

Extension OK'd

Council approves connecting Stoneridge Drive to Livermore > **page 5**

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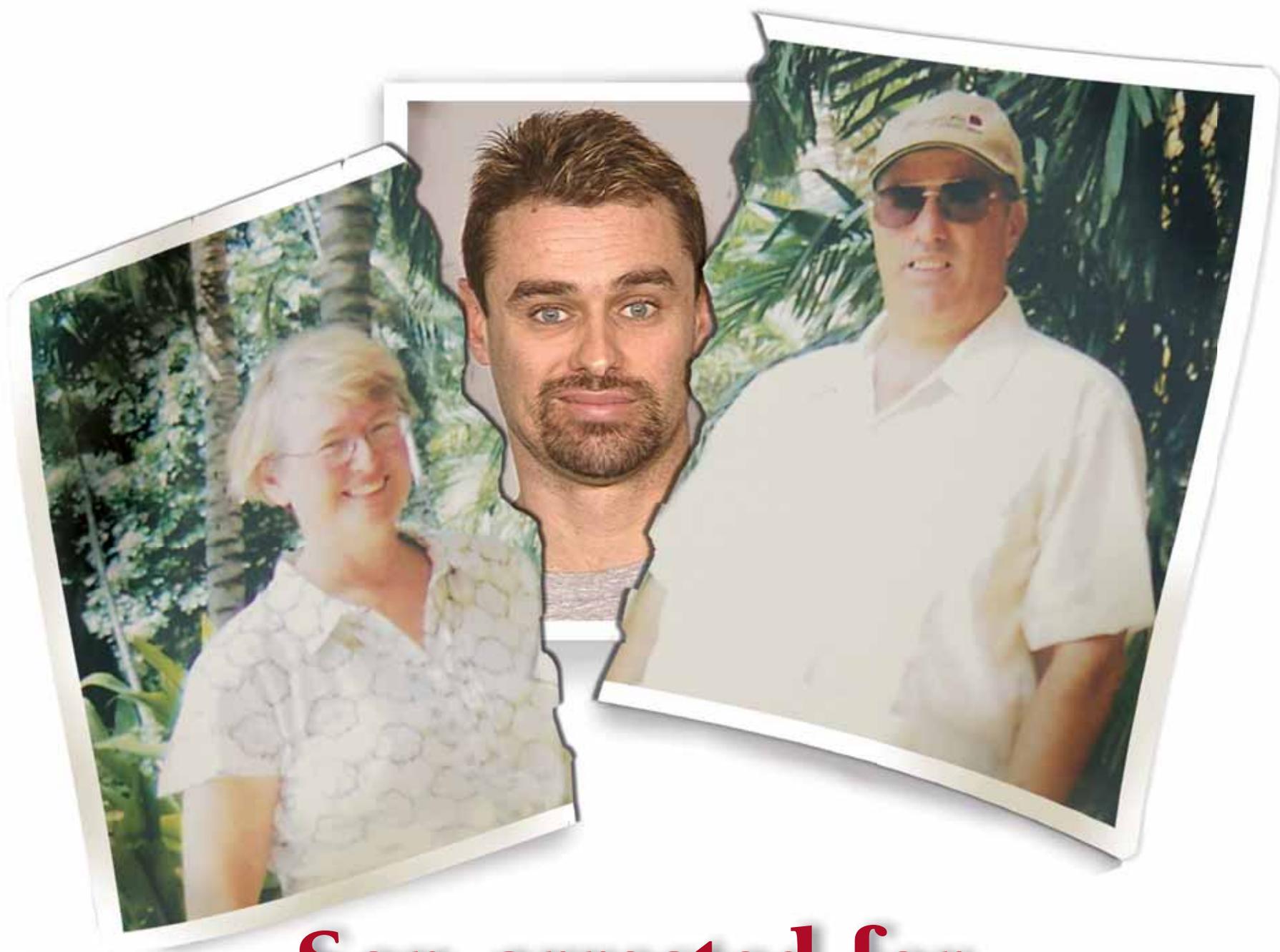
Hefty cuts

School district removes \$9.9M from budget
> **page 5**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Beyond stereotypes

There's still hope after Down syndrome diagnosis
> **page 18**



Son arrested for Castlewood couple's murders

Ernest Scherer III, 30, is charged with special circumstances, could face death penalty

PAGE 14



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Chicago Tribune losing readers, but not its iconic tower

Not all news about the big city daily newspapers is troubling, although there's plenty of that being reported. A bright spot came Tuesday out of Chicago when real estate mogul Sam Zell, who took the Tribune Company private in 2007, dropped his plans to sell the 40-story gothic Tribune Tower that's home to the Chicago Tribune.

Outstanding debt from Zell's leveraged buyout of Tribune, which also owns the Los Angeles Times and other media, caused the firm to file for bankruptcy. Still, he now says he won't sell Tribune Tower or the landmark Los Angeles Times building to help reduce the debt. This was good news for me. I worked at The Chicago Trib for 13 years as a reporter and one of the editors and occasionally revisit the workplace on trips back to Chicago. The massive fourth floor newsroom with its two-story ceiling and a glass-walled fifth floor visitors' center is still one of the largest in the industry despite recent layoffs. Although 40 stories aren't much these days side by side with Chicago's 90- and 100-story buildings, there's still something quite breathtaking about a ride on three different elevators to the small single room at the top of the tower, where editorial cartoonists used to do their work. The room's empty now.

Tribune Tower is still a tourist attraction in Chicago not only because of its historic architecture but also because of the scores of artifacts collected by the late Col. Robert McCormick, a World War I officer who traveled the world,

bringing back pieces of pyramids or Greek temples and imbedding these in the granite at the Michigan Avenue street level of the tower as it was being built in the 1930s. On any weekend, weather permitting, crowds jam the art shows and other festivities on the Tribune Plaza and take time to read about the

sometimes strange-looking objects sticking out from the Tribune Tower walls. It's too bad readership and the advertising that supports newspapers aren't as rock-hard as the buildings housing the Chicago Tribune and Los Angeles Times. The other daily in Chicago, the Sun-Times, is in even worse financial shape, so Chicago could soon be a one-newspaper town.

Closer to home, it's the San Francisco Chronicle that's in trouble, making that city possibly the first among major centers to go without a daily newspaper. Hearst Corp. told employees Tuesday that continued and growing losses since 2001 could cause it to shut down the paper within a few weeks unless a buyer can be found. In Seattle, Philadelphia, Detroit, Denver and in some smaller cities, morning dailies are for sale or likely to shut down. Even the venerable New York Times, short of cash with a huge debt load, is trying to sell its Manhattan headquarters. But then other than an unattractive glass and steel building that occasionally attracts pro-pellers, it wouldn't be a loss to the New York landscape. At least Chicago's Sam Zell has an appreciation for unique architecture and will keep the city's iconic tower in the newspaper family for now. ■

Crowds jam the art shows and other festivities on the Tribune Plaza and take time to read about the sometimes strange-looking objects sticking out from the Tribune Tower walls.

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About the Cover
The son of Ernest Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth, the couple brutally beaten and stabbed in their Castlewood home, has been arrested on two counts of murder with special circumstance—multiple murder and murder for financial gain. He was arraigned on Thursday. The arrest comes nearly a year after the pair were discovered in their country club residence, located on the first hole of the Castlewood Country Club Hill Course. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: Why did you choose Pleasanton as your place of residence?

Asked Around Town



Sue Sato

We moved from the Peninsula and everyone thought we were moving to Mars. People on the Peninsula don't realize how much Pleasanton has to offer. There are parks everywhere, it's family-oriented and the schools are great. We've lived here for 20 years and we love it here.

Michelle Lemus

We chose Pleasanton because of the school district. We've lived here for about six and a half years, moving from Fremont and we love the sense of family community, the variety of after-school activities in the area and the parks. I also feel very safe and secure raising my children here.



Ben Hellickson

We had some friends who lived in Pleasanton who we'd visit and we really liked the small-town feel so we decided to move here from San Francisco. It's been three years and we are very happy because we are still able to enjoy the city since it's fairly close. We don't have children yet but we hear the school system is very good, which is another reason why we like living here.

Lucy Maldonado

I am a single woman and I thought it would be the safest place to live. I walk every evening and I have never been yelled at or felt unsafe when I'm outside. I discovered Pleasanton about six years ago when I was dating someone who lived here. There are a lot of friendly people all over and I have this good feeling that nothing bad will ever happen to me as long as I live here.



Laura Orenberg

I chose Pleasanton because of the wonderful educational system. We moved here 16 years ago from Oakland with our children. I will vote yes on the parcel tax because I'm very concerned about what will happen to our home values if our schools become too crowded and our test scores decrease. Pleasanton has some of the highest scores in California which makes it a desirable place to live.

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

Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

Newsfront

News Digest

Join police academy

Enrollment for the spring session of the Pleasanton Police Department Citizens Academy is open. Classes are from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays starting March 5. Students will learn from lecture, demonstrations and hands-on activities. The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the community, explain law enforcement procedures and to discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. Applications are available the Pleasanton Police Department, 4833 Bernal Ave., by contacting Sgt. Mike Tryphonas at 931-5169 or mtryphonas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Nature art on display

A free art exhibit will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive. Featuring works from various mediums by about 80 Nirmitee Arts students, the theme of the display is nature. An artists reception will be at 3 p.m. To learn more, visit www.nirmiteearts.com.

One year later

Pleasantonians 4 Peace marks the year anniversary of its first peace vigil next month. They will hold their monthly candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. March 11 in front of the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. The public is invited to reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans and visualize ways of moving beyond conflict to a more peaceful world. They will meet the second Wednesday of the month "as long as necessary."

Protecting assets

The Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, offers a free workshop on protecting retirement assets with independent financial services professional Kit Batina. From 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 7, she will discuss strategies on how not outlive your income, protection against long-term care expenses, Social Security, Medi-Cal, reverse mortgages and more.

Correction

In last week's news section, we published a photo of a painter recreating the Coffee Roast Express building at St. John and Main streets downtown. ("Enjoying the sunshine," News, page 7). Problem was, we mistakenly said it was "historic." Our memory must be short because while the building is historic-looking, it was actually built in the 1990s by Ed and Diane Churka, who once operated the Coffee Roast Express coffee shop there.

School board slashes \$9M from budget

Long-awaited final decision on parcel tax to be made Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

by Emily West

Despite pleas to save positions and programs, the school board officially identified millions of dollars in cuts to balance their budget Tuesday night.

Notices of potential layoffs can now be sent out as the board identified just over \$9.9 million to be cut from the 2009-10 budget. It would mean the loss of over 100 jobs for the district. Final pink slips would be delivered to certified teachers by May 15.

