

# Pleasanton Weekly

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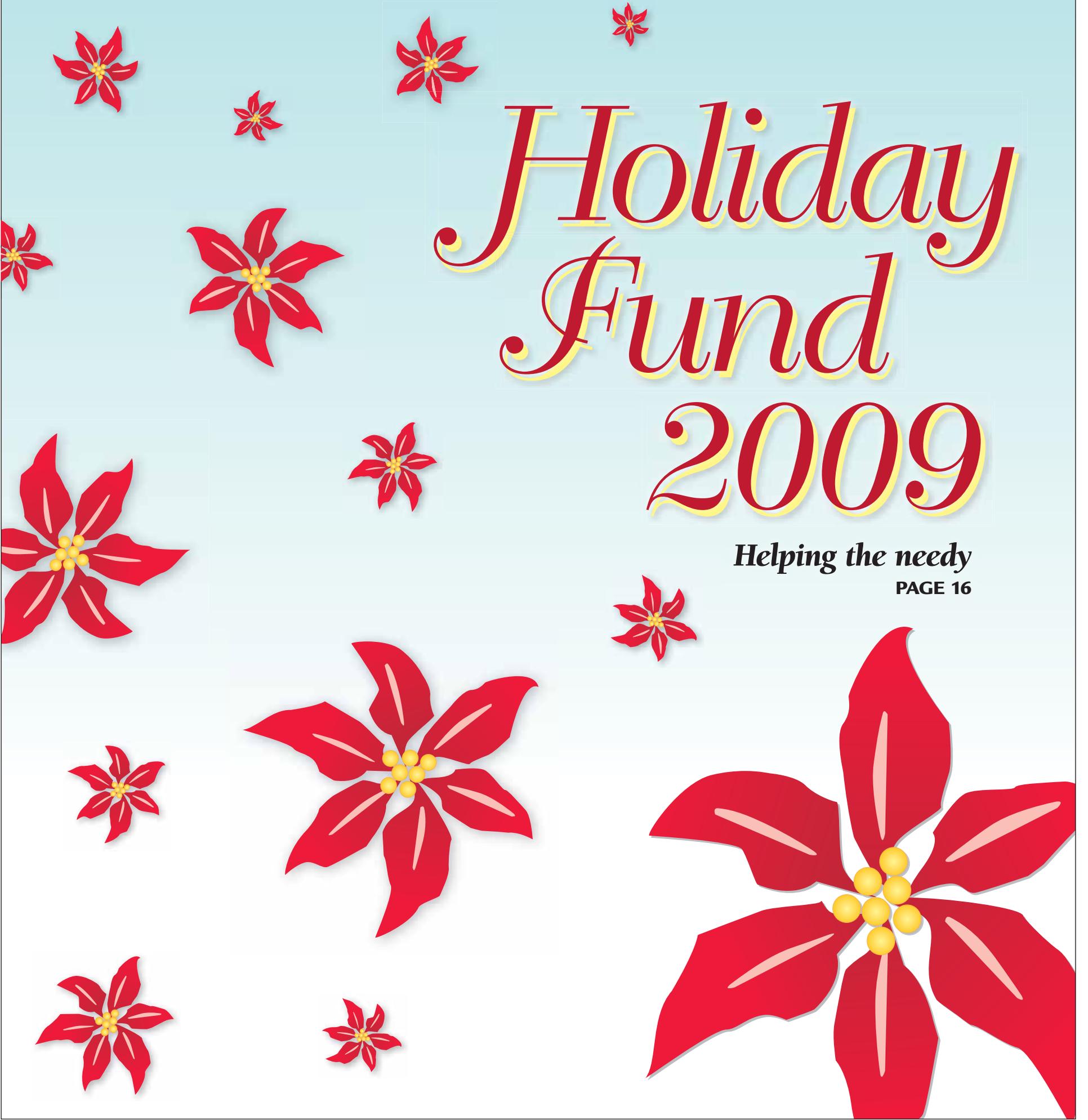
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## *Holiday Fund 2009*

*Helping the needy*

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## Rwanda 'healing' a formula for peace

Centerpointe Presbyterian Church pastor Mike Barris has returned from a trip to Rwanda, inspired by the tremendous success he saw there in national renewal and family reconciliations that followed the days of mass genocide in the mid-1990s which killed more than a million people. If he didn't know the history, Barris said he might not have realized the hatred between the mainly minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus that led to the wholesale slaughters. Barris went to Rwanda on a fact-finding mission with a Christian ministry group called the Leadership Network to see firsthand the success of the country's President Paul Kagame has had in ending the turmoil and rebuilding Rwanda into a first-class state. Where many neighboring African states and most Western countries had turned their heads as Rwandan rivals killed each other, Kagame was part of a UN-sponsored militia that went to Rwanda to stop the bloodshed. He stayed, was elected president and has gained in popularity because of the programs he and his team have initiated to bring peace and the start of democracy and prosperity to the troubled nation.

Particularly effective, Barris found, was a three-step process Kagame has adopted to empty the prisons of the tens of thousands seized in the aftermath of the 10 days of genocide by encouraging the villains to acknowledge their deeds, deal with what they did, regret it, find remorse and ask to be forgiven. Once they go through this process and are truly believed by their court counselors, they then can actually meet with their victim's family face-to-face where they apologize, talk about their pain in recognizing the horror of their actions and ask for the family's forgiveness. After hearing the bid for forgiveness it's then up to the victim's family to continue the process, talking directly to the perpetrator about the pain they have suffered and then determining if they believe he is ready to start anew.

For Barris, it's an almost unbelievable process to work with those who have killed randomly in an effort at repentance, reconciliation and rehabilitation. He doubts that many of us could do the same if someone in our own family had

been slaughtered by a marauding crusader. Yet he found thousands of Rwandans were putting the ugliness of the mid-1990s behind them and moving forward almost arm-in-arm with ethnic groups they had been taught to hate only a decade ago. As an observer and with his colleagues, Barris wonders if Kagame's process of national healing can work here, say in the way we judge those responsible for the gang rape of a 15-year-old girl outside a Richmond High School gym a few weeks ago. Following Kagame's program, those guilty would still be punished but a process of reconciliation to the perpetrators who acknowledged the evil of their actions, as several have done, might go a long way in helping the victim, the families, the high school and the Richmond community in moving forward in its healing process. Right now, Barris points out, many are clamoring for justice, wanting the boys responsible to be tried, found guilty and punished. If one or more are truly repentant, Barris asks, should that also be a consideration in the legal outcome.

As part of rebuilding his country, Kagame also has declared every fourth Saturday a community service day. Rwandans are expected to spend three hours on those days doing something to make their community better — painting schools, picking up trash, sweeping the streets. The Tutsis and Hutus work together in this effort. In fact, no one is allowed to use those ethnic definitions publicly, with authorities making sure that all references to the population is that everyone is a Rwandan. The success of the program has been widely acclaimed by the United Nations and Western states, but more importantly, Barris found, by neighboring African states which he's also visited. They like the way Rwanda has become a progressive country with a government that is decent, ethical and representative of all its people. Barris found old and young proud of their country's accomplishments, conveying a national spirit he thinks would help Americans get along much better, too.

Of course, after Barris shared his observations on Rwanda and showed a documentary about the healing process under way there between former adversaries, contributions have also picked up for Rwandan projects that are helping in that effort. Barris believes this formula for peace can end the bickering that's become rampant on the national level to make America a better place. ■

## About the Cover

Today we're launching the 7th annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund with the aim of raising several hundred thousand dollars through a unique opportunity to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley with a 4 to 1 match of each contribution through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative. We hope you'll join in this effort. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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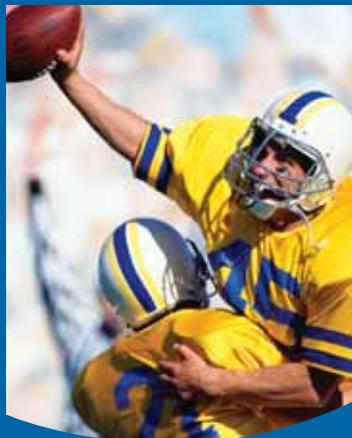
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# Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

## Is the Livermore Airport a valuable asset to the Valley?



**Jonathan Quist**  
*IT systems administrator*

The airport is definitely an asset to the valley. I'm a pilot, so I know the economic impact. Businesses build up around airports, and many businesses choose to locate in the area because the airport is there. Small businesses use it. It brings jobs to the area.

**Peggy Arnold**  
*Instructional aide*

I guess so, as long as it doesn't get too big. I don't use it. It's already noisy, and I don't even live that close. But it's hard for me to have an opinion because it's been there as long as I've been there, so I'm used to it.



**Jason Andretti**  
*Manager*

Yes. There are private aircraft there that bring CEOs in and out of and it keeps businesses here. I read it's the fourth largest airport in the Bay Area. It's easy access for companies. If you get rid of the airport, you'll lose money.

**Judy Claudio**  
*Interior designer*

I think they need to expand the Livermore Airport. The area's growing. People don't like change but they are going to have to get used to it. It would help people get places safely and save money on cab fare if they don't have to drive as far. It would relieve big airports, too.



**Nate Noei**  
*Manager of software engineers*

Not really. Maybe if domestic commercial flights could fly there. I've only seen small planes come and go. So I think maybe it's good for the pilots, but for the Valley, I don't know.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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## DIGEST

### Leaf pick-up

City of Pleasanton work crews have launched the annual leaf pick-up program that will run through mid-January. During this time, the city's leaf crew clears a path for the street sweeper scheduled in residential neighborhoods once a month. Generally, the leaves are picked up one to two days prior to the regular street sweeping date. Residents should rake leaves into the curb and gutter area, but slightly away from the curb line, keeping the storm drain clear of debris. To learn your neighborhood's pick-up date, call 931-5500.

### City seeks Hacienda task force

Applications to be on the Hacienda Planned Unit Development Modification Task Force are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. The task force will guide the planning effort to create a new, mixed-use and transit-oriented development near the existing Pleasanton/Dublin BART station. Applicants need to be Pleasanton residents and willing to attend one or two meetings per month. Pick up an application at the city clerk's office, 123 Main St., or online at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/app-haciendataskforce.pdf](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/app-haciendataskforce.pdf).

### LPFD collecting toys

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department has begun to collect, sort and store new and unwrapped toys to be distributed to children in need. The goal is to collect 15,000 toys this year. Drop-off locations are at each fire station as well as the Pleasanton and Livermore police departments. More can be found at [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org). Toys will also be collected at the annual holiday parades in Pleasanton and Livermore on Dec. 5, the Pacific Swimming 14-Under Junior Olympics Championships from Dec. 4 to 6 at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave.

### Guns & Hoses Basketball Game

At 5 p.m. Saturday at the Foothill High School Gym, 4375 Foothill Road, members of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association will take on members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department in a game of basketball. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for students with ID. Free admission for military with ID and children under 5. Proceeds to benefit Vietnam veterans.

### Corrections

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

## BART to Livermore plan brings out range of public opinion

Transit agency soliciting feedback on draft environmental report, which details nine alignments and five station sites

BY JANET PELLETIER

A downtown Livermore BART station was panned by residents who attended a public hearing on extending the rail line east of Pleasanton.

The transit agency held a public hearing Wednesday at the Livermore Council Chambers to obtain comments on a draft environmental impact report, which details nine alignment routes and five station locations to extend service to Livermore.

Among the station sites proposed are Isabel Avenue at Interstate 580, Isabel at Stanley Boulevard, down-

town Livermore, Vasco Road at Brisa Street and Greenville Road at I-580. A majority of speakers in the audience, which numbered roughly 100, said they preferred a route that continues along Interstate 580 to Greenville Road because it would be less noisy, easy to find parking and would attract less crime.

"I'm concerned about the environmental impact on a very important species here in Livermore — myself," said Bonnie Nelson.

"I'm concerned about the train going right behind my house," she added, saying she would prefer the

route to travel alongside the freeway.

Michelle Burkette echoed Nelson's sentiments, adding that her property values would be affected, it would be dangerous for pedestrians and there are privacy issues should the route travel via aerial tracks into downtown Livermore, as is proposed in one of the alignments.

Stacey Miller, who attends Livermore High School, said through tears that she's worried a downtown station would attract unsavory people.

But others said they could see the benefits of having public transit come downtown.

"Whenever there's change, people get nervous," said Cathy Streeder, adding that a downtown station would bring more money to the local region. "They don't think about the long-term benefit. We have to look at this dispassionately."

Martin Eisenberg said he moved to downtown Livermore recently from Berkeley and likes the idea of bringing BART downtown.

