

Pleasanton Weekly

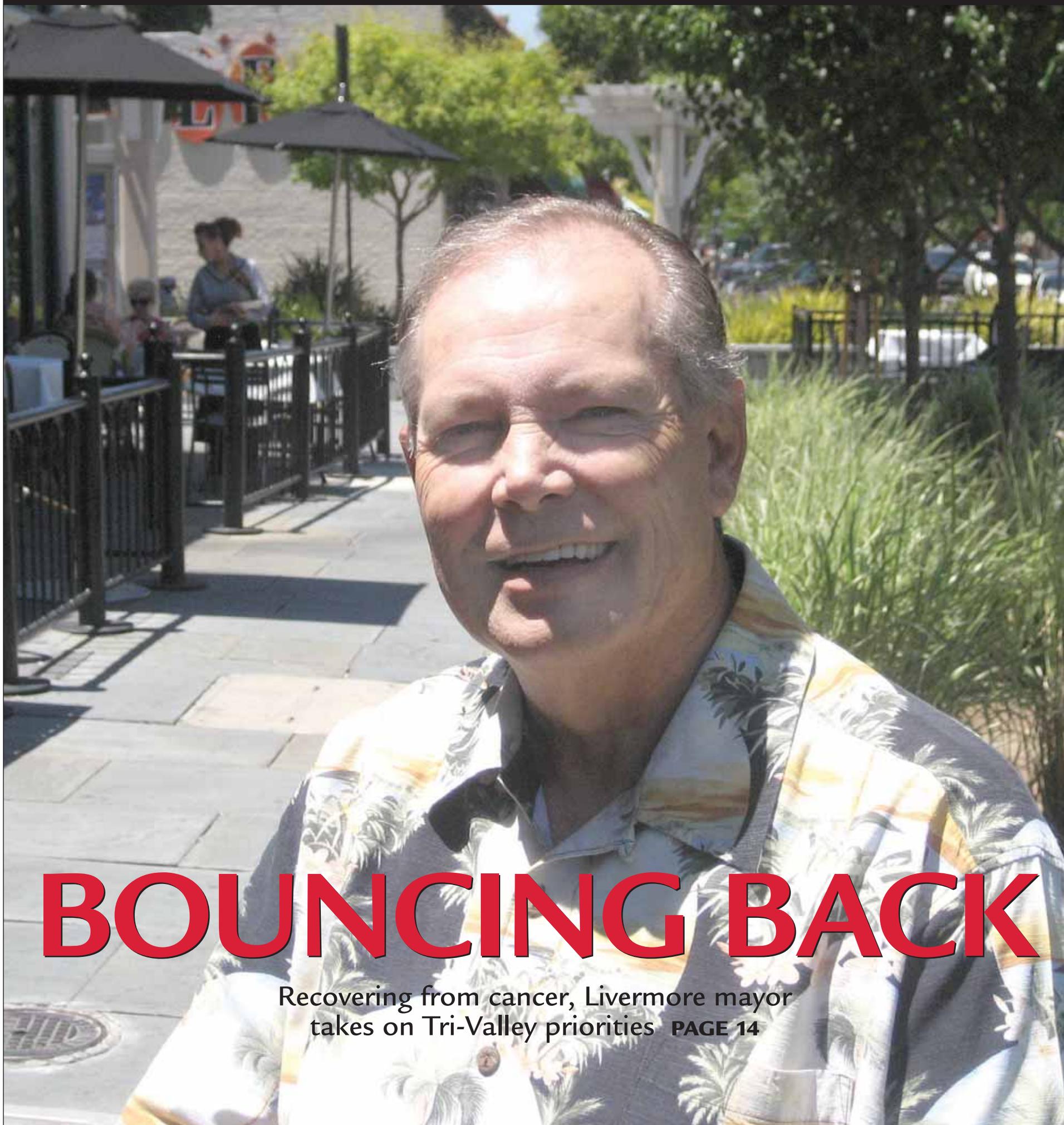
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Recovering from cancer, Livermore mayor takes on Tri-Valley priorities **PAGE 14**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

A waitress many of us know says goodbye

Those of us who dine frequently at Vic's All-Star Kitchen are also good friends of Patti Benson, who's been Vic's restaurant manager for the last 11 years and was just as well known for 10 years before that at New Rochelle on St. Mary. Patti will say goodbye to all of us tomorrow at a public farewell at Round Table Pizza and then at Vic's on Sunday.

She and her husband Dusty Robson, both of them 30-year residents in Vintage Hills, are moving to a retirement community in Green Valley, Ariz., where they built a home three years ago. Green Valley is 21 miles up in the mountains from Tucson, has 11 swimming pools and eight golf courses, and, with a population of 12,000, is about as far away from the lifestyle and regular work days as you can get from Pleasanton.

In her younger years, Patti, who is now 61, was Wendy Ward, modeling Montgomery Ward's apparel on San Francisco television stations and in some of the print media.

When Mobile Oil bought Ward's and started moving it in a less friendly retail direction, Patti left the agency job she'd had for 10 years and started waiting on tables. She loved the work, "finding my niche," as she says, and has been doing it ever since. Among her favorites are the "maturing" men, as she calls them, who stop at Vic's every weekday at 7 a.m. for coffee and breakfast. Nicknamed the "World Problem Solvers," they have kept Patti well informed on Pleasanton politics and gossip, information that she occasionally passes along.

Her parents died of cancer 30 years ago and her only brother of the same disease in the early 1990s at age 47. Caring for him in those final days, she learned about patients who needed help and set out to volunteer, first at hospitals but in recent years throughout the community.

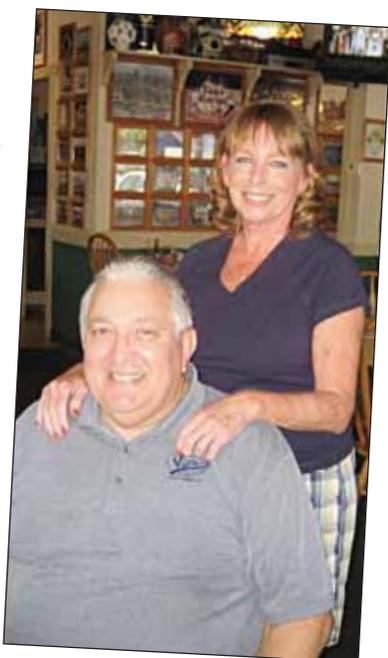
She started volunteering with the national Angel Network four years ago, sending letters, cards and gift boxes to those in the military in Iraq and, more recently, Afghanistan. Last year for Christmas, she ran her own gift drive and mailed 250 pounds of Christmas presents to those on the front line in Iraq and another 250 pounds to a military hospital in

Afghanistan that treats wounded Americans.

Working four days a week at Vic's, including Saturdays and Sundays, she has used her "off" days to visit with veterans regularly at the Veterans Hospitals and medical centers in Livermore and Palo Alto, carrying blankets and other materials to those coming out of surgery and sitting with those recovering from severe wounds to read the news, stories and just talk.

Here in Pleasanton, she hosts mentally handicapped children at her home on Touriga Drive. When Scruffy, her white-furred Maltese died, she couldn't bear to tell the children who always looked forward to playing with him so she rushed out and bought an identical Maltese, which is now 2-1/2 and is called Scruffy II. Patti was walking Scruffy near her Arizona home last Dec. 7 when a car struck her from behind and kept on going. Suffering a major head injury and broken arm, Patti moved from waiting on tables at Vic's to a strictly managerial job, which she'll be leaving Sunday. She'll be missed.

An added note that makes Dusty and Patti's move to Green Valley more palatable: They listed their home on Touriga Drive for \$715,000 a month ago yesterday, about \$10,000 under the prevailing listings. They had three offers that day and signed a sale contract the next day. Now that's a nice way to say goodbye. ■



JEB BING

Patti Benson poses with Vic Malatesta, owner of Vic's All Star Kitchen, where she is a manager. Benson has decided to move to Green Valley, Ariz.

About the Cover

Recovered from cancer, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, a recognized Tri-Valley leader and booster, stands on First Street in a downtown district he helped revitalize. Photo by Jeb Bing.

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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

Do you think live horse racing should be year-round in Pleasanton?



Victoria Hollenbeck

I think it should be year-round because it's a really exciting activity and Pleasanton (for the most part) is a really boring town. It's the only reason why I go to the fair and we look forward to it every year when it comes around.

Friedrich Welff

No, because I feel that horse racing is cruel to the horses. They have to run on a sandy track, it's usually hot and they're constantly ridden too hard. We've seen too many horses go down at races and some have actually died on the race track.



Nicole Triplett

Yes, because my friend's parents go to the horse races all the time and bet on the horses. I've been to the races with them and even though I'm not an age where I can bet yet, I still get into the races and root for the horses that the adults are betting on. It's a lot of fun and could provide year-round entertainment in Pleasanton.

Annette Buck

I love horse racing. I think it would be great for the town of Pleasanton because it would bring in a lot of money and it's very entertaining. I'd love to go more often. The social aspect of it is great as well. It would be a lot of fun to go with a group of people anytime you'd like.



Celestino Paixau

I think it would be great. Horses were born to run and I think they have as much fun racing as we do watching them. I go at least once a year to the horse races. I'm all for year-round horse racing as long as it's not in my backyard. I didn't even know that Pleasanton had horse racing. We used to go to Bay Meadows or Golden Gate Fields to bet on the horses.

—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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

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DIGEST

National Night Out

More than 34 million people in more than 11,000 communities will come together Aug. 4 for the 26th annual National Night Out. Pleasanton is participating in the crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Pleasanton Police Department. Neighborhoods are encouraged to host block parties to strengthen community spirit and police partnerships, as well as heighten crime and drug awareness. Anyone interested in hosting a National Night Out party should visit www.pleasantonpd.org to download an application by the July 28 deadline. Call Shannon Revel-Whitaker at 931-5240.

Longer parking hours

Starting Aug. 3, the city will extend the two-hour parking limit in the downtown district to three hours in order to encourage longer visits. The action, approved by City Council in June, identified the district as Main Street from the railroad tracks to Bernal Avenue and all the side streets within that area between First Street and Peters Avenue. The city and the Pleasanton Downtown Association will pay for the replacement of signs. For more information, call the PDA at 484-2199.

Lark in the Park

A museum docent will lead participants through Veteran's Plaza, 550 Peters Ave., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 25 as a part of the Museum On Main's Lark in the Park program. The program allows residents to explore the history of the local parks. Donations are accepted and will go toward the museum's Educational Scholarship Fund, which they plan to give \$1,000 to a local high school student. Photos and program memberships will also be for sale. For details, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

A rolling good time

Jim Fitzpatrick's World Champion San Francisco Bay Bombers of the American Roller Skating Derby will return to Pleasanton at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. For information, visit www.arsdbombers.com.

Corrections

In the Readers Choice 2009 cover story last week, it was reported that the winner of Best Jewelry Store, Cardinal Jewelers, won the honor for the second consecutive year. However, the 2008 Readers Choice Best Jewelry Store winner was Jewelers Gallery.

Sharks subsidiary to host holiday skating

By JEB BING

Pleasanton officials have announced that a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks will install and operate an outdoor ice skating rink at Delucchi Park in downtown Pleasanton, with skating scheduled to start in mid-November and last until early January.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said San Jose Arena Management (SJAM) will design, build and operate the rink, with the city providing additional electrical and other infrastructure improvements as needed, but with SJAM assuming all other costs, including all liability. SJAM also will provide staff needed to manage and operate the rink and was given the right to seek sponsors for the temporary seasonal facility as well as

Ice rink at Delucchi Park downtown could attract 30,000 skaters

individual skating events.

Delucchi, which already has public restrooms, is located on First Street between Angela and Neal streets, backs onto downtown's commercial district and is next to the Farmers' Market. It is also used during the summer to accommodate overflow crowds at the Friday night Concerts in the Park at Lions Wayside Park on the other side of Neal, and for Thursday night movies in the park during the summer months.

The downtown park replaces an earlier site that was considered for a portion of the Civic

Center and public library parking lots on Old Bernal Avenue. The Library Commission objected to closing its parking lot for as much as two months during the skating period and downtown merchants urged the city to consider a site closer to their stores.

"We think this will be a very good location and a great event for Pleasanton," Fialho said. "We expect it will bring many families downtown, both to skate as well as to dine and shop."

Downtown merchants, led by Towne Center bookstore owner Judy Wheeler of the Pleasanton Downtown Association and Melanie Sadek of Murphy's Paw on Main Street, earlier praised the city's plan to provide outdoor ice skating during

See **SKATING** on Page 7



JEB BING

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala stands with her supporters (from right) Allen Roberts and Greg O'Connor on steps of state Court of Appeal in San Francisco. Group's legal team from Manatt, Phelps & Phillips are (from left) attorneys Christopher LeGras, Camas Steinmetz and Benjamin Shatz.

Court rules in favor of Ayala, citizens' group in Oak Grove dispute

Group now can seek reversal of decision on development in southeast hills

By JEB BING

Former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala and the citizens' group she organized have won their petition in the State Court of Appeal that in effect gives them the right to seek a reversal of a City Council decision that approved the controversial Oak Grove 51-home development planned for Pleasanton's southeast hills.

The unanimous ruling by a three-judge panel last week reversed a lower court ruling that favored the Oak Grove developers, Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic, by blocking the petitions Ayala and the citizens group had filed. The petitions, signed by more than the 3,700 registered voter requirement, were blocked by Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch. He agreed with attorneys for the Lins that the citizens group had failed to carry sufficient documents when they asked registered voters to sign their petition.

Although July 17's ruling is not the final word on Ayala's effort to stop the hillside development, it does appear likely to force a public referendum on the Lins' plan, which also includes donating nearly 500 acres of open space of land they own atop Kottlinger

Ranch to the city of Pleasanton free of charge for public parks and open space.

For Ayala and her colleagues, the ruling is a major victory in a long effort to stop the Oak Grove project. The City Council voted 4-1 in 2007 to approve Oak Grove and then last year voted 3-2 not to join her in appealing the Superior Court decision.