Even though the state recently

passed a budget, there are still several unknowns keeping the Pleasanton Unified School District from obtaining hard numbers. There will also be other variables from the state on the May 19 special election ballot that would impact education funding. Right now, there is an \$8.7-million shortfall in state funding facing the district. It stems from the state deficit of \$41.6 billion.

"It could get worse," Superintendent John Casey said. "Not knowing what the bottom is is troublesome."

School board member Jamie Yee Hintzke recently went to Sacramento for the annual PTA conference and was able to share her concerns with legislators. Knowing that the state could continue to cut school funding, she said everyone left feeling depressed about the situation.

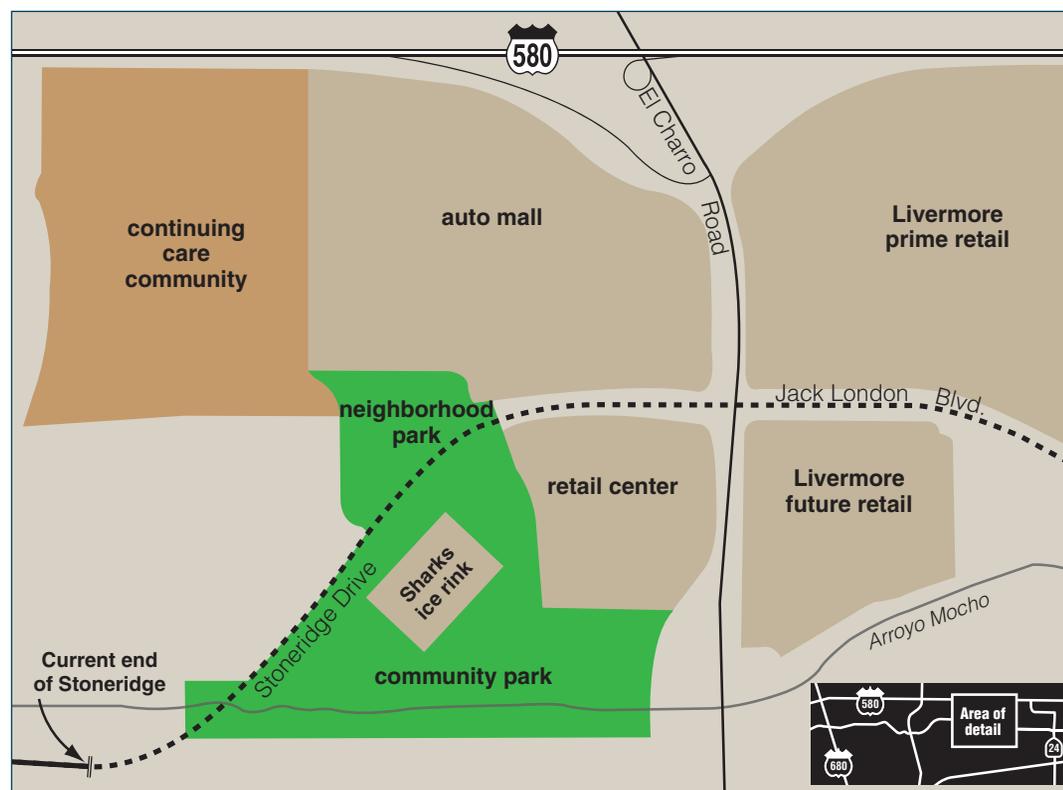
School board members as well as educators are urging residents to contact legislators demanding better school funding, as well as education reform.

While no decisions were made regarding a parcel tax initiative,

the district said they will meet at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, to decide whether to go forward with a parcel tax initiative. It is being held earlier in the day so trustee Jim Ott could teach his 7 p.m. class at Las Positas College.

The ballot language draft was also revised: "To preserve educational quality and protect Pleasanton schools from state budget cuts, keep class sizes small, maintain essential reading and math support programs, libraries,

(continued on page 6)



Map shows major developments planned for 124-acre Staples Ranch with newly approved Stoneridge Drive extension connecting Pleasanton to El Charro Road and Livermore.

Stoneridge extension OK'd

3-2 vote comes near midnight despite threats of referendum, legal actions

by Jeb Bing

The City Council voted 3-2 Tuesday night to approve the extension of Stoneridge Drive as a four-lane thoroughfare to El Charro Road and Livermore, completing one of its final policy decisions for Staples Ranch and giving the green light to a multi-million-dollar commercial, recreational and residential development on the now-vacant 124-acre property.

The site, located at the southwest corner of El Charro Road and I-580, is now owned by Alameda County. Once development agreements are finalized, it's expected that the site will be annexed into the city of Pleasanton.

Tuesday night's vote came after more than four hours of discussion by members of the council and 24 speakers in a packed council chamber with standing room only for the first two hours of the meeting.

Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio led the argument to approve the extension of Stoneridge Drive from Trevor Drive, where it is now barricaded, across the flatland east to El Charro, where it will link to Jack London Boulevard. Livermore has approved extending and widening that street to four lanes to El Charro from Isabel Road.

Voting with Cook-Kallio to approve the extension were Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and

Councilman Jerry Thorne.

Councilmembers Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern voted against the proposal.

The three-councilmember majority also prevailed in a petition by Sullivan to call for a citywide public vote on the proposal, and by McGovern to require a second vote on Tuesday night's approval two weeks later to allow anyone wanting to seek a referendum on the council's decision to have more time to gather signatures.

City Atty. Michael Roush said because of Tuesday night's decision and McGovern's failure to gain approval to delay the action,

(continued on page 7)

Coroner: teen died of hypothermia

Aline Christina Martins, 19, discovered just off a trail at Dodge Ridge

by Janet Pelletier

The Tuolumne County coroner has released results from the autopsy on Aline Christina Martins and ruled her death as a result of hypothermia, not suffocation as has been previously reported.

"The cause of death was determined to be hypothermia," said Tuolumne County Sheriff's spokesman Paul Tualla. "The staff at Dodge Ridge ski resort felt it was suffocation, but it actually was not."

Martins, who spent most of her life in Pleasanton until she moved to Santa Barbara to go to school after graduation, was discovered Feb. 16 just feet from a trail.

"She was found in an area that was right along the trail, but it wouldn't have been an area that was skiable," Tualla said.

Pinecrest, where Dodge Ridge is located, was inundated with more than five feet of snow over the three-day President's Day weekend.

Tualla said the clothing Martins, 19, was wearing may have contributed to her hypothermic condition.

"Some of the factors may have been the clothing she was wearing—she was wearing cotton sweats, a cotton sweatshirt with a nylon shell over it," Tualla said. "It was snowing pretty good on that Monday; it was coming down pretty heavy."

Tualla added that there were no signs of trauma to Martins, ruling out that she hit a tree. Family and friends gathered to remember Martins in a service at St. Augustine Catholic Church on Saturday. ■

Axis welcomes spacious, new behavior health facility

5,600-square-foot center now houses drug, alcohol, mental health programs under one roof

by Janet Pelletier

Health specialists celebrated the long-awaited grand opening of cushy, new offices and meeting rooms for Axis Community Health.

Now open is Axis Behavioral Health, a 5,600-square-foot facility that will now house teen drug and alcohol programs, mental health counseling, DUI and adult drug and alcohol programs under one roof. Located at 6666 Owens Drive, close to the Hopyard Road exit off Interstate 580, less than a mile from the BART station and two Wheels bus lines, the center is staffed by 36, including drug and alcohol counselors, licensed therapists, DUI instructors and domestic violence and anger management counselors. Several are fluent in Spanish and can provide bilingual services.

The center has been planned for a while and Axis officials say the open-

ing couldn't come at a better time.

"This has been in the pipeline for three years," said Axis CEO Sue Compton, "long before the economy declined."

"As it turns out, it's fortuitous because the need for our services will probably double before the economy recovers," she added. "With this new facility, we have the needed room to grow."

And grow they will. The center has multiple meeting rooms with uses that can be changed throughout the day to accommodate all types of services. The DUI program has been moved to the facility from a previously rented office in Dublin. Also, former mental health counseling spaces at Axis' location on Railroad Avenue downtown are now at the Owens Drive center. The Railroad office now is designated for fiscal and patient billing departments only. Suite A, which previously housed the financial offices,

is being converted to Axis' new Women's Health Clinic, which is scheduled to open later this spring.

The funding for the behavioral health facility was made possible from Alameda County Measure A funds, a half-cent sale tax with funds designated for capital improvements at health care facilities countywide.

The facility is the only in the area that accepts Medical and serves 14,000 people per year.

"Our behavioral health services are affordable as all are provided on a sliding scale based on income, except for DUI fees, which are set by the state," Compton said. "Our CARF-credited (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) programs are growing rapidly and the new facility will allow them to expand up to three times their current size."

For more information about Axis, visit www.axishealth.org. ■



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A colossal Weekly

John, Coleen, Justin and Mariah traveled with the Weekly through Italy and one port to Croatia on a cruise (here they are at the Colosseum). The family's 16-day itinerary included stops in Rome, Portofino, Tuscany, Sicily, Pisa, Croatia, Venice, Naples, Pompe, Serento and Capri.



All aboard

Bjorn Jensen took a copy of the Weekly with him aboard a cruise ship in the Panama Canal. The man-made canal is one of the largest and most difficult engineering projects ever undertaken.

Parcel tax

(continued from page 5)

counselors, classroom technology, and safe, clean schools with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, shall the Pleasanton Unified School District be authorized to levy an annual [amount to be determined] parcel tax for four years, with guaranteed audits, senior and disabled exemptions, an independent citizens' oversight committee and all funds benefiting our local Pleasanton students?"

Some board members have talked about a tax of about \$200, but many speakers at Tuesday night's meeting said they would like for it to be higher. In a notice of public hearing for the March 4 meeting, however, the district said the board will consider the tax "in an amount not to exceed \$300 per year." At the same meeting, they would also need to decide the time limit on the tax.

Some new reductions to the budget include Superintendent Casey taking five unpaid days off during the current school year as well as next year. Three

employees in human resources voluntarily opted to reduce their salaries—two by 40 percent and one by 20 percent.

The location of the March 4 meeting was not decided by press time. It is likely it could be held again in Amador Valley High School's multipurpose room, which is closer to the Del Valle Parkway entrance. If it were held anywhere other than the school district offices, the broadcast would not be televised live. Instead, it would be webcast and recorded to be aired at a later time. Check www.pleasantonweekly.com for updates. ■

Stoneridge

(continued from page 5)

the 30-day limit on gathering signatures for a referendum to overturn the council's decision would start today. Both Sullivan and former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, who spoke at the meeting, indicated that the measure, called Option 3 by city planners, could face litigation and a voter referendum.

Matt Morrison, a tax research specialist and Sierra Club activist, said the organization asked him to share its objection to the certification of the Environmental Impact Report as it relates to the overall Staples Ranch development, but not the Stoneridge Drive extension specifically.

