in a prime location, surrounded by Stoneridge Shopping Center, Safeway's headquarters and is visible from Interstate 580 and the new BART station under construction. But despite that and a recent renovation to the hotel, Swig said the economy has trumped everything. He said the owners of the hotel, which is still operating as usual, are continuing to talk with Mesa West about solutions going forward.

Dan Evans, a senior vice president for Rim Hospitality, which manages the Sheraton, said in a statement that the hotel is still open and will remain so in the future.

"We are indeed open for business, right now and in the future," he said. "We understand the economic environment within the market and we're looking forward to the Tri-Valley's recovery in this. Within the last few weeks, we've seen an upswing."

The hotel has plans for \$500,000 in renovations to the club level, top two floors and lobby area that will be completed over the next 10 months.

Amy Blashka, director of the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's

Bureau in Pleasanton, said businesses are trying to do more with less and because of the economy's steep slump, customers know they have more buying power when it comes to hotel stays.

"I think everybody's suffering but we're trying to do our part and help supplement our hotels with our sales and marketing efforts," she said.

Blashka said hotel occupancy rates for the Tri-Valley region, which includes Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon, Dublin and Danville, have declined 12 percent in the fourth quarter (October-December), from 67 percent to 55 percent, compared with the same quarter in 2007.

One of the bureau's main roles is to generate leads—or potential business—for Tri-Valley hotels. The bureau works with clients interested in hotel stays by soliciting bids from area hotels on rates. Blashka said that while occupancy is down, there are some signs of improvement.

"We've seen an uptick in our leads for January, more than we've ever had in one single month," she said. "It was about 55 leads, when normally we would have 10 or 12 generated."

If business is picking up, clients seem to be expecting significant discounts on rates.

"People know the economy and they know that they probably have more negotiation and bargaining power and so like everybody else, the clients are also trying to do more with less too," Blashka said. "Maybe they're budgets are scaled back so they can't do the lavish meetings they've had but they still need to get together, so they're looking at ways to maximize their dollar."

Dave Culver, who is the finance director for the city of Pleasanton, said the city received \$782,000 in transit occupancy tax money in the fourth quarter of 2007. That same time period for 2008, the city received \$690,000, a nearly 12 percent decrease. ■

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Amador student tests positive for staph infection

School disinfects gym, locker rooms as student recovers at home

by **Jeb Bing**

A student at Amador Valley High School is under a medical quarantine after testing positive for a Staph infection—clinically called Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA), according to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

The infection can be spread through skin-to-skin contact and can even be deadly in some instances.

In an email sent to parents of Amador students Monday, Myla Y. Grasso, the district's public information officer, said district staff

"has cleaned areas including the gym and locker room with hospital-grade disinfectant."

"Usually, an affected person is no longer communicable after being on antibiotics for 24 hours," she said. "The student will return to school only after being cleared by a physician."

"There have been previous occurrences of MRSA in our district, but to the best of our knowledge, there has never been a case that has spread from student to student," she added.

The infection is commonly found on the nose and on skin

surfaces. To most, it's not serious and can be treated by antibiotics, but can be harmful if it gets into an open wound and reaches the bloodstream.

Some tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on preventing a staph infection include:

- Wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Keep your cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages;
- Do not touch other people's cuts or bandages;
- Do not share personal items like towels ■

Germain's court case continued to Feb. 26

Accused child molester pleaded not guilty at last court hearing

by **Emily West**

A court hearing for Henry Germain, the former Castlewood Country Club tennis pro who is accused of child molestation, has been continued to Feb. 26.

Germin, 62, was granted the continuance Jan. 26 by Judge Christine Moruza. He remains free on \$1.14 million bail since he was first arrested Sept. 2. He pleaded not guilty Jan. 9 to 16 charges of sex crimes against six female victims.

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

Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrance said cases like these can take some time. While additional investigation details have not been released, she said this is a "very strong case."



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.

Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department said no more victims have come forward. Prior to December, about a half dozen alleged victims came forward, according to Kelly, saying they were abused by Germain 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 Feb 26 in Department 704 at the county courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. ■

BART

(continued from page 5)

space for a smaller, urban grocery store that would serve apartment dwellers and nearby Hacienda Business Park workers.

Windstar also has approval for a 210-unit apartment building and office space on the Dublin side off Golden Gate Drive, now also on hold. Plans on the Dublin side

had previously envisioned a hotel, but Heffner said that may not be a viable market option any longer.

"There's no marketplace to build a hotel now that they're in a slump industry-wide," Heffner said. "Until the economy picks up, there's little demand for a hotel site."

The West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, which will soon break up a 10-mile gap between the Castro Valley and Dublin/Pleasanton stations, will be the 44th in the transit system. Riders

will board trains via the pedestrian bridges that lead to the median on Interstate 580.

BART spokeswoman Luna Salaver said the \$80-million price tag is already funded, with one-quarter of the financing coming from private partnerships, \$50 million from BART revenue and \$15 million from local and state funding. She declined to give a specific opening timeframe for the station, saying completion is dependent on when the pedestrian walkways are finished. ■

School

(continued from page 5)

asking for," he said. "We do know it's going to be a shared sacrifice."

Despite the debate over the parcel tax, the district still needs to submit a balanced budget to the county before the special election would be held. That means the board would still need to identify \$8.7 million in reductions at this coming Tuesday's

regular board meeting. By Feb. 24, it will need to consider identifying which positions would be cut. Notices of possible layoffs would be sent March 15 and final layoff notices would be sent May 15.

Should the board decide to pursue a parcel tax initiative, they would need to finalize the ballot language and call for an election by Feb. 24 to be held in June. The deadline to file with the county by March 5.

Board meetings are at 7 p.m. at the district offices, located at 4665 Bernal Ave., and are open to the public. For more information regarding the district's response to the budget crisis, visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us or call 462-5500.

PTA Council President Joan Laursen said they have put together an online petition to legislatures to oppose cuts to education funding. To sign, visit www.pleasantonpta.org by Feb. 15. ■

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Mardi Gras party to benefit Hacienda Helping Hands

Arrive in costume, make a mask at bash honoring Leadership Pleasanton

Pleasanton may be 2,250 miles away from New Orleans, but the Palm Pavilion at the county fairgrounds will give guests a slice of the Big Easy Feb. 19.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Leadership Pleasanton's Class of 2009 will be throwing a Mardi Gras Bash with comedy from Tommy T's, jazz music from Pleasanton middle school bands, tarot card readings, mask making, silent auction tables, a no host bar and a grand prize drawing. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Hacienda Helping Hands charitable campaign. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes.

The grand prize is a "New Orleans Experience" and will be awarded at 9 p.m. Comedian Ed Tracy and Brenton the Magician will supply the laughs and raffle prizes will be given from donations by The

Course at Wente Vineyards, The Rose Hotel, Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse and The Hilton Hotel.

Leadership Pleasanton is a program to develop community leaders, co-sponsored by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the City of Pleasanton. Each year, 25 to 30 people participate from a variety of sectors: Pleasanton history, local government, health and human services, business and economics, public safety, media, education, environment and transportation and parks and community services.

Hacienda Helping Hands is a collaboration of the Hacienda Business Park and the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. To advance the business park's community involvement objectives, Hacienda launched the community giving initiative with the foundation, which is a tenant in

the park. The campaign will benefit local charities that serve children, youth, families, and seniors in the community; educational projects; environmental initiatives; and cultural arts programs.

Admission to the Mardi Gras Bash is \$5 for Leadership graduates and \$20 for all other guests. Credit cards and checks will be accepted at the door. Seating is limited to 200 occupants. Reservations for the event can be made by emailing Kate D'Or at kate@pleasanton.org.

Donations will be accepted for those who are not attending, but wish to support the charitable campaign. Checks can be sent to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce offices, made out to "Hacienda Helping Hands," Attn: Kate D'Or, 777 Peters Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

—Janet Pelletier

Staples

(continued from page 5)

way opposed to extending it to El Charro Road, where motorists could also travel onto Interstate 580.

After hearing some of the speakers and seeing few from the neighborhood that would be affected, Sullivan used his councilman's right to continue a council meeting one time. City Attorney Michael Roush confirmed to sev-

eral frustrated councilmembers that Sullivan had the right to stop the meeting since no proposal had yet been made on the development plan and EIR.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the council will meet again on the plan, when the Stoneridge Drive issue will also be discussed, on Feb. 24. Residents in a wide area who could be affected by connecting Stoneridge Drive to Livermore will be notified by mail. ■

Take us Along



Super Weekly

Bob, Rodney, Jerry, Pablo, Ron, Ronnie and Kirk, members of the Tailgaters Barbecue Party, attended the first ever NFL Tailgaters competition in Phoenix, Ariz. These guys are die-hard Raiders fans and were invited to compete because they won a local competition.



Weekly cheers

Bruce and Darlene Gomes, Rick and Mickey Hammel, Dan and Cheryl Hansford, Pat and Jeanne O'Brien, Richard and Bev Roman and Dean and MaryAnn Wagerman, along with the captain of the ship, pose at a poker table on a Tahitian cruise. It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it.

Navigating through market volatility.



These are volatile times in the financial markets.

Given substantial declines in asset values over the past year, and continued volatility on a daily basis, you may be wondering about how this will impact your goals and what to do next regarding your portfolio.

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Thursday, February 19, 2009
6:00 P.M.

Faz Restaurant
5121 Hopyard Road
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Speakers: David Persin, VP, CFM
Ted Simos, VP, CFM

Guest Speaker: Jamie DeNitto
WisdomTree Asset Management

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Opinion

Editorial

Staples Ranch on hold again

For investors, owners and representatives for organizations that have waited patiently for years to win approval of their multi-million-dollar developments planned for the 124-acre Staples Ranch, Tuesday's inaction by the Pleasanton City Council was disappointing, to say the least. Along with a crowd of 150 others, they were there with the expectation that after scores of workshops, meetings and public hearings, the council would finally approve development-related planning documents and an environmental impact report to allow them to proceed with their projects. They included:

- Hendrick Automotive Group, which wants to build a new auto mall on its 37-acre portion of Staples, next to the junction of I-580 and El Charro Road, directly across El Charro from a 180-plus store outlet mall that Livermore has approved.
- Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, a 45-acre senior continuing care community to be developed by Continuing Life Communities (CLC), with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living residents.
- Fremont Land, an 11-acre retail development, which would include various shops and also may include a food market, bank and restaurant.
- Sharks Ice Center, a two-story, four rink facility to be built by San Jose Arena Management, a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, with the facility to occupy about 10 acres of a 17-acre public park that the Sharks would also develop for the city.

After a presentation of these plans by city staff and about 3-1/2 hours of public comment, the council took a brief break, returning with a bombshell announcement by Councilman Matt Sullivan that he was postponing any further discussion by the council for the night. If there was outrage, it didn't show, although several councilmembers showed disgust. For those at the hearing waiting for final approval of their costly plans and the consultants who had waited with them, there were heads shaking in bewilderment and renewed questions if they could ever build in Pleasanton.

We don't fault Sullivan for exercising his right as a councilman to postpone discussion of any agenda item once. He had listened carefully as some speakers and, with their questions, several on the council swerved away from the development and EIR approvals to the long-controversial proposal to extend Stoneridge Drive the Mohr-Martin neighborhood, where it now ends, through Staples to connect to El Charro and Jack London Boulevard, which Livermore is extending. This extension, which proponents, including Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, have touted during numerous discussions on the overall Staples plan, is seen by many as a logical part of building out Staples Ranch. Haggerty, in fact, has offered to finance the project, estimated at \$6 million, if the Pleasanton council gives the go-ahead.

Sullivan has always been lukewarm on extending Stoneridge, agreeing to keep the possible future roadway in the city's new General Plan and in a Memorandum of Understanding the city signed with the county to develop Staples. But, like Councilwoman Cindy McGovern and hundreds opposed to the extension, he would agree to put the road through only when State Route 84 is widened and freeway improvements reduce rush hour traffic jams on 580. His fear is that frustrated commuters will leave 580 to cut through Pleasanton on Stoneridge to connect with I-680 south.