The Court of Appeal also ruled against Roesch who said Ayala and her group could not recover legal fees, with Thursday's ruling possibly requiring the Lins to pay the full fees of all litigation involving the Oak Grove case.

The Lins' next procedural step could be to ask the Court of Appeal and the same three justices who issued last week's ruling to rehear the appeal. This requires the Lins to file a Petition for Rehearing within 15 days of Thursday's decision. That decision would be made during discussions with their attorney Andrew Sabey of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson, who represented the Lins in the Court of Appeal.

See **OAK GROVE** on Page 8

Scherer led double life, ex-friend says

Judge will determine whether evidence is sufficient to have trial

By JANET PELLETIER

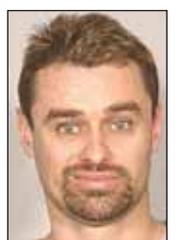
In Las Vegas, he was Ernie Scherer, a single guy in Sin City playing in the professional poker circuit and going on double dates at night clubs, a former friend of the accused murderer testified in court this week. But that life was decidedly different than the one he was leading in Brea, Calif., where he was a married father of one.

The lies kept piling up after that, according to testimony given this week in an Oakland courthouse by Bill Kraus, who met Ernest Scherer III, 31, two and a half years ago. Kraus, a piano player and musician at a night club inside the Paris Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, said he befriended Scherer after he brought dates to a few of his shows.

Scherer, who appeared gaunt and dressed in red jail clothes, is accused of two counts of murder for the brutal beating deaths of his parents, Ernest Scherer, Jr., 60, and Charlene Abendroth, 57, in their Castlewood home on March 7. He faces two special circumstance clauses—multiple murder and murder for financial gain—could give him the death penalty. Authorities have said Scherer stood to collect up to \$1.5 million in inheritance upon turning 30, which he did three months after his parents' deaths.

A few weeks before the killings, Kraus testified that Scherer, who played on the professional poker circuit and has reported career earnings of \$300,000, approached him about

See **SCHERER** on Page 8



Ernie Scherer III

Campaign has less than a month to meet \$2.8-million goal

I Love Pleasanton Schools fundraisers still optimistic

By EMILY WEST

The Aug. 14 deadline is fast approaching for the I Love Pleasanton Schools fundraising campaign, which seeks to raise \$2.8 million in order to save programs such as a 20 to 1 class-size ratio and elementary music.

As of July 20, the group had raised \$252,000 or about 10 percent of the goal. Debi Covello, executive director of Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE), isn't feeling down.

"We're energetic, enthusiastic and still optimistic," she said. "We've got a lot on the horizon—all sorts of fundraising activities and efforts. We have so many volunteers."

Perhaps the biggest event planned is a carnival downtown from 5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 8 that will involve all the school sites, Covello added.

Several parents have volunteered and planned various fundraising efforts as well.

"They amaze me," Covello said. "[The ideas] are out-of-the-box. Even kids are involved with lemonade stands and bake sales. A garage sale raised over \$700. A local family did a dinner over the weekend, with a band and a professional chef at the barbecue, and raised over \$4,500."

As for the lack of donations, Covello thought it had to do with people being in "summer vacation mode" and forgetting to donate.

"Let's assume the deadline is tomorrow and make donations

now," she said. "I feel like some folks are sensing that if they're nowhere near the number, should they even donate. We just really want them to understand that [donations] won't sit in limbo [if the goal isn't reached]."

Denise Watkins, president and chairwoman of Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE), the other foundation involved in the fundraising efforts, said the "save the music" portion of the campaign is going well with almost \$75,000 earmarked for elementary music programs.

"Of course we would like the totals to be higher," she said. "People need to understand that any amount can really make an impact and the schools need their support."

As new fundraising events are planned, e-newsletters and announcements are being sent by PPIE, PSEE and by district spokeswoman Myla Grasso. Updates are also posted to visit www.ilovepleasantonschools.com.

With the state appearing nearing a finalized budget this week, Superintendent John Casey said that prior to being approved by legislators, the recent budget is similar to what was used by the board to draft the district budget in June. Without major changes in the last step to adoption, the state budget would appear to not have a significant impact on Pleasanton schools at this time.

"We certainly won't be seeing any additional money, but we also



EMILY WEST

The fundraising thermometer outside the school district offices shows the group has reached about 10 percent of its goals.

do not foresee any need to adjust the budget downward at this time, and we do not anticipate a need for an additional round of layoffs in August," Casey said in a statement. "The proposal does not include any change to Class Size Reduction flexibility, so we plan to continue with class sizes of 25:1 in K-3 and 9 (English and math)."

Casey also noted, however, that with the state's income in May and June being below projections, it is possible that Pleasanton schools may face mid-year cuts again in the upcoming school year. ■

Alameda County Fair wraps up with successful run

Attendance increased a reported 20% from last year

By JANET PELLETIER

The Alameda County Fair's 2009 slogan was "Come out and Play," and visitors lived up to that credo through the last day of the 17-day fair, which was Sunday.

This summer, more than in past years, the fair, which began July 1, saw a dramatic increase in attendance. In the first five days alone, more than 140,000 people came through the turnstiles, according to fair spokeswoman April Mitchell. And when final crowd counts were tallied, the numbers showed attendance up 20 percent from last year, the highest recorded attendance in the last 20 years.

The fair was prosperous for Bay Area-based Butler Amusements, which supplied the carnival rides, and recorded their highest ride gross at this year's fair. Some of that boost could be attributed to the Balloon Samba ride in the children's area, which Butler purchased from Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch.

"As a nonprofit organization that receives no tax support, we are pleased to provide our many communities with local affordable entertainment," said Rick Pickering, CEO and general manager of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association. "Recognizing this difficult economy, we are honored so many people chose to invest their family and friends at the fair this summer."

July 3 was the single highest attended day in the fair's history, Mitchell said, with just under 50,000 fairgoers.

Mitchell said she believes a lot of residents stayed home this summer to save money and as a result, partook in the local tradition that is

Fair facts

Food consumption during the fair:

Corn dogs: 88,797

Funnel cakes: 26,964

Shaved ices: 13,613

Turkey legs: 6,826

the fair.

"A variety of factors have contributed to this attendance including great weather, extra days of horse racing, strong concert crowds and a weekend holiday for the Fourth of July," she said. "Additionally, fair officials really believe the \$2 Tuesdays, Senior Free Wednesdays and Kids Free Fridays have helped those affected by the down economy. Many people are looking for entertainment closer to home."

Mitchell added that the extra days of horse racing have been viewed very favorably by the fairgoers as well as the owners, trainers and jockeys.

"It's nice to have a longer stay at the same fairgrounds for the racing industry," she said. "Everyone seems very happy to be at the Alameda County Fair and the attendance is a reflection of this."

Horse racing fans should stay tuned. State fair officials are considering adding a fall race meet in light of the recent Bay Meadows race track closure, but nothing has been set in stone by the California Horse Racing Board, which approves and regulates racing in the state.

A complete list of competitive entry winners will be posted on the fair's website later this month. ■



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Train hits worker at West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station

A construction worker propelled above BART tracks in a self-navigated bucket is recovering after he was struck last week by a BART train traveling about 50 mph at the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station that is under construction, a BART spokesman said.

Adrian Ibarra, a contract worker with Contra Costa Electric, was taken to a hospital with significant injuries July 16. About 75 passengers were on the train when it hit the man, Johnson said. No one was injured, but they were evacuated and then taken to the Dublin/Pleasanton station, he said.

Ibarra was reportedly hoisted in a construction basket over the tracks. Johnson said BART officials are investigating the incident.

—Bay City News

City Council approves new General Plan

Vote gives city environmentally-focused blueprint through 2025 buildout

By JEB BING

The City Council Tuesday night unanimously approved a new General Plan that will serve as the blueprint for continued and future development of Pleasanton through the city's projected residential buildout of 2025.

Although the comprehensive document was approved in a 5-0 vote, a portion of it dealing with the extension of Stoneridge Drive and Staples Ranch was bifurcated to allow for ongoing review as lawsuits affecting that project proceed in the Alameda County Superior Court. In effect, that action amended the new General Plan as soon as it was approved.

Even so, the final approval was a major accomplishment for hundreds of individuals who served on committees, commissions and even the City Councils elected over the seven-year deliberation process to produce the new plan, which now supersedes the 1996 General Plan. Major changes, as outlined Tuesday, include new guidelines and restrictions in the areas of climate change, green building, energy and water conservation, air quality and other key environmental issues that weren't even thought of when the 1996 plan was enacted.

Still in the new plan is a 29,000-unit housing cap on residential units, a restriction that both an affordable housing coalition and State Attorney General Jerry Brown are contesting in court. Their argument is that the cap prevents Pleasanton from fully utilizing available land for low-to-medium income and so-called workforce housing which the state and the Association of Bay Area Governments insist should be greater than 29,000. The City Council has instructed City Attorney Michael Roush to defend the housing cap on the grounds that the measure was approved overwhelmingly in 1996 by Pleasanton voters. To change it would require another public vote authorizing the change or a judicial ruling.

Anticipating a requirement to add more housing, the council agreed to also rezone a large por-

tion of Hacienda Business Park for mixed use, which would allow more residential housing in the city's primary business district.

Although councilmembers spent more than two hours discussing the draft General Plan and tweaking the language in the multi-page document, it was once again the proposal to extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road that produced the most rancor.

Councilman Matt Sullivan said he assured his constituents in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood who would be most affected by the extension that the new roadway would not be built until other Tri-Valley cities made similar improvements to their arterial streets first and that an action plan with funding to widen State Route 84 between interstates 680 and 580 were in place. He said the General Plan fails to include any of these requirements.

"I went out to the community and convinced people who were very skeptical that we would keep these requirements in the plan, that at the end of the day we would have these checks and balances," Sullivan said. "That was the basis of my agreement when I voted to keep the Stoneridge extension in the General Plan."

"I made that personal commitment to people, which I want to honor," he added. "This council also made that commitment which it isn't honoring."

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who has long objected to extending Stoneridge Drive, also called for considering the extension separately from the General Plan until the lawsuit and a new environmental impact study on its effects on local neighborhoods can be completed.

The bound General Plan document of text, color photos, maps, sketches, charts and lists will be the guiding rulebook for the final buildout of Pleasanton in the year 2025. A key component, however, is the continued inclusion of the voter-mandated housing cap of 29,000 units which are expected to be com-

pleted at buildout. Whether the cap stays or goes, city officials said this new General Plan is capable of handling any future unplanned development through growth management restraints and other measures that the city also has in place.

The rapid pace of development under way when the last General Plan was considered has given way to almost no new developments today with fewer than 2,000 residential units to complete under the housing cap. This pull-back from a builders' frenzy to the slower pace of 2009 affects every part of Pleasanton, from school enrollment to traffic to infrastructure such as sewer and water capacity.

That's why officials said the new plan has taken much longer, with city planners carefully writing the plan based on discussions with the school district, neighborhoods, downtown merchants, Stoneridge Shopping Center, Hacienda Business Park, the Chamber of Commerce and the changing times. The Planning Commission and City Council, separately and in joint workshops, held discussion meetings with these civic groups to make sure this new General Plan put the right finishing touches on completing the city of Pleasanton.

What distinguishes this new General Plan from the previous one is that, first, it contains a vision statement that clearly articulates the future roadmap for the city. The vision statement was especially useful in guiding the development of the General Plan over the last several years. It speaks to the high quality of life in Pleasanton, the city's diversified economic base and its commitment to sustainability for the future.

This sustainability theme is woven throughout the plan, not only in its emphasis on environmental issues and safeguards, but also on the city's long-term fiscal sustainability.

The new plan also places more emphasis than before on mixed use housing, both high density condos and apartments and more affordable housing units. ■

"There's an inherent conflict of interest here," Sullivan said. "At the same time we're negotiating this ice rink downtown, which we want very much for our businesses, we are also negotiating an agreement for Staples Ranch. I can't keep them separate and this could, and probably will have a mitigating impact."

"While there are a lot of people who support it (the Staples Ranch ice rink), there are a lot of people who do not want the Shark rink built on Staples and are very concerned about it. If we (the city) want to put this facility downtown on our own, I'd be willing to talk about it."

Although plans for an auto mall and senior care center have been approved for Staples Ranch, SJAM and the city are still negotiating a ground lease for the Shark subsidiary's plan for the ice arena.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and the three other councilmembers who

voted to allow the downtown outdoor skating rink called it good for Pleasanton residents and downtown businesses, especially at a time when restaurants and stores are feeling the effects of a slow economy.

Fialho said the nearest holiday season outdoor rinks are in Walnut Creek, which attracts as many as 40,000 skaters and their families each year, and in San Francisco and San Jose.

As proposed, the rink would open in mid-November and stay open through early January, with skating available from noon to 10 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

The city will pay an estimated \$20,000 in up-front costs for additional electrical power, water and voice/data lines, including temporary signage, to be reimbursed by ticket sales and sponsorships arranged by SJAM. ■

SKATING

Continued from Page 5

the busy holiday shopping season. They said the 20,000-30,000 skaters and their families who are projected to use the rink would help boost business at downtown restaurants, shops and services.

"We're committed to making this work," Sadek said. "As a business owner and mother, I believe that bringing the Sharks rink to downtown Pleasanton will be fantastic."

The agreement with SJAM to operate a downtown rink was previously approved by the City Council in a 4-1 vote Tuesday with Councilman Matt Sullivan dissenting. He said that the proposed name of the rink—Sharks Holiday Ice—could sway public opinion when the firm's proposed two-story, four-rink ice arena on Staples Ranch comes before the council for approval.

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SCHERER

Continued from Page 5

buying a gun for him. He said he told him some poker players he knew had been robbed and he wanted the weapon for protection, adding that unlike California, Nevada has no waiting period. But after a trip with Scherer to a gun shop an hour outside of Las Vegas, he became wary of the legality and told Scherer he couldn't do it.

Kraus said he spoke to Scherer March 14, 2008, the day the bodies of Scherer Jr. and Abendroth were found, who told him calmly "there was a robbery at my parents' house and they were murdered."

"If it was me, I'd be crushed and he seemed so well put-together," Kraus said.

Kraus's testimony is part of a preliminary hearing that began last week. Judge Jeffrey Horner will determine whether there is enough evidence for Scherer to stand trial.