"While the Sierra Club, of course, has the option of either joining or supporting a lawsuit over the Staples Ranch environmental documents, the Sierra Club would not initiate any legal action in this case," he said.

Morrison was part of a citizens' group coalition, Pleasanton First and Friends of Pleasanton, which submitted a joint statement earlier defining their "common interest in acquiring and constructing community park amenities on the Staples Ranch property, and to request a community process to plan what will be Pleasanton's fourth largest park."

In warning the council that its vote to extend Stoneridge Drive could lead to another contentious referendum, Ayala asked: "Why would you want to put the community through another referendum debate?"

Ayala is the founder of a citizens' group known as Save Pleasanton's Hills which collected signatures in late 2007 seeking a referendum to overturn the council's decision that year that approved a housing development called Oak Grove in the southeast hills. A Superior Court judge later ruled that the signature gathering was improper, a decision Ayala and the citizens' group are appealing. The multi-million-dollar Oak Grove project has been on hold ever since.

For now, however, the council's decision settles years of discussion over Staples Ranch. At one time, a 300-home residential development was proposed there, which was rejected by Pleasanton. IKEA, the Swedish furniture store, also expressed an interest in the site, but chose available land in Dublin, instead, which it never built.

The council also approved a revised Staples Ranch Specific Plan that was needed before development could actually start. The major developments with their plans already in place are:

- 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.
- 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.

Each of those developments will still need specific approvals of their site plans and subsequent building permits, which will require more discussions with city planners, the Planning Commission and council.

There were few surprises Tuesday, which was a special council meeting to give everyone a chance to express their views on the extension proposal.

With the council chambers filled, most speakers limited their comments to three minutes with the 24 speakers evenly divided in favoring or opposing the roadway extension. And, although most who spoke against extending Stoneridge came from the Mohr-Martin and Mohr Elementary School neighborhoods, speakers came from other parts of Pleasanton as well. Some said an extended Stoneridge would give them a faster route to Livermore or to some of the new businesses planned for Staples, sparing them the possible delays and longer distances of having to use the freeway.

Rick Aschenbrenner, chief executive officer of Continuing Life Communities in San Diego, said more than 100 applicants for the independent and assisted living units have already placed deposits and he's had inquiries from 400 more.

City officials are still negotiating a land lease with the San Jose Arena Management for the ice rink, with those details to be announced shortly, City Manager Nelson Fialho said.

Although the public hearing went smoothly, it was more of a struggle for Councilman Sullivan who accused the county of reversing itself on the need for the Stoneridge Drive extension to be part of the overall Staples Ranch agreement.

"I am very troubled by this process and how we got to this point from where we were when we agreed to the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the county," Sullivan said. "I'm concerned with the lack of transparency about the regional framework that was supposed to be the linchpin for extending Stoneridge, about the undue influence by the Chamber of Commerce and by a councilmember who has gone back on her word on the Stoneridge Drive issue."

Sullivan was apparently referring to Hosterman, who at one time said Stoneridge Drive would be extended "over my dead body." But that was four years ago, she explained, and the situation has changed. She's in agreement now with the mayors of neighboring communities and the counties and assured that along with Pleasanton's approval of Stoneridge Drive, they will also support widening State Route 84 over Pigeon Pass to provide a throughway for commuters between I-580 and I-680 that would reduce cut-through traffic on Pleasanton streets, including the

planned extension of Stoneridge Drive.

Sullivan also tangled verbally with Pat Cushman, director of the Alameda County Surplus Land Authority, which owns Staples Ranch and is considered the developer of the site.

Cushman said the MOU Sullivan referred to had been modified because "circumstances change," and now includes a requirement to have an extended, four-lane Stoneridge Drive extension as part of any development plan if Staples Ranch is to be developed and annexed to Pleasanton.

Sullivan said he and possibly others on the council and in the community would never have agreed to the MOU if they had known the extension was part of the development requirements.

Former Councilwoman Becky Dennis said that if the council couldn't meet the Stoneridge Drive extension commitment, then perhaps it should abandon plans to annex the property and let Livermore or Dublin take over Staples and develop it. ■

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Speakers: David Persin, VP, CFM
Ted Simos, VP, CFM

Guest Speaker: Peter Monty,
DWS Scudder

Please RSVP to Amber Strock
at (925) 227-6601 or email
amber_strock@ml.com to
reserve your place by March 4th.



Ravinder Sood, Ted Simos, David Persin, Scott Edington, Amber Strock

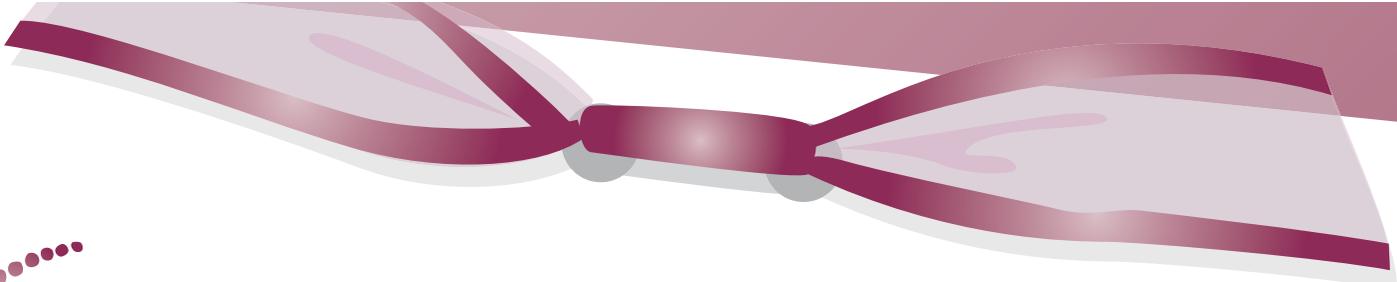


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Opinion

Editorial

'Circumstances Change'

The Pleasanton City Council, to its credit, voted Tuesday to extend Stoneridge Drive from its current barrier at Trevor Parkway to El Charro Road, where it will connect to Jack London Boulevard in Livermore. The new traffic artery, when completed in 2011 or 2012, will give Pleasanton motorists a faster and easier route to Livermore and the multi-million-dollar retail, recreational, senior housing and auto mall complex to be built on Staples Ranch, a 124-acre vacant parcel at the southwest corner of El Charro and I-580. At the same time, an extended Stoneridge will fulfill a General Plan obligation dating back two decades that called for a cross-town, intra-city thoroughfare. It was put in the plan to provide a way for motorists to travel between Livermore and Pleasanton without having to use the freeway.

The 3-2 vote to approve the Stoneridge extension was notable for several reasons. First, it was a difficult, yet decisive decision by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio on a controversial issue that has troubled the community for too long. They deserve credit for carefully evaluating the reasons for deciding now to extend the roadway, which include:

- The major Staples Ranch development might not move forward as planned unless the extension is built, as required by Alameda County, the Staples Ranch owner and developer.
- The development, with its major auto row planned by Hendrick Automotive, a large retail center, a two-story ice rink to be built, paid for and operated by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, and a privately owned and operated 600- to 800-unit independent, assisted living and skilled nursing care center, will be the largest since the Stoneridge Shopping Center and Hacienda Business Park were developed in the 1980s.
- Both construction and the operations after they're built will provide millions of dollars in jobs and tax revenue for Pleasanton at a time when other projects of this kind are being postponed or abandoned.
- The extension of Stoneridge Drive, long advocated by Dublin, Livermore, Alameda County and Caltrans puts Pleasanton back on the "good neighbor" list and likely to gain their needed support to press forward on widening Highway 84 over Pigeon Pass to connect commuters between I-580 and I-680. This, more than any other traffic plan, is expected to significantly decrease cut-through traffic on Pleasanton streets.

It's important to note that Tuesday's decisive decision by a majority on the Pleasanton council was made for the good of Pleasanton, and shows the flexibility of strong leaders to recognize that circumstances change. The roadway is needed and will bring benefits to Pleasanton, Livermore and the greater Tri-Valley and especially to all of us who work, live and do business here. ■

Code of ethics

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

Guest Opinion

Why Pleasanton needs a parcel tax

by Joan Laurson

Pleasanton is told that we live in a "bubble" that bears little resemblance to the rest of the state. This should be taken as a compliment and is a direct result of all our efforts to maintain excellent schools, quality city services, and safe neighborhoods. We may disagree among ourselves, but like family, we're united in common defense.



Cuts in education funding by the state mean a reduction in our school district budget of nearly \$9 million; coming on top of cuts made last year of \$2 million. Unlike the state, our school district balances its budget every year. Unlike the state, our school district traditionally carries a healthy "rainy day" reserve. But due to the dysfunctional state

finance system, halfway through the budget year in which we've already incurred expenses for our programs, the state is taking away over \$4 million. There goes our reserve, plus more cuts required for next year.

I am outraged that the lack of fiscal responsibility on the state's part will have such a devastating impact on our excellent school system—the very school system that attracts residents to Pleasanton in the first place and continues to provide stability in our property values. Pleasanton needs a local school funding measure to provide a more reliable source of revenue. A parcel tax, combined with some cuts and thoughtful compromises, will get us through the next few difficult years and enable us to provide the quality education that our children need, and our community demands.

Joan Laurson is the president of the Pleasanton PTA Council and chair of the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools, www.savepleasantonschools.org.

Letters

Only you can prevent an accident

Dear Editor,

Pedestrians and cyclists, please look. Recently, I was crossing Valley at a four-way stop and was almost across when four cyclists came off the far sidewalk, from behind a truck where I couldn't see them, and into the crosswalk in front of me, without slowing nor looking.

Besides their move being illegal

and stupidly running a stop sign, they almost got hit. Later in the week, I saw a cyclist, quickly moving on the sidewalk, enter a crosswalk and almost get hit. While the biker's move in that case was legal, the driver of the car waiting to turn right was looking left and narrowly missed him.

So, parents, pass on this piece of advice which hopefully saves an injury accident—even if one has the right of way, look at the driver and establish eye contact. If he/she doesn't see you, wait a moment. The life you save may be your own.

Mick Hanou

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Calendar

Auditions

'A Summer Carnival' Male Auditions Valley Dance Theatre will host male auditions for "A Summer Carnival" at 8:15 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, at Valley Dance Theatre (studio), 2247 Second St., Suite B, Livermore. No experience necessary. Call 243-0925 or visit www.valleydancetheatre.com.

from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$35 for members; \$38 for non-members, including lunch (choice of chicken or pasta). Partial proceeds benefit Assistance League of Amador Valley, Operation School Bell. Reservations are required and due by March 4. Check should be made out to Pleasanton Newcomers (with entree choice), Ruby Miller, 5253 Springdale Ave., Pleasanton, 94588. Contact Deb at 846-0626 or e-mail raynells@comcast.net.