"They have a BART station in Rockridge and it's a very good community feel," he said.

"I'm not worried about crime,"

See **BART** on Page 7



CITY OF PLEASANTON

A member of the Balloon Platoon participates in the parade, which will be held Dec. 5 this year.

## Hometown Holiday Parade entries due Wednesday

More than 2,500 expected to participate Dec. 5 downtown

The deadline for entries in the Hometown Holiday Parade is approaching. Open to individuals, groups and organizations, the parade will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 along Main Street. Deadline to enter is Nov. 25.

Approximately 2,500 participants line up each December dressed as reindeer, snowmen, angels, holiday packages, and more to play a role in Pleasanton's biggest event of the season. Following the parade will be a lighting of the holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main.

There is no fee to register an entry in the parade and all entries must be of a theme that is consistent with the winter holidays. Groups can participate on a float, in individual autos, as walking groups, or with animal entries. All float entries must be safe for passengers and spectators and are limited to a height that does not exceed 14 feet.

Visit [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com) to download an application and parade rules. A parade float building guide is available upon request by calling 931-5352.

—Janet Pelletier

## Preparations in place at mall for crowds on Black Friday

Doors open as early as 4 a.m., free shuttles will be available

BY JANET PELLETIER

When thousands flock to the mall this coming Friday, the crews at Stoneridge will be ready.

Known in the retail world as Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving is traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year and a day when stores offer their deepest discounts and biggest gimmicks to get people in the door.

Aside from the individual shops, Stoneridge Shopping Center has a number of promotions scheduled for that day. The mall will officially open at 5 a.m., with Sears and JCPenney opening at 4 a.m., and Macy's at 5 a.m.

"We are encouraging customers to roll out of bed and wear their holiday pajamas, sweaters or sweats in celebration of the nonprofit Pajama Program, which provides pajamas to children living in shelters throughout the Bay Area," said Carrie Williams, who is director of marketing and business development for the shopping center. "The first 50 people to donate a pair of pajamas that day will get a bag of See's Candies from Guest Services. We will also be roaming the shopping center and randomly giving small prizes to people wearing their pajamas from 5 a.m. until 8 a.m."

Other promotions include totes for the first 200 shoppers at Guest Services that will include water, snacks, a receipt holder, store coupons and an energy drink; entertainment from 5 to 8 a.m. by The Fabulous Flugelhorn, a Dickens-era holiday brass group, and from 8 to 11 a.m. the Dix Bruce Jazz Trio will entertain with holiday

classics.

Some of the Oakland Raiderettes will be on hand that day to help raise funds for Simon Youth Foundation by selling their calendars with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the nonprofit, which helps at-risk youth realize their dream of going to college.

And possibly most important for those who are concerned about parking, a shuttle will be running in the mall parking lot from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. to take shoppers with their loads of packages from mall entrances to their cars parked far out in the lot. Stoneridge is running a contest through its Facebook and Twitter pages where participants can enter a contest in which front row parking spaces will be given away for Black Friday.

Santa Claus got the party started early and is already greeting children and their families in the lower level courtyard to hear their wish lists and smile for photos. Particularly impressive are the oversized wrapped presents under the mall's three-story-tall tree in the center court.

The mall is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Nov. 25 and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Sunday. It will be closed Thanksgiving Day. Holiday hours through Christmas will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with shorter hours on Sundays and closing early on Christmas Eve. For more information, call 463-2778.

Other area stores popular for Black Friday deals include Walmart and Best Buy, with both locations opening at 5 a.m. ■

## Hamid pleads not guilty

Family posts bail for man accused of anti-Christian disturbance at mall

By EMILY WEST

Abdul Walid Hamid pled not guilty Nov. 12 to charges of battery, grand theft, exhibition of a deadly weapon and a possible hate crime.

Police arrested the 22-year-old Hayward man Nov. 4 after he reportedly robbed a person and scared others at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Hamid's family posted bail, which was set at \$27,000 bail, following an arraignment Tuesday. He is scheduled to appear for a pretrial at 9 a.m. Dec. 17 in department 703 of the Pleasanton court house.

Calling it a bizarre case, Deputy District Attorney Ronda Theisen asked that Hamid be ordered to stay out of the mall.

According to reports, Hamid was yelling "Allah is power" and "Islam is great" while holding a pen in a fist over his head and witnesses said he had been shouting anti-Christian comments.

Lt. Mike Elerick of the Pleasanton Police Department said the man was not provoked and didn't threaten violence, but he committed robbery when he grabbed and broke a crucifix off a person's neck.

Hamid's family members, who declined to give their names, say it was all a misunderstanding.

Outside the courtroom, they said Hamid was provoked when the customer with the necklace reportedly called him a derogatory name. They said Hamid put his hand on the customer's shoulder, asking the person not to use that word. When the customer pulled away, the family said Hamid's hand came into contact with the necklace and it accidentally broke.

His family also said that he's only been in the country a few months and is still learning the language and the laws.

Co-workers told police that Hamid's actions were out of the ordinary. Police also said they weren't aware of a prior criminal history for the man.

"We had multiple people calling 911," Elerick said. "One female was crouching down and hiding from him. He definitely scared quite a few people."

After Hamid's arrest, he was taken to John George Hospital in San Leandro for a psychiatric evaluation.

Elerick said much of the man's speech was similar to the loud scene of the Christian activists who frequent downtown Pleasanton. The big differences, however, is that Hamid was on private property and had physical contact with someone. ■

## Reworked Vasco Road opens back up

Commuter thoroughfare realigned for motorists' safety

By JANET PELLETIER

Transportation leaders lauded the opening of a realigned and safer Vasco Road last week.

The regional roadway, which has become a primary access route between job centers in the Tri-Valley area and residences in the southern portion of east Contra Costa County, was closed earlier this month for improvements. Traffic volumes on Vasco have more than doubled from 10,000 vehicles per day in 1990 to over 22,000 in 2007. The increase in traffic has resulted in a high number of injury and fatal collisions on Vasco Road, both in Contra Costa County and Alameda County.

The now complete Vasco Road Safety Improvements Project improves safety for drivers traveling along this segment of Vasco Road. The project straightened curves and realigned approximately 1.3 miles of Vasco Road in eastern Alameda County. The reconstructed roadway provides new and improved alignment and grade, wider shoulders, and adds truck/bus climbing lanes. Other measures have included centerline rumble strips, centerline delineators, speed display signs, community safety signs, a daytime headlight program and coordinated speed enforcement.



ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

A truck drives along Vasco Road, which has been realigned to address safety concerns.

The improvements are expected to improve traffic flow and safety and facilitate express and regular bus service between the two counties.

The Alameda County Public Works Agency was selected to receive a 2009 National Roadway Safety Award recognizing the Vasco Road Safety Improvements Project. The award was presented to Director Daniel Woldeesenbet Nov. 5 in Washington D.C., the agency said.

The National Roadway Safety Awards program honors agencies and organizations in the transportation community biennially that have made verifiable and significant strides toward improving the safety of our nation's highways through infrastructure improvements, operational improvements or program planning, development and evaluation. The award program is co-sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration and Roadway Safety Foundation. ■

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# Holiday skating rink opens with much fanfare

Some residents concerned about lack of parking, pricing

By JANET PELLETIER

The holiday ice skating rink opened Thursday with festivities that were scheduled to include a synchronized skating performance and ceremonial ribbon-cutting.

Valley View Elementary auctioned off several tickets to be first to skate on the 14,000-square foot ice rink. The tickets were donated by local Realtor Sue Flashberger. The winning children were scheduled to have their

names announced and skate with San Jose Sharks mascot Sharky.

While many are excited for Pleasanton's first holiday ice rink, which the city signed a five-year contract with San Jose Arena Management for, some residents have expressed their concerns on the Pleasanton Weekly's Town-Square forum about finding parking, using the library during the rink's operation, and how much money is being charged for admission.

The rink is situated in the outside portion of the Pleasanton Library parking lot at 400 Old Bernal Ave., which is expected to cause some headaches for patrons of the library and for parents who often use the library as a drop-off, pick-up site for their children who attend Pleasanton Middle School. During the rink's operation, half of the parking lot between the library and City Hall will be closed, with motorists

See **SKATING** on Page 8

## BART

Continued from Page 5

he added, saying there should be a different approach to keeping crime down than restricting public transportation.

A freeway station like Greenville, Eisenberg continued, wouldn't be as effective because the parking lot would fill in the early morning, rendering it useless during the day, and would serve mostly people on the other side of the Altamont Pass, not Livermore residents.

That sentiment was made by a consultant hired by BART at a workshop last week held at the Shrine Event Center in Livermore. The workshop was the first in what will be a three-part series with the next meeting scheduled for Dec. 10 at the same location.

The workshop, similar to Wednesday's hearing, outlined possible station locations, as well as detailing their respective advantages and drawbacks.

BART officials emphasized the need for transit-oriented development, meaning retail and residential projects that would encourage walkability to a station and lessen the demand for parking spaces.

Bonnie Nelson of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting said building parking structures and surface lots is expensive, while TOD developments offer more efficiency.

"When you build housing near a station, it's more cost-effective because the rides are spread out throughout the day," she said. "It's much more efficient to have a

TOD station, having riders come throughout the day, than showing up between 6 to 8 a.m."

The Dublin/Pleasanton station is an example of one that could have used TOD, she added. Research shows that 60 percent of people who ride BART get there by car, 10 percent take transit and only 4 percent walk to the station. As a result, the lots are filled by early morning.

Abby Thorne-Lyman of consulting firm Strategic Economics, said a station with transit-oriented development would also be cheaper for the city of Livermore because it wouldn't require as much infrastructure, operation or maintenance costs.

"Downtown Livermore is a good site," she said. "There are a lot of attractions and an ACE station is already there."

Plans for extending BART to Livermore are hardly new and it could be 10-25 years before any development takes place, but plans, which have picked up steam recently, have come a long way. Most of the alignments include two stations, but a couple include just one with another planned as part of a possible second phase.

Though the extension would require mapping out a route from the Dublin/Pleasanton station east to Livermore, there was no mention made at the workshop of how it would affect Pleasanton. Plans obtained by Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho show that in two alignments, the route would traverse on elevated tracks through the northeast corner of the cur-

rently vacant Staples Ranch property, where development is planned for an auto mall, senior residences, retail center, a four-rink ice arena and a community park.

There is a 45-day public review period for the environmental report, which will conclude Dec. 21. A second hearing on the EIR will be held Dec. 2 at the Robert Livermore Community Center. BART officials will take all of the comments it receives on the draft EIR and include them with answers in a final EIR to be certified by the BART board of directors. At that point, a preferred alignment option will be recommended to the board, followed by further public comment.

The extension is estimated to serve between 20,000 and 30,000 new riders and could cost \$2.9 billion to \$3.8 billion. Funding sources, according to BART Project Manager Malcolm Quint, would come from a variety of sources: \$120 million that's been identified by BART to preserve right-of-way, the Measure B sales tax, bridge tolls, the city of Livermore, Measure K funds from San Joaquin County, state and federal funding and public-private partnerships.

The next in the workshop series is Dec. 10, where participants will look at potential station pairings, view and rate examples of station features. The last workshop, which will summarize the progress of the first and second workshops as well as look at 3D visual imagery, is scheduled for Jan. 21.

For more information, visit [www.barttolivermore.org](http://www.barttolivermore.org). ■

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Couples & Singles Invited

## McNerney plans 3rd annual 'Holiday cards for Our Troops' program

Public asked to send cards by Dec. 2 for distribution to military in Iraq, Afghanistan, U.S. hospitals

By JEB BING

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) has announced his third-annual "Holiday Cards for Our Troops" program in honor of the military men and women who will be away from their families during the holiday season.

The program encourages Bay Area residents to give cards to service members who are either recovering from injuries or are stationed away from their families.

McNerney will then hand deliver the cards to soldiers at Wal-

ter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and sailors and marines at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Last year the program brought in more than 9,000 cards that included touching and personal messages of thanks.

McNerney is also partnering with local organizations to send holiday cards to troops stationed overseas.

Those cards will be sent to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of troop-support packages organized by the Pleasanton Military Families, Danville Blue Star Moms and Packed With Pride in Stockton.

"The holiday season can be a difficult time of year for the men and women who serve our country," McNerney said in a statement.

"Being away from friends, family and the comfort of tradition during the holidays is an incredible sacrifice," he said. "Thoughtful words of encouragement and support from our community can make a huge difference in boosting the morale of our brave men and women who serve our country with honor."