Other witnesses called by the prosecution have included detectives, a sheriff's deputy, an auto dealership worker proficient in Chevrolet Camaros, a casino host who used to play poker with Scherer and Scherer's grandfather, Ernest Scherer Sr.

Scherer Sr., whose testimony last week was taped in case he doesn't live long enough to testify at a trial, said his grandson was upset that his father initially hadn't helped him buy a house.

The 93-year-old said his grandson "felt there was favoritism" because the poker player's father had helped his sister buy a house. However, Scherer Sr. said his son, Ernest Scherer Jr., eventually helped his grandson buy a house in Brea in Orange County.

Scherer Sr. described his grandson's relationship with his mother as "not very good" and his grandson "did not show any love or affection for her."

Scherer Sr. said the reason the relationship between his grandson and his mother wasn't

good is that "she was a good Mormon and was very much against his gambling."

Bob Golick, a casino host and proposition player at the Commerce Casino in Los Angeles County, testified Monday that Scherer, was a regular at the card club. Three weeks after the killings, Golick said he asked him for \$10,000, saying he needed to pay for his parents' funerals. Because fellow poker players typically lent money informally, Golick said he didn't read into Scherer's request, and, after rallying up \$5,000 from other players and contributing \$5,000 of his own money, handed Scherer two pink poker chips worth the \$10,000. After that meeting, Golick testified that he didn't see or hear from Scherer again until this week in court.

Alameda County Sheriff's deputy Rafael Alvarez testified Tuesday that the store manager for a tire shop in Brea produced receipts showing the defendant purchased four new tires for his red convertible Chevy Camaro on March 9, 2008.

The country club's security cameras captured footage of a similar vehicle, alleged to be Scherer III's, entering and exiting the area the night of the killings.

Casey McCarthy, who works at a Lodi Chevrolet dealership and belongs to an area Camaro car club, testified Tuesday as the prosecution's expert witness that the vehicle seen on the video was a red convertible Camaro between the years 1998 and 2002 and had after-market parts. In an affidavit, sheriff's investigators have said a 2001 red convertible Camaro was registered to Scherer III.

Other evidence authorities say they have is detailed in searches executed on Scherer's computer. Alameda County Sheriff's Detective Kyle Ritter testified Monday that searches included countries that don't extradite, fake passports, auto detailing, the Hells Angels biker group and Hans Reiser's murder trial.

Bay City News contributed to this story.

OAK GROVE

Continued from Page 5

Next, the Lins' lawyers also could ask the California Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeal's decision, which would require them to file a Petition for Review with 40 days of the appellate court's decision. Unlike lower courts, the Supreme Court has the discretion of deciding if it will hear the request.

If the Lins do nothing, it is expected that Roesch or another Superior Court judge will direct the Alameda County Registrar to proceed with certifying the Ayala group's petitions and send them to Pleasanton city clerk Karen Diaz for action by the City Council.

At that time the council can decide to reverse its vote to approve Oak Grove or to send the question to voters in a referendum. With built-in delays for these various actions to be considered and take place, it's likely that a public vote on an Oak Grove referendum would come in 2010 at the earliest and possibly not until the state primary elections in June.

Even if voters eventually defeat an anti-Oak Grove referendum, there's now the question as to how Pleasanton's recently-approved Measures PP and QQ would apply to the project. Those measures, especially PP which was also advanced by Ayala and a citizens' group and received a majority of the votes cast, place severe limits on hillside developments, such as Oak Grove.

Whether Oak Grove, which was proposed and approved by the council before Measures PP and QQ were passed, skirts the new rules by being "grandfathered" in as a project allowed beforehand hasn't been decided. Indeed, it could require

more court litigation to decide that argument.

The Lin family has owned the Oak Grove property since 1977. The site was zoned for residential development of up to 98 homes in 1991, and designated again for residential development when the City Council approved the city's Urban Growth Boundary ordinance in 1996. The city's 1996 General Plan, which is still in effect, and its voter-approved 29,000-unit housing cap also allow for up to 98 homes on the property. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Which way to the beach? Dash and Olivienne Kamriani Beard, 4 and 2, took the paper to the beach in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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LETTERS

California fiscal emergency

Dear Editor,

Gee, according to the DMV website, they are closed a couple extra days due to the state's "fiscal emergency."

When we the residents of California overspend—spend more than we make—it's called irresponsibility.

When our puffed up state employees overspend, they call it an emergency. And the reason is so that they care scare you, taxpayer, into coughing up the solution to their overspending.

Californians, how much extra money do you have lying around to donate to Sacramento so they don't have to be bothered by the recession that the rest of us are suffering from? I sure don't have extra money for more taxes. Do you?

Douglas Kendall

Fourth of July celebration a success

Dear Editor,

The Fourth of July celebration at Lions Wayside Park was a huge success.

Among the estimated 1,000 people in the audience were an 11-day-old infant and a World War II veteran, plus all ages in between. Besides local residents, our guests included visitors from Mexico and Denmark. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band, sponsored by ACCUSPLIT as part of the Pleasanton Downtown Association's popular Concerts in the Park series, gave us a wonderful patriotic concert. Audience members waved American flags in time to the music. The flags, plus 700 hot dogs, were courtesy of the Lions Club. Event sponsor this year was Heritage Bank of Commerce.

Special thanks to members of Boy Scout Troop #908, under the leadership of Kerman Deboo, for their help with setting up canopies, folding chairs, and decorations (and cleaning everything up afterwards).

We look forward to "Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution" in 2010.

Jerri Long

Where are all the Measure G supporters?

Dear Editor,

We are only four weeks away from the deadline of Aug. 14 to raise \$2.8 million to save four critical programs in the Pleasanton school district: class size reduction, elementary band and strings, counselors and reading specialists.

We have raised \$252,000 thanks

to the generosity of many Pleasanton residents and the volunteer efforts of many, many parents and community members. Quite frankly, I am disappointed that we haven't raised more. A total of 10,995 Pleasanton residents voted in favor of Measure G, and were willing to pay \$233 per household to support our schools. If you voted "yes" on Measure G, we need your support now more than ever. We only have four more weeks to raise over \$2 million dollars. Please consider donating to either PPIE (to save CSR, counselors and reading specialists) or PSEE (to save elementary band and strings) as soon as possible.

Cathy Ritter

Special section listing major bills needed?

Dear Editor,

I agree with Glorian Crosslin's question regarding asking the Pleasanton Weekly to report how our U.S. House of Representative Jerry McNerney votes on the bills now before Congress. ("Where's news on McNerney's vote for Cap and Trade bill?" Letters, July 17, Page 9.)

When Mr. McNerney supports bills that will drastically raise our electric and gas bill, and others that will drastically raise income tax rates for everyone in our country, we need to have it reported to us. Every vote Mr. McNerney casts needs to be made public through the media we read daily or weekly.

Perhaps the Pleasanton Weekly will begin a special section listing all the major bills being discussed in Congress along with a short synopsis, both pro and con. I would love to see in print how each of our legislators plan to vote. This information is available to each of us if we make the right phone calls to our legislators' offices. Most of us don't do that. I'm sure it would be easy for the Pleasanton Weekly to do it for all of us and make us all aware of exactly what's happening to our future and our children's future.

Janis O'Rourke

Strange how luxury car blinkers don't work

Dear Editor,

I've noticed that the turning signals on many Mercedes, BMWs, Lexus and other luxury cars do not work?

Every time I am behind one when they make a turn or change lanes, I notice the signals never work. I can't believe there are quality control issues on such expensive cars with something as simple as turning signals. There is a tremendous opportunity for a turning signal repair shop in the Tri-Valley area.

Peter Kotsinadelis

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

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

City, school district OK for now as state seeks deficit relief

Pleasanton taxpayers and school district and municipal employees can feel a bit relieved by the apparent state budget settlement by the legislature and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. As bad as the state budget deficit is—\$26 billion at last report—the proposed cuts in education and the multi-million-dollar takeaways in gasoline sales taxes and property taxes planned by Sacramento to address the state's shortfall have been previously planned by our two local government agencies.

School Superintendent John Casey, in an email to district employees Wednesday, said the district does not foresee any need to adjust the 2009-10 budget downward from the \$9.7 million in budget cuts made last month nor does he anticipate a need for an additional round of layoffs next month, as once was considered possible. Financial analysts at the district who monitored Sacramento's continually changing proposals made a correct assumption on how much the Pleasanton district would have to sacrifice, and those measures have now been handled. Let us note, however, that there's yet to be a firm agreement by the state's lawmakers where complex and serious reductions for schools, colleges, health care and public assistance could still be deal breakers, but the biggest conflict by legislators—prison budget reductions and the release of some prisoners—may have been successfully brokered among Democrats and Republicans.

So while administrators, teachers and other personnel who survived the layoffs can look forward to returning to their jobs and classrooms next month, the state budget respite won't last long. Casey warns that when the numbers are firmed up, additional state cuts could be made mid-year, playing havoc with ongoing school activities late this year or in January. State income in May and June, Casey noted in his email, was below projections and this has yet to be factored into the settlement under consideration. There's nothing on the economic horizon that indicates when revenues will start increasing, which means the coming year will continue to be a challenge for the Pleasanton district.

Across First Street, the city of Pleasanton is bracing for an \$8-million grab of local gas tax and property tax revenue by the governor. Of that, the state is expected to take Pleasanton's \$1.8 million in gasoline sales taxes, money that Pleasanton uses for street maintenance and improvement. The crumbling asphalt on Santa Rita Road between Mohr and Valley avenues, scheduled for replacement next month, may be the first victim of a sudden halt in roadway spending. Schwarzenegger is also proposing to take 8 percent of local property tax revenues over the next two years, which for Pleasanton will amount to \$5 million this fiscal year and another \$1 million in 2010-11. Advance fiscal planning already salted money away to pay for these possible state takeaways, with the city moving \$3 million earlier this year out of its capital improvement reserve to a special recession reserve that now totals \$10 million. Another reserve holds an additional \$5 million, with both funds providing enough to provide Schwarzenegger with the takeaway dollars he wants.

Other cities and school districts that failed to plan ahead, or could not afford to, will face severe budget shortfalls. While Pleasanton, for instance, commits all gas tax revenues for street maintenance programs, many cities long ago started using it to pay the cost of entire street departments and related engineers. Although the state is required to pay back property tax monies it takes within 10 years at 7 percent interest, there's no requirement to pay back gas tax and redevelopment funds. ■



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Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

OBITUARIES

Rae Borriello

Rae Borriello died June 30 at the age of 95.

She is survived by her daughter, Lorraine Callahan; grandson, Larry Callahan; grandson, Gerard Callahan and his fiancé Nicole.

Services were scheduled to be held July 8 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

Dr. Merten Arthur Tilley

Dr. Merten Arthur Tilley died at his home July 4 after a long battle with cancer. He was 83.

Dr. Tilley spent his professional life re-inventing himself until he lived out his dream as a university professor for the last decades of his life. He obtained his doctorate degree at age 66 and began teaching at The University of Phoenix while living in Pleasanton.

Dr. Tilley was born Feb. 4, 1926 to Clifford P. and Laura C. (Mertens).

He joined the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1944, serving as a radio operator and control tower operator in Stephen Field, Newfoundland. Following his discharge, he and six of his St. Louis buddies were invited and went to Valley City, North Dakota to attend college and play football. He interrupted his pursuit of a degree to marry and then was employed with radio station KSGM in St. Genevieve, Mo. using the air name of "Ted Gray".

When the Korean War broke out, he re-enlisted and served in Japan and Korea. When he returned to the U.S. he was assigned to a

fighter squadron in Oregon as the non-commissioned operations officer. Encouraged and mentored by a Hungarian professor, he applied and was accepted for a doctorate degree at the University of Vienna in Austria. He graduated in 1956.

Having discovered the joy of living abroad, he returned to the U.S. determined to find a job in the airline industry. He joined Pan American World Airways in New York and rose to become a manager of communications. He married again and began a family in New York.

Dr. Tilley went on to join IBM and for 11 years conducted marketing research in the U.S. and Europe. His second marriage ended during this time. He then joined The Amdahl Corporation living in Munich and Rome.

Dr. Tilley returned to the Bay Area, married in 1988 and enrolled in The Union Institute as a doctoral candidate in business. He successfully defended his thesis and received his doctorate in 1992.

He was a member and Deacon at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church in Pleasanton and an active choir member. He also marched in the church's famous Balloon Platoon.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Marjory F. (Methvin) Tilley; three children, Malcolm I. Tilley of Pleasanton, Martin M.R. Tilley and wife (Violaine) of Vienna, Austria and Mona M. Tilley of New York City; one grandson, Theodore Tilley of Vienna, Austria; a brother, Robert Tilley and wife (Erna) of Denver, Colo., sister-in-law, Luetta Tilley of Redmond, Wash. and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Clifford F. Tilley.

Services will be held at 3 p.m. Aug. 6 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The committal service will be private. Donations may be made to Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566.



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Dr. Samata Kanagala has joined ValleyCare Health System specializing in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Kanagala was born in India and migrated to the United States in 1995. She is a graduate of Guntur Medical College, University of Health Sciences. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo in

1998. She was a staff physician at Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Health Care system for 10 years and has various experience in outpatient clinics, urgent care and nursing home settings.

A mother of two kids, Dr. Kanagala is actively involved in their education and extracurricular activities. She has been a resident of Pleasanton since 1998 and her interests include hiking and biking.

Dr. Samata Kanagala joins Dr. Betty Tam and Dr. Stanley Ng in the ValleyCare Medical Foundation Internal Medicine Clinic at 1133 E. Stanley Blvd. Suite 101 in Livermore. **For an appointment, please call (925) 454-4280.**



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BIRTHS

Johnathon Nathan Ward, Jr.

Johnathon Nathan Ward, Jr. "JJ" was born to parents, Sara LeBrun and Johnathon Ward, Sr. at 8:01 a.m. June 15 at Valley-Care Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20



1/2 inches long. He joins big sister Leilani LeBrun-Ward.

Drake Marshall Alexander

Drake Marshall Alexander was born at 1:25 p.m. May 22 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center to parents Marshall and Melissa Alexander of Pleasanton. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins sister Clare. Grandparents are Ed and Patty Dickerson, also of Pleasanton, and Manny and Susan Uy of Fremont.