Book Clubs

'When the Brain Can't Hear' The Brain Book Group will discuss Dr. Teri James Bellis' book about auditory processing, "When the Brain Can't Hear" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Kathryn Tourmat, M.S., will lead the group. New members and interested visitors are welcome. Call 846-8826.

Clubs

Pleasanton Newcomers—Change in the Air This club will host its 2009 spring Fashion Show and Luncheon

Concerts

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.

Jazzed About Pets for VHS An exciting evening of music featuring award-

winning artist Craig Chaquico and guest comedian Mark Pitta will perform at Jazzed About Pets at 8 p.m., Friday, March 13, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$40-\$45. Call 373-6800.

Events

Seventh Annual Youth Food Drive The seventh annual Youth Food Drive, rain or shine, will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 7, in Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville and Alamo. Donations of non-perishable items go to local food pantries. Call 998-6513 or e-mail youthfooddrive@comcast.net.

Twin's Club Clothing and Equipment sale Twin Valley Mother of Twin's Club will host a semi-annual children's clothing and equipment sale from 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Buying and selling is open to the public. Admission is \$1. Visit www.tvmotc.org/cesale.

Exhibits

'Treasures of the Tri-Valley II: Tri-Valley on the Move' Museum on Main will host the exhibit "Treasures of the Tri-Valley II: Tri-Valley on the Move" until March 7. The exhibit will feature items relating to transportation from local collectors. The museum is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m., Sunday. Admission is a \$2 donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Film

'A Powerful Noise' Celebrate International Women's Day by watching "A Powerful Noise" at 8 p.m., Thursday, March 5, at Dublin Hacienda Crossing Theater, 5000 Dublin Blvd. Cost is admission to the theater. Visit www.FathomEvents.com or call 455-8246.

'Health, Money, and Fear' and 'Mom's Rising' Two short documentaries will be shown from 7-9 p.m., Saturday, March 7, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A short chat will follow the films. Cost is a \$3 donation.

Pet of the Week



Catherine Hansen Rush

Paco packs a punch!

Meet a little dog with a big attitude. This 14 pound, neutered male Chihuahua mix loves people but his motto is "No cats allowed!" Paco's not very fond of other dogs either. But what's a small dog to do? He has some personal space to protect! SPCA dog trainers recommend an experienced dog owner who can help Paco work on those important social skills with other dogs. Paco loves treats and is smart. Show him a cookie and he'll show you a dog who wants to learn. Paco is 2 years old and likes to go, go, go. Visit this active little people pleaser at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 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. See more available pets at www.eastbayspca.org.

Call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

Benefit Rock Concert Join the fun at the Benefit Rock Concert at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 7, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. A donation of \$5 is requested to benefit Open Heart Kitchen. Julian Reisenhel has organized this for his Eagle Project. Call 417-8890.

Monte Carlo Casino Night A fun evening of gaming, food, dancing and fun with live and silent auctions will start at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Dr. Cost is \$50, including \$15 in gaming tokens and appetizers. Proceeds benefit Vintage Hills Elementary's technology, art and literacy programs. Call 216-4863.

Tri-Valley YMCA Golf Tournament The second annual Tri-Valley YMCA Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, May 4, at Ruby Hill Golf Club, 3400 W Ruby Hill Dr. Cost is \$225 per player before March 1; \$250 thereafter. Tickets for dinner only are \$75. Proceeds benefit the YMCA. Call 475-6108 or e-mail mcasper@ymcaeastbay.org.

Holiday

Family Purim Party Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a Family Purim Party from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, March 8, at Bothwell Center, 24668th St., Livermore. The party will feature games and crafts, baking of the traditional three-cornered cookies, and a costume parade for everyone. People of all ages. Non-traditional and dual-culture families are welcome. Cost is \$5 per household for non-members. Call 485-1049.

Kids & Teens

Cool Science for Kids at the Library The Chabot Space and Science Center brings their traveling science fair to the Pleasanton Public Library with Chabot To Go! from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 28. The fair will feature tables of hands-on activities for children kindergarten through 8th

grade. No registration required. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Kindergarten Readiness Tri-Valley YMCA will host a program designed for children that will be entering Kindergarten from 9:15-11:15 a.m., Monday-Friday, March 9-May 29. Various attendance schedules are available. Cost is \$140-\$280 per month based on schedule. Call 475-6108.

Video Games at the Library Teens in grades 6-12 are invited to play Wii Sports and DDR, Guitar Hero and Rock Band from 6-8:30 p.m., Monday, March 9, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This event is free. Call 931-3404.

Lectures/Workshops

Free Lunch and Learn Program ValleyCare Health Library will host a free Lunch and Learn Program from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. The talk will be on "The Healing Touch: Managing Cancer Treatment Side Effects with Energy Therapy" presented by Kathryn Darlington, RN, BSN. Reservations are required before March 9; call 734-3319.

Job Search A to Z Looking for a job and don't know where to begin? Jerry Simerman of the Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center will discuss the Job Search from A to Z from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, at the Dublin Library Program Room, 200 Civic Plaza. This event is free. Call 803-7286.

Miscellaneous

Donate Blood American Red Cross is hosting two blood drives in Pleasanton including one at CARRAmerica from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, at the Conference Center, Tassajara Room, 4432 Rosewood Dr.; and at StateCompensation from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, at Insurance Fund, Conference Room F, 5890 Owens Dr. Call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or visit www.beadonor.com.

Scholarships

DHSAA Scholarship Drive Dublin High alumni are invited to join the DHS Alumni Association for its St. Patty's Day Scholarship Drive from 4-10 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the Dublin Sports Pub, 7294 San Ramon Rd. Visit www.dublinhighalums.org or www.myspace.com/dhsalums. Facebook: dhsalums

Educators' Scholarship Four scholarships, each worth \$1,250, will be offered to high school graduating seniors and college students. Requirements are applicants must be residents in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin or Sunol who are planning a career in education; must be planning to attend college in the fall of 2009; and college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as Juniors in the fall of 2009. Deadline for applications is March 6. Call 443-6097 or visit www.tvrt.info.

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 <p>Aquila Theatre Company <i>William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors"</i> High-powered, Vibrant Production of a Delightful Comedy Mar 23 • 8pm</p>		<p>Jil Aigrot <i>Voice of Academy Award Winner, Marion Cotillard, in "La Vie En Rose"</i> Mar 16 • 8pm</p>
 <p>Red Grammer <i>Grammy Nominated Recording Artist of Children's Music</i> Mar 1 • 2pm</p>		

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Police Report

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

Feb. 14

•Elder abuse:

-3:55 p.m. in the 400 block of San Gabriel Court

Feb. 15

•Theft:

-9:05 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle

-9:47 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle

•DUI:

-10:31 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

•Battery:

-1:19 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Feb. 16

•Theft:

-4:17 p.m. in the 5700 block of Valley Avenue; stolen vehicle

-4:30 p.m. in the 5100 block of Independence Drive; grand theft

-6:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft

•Vandalism:

-6:19 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Robbery:

-3:14 p.m. in the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road

Feb. 17

•Theft:

-9:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery

-10:22 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft

•Vandalism:

-11:29 a.m. at the intersection of Northbound Interstate 680 and Stoneridge Drive; worth less than

\$400

•Shoplifting:

-4:27 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Public drunkenness:

-7:26 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Feb. 18

•Theft:

-9:09 a.m. in the 3400 block of Touriga Drive; stolen vehicle

-9:36 a.m. in the 400 block of Del Sol Avenue; grand theft

•Vehicular burglary:

-6:25 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

-9:14 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

-9:51 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

-10:15 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Vandalism:

-6:09 p.m. in the 6200 block of Ruxton Court

•Drug paraphernalia possession:

-3:22 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Parkway

•Assault with a deadly weapon:

-6:09 p.m. in the 6200 block of Ruxton Court

Feb. 19

•Vandalism:

-6:33 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

-8:35 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

-9:21 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

•DUI:

-12:18 a.m. in the 4700 block of Del Valle Parkway

-12:28 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

-1:53 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

•Public drunkenness:

-3:48 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

Feb. 20

•Embezzlement:

-10:09 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Burglary:

-3:05 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

•Drug/alcohol violations:

-9:37 a.m. at the intersection of East Stanley Boulevard and Stanley Boulevard; driving with marijuana

-7:47 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; minor possession of alcohol

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City Council

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Receive informational report on the results of the Green House Gas Emissions Analysis issued by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Review of City's state and federal legislative priorities
- Adopt resolution authorizing the filing of an application for Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding for the Pleasanton 2009 ARRA streets and roads resurfacing project (CIP NO. 095014) and stating the assurance to complete the project
- Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pleasanton and Alameda County Fire Department to purchase radio communications equipment on behalf of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department

Civic Arts

Monday, March 2, 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.

Housing and Human Services Commissions Joint Workshop

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discuss applications for federal grant funding

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Presentation from Nonprofit Agencies and Recommendation to Allocate Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Fiscal Year 2009 (2009-10)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Pleasanton is seeking public input on the Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

Wednesday March 18, 2009, at 6:30 pm

In the Veterans Memorial Building, Main Hall, 301 Main Street

The workshop will:

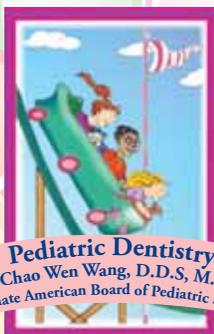
- Provide an overview of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Discuss proposed pedestrian improvements
- Discuss prioritized list of bicycle & pedestrian projects
- Take public comments on the master plan

This master plan is funded by a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). The development of the master plan is overseen by the City of Pleasanton Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The draft master plan document is available on the internet at: <http://pleasantonbikepedplan.webexone.com>. After entering the site, scroll down and select "Enter as a Guest" then select "Documents". For more information, please call Janis Stephen in the Community Development Department/Traffic Engineering Division at (925) 931-5671 or by email at: jstephen@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

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

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James Takens Happy 90th Birthday

James Takens will turn 90 on March 1st, 2009. James, with his wife of 60 years emigrated to America from Holland in 1950. Sponsored by Bert and Dein van der Veen, James and Janna worked at the Meadowlark Dairy on Foothill Road, milking cows and learning about processing milk. The dairy was the 1st certified dairy in California owned by Walter Briggs. Soon after Mr. Briggs made James manager, he eventually bought the business and provided milk to Pleasanton schools, The Cheese Factory on Main Street, Du-More drive through dairy in Walnut Creek, and Holdener Dairy in Livermore. In 1969 he built the drive through dairy in Pleasanton, where he processed and bottled his own milk. In 1986 he sold the business to his son Bruce and wife Patti, and during the middle of it all raised 3 children, Robert, Winnie and Bruce.