To participate in the program, make or purchase a holiday card, write a message of thanks to a soldier, and deliver the card by Dec. 2 to McNerney's office in Pleasanton, located at 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 175, or in Stockton at 2222 Grand Canal Blvd., Suite 7.

Cards should remain unaddressed and the envelopes should be unsealed. ■

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## Magic to fill downtown

The holiday season to kick off tonight with festive family event

Main Street has once again decked its halls for the annual Magical Holiday Evening put on by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. From 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, downtown will be aglow with twinkle lights, decorative displays and holiday magic to start the season off with some cheer.

Included in the festive festivities are Santa and his elves, who will hand out candy canes and peppermint lollipops; carolers, choruses, bell rings and flutes providing favorite holiday sounds; as well as balloon sculptors, face painters and Crackers the clown.

Downtown clothing store

Thriving Ink will be opening their new location at 520 Main St. that evening as well, with Wente pouring wine for the occasion. Moving from their their East Angela Street location, they will be stationed at the former home of Accentuals, the historical building has also been a saloon and pool hall.

Patrons of downtown restaurants and shops from Friday through Sunday could also be winners of one or more downtown gift cards.

For more details on this and other PDA events, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

—Emily West

## School board chooses search firm for superintendent

Company to find candidates to replace district leader

By EMILY WEST

After being granted additional time to choose one of three search firms, the school board chose Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, Ltd.(HYA) in a special workshop meeting held last Friday.

Trustee Valerie Arkin presented research to the board, saying that HYA received the most positive feedback over RJ Gatti Associates and Leaderships Associates. Of the positive feedback, Arkin said people who used HYA enjoyed good communication, workshops, transparency, help with drafting the

contracts and creating informal settings with the candidates.

Complaints about the other companies Arkin reported were a lack of confidence, poor communication and only bringing forward two candidates.

The board members unanimously voted to choose HYA, adding that Arkin and board president Chris Grant would negotiate the final agreement. As of Wednesday, a formal contract had yet to be drafted and signed.

The next school board meeting was moved from Dec. 8 to Dec. 16, with an anticipated start time of 7 p.m. ■

*"Some people only know one way of giving —  
With both hands, with all their hearts, without a second thought."*



In honor of National Hospice/Palliative Care Month, Hope Hospice wants to thank those who understand that each person they care for is a unique individual with a lifetime of experiences and gifts to share. Whether you are a family caregiver, a hospice team member, a physician, or a provider at a care facility, your work is a gift. To all those who serve hospice patients, especially the staff at Hope Hospice, we honor you today!

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## SKATING

Continued from Page 7

headed to the library required to enter adjacent to the library and exit from the Civic Center-City Hall lots onto Old Bernal Avenue or Main Street. Vehicles will not have access to the library parking lot from the city office parking lots.

Plans to help alleviate the parking situation may include parking at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, although it couldn't be confirmed by press time.

Admission for a two-hour skate session on the 14,000-square-foot rink ranges from \$10-16, which is in line with pricing from other holiday rinks such as Walnut Creek, San Jose and Dublin. Cost is \$12 for children under 12 (\$14 for non-residents); \$14 for ages 12 and up (\$16 for non-residents) and \$10 for seniors. A group of 10 or more adults can get in for \$13 apiece and 10 or more chil-

dren for \$10. Skate rentals are included in the pricing.

Dublin opened its holiday ice rink, operated by California Ice Adventures, on Thursday as well.

The 7,000-square-foot rink, located in the new Dublin Toyota dealership parking lot next to Hacienda Crossings, features an all weather covered indoor/outdoor ice surface, indoor seating and viewing areas and a Fudruckers food concession stand.

Pricing there is \$15 for adults, \$12 for adults who bring their own skates, \$10 for children and \$7 for children who bring their own skates.

Holiday rinks in Walnut Creek and San Jose charge \$11-15 respectively. For more information on the Pleasanton rink, which will be open through Jan. 10, visit [www.devconholidayicerink.com](http://www.devconholidayicerink.com). For information on the Dublin rink, also open through Jan. 10, visit [www.dublinholidayice.com](http://www.dublinholidayice.com). ■



EMILY WEST

### Hope Hospice dedicates new digs

Hope Hospice, the Dublin-based end-of-life care provider, recently opened their new facility at 6377 Clark Ave. The new two-story facility boasts more than 14,000 square feet of space, which is just more than double the space they previously had.

“The new location will allow us to expand and enhance the services we have provided with such pride to our community for 30 years,” said Executive Director Helen Meier.

The new space offers more parking, easier access, more resources for community education and training, and even a children’s play area, which is a rare feature compared to other hospice care centers. To learn more about Hope Hospice call 829-8770 and to catch a glimpse of their new logo and look, visit [www.hopehospice.com](http://www.hopehospice.com).

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## LETTERS

### Garbage man went above and beyond

Dear Editor,

Once again, I feel fortunate to live in Pleasanton.

Our Pleasanton Garbage Service employee that picks up our garbage weekly took the time to get out of his truck and come to our door to inform us our keys were in our car door. He prevented what could have been a disaster as several important cards as well as my driver's license were attached to the key chain. It is people like this gentleman that make Pleasanton a wonderful and safe community. My thanks to him and the Pleasanton Garbage Service for hiring this gentleman.

**Juanita Young**

### Restore compassion, respect for veterans

Dear Editor,

"Veteran's Day has come and gone, but veterans are here 24/7," — A recent article by ED O'Keefe, Washington Post, and reprinted locally speaks of vet-

eran Tammy Duckworth's role as assistant secretary of VA. She is part of a team trying to overhaul the VA, as it is called moribund and out of touch. She is helping to lead a VA reorganization.

Ms. Duckworth said, as a Ph.D. candidate and congressional candidate leaving Walter Reed, she found it somewhat challenging negotiating VA bureaucracy and asked, what does the 21-year-old with a brain injury do?

I ask all Americans to contact their congressman and senators requesting he/she help Ms. Duckworth to systemically change and reorganize the VA, get rid of the corruption, red tape, bureaucratic bungling and attitude of, if you question our authority, we'll silence you. Caring, compassion, honesty and respect for veterans need to be restored. Removing corrupt VA officials to a place more suitable to them i.e., prison, is a start.

Congressman McNerney, you are on the House VA committee. Please help Ms. Duckworth and her team to make the VA a better place for all veterans.

**Michael Grossman**

### What's your opinion?

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest. Write a Letter to the Editor at [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or put your opinion on Town Square at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com). Letters must be 250 words or less. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Is it Pleasanton vs. Livermore all over again?

**B**ART and the city of Livermore are moving forward quickly on a plan that could put elevated tracks across the northeast corner of Staples Ranch in an effort to extend BART to Livermore, a long-sought goal of the rapid transit agency and Tri-Valley cities. The only problem is that Pleasanton, where millions of dollars in development projects are nearing approval on Staples Ranch, has been left out of the discussions. The projects, in fact, could be in jeopardy if elevated tracks are built over land that is now designated for a 37-acre auto mall planned by the Hendrick Automotive Group and within eyesight of those who would live in the adjacent Stoneridge Creek complex planned by Continuing Life Communities (CLC), with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living residents.

Although it would take years and several billion dollars to ever build the BART extension, the agency is fielding a 2,000-page environmental impact report now with a number of routing alternatives, with at least two that are favored by Livermore that would cut across Staples Ranch. The long-planned extension to Greenville Road with BART tracks continuing in the center or alongside I-580 as they now do to Pleasanton is still an option, in fact the shortest and cheapest which would also attract the most riders — 31,700 new daily BART riders by the year 2035, according to the EIR's projections. But Livermore is in the midst of a massive downtown redevelopment that will include a 2,000-seat performing arts center, partly financed by Wente Bros. It needs BART to be downtown, too, to carry riders from other cities BART serves to its new downtown and theater.

It's curious why BART and Livermore, which have had reasonably good relations with Pleasanton, appear to have deliberately excluded city representatives from the EIR process, where the deadline for commenting on the draft proposal is Dec. 21. As of this writing, Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho and members of the City Council have yet to receive a copy of the draft EIR or be invited to sit at the table of those publicly reviewing it. All the public meetings have been in Livermore, including one Wednesday. In a letter sent Nov. 12 to Malcolm Quint, BART project manager, Fialho expressed his "extreme disappointment regarding the public outreach process that has been outlined thus far and how BART (through you) seems to be intentionally leaving Pleasanton out of the policy/land use discussion, yet several alignments run through (this) city's sphere of influence." In fact, he adds, despite his request, no public hearings or stakeholders' meetings have been scheduled in Pleasanton.

If BART and Livermore want to proceed successfully in sending trains to downtown Livermore, they need to ask their government affairs people for a better game plan. By stirring up Pleasanton officials just as they are ready to approve multi-million-dollar developments in Staples Ranch, that include a Sharks-financed ice rink and retail center property as well as the auto mall and CLC senior residential complex, they're adding unnecessary flack to a long-standing BART to Livermore objective that Pleasanton has long supported. It makes no sense to plan for elevated tracks whose artist's rendering is reminiscent of the ill-fated double-decked Embarcadero freeway in San Francisco. That structure was panned from the start, eventually built despite opposition, and later torn down at millions of dollars of expense to taxpayers. No one wants a Chicago or New York City type elevated BART in Pleasanton. To be sure, it's unlikely that such an extension would ever be finally approved and built, but by making it an approved option in a draft EIR, that action could scuttle the developments already planned on Staples and return Livermore and Pleasanton to the era of lawsuits and public disputes we thought were over. ■

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

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com) to sign up and for more information.

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

## POLICE REPORT

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

Nov. 9

### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:48 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Amanda Place; DUI
- 9:57 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI
- 10:12 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; non-narcotic controlled substance possession

Nov. 10

### Theft

- 12:28 a.m. in the 4300 block of Diavila Avenue; grand theft
- 8:46 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:13 p.m. in the 4100 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft

### Burglary

- 2:37 p.m. in the 3700 block of Reflections Drive

### Vandalism

- 8:19 a.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Corte Munras

### DUI

- 4:48 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Rosewood drives

### Truant

- 10:11 a.m. at the intersection of Third

and Neal streets

### Weapon discharge

- 3:06 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Nov. 11

### Theft

- 11:59 a.m. in the 600 block of Neal Street; grand theft
- 1:14 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 1:54 p.m. in the 7600 block of Glenbrook Court; identity theft
- 2:38 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:18 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

### Vehicular burglary

- 9:40 a.m. in the 6600 block of Via San Blas

### DUI

- 4:26 p.m. at the intersection of East Angela and Bonita avenues
- 8:03 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Kolln Street

### Battery

- 5:34 p.m. in the 2600 block of Camino Segura

### Threats

- 4:57 p.m. in the 7400 block of Willview Court

Nov. 12

### Theft

- 3:20 a.m. in the 4300 block of Bristolwood Road; stolen vehicle

- 6:56 a.m. in the 6200 block of Alvord Way; stolen vehicle

- 8:09 p.m. in the 5300 block of Sunol Boulevard; grand theft

- 4:19 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 10:27 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Burglary

- 5:21 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

- 7:11 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

### Vandalism

- 1:50 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

### Assault

- 4:19 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Indecent exposure

- 3:17 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Lockhart Lane

Nov. 13

### Theft

- 12:23 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; forgery

- 5:08 p.m. at the intersection of Rose and Peters avenues; petty theft

- 5:47 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery

### DUI

- 9:18 p.m. at the intersection of Main and Spring streets

## Pitbull unleashed

I just want to bring to your attention and the Pleasanton community.

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, City Hall will be closed on Thursday November 26th and Friday, November 27th.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The City Council is "Looking for Task Force Members." Applications are being accepted for five at-large members of the Hacienda PUD Modification Task Force. Applicants should be residents of the City of Pleasanton with an interest in planning for transit oriented development near the BART station. Each City Councilmember will be selecting one city-wide representative from the applications received.

Applications are available at the Office of the City Clerk, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us). For additional information, contact Janice Stern at (925) 931-5606 or [jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us)

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, November 30, 2009.

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

## OBITUARIES

### Virginia 'Ginny' Hutchinson

Virginia "Ginny" Hutchinson died Oct. 19 at the age of 75.

She was a daughter, sister, wife, mother, friend and world traveler.

Born in Rhode Island to Margaret "Mimi" and Jere Richard, she made her childhood memories in Newport, playing with her sister Dolores "Doo."



Marrying a naval officer named Arthur "Hutch" Hutchinson proved to be "the best decision I ever made," as she so often said. Life as a navy wife was a perfect fit for her. She was very active in Naval Officers' Wives activities and a welcoming hostess for many social events. The ability to not only adapt, but thrive, in new surrounding every couple of years became second nature to her.