The best Mexican in the Tri-Valley is Fiesta Taco. Hands down.

READ MORE/COMMENT

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton man carjacked in Dublin theater parking lot

A 53-year-old Pleasanton man was carjacked around 10:30 p.m. Sunday near the Regal Cinemas in Dublin, according to Dublin police.

Lt. Kurt Von Savoye said the suspect, described as a Latino man between 19 to 22 years old, approached

the victim, who was alone, in the western portion of the parking lot. He allegedly displayed a gun and demanded the man hand over keys to the victim's black, 2006 Chrysler 300.

The alleged gunman was further described as having short black hair, weighing 140 pounds and wearing a white T-shirt and baggy black pants. The car has not yet been located and has a California license plate No. 5PXW578.

Von Savoye said the investigation is ongoing and that it's "certainly not a common occurrence in Dublin."

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Dublin police at 462-1212.

POLICE REPORT

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

July 11

Vandalism

- 12:26 p.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street

Public drunkenness

- 3:39 a.m. at the intersection of East Ruby Hill Drive and Vantini Way

Battery

- 2:31 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive

July 12

Stolen vehicle

- 11:02 p.m. at the intersection of Rose Avenue and Augustine Street

Burglary

- 3:24 a.m. in the 3300 block of Marsh Hawk Court
- 5:38 a.m. in the 3500 block of Santa Rita Road
- 8:54 p.m. in the 4200 block of Cabernet Court

Vandalism

- 9:37 a.m. in the 3900 block of Redwood Court

DUI

- 12:48 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
- 2:25 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

Public drunkenness

- 2:28 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 2:38 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Woodthrus Court
- 6:37 a.m. in the 800 block of Rose Avenue

Marijuana possession

- 2:38 p.m. in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

July 13

Theft

- 8:34 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
- 12:47 p.m. in the 5900 block of Gibraltar Drive; grand theft
- 2:18 p.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive; identity theft
- 3:50 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; identity theft
- 8:11 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 8:35 p.m. in the 8300 block of Regency Drive

Public drunkenness

- 7:39 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and the I-680 north-bound offramp

July 14

Theft

- 8:10 p.m. in the 1600 block of

Tanglewood Court; stolen vehicle

- 9:05 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 8:51 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:29 a.m. in the 2200 block of Goldcrest Circle; public drunkenness
- 11:11 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; DUI

July 15

Theft

- 1:02 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft
- 1:38 p.m. in the 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard; grand theft
- 4:29 p.m. in the 7400 block of Muirwood Drive; identity theft

Burglary

- 8:30 a.m. at the intersection of Cotton Mill and Whispering Oaks ways; vehicular
- 10:43 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 1:35 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Navajo Court

July 16

Grand theft

- 6:08 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

- 3:26 p.m. in the 200 block of Division Street

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Foothill Drive; DUI
- 5:40 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; public drunkenness

July 17

Theft

- 9:25 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 12:17 p.m. in the 20 block of Cali Court; identity theft
- 2:22 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, shoplifting
- 2:22 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:41 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 6:04 p.m. at the intersection of California Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; DUI

Battery

- 9:25 a.m. in the 3100 block of Thistledown Court; exhibiting a deadly weapon

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

The August 4, 2009 City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on August 18, 2009.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee
Monday, July 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

**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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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Book Clubs

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Class Reunions

AMADOR VALLEY CLASS OF 1979 The Class of 1979 from Amador Valley is hosting its 30-year reunion from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Palm Pavilion at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$50 per person or \$100 per couple. For information, e-mail Bonnie Shamblin at sbshamblin@comcast.net or visit www.amador79.org.

ARROYO'S CLASS OF '64 REUNION San Lorenzo's Arroyo High School, Class of '64, will celebrate its 45th Class Reunion at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$75 per person and reservations are due by Aug. 1. Call Barbara (Poole) Wilson at (949) 584-0662.

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL 30 YEAR CLASS REUNION The Class of 1979 from Foothill High School will host its 30 year class reunion on Saturday, Nov. 7. For information, visit www.foothill79.com.

Classes

BASIC YOGA CLASS Beth Fox instructs this yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary.

Limited class supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. They meet for a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

Concerts

17TH ANNUAL OPERA IN THE VINEYARD BENEFIT PERFORMANCE Opera in the Vineyard will feature singers performing their favorite arias and musicals from 5-8 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 2, at Retzlaff Vineyard, 1356 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Tickets are \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door; bring a picnic dinner. A silent auction and a raffle will raise funds for Livermore Valley Opera's Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci product. Call 449-4062 or visit www.retzlaff-winery.com.

CELTIC WORLD MUSIC Celtic World Music duo Chris Waltz and Lee White will perform at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Road, in Livermore at 3 p.m. Aug. 2. Parking is free, and admission is by donation at the door. Refreshments will be served. The group is has an eclectic blend of original, traditional and contemporary Celtic, Folk, Spanish-Sephardic, Flamenco, Klezmer, and Gypsy music with vocals in a variety of languages.

LA VENTANA TO PERFORM The next Concert in the Park will feature the Latin rock and soul and salsa band, La Ventana, from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 24, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. The next concert will feature The Houserockers on Friday, July 31. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events

ADULT SUMMER READING GAME Alameda County Libraries are hosting the Adult Summer Reading Game from June 15-Aug. 15. This year's theme is "Books Around the Bay." To participate, fill out an entry form for each book you read and drop it in the entry box at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Each library will draw one entry per week for a prize. Call 931-3400 or visit www.aclibrary.org.

ART IN CARNEGIE PARK Livermore Art Association is holding Art in Carnegie Park, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 1 at 2155 Third St. Local artists will display arts and crafts for sale and provide art demonstrations. There will also be live music, local wines and food. Call 449-9927 or visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

BREAKFAST WITH CARMINE GALLO Carmine Gallo is a communications skills coach, author of three books and writes the weekly leadership and communications column for Businessweek.com. He will share his experience working with the communication masters and share insight from his newest book, "The Presentation Secrets of Steve Jobs," from 7:30 to 9 a.m. July 28 at the Pleasanton Marriott, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Tickets \$24 for members or \$35 for non-members. Call 846-5858.

CELEBRATE THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER The First Wednesday Street Party for the month of August will celebrate the Dog Days of Summer from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 5, on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

LARK IN THE PARK Museum on Main presents "Lark in the Park" led by a museum docent from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 25, at Veteran's Plaza Park, 550 Peters Ave. Donations will be appreciated. Call 462-2766.

PETCO NATIONAL CHIHUAHUA RACES 2009 The fifth annual Petco National Chihuahua races are coming at 9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, at Petco, 2005 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon. This event is free, but registration is required; visit www.petco.com/races.

SCHMOOZE-A-PALOOZA Schmooze-A-Palooza is for business people and includes networking, business education and some stand-up comedy. It takes place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. July 27 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$10 and includes light appetizers. Call 264-4413 or visit www.schmooze-a-palooza.com.

SUPER SIZZLING SUNDAYS The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Road, is having special savings every Sunday through August, featuring \$2 racks of clothing and \$1 tables of knick-knacks and other surprises. The shop is open from 12 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

TAKE IT TO THE LIMIT Do you feel snowed under and maxed out? In this 6-session, DVD aided curriculum, Andy Stanley will help participants strike a balance by showing how to do less, not more from 7-8:30 p.m., every Saturday,

Aug. 1-Sept. 5, at Centerpointe Community Room, 3410 Cornerstone Court. Each session includes fifteen to twenty minutes of teaching followed by group discussion questions. Cost is \$20 for all six sessions, including a 96 page book and childcare. Call 846-4436.

TESLA VINTNERS WINE AND SALMON PAIRING The winery will host a wine and salmon pairing event from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, July 25, at Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$5. Salmon will be available for purchase. Call 606-9463.

Exhibits

"IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 2009" The Pleasanton Art League show, "Imagination Expressed 2009," runs from July 31 through Sept. 13 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. A reception is from 2 to 4 p.m., Aug. 2. Refreshments will be served. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

EMERALD CITIES: ARTS OF SIAM AND BURMA Enjoy a free sneak preview of the Emerald Cities exhibit coming to the San Francisco Asian Art Museum at 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. An Asian Art Museum docent will show slides of the upcoming exhibit. This event is free.

Film

"DAMAGED CARE" STARRING LAURA DERN An award-winning dramatization of the true story of Dr. Linda Peeno, an HMO physician who brought them before congress for depriving patients from necessary procedures, will be shown at 7 p.m. Aug. 1 at the IBEW Hall, 6250

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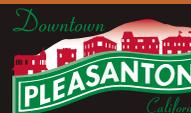
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Fundraisers

12TH ANNUAL POOCH PARADE

This event runs in conjunction with the First Wednesday Street Party on Aug. 5, sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. All proceeds benefit the Tri Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. The cost is \$10 per category entry. Visit www.trivalleyguidedogs.org.

CIGARS, MARGS, AND GUITARS This benefit for the Prostate Cancer Foundation at 7 p.m. July 30 at the Blue Agave, 625 Main St., will include cigars, frosty margaritas, beer, fine tequilas, appetizers, raffle prizes, a cash raffle and live music. For tickets and information, contact joeccgar5@yahoo.com or 408-406-0153.

COUNTRY BARN DANCE From 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 1, enjoy live music, line dancing and food, hosted by Terra Bella Family Farm and featuring dance caller Andy Wilson and the local bounty of Pleasanton's only family farm. Proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Clare's Church. Tickets are limited; \$35 or \$100 per family. Call 784-6325 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

DANCE & FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA Dances from different cultures (Persian, Zumba, tap, bhangra, etc.) and a fashion show will take place from 4 to 7:30 p.m. July 26 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Refreshments will be sold. This event will raise funds for nearly 300,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in need of vital relief items like milk powder, basic food items and sanitation supplies. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Call 931-9966 or visit www.reachout-nowusa.com.

RELAY FOR LIFE Pleasanton's fourth annual Relay for Life will be held from 9 a.m.-9 a.m., Saturday-Sunday, July 25-26, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. During the vent, teams of 8-15 people will take turns walking or running laps around the school's track and will raise funds for the American Cancer Society. To participate, call 460-3700 or visit www.relayforlife.org/pleasantonca.

RUMMAGE SALE FOR LEUKEMIA

SOCIETY Fundraiser Rummage Sale for the Leukemia Society is from 8:15 to 2 p.m. Aug. 1 at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Items include: Beanie Babies, kitchen items, clothes, knickknacks, furniture, snowboard with bindings, books, baby items and more. Visit <http://pages.teamintraining.org/sf/nikesf09/kathyllis>.

Health

AXIS IMMUNIZATION SUMMER

CLINIC Axis will host immunization summer clinics from 9-11 a.m., Saturdays, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12, at Axis, 4361 Railroad Ave. These clinics are open to all low income or uninsured Tri-Valley families, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical

insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755. Axis Pleasanton Clinic, 4361 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. (925) 462-1755.

Kids & Teens

GOLDRUSH DANCERS The country dance team Goldrush will perform at 2 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., as a part of the summer reading program, "Tales of the Old West." Dancers in their teens and 20s recently returned from an exhibition performance at this year's National Square Dance Festival The program is free and is suggested for those age 5 and older. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

PAL CHILDREN'S PORTRAIT

WORKSHOP Pleasanton Art League's 2-Day Children's Portrait Workshop for ages 9 and up is from 2 to 4 p.m. July 28-29 at 4455 Black Ave. Students will learn the proportions of the head and face and how to draw a likeness through facial features and shading. Cost is \$35 for both days, which includes materials. Call 462-7964.

READERS' ROUNDUP AT THE

PLEASANTON LIBRARY Drop in for carnival-style games with a western theme, run by Pleasanton teen volunteers, from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. July 29-30 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER & BIRTHDAY

CELEBRATION John is turning 50! To celebrate our boss' big day The Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Road, is hosting a fundraiser for Pleasanton schools. Donate \$2 in July by buying an "apple." Get a coupon for 50 percent off any item on July 29, John's birthday. Come make party hats, eat cookies and sign the giant card!

VBS SOCCER CAMP The Pleasanton Evangelical Free Church, 6900 N Valley Trails Drive, invites children in kindergarten through the fifth grade to Vacation Bible School soccer camp from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 3 to 7. In our second year of VBS, we have a great soccer theme with new songs and games. Come out and join the fun starting Aug. 3 through Aug 7. Cost is \$10. Call 200-0385.

Lectures/ Workshops

PLEIN AIR OIL PAINTING The Pleasanton Art League offers a workshop with Bryan Mark Taylor, MFA, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 17-19. He will conduct a three-day plein air painting workshop for painters who want to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of outdoor painting through demos (in oil), lectures, practices and critique. The cost is \$295. Call 449-4226 or visit www.pal-art.com.

Live Music

SADDLE CATS COUNTRY MUSIC

Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the Saddle Cats, a western swing pocket band

at 2 p.m. Aug. 2. Come hear this sleek, silver-toned cowboy outfit play rustic and new western music. Call 931-3411.

On Stage

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK San Francisco Shakespeare Festival presents "A Comedy of Errors" at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, July 18-19, July 25-26 and Aug. 1-2, at Amador Valley Community Park. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner. Call 931-5361.

Recreation

DEL VALLE AQUA CHALLENGE The open-water swim event for all levels will be July 25 at Lake Del Valle, 7000 Del Valle Road, Livermore. Courses are 2 miles, 1 mile and a half mile. There is also the Del Valle Du, a dualathlon race with a 1-mile swim followed by a 5K run. Entry fees are \$35 in advance or \$40 on race day, or \$50 in advance or \$55 on race day for the dualthon. Fees include refreshments, snacks, T-shirt, awards and a raffle. Visit www.onyourmarkevents.com for details.

Seniors

CONSUMER AFFAIRS CLINIC Need help resolving specific issues relating to consumer affairs? If so, schedule an appointment with a Consumer Affairs Representative to file a complaint and have your questions answered from 10 a.m.-noon, on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365.