Happy 90th Birthday Dad

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Transitions

Obituaries

Milo Henry Salomonis

It is with deep sorrow that the family of Milo Henry Salomonis announces his passing at four months old.

Baby Milo was born Sept. 17 and died of SIDS on Jan. 20 in San Francisco.

Although Milo's time on Earth was much too short, he brought the greatest joy and love to share with his family and altered their hearts forever. Milo is survived by his parents, Nathan Salomonis and Heather Myers-Salomonis of San Francisco; paternal great-grandmother, Rosalie Kobey of Denver; maternal grandparents, Bill and Marcie Myers of Warner Robins, Ga; paternal grandparents, Ralph Salomonis and Blessing Kobey of Walnut Creek; honorary grandparents, Manuel and Loraine Carolo of Castro Valley; aunt, Kimberly Myers-Carolo and uncle, Glen Carolo; cousins, Austin and Jamie Carolo of Pleasanton; aunt, Tracie Myers; cousins, Makai, Serena and Ruby Myers of Minnesota; aunt, Annalisa Salomonis of Oakland, aunt, Beth Salomonis of Denver; and many more loving relatives and friends.

Graveside services were held by Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes at the Lafayette Cemetery on Jan. 28 and a celebration of life at the Lafayette Park Hotel followed. For further information or to make a donation to SIDS research, see Milo's website, www.milosalomonis.org.

Bud Barlow

Longtime Pleasanton resident, Oran M. "Bud" Barlow died Feb. 4. He was 83.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Mr. Barlow grew up in Berkeley, where he was a Boy Scout and a newspaper delivery boy. He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1943 and joined the U.S. Navy, serving during World War II as a radio repairman in New Guinea.

After discharge, he attended

UC Berkeley where he studied electrical engineering and played clarinet in the Cal band. He also led the band as the drum major. During his studies, he was recalled into service for the Korean conflict and was stationed at Treasure Island teaching electronics and radio.

Upon his second release, Mr. Barlow returned to Cal to finish his studies, graduated in 1953 and began his career with the University of California and the Lawrence Livermore Lab. At this time, he also started a lifelong, part-time avocation of teaching junior college electronics and computer hardware. In 1965, he settled in Pleasanton.

A man of many interests, Mr. Barlow jumped with both feet into his hobbies: astronomy, telescope making, woodworking, photography, Chinese cooking, camping, backpacking and tennis. He also found pleasure in gardening and competitive tomato growing. He served in many positions in the Pleasanton Swim Team, the Livermore Unitarian Fellowship, the Alisal Improvement Club and the Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association. In later years, he spent most of his time in genealogy and railroading, both of which inspired travel and adventure across the United States and into foreign lands. An avid fan of Dixieland music, he continued to play his clarinet as a long time member of the Pleasanton Community Band and in the Cal Band Alumni. He was well known to his friends for his willingness to roll up his sleeves, wade in and get involved, lending a hand to those in need.

He is survived by Chilli, his loving wife of 46 years; his children, Belinda (Kevin Burns) of Sonora and Vivian of Sacramento and his sons, Keith (Michele) and Craig (Kathy) of Pleasanton; his grandchildren, Marissa Burns of San Diego, Dylan Burns of Sonora, Becky (Jeff) Geiger of Hampton, Va., Sarena Vaughn of Sacramento, Nichole, Lane and Nathaniel Barlow and Andrew and Ashley Barlow of Pleasanton; and great-granddaughter, Alyssa Geiger.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the following: Pacific Locomotive Association / Niles Canyon Railway, Box 2248, Fremont, CA 94536; University of California Marching Band 72 Cesar Chavez Student Center, MC 4280, Berkeley, CA 94720-4280 (Payable to UC Regents—Cal Band) or Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore, Endowment Fund, attn. Treasurer, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore, CA 94550.



2 FREE Community Seminars

1 INFERTILITY

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Thursday, March 5, 2009 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Many couples experience difficulty conceiving a child. About 85 to 90 percent of women will get pregnant during a year of unprotected sex. However, an estimated six million Americans struggle to get pregnant and carry a baby. There are many reasons for infertility—female and male physiological issues, such as blocked fallopian tubes and the low sperm counts. Learn what you can do to help improve your chances of conceiving a healthy baby. Aimee Eyvazzadeh, M.D., will provide information on medical and surgical treatments that may improve fertility. Come learn about the options available. Partners are welcome to attend.

2 MENOPAUSE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Thursday, March 12, 2008 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

With the baby boomers reaching their middle years, there are probably more women experiencing menopause than any generation. Perhaps you have read articles about treating uncomfortable symptoms such as hot flashes, sleep disturbances and changes in mood. You may have many questions, including: It is safe to take hormone replacement therapy? Do herbal products work? How can I protect my bones and my heart? Aimee Eyvazzadeh, M.D., will discuss the latest research and answer your questions.

SPEAKER

Aimee Eyvazzadeh, M.D.
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Sports

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Cavaliers put up fight in last pre-season game

Photo and story by
Anne-Marie Harrison

Through endless rain and 40-degree weather, the Pleasanton Cavaliers rugby team put up a strong fight against the De La Salle Spartans on Feb. 13 in their last pre-season game.

Despite the conditions, morale was high till the bitter end when junior varsity ended up losing 5-7 and varsity 7-17. Even with a number of injuries on their lineup, the Cavaliers managed to apply defensive pressure on De la Salle mostly inside the 22-meter area. Maintaining force throughout the game, the team came together in a unified effort to play their best. While JV players Angel Irizarry and Jake Isabe, significantly contributed to the score, Teddy Gatanis, Austin Pederson and Thomas Silliman orchestrated several close drives during the varsity game.

Working with his new lifters, Joshua Parr successfully stole the ball on a number of occasions and pressured De la Salle's lineout during the scrums.

The club, which has players participating from across the Tri-Valley area, was founded by Paul Bretz, Kevin Miller and Ken



Burnthorn. Recently, the Cavaliers played in the 25th Annual Kick Off Tournament (KOT) in Granite Regional Park, Sacramento. More than 130 rugby matches were played from Feb. 6-8. Among the 62 matches on Saturday alone, the Cavaliers played well in defense and achieved several goals—moving forward to the new season.

The team left Sacramento with an overall 0-3 match score, but exposed new players to the game and improved throughout the day. In their first match the team col-

laborated well with each other, while in the second they managed to get in some impressive tackles. Overcoming a few injuries, the Cavaliers kept up against a league opponent in their third and final match, despite the losses.

Overall, this year's KOT was a great success. The tournament has grown 20 percent over the past three years and this year drew in 93 sides to compete.

Anne-Marie is a student at Amador Valley High School and writes for the Amador.



Foothill High cheer squad wows crowd at bowl game

Foothill's cheer squad members were in the spotlight when they performed during halftime at the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 30 which is known to have one of the biggest halftime extravaganzas of the year. The team worked with choreographer Cris Judd and performed with 300 other cheerleaders/dancers and 1,800 marching band members from all over the country. The squad also had the special honor of being highlighted in the show because of the team's advanced tumbling and stunting skills.

During the game the girls sat in the first three rows on the 30-yard line right in front of the University of Oregon cheerleaders. They also had the privilege of marching in the nationally televised Big Balloon Parade on Dec. 29. To help pay for the trip, the girls raised over \$14,000.

7 lax players selected to represent club

The Pleasanton Lacrosse Club had seven players selected to represent the club on Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association All-Star teams following tryouts last weekend.

The invitational-only tryouts brought the best of Northern California junior lacrosse players together for a two-day event in both under-13 and under-15 tryouts. In the under-13 tryouts, there were players representing over 60 teams and three Pleasanton players were successful.

Connor Veit (defender) and Jamirr (midfielder) Holland were selected to the Under-13 all-star team who will compete in Vail, Colorado this summer, while Josh Miller was picked as the goalie for the team who will travel to the U.S. Lacrosse Festival in Ohio, also this summer.

In the under-15 tryouts, Steven Patrick and Mike Barbier were tabbed for the team who will travel to the U.S. National Championships in Baltimore this summer, with Jerome Rigor and George Curtis being selected for the U-15 Vail team.

—Dennis Miller

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Son arrested for Castlewood couple's murders

Ernest Scherer III, 30, is charged with special circumstances, could face death penalty

by Janet Pelletier

The son of a couple brutally killed in their Castlewood home last March was looking to cash in on a lucrative inheritance, according to investigators.

Ernest Scherer III, 30, was arrested Monday night in Las Vegas and waived extradition to the Bay Area Tuesday night, arriving by plane at midnight. He was taken for questioning by Alameda County Sheriff's investigators to San Leandro and was booked into Santa Rita Jail Wednesday morning. He was scheduled to go before a judge for arraignment at the Wiley Manuel Courthouse in Oakland Thursday.

Scherer III was charged Tuesday with two counts of murder and two special circumstances clauses (multiple murder and murder for financial gain) that could lead to the death penalty for the deaths of his parents at their country club home in March 2008, according to Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff.

According to an arrest affidavit, Alameda County Sheriff's investigator Sgt. Scott Dudek wrote that Scherer III killed for financial gain. That gain was to the tune of \$1.5 million, the estimated inheritance Scherer would have received upon turning 30, in the event his parents were deceased. Scherer III turned 30 years old July 3, nearly three months after his parents' deaths.

Scherer Jr., 60, dabbled in poker, but made a living in real estate investments. His son was more professionally involved on the gaming circuit, having participated at least once in the World Series of Poker. Gambling websites list Scherer III's career earnings as more than \$330,000.

But despite his winnings, the son was in a state of financial collapse. Dudek said the son was known to have debts. The affidavit states that Scherer III's parents lent him more than \$600,000 to purchase a condominium in Brea, Calif., where he had been living at the time of the murders with his wife and young son.



Ernest Scherer III

Property taxes and monthly mortgages went unpaid as Scherer III and his wife accumulated credit card debt of more than \$40,000, the affidavit reports.

Since the murders, Scherer III moved around, living in Utah, Mississippi and Las Vegas, where he was apprehended.

Other damning details in court records state that he attempted to purchase a gun days before the killings. His cell phone records showed that there was no activity for a total of 17 hours during the time police believe Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth, 57, were brutally beaten and stabbed with a sharp object. Investigators, who have declined to discuss the murder weapon(s), believe the pair were killed March 7, sometime after returning home from a dinner at the Castlewood Country Club. Scherer Jr. missed a meeting he had scheduled for 8 a.m. the next morning.

The couple's daughter, Catherine Gray, asked a country club worker to check on them after she became concerned having not heard from them in a week. A worker visited the home on March 14 and could see Scherer Jr.'s body through a window. Abendroth's body, clad in pajamas as was her husband, was found in a nearby room. The affidavit says when investigators asked Scherer III to explain the silence in cell phone usage, he said his battery had died.