After living throughout the United States, while her husband was on active duty, retirement life landed them in Alameda. She moved to Pleasanton after Mr. Hutchinson's passing in 2003.

Visits from her son Arthur Hutchinson of Odenton, Maryland continued to be one of her favorite

things. Her daughter Patricia and son-in-law, Chuck Hunter, also of Pleasanton, had even more opportunities to share many wonderful dinners, movies, and special events, with her now living only steps away from them. One of the best memories they shared, in recent years, was a fabulous trip to Las Vegas to celebrate the wedding of a dear family friend.

Traveling was one of Mrs. Hutchinson's passions. She, along with her husband, saw nearly every corner of the world. Whether it was just the two of them, or with friends and family along for the ride, they globe trotted every chance they had. London, Rome, Paris and Hawaii were some of their favorite destinations. No matter where the travels took her, she made friends.

A private family memorial service is planned for the near future.

### Richard J. Hadsel

Richard J. Hadsel died Nov. 15 at the age of 75.

Mr. Hadsel, a Pleasanton resident, was born Feb. 5, 1934.

He enjoyed camping, fishing and Giants baseball.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Yvonne Hadsel; children, Deanna and Bradley Cloonan, Russell and Debbie Hadsel, Teresa Hadsel, Leslie Simon and Karen Simon; grandchildren, Jessica Hadsel, Shana and Katey Cloonan, Veronica Hadsel; and four great-grandchildren.

A service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St.

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## A healthy holiday

*Focus on fitness as the food-centered holidays near*

**By Emily West**

Staying fit over the holidays can be tough, especially with the stress and temptation to overeat and overspend. Mark Rogers, a Pleasanton-based personal trainer, offers some tips to approach the holidays with a healthy focus that will keep you from feeling like a stuffed turkey.

In researching for his recent workout book, Rogers found that only a 14 percent of people have gym memberships and not many of them actually use them. Instead, 86 percent of people who work out don't do so at the gym.

"Most people work out at home," he said. "But most people don't know what to do. They get a fancy piece of equipment that becomes a clothes rack."

Knowing this, he wrote a book, "Trim, Tighten and Tone," designed to help women working out at home with minimal equipment.

"The book is pointed to people to do by themselves," he said. "It's 120 exercises that are done with very simple equipment like an exercise ball and dumbbells."

Having worked in the Tri-Valley for many years — starting out at ClubSport and also working at Lifestyle RX before going on his own — he said clients are

mostly concerned with losing weight, feeling better and getting stronger. Whether people are just starting to work towards these goals or are on their way to achieving them, the holidays are known to get people off track.

Rogers said that entering the holiday season with a plan and some boundaries is best. Ultimately, he said, getting fit comes down to diet and without a strategy, even extensive workouts will be in vain.

"One thing people don't understand is that 20 minutes on the treadmill isn't going to cut out the 5,000 calorie dessert you ate," he added. "Unless you go into the holidays with some sort of plan on how to eat, it's going to get out of control."

His recommendations when approaching holiday eating are to limit portions and take fewer items at the party buffet. People should take a look at what they eat, when and how much, he said, keeping in mind that the amount of a person's food intake should match their activity level.

"Trim, Tighten and Tone" is available at Towne Center Books, located at 555 Main St., as well as major online retailers. To learn more about Rogers' approach to fitness, visit his website at [www.markrogersfitness.com](http://www.markrogersfitness.com). ■

Mark Rogers (left) provides sample workouts from his book "Trim, Tighten and Tone." He recommends doing three sets of 10 reps per exercise, with 30 seconds of rest in between each set.

PHOTOS COURTESY MARK ROGERS



Above: One arm pullover.



Above: Hip raise on ball.



Above: Side leg lift.



## NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY TYLER HANLEY

Disney's *A Christmas Carol*

★★★

Rated PG for scary sequences and images  
1 hour, 36 minutes

Motion-capture animation, in which actors wear sensors and their movements are transferred onto a digital model, is a captivating technology. It's one that director Robert Zemeckis has used with aplomb to revitalize iconic tales such as "Beowulf" (2007) and now Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

This latest adaptation of the Dickens classic is rich with vibrant imagery and boasts an impressive cast, with funnyman Jim Carrey at the forefront.

The story itself — first published in 1843 — has been adapted and retold so many times that even those who have never opened a book or switched on a television are familiar with its plot and characters. One chill Christmas eve, humorless old miser Ebenezer Scrooge (Carrey) is haunted by the specter of his former business partner Jacob Marley (Gary Oldman) and warned to learn compassion and generosity or suffer eternal consequences. Scrooge is in for a long night.

Three ghosts visit Scrooge during the exasperating evening, each offering glimpses into his life. The Ghost of Christmas Past (also Carrey) leads Scrooge through his humble roots, before wealth quashed his vivacious spirit. The Ghost of Christmas Present (again Carrey) shows Scrooge flashes of the now, such as his nephew Fred's (Colin Firth) contagious merriment and his quiet assistant Bob Cratchit's (Oldman) tight-knit family. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (you guessed it, Carrey again) is decidedly less approachable than its predecessors, using a bony finger to point out Scrooge's ominous future.

Three apparitions offering two choices: redemption or death.

"Carol" is a visual feast with groundbreaking animation — absolutely brilliant from a graphic standpoint. The film almost feels like a family-friendly bookend to Zemeckis' "Beowulf" (which was decidedly adult in tone and context). Zemeckis (also the screenwriter) stays loyal to the source material, with dialogue and setting true to Dickens' original vision — cobblestone streets, horse-drawn carriages and plenty of Old English dialect (which, admittedly, sparks occasional "What did he just say?" confusion).

Carrey is outstanding as Scrooge, not to mention the myriad other roles he is asked to portray (his rendition of the peculiar Ghost of Christmas Past is particularly fascinating). Carrey's Scrooge rides an emotional roller coaster — what begins as menace and feigned courage shifts to fear, regret, sorrow and, ultimately, joy.

The poignant moral message of Dickens' 166-year-old novel shines through despite the 21st-century presentation. Cratchit lives in poverty but the enduring love of his family fuels his infectious joie de vivre. Meanwhile, Scrooge is rich beyond measure but bereft of companionship and miserable because of it.

Dickens' message is clear: True joy comes not from what you can take, but rather, what you can give.

This is also the most thrilling version of "Carol" ever produced, bar none. Catch it in 3D for a truly visceral experience — snow flakes seem to fall in the theater and there's a sense of being virtually transported to 17th-century England. But parents should be wary of taking young children. Several scenes, especially those involving Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, are more frightening than one would expect.

Although Dickens has been translated time and time again, this animated adventure is no humbug. ■



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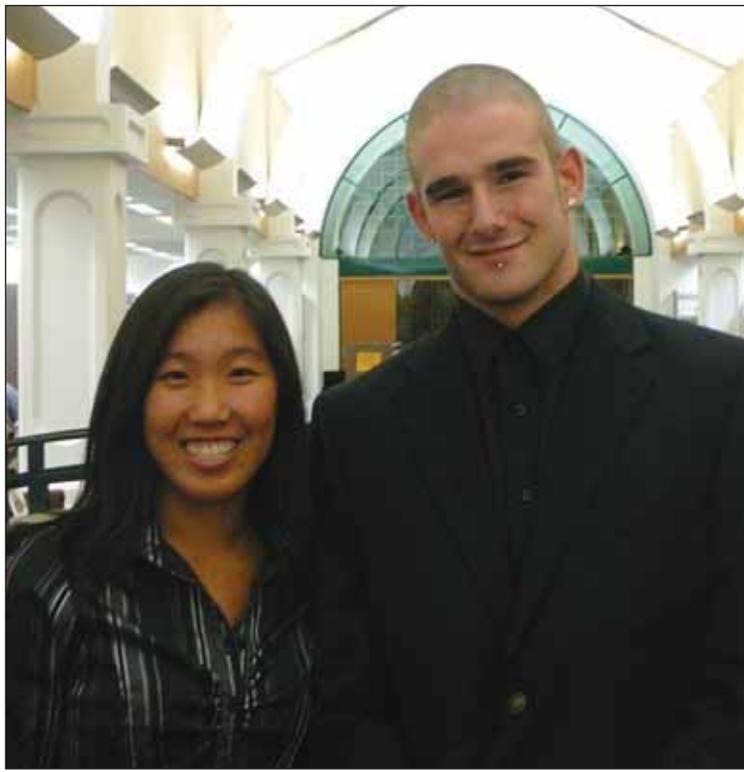
# City names two teen poets laureate

High school seniors Vivienne Chen and Nick Quan have been named as the city's new teen poets laureate. The two will work alongside the city's poet laureate Deborah Grossman to make occasional visits to Pleasanton middle schools to read their poems and encourage students to write poetry. They will also read a poem and announce teen and youth contest winners at the 9th annual Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival in April and participate in the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council Youth Excellence in Arts Awards in June.

Chen attends Amador Valley High School where she is also the captain of the color guard, editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper and president of Writers Block, the creative writing club. She also enjoys dancing, biking and watching films.

Quan is a student at Foothill High School and plays varsity football where he was named MVP his freshman year and "Outstanding Falcon" for his leadership role on the team in his sophomore year. He also likes rugby and hip-hop dancing.

—Emily West



CITY OF PLEASANTON

Vivienne Chen and Nick Quan will serve as the city's teen poets laureate.



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# Helping the needy **Holiday Fund 2009**

By JEB BING



A bedroom is seen above at Tri-Valley Haven's Sojourner House, which is eligible to receive "wrap around" funds through the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

EMILY WEST

The 7th annual Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign kicks off this week, with the aim of raising several hundred thousand dollars through a unique opportunity to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley with a 4-to-1 match of each contribution through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative.

The Initiative is a collaborative economic recovery program being sponsored through the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Gifts to the Holiday Fund will be matched by federal stimulus money designated for temporary assistance to needy families, including a strong employment development component. The matched funds will be used to identify and evaluate the needs of local families hardest hit by the economic downturn and help them directly with crisis counseling, emergency food, housing, job training, and other basic necessities.

This year's new matching gift program means that a gift of \$100 will be matched for a total of \$400 in aid to help families in the Tri-Valley living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line (\$48,000 for a family of four). The money donated and matched through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative will be used to identify and evaluate the needs of families hardest hit by the economic downturn, and then distributed to local community organizations to provide "wrap around" services for these families, helping them acquire rental housing, complete job training, gain employment and meet the basic needs of their family. This could include providing emergency food, school supplies for the children, car repairs and crisis intervention counseling.

In addition to a wider base of needy recipients, the Weekly's campaign will continue to provide grants to Pleasanton and Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations that provide "wrap around" services for families, including Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven. This year, these groups will benefit more than ever by the 4-to-1 match.

"In this time of economic crisis with so many people unemployed and so many families hurting, the Pleasanton Weekly couldn't pass up this opportunity to receive a 4-to-1 match with federal funds," said Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly. "This will help the largest number of families and individuals in our community."

Last year, thanks to matching funds from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, seven nonprofit organizations serving the needs of children and families in the Pleasanton area received grants totaling more than \$138,000 from the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. With the Weekly's new partners for 2009, it's hoped that total contributions will be at least four times as much.

Among those who benefited last year from the Holiday Fund are people such as Tracy, 34, the mother of two children, a son, 8 and a daughter, 11. Tracy's husband became terribly depressed and abandoned the family after he lost his job. Until then, the couple had a happy marriage, but little extra money to invest in savings. Tracy found a temporary home at Sojourner House in Livermore, a family crisis shelter. She had been pursuing a certificate in cosmetology prior to her husband's departure, but then had no money or time to complete the certification process.

Sojourner House, operated by Tri-Valley Haven, provided a safe place for her family, care for her children, including academic tutoring in their school subjects, and access to "Linkages," a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) program designed to provide "wrap around services" to families in crisis that is operated by Tri-Valley Haven under a contract with HUD.

While at Sojourner House, Tracy and her family thrived. The children blossomed in school, excelling in their academic subjects. Specially trained and certified counselors at Sojourner House provided extra support and guidance for the children, including help dealing with the loss of their father. They knew there were adults who cared about them and were helping them adjust to their new community.

Today, Tracy has her cosmetology license and is fully employed, able to support her young family. During the

# Holiday Fund donors

Since the launch of the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 46 donors have contributed \$6,755 to the fund. Nine anonymous contributors have given \$1,505.