PLEASANTON PARATRANSIT SERVICE

Did you know that the City of Pleasanton runs a transportation program? The program offers, door-to-door, shared ride service to Pleasanton and Sunol residents, aged 60 years and older. Learn about the service area, service descriptions, fares and local transportation agencies from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 28, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Spiritual

SUMMER PRAYER AND MEDITATION

CIRCLE Tri-Valley Unity Church will host 60 minutes of prayer, meditation, song and sharing from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, at 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Room 120, Dublin. Call 829-2733.

Sports

INTERMEDIATE NO-DROP ROAD

RIDE This is a moderate paced group road ride (15 - 18 mph) where riders warm up together and split into two distances from 8:30 a.m.-noon, every Saturday, meeting at Cyclepath, 337B Main St. Routes change weekly. Call 485-3218.

NO-DROP GROUP MOUNTAIN RIDE

The group rides Pleasanton Ridge (even months) and Lake Chabot (odd months) from 6-8 p.m., every

Tuesday. Riders should be in good fitness, have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Bring water, a snack, spare tube and pump. Call 485-3218.

SF BAY BOMBERS

Jim Fitzpatrick's World Champion San Francisco Bay Bombers of the American Roller Skating Derby will return to Pleasanton at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. For information, visit www.arsdbombers.com.

SUNDAY MORNING ADVANCED

GROUP RIDE Enjoy a fast and furious (17-25+mph) road ride for cyclists who have serious fitness goals from 9 a.m.-noon, every Sunday, meeting at Cyclepath, 337B Main St. Routes change weekly and the group splits based on distance and speed. Bring water, a snack, spare tube and pump. Call 485-3218.

Support Groups

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP The Wellness Community hosts a weekly support group for people actively fighting cancer and their loved ones from 2-4 p.m., every Tuesday, at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. This group is free. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcba.org.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

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

CLUTTERLESS (CL) SELF HELP

GROUP Overwhelmed? Is clutter stressing you out? Do you want to do something about it? Meet with this support group at 7 p.m., every Monday, at the St. Mary and St John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Dr. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

CROHNS AND ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR

SUPPORT GROUP This group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about the most common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us. Call 487-5706 or e-mail galexplor@comcast.net.

FAMILY MEMBERS OF FRAIL ELDER

This group is to support family members as they experience the many emotions involved in supporting, caring for and loving the frail elders in their family. It meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Eden Villa Assisted Living, 4115 Mohr Ave. Call 872-8721.

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

NAMI TRI-VALLEY FAMILY SUPPORT

GROUP This group is provided for family/caregivers of adults with mental illness and meets from 7:15-9 p.m., on the third Monday of every month, at Pathways to Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #116. There's also a group that meets in Livermore on the second Monday of every month.

NAMI TRI-VALLEY PARENT

RESOURCE This support group is for parents of children diagnosed with, or suspected of having, bipolar or other mood disorders and meets from 7-9 p.m., on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, at Pathways to Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #116. Upcoming dates are June 2 and 16; July 7 and 21; Aug 4 and 18; and Sept 1 and 15. Call 443-1797.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Do you worry about the way you eat? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. This is not a diet club. OA is a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating, starving and/or purging. OA offers mutual support and a helpful plan of action. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Visit www.diaboloally-eyoa.org.

Volunteering

ANIMAL FOSTERS NEEDED Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is looking for fosters for cats, kittens, dogs and puppies. We provide training on how to be a foster, food and vet care; you provide love and a place for them to stay until they are adopted. For cats/kittens call Linda 961-0260 for dogs/puppies call Lisa 355-9039. Visit www.tv-ar.org.

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET AND

ALVISO ADOBE Many interesting volunteer opportunities are available at the Museum On Main Street and Alviso Adobe on Foothill Road. For information, contact Heather Haugen Rizzoli at 462-2766 or volunteers@museumonmain.org. Also visit www.museumonmain.org/ volunteers.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

NEEDED Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. For information, call Jennifer at 931-5387.



Mayor Marshall Kamena talks to a KRON Channel 4 cameraman at Livermore Avenue and First Street who asks why Livermore always seems to top the heat charts in the Bay Area. At the time, it was 104 degrees.

BOUNCING BACK

Recovering from cancer, Livermore mayor takes on Tri-Valley priorities

By JEB BING

Healthy again and now back in a strong Tri-Valley leadership position after a seven-year battle with cancer, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena plans to seek re-election to his fifth term of office in November.

His focus in what will be his last two-year term in office, if re-elected, will be to finalize major projects in Livermore, including plans for its multi-million-dollar performing arts center, and to move forward on regional projects that include extending BART to Greenville Road, Stoneridge Drive and Jack London Boulevard to connect at El Charro Road, completing the expansion of State Route 84 between Interstates 580 and 680, and keeping the Veterans Hospital and care center in east Livermore open.

Kamena, who was Livermore's mayor in November 2001 and re-elected in 2003, 2005 and 2007, is credited with creating a Tri-Valley coalition that has effectively pushed for county, state and federal recognition and assistance as a regional political force.

Neighborly cooperation and mutual respect was not always common here. At one time, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton were often at each other's throats with a few lawsuits thrown in over commercial and residential growth issues, congested roadways, airport noise and urban growth boundaries and expansions.

"Marshall came to me right after he was elected mayor to talk about ending all that and developing a way in which all of us could work together for the good of the whole region," said former Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart, who left office last November. "He's the one who stimulated the rest of us to create a regional vision. We did and it's worked."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton agreed.

"There have been a great number of arenas where he has played a really crucial leadership role in the Tri-Valley," she said. "He has stepped up and joined forces with the other mayors to help with regional projects that are important to all of us, including transportation issues, regional communications, climate change and much more. His longevity as a leader has gone a long way toward helping all of us get things done."

Kamena also served on the Livermore City Council from 1976 to 1985, which makes him the longest serving elected official in the Tri-Valley. He is also a strong advocate of extending BART to Livermore and adding technology, commercial and wine country features to make the valley an attraction for business organizations, families and visitors without impairing the quality of life he believes all three cities enjoy.

For a time, Kamena's advance planning efforts took a nasty turn. On Sept. 12, 2002, having felt weak and losing weight, his doctor diagnosed him with lymphoma cancer. He remembers the date, even the time, because two minutes after leaving the doctor's office, his son Scott

called to say that Margaret Kamena, Marshall's mother and Scott's grandmother, had just passed away at San Leandro Hospital where she was being treated.

"That was a tough day," Kamena said.

Over the next year, Kamena endured a regimen of chemotherapy treatments with all the side effects cancer patients have, including nausea and hair loss. Still, he kept on working, for a time donning a Cal cap at council meetings and even rejecting nausea-control medication when he learned each pill would cost \$2,300.

"It was already costing \$7,000 a shot for the chemo, which was directed toward killing the cancer," Kamena said, "but for \$2,300 I could handle the results of the nausea, uncomfortable as it was, so that the insurance money could be used for someone and something more important."

After treatment, the cancer disappeared and, for the next four years, Kamena took on more responsibilities, including meeting with both the Tri-Valley city officials as a member of the Triangle Transportation Study Committee and traveling with the mayors of Danville, San Ramon, Dublin and Pleasanton to Washington to seek federal aid for mutually-important projects.

"It was unusual for five neighboring cities probably anywhere in the country to go to Washington as one interest group and I think Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and those we saw in Congress found it somewhat novel," Kamena said. "We had a wonderful

“He has stepped up and joined forces with the other mayors to help with regional projects that are important to all of us, including transportation issues, regional communications, climate change and much more.”

Jennifer Hosterman, Pleasanton mayor



PHOTOS BY JEB BING

A 1930s working Coca-Cola machine is a prized possession in Kamena's Livermore City Hall office.

reception. We were unified on a number of positions and it paid off in the attention we've received.”

Then two years ago, “just as I began to have confidence that I had beat cancer,” Kamena recalled, a routine exam showed it was back. He learned that chemotherapy is generally not effective the second time, but chose to enroll in a special protocol at UC San Francisco medical center that involved extracting stem cells, treating them and then using them to fight the cancer. When he couldn't produce enough, UCSF doctors managed to get him on an experimental drug that accelerates production. It worked and a month later—“after 30 days of having to watch ‘Judge Judy’ on pre-set hospital TVs”—Kamena came home with final tests showing no trace of cancer.

Only one concern remained. By replacing all of his blood in the procedure, Kamena also lost all of the immunization protection he'd add over the years. So after the required one-year wait, it was back to the doctor in May for all the shots most have in their early years.

“They were poking me all over with needles,” he said. “It was a pleasure to have all that pain knowing that I was truly on the road to recovery.”

Now it's back to work with Kamena sitting again as mayor at council meetings and working with other Tri-Valley mayors to gain more stimulus funds, build more affordable housing, beef up emergency communications and add car-pool lanes on the freeways to ease local traffic congestion.

Along with supporting the merger of the two cities' fire departments into a combined, jointly-managed Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Kamena also has been a longtime advocate of extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore. He said the roadway was promised back in the mid-1970s when ValleyCare Medical Center chose to build its new medical center in Pleasanton and closed the one in Livermore. With Jack London Boulevard to be extended to El Charro to meet the extended Stoneridge Drive, which the Pleasanton City Council recently approved, Livermore residents and those employed in Pleasanton will have direct access to the hospital and Hacienda Business Park that now re-

quires them to use the freeway or Stanley Boulevard.

At the same time, Kamena and Lockhart, joining forces with Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, have agreed to support Pleasanton's effort to turn Hwy. 84 into an expressway between I-580 and 680 to reduce cut-through traffic in Pleasanton. Those projects are also part of a new four-lane interchange being built at I-580 and El Charro Road as well as a 140-160-store Prime Retail Outlet mall at the southeast corner of the interchange in Livermore, and a new auto mall and senior care center on the southwest corner in Staples Ranch, which will be annexed into Pleasanton.

“I think it's safe to say that our three neighboring cities are pretty unified,” Kamena said. “When I'm outside the area and asked to describe what we call the Tri-Valley, I say that Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin are very dynamic cities but each with our individual identities, like each being a third of a triangle.”

Kamena said that by working together, the entire Tri-Valley today has “a quality of life that is superb, the crime rate is low, shopping opportunities are wonderful, and our residential housing and job opportunities are abundant and diversified.”

“We're really quite a place,” he added, “with a beautiful wine country, a regional performing arts center on its way, a veteran's hospital, an army base, the regional Stoneridge Shopping Center, large business centers in all three cities, many churches and good parks and recreational facilities that are open to all.”

Kamena, an optometrist, and his wife Barbara have two sons, including Scott, who is also an optometrist and a board member with the Livermore Area Parks and Recreation Department. He and his wife Jennifer, a former district attorney in Pleasanton, have two children: Audrey, 4, and Evan, 1.

The Kamenas' second son is Todd, a Livermore dentist, whose wife Margaret is due to have their first child next month.

“It's great to be alive, to have a family like mine and to live in this wonderful valley we all call home,” Kamena said. ■



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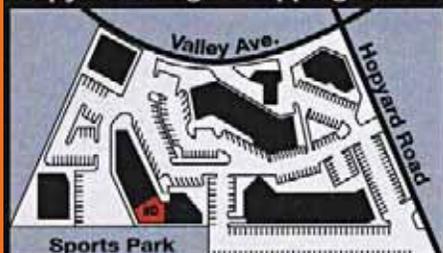


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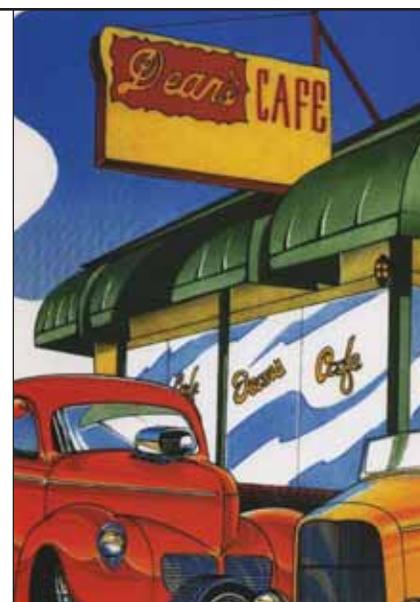
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EMILY WEST

Julie Chandler, a tenant in a REACH home in Pleasanton, empties the dishwasher as they prepare to make dinner.

A chance at independence

Tri-Valley REACH program allows adults with disabilities to live independently

By EMILY WEST

Having recently acquired a new property to serve disabled adults in the community, the REACH organization is well on its way to filling a significant need in the Tri-Valley.

Formerly two separate organizations—HOUSE Inc., founded in 1990, and the Tri-Valley Special Needs—REACH is an all-volunteer nonprofit agency that provides housing for adults with special needs in order for them to maintain some sense of independence.

Board member and facilities director Peter McDowell said that the merging of the two groups allowed for a more focused goal.

“One group was responsible for fundraising and the other was more of a grassroots organization geared at acquiring properties,” he said. “[As REACH] we have a single message that it’s not just about housing, it’s also about nutrition, health and well-rounded exercise.”

Along with the new name, it also came with a new, unified board comprised of community members, including some parents of REACH tenants.

Currently, 22 tenants live in eight properties in Pleasanton and Livermore. The level of care provided for the tenants varies, with some requiring support 24 hours a day and others needing very little support.

“We don’t provide any services,” Norm Guest, a founding member and former chairman of HOUSE, explained. “We’re just strictly landlords who rent out to the tenants just to cover the mortgage.”

Tenants needing help are supported by workers from the Regional Center of the East Bay. The private, non-profit corporation provides services to individuals with developmental

disabilities under contract with the California Department of Developmental Services.

Local groups, such as the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North, have also stepped in to help. Specifically, the Rotary group has held several work days to help with yard work and other house upkeep.

Guest said his experience with REACH has been especially positive. His daughter Darlene has behavior issues stemming from severe cerebral palsy, he said. Yet, as a part of this program, she was able to learn to live independently and has since moved out and into her own apartment in Pleasanton.

In establishing a presence in the Tri-Valley, REACH has grown with the need of the population they serve. There is currently an “interest list” of people who would like to move into a property, but may not be ready to move quite yet.

The cities of Pleasanton and Livermore have been helpful in funding these purchases. Scott Erickson, Pleasanton’s housing specialist, has worked with the group since about 1994.