As the discussions Tuesday turned more and more to the Stoneridge extension, he called a halt. Stoneridge wasn't part of the council's posted agenda for the public hearing and he wants anyone in Pleasanton who has a view on the roadway to have a chance to talk. They will, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, when everyone will have a chance to do it all over again. We hope those who plan to spend millions of dollars to bring new business and senior housing to Pleasanton in these tough economic times come back, too. Other cities would bend all rules to have the size and kind of development that just got delayed again in Pleasanton. ■

Guest Opinion

Save our schools, property values with a parcel tax

by Beth Limesand

The current discussion about the proposed parcel tax for schools in the Pleasanton Weekly thus far has me worried. For those homeowners who balk at paying a parcel tax to keep our schools from making devastating cuts to their programs, I must say that I think you are missing a very important point.

Pleasanton property values have stayed relatively stable during these trying economic times, unlike our neighboring cities. Over the last year, prices for Alameda County houses have dropped on average 26.7 percent. Our closest neighbors, Dublin and Livermore, have dropped 15.9 percent and 25.1 percent respectively. Pleasanton, on the other hand, has dropped a mere 2.9 percent. (Source: Real Estate Report www.rereport.com)

Why has Pleasanton property retained so much more value than the property value of the county and of its immediate neighbors?

Two words: our schools. Pleasanton Unified School District is consistently at the top of the county's schools. Our schools have a state ranking of 10 out of 10 of all California elementary schools. This rank comes from the 2007 California Academic Performance Index (API) Base report. By contrast, Dublin schools average ranking is 9, Livermore schools range from 2-10, with an average of 7.6. (Source: <http://school-ratings.com/counties/Alameda.html>). US News and World Report ranked Foothill and Amador Valley High Schools among the top 3 percent in the nation in December 2007.

Many people want to move here because of our schools. This, in turn, keeps the real estate inventory (the amount of homes for sale at a given time) low, and our sale prices high. Supply and demand.

So, what will happen when our tests scores fall? Don't think they will?

Think we can increase class sizes for children in grades kindergarten through third grade from 20 to 30 students, and cut reading specialists and counselors without conse-

quence to the children's education and test scores? That the teachers will be able to cover the same amount of material as thoroughly for 30 students as they did for 20? That seems unlikely. Because there will be 10 more hands raised needing the teacher's individual attention, and 10 more students who potentially could really benefit from the intervention of a reading specialist or a counselor, but will be unable to get that help because these positions will be eliminated by proposed cuts.

The proposed cuts to our schools include the following:

- Elimination of the class size reduction program, resulting in a 50 percent increase in class size for grades kindergarten through third grade, and ninth-grade math and English classes;
- 50 percent decrease in reading specialists for elementary schools;
- Complete elimination of many academic intervention programs designed to help students struggling with reading, writing and language arts ;
- 50 percent decrease in counseling staff to elementary students (that will mean one counselor per 2,400 students);
- Decreasing counseling ratios in middle school and high school to one counselor per every 600 students (imagine what happens when kids need help planning for college);
- One vice principal to serve all nine elementary schools;
- 33 percent decrease in vice principals for secondary schools;
- Complete elimination of elementary strings and band programs;
- Complete elimination of athletic coaches for all schools;
- Elimination of support for English language learners;
- 50 percent reduction of library hours for elementary and middle schools.

A parcel tax will go a long way to fix this. Vote for it. The estimated \$15/month investment is worth it. Protect our schools, our home values, and our children's futures.

Beth Limesand is the president of the Mohr Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. She's lived in Pleasanton for 13 years with her husband. They have a 12-year-old daughter at Harvest Park Middle School and a 9-year-old son at Mohr.



Letters

Teachers should remain balanced

Dear Editor,

I fear for my country after reading the "Around Pleasanton," ("2nd-graders comment on the inauguration," Jan. 23, page 3) I hope Ms. Vernon was not telling the children what to think or write. Where are the counterpoints?

Namely:

- I fear for our country because Obama appears too reconciliatory towards this nation's enemies.
- I fear that Obama will create a new socialist country where I will be required share the fruits of my labor with those who choose not to work.
- I distrust a leader who gives salary increases to cabinet members one day only to announce the next day they agreed to a salary freeze.
- I fear a leader who holds closed meetings and releases only his version of the dialog and photos.

• I fear for our representative democracy when the new president signs more executive orders in the first few days than other presidents.

• I wonder where the equity is when the person I must send my taxes to claims to have made "simple mistakes" whereas if I do the same, I must appear in court.

• I wonder why the president didn't ask for the money donated for the extravagant inauguration activities by large corporations be donated to charities.

• I wonder what our president believes the meaning of "volunteer" is, when he speaks of "mandatory volunteer work" for our youth.

I firmly believe the editor has every right to offer their opinion to the readers. An elementary school teacher needs to be balanced and not allowed to brainwash our children.

Richard Schwaninger

County's priorities shouldn't be utility work

Dear Editor,

After reading the Jan. 30 Pleasanton

Clarification

In a letter, ("Pleasanton Hotel closure a product of greed," Letters, Jan. 9, page 9), writer Daniel Ormonde stated that "Kolln Hardware, then Hap's and now the hotel" have closed. Mike Connors, owner of Hap's, points out that his restaurant has not closed but continues to be one of downtown Pleasanton's main upscale restaurants. In fact, the Downtown Rotary Club recently began holding its weekly luncheons there, moving the meetings from the Pleasanton Hotel when that restaurant closed on New Year's Eve.

Weekly newspaper's editorial ("Let's beautify Stanley Boulevard some other time," Opinion, page 9), I have to agree with the editor's opinion of the Stanley Boulevard beautification project. The price of this project is too high in light of the terrible fiscal situation the county is facing now.

The county's highest spending priorities should be to help people stay employ and feed the hungry. What I am suggesting is no more than what our new president is proposing for our country a few days ago. Let's all work as a team to help the less fortunate. If the CPUC Rule 20A money must be spent, let's spend

it on road resurfacing or refilling pot holes on those county roads that needed it most. I, for one, would not mind looking at the utility poles until the county/state is financially better. I know you will make the correct decision for all of us.

Thank you for reading my email.

Richard Yue

Sellers should pay points, buy down interest rate

Dear Editor,

Our local real estate market is not as bad as others but it still needs a boost. I call on all real estate agents to convince their sellers to pay points and buy down the interest rate for the borrower. Three things will happen, 1) you will have more borrowers who will qualify, 2) the seller will usually spend less money in the buy down than they would have in lowering the price and, 3) the property values will stay higher because the price has not dropped as much.

People buy on payment and the buy down of the interest rate lowers the payment. On top of those reasons, there are great tax advantages—check with your CPA.

Dave Walden

Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist

Editorial on the money

Dear Editor,

The editorial ("Steps we can take to keep our schools great," Editorial, Jan. 23, page 10) was a clear message. Thank you for that service.

Peter Miller

Kolln restoration a job well done

Dear Editor,

Now that the Kolln building is

about to re-open, I want to congratulate the owner who conceived and paid for a splendid restoration of the premier historic structure in Pleasanton, which will now grace downtown for another 100 years or more. Thank you, Bud Cornett.

Peter MacDonald

Learn to laugh about it

Dear Editor,

Regarding Gina Channell-Allen's "Talking Points" in the Jan. 23 issue, "Was it a killer headline or too blithe for a grave subject?"

Since dying, like being born, is something we're all going to experience, it is a delight to find that Ms. Channell-Allen doesn't mourn about something that's beyond our control. Happiness is the ability to adapt to just such conditions. (Adapt and die, but enjoy the journey.) Laughter is the best treatment in such a situation, it seems to me if there is a great beyond, dying really doesn't matter. Life may not be fair but it is certainly final why not keep one's sense of humor about all that leftover skin and bones? It's the person, not the packaging we should remember.

Thanks for your wickedly funny article (I nearly died laughing!) P.S. And Hope Hospice is a great organization.

Janet Linfoot

Bicyclists: slow down, hikers: stay on trail

Dear Editor,

As a frequent hiker in the Pleasanton Ridge area, I have once again had an unpleasant experience with a speeding bicyclist on the trail who did not signal she was coming. Four hikers were suddenly taken off guard and the calm spoiled. The same scenario happened on our way up the trail, only this time on a blind corner.

I believe that most bicyclists are kind and do signal their approach, but those who don't and just speed along may find that children, dogs and perhaps wildlife will not be able to get out of their way in time. Please, bicyclists, slow down, keep off the hiking-only trails, and hikers, don't hike off-trail. Let's make our park experience fun, respectful and safe for all.

Carol Kato



CONGRATULATIONS!

2007 Bay East "Rookie of the Year" Susan Schall
- Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty, Pleasanton

2008 Bay East "Rookie of the Year" Ray Marquez
- Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty, Pleasanton

2008 Bay East "REALTOR of the Year" Shawna Jorat
- Keller Williams Benchmark Properties, Fremont

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Community Pulse



Police Report

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

Jan. 25

- Theft:
 - 12:24 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 9:59 a.m. in the 1300 block of Whispering Oaks Way; petty theft
 - 11:26 a.m. in the 1000 block of Laguna Creek Lane; petty theft
 - 1:19 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stonecliff Vista Lane; grand theft
 - 6:00 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
- Shoplifting:
 - 4:10 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 6:00 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 26

- Theft:
 - 8:24 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; grand theft
 - 12:07 p.m. in the 5700 block of Hansen Drive; identity theft
 - 12:40 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft
 - 8:40 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
 - 11:05 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 11:05 a.m. at the intersection of Brockton and Pimlico drives; worth more than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:59 a.m. at the intersection of I-580 and Santa Rita Road; DUI
 - 7:11 p.m. at the intersection of Sycamore Road and Amber Lane; public drunkenness
 - 8:41 p.m. at the intersection of Franklin and Johnson drives; DUI
- Disturbing the peace:
 - 8:59 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Mall Road and Laurel Creek Way

Jan. 27

- Petty theft:
 - 9:57 p.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane
 - 10:53 p.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- Burglary:
 - 2:48 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; vehicular
 - 7:26 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 9:57 p.m. in the 2500 block of Wilde Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 10:29 a.m. in the 100 block of Neal Street; worth more than \$400
 - 9:34 a.m. at the intersection of Lin Gate Court and Lin Gate Street
- Under the influence of a controlled substance:
 - 12:18 a.m. at the intersection of Delucchi and Armstrong drives
- Found property:
 - 10:15 a.m. at the intersection of Mill Creek Place and East Gate Way
- Lock picking:
 - 7:26 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Jan. 28

- Theft:
 - 2:53 p.m. in the 9000 block of Longview Drive; grand theft
 - 8:50 p.m. in the 1800 block of West Lagoon Road; petty theft
- Stolen vehicle:
 - 8:14 a.m. at the intersection of Belleza Drive and Flora Court
 - 8:35 a.m. in the 4300 block of Douglas Court
 - 10:42 a.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road
- Burglary:
 - 7:25 a.m. in the 3000 block of Briggs Court
- Vandalism:
 - 8:40 a.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo Catalina
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:11 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Willow Road; driving with marijuana
 - 6:26 p.m. at the intersection of Navajo Court and Santa Rita Road; DUI

Jan. 29

- Petty theft:
 - 12:01 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:18 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 6:11 p.m. in the 6100 block of

- Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:47 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- Vandalism:
 - 12:57 p.m. in the 3600 block of Manchester Street; worth less than \$400

Jan. 30

- Theft:
 - 7:40 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery
 - 8:39 a.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; grand theft
 - 5:00 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; petty theft
 - 10:16 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:51 a.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; worth less than \$400
 - 7:51 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hopyard Road; worth more than \$400
 - 3:03 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth more than \$400
 - 5:37 p.m. in the 5800 block of Corte Mente
- DUI:
 - 2:01 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Tanager Drive
 - 8:33 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Sunol Boulevard

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PAP 130, Anne Fox, Appellants (PDRW-13, Katie Belmonte/Complete Wireless Consulting, Applicant)**
 Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of a design review to install a wireless communication facility that includes rooftop equipment with screening and three building mounted antennas at 7050 Johnson Drive.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
 Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

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

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC)

Monday, February 9, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.
 Pleasanton Senior Center 5353 Busch Road

- Review, discuss and adopt the YMPIC Operating Procedures
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair

GENERAL INFORMATION

Callippe Preserve Golf Course Hosts Free Junior Clinic for Kids

Callippe Preserve Golf Course in Pleasanton will host a 'Free Junior Clinic' for youth ages 7 to 17 on **Saturday, February 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.** Golf professionals from the Callippe staff will be on hand to provide instruction on full swing at the course driving range in this one-hour free clinic. Golf clubs and balls will be provided, or participants may bring their own clubs if they prefer. For more information or to register for this free clinic, please contact Doug or Jake at (925) 426-6666, or visit the Callippe Preserve Golf Shop. Callippe Preserve Golf Course is located at 8500 Clubhouse Drive in Pleasanton.