## Individuals

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transition to her new life, and while getting settled in her new home, Tracy depended upon the meal program provided by Open Heart Kitchen. The nutritionally balanced meals helped Tracy stretch her budget while building a cash reserve sufficient to pay her first and last month's rent in a clean apartment building in Pleasanton. Tracy now is a volunteer in her children's schools, and also volunteers two days a month at Open Heart Kitchen. Tracy and her family are involved citizens whose lives have been changed for the better through the help of two agencies, Tri-Valley Haven and Open Heart Kitchen, both agencies supported by the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Holiday Fund.

Another agency that is part of the "wrap around" services for needy families is Axis Community Health in Pleasanton. As more Tri-Valley families struggle through tough economic times, many of them are turning to Axis to provide affordable, quality, compassionate health care services. Traditionally, those who are served by Axis are the working poor families of the Tri-Valley. However, Axis is seeing more and more newly out of work middle class Tri-Valley residents who, for the first time, are seeking safety net services.

Meet the Martins, a middle-class family of five dealing with layoffs that resulted in the loss of health insurance. The family's youngest son, Tyler, is an asthmatic teen who was having trouble controlling his condition. In a six-month timeframe, Tyler was hospitalized twice. Tyler's uncontrolled asthma had caused him to miss many days of school and his grades were slipping. For the last few months, Tyler has been receiving care at Axis Community Health. His asthmatic episodes have dramatically decreased, and he has had perfect attendance at school this quarter.

Lack of insurance creates serious challenges for families like the Martins. Many families are finding that they must choose between covering the rent or making COBRA payments to continue their health insurance. Most newly unemployed families end up letting their medical insurance slip away. Children without insurance are less likely to get care and conditions such as asthma gradually

worsen. Ear infections turn into chronic issues. Immunizations are missed. For some children, lifelong health issues result.

For more than 30 years, Axis has been quietly taking care of Tri-Valley families who are facing tough times. Last year, the agency helped more than 12,000 uninsured Tri-Valley residents receive the medical care they need and deserve. Without Axis, most of these individuals would not have received health care.

More than a third of the medical visit costs for the uninsured the nonprofit serves are uncompensated. Direct services programs for the uninsured are partly supported by government funds. However, these contracts are not keeping pace with the growing need for medical care in the community.

Through the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund Campaign, Axis has been able to increase its capacity to provide health care services for the growing number of uninsured residents who have no other access to health care. This year, with a 4-to-1 match, contributions from the Holiday Fund can help Axis keep up with the growing demand for its services by needy families.

David Rice, president and chief executive officer of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, said that "what's important about giving to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is that, in partnership with the foundation, and the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, we can identify these programs and activities that need our help and serve our entire community."

"We know what the needs are locally because of our day-to-day work to help the truly needy in the Tri-Valley," he added. "We can put money to work very quickly and through our program of auditing the various needs of helping families, we can make sure contributions are given to serve those specific needs and will certify the results."

As before, the Pleasanton Weekly will donate all administrative services so all money raised can support the people in our community. All funds are held in trust by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. ■



# How to give

## Your gift will help needy families

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund Will be increased through a unique partnership of the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative and administered by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$4 will go to families in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley who are in need of some of life's basic necessities. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

For more information, call us at 600-0840 or email editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

As we launch our 2009-10 Holiday Fund campaign, we want to express that we have a unique opportunity this year to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, a collaborative economic recovery initiative sponsored through the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. A quadruple match is possible through federal stimulus funds designated for temporary assistance to needy families, including a strong employment development component. The matched funds will be used to identify and evaluate the needs of families hardest hit by the economic downturn and help them directly with housing, job training, medical care and other basic necessities.

We feel that in this time of economic crisis, it is imperative that we take advantage of the opportunity to receive federal funds to assist the largest number of families and individuals in our community.

In addition to a wider base of needy recipients, the Weekly's campaign will continue to provide grants to Pleasanton and Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations that provide "wrap around" services for families, including Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven. This year, these groups will benefit more than ever by the 4-to-1 match of your contribution to help them provide necessary services to families in need.

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its website: www.tvcfoundation.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2009, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

## The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of people in need to lend a helping hand, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the seventh year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides us an opportunity to aid local families at a time when the numbers of those without such basic necessities as food, shelter and medical care have increased in this economic downturn.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. We have a unique opportunity this year that will allow the Holiday Fund to offer a 4-to-1 match, meaning every \$1 you gift will equal a \$4 donation. This will provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley area through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, sponsored through TVCF, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund.

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

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## Book Clubs

**PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**  
The Pleasanton Library's Book Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of most months. November's book is "Sky Burial" by Xinran. Call 931-3400 ext. 7.

## 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.

## Events

**ART & WINE CRAWL** Enjoy local art and wine as you make your way to over 10 galleries, open studios, businesses and tasting rooms from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 27 in downtown Livermore. Pick up a map of participating locations at the Ryan Fine Art Gallery, 171 South J St.; at Panama Red Coffee, corner of First and K streets; or at [www.lindaryan-fineart.com](http://www.lindaryan-fineart.com). Call 243-0424.

**HAPPY HOUR IN PLEASANTON** The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California host happy hour from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Sheraton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. RSVP by

Nov. 18 to Lorraine, 846-5695.

**HOLIDAY HOME TOUR** Enjoy eight home tours with shopping opportunities, treats and live music from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 6 in downtown Pleasanton. A raffle, music, food and shopping complete the festivities. Tickets are \$35 and benefit the Valley Humane Society. Call 426-8656 or visit [www.valley-humane.org](http://www.valley-humane.org).

**JEWELRY TRUNK SHOW** The LAA Gallery is hosting a trunk show called "Jewelry and Other Wearable Art" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Nov. 20 at the LAA Gallery at Carnegie Park, 2155 Third St., Livermore. Five artists will bring in expanded lines of their jewelry and clothing collections. Featured artist, Rhonda Chase, recently won a national award for her wire-wrapped pendants. Wine and cheese will be served. Call 606-1088 or visit [www.livermoreartassociation.org](http://www.livermoreartassociation.org).

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SINGLES DANCE** Celebrate Thanksgiving with new single friends. The party is from 8 to 11:45 p.m. Nov. 28 at the Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Tickets are \$15 by Nov. 27 or \$20 at the door. Adults of all ages welcome. Call 415-507-9962 or visit [www.thepartyhotline.com](http://www.thepartyhotline.com).

**THOMAS COYNE WINERY WINTER OPEN HOUSE** The historical tasting room located at 51 E. Vallicetos Road in Livermore will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 27 to 29 for a winter open house. Fine fruits and cheeses will be served along

with new releases. Call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascoynewinery.com>.

## Exhibits

**MODEL TRAINS AT BLACKHAWK MUSEUM** The European Train Enthusiasts will be bringing their exhibition of HO Scale Model trains to the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, Nov. 27 to Jan. 17. With hand built miniature countrysides and an assortment of locomotives and engines, this exhibition shows the European rail experience. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children 6 and under are free. Call 736-2280 or visit [www.blackhawk-museum.org](http://www.blackhawk-museum.org).

## Fundraisers

**GUNS & HOSES BASKETBALL GAME** At 5 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Foothill High School Gym, 4375 Foothill Road, members of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association will take on members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department in a game of basketball. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for students with ID. Free admission for military with ID and children under 5. Proceeds to benefit Vietnam veterans.

**XMAS TREES FOR WISHES** Support the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation by purchasing a tree from Nov. 27 to Dec. 22 at Alpine

**Dine Out Affordably!**

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**20% OFF\* Wednesdays!**  
Until 9pm  
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- Saturday, Nov 21 **Cocktail Monkey**



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December 5th & 6th 2009 NOON-5pm  
Specialty Vendors including: artists, pottery studio, jewelry, custom made fashion accessories, organic spa products, home decor including: signature ornaments. Holiday Music, Santa & his elves and Cookie Decorating!



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# New menu items at Viva Yogurt Café:

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Come in on **December 4th, 5th & 6th**  
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**NEXT TO ALL STAR SPORTS**

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**CELEBRATE THE SEASON**

*Downtown Pleasanton's*

**Magical Holiday Evening**

**Friday, November 20th 6 to 9pm**

Enjoy an evening filled with the joys of the season

-  Shopping
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-  Entertainment
-  Dining

Bring your Letters and Wish Lists for Santa, and...

**SHOP, DINE & WIN**

• Shop and dine downtown throughout the weekend (Friday evening through close of business Sunday) and you could win a Downtown Pleasanton Gift Card. See website for details.

For more information go to [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net) or call 925-484-2199.



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**Spectacular Thanksgiving Buffet**

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FRI 11/20 8-12pm ★ BRIAN KEITH BAND - COUNTRY  
 SAT 11/21 8-12pm ★ BILLY MARTINI BAND - 70's TRIBUTE  
 FRI 11/27 8-12pm ★ STIFF KICKS - ROCK  
 SAT 11/28 8-12pm ★ BUMPY ROAD

Christmas Trees, 6407 Tassajara Road, Dublin. Proceeds will help grant wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

Christmas Craft Faire from 1 to 6 p.m. Dec. 6. It includes handmade gifts, live holiday music, food and door prizes. Admission is \$8 and includes holiday food sampler and one door prize ticket. Proceeds benefit church ministries. Call 462-4802.

**Holiday**

**AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY DISCOVERY SHOP** The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop Holiday Store, 1987 F Santa Rita Road, is open. It features wreaths, trees, ornaments, dishes, decorator items, music, books and clothing. All proceeds go to fund research, and patient services.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** Children and their families are invited to have breakfast with Santa from 9:30 a.m. to noon Dec. 12 at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Event includes pancake breakfast, storytime with Santa, a puppet show, face painting, crafts and more. Cost is \$5 before Nov. 20 or \$7 after. Call 727-7094 or visit [www.livingvinefellowship.com](http://www.livingvinefellowship.com).

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIRE** St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, hosts an old-fashioned

**DONLON ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** Donlon's Parent-Faculty Club is hosting a Holiday Boutique from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at the school, 4150 Dorman Road. Space is available for hand-craft vendors and an 8-foot table plus one donated raffle prize is \$30. Email [donlonboutique09@yahoo.com](mailto:donlonboutique09@yahoo.com).

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE** Pleasanton CPA firm, JI Consulting is coordinating a holiday food drive benefiting people in need served by the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Donations of nutritious non-perishable foods can be dropped off at 1024 Serpentine Lane, Suite 105 in Pleasanton from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until Dec. 11. Call 846-1859 or email [info@jlcpa.net](mailto:info@jlcpa.net).

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 For Reservations Please Call (925) 463-8000 or (925) 737-5630  
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**PUMPKIN PIE**  
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**HOME, HOLIDAYS & GIFTS** The annual Home, Holiday and Gifts craft show is coming to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., from Nov. 20 to 22. Hours are from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7, or \$6 with online coupon. Hand stamp re-admits all three days. Visit [www.countryfolkart.com](http://www.countryfolkart.com).

## Kids & Teens

**SIGN-UPS FOR YOUTH FOOD DRIVE** Youth service groups in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek and Concord may now volunteer for the eighth annual Youth Food Drive to be held on March 6. Sign up at [www.youthservicecouncil.com/Volunteer/Volunteer.html](http://www.youthservicecouncil.com/Volunteer/Volunteer.html). Details are online.

**SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN KIDZ KARNIVAL** Joni and Friends and CrossWinds Church partner for families affected by disability. The "Kidz Karnival" is from noon to 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at CrossWinds 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. It includes games and crafts created specifically for those with special needs. Call 460-6299 or register at [www.crosswindschurch.org](http://www.crosswindschurch.org).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**PATH TO PUBLICATION** At the

next meeting of the California Writers Club — Tri-Valley Branch, 11:30 a.m. Nov. 21 at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., three of the Tri-Valley's own published book authors will discuss what it took for them to be published and how other writers can benefit from their experience. For reservations call 462-7495. Cost is \$21 for members or \$27 for non-members. Visit [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://www.trivalleywriters.org).

**PROFITABLE SELLING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES** Need an opportunity for sales training to gain that edge in your sales efforts? Connect with decision makers, handle objections, and learn to close with a class at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. Cost is \$39. Call 424-1467.

## Miscellaneous

**FOOD PANTRY AT VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH** The Food Pantry at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Drive, has an open pantry from 6 to 8:30 p.m. It can be reached from Wheels route 3. It will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, but will be open the Sunday before the holidays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Nov. 22, Dec. 20 and 27. Donations of food are by Valley Bible Church, Centerpointe Church, Valley Community Church, Boy Scout Troop 941, and Pleasanton Middle School. Call 426-2492.

## On Stage

**'THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL'** The Las Positas College Theater Arts department presents its fall play, "The School for Scandal -- A Comedy of Very Bad Manners" by Richard Brinsley Sheridan and directed by Wendy Wisely. Shows are at 8 p.m. Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 and 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at the college, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, room 801, Livermore. Tickets are \$12 or \$8 for students and seniors. Call 424-1812 for advance reservation or 424-1166 for show information.