“[REACH] really represents a grassroots organization,” he said. “They were basically a group of residents who saw a need and got together to pursue it. They came to the city for opportunities to collaborate and seek funding assistance.”

In addition to helping REACH garner federal and local funding, he said the regulation requirements and city standards helped guide the group develop.

“We encouraged them to work with a few other nonprofit developers to fill in the gaps of expertise,” he said, adding that the group has since developed and reached that level.

Across the board, REACH is recognized as being one of the more unique organizations, particularly from those who serve disabled people.

“They are pretty unique as far as what they do,” Erickson

said. “There are other housing developers out there, but REACH is unique in that they have a real, narrowly defined mission and population that they serve.”

McDowell, a Realtor in the area, said one of the main reasons he volunteers his time is because of the people they serve.

“The work is so meaningful,” he said. “You see and hear the results of the original organizations’ efforts had on this population. We have the opportunity to contribute towards growing that organization and to help them reach their goals.”

Pleasanton resident Julie Testa recalls hearing about the organization in her 11 years on the city’s human service commission. It was the grassroots aspect of the group that led her to being a part of it.

“Of everything I’ve done with community service, this has been the most satisfying,” she said. “We know our tenants and we know our population. Everything we do is positive and it really feels like we can see what we’re accomplishing.”

Testa also appreciated that every dollar that goes through is used for the betterment of the tenants.

“Being such a grassroots nonprofit, every dollar goes towards serving the population,” she said. “There is no paid staff. They have been able to do so much with so little.”

Most of the funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Home Investment Partnership Program federal grant, a community development block grant, as well as fees paid by developers in lieu of low-income or affordable housing, according to Erickson. REACH also earns money from its fundraisers, including the annual golf tournament, which is planned for Oct. 5 at the Sunol Valley Golf Club.

REACH is proud to bring the federal dollars to serve peo-

See **REACH** on Page 20

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By JOE RAMIREZ

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1 hour, 40 minutes
Director: Henry Selick

"Coraline" is one of those perfect movies for kids depending, of course, on the skewed temperament of your child. I've found that, at least from friends' childhood memories and my own, the best movies and books were ones that rattled the walls of safety, which make you feel uneasy. For example, writer Roald Dahl's universe is one where a child is almost instantly threatened, but under Dahl's clinically controlled conditions. He would bring his characters like Charlie and James to the brink of danger time and again, only to back off in order to force the characters to grow and, most importantly, entertain us. If he is a sadist I will vow, absolutely; "Willy Wonka" is the perfect representation of Dahl's character. It should be fitting then that director Henry Selick, who did direct 1996's "James and the Giant Peach," should find writer Neil Gaiman's book "Coraline" so compelling in that he found a perfect librettist whose fantasies embody the spirit of Dahl and ultimately their literary grandfather, Lewis Carroll.

Gaiman, if you've never heard the name, is a British writer whose tastes towards fantasy exemplify a 21st century renaissance in British literature. What other authors lack (or at least need to hone), however, is Gaiman's gallows humor, which plays like Douglas Adams meets Dante. Gaiman cut his teeth at DC Comics in the '80s writing his phantasmagorical "Sandman" series and has since gone back and forth between comics and novels, the best of which include "Good Omens" (about the savior and antichrist being switched at birth due to a clerical error), "Coraline," "Marvel 1602" (where the Marvel characters enact their roles in Elizabethan England) and recently "The Death of Batman," which details the strangest wake for a superhero ever known.

Coraline (Dakota Fanning), however, is no superhero; she is an 8-year-old girl whose parents move to a mammoth Victorian in the Pacific Northwest which dampens her already gray and lonely life. Her mom and dad (both botanists) are always busy writing and have no time for socializing and the neighbors—a pair of eccentric British spinsters downstairs (French and Saunders if you're familiar with "BBC America") and a crazed Russian acrobat upstairs—are more endured than embraced. Leave it to a curious doll, however, dressed exactly like Coraline, found deep in the woods during a pouting hike to unlock another world whose doorway can be accessed through Coraline's living room. In this world, Coraline's parents are dotting and it is eternally and magically night. To stay nevertheless means only one thing, to give up her human eyes for buttons that everyone seems to sport.

"Coraline" may be too intense for those under 5, but I argue no more so than the imagery in any cartoon today ("SpongeBob" seems to blow my mind every once in a while). Selick, like in "James" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas" employs stop motion animation and the results are quite astounding considering you are watching years of painstaking model and character building where movement is achieved by exposing one frame of film at a time to said models moved ever so slightly. Still, "Coraline" is not just an exercise in craftsmanship, it is a movie that finds the place in childhood where the ordinary is made extraordinary by feverish and uncontrollable animism; a fitting double entendre for this movie.



POETIC PLEASANTON



By DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Hustle and bustle in the mid-size metro

As the city's new poet laureate, I look forward to sharing a variety of poetic adventures. Living in a town that values the arts and poetry is a special treat. Given the city's civic legacy, I want to acknowledge the wonderful poetry and activities Martha Meltzer and her predecessors have designed for the city. Email me at pleasanton-poetry@gmail.com.

Often I write about people and places in my poems. Some people love the city's hustle while others yearn for quiet countryside. Like many parents, my father's dream was to raise a family in a safe, bucolic setting. He escaped from Philadelphia to semi-rural Delaware as a young man. He never knew that I moved to California, decided that living a few miles from a BART station was a good thing and promptly fall in love with a man from Philadelphia. I think he would be

pleased on all counts.

City Life

*My father told me to stay away
from the city
close neighbors and traffic, what
a pity.*

*But of course I didn't heed him
and moved to mid-sized city on a
whim.*

*He never knew the City of Main
and Mall,
of multilingual people, tall and
small.*

*A town of sports parks and trails,
mountain lions and snails.*

*Home to county fair and concert
Friday nights
a pleasurable town, by all rights.*

*Alone at night, I avow to him that
he knew best,
but I wager his heavenly bed over-
looks Mohr and the rest.*

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's poet laureate.

Peter Pan flies into town

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents classic musical through Aug. 2

The musical production of "Peter Pan" was first produced on Broadway with Mary Martin and Cyril Richard. Now it comes to Livermore's Bankhead Theater with the charming story and favorite songs that has made the show a classic.

James M. Barrie's fantasy includes songs such as "Never Never Land," "I Won't Grow Up" and "I'm Flying." Peter Pan (Chelsea Nenni) takes children Wendy (Lindsay Pearce), Michael (Aria Neiman) and John (Ryker Johnson) flying on an adventure to another land where they meet the likes of villainous Captain Hook (DC Scarpelli).

The ensemble cast includes Jenna Harris (Tiger Lily), Robert Sholty (Smee), Madilyn Jaz Morrow (Jane/Indian), Robin Struss (Crocodile), Tom Farris (Nana), Braden Sweeney, Mike Loretto, Justin Garrett, Brian Olkowski, Jen Kosta, Anthony Olivares, Keaton Williams, Sebastian Romeo, Gary Foley, Savannah Stratton, Lindsey Thompson, Bekka Wiedenmeyer, Sabrina Chaco, Rebecca LaFleur, Allison Meneley, Heidi Schrupp, Lauren Ho Tseung, Imani Wilson, Lindsay Garber, Amanda Neiman, Madison Brinnon, Melissa Heinrich, Hunter Milano, Drew Orlando, Deborah Lagin and Gail Wilson.



ERIC K. WOOD

Chelsea Nenni (Peter Pan) and DC Scarpelli (Captain Hook) face off in Tri-Valley Repertory theatre's "Peter Pan."

"Peter Pan" is directed by Eric Neiman and produced by Kathleen Breedveld.

Shows are at 8 p.m. July 24, 25, 31, Aug. 1 and 2 p.m. July 25 and Aug. 2 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$33 for seniors and \$25 for juniors, and group discounts are avail-

able. Purchase tickets at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, by calling 272-6800, or by visiting the ticket office from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To learn more about Tri-Valley Repertory Theater, formerly Pleasanton Playhouse, visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

—Emily West



EMILY WEST

One of Ruth Hepner's favorite activities is styling her hair. With the help of an aide, she is able to do this and other activities mostly independently.

REACH

Continued from Page 19

ple in need in Pleasanton. When REACH sold a property it no longer needed, Erickson said the money is returned to HUD, which held it until REACH found another property they needed.

"The dollars that come in are not perishable," Testa said. "They forever serve the community."

The same local focus is also used when it looks to add new tenants.

"Our priority of tenants are those who have roots here," Testa added. "The organization started with local parents of special needs adults who didn't want their adult children to go over the hill when they've grown up in Pleasanton. They know the bus system and wanted them to be able to stay local."

This was the case for Sharon Almeida, vice president of the REACH board. Her stepson Victor Almeida, who has autism, was able to be plugged into the organization as a young adult with great success.

"It's a very arduous process to hook people into the system at 19," she said. "He originally moved into one property that houses a group home."

Having advanced in that setting, he was moved into a REACH property to try more independent living.

"He lives with a roommate and has an outside company that helps him with daily activities two days a week, like grocery shopping and social events. It's made a tremendous impact in his life."

To learn more about REACH, visit www.trivalleyreach.org. ■



Parent photographers

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



Pleasanton Phantom 10B earn 2nd in summer classic

Pleasanton's 10B Phantom traveling softball team earned second place amongst 12 teams in Pleasanton over the tournament weekend, July 10-12. The girls won all three games Friday through Saturday to earn top seeding. On Sunday, they won twice including a come-from-behind extra-innings defeat of San Carlos to get to the championship game. Phantom earned second place in the tournament as a very strong Rocklin based team won the finale. Leading the Phantom charge with brilliant fielding including several double plays were: Haley Wesenberg, Kyra Sexton and Jenyce Dutcher. Jenyce also made a late innings clutch hit to help the team win their semi-final game while Nalani Scates persevered, pitching under tremendous pressure from crazed fans and relentless opponents' bats. The Pleasanton based team will hone their skills in 1 more summer tournament in Stockton as their season culminates with a trip to the ASA Western Nationals in Oregon in late July. Players include: Taylor Campbell, Jenyce Dutcher, Paige Heacox (Speedy), Ragan Lacy, Alana Mendez (Espresso), Jillian Pluschkell, Nalani Scates, Kyra Sexton, Megan Shackley (Lefty), Madalyn Warren (Mad-Dog), Haley Wesenberg, Danielle Williams.



Pleasanton Lacrosse girls pick up sportsmanship award

Pleasanton Lacrosse Players (from left) Madison Steele, Kira Ewanich, Lindsey Kail, Evan Murphy, Tori Larsen, Alexa Milus and Laura Klein, traveled to Baltimore, M.D. earlier this month to participate in the Inaugural U.S. Lacrosse U15 National Championship. Facing some very tough East Coast competition, the girls did a great job and returned home winning the tournament Sportsmanship Award, announced during halftime of the championship game. I forgot to mention that the Pleasanton Lacrosse Players weren't playing for Pleasanton Lacrosse, they made the U15 NorCal Team. Only these seven players from the club made this national team.

SPORTS DIGEST

Sharks break multiple records at meet

The Pleasanton Meadows Sharks had a record breaking day even if they did not have a winning day in their meet against the Dublin Green Gators. The Gators won the meet 679.5 - 318.5, but they could not catch Perry Cheney. Cheney set the Pleasanton Meadows team record in the 11-12 freestyle, posting a 26.71 time. Talia Florio was also an individual star for the Sharks getting to the wall first in the 9-10 fly, breaststroke, and IM.

Cheney's sister Kayla grabbed a first place of her own by winning the 13-14 fly. And the Sharks also got first place finished from Alyson Isaacs in the 11-12 Free. The fly was a good event for Pleasanton. Along with Florio, Amelia Kelly won the U6 Fly and sister Meredith Kelly the 7-8 and Noor Gill lost a very close race in his fly event, finishing second by .17 seconds. Gill got revenge by winning the IM.

Jack Geasa also won the breaststroke for Pleasanton in the 11-12 age group later taking the IM too.

The backstroke wasn't a good event for the Sharks, but Ainsely Hasty (U6), David Azuma (7-8) and Nicolas Lemmon (11-12) all took second. Pleasanton Meadows Medley relay teams of Hasty, Kaitlyn Rae, Emily Milligan, and Amelia Kelly (U6) and the 9-10 group of Daniel Newman, Tyler Rhoads, Gill, and Joey Geasa were the lone relay winners for Pleasanton.

Tincher, Tsui, Chang, top girls' swimmers

The DBAC Piranhas hosted the FAST Dolphins last Saturday, July 18, at the aquatic center, topping them by a score of 625.5-322.5. The friendly competition included an exhibition Parent Relay race, which was won by the FAST parents.

The top female swimmers for the DBAC Piranhas were Mary Tincher (8), Katie Tsui (11), and Iris Chang (15). The top male swimmers for the DBAC Piranhas were Alex Ren (6), Kevin Lee (6), Andrew Silva (10) and Daniel Huang (13). The top female swimmer for the FAST Dolphins was Paige Heacox. The top male swimmer for the FAST Dolphins was Bryce Hwang.

Whales falter to Stingrays 595-393

Last Saturday was sizzling, and so were The Del Prado Stingrays, as they swam away from the Ruby Hill

Killer Whales, 595 - 393. Stephanie Doi, of the Stingrays, bettered her own club record for the Girls 13-14 50 Free, by a time of 26.69. Her time is also a league best this year. Ruby Hills, Emily Harris (6), placed first in the free, butterfly, and backstroke, and led the 100 medley relay to victory. Teammates Juliet Allen, (10), Kirsten Hewitt, (10), Jenna Brown, (8), Taylor Sowers, (8), and Lindsey Baxter, (16), also had outstanding swims for the girls. The boys tops swimmers for the Killer Whales were Tom Sornsen, (10), Christopher Yang, (6), Chris Dotson, (16), Myles Hewitt, (12), and Alex Acosta, (14). Along with Stephanie Doi, top girl swimmers for the Stingrays include her sisters, Niki, (17), and Megan, (11), and Elania Gates, (14), Colleen Mayes, (17), Nicole White, (10), and Meghan Hogue, (9). Tops for the Stingray boys were Jake Newman, (11), John Lester, (6), Andrew Goard, (13), Eric Gates, (16), and Joey Lindley, (14).