Free Consumer Affairs Clinic for Residents at Pleasanton Senior Center

Pleasanton residents can learn about their consumer rights at a new **Consumer Affairs Clinic** offered through the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at **5353 Sunol Boulevard**. Hosted by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the clinic will be held from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning **Tuesday, February 3, 2009**. Just call **931-5365** to make an appointment with a Consumer Affairs counselor. The type of disputes typically handled through the program relate to refunds, repair/rework, service, product exchange, electronic and appliance service contracts and warranty issues.

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

Elmo Turner

Elmo Henry Turner, a 54-year resident of Livermore and Topock, Ariz., died Jan. 3 at Valley Care Medical Center. He was 90.

Born Oct. 18, 1918, Mr. Turner was the youngest of 12 children of Andrew J. and Martha (Ambrose) Turner of Green Forest, Ark. At the age of 13, he rode a freight train to California seeking adventure and a life away from dairy farming. On Sept. 1, 1944, he enlisted in the Army and served in Burma as a heavy truck driver until the end of World War II. He returned to Hayward to marry the love of his life, Mary Lou Cooper, on Sept. 7, 1946. They moved to Livermore in 1955 and purchased a retirement home in Topock, Ariz. in 1974. They were happily married for 57 years before Mary's death in 2003.

Mr. Turner was employed as a truck driver for Alameda County through the 1960s when he bought his own tractor and became an owner/operator leasing himself and his Peterbilt to Warren Transportation in Union City. He continued as a teamster until his retirement in 1983.

He loved retirement, rock hunting in the desert, gardening, fishing and telling tall tales to his grandchildren.

He is survived by his sons, Donald E. Turner (partner Brian Fernandez) of Livermore, Gary W. Turner of Newark and Dale R. Turner of San Bruno; four grandsons, including Donald B. Turner (Michelle) and Jeffrey A. Turner, both of Pleasanton; and two great-grandchildren, Trevor and Auburn Turner, also of Pleasanton.

Services were held Jan. 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore. Private inurnment will be in Topock, Ariz. Contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Livermore.

Marjorie A. Walker

Marjorie A. Walker died peacefully Feb. 1 after a brief illness, with her family by her side. She was 80.

Mrs. Walker was born June 7, 1928 in Cambridge, Mass., the beloved daughter of Elizabeth and Patrick O'Neill.

She attended Cambridge High and Latin School, followed by business school. She worked for the Army Intelligence and the Veteran's Administration during her career. She received decorations from the secretary of the Army and the mayor of Boston, honoring her bravery in supporting firefighters fighting an extensive fire in the hold of the SS

Black Falcon Victory which was docked at the Boston Army Base.

She was the loving wife of Leo Walker of Pleasanton, who cherished her during her 54 years of marriage. They were wed at St. John's Church in Cambridge, Mass. on June 11, 1955. She spent many rewarding years as a homemaker raising their five children.

Mrs. Walker is survived by her loving husband, Leo; sons, Steve Walker (Debbi), John Walker (Laurel), Bill Walker (Melissa), Bob Walker; daughter, Betsy Jones (Doug); grandchildren, Kimberly, Christopher, David, Christopher, Julia, Katie, Kirsten, Victoria and Kate; brother, Bill O'Neill; sister, Betty Leppzer; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Robbie and Ted Leppzer, who spent several years with the family during their childhood and who she loved dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Livermore. A mass will be held at 10 a.m. today at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Burial will be private.

Barbara J. Hylton-Bailer

Barbara J. Hylton-Bailer died Jan. 26 at the age of 69.

Ms. Hylton-Bailer was born in November 1939 and was a resident of Pleasanton.

She is survived by her daughter, Carey Hylton; son, Scott (Josie) Hylton; grandchildren, Chelsea

Hylton-Ransome, Elijah and Brianna Hylton, Aldrin Montana and Devon McMillan; her best friend, Cookie Clark and longtime partner, Lupe Espinoza. She was preceded in death by her aunt, Bernice and uncle, Pat.

Services were held Feb. 2 at Callaghan Mortuary Chapel in Livermore.

Rene Marie Margaroni

Rene Marie Margaroni died Jan. 22 at the age of 68.

Ms. Margaroni, a resident of Pleasanton, was born Jan. 19, 1941 in San Francisco.

Her grandchildren were truly the joy of her life as well as socializing with friends and shopping for her grandchildren. She leaves behind family and friends that will miss her endearing charm and love of people.

She is survived by her children,

Steve and Jennifer; daughter-in-law, Taren; son-in-law, Michael and her beloved grandchildren, Joseph, Jonathan, Zachary and Jessica.

She will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Daly City beside her mother and father. Per her request, no services will be held.

Elizabeth "Libby" Shutts

Libby Shutts, artist, family matriarch and zucchini connoisseur, died peacefully Jan. 26, surrounded by her loving family.

She was a longtime resident of Hollister and Palo Alto, where she was a substitute schoolteacher for the Palo Alto Unified School District for many years. She later worked in the planning office at Stanford University until her retirement. The past six years, she resided in Pleasanton. Mrs. Shutts was a respected Chinese brush painter who loved to share her passion and talent with everyone she could, and her cheerful and polite demeanor ensured that she was universally loved. Her sense of humor, even in times of pain or crisis, was legendary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hamilton Shutts. She is survived by three children, Judson Shutts, Peter Shutts, and Janet Rowe; and five grandchildren, Scott Rowe, Monica Shutts and Shannon, Cameron and Taylor Shutts.

Services were held Jan. 30 at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to California Baron's Ball, c/o the American Cancer Society, 747 Camden Ave., Ste. B, Campbell, CA 95008.

Robert H. Ronald

Robert H. Ronald died Jan. 31 at the age of 88.

Mr. Ronald was born May 6, 1920. He was a Pleasanton resident for more than 40 years. He served in the United States Coast Guard during World War II and was retired from Union Local 302.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Dorothy Ronald; his son, Robert and daughter-in-law, Joanie from Yuba City; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cathye Rahlves and his mother-in-law, Hazel Partridge.

Services were held Feb. 4 at Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery in Hayward.



Engagements

Felicia Widjaja & Erik Tenbrink

Art and Joan Tenbrink of Pleasanton are proud to announce the engagement of their son, Erik Tenbrink to Felicia Widjaja, the daughter of Harun Widjaja and Linawati Siantar of Indonesia.

Erik is a graduate of Las Positas College and San Jose State University, earning his Bachelor of Arts in communication studies. He is now studying at JFK University to earn a master's degree in professional psychology, while working in the field of counseling. Felicia earned her Bachelor of Science at the University of California at Davis and her master's degree in public health at St. George's University in Grenada, where she continues to study for her medical doctorate. Her specialty



is international public health.

The couple plan to marry in Singapore and hold a reception by the San Francisco Bay soon after they finish their respective professional schools.

Weddings



Stephanie Moffat & Ryan Callahan

Stephanie Anne Moffat and Ryan Michael Callahan were married on Oct. 25 at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton.

Richard Callanan, a relative of the bride, officiated the ceremony.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at Casa Real where guests enjoyed dinner and dancing into the evening.

Stephanie is the daughter of John and Nancy Moffat of Pleasanton. Her attendants were Kari Snyder, Britney Best, Traci Hamilton, Sarah Safir, Jessica Safir and Lindsay Callahan. Stephanie is a 2000 graduate of Amador Valley High School and a 2004 graduate of Chico State University.

Ryan is the son of Mike and Sharon Callahan of Pleasanton and David and Carole Safir of Los Gatos. He was attended by Matt Gingery, Eric Callahan, John Moffat, Brandon Chapatte and Tim Foley. Ushers were Dylan Safir and Bryan Plotts. Ryan is a 2000 graduate of Los Gatos High School and a 2004 graduate of Chico State University.

The couple honeymooned in the Rivera Maya and resides in Pleasanton.

Deaths, Weddings and Births are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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Living

Treasures of Main Street

Finding fun in the little things downtown for the young and young at heart



Sarah Grace Adkison, 8, demonstrates the fun had by flipping over a bike rack on Main Street.

by Katie Lyness

It's easy to excite a kid. That's probably because they notice little things in life that mostly go unnoticed by adults. There are at least 10 fun treasures on Main Street that kids really enjoy.

Sara Grace Adkison, 8, and Jenny Lyness, 7, love flipping over the green, upside down U-shaped metal bars (bicycle racks) along Main Street. Lots of people pass by them every day and never think to themselves that they could hang upside down on them. Kids also enjoy saving up their pennies in order to buy jellybeans from the machine at Savvy Seconds. It's the only place in town where you can actually buy something for a penny! Savvy Seconds is a great shopping spot for teenagers, who like expensive brands, but can't afford them at their full price. Debbie Lopes, the owner of Savvy Seconds, enjoys selling clothes to teenagers and not just adults because it helps them live a "green" lifestyle by renewing and reusing instead of buying something brand new.

Other places many kids like to go are Tully's Coffee to get a Dixie-cup sized chocolate or vanilla ice cream; it's just the right amount so they can eat it while strolling down Main Street, looking at all the bright colors in the shop windows, finish it and then still be hungry for the next meal of the day.

It's not surprising that kids also enjoy getting ice cream at Cold Stone Creamery, where they can choose every last detail to make their ice cream perfect. For example, they can choose what type of cone they want (coconut-dipped, chocolate covered or sprinkle-covered, etc.), if they want a cup or a cone, and then decide if they want a big or small cup and what they want on it (chocolate syrup, sprinkles, or maybe even gummy bears). Downtown Pleasanton also has the drive-through Meadowlark Dairy, where a kid can get a swirly ice cream cone and even have fun while waiting in line for it because there is so much to look at on the building's mural. There is always something new to notice on the mural, like the expression on one of the cows that seems to change depending on the time of day.

Another place to go is the Towne

Center Books where kids can sit up in the white chair on the window platform, looking like a mannequin while reading a book in the store window. The bookstore is great because it's not one of those big chain companies. It's quaint and charming. The people who work there are friendly and can answer most questions about any book and all questions on where to find a particular book.

Also, lots of kids love when grown-ups can connect with them and are fun to talk to. This makes Murphy's Paw another great place to go. The store workers are friendly and inviting, and a dog (or two!) is almost always in there to play with.

And at Café Main, there are deep trays of coffee beans under the windows so a kid, or even a grown-up, can run their hands up and down in the beans. Fiddling around with the coffee beans that way looks, feels, sounds and smells really good, all at the same time.



Katie Lyness

And active kids love to hop-scotch where the sidewalk along Main Street has a hop-scotch pattern. Most grown-ups don't even notice the pattern but for kids this is a big deal. The wooden bridge at the bicycle store is also a big deal for kids because it's fun to run on and feels like a boardwalk at the ocean.