**HELP! I'M TRAPPED IN A HIGH SCHOOL!** Amador Valley High brings this farce to the stage with hilarious results. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Nov. 12 to 21 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Visit [amadordons.com](http://amadordons.com) or call 461-6100 ext. 6197.

## Recreation

**THANKSGIVING DAY RUN** The 17th annual Walnut Creek Sport and Fitness Turkey Trot will take place Thanksgiving Day at Civic Park in Walnut Creek. The races include a 5K and 10K run/walk, beginning at 8 a.m. and a kid's fun run at 10 a.m. Registration is from \$12-\$30 with proceeds benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Visit [www.wcsf.net](http://www.wcsf.net).



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**Come "Hangout" on Thanksgiving • 12-6pm**  
\$26.95 3 course meal • \$9.95 Children 5 & older

**FIRST COURSE**  
Warm Beet and Butter Lettuce Salad  
Crab & Lobster Bisque

**SECOND COURSE**  
New England Diestel Turkey with Cranberry Compote  
Pacific Northwest Salmon with Mushroom Cream Sauce  
Louisiana Turducken  
Midwest Roast Beef  
California Vegetable Napoleon

**SIDE DISHES**  
New Jersey Green Bean Casserole  
Oregon Truffle Mashed Potatoes  
Tennessee Corn Bread & Sausage Stuffing  
Pennsylvania Red Cabbage & Cranberries

**DESSERT**  
Pumpkin Cheesecake with Ginger Snap Crust  
Colonial Pear and Berry Crisp  
Washington Apple Pie

**READERS CHOICE 2009**

**Winner**  
"Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal Under \$20"

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## 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.



## West Coast Olympic Gymnastics continues winning streak

The gymnasts of West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy competed in the Zone 6 Championships in Livermore Nov. 7-8, where the level 6 team captured first place, capping off an undefeated season where they won first place in all five of their meets. This continues their winning streak from last year where they won first in all six of their meets as level 5 gymnasts. Carly Israel had the highest score of the entire meet with 37.675, followed by Lauren Kobayashi — 36.250, Anna Siebel — 35.850 and Loren Couture — 35.525.

Jaala Downes, a level 5 gymnast, also won first place all around with a score of 36.425, followed by Megan Quinton with a 34.775. The level 4 team also completed and won second place against strong competition. Alexandra Kim captured first place with a score of 37.025, followed by Alicia Powers — 36.950, Shayne Estill — 36.675, Chasia Wong—36.625, Sara Ling — 36.175, Sabrina Kheirloomoom — 35.875, Natalie Boyle — 35.775, Adrienne Kwee — 35.500, Abigail McKeag — 35.10 and Rebecca Silva — 34.075. The level 4 team has also had a remarkable year, winning first place in the previous five meets.

All the gymnasts qualified to compete in the Northern California State Championships later this month. The team is coached by Charlene Chen, Joshua Ruby, Ashley Spooner and Lynsi Teixeira.



## All Valley Divers take home six 1st place medals

The All Valley Divers competed in the Sherman Fun Meet in Lafayette last Saturday, taking home six first place medals, five second place and two third place medals along with other numerous accomplishments in the 1 meter springboard meet.

The team took home In the Future Champions (Novice) division, AVD divers scored extremely well, some participating in their first meet: Level 1: AnneMaria Hancock (82.30 pts) — 7th place, Darby Culver (80.60 pts) — 9th place, Allison NG (50.50 pts) — 10th place. Level 2: Isabelle Norton (137.00 pts) — 1st place, Kelsie Ballas (105.00 pts) — 6th place. Level 4: Tory Kruger (152.45 pts) — 2nd place, Jaime Gray (142.00 pts) — 3rd place.

In the JO (Junior Olympics) events, divers scored well in their respective age groups: Age 9 and under: Jaydin Briggs (94.45 pts) — 2nd place. Age 10-11: Lottie Goddard (169.90 pts) — 1st place, Anatoly Nazarov (154.80 pts) — 1st place, Natasha Sondeno (162.40 pts) — 2nd place. Age 12-13: Anthony Epshiteyn (207.30 pts) — 1st place. Age 14-15: Haley Brott (233.40 pts) — 3rd place. Age 16-18: Cody Huntington (316.30 pts) — 1st place, Melissa Parker (298.40 pts) — 1st place, Lauren Jesse (256.80 pts) — 2nd place.

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**JEWEL** (cinnamon), blue & black.

**WEAVE** black & chestnut.

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**SUNTHER** (red), white, blue, copper & black. Pearl toes. Deign croc, brown croc & black croc.

**STRIFFY** (wine) crinkle patent, beige crinkle patent & black crinkle patent.

**SIMPLY** (teige croc), brown croc & black croc. White, copper, cognac wine & black. Pearl toes & pearl blue.

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**FREE TIME™** (tan), white, brown, teal, navy & black. Tan, maroon & charcoal nubuck. WWW widths available in black.

Women's shoes above: METRO, black crinkle patent, beige crinkle patent & wine crinkle patent. Handing: BELLA (beige crinkle patent). Also in wine crinkle patent & black crinkle patent.

Come by and be fitted in SAS comfort. Women's sizes 4-12 S, N, M, W, WW. Not all styles and colors are available in all sizes.

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## First place for third consecutive year for Rage U19

The Pleasanton Rage U19 division 3 team took first in league for the third consecutive season.

It was an impressive season of outstanding accomplishments. Undefeated in league with a record of nine wins, no losses and one tie, their season wrapped up with six shutout victories, 31 goals while only allowing six goals against. In addition to first in league the RAGE U19 team also took first in the Benicia Fall Classic in September where they served up three more shutout victories.

“A woman hijacked a California Highway Patrol car in Sunol at 3:40 this afternoon, leading sheriff’s deputies on a high speed chase on northbound Interstate 680...”

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

**Town Square Forum**



## Rage U16D3 end season with victory

The Rage U16D3 Orange team capped off a strong league season with a hard-fought 3-1 victory over their fellow Rage U16D3 White Nov. 8 at Val Vista.

The White got on the board first with Nayo Clinchard receiving a free kick at about 40 yards and beating the Orange defense for the initial goal. Katey Cloonan answered five minutes later, driving home a rebound. Although much of the game was played on the White’s side of the field, White goalie Tara Shreve did an excellent job denying the Orange who took over 30 shots on goal including 17 in the first half as the period came to a close with a 1-1 score. Strong defense by the Orange, led by stalwarts Megan Smart, Madison Nethery, and Autumn Whitney limited the White offense for the remainder of the game. With about 10 minutes remaining, midfielder Mary Gruen lofted a shot from a crowd 15 yards out that just squeezed under the crossbar for the winning goal. Cloonan scored her second goal several minutes later using her speed to take a ball at the mid-line and split the White defense before deftly finishing against an outstretched goalie.

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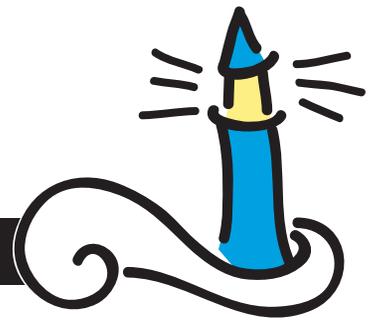
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Classes available at Dogtopia of Pleasanton. Good Manners Adult/ Adolescent and Puppy Level 1 and Level 2 classes, and Introduction to Agility. For more information, visit [fundawgs.com](http://fundawgs.com) or contact [toni@fundawgs.com](mailto:toni@fundawgs.com), 510-326-4597

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## 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

2 new STRUTS for 86-91 Honda Accord & Prelude - \$70 for 2  
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Car Attachment for pulling 93-02 Saturn - \$200

Ford 1964 1/2 Mustang - \$15,000

Ford 1964 1/2 Mustang - \$15,000

Toyota 2005 Tacoma - \$18,500.00

Toyota Pickup 1990 Extra-Cab - \$3600

## 202 Vehicles Wanted

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Children's Cancer Fund! Help Save A Child's Life Through Research & Support! Free Vacation Package. Fast, Easy & Tax Deductible. Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

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Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupons, Your Choice. Noah's Arc, No Kill Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deduction. Non-Runners. 1-866-912-GIVE. (Cal-SCAN)

## 203 Bicycles



**2003 Trek 5200 USPS**  
2003 Trek 5200 USPS. Full Carbon Triathlon/Racing Bike with Shimano Ultegra components. Hardly used, this bike is in nice condition with Bontrager Race Litewheels. Ready to hit the road! Size 53 cm should fit riders from 5'5" - 5'8".  
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Email [gmca5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmca5@sbcglobal.net)

## 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antique - Mahogany End Table - \$100.00  
Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$150.00  
Royal Doulton figurine - \$35

## 220 Computers/Electronics

GESTETNER F9199 FAX MACHINE - \$250 or B/  
Universal 32-52 inch Tilt/ Swive - \$179.99

## 230 Freebies

**Get Dish-FREE**  
Installation \$19.99/mo  
HBO & Showtime FREE-Over 50 HD Channels FREE Lowest Prices No Equipment to Buy! Call Now for full Details- 1-877-238-8413 (AAN CAN)

## 240 Furnishings/Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10  
9 drawers dresser - \$40  
DINING ROOM TABLE - \$ 650.00  
Recliner - \$30  
Rolling Chair - \$30

WOOD BOXES - \$75.00

## 245 Miscellaneous

2 Nice Ikea trash bins - \$4 each  
Britannia Painting Company  
Cottage Style Decorating - \$16.95  
Lionel Toy Train Set - \$235  
Non-stick stove top grill - \$20  
Organizer - \$6  
RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25.00  
Staging The Home For Fall - \$14.99

## 260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

LaCrosse Sticks - \$35. & \$45



## 330 Child Care Offered

Au Pairs / Great Childcare

## 345 Tutoring/Lessons

English Tutor - \$30 hourly  
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Retired Scientist enjoying TUTORING High School & College STUDENTS in algebra, geometry, pre-calculus & chemistry. CALL DOUG @ 925-858-5842

**Math Tutoring**  
High School math and English tutoring: Alg., Geo., Pre-Calc., English. Strive for academic success. Ret. teacher, Cal. credential. 925-462-3807

## 355 Items for Sale

Adjustable booster &step - \$6  
Lionel Complete Train Set



## 500 Help Wanted

**FREELANCE REPORTER**  
Danville Express, a division of Embarcadero Media Company, is seeking a freelance reporter to cover evening meetings in San Ramon and Danville. Journalism experience is preferred. Send a cover letter stating why you are interested in a freelance position, a resume and three clips (website links, PDF or Word document attachments with publication information) to [dciardelli@DanvilleExpress.com](mailto:dciardelli@DanvilleExpress.com). This is an independent contractor position. No calls or hardcopy clips please.

## 550 Business Opportunities

**All Cash Vending!**  
Be Your Own Boss! Your Own Local Vending Route. Includes 25 Machines and Candy for \$9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

## 560 Employment Information

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**Dietary Manager**  
(average annual salary \$40,374) in eight months in online program offered by Tennessee Technology Center, Elizabethton. Details [www.TTCElizabethton.edu](http://www.TTCElizabethton.edu), 1-888-986-2368 or email [patricia.roark@ttcelizabethton.edu](mailto:patricia.roark@ttcelizabethton.edu). (Cal-SCAN)

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Learn to operate bulldozer, backhoe, loader, motor grader, excavator. Job placement assistance. Call 888-210-4534. Northern California College of Construction. [www.HEAVY4.com](http://www.HEAVY4.com) promo-code: NCPA1. (Cal-SCAN)

**Mechanics**  
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As part of our expansion program, NorthWest Resources LLC is in need of people to work as part time account managers, payment and sales representatives, it pays a minimum of \$3000 a month plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please contact us for more details...Requirements - Should be a computer literate. 2-3 hours access to the internet weekly. Must be Honest and Loyal. Must be Efficient and Dedicated. If you are interested and need more information, Contact John H Churchill, Email : [nwestresourcesllc@gmail.com](mailto:nwestresourcesllc@gmail.com)



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**Changing Spaces**  
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## 801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$975  
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1250.00

## 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)

Danville, 4 BR/2 BA - 2900/month



**Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA**  
Quiet area, Clean, bright condo w/ balcony, fireplace  
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No pets, Avail. end of Nov./early Dec.,  
Mo.-to-Mo. lease, Call Lisa:  
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## 809 Shared Housing/Rooms

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

## 825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Livermore, 4 BR/3 BA - \$705000

## 850 Acreage/Lots/Storage

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# Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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Do you take medication twice a day for it?