Seahawks seize 2nd at Junior Olympics

The recent heat wave brought out the best as the Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) swam with a feverish speed during the Pacific Swimming Long Course Jr. Olympics (JO) July 16-19 in Concord. Competing against over 1,300 swimmers, the Seahawks finished in second place by 1.5 points.

Team records, new cuts, lifetime bests (LTB,) and PLS All Time Top Ten swims were part of their fiery performance. Individual high point winners include Rachel Knowles 11-12 girls, Nick Silverthorn and Bryan Hughes 13-14 boys and Allison Brown 15-16 girls.

Team records 11-12 girls: Eva Chung—200 breast, Rachel Knowles—100/200 free and 200 fly, 200 free relay—Katie Woods, Rachel Knowles, Lillian Sun, Cate MacGregor and 400 free relay—Katie Woods, Rachel Knowles, Lillian Sun, Cate MacGregor. New JO cuts:—Roshni Nair—200 free, 400 IM, Theresa Martin—200 free, 200 back, Tim McLaughlin—200 back, 100 fly. New Far Western (FW) cuts include the following: Chris Dourov—50 free, 200 IM; Marissa Brown—200 back; Bridget Moran—400/1500 free; Danielle Stickler—800 free; Frank Horpel—200 back; Kyle Lindsay—200 fly; Hannah Folmar—50 back; Maggie Kauffeld—400 free; Lillian Sun—400 free, 200 back; Katie Woods—200/400 free; Maxime Rooney—200 back, 200 fly, 200 IM, 400 IM; Nick Johnston—200/400 free; Kevin McLaughlin 400 IM; Tony Shen—50 free; Alex Gilchrist—50 fly.

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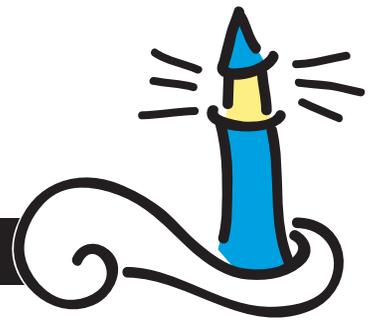
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Sun 1:30-4:30 J. Rockcliff 872-9679

7455 Stonedale Drive \$444,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 858-1984

3 BEDROOMS

2855 Diavila Court \$650,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 998-7747

5625 San Jose Drive \$697,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3833

4 BEDROOMS

1063 Hopkins Way \$1,229,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Morning Star Properties 625-7788

4162 Remillard Court \$1,595,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 577-1944

2635 Ingrid Court \$1,799,500
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

1964 Via di Salerno \$2,095,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

6626 Via San Blas \$712,950
Sun 1-4 Northern California Brokers 487-8734

506 Trebbiano \$969,000
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

5 BEDROOMS

833 Independence Court \$1,229,000
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 570-0717

6736 Riddell Street \$1,299,000
Sun 1-4 APR - Blaise Lofland 846-6500

4222 Remillard Court \$1,749,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-3534

4 Eaglet Court \$1,995,000
Sun 1-4 APR - Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3314 Arbor Drive \$989,000
Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

6 BEDROOMS

110 E. Angela \$1,395,000
Sun 12:30-4 Northern California Brokers 426-4777

PET OF THE WEEK

Pretty kitty

Meet Meg, an adult, spayed female orange Tabby who has been patiently awaiting adoption at the East County Animal Shelter since May. Kitten season can be a rough time of year for adult cats in search of homes. For a humorous list of 10 reasons to adopt an adult cat instead of



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

a kitten see www.catsontheweb.org/10-reasons.htm. Thank goodness for TVAR volunteers who come to the animal shelter daily and take adult cats like Meg to the visitors lounge for a little loving interaction. While volunteers pamper the cats with petting and playtime, the cats get to stretch and show off their loving personalities. Meg is a sweet-natured cat with a mellow disposition. Meg loves to be petted and she will be a special companion for some lucky person. Visit Meg (pet #85354) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

FOGSTER.COM

Pleasanton, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2,250

805 Homes for Rent

ALL AREAS - HOUSES FOR RENT
Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: <http://www.RealRentals.com> (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3.5 BA - \$4600/mo



Pleasanton, 5+ BR/3.5 BA
Beautiful House in the Best Family Neighborhood In Pleasanton! Gorgeous 3,853 sq ft house with super-huge back yard—end-of-cul-de-sac location in the quiet center of Laguna Oaks. Only the best, top-quality, SF Design Center flooring, window treatments, lighting fixtures and custom built-ins. Call 925-858-3862 for more info.

San Ramon, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1360

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

ALL AREAS - RENTMATES.COM
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Rentmates.com>. (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$650.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

*****FREE Foreclosure Listings**
Over 200,000 properties nationwide. LOW Down Payment. Call NOW! 1-800-446-1328 (AAN CAN)

Danville, 4 BR/2 BA - \$995,000

Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$979,000

Danville, 5+ BR/3 BA - \$999,900

840 Vacation

Rentals/Time Shares

3 BR Condo - Big Island, Hawaii
3 BR, 2 baths condo available to rent. Sleeps 6-8. Located on the 16th Fairway of the North Course at Mauna Lani. The unit has a gorgeous view towards Mauna Loa with luxury furnishings and high-end appliances including barbecue. 10 minute walk to private beach club and other resort amenities. Rates starting at \$200 per night (Rates negotiable for extended stays). Please contact us for available dates and more information at (415)333-4063 or kkeegans@aol.com.

850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

Colorado Bank Foreclosure
Ranch. 40 acres \$29,900 Clean Title, Warranty Deed. Enjoy 300 days of sunshine. Rocky Mtn. views, utilities. Excellent Financing! Call Today! 1-866-696-5263 x4938. www.ColoradoLandBargains.com (Cal-SCAN)

El Paso, TX

20 acre ranch foreclosures. Up to 40% Discount \$0 Down. Take over payments \$159/month! Beautiful Views. Owner Financing. Free Maps/Pictures. 800-343-9444. (Cal-SCAN)

New Mexico

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

New Mexico - Land Foreclosures
From as low as \$19,995 for 10+/- acre, phone, electric close, views. Guaranteed financing, low down! Going Fast! 888-812-5830. www.SWProperties.com (Cal-SCAN)

855 Real Estate Services

80+ Foreclosed Homes
Northern CA. Selling by auction July 28 - August 2 valued from \$50k to \$998k. Get all the details at www.HudsonAndMarshall.com or call 1-866-539-9551. (Cal-SCAN)

Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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FunDawgs.com
510.326.4597

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Research Study

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- If your doctor has told you that you have coronary heart disease, you may qualify to participate in a clinical research study.
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1964 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Nestled in the beautiful community of Ruby Hill, this exquisite 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath, 5,426 square foot Mediterranean style home is professionally decorated with designer touches and high quality craftsmanship throughout. Details include; crown molding, travertine floors, custom draperies and paint, Venetian plaster, cherrywood built-ins and stunning gourmet kitchen. The large 21,944 sq.ft. backyard is a family's dream, featuring a sparkling swimming pool and spa with waterfalls, and the large patio and play area make it perfect for entertaining. Enjoy the amenities that Ruby Hill has to offer; pools, tennis courts, and the Jack Nicklaus Ruby Hill Golf Course. **Offered at \$2,095,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

2602 CALLE MORELIA, PLEASANTON, **\$720,000**



This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2½ bathroom home is located in Country Fair, one of Pleasanton's most desirable neighborhoods. The large, professionally landscaped yard has views of the Pleasanton Ridge. The home has double-paned windows, breakfast nook, living room, family room, office and master bedroom with walk-in closet. Sold by Julia Murtagh of Alain Pinel Realtors. 925.997.2411.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$330,000
Highest sale reported: \$756,000
Average sales reported: \$536,579

Livermore

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$190,000
Highest sale reported: \$940,000
Average sales reported: \$507,591

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$405,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,750,000
Average sales reported: \$701,159

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 35
Lowest sale reported: \$160,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,188,000
Average sales reported: \$582,600

Sunol

Total sales reported: 1
Lowest sale reported: \$110,000
Highest sale reported: \$110,000
Average sales reported: \$110,000

Source: California REsource

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californiamoves.com



DUBLIN
6512 KING WAY
WELL MAINTAINED **\$425,000**
3 BR 2 BA Hrdwood floor entry,Oak cabinets,Recess lighting,Sep family rm w/tile flrs/stone fireplace 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
2442 CRESTLINE RD
BIRDLAND RANCHER W/POOL **\$695,000**
3 BR 2 BA lovely tree lined street,home is being sold completely furnished. www.2442crestline.com 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open OPEN SUN 1-4 4117 AMBERWOOD CIRCLE
REMODELED! A MUST SEE **\$340,000**
2 BR 1 full BA + 2 half Updated end unit with attached garage & private patio. Close to schools and parks 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open FRI/SAT/SUN 11 - 5 145 COPPER RIDGE RD.
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES PRICES START IN HIGH \$200s
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses,vaulted ceilings avail,w/garages,gated,renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

ALAMEDA

1713 THIRD STREET
GREAT LOCATION **\$318,000**
3 BR 1 BA Walk to schools/downtown,hrdwd flrs in liv/din/kitchen,updated kitchen w/granite counters 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

11779 JUAREZ LANE
WEST DUBLIN RANCHER **\$559,000**
3 BR 2 BA apx 1883 sf,corner lot,huge family rm addition,updated baths, newly painted kitchen cabs 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

27917 PUEBLO CALLE, UNIT 7
GREAT HOME! **\$77,000**
2 BR 2 BA Apx. 1440 sf,Double oven,stove,fridge,m

icrowave,washer,dryer stay!Space rent \$491 a mo 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

3300 DYER RD.
PRICE REDUCTION! **\$948,000**
3 BR 2 BA 29.25 acre parcel w/2000+sq. ft.home,dutch barn w/2 flrs,steel framed shop w/2 rll-up drs 925.847.2200

1221 ECHO SUMMIT ST
MUST SEE! **\$534,950**
4 BR 2.5 BA beautiful hrdwd flrs,many upgrades,very clean,inground pl,across from park,excellent loc 925.847.2200

2643 BRIARWOOD DR
MUST SEE! **\$455,000**
5 BR 2 BA dual pane windows,built-in pl,open flr plan,aprox.2300 sq. ft.,11434 sq. ft. lot,2 car gar

925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

558 SANTEL COURT
GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY **\$1,799,000**
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm,upgrded kit/opens to family room,pl/spa in backyard,court loc,hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

21 CASTLEWOOD ROAD
MUST SEE INSIDE! **\$1,090,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Castlewood!Beautiful open & spacious home! View of MT. Diablo!Gorgeous kit!Must See Inside 925.847.2200

2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT
FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! **\$759,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 2165 sf,w/huge private bckryrd,lot apx 7150 sf,lrg deck!Great school district,gr8 loc

925.847.2200

1561 TRIMINGHAM DR
BEAUTIFUL DANBURY PARK **\$545,000**
3 BR 2.5 BA New rf,Updtd kit/hrdwd flrs,Vaulted ceilings,Dual pane wndws,bckryrd w/dck/mural/fountain 925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 178
SENIOR PARK **\$47,000**
2 BR 2 BA Senior Park w/Pl,Spa,Club House,Lrg Living rm,Sep Fam rm,Laundry rm w/ Cabs;Kit w/ Island, 925.847.2200

SAN FRANCISCO

10 FLOOD AVE
GREAT LOCATION **\$649,000**
4 BR 2 BA huge garage,separated unit w/1 bd/1 ba located in back yard,convenient off street parking 925.847.2200

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COTTAGE LIVING IN DOWNTOWN



PLEASANTON

4075 NEVIS STREET \$689,950
Approx. 2000 sq.ft., 3 full bedrooms with 2 master suites, 3 full baths, hardwood floors, updated throughout, close to downtown and schools.
SUSETTE CLARK-WALKER 925.251.2547
WWW.SUSETTECLARKWALKER.COM

BEAUTIFUL 3/4+ ACRE LOT



PLEASANTON

2538 VINEYARD AVE \$449,950
Mt. Diablo Views! Lot is generally level with good utility. Private well, electricity, public water and sewer. Located in the Vineyard Ave. corridor specific plan. Build your dream home!
KELLY PATTERSON 925.251.2535
OR MICHAEL DUFFY 925.251.2523

FORMER VENTANA HILLS MODEL



PLEASANTON

833 INDEPENDENCE COURT \$1,229,000
Approx. 3200 sq.ft., 11,000+ sq.ft. lot, backs to open space. Hardwood floors, 5 beds, 3 full baths, pool, spa, waterfall and fountain.
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LIVERMORE

11625 MORGAN TERRITORY RD \$1,850,000
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THE NAGLE TEAM 925.736.4155

GREAT 7+/- ACRE PROPERTY



CASTRO VALLEY

6000 MOUNT OLYMPUS DRIVE \$1,549,000
Dream Home, Private setting unlike any in Castro Valley. Drive thru gated entrance to beautiful manicured circular driveway to this Custom Mediterranean Home with over 4200 sq.ft. of Lovely Living. Beautiful pool.
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3249 ARBOR DRIVE \$984,850
Custom 4 bed, 2.5 bath on huge lot of almost 13,000 sq ft! Completely updated w/ granite counters, designer lighting, 2 stone fireplaces, hardwood floors & more. Professionally landscaped with several outdoor patios.
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3737 NICOLE AVE \$1,550,000
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LOADED WITH UPDATES



LIVERMORE

140 LEE AVE \$499,000
This amazing home has been lovingly cared for...loaded with updates including kitchen & baths. Separate living quarters above garage with own entry. Close to all conveniences including schools, shopping, parks & freeway.
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LIVERMORE

655 EAST VINEYARD AVENUE \$4,695,000
Fabulous 20+ acre parcel with 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Gorgeous views. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates. Guest apt, pool, spa, wine room. This property has it all.
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GORGEOUS GATED HILLTOP ESTATE



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2801 GRAY FOX COURT \$2,795,000
Panoramic views on 1.91 private acres. Custom Mediterranean single level w/character. Resort-like backyard with pool, spa, swim up bar, BBQ, palm trees. Room for vineyard, tennis court, olive grove & more.
www.2801GrayFox.com
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WWW.PHYLLISANDCAROLYN.COM

GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES



PLEASANTON

8044 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY \$3,187,000
Beautiful custom home Golden Eagle Estates. Designer features w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Wine cellar, exercise room, workshop, main flr master, Heritage Oaks. Level backyard with pool, spa, grass area.
PEGGY CORTEZ 925.648.5454

PRISTINE HOME WITH UPGRADES!