For very fair arcade games, New York Pizza is great because it has a pinball machine and other games where kids actually have a very good chance of winning, unlike other the arcade games in other towns where it is almost impossible to win. For example, there's a good chance of winning three superballs for just two quarters with the pinball machine. Usually just one superball that size costs at least a quarter.

One last thing that kids love to do in Pleasanton is to just enjoy themselves with their family and friends during a happy day in our great downtown. It's almost always sunny outside so a kid can just walk, skip, jump, run, race, spin or even cartwheel down the sidewalk in all their glory. Any kid, and any grown-up with a young attitude, can really appreciate all of downtown's great, little treasures. ■

Katie Lyness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She is a sixth grader at Pleasanton Middle School.

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The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
 ★★★★★
 Rating: PG-13 for brief violence, sexual content and language

2 hours, 47 minutes

Edgy auteur David Fincher ("Fight Club") puts imagination to the test in this sentimental fantasy that packs a visual punch.

In early-century Louisiana an unusual child is born on an unusual day: the day that a local watchmaker unveils a backwards-moving clock to signify sadness over a painful personal loss. The baby looks like a wizened old man and isn't expected to live.

With the persistent nurturing of boarding house doyenne Queenie (Taraji P. Henson)—who found the abandoned child on her doorstep—baby Benjamin beats the odds and continues to thrive, so well that he appears to grow younger as he advances in years.

In whimsical "Amelie" fashion, Fincher and screenwriter Eric Roth (who based "Button" on F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1921 short story of the same name) skew heavily to mortality and fate and the way we are touched by those we meet along the way.

To that end Benjamin's meeting with 7-year-old Daisy (Elle Fanning) has a profound effect on his life, her presence a stabilizing force that ebbs and flows throughout the years. Benjamin and the adult Daisy (Cate Blanchett) inexplicably meet halfway on the age spectrum—on her way to the graceful golden years and his to ultimate youth—a joyous and profoundly sad state of affairs.

There's a liting loveliness to the lives and loves of this beguiling man-child: a tour of duty on a hardscrabble tugboat that doesn't really work (too long), a passionate romance with a "plain as paper" ambassador's wife (Tilda Swinton) that does. The core theme is you never know what's coming, applicable to every facet of the capable and clever narrative.

"Button" wouldn't be the success it is without the abundant gifts of Pitt and Blanchett, who are asked to inherit the subtleties of childhood to old age without missing a beat. With the help of some eye-popping technology (Pitt's wrinkled face on a Gollum-like body) and astounding age makeup (Blanchett in her early 20s, 50s, 80s—wow) the pair are virtual knockouts.

Human exploration is king: coming of age with a local hooker, a brief tussle with WWII, treks to the Himalayas and a late-in-life connection with a long-lost father (Jason Flemyng). The Brad Pitt voice-over is emotionally detached but beneficial.

"Button" is more journey than movie, every scene an artistic impression of the nuances of maturing. If, according to Benjamin Button, our lives are defined by opportunities, even those we miss, don't let this be one of them.

—Jeanne Aufmuth



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By **Lolita**

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Being Julia Morgan

Historian Betty Marvin to play Hearst Castle architect

Ever wonder what famed Bay Area architect Julia Morgan was like?

Get a glimpse into the life of the Hearst Castle designer Feb. 19 as a part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, sponsored by the Museum On Main.

Impersonating Morgan will be Betty Marvin, a historian and preservation planner at the Oakland City Planning Department's Cultural Heritage Survey project. Marvin

has degrees from Stanford and UC Berkeley and the portrayal is based on extensive and ongoing primary research.

Morgan lived from 1872 to 1957 and struggled to become an architect, but was the first woman to graduate in architecture in 1902 from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She became a California icon for her distinctive Craftman and Mediterranean designs, social

conscious, and early success in a male-dominated profession.

The lecture series begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19 at Lynnwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations are requested. For more information about this event, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

—Emily West



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Poetic Pleasanton

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

A winter's moon is mysterious and romantic. Poets and dreamers have gazed at in and wonderment looking for signs. I am no different.

Man in the Moon

In the moments before dawn
when air is still and darkness thick
she awakes to the sound of the moon
whistling an old love song.

Bare feet skim cold wooden floors.
Nightshirt's hem sways in heartbeats rhyme.
She opens the window flooding the room
with ancient sighs of sod and heather
and the impious greeting of winter's solstice.
She rests her trembling hand against the win-
dow ledge

and gazes at the lustrous moon.
White and pure casting magic enchantments
it hangs in the winter sky.

She sees neither curse nor crater
only his face shimmering down on her.



Martha Meltzer

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

A PRIMER ON CAPITAL GAINS

"A capital gain is an increase in the value of any capital asset that you own," says a USAA article on the subject. A good example? Real estate. Stocks, bonds, personal property and collectibles are also capital assets, and when you sell any of them for a higher price than you originally purchased them, you have realized a capital gain, and you will likely have to pay a tax on that gain.

But let's return to real estate. If you bought your personal residence several years ago for, say, \$450,000 and you sell it for \$650,000, there's an obvious \$200,000 gain, much of which you can simply put in your pocket as profit from the sale. And capital gains from the sale of personal residences, as you probably know, get very special treatment.

If you file jointly as a married couple, you can exempt up to \$500,000 in capital gains from taxation in the sale of a personal residence in most cases. That means your \$200,000 profit (less the costs of selling) simply won't be taxed. Thus, if you would normally be taxed in the 25% bracket on capital gains, you'll save roughly \$50,000.

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Andy Stone

Standing together on the Capitol steps in Washington, D.C. are (from left) Mayor Tim Sbranti of Dublin; Mayor Newell Arnerich, Danville; Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton; Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton); Mayor Abram Wilson, San Ramon; and Vice Mayor John Marchand of Livermore. The mayors met with McNerney and others in pursuit of federal help on Tri-Valley projects.

Courting Washington

McNerney, mayors reach for stimulus funds to help Tri-Valley

by **Jeb Bing**

With Congress still debating provisions of the \$885-billion stimulus bill, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), who voted for the House version, is working with Tri-Valley mayors to make sure this area gets its slice of the package to fund infrastructure projects and other initiatives.

The mayors met with McNerney last month to talk about projects that would benefit the region. These include federal help in restarting carpool construction work on Interstate 580, keeping the Veterans Administration hospital in Livermore, extending BART to Greenville Road in Livermore, beefing up the region's fledgling emergency communications system, restoring and improving the Delta and regional water quality, and launching more alternative energy programs to reduce the region's—and the country's—

dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuel.

McNerney has added another stimulus: Using some of the funds to guarantee or even buy bonds the state of California must sell to pay down its projected \$41-billion deficit, bonds that private investors are steering away from because of the state's poor credit rating.

"That would help," said Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, one of five local leaders who met with McNerney and others in the California delegation while in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "In our talks with Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-10th), she pointed out that federal funds usually come with a state matching requirement, which means our state has to get back on its feet financially."

With Hosterman in the Washington meetings were mayors Newell Arnerich of Danville, Abram Wilson of San Ramon, Tim Sbranti of Dublin and Vice Mayor John Marchand of Livermore. Their trip was one

in a series the five-city leaders have taken in the past several years to talk about projects that would benefit the region.

"Theirs are all very worthwhile projects so I am delighted to see the mayors here working together to present a really united picture of our Tri-Valley needs," McNerney said. "We have a great team here and many potential opportunities with the stimulus package now coming down."

In an interview with the Pleasanton Weekly, McNerney said he's on the same page with the mayors in identifying regional projects that deserve federal funding. Whether the stimulus package will ultimately provide sufficient funds locally is still unknown as both the Senate and House develop a final bill that will be signed by President Barack Obama.

"The days of earmarks for a congressman's pet project are over," McNerney said, "but there are 'formulas' that can be used to support worthwhile programs."

The mayors also see McNerney's influence as a second-term congressman increasing, an added benefit to the region. A long-time advocate of renewable energy who has helped the Pleasanton school district accelerate its rooftop solar energy program, McNerney has just been named to the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee. He has been assigned to that group's Energy and Environmental subcommittee and to another one on telecommunications. Because of his intense efforts to keep the Veterans Administration's hospital in Livermore and to add a nursing home and expanded medical facility in French Camp in the Central Valley, McNerney was given a special waiver by Congress to sit on two main committees, retaining his seat on the Veterans Committee while also taking a seat on Energy and Commerce.

Under former Congressman Richard Pombo, the Livermore Veterans Affairs hospital was targeted to be closed as part of a

cost-saving measure. McNerney made keeping the VA facility open as part of his campaign and he has vigorously lobbied in the halls of Congress to take it off the close-down list since being elected in 2006. He wants to develop the facility into a center for treating post traumatic stress and brain injuries for those wounded in the military.

"That's my vision and I'm pleased to find others in Congress who agree with that."

McNerney has invited General Eric Shinseki, the new administration's pick for Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to come to Livermore to see the facility and to discuss its role among cities and veterans groups in the Tri-Valley.

"One of the most important issues for our returning veterans is the VA's failure to adequately assist service members through the difficult transition from active duty to civilian life," McNerney said. "Nothing exemplifies this challenge better than the decisions (in the previous administration) to shutter VA facilities nationwide during a time of war."

The Livermore hospital serves more than 100,000 local veterans and is about 15 miles from Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin, McNerney said. Camp Parks serves the training needs of more than 20,000 Army Reserve and California National Guard soldiers, with the Guard now planning to expand its presence there.

"Moreover, in Fiscal Year 2006, the Livermore [facility] served 11,433 in-patients and out-patients, had 55,973 out-patient encounters, 470 nursing home admissions and racked up 35,831 bed days of care," McNerney said.

There are more priorities on the mayors' and McNerney's list where stimulus funds, other federal aid or tax incentives might be used.

Renewable Energy

McNerney, who has long championed solar power, worked to make energy independence a key part of the House stimulus package, providing incentives and funds to wean the country off foreign oil.

"The tax incentives [in the stimulus package] for renewable energy production are very encouraging," McNerney said. "Renewable energy companies are poised to expand, creating hundreds of thousands of stable, family-wage jobs and moving our nation towards energy independence and security."

"Wind, solar, geothermal and biofuels companies are harnessing natural energy sources while many new companies are conducting innovative research using algae and agricultural waste products to produce energy," he added. "They simply need an additional incentive."

He said that every dollar spent on solar and wind generation creates two times as many jobs for every dollar spent on petroleum.

"So this provision of the stimulus bill means that we're talking about creating American jobs, ending our dependence on foreign oil and spending the money here," he said. "For California and the Tri-Valley, it's a win-win situation."

Livermore Lab

Another item of vital importance to the Tri-Valley region is the workforce restructuring at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The mayors said the reduction-in-force at the lab is affecting the region. The future of the lab's national security mission appears finite and an effort to maximize resources with Sandia may further impact the scientific workforce.

McNerney said that now is the time for the Tri-Valley cities and the lab to join forces to emphasize the significance and future of energy technology,

research and development, and the role the lab can play in this future. With effective lobbying at both federal and state levels, he said, the Tri-Valley could develop into a premier energy technology center capitalizing on similar models at other labs, positively impacting the Tri-Valley's economy.

McNerney noted that with new high tech energy production at the lab using nuclear waste from reactors, scientists are now able to make radioactive material decay faster, producing heat and becoming more benign at the same time. He called it a promising, game-changing, home-grown American technology that's cost-effective, a hybrid between fusion and fission and a process the will create local jobs.

Water

Concerned about the drought and growing water shortage, the mayors and McNerney are looking to the stimulus bill for funds to rebuild levees and otherwise improve both the quality and capacity of water in the delta.

"The health of the delta is critical to our water health," McNerney said, as he encouraged the mayors to make their case with others in Congress to use stimulus funds to improve waterways and keep the delta healthy.