The couple had lived in the home, located near the first hole of the Hill Course on Castlewood Drive, for nearly two years. They purchased it from the parents of professional LPGA golfer Paula Creamer. Previously, they had lived in San Ramon for a number of years.

As late as Monday, sheriff's investigators declined to officially name Scherer III a suspect, calling him a "person of interest," but their suspicions mounted on the son as they ruled out other close family members, friends and acquaintances. Scherer Jr. was actively involved in the Republican Party, was a former San Ramon Valley school board member who was recalled in 1990 and up until

his death, remained involved in school issues. Abendroth had been an accounting and lecturing professor at Cal State East Bay. She was also an active member of the Mormon church in Pleasanton where the funeral service was held. Abendroth's friend Linda Lea Hurley remembered her at services held March 22 as terribly bright and quite outspoken, someone who inspired other Mormon women to become more involved in church affairs.

In tributes, friends and family members recalled how the couple had a passion for traveling, hiking and birding. Their feats ranged from climbing Half Dome to leading bird expeditions from Turkey to Ecuador to traveling extensively across all seven continents.

Scherer Jr.'s sister Carolyn Scherer Oesterle said the family was close knit. Scherer Jr. taught his daughter Catherine the winning strategies of board games and encouraged his son to play soccer. Even though he didn't know a thing about soccer, Scherer Jr. bought books about the game, studied the plays and eventually became a soccer coach for many of the years his son played the sport.

She also talked about all the Ernies in the Scherer family. Having Ernie Sr. and Ernie Jr. was difficult enough, so the family nicknamed Ernest III "Skip" to lessen the confusion. Then, she added, Skip named his first-born son Ernie IV. The four Ernies always posed for a photo of themselves at the frequent family gatherings Scherer Jr. was fond of arranging.

Scherer III attended his parents' funeral and was said to have shown little emotion. The same day as the services, investigators served a search warrant his Brea home in Orange County and collected evidence.

Early on, investigators also focused on a reported security video showing a red Chevy Camaro seen in the neighborhood at the time of the killings. Residents of the relatively quiet and shellshocked country club community were asked if they had seen that vehicle. Department of Motor Vehicle records show that color, make and model car registered to Scherer III.

Bay City News contributed to this report.



Ernest Scherer III, second from right in maroon dress shirt with emotion at the funeral services for his parents.



Top: Charlene Abendroth, 57, was a beloved accounting professor for more than 30 years at Cal State East Bay and Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, was an active member of the California Republican Party and dabbled in poker, although his main source of income was real estate investment. Above: Sgt. Scott Dudek of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department holds a press conference just days after police discovered the couple's bodies.



Acting on a request from the couple's daughter, a country club worker went to check on them at their Castlewood Drive home, Above, near the first hole of the Hill Course, and discovered Scherer Jr.'s body that could be seen through a window.

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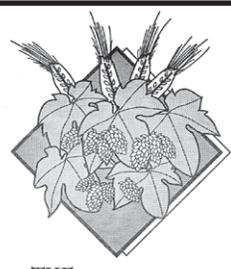
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Living

Just one of the kids

*Wallace family seeks to debunk
Down syndrome misconceptions*

by Emily West

When Michael and Pam Wallace were pregnant with their fourth child, everything appeared to be typical. The standard triple screen test came back negative, but they soon found out that is screen is just a screen.

Torin Wallace, born Aug. 8, 2006, was diagnosed with Down syndrome, changing the 36-year-old Pleasanton mom's expectations of her family's future.

"Whether you find out your child has Down syndrome prenatally or at birth, the news is devastating," she said. "The picture of the 'perfect' family that you had imagined no longer exists."

Right away, the Wallaces were given information and resources by the staff at Washington Hospital in Fremont, whose NICU is run by Stanford. A social worker provided them with physicians in the area as well as recommended support groups in the area.

The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area in Danville offers many services for children and parents, including support groups, play dates and educational workshops. Martha Hogan, co-founder of the organization, said they serve about 100 children a week, although the number of families they serve is well over 500.

"We're lucky, in a way, that when these little ones are born, we know what it is," Hogan said. "We don't know why it happens, but it's well understood."

While devastating, the diagnosis of their son led the Wallaces to learn more about the disorder. In turn, they found hope that Torin can lead a full life and they hope to share their knowledge to encourage other families.

Perhaps the biggest misconception they had previously thought was that Down syndrome can be mild or severe.

"There are people with Down syndrome driving cars, graduating four year schools, being completely independent on their own finances, getting married.

"What's wonderful now, unlike 30 years ago," she added, "those severely affected live in independent group home. No one has to be institutionalized or have to stay with their parents."

Pam and Torin were recently guests on "The Doctors," a show where a panel of doctors address a few medical issues. They had footage of the Wallace children playing together and Torin even had the chance to meet John C. McGinley, a star on "Scrubs" and spokesman for the National Down Syndrome Society.

However, Pam Wallace was disappointed that the show seemed to reinforce the stereotype of developmentally disabled children,

instead of shedding light on the new wave of education available for young children.

"With all the things we can do, they are more like typical children than not," she said. "It's frustrating for new parents."

"I am a physical therapist," she added. "[Children with Down syndrome] have benefited so much from physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. It's a shame they didn't touch on that."

These therapies now start when babies are 8 weeks old and help facilitate developmental milestones. For example, some children learn to walk after crawling, whereas those with Down syndrome can't miss a step, they must learn to sit, then crawl, stand and finally walk. And they may not be able to do so until they are 3 or 4.

"Without intervention, the children can develop compensations," Pam Wallace said. "It can cause problems in the long run, where their walk may look different. When they get these therapies, then they reach these milestones."

Parental involvement in meeting the developmental goals is key, and often they are encouraged to do so during play time.

Getting the word out about the new hope for children with Down syndrome is important to the Wallaces, as they have learned a disheartening trend.

"Over 90 percent of those babies that the mothers find out they have Down syndrome are terminated," Pam Wallace said. "A lot of that is because there is a lot of ignorance about what the quality of life would be and what they would be able to accomplish. They do lead wonderful lives and it's a life worth living."

Hogan said it is helpful to recognize the hope for each child.

"We know that there are similarities in each child and they are also unique in everything they do," she said. "It's important to help the parents understand the potential that each child has; to be the very best they can be."

With this new education, Pam Wallace has learned that Down syndrome doesn't define these kids, instead it's simply a characteristic that's a part of them. While it has been a challenge to raise a child with Down syndrome, she has learned she does have a "perfect" family, just not the one she had originally imagined.

"There is a tendency for us as parents when we learn of their diagnosis to put a ceiling on what we think they may be able to accomplish," she said. "Our philosophy in raising Torin is that we will raise him with the same expectations as our other three children and as we hit obstacles, we will address them as needed. As a result of this approach, Torin is truly just one of the kids." ■



Pam Wallace, with 2-year-old son Torin, hopes to teach others about new opportunities for children diagnosed with Down syndrome and their parents.



Torin Wallace has had much success with early intervention therapies to help meet development milestones. The Wallaces are raising him with the same expectations as their other children, Gavin, 8, Kieran, 7, and Colin, 5.

Down syndrome resources

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the Bay Area
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Now Showing

The Class (Entre les murs)

★★★★

Rated: PG-13

In French with English subtitles
2 hours, 8 minutes

Sometimes little lies add up to a big truth. Director Laurent Cantet's drama looks like a documentary but isn't one. Shot in cinema verite style with a handheld camera and starring actual French high school students, the film seamlessly fuses fiction and fact.

Francois Begaudeau adapted his autobiographical novel about teaching in the multiracial 20th arrondissement of Paris into a screenplay--and plays the French-language teacher named Francois. Incredibly the film has that authentic slice-of-life feel, as though a fly on the wall captured the complexities of teaching and learning in today's ethnically and economically diverse classroom.

To borrow from Jean-Luc Godard, "The Class" is truth 24 frames per second.

Unlike American inspirational-teacher movies, the Oscar nominee and winner of the prestigious Palme d'Or at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival provokes thought about France's public educational system rather than providing a feel-good experience. No one stands and delivers. Monsieur Marin (Begaudeau) doesn't have an opus. Minds don't seem particularly dangerous--although they certainly reach the boiling point--and the great debaters only exchange heated barbs between the walls of their school.

The lively opening bristles with all the anticipation and activity that accompanies the start of the academic year. Veterans wish new faculty members "courage," while advising them about which students are nice, not nice or need to be watched. Buck up with a biscuit. Prepare for a challenge. Seeing this dedicated staff in action makes for riveting drama and small moments of delight, such as

when a colleague pops open a bottle of champagne to announce her pregnancy. How perfectly French.

Marin's lesson on the imperfect subjunctive raises so many intriguing issues. On one level, the gifted teacher engages his restless class through a Socratic questioning method. He urges his students, primarily immigrants grappling with their non-native French language and sense of identity, to master the grammar rules before calling them into question. But bright, outspoken Koumba (Rachel Regulier) insists that only "snobs" use the tense, bringing class dynamics into the discussion. The volatile Souleymane (Franck Keita) veers off to ask Marin if the rumors are true: Is he homosexual? The charismatic teacher counters by asking if that would be a problem. So go the charged exchanges, addressing much more than language usage.

These teachers are human. One screams about being sick of his students. They can't focus for more than 20 seconds, and they behave like animals. When the faculty gathers to determine grades, Marin uses a degrading word to refer to the giggling female class representatives in attendance. The girls stand up for themselves--and for classmates whose futures will be forever changed by instructors labeling them as "limited" and placing them on the vocational track or expelling them from school.

Emotional and ethical clashes make for good drama, but one almost-whispered comment proves just as devastating as the loud squabbles. At the end of the school year, the students share what they have learned. One girl, seemingly invisible because of her quiet demeanor among the rowdy group, approaches Marin and tentatively admits that she doesn't understand anything in any subject.

Like an exceptional teacher, "The Class" presents complex ideas in a clear, accessible and entertaining way. Cantet's success in tackling such sensitive, topical subject matter certainly earns top marks.

—Susan Tavernetti

New Chinese dance school to open Sunday

After much demand, renowned Chinese dancer and Pleasanton resident Xiaopei He Gelb is opening Xiaopei Chinese Dance Sunday at Triple Threat Performing Arts in Livermore. Students, whose ages range from 8 years old to adults, have enrolled to learn more about the beauty and elegance of Chinese dance. He Gelb first started dancing at 11 and has a strong background in ballet, Chinese classic, Chinese ethnic minorities, folk and modern dance. To learn more about the school, visit www.xiaopeiart.com/school.



Shakespeare, Simpsons style

Comedian Rick Miller presents 'MacHomer' March 7

Ever wonder what everyone's favorite donut-loving cartoon dad would be like in a Shakespearean era? Didn't think so. Thankfully, comedian Rick Miller did and Pleasanton audiences can see the hilarious results.