PLEASANTON

4603 BLACK AVE \$600,000
Updated kitchen, crown molding, dual pane windows, newer carpet, and hardwood floors. Designer paint. Quiet courtyard and large backyard perfect for entertaining. Walk to award winning schools & Aquatic Park.
ANNE ATHENOUR MARTIN 925.200.5272
OR DIANE SASS 925.699.9508

BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM HOME



PLEASANTON

860 CASTLEWOOD PL \$1,995,000
Beautiful custom built in 1996 by Sterling Builders! Incredible views above the 18th Green & 10th Fairway of the hill course! Huge gourmet Island kitchen with granite! Large master suite with fireplace & walk in closet, office den. 3 car garage.
BRYAN CRAFT 925.855.4141

BEAUTIFUL, CONTEMPORARY, HOME



LIVERMORE

1773 CALLE DEL REY \$449,900
In model condition, offering 3 beds, (1 downstairs) and 3 full baths. Remodeled 3 years ago with laminate flooring downstairs and carpet upstairs. Backyard professionally landscaped.
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WWW.MADELINEWALKER.COM

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OAKLAND

5745 REDWOOD ROAD \$3,300,000
Backs up to Regional Park Trails, Huge Covered and Outdoor Arenas, great 61 Stalls, 5 Tack rooms, Hay storage, Beautiful 3600 sq.ft. home, 3 small cottages. Property being sold "AS IS" The horse facility has been here since 1935.
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GATED ESTATE



PLEASANTON

9745 SANTOS RANCH RD \$4,800,000
Fabulous 70A gated estate on the Westside, less than 10 min from downtown. Large house and 5 car garage and views forever! Truly a one-of-a-kind property.
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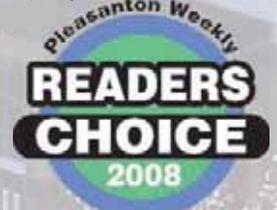
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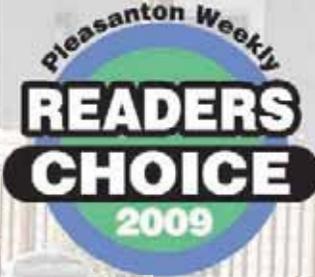
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Custom Home VIEW Lot.
All City Utilities to Site
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Views of lake & hills at End
of small court.
Offered at \$535,000



Almost 2 Acre Horse Property

Close to miles of riding trails. Plans
approved for over 4000 sq. ft. custom
home + garages for 5 cars + RV
Parking + Barn plus shop and all flat
pasture. Quick access to freeway or
downtown & Pleasanton Schools.
Asking \$1,145,000



**We've Got the Weather....
you have the POOL.**

Sharp 4BR, 3BA Backs to open space
3-car garage
Huge Deck & Pool for entertaining
Island Spa with Waterfalls
Solar for pool.
Listed for \$986,000



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Two years young, shows like new.
Skylight, upgrades, gas fire place,
3 bedrooms 2 full baths.
Large, bright and spacious.
Close to downtown Pleasanton
Reduced \$220,000



Almost New...A Must See!

Large private kitchen, solid cherry
upgraded beautiful cabinets, tons of
extra storage space
New upgrades in kitchen, Remarkable
flower garden on drip system.
3 bedroom 2 full bath.
Motivated Seller \$209,900



**3724 Angus Way
Pleasanton**

Award Winning Mohr Elem School
Updated and modernized.
Downstairs office/guest bedroom
with custom built-in cabinets. Crown
molding, Plantation shutters. Close
to parks. Spacious master suite.



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Featured Properties



Tracy – Located in the charming Redbridge community, this 5 BR, 3.5 BA home has a nice floor plan with 1 BR & BA downstairs, approx 3200 sq ft & a great court location. The kitchen has Stainless Steel appliances & Granite counter tops. The pride of home ownership shows!
1302 Cottage Grove Court \$380,000



Livermore – Gorgeous, 3 BR, plus a loft, 2.5 BA home with approx 2233 sq ft of living space, & gourmet kitchen with Granite counter tops, Cherry wood cabinets & pendent lighting over the island. Great floor plan with an open kitchen, nook & family room with a cozy fireplace. Move in condition.
1775 Rose Gate Common \$499,000



Livermore – Incredible 4 BR 3.5 BA home with large bedrooms, approx 3149 sq ft & a very open floor plan. The bonus room could be 2nd Master plus open loft area is large enough for an office. Great rear yard with lots of space & privacy. Large kitchen with Island & maple cabinets.
5675 Arlene Way \$674,900



San Ramon – Beautiful 5 BR, 3 BA home located on a deep 1/3 acre cul-de-sac lot that's perfect for backyard fun & entertaining. Updated throughout, including a remodeled kitchen, remodeled bathrooms, newer carpet, dual pane windows, & newer A/C. Move in condition!
124 Marsh Place \$769,000



Pleasanton – Stunning & immaculate! This 4 BR, 3.5 BA home has approx 2923 sq ft, wood floors, custom window treatments, & a beautiful kitchen with Granite counters, a double oven, gas range, & stainless steel appliances. You won't want to miss the bonus room upstairs!
1122 Baur Court \$1,050,000



Livermore – Living in the vineyards has never been better! Gorgeous 5 BR, 4.5 BA home with a guest suite above the garage. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel Viking appliances & Granite slab counters. Beautiful Pebble Tec pool & spa, RV/Boat parking, & much more!
3205 Derby Court \$1,299,900



Livermore – A “French Chateau” nestled among the Ruby Hill vineyards in the fast growing Livermore Wine Country. A custom-built Vineyard Estate with 4 BR (possible 5th BR or “Au-Pair”), 6 full BA, approx. 5,200 sq ft, and an 18.5 acre lot with 11.7 acres of income-producing vineyards.
777 East Vineyard Avenue \$3,999,000



Pleasanton – Magnificent new custom home, located on the Golf Course at Ruby Hill! Classic “Italian Villa” with 6 BR, 6 full BA, 3 half BA, approx. 10,000 sq ft of living space, half acre lot, a 12 seat true Home Theater, a chef's gourmet Kitchen, and “beach-entry” Pool with Spa.
1181 Germano Way \$4,889,168



Prudential
 California Realty

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

925.417.2250



BLAISE LOFLAND



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GREY EAGLE ESTATES

OPEN SUN 1-4



4 EAGLET COURT, PLEASANTON

Experience breathtaking panoramic views from this secluded hilltop home, located in the gated community of Grey Eagle Estates. This beautiful private estate (1.36 acre lot), features 5,460 square feet of living space with five bedrooms, AuPair/Guest Room (4th) and four and a half baths. Large downstairs bonus room and private office (5th). The remodeled gourmet kitchen and master bath. Extensive basement storage area and separate wine cellar. Marble and hardwood flooring. Separate pool house with pool/spa/waterfall/kitchen/bathroom. Tile roof. Four car garage. Don't miss this one! **OFFERED AT \$1,995,000**

SHADOW CLIFF

SALE PENDING



3039 BADGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Adorable three bedroom, two and a half bath home in Shadow Cliff. Approximately 1,383 square feet. Great starter home or investment property! Excellent condition! Newer stainless steel kitchen appliances. Vaulted Ceilings, security alarm system and central heating/air conditioning. Tile Roof. Private rear yard with spa. Two car garage. Neighborhood park. **OFFERED AT \$559,000**

CARLTON PLACE

OPEN SUN 1-4



1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE

Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium .41 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries. **OFFERED AT \$865,000**

PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE

JUST CLOSED



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 \$2,795,000**

CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS

OPEN SUN 1-4



6736 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON

WOW! Don't miss this beautiful home on premium view lot (.39 acre). Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. Quality built in 2002. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard, backs to open space. Five bedrooms + bonus/game room, and loft/TV area, and separate downstairs exercise room, four bathrooms. Approximately 4,100 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding, hickory wood flooring and upgraded carpet. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,299,000**

VENTANA HILLS

JUST CLOSED



1141 LUND RANCH ROAD, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this beautiful Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Premium (.34 acre) lot backs to open space. Five bedrooms, fifth bedroom can be bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite. Custom travertine tile flooring, new carpet throughout. Beautiful professionally landscaped grounds with Heritage Oak tree. In-ground pool and spa. Walk to neighborhood park and downtown! **OFFERED AT \$1,259,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



Homes For Sale This Week

MIKE FRACISCO 998.8131



PLEASANTON \$475,000
2509 Secretariat Dr. 2BR/2BA duet. 2 car gar. Family rm. with vaulted ceil. & frplc. New carpet in fam.rm., dining & hall. New paint. Landscaped front/back w/auto.sprinklers. Pvt. Patio. Close to sports park, downtown. Fracisco Realty. DRE# 01378428

BOB CILK OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$712,950
6626 Via San Blas. 4BR/2BA rancher in Del Prado. Hardwood. Updated kitchen. Plantation shutters. Turnkey condition. Swimclub membership. Northern California Brokers. 487.8734. DRE# 00971331. www.pleasantonhomes.com.

BELVA MAYFIELD 872.1323



LIVERMORE \$725,000
2433 Sixth Street. Circa 1908 renovated/ remodeled. 3BR/2BA, large living/dining rooms. Large lot. Detached 2-car garage, pool & spa. Walk to downtown. Close to Livermore wineries. Re/Max Accord. DRE# 0693866. www.BelvaMayfield.com.

BELVA MAYFIELD 872.1323



PLEASANTON \$559,950
359 Kottinger Drive. Cozy 3BR/2BA cottage. 2-car garage. Light and bright with fresh paint and new carpet. Walk to downtown Pleasanton. Re/Max Accord. DRE# 0693866. www.BelvaMayfield.com Belva@BelvaMayfield.com

JIM LAVEY OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,799,500
2635 Ingrid Court. Pleasanton wine country's most spectacular hilltop location with views of Mt Diablo and Tri-Valley. 4BR/3½BA home with 3,650 sq.ft. Go to 2635ingridct.com for more photos. Allied Brokers 846.3755. DRE# 00452168

TIM MCGUIRE 462.7653



PLEASANTON \$999,000
6557 Hanover Court. 5BR/3BA extensively remodeled home. Office & bonus room, gourmet kitchen, granite baths, hardwood floors, sparkling pool and spa in quiet cul-de-sac with views. Easy access to I-680. Alain Pinel Realtors. DRE# 1349446

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SAT 1-4



PLEASANTON \$969,000
506 Trebbiano Place. 4BD/2½BA close to Ruby Hill community park with tennis, pool and clubhouse. Hardwood floors, custom built temperature controlled 200+ bottle wine closet. Alain Pinel Realtors. 462.7653 DRE# 1349446

TIM MCGUIRE 462.7653



PLEASANTON COMING SOON
2345 Greenwood Road. "Colony" Model In Birdland 4BR/2BA, 1923sf, .22 acre lot with gazebo & vegetable garden. New paint, newer roof, AC, furnace, water heater & dual pane windows. Alain Pinel Realtors. DRE# 1349446

LYNDA MITOSINKA SUN 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON \$1,137,500
1063 Hopkins Way. Ventana Hills 4BR/3½BA has new kitchen with cherry wood cabinets & granite counters. New cpts. Plantation shutters. Pvt.yard with pool. Morning Star Properties, Inc. 625.7788. DRE #R00705257 www.morningstar.com

LOU PLUMMER OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON \$1,595,000
4162 Remillard Ct. Custom hilltop home w/valley views. 8' high windows in liv.rm. Dbl. French doors to patio & pool. Island kit. w/expansive granite counters. Loads of cab., walk-in pantry. Fam rm. + separate game rm. Alain Pinel. 577.1944. DRE# 00409150

ANNI HAGFELDT OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,749,000
4222 Remillard Ct. NEW PRICE! Stunning views from this custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. 5BR/4.5BA, on over ½ acre. Pool, bonus room. Visit 4222remillardcrt.com for virtual tour. Alain Pinel Realtors. 519.3534. DRE# 01491116

ANNI HAGFELDT PENDING



PLEASANTON \$989,000
559 Del Sol. Open the doors to this fully remodeled 5BR/4BA home, too many beautiful features to list. Close to award winning schools, parks, downtown. Must See! Visit 559delsol.com for virtual tour. Alain Pinel Realtors. 519.3534. DRE# 01491116

SHERRI STONEBERGER 510.504.7177



PLEASANTON \$1,549,000
836 Piemonte Dr. Ruby Hill French Country masterpiece on over ½ acre with views of the 11th & 12th fairways. 4BR/3½BA home with approx. 3,845 sq.ft. of living space. Motor court with 3 car gar. + stall. Legacy Real Estate. DRE# 00926053

DALE MORRIS OPEN SUN 12:30-4



PLEASANTON \$1,395,000
110 E. Angela. Nearly 3,000 sq.ft. 6BR/4BA historical home near downtown has been completely updated in the past 7 years. 3 car garage. Owner may consider lease option. Northern California Brokers. 426.4777. DRE#670746

MELISSA PEDERSON 858.1984



PLEASANTON \$1,399,900
929 Gray Fox Cir. 3938 sq.ft. home on ½ acre. 4BR+ office & bonus room. 4 remodeled granite baths. Gourmet granite kitchen w/ Stainless Dacor, tile floors & french doors. Great yard with pool & spa. Keller Williams Tri Valley. DRE #01002251

HUGH METZLER OPEN SAT 1-5



DUBLIN \$689,000
8057 Crossridge Road. Great views from this beautiful 2-story Willow Creek home. Extensively remodeled 3BR/2½BA near walking trails & park. Easy 580/680 access. Close to shopping & dining. Cambridge Real Estate. 426.7469. DRE#01216493