He said the mayors should be concerned over Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's support of a costly peripheral canal that would largely serve Southern California, which already has access to water from the Inland Valley and the Colorado River.

"We can use our expertise with a little more conservation and other ways to protect the delta without building the canal," McNerney said.

It was suggested that the Tri-Valley cities might consider developing a Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) to provide guidance to the Tri-Valley (as a region) to better meet long-term water demands in a more reliable and sustainable manner.

Some Tri-Valley water agencies use recycled water for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation, so devel-

oping a regional RWMP may help to further identify potential uses, projects, infrastructure development, and estimated costs that could be eligible for future federal funding opportunities). Those funds, McNerney said, would be available through the Bureau of Land Reclamation or other agencies. Since funds through the program must first receive congressional authorization, having McNerney on board as a supporter encouraged the mayors to press on with a master plan for an area-wide recycled water program.

Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center

McNerney, a strong supporter of the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, agreed to work with the mayors on seeking more federal support for this nonprofit education center that promotes homeownership education and rental opportunities in the area.

Dublin Mayor Sbranti, citing the high number of home foreclosures in the area, said the center needs \$3 million in additional funding for its program to identify foreclosed properties, rehabilitate them and then make them ready for first-time homebuyers at a reduced price.

So far, Wilson of San Ramon told McNerney none of those in the moderate-to-low-income categories who have been placed into TVHOC homes has defaulted on loans.

"When we come in and improve homes that are empty because of foreclosures, everyone benefits," he added. ■



Andy Stone

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) makes a point at House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing. Now in his second term, McNerney was named to the committee last month.



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Calendar

Author Visits

Book Signings BookLocker will host book signings and readings by Lynette Lierce author of, "Guardian of My Heart" and "Pieces of My Heart," and Maebeth Turner author of, "A Violet Butterfly," at 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12, at You Be's Pizza, 6280 W. Las Positas; and another signing at 5 p.m., at PakMail, 5424 Sunol Blvd., #10. Call (510) 796-4364.

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. The book is available at Towne Center Book Store or in class. Call 998-0038 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Classes

Quest for Excellence Series Tri-Valley Conservancy and Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will host an education series for wine growers from 5:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Cost is \$10. Reservations are required by visiting www.lvwine.org by Feb. 6.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters Meeting This club will host Karen Flamme who will talk about "Cultivating Creativity: Don't Hem Me In" from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. All are welcome.

Dive Trippers Dive Club Meeting Come join us for the November meeting of the Dive Trippers Dive Club, the Tri-Valley's newest dive club. They meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Dive N Trips Dive Center, 1032 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 108. Call 462-7234 or visit www.diventrips.com.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. for lunch; 12:30 p.m. for its meeting, the second Thursday monthly, at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind This club will meet from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at Valley Memorial Hospital, Cafeteria Room 2, 1111 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The organization can help people to adjust. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

Women's Council of Realtors This group meets from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Networking is from 11:15-11:45 then the meeting is from 11:45-1:30. Key note speakers are at

every meeting. Cost is \$25 for members with reservations; \$30 for guests, including lunch. Call 455-7000.

Concerts

34th Annual Campana Jazz Festival Annual all-day educational jazz festival featuring 43 ensembles, 25 schools and over 800 students from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is \$6; children under 5 years old are free. Call 426-7223 or visit www.amadorband.org.

AVHS Invitational Winter Guard Show Forty teams will compete in a dual competition of Winter Percussion and Winter Guard performances from 5:30-10 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for students and seniors; children under 5 years old are free. Visit www.amadorband.org.

Broadway Chorus Registration The Broadway Chorus is looking for new, enthusiastic singers. Come and sing from 6-8 p.m., Sundays, until March 8, at 5200 Case St. Prior musical experience is not necessary and auditions are not required. Cost is \$50. Call 462-2121 or visit www.broadwaychorus.org. Registration Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5200 Case St. Pleasanton.

Brubeck Brothers Quartet The Brubeck Brothers Quartet will perform at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The group has performed at concert series, colleges and jazz festivals across North America. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30

for adults; \$15, \$18 and \$21 for students. Visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Civic Arts Presents to Host Jazz Vocalist Sophie Milma Civic Arts will host Jazz vocalist Sophie Milma at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The night will also feature Parents' Date Night. Tickets are \$20, \$25 and \$30. Call 931-5340.

Events

Artists at Work Grab your artsy buddies and head over to Deer Ridge Vineyards for the Artists At Work Weekend from 1-4 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 7-8, at 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. Local artists will demonstrate their craft while you taste wine. Admission is free. Call (866) 561-0838.

Barrel Tasting Get a taste of the future by sampling un-released wines right from the barrel from noon-5 p.m., Saturday-Monday, Feb. 14-16, at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Winemaker Brent Amos and owner Lanny Replogle will share interesting tid-bits and facts. This event is free. Call (800) 789-WINE (789-9463) or visit www.fenestrawinery.com.

Carden West School Open House Carden West School will host an Open House during current open enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year from 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Carden West, 4576 Willow Rd. Advance notice is requested by calling 463-6060.

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.

Thomas Coyne Winter Open House This winery plans to release four exciting new wines and will host an Open House from noon-5 p.m., Saturday-Monday, Feb. 14-16, at the Historical Tasting Room, 51 East Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Bottle your own wine; your bottle for \$4.50 or ours for \$5. Call 373-6541.

Fundraisers

Bingo Bash Italian Catholic Federation Branch #285 will host a Bingo Bash at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Cost is \$10 per person, including one bingo packet for 10 games. Proceeds benefit Children's Hospital-Oakland, Cooley Anemia Research and Tri-Valley Scholarship. Reservations are due by Feb. 17; call Rose at 846-4227 or Helen at 462-3798.

Health

Pet Nutrition If you truly love your pet, then you will take another look at what you feed them. Come to a free seminar by Cynthia Easton, DVM, from 6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 10, at



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Take Charge of Your Health Do you know how to properly take the medication the doctor prescribed for you? Pleasanton Senior Center will host a series of four free classes from 1-2 p.m., every Wednesday, Feb. 4-25, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379.

Holiday

Tu B'Shvat Seder Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a Tu B'Shvat seder and potluck lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Guest speaker will be environmental educator David Darlington. Cost is \$5 for non-members; free for members. Bring a dish for eight to share. Call 485-1049.

Valentine's Day Dance USS Hornet will host a Valentine's Day Dance featuring music from Stompy Jones and the Romano Marchetti Orchestra from 8 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Feb. 14, onboard the USS Hornet, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Tickets are \$40, \$55 and \$75. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

Kids & Teens

'Expanding Your Horizons' Conference Sandia National Laboratory, Diablo Valley College, American Association of University Women and Lawrence Livermore National Security present "Expanding Your Horizons" conference for girls in grades 6-9. The conference starts at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 28, at Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus, 1690 Watermill Rd. Cost is \$20. Call 422-2453 or visit <http://tveyh.org>.

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

Preschool Open Registration Sonshine Preschool will have open registration for the 2009-10 school year at 7 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the school, 1225 Hopyard Rd. For more information, call 417-8411.

Reflections On Your Future This event is for Tri-Valley 7th and 8th grade female students interested in math, science, engineering and technology and will meet from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Livermore High School, 600 Maple St. Students will participate in a hands-on workshop of their choosing. This event is free. Call 606-4812, ext. 2330.

Lectures/ Workshops

Consumer Affairs Clinic Department of Consumer Affairs presents a Consumer Affairs Clinic from 10 a.m.-noon, on the first Tuesday of every month beginning Feb. 3, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. These clinics are free. Call 931-5365.

Coping Well with Financial Stress This interactive workshop given by psychologist Will Friedman will be a game-changer in how you perceive and cope with challenging financial times. The meeting will be from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Blvd. It's designed to provide support through being heard and a wealth of adaptive coping strategies. This event is free. Call 600-9966.

Distinguish Yourself: How to Stand Out in a Tight Job Market Whether you are actively searching for your next opportunity or want to

be more to be prepared for your next career move, this is the program for you and will meet from 7:30-9 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, at ADP, 4125 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Cost is \$35 for NCHRA members; \$55 for non-members. Call (415) 491-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Science on Saturday Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will host its popular lecture series "Science on Saturday" at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., Saturdays, until Feb. 28, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Admission is free and is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 422-5059.

Miscellaneous

Blood Drive American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 1-7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at the Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. For an appointment, call (800) 448-3543 or visit www.beadonor.com.

St. Philip Lutheran School Open House St. Philip Lutheran School will host an Open House from noon-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at 8850 Davona Dr., Dublin. Call 829-3857 or visit www.stphiliplutheranschool.com.

On Stage

'Guys and Dolls' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Playhouse) presents "Guys and Dolls" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 23-Feb. 8, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Political Notes

Tri-Valley Republican Women Meeting This club will host humani-

tarian relief worker, Mike Jarchow, of The Cuba AIDS Project, at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12, at Frankie, Johnnie and Luigi Too Restaurant, 11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$26 for members; \$30 for non-members. Reservations are required by Feb. 8. Call 846-5944.

Seniors

Beginning Swing Dance Classes Get started on an engaging lifetime hobby of dancing with instructor Lois Hilton from 7-8 p.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 4-18, at Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Singles and couples are welcome. Cost is \$15 for three classes. Call 556-4511.

Preventive Health Screening & Care Learn about the recommended health screenings; when and how often we need them; preventive measures you can take to avoid major illness; and how to navigate the maze of vitamins, minerals, and supplements. Class is Feb. 10 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Fee is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Spiritual

'Me and my Shadow' Rev. Steve Maynard of Tri-Valley Unity Church will apply concepts from "The Third Jesus" sermon series and will talk about "Me and my Shadow" at 10 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at the Dublin Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Compline with Taize Music Join St. Clare's for a traditional Compline service with songs and prayers from the Taize community at 5:15 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 8, at the church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Stay after

the service for the fellowship of a potluck supper. Call 462-4802.

Information available at www.eteamz.com/ccop.

Sports

PASS Adult Soccer League Registration Registration for the Pleasanton Adult Sunday Soccer League has begun for the spring season. Teams must submit their registration materials by Feb. 11. For more information, visit www.pleasantonadultsoccer.com

Pleasanton Foothill Little League Sign-Ups Pleasanton Foothill Little League is accepting enrollment for boys and girls for most ages. All Pony players are welcome. Opening Day is March 14. Visit www.pflonline.org.

Water Polo Sign-Ups Registration is open for Stoneridge Water Polo's spring season for girls and boys ages 9-14. The season is from March 2-April 29 and practices will be held at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave. Call 484-0172 or visit www.stoneridgewaterpolo.com.

Youth Track and Field Catholic Community of Pleasanton will hold a parent/athlete information and registration meeting at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22, at St. Augustine's Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. The program is open to children in grades K-8th from Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol.

Volunteering

American Red Cross Volunteer Orientation Tour the Pleasanton Donor Center and learn about great ways to help the American Red Cross from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12, at 5556-B Springdale Ave. Advanced sign-up is required; call Anne at (510) 594-5165.

New Literacy Tutor Orientation Pleasanton Public Library needs literacy tutors to teach adults to read and write English. The new tutor training is from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7, at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Registration is required; call 931-3411 or e-mail jbaum@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

TV30

Let's Talk Sports TV30's legendary sports authority, George "Dr. B" Baljevich, Oakland As special: the 40th anniversary team show with Vida Blue, Dave Stewart and more will broadcast at 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Saturday; and noon, 6:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., Sunday.



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Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

www.eddiepapas.com

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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The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

CATERING

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton,

462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. Now accepting reservations for holiday parties.

CHINESE

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

CONTINENTAL

Barone's

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

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ITALIAN

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680 Main St, Downtown Pleasanton, 270-0500. Cucina Italiana! Freshly prepared authentic Italian specials on a full-course menu that changes often! A special Vegetarian and Vegan menu also. Owner Matteo Pasotto is from Verona and he wanted to name his restaurant after the famous Amarone wines from the Valpolicella region. Amarone is a very peculiar wine, not easy to produce. The final result is a very ripe, big-bodied wine with very little acid. Come and experience unique dining at Amarone Ristorante. Buon Appetito!
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Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299.