Local physicians are participating in a research study that will help determine if an investigational medication can control your heartburn related to GERD.

If you have GERD related heartburn that is controlled by taking medication twice a day, you may qualify for this study. To learn more, call:

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**925-413-1451**

If you qualify, you will receive study care and study medication at no cost. Financial compensation for time and travel may be provided.

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**Pleasanton**  
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 Today's top stories & hot picks

## Holiday

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 • Animated figurines  
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 www.valleygreenlandscaping.com

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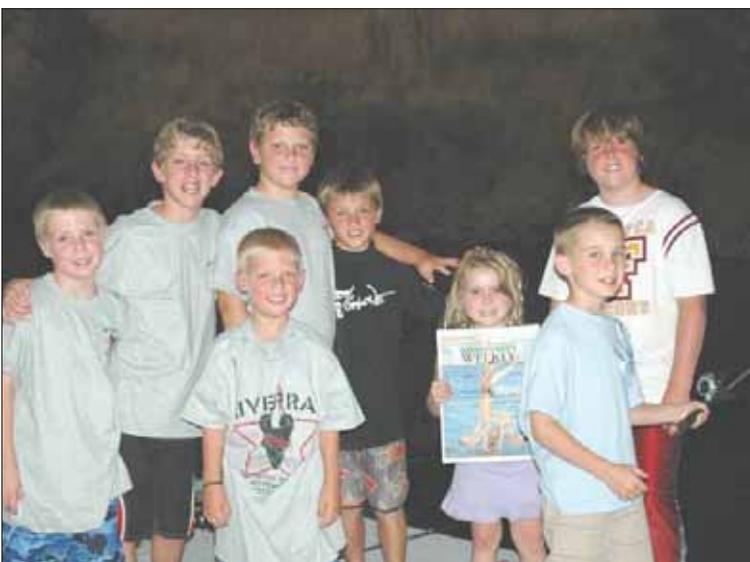
## PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

### Thankful for Norman

Need a date for Thanksgiving dinner? Meet a cool cat named Norman! Norman has been hanging out at the East County Animal Shelter lately, but he'd really like to have some permanent accommodations. When I offered to take Norman's picture he sniffed the camera, rubbed his face on the lens, then rolled over on his back as if to say, "I'm all yours"! Norman is a pale yellow, neutered male tabby with light green eyes. He is a beauty! He has short fur, a long, lean body, and a wonderful disposition. Visit Norman (pet #90343) 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.



**Gone fishin'**  
 Cole and Chloe Flashberger, 8 and 5; Nicolas and Austin Brum, 10 and 8; Sammy Gee, 10; and Brandon, 9, Dylan, 8 and Evan Beland, 5, pose with the Weekly after a long day of fishing in the sun at Lake Tulloch, Calif., which is near Copperopolis.

## TAKE US ALONG



**Hungary for the Weekly**  
 George Besser and his wife Erica pose with the Weekly in Budapest, Hungary with the statue of King Stephen in the background. King Stephen was the founder of the unified Hungarian State in early 1000 AD.

### Chinatown Weekly

Emma Greenberg took the Weekly on her trip with her family to New York City. Emma's mom reports they took the paper all over the city, including where this picture was taken in Chinatown.



**Picture perfect**  
 Brenda and Kelle Patrick brought the Weekly along to the Louvre in Paris, France. The picture was taken at the end of a one week excursion to London and Paris. Brenda reports she "took that darn paper all over with me looking for the perfect place for the picture." She got it!



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**Coming Soon to Ruby Hill, Pleasanton**



Coming soon! Beautiful 5,455 sq. ft. home featuring 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, executive office, huge gourmet kitchen, backs to golf course and views beyond. **Call for pricing.**

**2309 Romano Circle, Ascona at Ruby Hill, Pleasanton**



French Country style home, 3,851 sq. ft. 5 BR, 3 BA, with beautiful pool and hot tub in the backyard. **Offered at \$1,285,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

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Motivated East Coast Seller, 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, 1000 sq. ft. Garage, .62 Acres,  
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275 Rose Ave., Suite 203  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

1109 NAVALLE CT., PLEASANTON, **\$882,500**



This Vintage Hills home boasts 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms with approximately 2,750 square feet of living space and views of the valley. Features include a formal dining room and family room with a wetbar, new roof, central air, 3-car garage and no rear neighbors. Enjoy entertaining from the custom deck and pool with an island spa and waterfall. Sold by Roger Manning of Hometown GMAC Real Estate. (925) 426-3818

## What a short pause

Market continues rally as mortgage rates move downward

By **DAVE WALDEN**

All logic would have to say that the markets would pause after such a big run and Dow 10,000 seemed to be the ideal spot.

Indeed, the markets have seesawed above and beyond the 10,000 mark, with a contraction of approximately 5 percent from top to bottom. But then an interesting thing happened. As soon as all the big economic numbers were released and digested, the markets hit the second week in November with all guns blazing.

Now one strong week does not mean the rally is going to continue, but it is interesting that the markets would start moving positively so quickly after the weak employment numbers were released. Obviously, the markets are satisfied with a tepid recovery.

And why should the markets not be happy with a weaker recovery? There is a lot to like about the economy not gaining strength too quickly. For one, oil prices should remain subdued. Higher oil prices can make the recovery weaker. Also, rates should stay low. Low rates can support an economic recovery that is more sustainable. Finally, with the concern about government spending, inflation will be a threat. A slower recovery has the potential to hold off that threat indefinitely.

Of course, the markets could have just been reacting to the good news that the tax credit for home ownership was extended and expanded. With low rates and housing prices, real estate is quite a bargain and a government subsidy will serve to boost demand as we go through the typically slow winter home-buying season. If demand runs high during the winter, the spring market could be very strong.

**The Markets.** Last week rates moved to their lowest level in five weeks. Freddie Mac announced that for the week ending Nov. 12, 30-year fixed rates averaged 4.1 percent, down from 4.98 percent the week before. The average for 15-year fixed rates fell to 4.36 percent. Adjustables were also down with the average for one-year adjustables falling slightly to 4.46 percent and five-year adjustables decreasing to 4.29 percent. A year ago 30-year fixed rates were at 6.14 percent.

"Rates eased further over the week, helping to promote an affordable home-purchase market and stimulate refinances," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "This comes at a time when house price declines are moderating and consumer demand for prime mortgages at commercial banks has picked up. The National Association of Realtors reported that the national median

sales price of existing homes fell 11.2 percent in the third quarter relative to the same period last year. Moreover, almost 20 percent of the top metropolitan areas experienced positive annual growth, compared to only about 12 percent in the first quarter of this year.

Most states continued to experience rising existing-home sales in the third quarter, with prices moderating in many metro areas, according to the latest survey by NAR. Total state existing-home sales, including single-family homes and condos, increased 11.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.30 million units in the third quarter from 4.76 million units in the second quarter, and are now 5.9 percent above the 5.01 million-unit pace in the third quarter of 2008.

Sales increased from the second quarter in 45 states and the District of Columbia; 28 states and D.C. saw double-digit gains. Year-over-year sales were higher in 32 states and D.C.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said the tax credit was a significant factor. "We can't underestimate just how powerful a catalyst the first-time home buyer tax credit has been for the housing sector," he said. "It's given buyers the confidence they needed to get off the fence and take advantage of extremely affordable housing conditions. The buying conditions this year are the most favorable on record dating back to 1970, but the tax credit is allowing buyers to set aside any reservations about waiting for a better deal."

One in 20 Americans said they plan to buy a home within the next year, and they're most likely to be 34 years old or younger and living in the South or West, according to a survey released last week. Roughly a quarter of potential buyers said the No. 1 reason they would buy now is because prices appear to have bottomed out. That reason topped bargain-priced foreclosures, worries about rising interest rates and a wide selection of homes.

The survey, conducted for Move.com, a real estate listings site, reveals how Americans are responding to a nascent and fragile housing recovery after three years of price declines. The percentage of buyers thinking of jumping into the market was down slightly from a March survey, but up about 1 point from a poll in June. Home prices rebounded this summer at an annualized pace of almost 7 percent, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index.

*David Walden is a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist and Certified Divorce Planning Professional in Pleasanton.*

**OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND**

**Dublin**

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**11373 Rampart Drive \$699,900**  
 Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200  
**11501 Soleado Court \$705,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

**Pleasanton**

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**4549 Mirador Drive \$1,549,950**  
 Sat/Sun 12-3/1-4 Vintage Realty 368-3449  
**557 East Angela Street \$799,900**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 463-6110  
**5 BEDROOMS**  
**2309 Romano Circle \$1,285,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

**2117 Black Oak Court \$2,598,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 963-1984  
**3314 Arbor Drive \$919,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830

**San Leandro**

**5 BEDROOMS**  
**1307 Wayne Avenue \$429,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

**San Ramon**

**5 BEDROOMS**  
**4055 Marblehead Court \$1,079,000**  
 Sun 2-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3858

**HOME SALES**

This week's data represents homes sold during October 2009

**Dublin**

**8579 Beverly Lane** Deutsche Bank to H. Chan for \$350,000  
**4306 Clarinbridge Circle** S. Chan to N. Raisurana for \$363,000  
**3465 Dublin Boulevard #115** Toll Dublin Limited to M. Okamura for \$370,000  
**3465 Dublin Boulevard #426** Toll Dublin Limited to R. Shirodkar for \$376,000  
**3467 Finnian Way** J. Bo to J. Clarke for \$405,000  
**11654 Rolling Hills Place** S. Robinson to D. Miller for \$474,000  
**5227 Stoneham Court** CWALT Inc. to R. Singh for \$556,500  
**3983 Stratford Court** Bank of New York to W.

Lu for \$566,000  
**7036 York Drive** F. & H. Schwegler to C. & A. Dazhan for \$465,000

**Livermore**

**5675 Arlene Way** National Residential to K. Kling-Miller for \$628,000  
**1046 Codioli Way** P. Pham to L. Liu for \$835,000  
**3155 Golden Crest Common** JP Morgan Chase Bank to D. Howard for \$172,000  
**1734 Hollyhock Street** Adams Trust to D. & D. Vierra for \$332,500  
**1210 Killarney Street** Ing Bank to R. & R. Allvey for \$355,000  
**992 Lambaren Avenue** L. Sanchez to C. Quintero for \$260,000

See SALES on Page 31

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**PLEASANTON 4246 CASTERSON CT**



**CUSTOM KOTTINGER RANCH** Panoramic views of both Mt. Diablo and Tri-Valley area. Dramatic pillars line the formal entry to this stunning & elegant executive home. **\$1,950,000**  
 Karla Brown, Realtor® Lic#01349250  
**925.200.1909**

**SAN RAMON 4055 MARBLEHEAD CT**



**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4**  
**STUNNING ESTATE HOME** approx. 3720 sq. ft. on a private 23,421 sq. ft. lot features 4 large BR + huge bonus rm, 3 updated BA, 3 gas fireplaces & 3-car garage. **\$1,079,000**  
 Mike Chandler Realtor® Lic#01039712  
**925.426.3858**

**PLEASANTON 4379 CLOVEWOOD LN**



**HIGHLAND OAKS** 4BD plus office or den/2BA. Approx. 1810 sq. ft. 2-story home with spacious backyard. Close to schools and shopping. Walk to Cabana. **\$675,000**  
 Steve Fast, Realtor® Lic#01084321  
**925.785.8239**

**FREMONT 2475 DYER LANE**



**PRIME LOT IN MEDICAL DISTRICT** 3BR/1BA may be converted to commercial space or build your own small medical building. 5 minute walk to Washington Hospital or BART. **\$649,999**  
 Angela Ochs, Realtor® Lic#01154274  
**925.426.3831**

**CASTRO VALLEY 32075 PALOMARES RD**



**OVER 21 GORGEOUS ACRES OF LAND** with a quaint 2 bedroom cottage and a large brick fireplace. Surrounding areas are heavily wooded and very private. **\$649,000**  
 Karla Brown, Realtor® Lic#01349250  
**925.200.1909**

**DUBLIN 4505 SPARROW CT**



*Source: California Resource*  
**AWESOME LOCATION** 3BR/2½BA with great open floorplan and many upgrades thru-out, hardwood floors, wood burning fireplace, huge loft, oversized 2-car garage. **\$639,000**  
 Wendy Washburn Realtor® Lic#01008713  
**925.580.5793**

**PLEASANTON 4269 GARIBALDI PL.**



**KOTTINGER RANCH** 4BR/2½BA with vaulted ceilings. Kitchen has granite w/backsplash, white cabinets & recessed lighting. Newer roof and updated sliders, large yard. **\$600,000**  
 George McKean Realtor® Lic#00609308  
**925.998.1798**

**PLEASANTON 5391 BLACK AVE**



**WELLINGTON TOWNHOUSE** 2BR/2BA remodeled with maple kitchen cabinets, stainless steel appliances and wood/tile floors. Lots of windows. **\$379,000**  
 Karla Brown, Realtor® Lic#01349250  
**925.200.1909**

Hometown GMAC Real Estate is an Independently Owned and Operated Firm

# Featured Properties



Beautiful 5 BR 4.5 BA home with approx 4065 sq ft and a tropical backyard. Elegant pool, spa, waterfalls, fire pits and an outdoor kitchen. Indoor kitchen features cherry cabinets, granite and stone tiles, and stainless steel appliances. Incredible professional home theater and whole house audio system.