Pleasanton Civic Arts presents "MacHomer" at 8 p.m. March 7 at the Amador Theater. The comedic melding of William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" with the hit television series "The Simpsons" combines into a script that is 85 percent Shakespeare, with Miller performing

over 50 voices from the TV show.

The idea for "MacHomer" all began in the summer of 1995, when Miller had a small part in a touring production of "Macbeth" with Montreal's Repercussion Theatre. He considered tragedy to be funnier backstage than onstage where he spent hours concocting a joke for the cast party: What if the Simpsons were to parody? While seemingly different, the universal theme remains: family dysfunction.

"I find it somewhat poetic that, in Homer's hands, Macbeth's vault-

ing ambition ranges from wanting the throne to wanting a doughnut," Miller said. "There is also something vaguely tragic about the residents of Springfield: flawed, vulnerable, but ultimately noble in their own pathetic way."

Tickets to "MacHomer" are \$25, \$30 and \$35 for adults and \$15, \$20 and \$25 for students. They may be purchased at www.civicartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at 931-3444, or in person at the box office.

—Emily West

Calling all wordsmiths

Deadline approaching for Poetry, Prose and Arts festival

Early registration is open through March 7 for the eighth annual Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival, taking place April 4-5.

This year the festival includes keynote speaker Dana Gioia, a poet, critic and best-selling anthologist who recently served as chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts. Participants can attend 17 workshops, a poetry and prose awards banquet with music by harpist Dominique Piana, an authors' reception, book signing and literary row, as well as a free fine arts exhibition will be provided by the Pleasanton Art League and regional artists; while musical entertainment will be offered by clas-

sical guitarist Jim Steinke.

Fees for early registration range from \$15 for youth or teen workshops to \$130 for an adult full weekend schedule. All poetry and prose contest entries must be submitted with early registration. The contest is only open to those attending workshops.

After March 7, fees will range from \$20-\$145 and will not be accepted after March 24.

For more information, including registration forms and a full list of special guests, visit www.pleasantonarts.org, or by calling Michelle Russo at 931-5350.

—Emily West

Experience German romanticism

Pleasanton Chamber Players perform March 8

Get ready to explore with the Pleasanton Chamber Players as they juxtapose works of familiar and less-known works in "The Rise of German Romanticism."

The performance, at 3 p.m. March 8 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1235 Hopyard Road, is said to provide an intriguing storyline to a musical period that has not yet said its last word.

Works by E.T.A. Hoffmann, Weber, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Baermann, Schumann and Liszt will evoke a world of music where the ideal of beauty of tone and phrasing reigned supreme, when aspirations

to high art and connections to folk lore did not contradict one another.

Performers slated for this concert are Cecilia Huang and Abraham Becker, violin; Micah Naler, viola; Gay Hagen Dunn and Lawrence Granger, cello; Karen Stasko Veca, flute; Gary Sears, clarinet; Dominique Piana, harp; and Priscilla Carter Granger, piano.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door and free for children. To purchase, visit Ingram & Brauns Musik Shoppe and Towne Center Books in Pleasanton, as well as Fretted Friends in Livermore.

—Emily West

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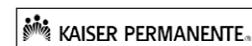
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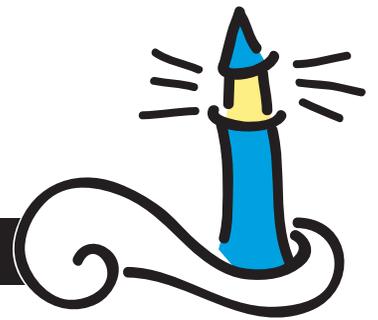
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Real Estate

Home sale of the week



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Existing home sales drop as buyers await stimulus impact

Would-be purchasers held back in January

by **Jeb Bing**

Existing-home sales declined in January with some buyers waiting to see how details of the economic stimulus package would affect them, according to the National Association of Realtors.

At the same time, inventories fell to a two-year low.

Existing-home sales, including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, fell 5.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.49 million units in January from a level of 4.74 million units in December, and are 8.6 percent lower than the 4.91 million-unit pace in January 2008.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said there was understandable hesitation by some homebuyers.

“Given so much stimulus package discussion in January, some would-be buyers simply sat out for clarity and certainty on the nature of housing stimulus,” he said. “The housing market will soon get a lift from very favorable buying conditions, not only from improved affordability, but also from the stimulus of an \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit, and higher conforming loan limits that will allow more people to tap into 50-year low mortgage rates.”

NAR estimates the impact of the stimulus package and lower interest rates on the housing market to be about 900,000 additional home sales in 2009 compared to conditions before the stimulus package.

Inventory is expected to fall below an eight-month supply by the year end, which would be consistent with home price stabilization.

Total housing inventory at the end of January fell 2.7 percent to 3.60 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 9.6-month supply at the current sales pace. Because sales were down, the January supply is up from a 9.4-month supply in December.

“The drop in total inventory is an encouraging sign because the number of homes on the market has declined steadily since peaking in July 2008, and inventory is at the lowest level in two years,” Yun said. In January 2007 there were 3.54 million homes for sale.

NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth, said foreclosure relief needs

to be fair. “Though President Obama’s foreclosure relief plan is a step in the right direction with a net positive benefit for the housing market, serious issues of moral hazard and fairness need to be better addressed,” he said.

“The plan should be wider in scope with equal opportunity for all rather than targeting specific groups. Responsible homeowners who have been making payments consistently on time but do not have traditional refinance options should also qualify for potential loan modifications,” McMillan said.

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage fell to a record low at 5.05 percent in January from 5.29 percent in December; the rate was 5.76 percent in January 2008.

A high prevalence of distressed home sales, and of those in lower price ranges, has skewed the median price to be markedly lower than under normal market conditions. The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$170,300 in January, down 14.8 percent from a year earlier when the median was \$199,800; the median is where half of the homes sold for more and half sold for less.

McMillan said we are living in a bifurcated market divided between distressed sales and traditional homes.

“It appears that in many instances a buyer can get a really good deal on a distressed sale, although that home may require some significant effort to bring it up to standard,” he added.

A preliminary analysis by NAR suggests that non-distressed properties are holding their value much better.

“Distressed sales activity appears to be leveling off, although there are wide differences locally,” he said.

“For example, close to 80 percent of all sales are either foreclosed properties or short sales in Santa Ana, Calif., but less than 20 percent in the Chicago region,” Yun said.

About a quarter of all inventory is listed as being distressed, but NAR estimates that distressed sales, either foreclosed or those requiring a lender-mediated short sale, comprised about 45 percent of all sales in January.

(continued on page 25)

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Stimulus

(continued from page 21)

"Homebuyers are evidently competing for homes with deep discounts," he said.

Yun said it will take a while for the stimulus to show in housing data. From the time a buyer starts looking for a home until it is reported as a closed sale can take as long as five months: a median of 10 weeks to search and make an offer, about six weeks to close the transaction and up to four weeks to collect and report the data.

"This means improvement from the economic stimulus isn't likely to show as closed home sales before summer, although we may see an earlier lift from lower mortgage interest rates," he said.

Significant local market variations continue. "A majority of markets experienced sales declines of more than 20 percent from a year ago, but some markets appeared to have reached the tipping point of accelerating home buying," Yun said. "For example, home sales in Las Vegas have more than doubled with some reports of multiple bids."

Single-family home sales fell 4.7 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.05 million in January from a pace of 4.25 million in December, and are 7.1 percent less than a 4.36 million-unit level in January 2008.

The median existing single-family home

price was \$169,900 in January, which is 13.8 percent below a year ago.

Existing condominium and co-op sales dropped 10.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 440,000 units in January from 490,000 units in December, and are 20.3 percent lower than the 552,000-unit level a year ago. The median existing condo price was \$174,400 in January, down 20.6 percent from January 2008.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast dropped 14.7 percent to an annual pace of 640,000 in January, and are 23.8 percent lower than January 2008. The median price in the Northeast was \$228,200, down 14.7 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest fell 5.7 percent in January to a level of 1.00 million and are 16.7 percent below a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$138,100, which is 6.8 percent lower than January 2008.

In the South, existing-home sales declined 5.7 percent to an annual pace of 1.64 million in January, and are 15.9 percent below January 2008. The median price in the South was \$152,100, down 7.4 percent from a year earlier.

Existing-home sales in the West were unchanged at an annual rate of 1.20 million in January and are 29.0 percent stronger than a year ago. The median price in the West was \$220,000, which is 25.5 percent below January 2008. ■



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Gorgeous custom home with a wrap around front porch on a large lot close to historic downtown with upgrades galore! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Approx. 2780 sq. ft. of comfortable living space with a great room and an amazing kitchen. 2-car attached garage PLUS a 1200 +/- sq. ft. workshop/garage. Fabulous beach entrance pool and spa. **\$1,275,000**



4332 2nd Street, Pleasanton

Absolutely charming remodeled bungalow just one block from historic downtown. Gorgeous hardwood floors, crown molding, granite and many custom details throughout. Double French doors open to an expansive rear yard. Walk-in basement for storage or wine cellar. **\$989,000**

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

DANVILLE

5 Bedrooms

16 Hermosa \$2,100,000
Sat/Sun 1-5 Prudential CA Realty 577-4911

DUBLIN

4 Bedrooms

7157 Hansen Drive \$589,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 J Rockcliff Realtors 251-2547

LIVERMORE

3 Bedrooms

306 Clarke Avenue \$369,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 1-4

620 Anna Maria \$469,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

4 Bedrooms

730 Geraldine Street \$525,000
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 583-2166

5 Bedrooms

2318 Peregrine Street \$790,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Remax Accord 640-8824

6 Bedrooms

635 Travis Circle \$878,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 899-6011

PLEASANTON

1 Bedrooms

7880 Canyon Meadows Dr. #E \$264,950
Sun 12-3 Hometown GMAC 200-2457

2 Bedrooms

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

3 Bedrooms

18 Golf Road \$1,595,000
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 484-2045

4040 Jensen \$529,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 398-6706

7748 Creekside Drive \$529,999
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 989-5695

2860 El Capitan Drive \$549,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

6045 Acacia \$562,425
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 788-7788

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

4 Bedrooms

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

265 Kottinger Drive \$1,090,000
Sat/Sun 1-4:30 Realty Station Inc. 876-1961

532 Rosso Ct \$1,099,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298

1608 Cindy Way \$1,229,000
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
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 980-0273

1766 Orchard Way \$699,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080

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

2586 Skimmer Court \$875,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

5 Bedrooms

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

3776 Newton Way \$1,399,000
Sat 2-5/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

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

1436 Irongate Court \$1,485,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080

2215 Martin Avenue \$1,675,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-9080

3651 E. Ruby Hill Drive \$2,800,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 397-4244

5179 Muirwood Drive \$929,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

SAN RAMON

4 Bedrooms

10033 Santa Rosa \$629,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential California Realty 249-0301

PONDEROSA'S EXCLUSIVE ENCLAVE IN PLEASANTON

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ONLY SEVEN HOMES AVAILABLE UP TO 4,671 SQ. FT. UP TO HALF-ACRE LOTS FROM \$1.4 MILLION



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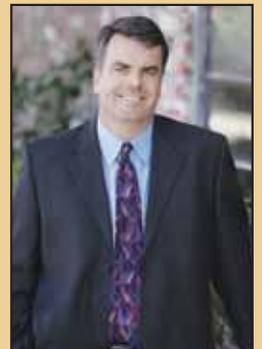
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The latest from The 680 Blog

Three Words to Stop Foreclosure

An interesting strategy is making the rounds affecting homeowners who are in the process of having their home foreclosed on. Apparently using just three words can make a huge difference. No, the three words are not "this really sucks". They are "produce the note". Some homeowners have apparently had success stalling the foreclosure process, or even having the foreclosure stopped by demanding that the lender produce the original note that is the basis of the action.