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

La Vite Ristorante

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

JAPANESE

Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

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

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Rage beat Novato, stay undefeated

Pleasanton Rage White went undefeated during their State Cup seeding games Jan. 24 and 25. They beat Novato 1-0 on a goal from Sadie Moore. Strong defensive play from Nicole Tsuno, Jasmine Dessouky, Monica Martinez and Megan Martin kept the ball away from their goal for the entire game.

The Rage team also beat PSA United 2-1 in a hard fought game played in Saratoga on Sunday. Both goals were scored by Julia Densmore, with assists from Monica Martinez and Madison Avery. Jenna Crawford, Taylor Campbell and Christina Echavia played well in the win.

Dons top Grizzlies 54-42

The Dons tamed the Grizzlies Tuesday night at home to win 54-42. The boys varsity basketball team was hitting inside and outside shots: Ryan Glenn, Jeremy Liu and Scott David combined for 37 points. Matt Moellering blocked shots and defense stepped it up in the fourth quarter. Amador had a 60 percent shooting rate from the 2-point range and 75 percent from the line.

The team plays Livermore High School at 7 p.m. tonight at home.

Falcons basketball star hits 1,000th point

Lady Falcon Emily Valenziano hit her 1,000th high school point last Friday night playing against the Cal High Grizzlies.

After making her free throw in the third quarter, fans celebrated in the bleachers. Valenziano, who wears No. 21, has been on the varsity team all four years: freshman year, 48 points, sophomore, 214 points, junior, 377 points and this year, 364 points and counting.

Foothill started Friday's game strong with a 17-point lead in the first six minutes, but struggled in the second half. Cal took advantage of turnovers, topping the Falcons 55-51. Three Falcons scored in double digits including Anissa Mendez with a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Madison Craig's three three-pointers gave her high scorer with 17 points. Valenziano had 15 points, seven assists and nine rebounds. Megan Clark had 5, Jennifer Ong, 2.

Sign-ups for PASS

The Pleasanton Adult Sunday Soccer League (PASS) registration for the spring season deadline is this Wednesday, Feb. 11. For more information, visit www.pleasanton-adultsoccer.com.

Ballistic United wins 1-1-1

Ballistic United U12 Division 1 entered State Cup competition Jan. 24-25 and came away with a record

of 1-1-1.

The team played PAC and lost 2-1. Daniel Rodriguez scored the lone goal for Ballistic on a well placed free kick from about 20 yards out. The defense of Cameron Casby, Collin Blaney, Daniel Payne, Collin Alexander and Blaz Perko stopped many scoring chances by PAC.

In the second game the team was on fire and won 2-0. Sahit Menon, Eric Johnson, Alex Krause and Stephen Dougherty lead the offense and scored 2 team effort goals. Collin Richardson and Gabe Thurner did a nice job distributing the ball in the middle.

In the final game the team tied Castro Valley 0-0 in a very physical match. Dylan Tuell and Justin Taylor played well, for Ballistic. Goalie Sam Musbach had an amazing tournament having many key saves for Ballistic.

Free throw clinches win for CCOP

Kyla Peinado converted a clutch free throw with 26 seconds remaining to lead CCOP to a 26-25 victory over SM/SC. CCOP trailed by six points early in the fourth quarter (23-17). CCOP's defense trigger a fourth quarter rally as they went on a 9-2 run to close out the game and secure the victory. Peinado led a balanced CCOP scoring attack with seven points and Madison Lingenfelder followed with five points. Tracey Lem, Emily Tsivikas and Madison Steele each contributed four points and Emily Oakland rounded out CCOP's scoring with two points. Top offensive players were Kyla Peinado, Emily Tsivikas and Madison Steele; top defensive players were Tracy Lem, Madison Lingenfelder and Emily Oakland. Pictured: CCOP: Madison Lingenfelder (girl shooting the foul shot), Tracy Lem (anticipating shot with hands on knees) and Kaylee Udinski (#55). The SM/SC player's name is Taylor Smith.

Loss for championship

BUSC U12 Black team ended its bid for the CYSA Association Cup

championship with a 1-0 loss to El Camino Real Milan in the semi-final round on Jan. 24. Milan scored early in the first half with a short chip shot as the defense was caught flat footed. From that point on, the Black teams smothering defense neutralized Milan's offensive attacks, shutting them out the remainder of the match. BUSC mounted their own offensive attacks, narrowly missing goals on some fleet footed breakaways failing to convert in each attempt. The Black team demonstrated superior speed at both ends of the field and was denied goal conversion from an outstanding performance by Milan's keeper.

Pleasanton Rage's U13 Division 1 Premier Girls Soccer team finishes the State Cup Tournament 2-1 Jan. 24 at Fremont Central Park.

In the first game against Bay Oaks, Rage controlled the game and had many more shots on goal than their opponent. Haley Lukas served a corner kick to Haley Chow who headed the ball into the net for the only goal. Final

score 1-0 Rage. Rage lost the second game against Santa Rosa. In the third game on Sunday against Stockton, Stockton's goalie came out of the box and made a save, but Andie Boehm rebounded the ball into the net for the first goal. Chow came down the middle of the field and fired into the net for Rage's second goal. Chow did it again by dodging the goalie and kicking the ball into the lower left corner. Within minutes of the second half, Jessica Medina crossed to Boehm who tapped it into the net for the fourth goal. Kira Ewanich scored Rage's fifth goal with a powerful kick above the goalie's head. Nicole Fetsch was served a perfect pass and finished it into the net. Final goal was made within a huddle at the net; Lukas found a hole and buried it into the net. Final score 7-0 Rage. Excellent performance by Marlo Aghazarian, Precious Akanyirige, Cambi Cukar, Kirsten Jensen, Lindsey Kail, Tori Larsen, Brianna Nicholas, and Georgia Savage. Outstanding efforts by the goalies Brittany Gray and Lexie Nicholas. ■

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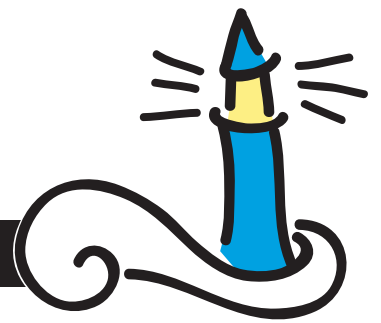
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To Kick Back Apres Ski/Many Near By Resorts To Chose From /Slps. 8 925-484-0316

845 Out of Area

CARMEL VALLEY
Vacation cabins in private wilderness resort. Fishing, pools tennis. \$135k to \$475k + membership. (831)659-5949 www.mountain-cabins.com

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

20 Acre Ranches
\$0 down! Near Booming El Paso, Texas. \$15,900, \$159/month. (10%/225 mths) Beautiful Mountain Views. Road Access. Money Back Guarantee. Owner Financing. No Credit Checks. 1-800-343-9444. (Cal-SCAN)

Buyer's Market
New Mexico. Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Colorado Bank Foreclosure
35 AC \$29,900. Enjoy 300 days of sunshine. Rocky mountain views, utilities. Excellent financing. 1st come, 1st serve!! Call Today 1-866-696-5263 x4938. (Cal-SCAN)

855 Real Estate Services

Home Staging, Marketing

PET OF THE WEEK



Two of a kind

Would your home be more fun with a couple of 5-year-olds running around the house? If you think so, come to the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center and visit Minnie and Pooh. These girls are snugglers who love attention. Pooh is buff-colored and Minnie is a dark orange tabby. Minnie and Pooh have grown up together and, if at all possible, the SPCA hopes they can be placed together in a loving new home. Life is so much more fun with a sister close by! Minnie and Pooh are spayed, vaccinated, Felv/Fiv tested negative, micro-chipped and happily awaiting an indoor-only home.

In an effort to place more cats and dogs into loving homes, the SPCA has lowered adoption fees as of Jan. 1. The SPCA adoption fee for Minnie and Pooh is just \$50 each. Learn more about Minnie, Pooh, and other adoptable animals, at www.eastbayspca.org. Visit the adoption center at 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670.

CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Delivered Monday Through Friday

Fresh news delivered directly to your inbox

express

Pleasanton's top stories & hot picks

Get your news delivered directly to your inbox every weekday

express is an update from the Pleasanton Weekly delivered via e-mail Monday through Friday.

express provides the perfect quick-read digest of local news and events in Pleasanton. And all without any environmental impact.

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY.COM



Real Estate

Home sale of the week



1656 Germano Way Pleasanton – \$2,625,000

This Italian Villa in Ruby Hill has it all, including views of Mt. Diablo and city lights. The amazing floor plan is approximately 6,500 square feet on a half acre lot. There are 5 bedrooms, 4 full and 2 half bathrooms, 4 fireplaces, an office/library, home theatre, huge kitchen and family room. The backyard offers a sparkling pool, spa, fire pit and outdoor kitchen. Sold by Delores Gragg of Hometown GMAC. (925) 989-6500

What will cause the recession to end?

As real estate goes, so goes the economy

by Dave Walden

To understand what will cause the recession to end, we must understand what caused the recession.

There were many causes, but the most visible culprit was an uncontrolled real estate boom. First it was the sub-prime crisis halting the boom. The government indicated that real estate would weather the crisis. Well, the real estate market did not weather the crisis. Then the government said the economy could weather the real estate crisis.

As pointed out in "The Real Estate Report" 12 months ago, as the real estate market goes, so does the economy. The housing industry directly or indirectly employs about one-fifth of Americans, depending upon how the numbers are counted. You can't have a weak link in a chain which is that significant of a segment of the overall chain. Now the recession has spread across the globe because of the importance of our economy.

So, when will the recession end? The end of the weak real estate market will bring the end of the recession. Of course, it is likely that you will then ask, when will the real estate market become strong again?

Here we would suggest you look at the cost of ownership v. the cost of renting. At the height of the boom, the cost of owning was significantly higher than the cost of renting, though some of these costs were masked by easy lending standards and innovative products. Now housing prices are going down and so are rates.

There are already areas of the country that are reporting that owning is becoming cheaper than renting, especially after taxes are taken into consideration. When we reach this point in the majority of the country, the price of housing will stabilize. And when prices stabilize, banks will be more willing to lend. This cycle will lead us out of the morass. When will that happen? We wish we had a crystal ball, however, we do know that the lower rates go, the more

quickly the date is likely to arrive.

The Markets

Mortgages continued their assault on record lows as they dropped for the 11th week in a row. Freddie Mac announced that for the week ending January 15, 30-year fixed rates averaged 4.96 percent, down from 5.01 percent the week before. The average for 15-year fixed rose slightly to 4.65 percent. Adjustables fell as well with the average for one-year adjustables decreasing to 4.89 percent and five-year adjustables falling sharply to 5.25 percent. A year ago 30-year fixed rates were at 5.69 percent.

"Rates for 30-year fixed rate mortgages fell for the 11th straight week to another record low, due in part to the slowing economy and government actions," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "So far, both the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve have added over \$100 billion in liquidity to the mortgage market since September 2008, which put downward pressure on rates for fixed-rate mortgages."

The Federal Reserve may add up to an additional \$570 billion more this year, based on its Nov. 25, 2008 announcement, to further shore up mortgage lending and keep rates low. In December, the unemployment rate rose to 7.2 percent, the highest since January 1993, and the economy lost 2.6 million jobs over 2008, the largest annual drop since 1945. That brought down yields on Treasury securities.

House tax writers are proposing to make a first-time homebuyer tax credit more attractive to buyers and provide tax refunds for builders and certain financial institutions that have incurred large losses in 2008, but were profitable in past years.

Editor's Note: David Walden is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist and Certified Divorce Planning Professional associated with Diversified Capital Funding of Pleasanton.

The Fabulous Properties Team
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Visit our websites to view all of our current listings
www.FabulousProperties.net • www.RubyHill.net

<p style="text-align: center;">1809 Spumante Pl., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton</p> <p>NEW LISTING! Absolutely stunning estate home! 6 BR/6 + 2 1/2 BA, 7,765 sq. ft. 9 seat home theater, 650 sq. ft. cabana and resort-style backyard on 8th hole and 9th fairway of Ruby Hill Golf Course. Offered at \$3,799,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1988 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton</p> <p>NEW LISTING! Beautiful 4,700, sq. ft. home with 4 BR, 3.5 BA, bonus room, study, and expansive views of Mt. Diablo and Tri-Valley, located on 1/2 acre lot. Offered at \$1,950,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3206 Novara Wy., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton</p> <p>NEW LISTING! Italian Villa Style home with 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 4,339, sq. ft on 22,842 sq. ft lot with great floor plan, pool, spa and built-in BBQ! Offered at \$1,799,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3956 & 3944 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton</p> <p>NEW LISTING! Fabulous DUPLEX properties with 2 separate single family units with 2 BR, 1 BA, 800 sq. ft with 1 car shared garage. Located in lovely downtown Pleasanton. Offered at \$610,000 & \$619,000 OPEN SUN 1-4</p>

**Fran & Dave
Cunningham**
925-202-6898

**Donna
Garrison**
925-397-4165

**Debby
Johnson-Abarta**
925-989-6844

**Susan
Schall**
925-397-4244

Great Home For Entertaining!

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



6335 PASEO SANTA CRUZ, PLEASANTON

Family and friends will love this 4 bed-2 bath home, highly upgraded throughout! Contractor's own home featuring remodeled kitchen, granite counter tops, breakfast bar, top of the line appliances, WilsonArt flooring throughout, 2 fireplaces, 570 sq.ft. finished addition, crown moulding throughout, dual pane windows, 4 skylights, both bathrooms remodeled w/granite and cultured marble, low maintenance rear yard w/detached office or hobby room. RV access, walk to swim club...A must see! **Offered at \$839,000**

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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. Full bed/bath down. Amazing Foot Hill views from the front porch. Large resort like backyard with pool and spa, perfect for entertaining. Approx. 3500 sq. ft. on 17,500 sq. ft. lot.
Offered at \$1,469,000



3552 Vine Street-Pleasanton
Absolutely stunning custom home on a large lot close to historic downtown with upgrades galore! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, plus an office/den. Approx. 2780 sq. ft. of comfortable living space. 2-car attached garage plus a 1200 +/- sq. ft. workshop garage in back, that could fit 4 additional cars. Fabulous beach entrance pool and spa!
Offered at \$1,275,000

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We have chosen to be a part of a DOMINANT FORCE in real estate – The Kruger Group and Keller Williams. This perfect blend combines a company that puts the lives and businesses of their agents first with a team that helps keep us accountable to the HIGHEST STANDARDS. Together we are a STRONGER, UNSTOPPABLE FORCE that helps us be better people, better Realtors, so that we can take the VERY BEST CARE OF YOU!

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LIVERMORE
Open SAT 1 - 4
HIGHLY UPGRADED 765 ALDEN LN
\$799,900
4 BR 3.5 BA aprx.2900 sf,each bedroom priv bath,kit opens to fam rm.Prof Indscpd bckyrd,built in bb-q 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
518 KINGSBRIDGE CT
NORRIS CANYON ELEGANCE \$2,500,000
5 BR 5.5 BA Menlo Manor w/Canyon Views! Hrdwd Flrs,Gourmet Kit,Wine frige,Mstr w/Retreat/views 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open SUN 1 - 4
CHARMING HOME 4270 CANYON CREST RD W
\$725,000
3 BR 2 BA living/family rms w/vaulted ceilings & fireplaces, bckyrd ovr lks greenbelt w/cov patio/spa 925.847.2200



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

BRENTWOOD

1203 SILVERTON WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME \$369,000
4 BR 3 BA granite cntrs,frplc in living & mstr,3 car tandem gar,bonus rm. www.RomarProperties.net 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

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

FREMONT

38117 CAMBRIDGE CT
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD! \$799,000
4 BR 2.5 BA cul-de-sac,hrdwd flrs,wd plnttion shhtrs,maple kit cbs,Indscpd yrd www.RomarProp-

erties.net 925.847.2200

FREMONT/ARDENWOOD

5008 CRANDALWOOD
ARDENWOOD BEAUTY \$600,000
3 BR 2.5 BA Walk to Forest Park Elementary- Lots Of Custom Amenities and 1589 SF. 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

3300 DYER RD.
PRICE REDUCTION! \$1,195,000
3 BR 2 BA 29.25 acre parcel w/2000+sq. ft.home,dutch barn w/2 flrs,steel framed shop w/2 rll-up drs 925.847.2200

587 HAGEMANN DR
GREAT LIVERMORE LOCATION! \$380,000
4 BR 2 BA beautiful pool/yards. Enclosed front patio w/colored stamped concrete,your own oasis 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

4353 W RUBY HILL DRIVE
STYLE & COMFORT \$1,650,000
5 BR 4 BA aprx 4,300 sq ft-1/2 acre-Gourmet Kitchen-Lge Great Rm-Dwnstrs Master-Built is BBQ & Spa 925.847.2200

869 SUNNY BROOK WAY
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS! \$1,480,000
4 BR 3 BA gourmet kitchen,hrdwd flrng,custom moldings,millwork,built-ins/ w/office/bonus rm,lrg yard 925.847.2200

4366 CAMPINIA PL
GATED COMMUNITY \$1,439,900
5 BR 3.5 BA 3969 SqFt On .61 acre lot. Tumbled stone / hardwood floors / 1st floor au pair 925.847.2200

5847 SAN JUAN
NEW LISTING \$825,000
4 BR 2.5 BA aprx 2414 sf,gourmet kit w/60" prof stove,master bath w/walk in closet.Hrdwd flrs thruout 925.847.2200

2149 RHEEM DRIVE
A TASTE OF TUSCANY \$475,000
3 BR 2.5 BA 1490sq.ft.,upgrd/rem,granite slab kit/bth,bmboo wd flr,mrbl tiled frplc,vaulted ceilings 925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE
PREMIUM LOT! \$199,900
2 BR 2 BA bckyrd w/rdwd dck,seller help w/rent spce w/6800 at close!Refrig incl,tile in kit/ba/entry 925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

ALAMO

4 Bedrooms

70 Zand Lane **\$1,165,000**
Sun 1-4 Remax Accord 895-2804

DUBLIN

2 Bedrooms

7535 Oxford Circle **\$1,800**
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 997-8267

7003 Stagecoach Road #A **\$299,000**
Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate Co. 963-0569

3 Bedrooms

7463 Oxford Circle **\$400,000**
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 997-8267

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

3637 Carrigan Common **\$199,000**
Sun 12-2 J Rockcliff Realtors 583-2169

2155 Shetland Rd **\$399,950**
Sat 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 583-2177

4 Bedrooms

765 Alden Lane **\$799,900**
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

PLEASANTON

1 Bedrooms

3880 Canyon Meadows #E **\$264,950**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 200-2457

2 Bedrooms

7335 Stonedale Drive **\$429,950**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 847-7355

2130 Alexander Way **\$442,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 397-4244

3 Bedrooms

3552 Vine Street **\$1,275,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 362-2018

6045 Acadia Court **\$562,425**
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 788-7788

6038 Corte Encinas **\$639,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 858-4198

4306 Columbine Drive **\$669,000**
Sat 12-3 Remax Accord 918-3395

455 Linden Way **\$925,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential California Realty 249-0301

4 Bedrooms

1139 Mataro Court **\$1,029,900**
Sun 1-4 Remax Accord 918-3395

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 200-9400

1332 Bordeaux Street **\$1,175,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 918-2425

1332 Bordeaux Street **\$1,175,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

9146 Longview Drive **\$1,250,000**
Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

1608 Cindy Way **\$1,299,000**
Sat/Sun 12-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

1624 Cindy Way **\$1,329,000**
Sat/Sun 12-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

1640 Cindy Way **\$1,349,000**
Sat/Sun 12-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

836 Piemonte Drive **\$1,699,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273

3206 Novara Way **\$1,799,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273

1988 Via di Salerno **\$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273

3956 Vineyard Avenue **\$610,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298

2320 Crestline Drive **\$645,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

1766 Orchard **\$699,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

2274 Via Espada **\$774,950**
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 200-2525

1831 Halcyon Court **\$809,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

6335 Paseo Santa Cruz **\$839,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 734-5061

5 Bedrooms

1342 West Lagoon Road **\$1,189,950**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 963-8871

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

1632 Cindy Way **\$1,449,000**
Sat/Sun 12-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

2215 Martin Avenue **\$1,675,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

9116 Olson Court **\$2,395,000**
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

4141 West Ruby Hill Drive **\$2,700,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298

3145 Camdon Court **\$745,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 737-1000

6 Bedrooms

1809 Spumante Place **\$3,799,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298

SAN RAMON

1 Bedrooms

145 Copper Ridge Road **\$330,000**
Sat/Sun 11-6 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3 Bedrooms

4270 Canyon Crest Road West **\$725,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 Bedrooms

3417 Bermuda Court **\$790,000**
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 918-0500



Jim Walker
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty
(925) 397-4300



Open Saturday & Sunday 1-4



2602 CALLE MORELIA, PLEASANTON

JUST LISTED! This home is located in one of Pleasanton's most desirable neighborhoods and will be open this weekend Saturday & Sunday from 1-4. Don't miss the opportunity to own a beautiful home with a gorgeous large backyard and views of the Pleasanton Ridge! More details at www.DiscoverPleasanton.com





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2762 Hutchinson Ct.,
Walnut Creek

\$1,725,000

Imagine the years of enjoyment and fun you will have living and entertaining in this beautiful, semi-custom home. Some of the many features include approximately 4,000 +/- sf, 5 spacious bd/4 full ba, an office with built-ins, a huge chef's kitchen with an abundance of cabinets, counter space and center island. And best of all you can relax and refresh in the private backyard complete with beautiful pool and spa.



Open Sunday 1-4

Joanne Durso
(925) 730-4006
joanne@jdurso.com
www.jdurso.com



321 Diamond Ct.,
Pleasanton

\$1,125,000

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom 3,208 sq ft custom home built in 1995. Newly remodeled master bath with travertine and new fixtures. Entertain in the sparkling solar heated sport pool with waterfall or the 8 person hot springs spa. The kitchen features a double oven, built in refrigerator and built in wine cooler. Country living in town!



Open Sunday 1-4

John Rocha
(925) 484-0700
Cell (925) 200-9400



3903 Vine St.,
Pleasanton

Price reduced to
\$365,000

Don't miss out on this great single story townhome. It features vaulted ceilings, a fireplace, a patio for gardening and entertaining, a garage, and one of the best locations in the complex. It has no neighbors in the back and on one side and is located next to a green space in the back of the development. Come to the open house or call Rebecca Bruner for more information.