The reason is simple. Most loans originated in the past few years have been bundled into securities, and sold >>Go to www.680Homes.com to read the rest of this article.



OPEN SAT 2-5/SUN 1-4

Fabulous 1 story with 4 BR + bonus room, 3½ BTH, 1/3 acre lot with pool & spa, custom outdoor kitchen, over \$300k in upgrades!
\$1,399,000 3776 Newton Way



PRIME LOCATION!

Fabulous Country Fair home with granite & cherry kitchen, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, and private almost ¼ acre lot w/ pool & spa.
\$1,199,900



JUST LISTED!

Bridle Creek Area. 5 BR + Office, 5½ BTH, gourmet granite/cherry/stainless kitchen, .47 acre lot, luxurious master suite, & more!
\$1,729,000



COMING SOON!

Elegant 4 BR + office & bonus room, 4½ BTH home with 3 fireplaces, granite & stainless kitchen, and resort-like private yard w/ pool and waterfall!
\$1,749,500



OPEN SUN 1-4

West Side Pleasanton! 5BR, 3 BTH, 3 car garage, large private .23 acre lot, granite & stainless kitchen, and more!
\$929,000 5179 Muirwood Drive



OPEN SAT/SUN 12-5

Incredible Styling! Downtown Pleasanton 4 BR plus loft, 3½ BTH, new construction, flat 10,000 sq ft lot, hardwood, granite, & more!
\$1,329,000 1624 Cindy Way



ALMOST 1 ACRE!

Stunning Mediterranean with 5 BR + office, 4½ BTH, gourmet granite & maple kitchen, 3 fireplaces, and large private .92 acre creekside lot!
\$1,595,000



OPEN SAT/SUN 12-5

Upgrades galore! Fabulous home with 4 BR + loft, 3½ BTH, 3 car garage, almost ¼ acre lot, & more!
\$1,349,000 1640 Cindy Way



JUST LISTED!

Shadow Cliffs fixer! 3 BR, 2 BTH single story on private .20 acre lot backs to open space with trails! A steal at this price!
\$559,000

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



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

Featured Properties



Tracy – Beautiful Home in Excellent Condition! Pride of ownership shows in this lovely four bedroom, three bathroom home with a nice living room, family room and dining area. The kitchen has newer appliances. Located on a corner lot, this home has manicured yards, a spa, patio and patio cover. This is a great opportunity to purchase a single family home at a fantastic price!
1020 Vallerand Road \$199,000



Livermore – An adorable four bedroom, two bathroom home with approximately 1573 square feet of living space. Many nice features including new carpet in the Family Room, Wilsonart flooring, tile accents, and decorator paint. The bathrooms have been upgraded and there's dual pane windows and crown molding. You won't want to miss the large rear deck and will appreciate the trees offering privacy.
559 Oriole Avenue \$439,000



Livermore – Great Two Story Home at a Great Price! Very spacious five bedroom, three bathroom home with almost 2700 square feet of living space. You'll love the family room and large, open kitchen with Hardwood floors and Maple cabinets. Great backyard with a pool and spa, with a removable safety fence, plus a grassy area for play. You'll definitely want to come by and take a look!
5743 Edelweiss Way \$675,000



San Ramon – Lovely five bedroom, three bathroom home located on a deep 1/3 acre cul-de-sac lot that's perfect for backyard play. Updated throughout, including a remodeled kitchen featuring maple cabinets and granite counters. Additional features included remodeled baths, raised panel doors, newer carpet, crown molding, dual pane windows, and newer A/C. Move in condition!
124 Marsh Place \$799,000



Open Sunday 1-4

Pleasanton – A classic, elegant one-story custom home on an approximately .48 acre lot in the desirable "The Grove/Chain of Lakes" area. Elegant, new kitchen including professional stainless steel Wolf Range, farmer's sink, granite, two built in refrigerators, and custom Hickory cabinets. Beautiful interior courtyard, pebble tech pool, expansive lawns and walking trail to the park and Mohr elementary school.
3707 Mohr Avenue \$1,449,950



Pleasanton – Absolutely gorgeous, single story, custom estate located in Ruby Hill. The four bedroom, five and a half bathroom floor plan is set against a resort style rear yard with an azure pool and spa with waterfall. A kitchen that can be called the true heart of this home features abundant custom cabinetry, slab granite counter tops, top of the line appliances and so much more.
3906 Vierra Street \$2,299,000



Pleasanton – A "New" custom-built Mediterranean Villa in one of Ruby Hill's most desirable locations. With "Timeless" architectural design, a fantastic floor plan, a huge lot (over 35,000 sq ft), breathtaking views and an unbeatable location, this property is simply spectacular. Five bedrooms, five full baths, three half baths, approximately 8,600 sq ft and an oversized five car garage!
1916 Ticino Court \$3,750,000



Pleasanton – The best Ruby Hill has to offer in terms of lot, home and features. This property sparkles and its pool and spa are perfect for entertaining. Its lush landscape makes it a secluded oasis, and the views transport you to Napa. Five bedrooms, six full bathrooms and two half bathrooms, approximately 9200 square feet and an approximately ¾ acre lot. You won't be disappointed!
1393 Via Di Salerno \$3,999,000



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

925.417.2250



GREY EAGLE

COMING SOON



8 GREY EAGLE COURT, PLEASANTON

Experience breathtaking panoramic views from every room of this secluded hilltop home, located in the gated community of Grey Eagle. This beautiful immaculate private estate (.60 acre lot), features professionally landscaped manicured grounds, backing to open land. This custom home has approximately 4,058 sq. ft. of living space w/ 5 bd + bonus room/office (5th) w/ private entrance. Gourmet kitchen includes granite, custom cabinetry & stainless steel appliances. Custom wine room w/ temperature controlled storage option. This mainly one story home is open & bright with 2 large skylights. The very private rear grounds are great for entertaining with in-ground swimming pool, elevated spa, and waterfall. Extensive patio area includes built-in natural gas BBQ. Three car garage w/ 4th car option. **OFFERED AT \$1,649,000**

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 TRENERY DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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

SHADOW CLIFF

OPEN SUN 1-4



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**



925.846.6500
www.blaiselofland.com
blaise@blaiselofland.com

OLDE TOWNE

SOLD



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**

VENTANA HILLS

SOLD



1161 HOPKINS WAY, PLEASANTON

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

PLEASANTON VALLEY (BIRDLAND)

SOLD



5058 BLACKBIRD WAY, PLEASANTON

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



Silver Oaks Estates

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

For more information, visit www.SilverOaksEstates.com

LOT	SIZE	HOME STYLE	PRICE
1	34,400	Single Story	\$599,000
2	23,670	Two Story	\$599,000
3	30,030	Two Story	SOLD!
4	20,300	Single Story	\$599,000

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

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,489,000
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 you could imagine. This is truly a find!

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,729,000
Bridle Creek Area, 5BR + Office, 5 1/2 BTH Gourmet granite/cherry/stainless steel kitchen, .47 acre lot. Luxurious master suite & more...

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,595,000
Exquisite stately home with 5 bedrooms plus office, 4 1/2 baths, featuring a dramatic foyer with curved staircase and elegant formal living room.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON \$1,485,000
Ironwood Estates 2 story, 5bd/4.5ba, Nestled within a court, close to community pool. Spacious kitchen with breakfast bar, opens to family room, one bd downstairs w/bonus room upstairs, 4 car gar. 1436 Irongate Ct

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SAT & SUN 12-5



PLEASANTON \$1,449,000
Over \$100,000 in builder upgrades! Brand new home w/ 4 bd + loft, 3 1/2 ba, custom upgrades and designer touches throughout! Unique "OldTown" traditional styling w/ front & rear covered porches. 1632 CindyWy

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



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.

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,199,900
Upgraded 5 BD 3 BTH home in original Country Fair with huge 1/4 acre lot with pool, spa and hardwood floors and more...

ANDY PORYES BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,189,000
New Price. Luxury 5 year old home offers 3265+/-sf with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, pool/waterfalls, outdoor kitchen, high ceilings/lots of light. Pictures at: www.W-Lagoon.com

KELLY KING OPEN SAT 1:30-4:30



FREMONT \$939,000
3bd/2ba 1450+/-sf of spacious living. Gorgeous kitchen with granite slab counters, new cabinets and appliances, remodeled baths, and more! 41538 Higgins Way

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$875,000
4bd/2.5ba, 2164+/-sf home on a court. Remodeled custom kitchen with granite, maple wood floors, updated baths. 9000+/-sf lot with pool. 2586 Skimmer Court

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$679,900
3bd 2ba 1815+/-sf home on a court one block from the sports park. New Island Kitchen with Quartz counters, maple cabinets.

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$549,500
Updated single story. 3bd/2ba +/-1,140 sq ft. Excellent condition! New interior paint, new carpet/blinds. New appliances. Central heat/air. Tile Roof. 2860 El Capitan Drive

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



PLEASANTON \$529,000
Updated 3/1 in Jensen Track. Hardwood floors, granite counters, new cabinets in kitchen, must see! 4040 Jensen Street

GINA HUGGINS OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



LIVERMORE \$424,000
Very cute 4bd/2ba Sunset West home. Has extra large master suite/dual pane windows and newer carpeting. Close to downtown and schools. 984 Via Granada

STASIA POIESZ OPEN SUN 1-4



LIVERMORE \$369,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba home. Has newer kitchen/roof/dual pane windows and large back yard. Not a short sale or REO. 306 Clarke Ave

JEFF RUDOLFF BY APPOINTMENT



SAN RAMON \$349,950
Beautifully upgraded 3bd/1.5ba, has newer kitchen granite counters/maple cabinets/ crown molding/dual pane windows/hdwd flooring and much more.