Open Sunday 2-5

Rebecca Bruner
(925) 577-8802
rebecca@remaxaccord.com



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

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FREMONT
44763 AGUILA TER \$3,100,000
Gorgeous custom home! Awesome views!! Lots of upgrades, exclusive neighborhood, top rated schools, perfect home for entertaining, large gourmet kitchen, full wet bar, built in bbq, inground pool/spa, formal dining room, extra large family room, office/library, loft w/deck upstairs, must see!
DENISEIVALDI 925.846.7997

www.RubyHillLiving.com

PLEASANTON
2156 CANOSA CT \$2,799,000
Experience vineyard living in this gorgeous Mediterranean home. Premium cul-de-sac location with expansive city views from the front and hills in the back. Grand marble foyer with wrought iron stairway. Enjoy the privacy of pool-sized yard with covered patio nestled among sloping hills
ANJUBHATIA 925.577.2658

www.KristyandCompany.com

CASTRO VALLEY
32777 PALOMARES RD \$1,110,000
Bay Area Canyon Living at its Best. This property is nestled in Beautiful Palomares Canyon, Dreams can come true. This nice home offers a large living room, Views from every window, Privacy, Nice peaceful setting, Animals and Nature at its Best, Gated entrance, This property has over 5 acres
KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536

www.KellyPatterson.com

PLEASANTON
2274 VIA ESPADA \$774,950
Fabulous Home in Del Prado Loaded with Upgrades! 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, approx. 2124 SQFT. Excellent Location, Great Schools, Easy Freeway Access. Enjoy being close to Downtown Pleasanton, the Sports Park, Hansen Park and the Fairgrounds. OPEN HOUSE this Sunday 1:00pm-4:00pm
KELLY PATTERSON 925.200.2525

www.StaciArmario.com

PLEASANTON
5648 BELLEZA DRIVE \$389,000
You have to see it to believe it. Corner unit with decorator touches. Perfect condition. Attached 1 car garage. Upstairs unit with patio. Community pool and spa and club house. This is resort living at its finest.
STACI ARMARIO 925.251.2526

Wine Country Unique Opportunity

LIVERMORE
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.
THOMAS BRAMELL 925.583.2180

www.TonniChandler.com

PLEASANTON
6045 ACADIA CT \$562,425
Great value! 3 bedrooms, 2 bath single family home in Pleasanton. Beautifully maintained! Updated kitchen, newer carpet, paint and much more! Additional bonus room great for family entertaining! Lovingly maintained yards with blooms year round!
TONNI CHANDLER 925.788.7788

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 \$499,000
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!
MADELINE WALKER 1.800.319.8991

REO/Bank Owned

BRENTWOOD
1231 EXETER WAY \$352,900
Great One Story Home in an Established Neighborhood! Walk to the park and expanded Greenbelt! Open Floor Plan. Fully Landscaped, 3 car garage. THIS IS A MUST SEE!
VERONICA CLYATT 925.989.4968

Incredible upgraded home!

SAN RAMON
771 PRADERA WAY \$765,000
3 bedrooms, plus loft which could be converted into 4th bedroom, 2 1/2 baths, indoor laundry. Brazilian hardware flooring downstairs, stairs and upstairs hall way. Granite countertops, designer paint, fully landscaped backyard with pavers. Stunning slate tile porch/walkway.
PENNY CHRISTENSEN 925.730.5262

Single Story

LIVERMORE
2752 CHABLIS WAY \$855,000
This beauty is located in one of Livermore's few custom built home locations. Quiet, very private, and just a ten minute walk to town. There is beautiful curb appeal, warmth when you walk in, and lots of beautiful wood. Ideal for family gatherings. A small park and pool are shared only by owners.
ANGELA ADAMS 925.580.4513

www.MartySborov.com

PLEASANTON
COMING SOON TO CASTLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
Outstanding offering with a terrific location on the golf course, large 4550 sq. ft. on over 1/3 acre. Upgraded, gleaming hardwood, floor plan excellent for entertaining, media room, whole house, Sound system. 4 Bedrooms (one very separate), and 4 baths, beautiful fireplaces. Call for information.
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7554 Rosedale Court, Pleasanton. 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom in move in condition. **\$524,900**



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PLEASANTON



VINTAGE HILLS II 4BR/3BA approx. 2700 sq. ft. with formal dining room. One BD downstairs. Custom pool, deck, island spa and waterfall. No rear neighbors. 3-car garage. **\$1,085,000**

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DUBLIN



VIEWS FROM BEST LOT Outstanding floor plan with 4BD/3BA plus bonus room, 3322 sq.ft. of living space, on 9165 sq.ft. lot. Entertainer's delight in private backyard. **\$878,888**

925.858.5400 Sheri Platter

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

925.580.5793 Wendy Washburn

DUBLIN



SUMMERGLEN. Open floorplan, 4 BD/2 1/2 BA, +den, 2353 sq. ft. Neutral tile flooring, dramatic vaulted ceilings & wood blinds. Beautiful Italian silk draperies included. **\$678,888**

925.858.5400 Sheri Platter

PLEASANTON



GORGEOUS VIEW. Living area has 2-story wall of windows overlooking oak-studded creek. Downstairs Master bdrm w/fireplace. New granite in Kitchen. **\$549,999**

925.426.3831 Anglea Ochs

PLEASANTON - LOT



SAVE TIME & MONEY Seller has City Approved Plans for Tuscan Style Home on this .42 AC Custom Home Lot. Near Callippe & Castlewood Golf. **\$549,950**

925.426.3818 Roger Manning

CASTRO VALLEY



PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP Super Cute 2BD/1BA with dual pane windows, newer kitchen floor, hardwood flooring throughout. 905 sq. ft. of living space on 5,626 sq. ft. lot. **\$319,500**

925.339.1569 Connie Fross

LIVERMORE



FRESHLY PAINTED 4BD/2BA, 1,170 sq. ft. on 5,000 sq. ft. lot. 1-car carport w/storage. Home is in original condition. Corporate Owned. **\$309,900**

925.426.3857 Mary Evans

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Prudential California Realty



SAN RAMON - Great views. Beautiful clean home. Ready to move in. Ground level entry with NO stairs. Granite kitchen. Inside laundry room. Spacious bedroom and living room.

450 BOLLINGER CANYON LN, #192 \$234,900



PLEASANTON - This home offers a unique combination of three (3) master suites with three (3) full baths. It also has a large yard. Kitchen and baths have been updated with granite and marble. Large downstairs bedroom w/ full bath. Light/bright and decorated like a model home.

6038 CORTE ENCINAS \$639,000



SAN RAMON - Beautifully updated single story home with skylights, updated kitchen w/granite counter tops, custom paint, updated bathrooms, large flat lot with pool, side yard access.

9544 ERNWOOD ST \$525,000



DUBLIN - No front neighbors, just wooded views! Gorgeous walnut hardwood flrs, lots of tile and new carpets make the perfect backdrop for any decor! One of the largest lots over 5,000 sq. ft! Spa, Thermador BBQ & patio plus professional landscaping. Bring your fussiest buyer! Show and sell on this one.

5312 GUERRERO CT \$667,000



PLEASANTON - Fabulous home for your clients wanting great location, craftsmanship, style & the WOW! home. Fine woods in kitchen, office, fm.rm., marble & hardwood floors, crys. chand., large game room w/full bar & sep. secluded plush movie theatre. 2-tiered pool w/cabana in gated Golden Eagle. Spectacular views!

8053 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY \$3,499,000



DUBLIN - SHOW STOPPER - A 10! Hardwood floors, plantation shutters, huge chef's kitchen with granite slabs and full backsplash, stainless steel appliances, large island with sink, HUGE master bedroom with retreat & double sided fireplace, stamped concrete yard. AN REO YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

2902 SABLE OAKS WAY \$999,900



CASTRO VALLEY - Great location, just south of Somerset. Well maintained units, remodeled kitchens with granite, and remodeled baths. Newer roofs and large lot, over 9,000 SF, with plenty of parking space. Storage units on the property plus a large storage garage that can be rented out.

19860 SANTA MARIA AVE \$565,000



PLEASANTON - Incredible VIEWS, resort living pool, WATERFALL, spa, outdoor kitchen w/ island for executive entertaining. DESIGNER paint, staged to perfection!! Move in! Granite, marble, hardwood. Wake up in your huge master bedroom w/views of the ridge, walk-in closet. Close to 580/680, shopping, parks and schools.

2825 TUDOR CT \$1,528,000

6111 Johnson Ct., Suite 110 - Pleasanton Hopyard

925.463.9500





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



OPEN SUN 2-5

9146 Longview Dr., Pleasanton

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



OPEN SUN 1-4

1831 Halcyon Court, Pleasanton

Seller says bring ALL offers! 4bd/3ba, 2146+/- sq.ft. with full bd/ba downstairs, blocks from schools and parks. Offered at \$809,000



OPEN SUN 1-4

2586 Skimmer Court, Pleasanton

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



OPEN SUN 2-5

2822 Jones Gate Court, Pleasanton

Extensively remodeled 3bd/2ba, 1800+/-sq.ft. home located on a secluded court in the "Gates" Offered at \$729,000



PENDING

18747 Sandy Road, Castro Valley

3bd/2ba, 1374+/-sq.ft., oak cabinet kitchen with tile counter, updated baths, new carpets and paint throughout. Offered at \$449,000



SOLD

4031 Schween Court, Pleasanton

5bd/3ba, 2304+/-sq.ft., updated granite kitchen, renovated baths w/ solid counters and tile flooring, dual pane windows, tile roof and pool. Sold for \$817,000



BLAISE LOFLAND



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PLEASANTON HEIGHTS



857 (UPPER) ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON

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

PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE



3752 TRENER DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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

SHADOW CLIFF



NEW LISTING

2860 EL CAPITAN DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Check out this updated single story home with three bedrooms, two baths, and approximately 1,140 square feet. Great starter home or investment property! Excellent condition! Lots of additional features including, new interior paint, new carpet and blinds throughout. Wilsonart wood flooring. New kitchen appliances. Central heat/air. Tile Roof. Private rear yard. Neighborhood park. **OFFERED AT \$549,500**

OLDE TOWNE



PENDING

673 ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON

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

Silver Oaks Estates



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



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BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



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

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,599,000
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.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$2,395,000
Views of Pleasanton. Backs to open space. Open floorplan, 4.5 car garage, 500+/-sf. Guest house, private cul-de-sac. Amazing entertaining home with high end finishes. Media room and office. 9116 Olson Ct

SYLVIA DESIN BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,695,000
Immaculate 6bd/5.5ba home. 4689+/-sf on a 18,708+/-sf lot. Solar pool/spa. Detached guest cottage. 4 car garage. Gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances. 1bd/1ba downstairs. Backs to open space.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,675,000
Sub-dividable 1.67+/-acre lot in central Pleasanton. 5bd/3.5ba 4,196+/-sf main house. Lot split 43,846+/-sf and 27,642+/-sf. Rare opportunity! 2215 Martin Ave

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 bed opt). 3,437+/-sf including separate guest unit/cabana.

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SUNDAY 2-5



PLEASANTON \$1,250,000
Custom Home built in 1971 4bd/3.5ba, 3304+/-sf home on 1.72+/- wooded acres. Newer granite kitchen, hardwood floors, in-law/au-pair quarters. 9146 Longview Drive

ANDY PORYES OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,189,950
New Price. Luxury 5 year old home offers 3265+/-sf with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, pool/waterfalls, outdoor kitchen, high ceilings/lots of light. 1342 W Lagoon Rd

MARY JANE DEERING OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,175,000
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! 1332 Bordeaux St

TIFFANY ROSE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,100,000
Unbelievable single story in South Pleasanton. Private gate, huge 1/2+/- acre lot with huge possibilities! 4bd/2ba, 2167+/-sf. Separate guest unit.

M. GILBERT/J. JONES BY APPT



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

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



PLEASANTON \$809,000
4bd/3ba 2146+/-sf in Pleasanton Valley. Maple kitchen cabinets with corian counters. New dual pane windows and French doors. 1831 Halcyon Court

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$755,000
Look at this 5bd/3ba, 2471+/-sf home. Court location. Custom crown moulding/lighting and paint. Updated kitchen, bath, flooring, A/C, roof. Pool with removable child safe fence. Award winning schools.

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$729,950
This Del Prado home is absolutely gorgeous. Features include dual pane windows/plantation shutters/beautiful swimming pool/downstairs master has walk-in closet/formal LR/DR/central heat and air.

JOYCE JONES BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$699,000
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.

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$690,000
Completely updated; court location, 3-car garage; side access. 4bd/3ba. 2 master bed; 1 up and 1 down. Detached in-law unit with permits. Close to award-winning schools, 580/680 freeways.