**2498 Allegro Street,  
Livermore  
\$1,165,000**



Immaculate, pristine, private, and secluded describes this 5 BR 4.5 BA Ruby Hill home! Featuring approx 6200 sq ft and a 26,000 sq ft lot, a formal office and a huge bonus room. Relax by the pool, spa and cabana. Seller financing is available on this American Traditional masterpiece.

**1009 Via Di Salerno,  
Pleasanton  
\$2,450,000**



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. Sets a new standard for Wine Country living!

**777 East Vineyard Avenue,  
Livermore  
\$3,999,000**



One of a kind masterpiece in the vineyards of Ruby Hill. This custom 5 BR, 5.5 BA estate, with approx. 7700 sq ft, is surrounded by vineyards and offers total privacy, views and seclusion. Remarkable lounge level offers recreation space, formal living and a kitchen with adjacent butler's pantry. Magnificent temperature controlled wine cellar.

**837 Kalthoff Common,  
Pleasanton  
\$4,999,000**



**Prudential  
California Realty**

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

**925.417.2250**



**COLDWELL BANKER**  
*presents*

californiamoves.com



**DUBLIN**  
Open SUN 1 - 4  
WESTSIDE LOCATION BEAUTY 11501 SOLEADO CT \$705,000  
4 BR 2.5 BA + huge loft, many upgrades, updated kitchen & parklike large backyard 925.847.2200



**DUBLIN**  
Open SUN 2 - 5  
DESIRABLE WEST SIDE 11373 RAMPART DRIVE \$699,900  
4 BR 3 BA Aprx. 2262 sf on almost 14000 sf lot! Beautiful & remodeled/upgraded, lrg/priv bckryd 925.847.2200



**PLEASANTON**  
7835 CANYON MEADOWS CIRCLE, UNIT E BEAUTIFUL HOME! \$285,000  
2 BR 2 BA top floor w/2 balconies/views! Great location! Fireplace, tile entry, large eating area in kit 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

## CASTRO VALLEY

**19268 COREY WAY GREAT HOME!** \$675,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA built 2008, ideal loc, vaulted ceilings, surround sound system, crown molding, chrry hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

## LIVERMORE

**2643 BRIARWOOD DR MUST SEE!** \$517,000  
5 BR 2 BA dual pane windows, built-in pl, open flr plan, approx. 2300 sq. ft., 11434 sq. ft. lot, 2 car gar 925.847.2200

**21800 MINES RD COUNTRY LIVING** \$375,000  
2 BR 2 BA w/amenities! Bunk house w/1 updated bath/laundry area. Wood stove; 3 generators, 4 water tanks 925.847.2200

## PLEASANTON

**558 SANTEL COURT GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY** \$1,640,000  
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm, upgrded kit/opens to family room, pl/spa in backyard, court loc, hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

**2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON!** \$739,000  
4 BR 2.5 BA Aprx. 2165 sf, w/huge private bckryd, lot apx 7150 sf, lrg deck! Great school district, gr8 loc 925.847.2200

**5121 BIANCO COURT NICE HOME** \$700,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA in desirable Avila! Court location, eat-in-kitchen, large living/family rm w/frplc/built-ins 925.847.2200

**4055 ALVARADO ST GREAT HOME!** \$659,000  
4 BR 3 BA Private Office. Close To Everything! Walk to Schls, Prk/Dwntwn. Lrg Corner Lot W/Pool/Spa. 925.847.2200

**2303 FAIRFIELD CT PRISTINE PLEASANTON** \$650,000  
3 BR 2 BA kit w/granite cntrs, Wilsonart flrs, dual pane wndws, new crpt thru out, living w/brick frplc 925.847.2200

**3044 CASADERO COURT ELEGANT VERONA HOME** \$489,995  
3 BR 2.5 BA updated granite kitchen, newer tile & wood flooring, custom paint, excellent court location! 925.847.2200

**3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54 GREAT LOCATION!** \$19,900  
1 BR 1 BA covered driveway, great loc in prk, comm center has pool, spa, library Mo space rent, \$875 925.847.2200

## SAN RAMON

**2140 CANYON CREST AVE GORGEOUS!** \$750,000  
4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & apx 8000 sf lot. Walk to elem sch! Gourmet kitchen, backyard w/large patio 925.847.2200

**6210 BYRON LANE GREAT HOME!** \$535,000  
4 BR 3 BA 2 cr gar, 2347 sf, 2 patio areas, 3+ stries, upgrded w/hrdwd flr, granite slab in kit/SS appli 925.847.2200

**COLDWELL BANKER**

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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# Getting to know your Local Real Estate Agents

**We asked your agents: What are you thankful for?**

*Look out for our next issue 12/18 — we will find out what their holiday tradition is.*

*Great friends & family and a healthy sense of humor!*

**Anni Hagfeldt**

519-3534

Alain Pinel Realtors  
www.annihagfeldt.com

*I am extremely thankful that I still have both my parents alive and our freedom and safety!*

**Joanne Durso**

730-4006

RE/MAX Accord  
www.jdurso.com

*I am thankful for my family, friends and health!*

**Kat Gaskins**

621-4050

Alain Pinel Realtors  
www.katgaskins.com

*My wedding 11/21/09 to an amazing man who loves me and makes our family complete!*

**Melisa Mazotti**

580-2777

V.P. of Tucker Associates  
www.melisamazotti.com

*I am thankful for my wonderful family and friends.*

**Delores Gragg**

462-2222

Hometown GMAC  
www.deloresgragg.com

*Our freedom in the USA*

**Jan Pegler**

519-1455

Prudential California Realty  
jan.pegler@prurealty.com

*My daughter Caroline and my 4-year old granddaughter Alyssa!*

**Julia Korpi**

463-6135

Prudential California Realty  
www.juliakorpi.com

*A warm bed with my sweetie!*

**Pat Griffin**

426-3844

Hometown GMAC  
www.hometowngmac.com/hpgriffin

*For those who were able to keep their home during these tough economic times!*

**Cathy Dean and Kari Wahl**

200-4130

J Rockcliff Realtors  
www.cdeanhomes.com

*Agents, please contact Andrea at 600-0840 x110 to be included next month!*



**GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES**



**8044 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY PLEASANTON**  
 Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Truly elegant. Level park-like backyard with pool, spa, lrg grass area.  
**Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454**

**GATED HILLTOP ESTATE**



**2801 GRAY FOX COURT PLEASANTON**  
 Panoramic views, 1.91 acres of privacy. Resort-like backyard w/ pool, spa, swim up bar, barbeque, palm trees. See details: www.2801GrayFox.com  
**Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416**

**GORGEOUS CUSTOM ESTATE**



**833 PIEMONTE DRIVE PLEASANTON**  
 Dramatic street presence! Huge gourmet kit, sauna, exercise rm, library, 4 fireplaces, 5-car garage. Incomparable 0.70 acres, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & more.  
**Diane Gilfether 925.648.5443**

**SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN**



**4328 W RUBY HILL DR PLEASANTON**  
 Dramatic entry w/ travertine flooring. 4 bd 4.5 ba, office & a bonus/game room. New Salt water pool w/ water features. New outdoor living area w/ BBQ, Plasma T.V.  
**Todd Martinez 925.251.2571**

**PRESERVE COMMUNITY**



**9663 CROSBY DRIVE PLEASANTON**  
 This stunningly beautiful, totally custom home is located on the desirable West side of Pleasanton. The finest materials and workmanship.  
**Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416**

**INCREDIBLE VIEWS**



**860 CASTLEWOOD PL PLEASANTON**  
 Beautiful custom home built in 1996 by Sterling Builders. Located above the 18th green and 10th fairway of the Hill Course. 4 bed 3 bath, 4,300 sq. ft., approx 0.50 acres.  
**Bryan Craft 925.855.4141**

**REMARKABLE HOME**



**3737 NICOLE AVENUE PLEASANTON**  
 Everything top of the line. Gorgeous private 1/2 acre lot w/ gated pool, spa, basketball, gazebos, and your own vineyard w/well.  
**Phyllis & Carolyn Weiner 925.872.1416**

**GREAT FOR ENTERTAINING**



**3249 ARBOR DRIVE PLEASANTON**  
 4 bd, 2.5 ba home on a huge lot of almost 13,000 sq ft! Several outdoor patios great for entertaining or relaxing.  
**Tonni Chandler 925.788.7788**

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**Blackhawk East**

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.  
 Danville, CA 94506  
 925.648.5300

**Blackhawk West**

3880 Blackhawk Rd. Ste. 200  
 Danville, CA 94506  
 925.736.6000

**Danville**

15 Railroad Ave.  
 Danville, CA 94526  
 925.855.4000

**Lafayette**

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100  
 Lafayette, CA 94549  
 925.385.2330

**Livermore**

1983 Second St.  
 Livermore, CA 94550  
 925.667.2100

**Orinda**

89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100  
 Orinda, CA 94563  
 925.253.7000

**Pleasanton**

5075 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 110  
 Pleasanton, CA 94588  
 925.251.2500

**Walnut Creek**

1700 N. Main St.  
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
 925.280.8500

**VINTAGE HILLS CUSTOM**



**850 CONCORD STREET PLEASANTON**  
 Entertain pool-side in park-like yard. Granite kitchen, newer windows throughout and remodeled marble master bath. Detached garage with lots of parking.  
**Michael Bowers 925.583.2196**

**EXPANDED JENSEN HOME**



**4075 NEVIS STREET PLEASANTON**  
 Completely updated. Two master bedrooms. Hardwood floors, dual pane windows, country garden backyard. Detached room not included in square footage.  
**Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547**

**OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4**



**3522 KINGS CANYON COURT PLEASANTON**  
 Lovely remodel, 1-story home in convenient location. Formal dining & living rooms. Kitchen w/granite counters and lots of cabinets. Large Swimming Pool.  
**Margarita Cavalieri 925.251.2515**

**MR. PICKLE'S FRANCHISE**



**3059 HOPYARD RD PLEASANTON**  
 Mr. Pickle's is a sandwich shop franchise w/ a "turn-key" package business opportunity. FF&E, employee hiring & training included. Avg monthly gross \$75K w/25% net.  
**Thomas Bramell 925.583.2180**

**MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE**



**MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE**  
 Two beautiful custom Estates on a 92 acres. Main house is a 4 bd, 3.5 ba, approx. 9378 sqft, 12 car garage. 2nd house is a 3 bdrm, 4 bath, approx. 3000sqft.  
**Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199**

**CHARDONNAY GRAPES**



**655 EAST VINEYARD AVENUE LIVERMORE**  
 Fabulous 20+ acre parcel w/ 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates.  
**Carol Cline, CRS 925.648.5415**

**MAGNIFICENT VIEWS**



**3615 CALDEIRA LIVERMORE**  
 Custom built estate surrounded by your own Petite Sirah vineyard. Enjoy magnificent views filled with vines & hills galore.  
**Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454**

**108 AC. FENCED RANCH**



**MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE**  
 Picturesque, Pano Views. 3 Bd Home w/ 20x20 Bonus Rm, Six Stall Barn, Tack Room, 120'x300' Arena, Wells/Springs, 1/4 Mile Road to Poss.  
**The Nagle Team 925.736.4155**

**SALES**

Continued from Page 27

- 3658 Madeira Way** C. Lindquist to R. & R. Abreu for \$330,000
  - 6195 Oakville Lane** Aurora Loan Services to K. & A. Miller for \$740,000
  - 1851 Park Street** Halverson Trust to R. Kelly for \$250,000
  - 4114 Pinon Way** JP Morgan Chase Bank to D. & D. Williams for \$310,000
  - 2164 Rapallo Common** J. & M. Clark to J. & C. Gomez for \$450,000
  - 2486 Regent Road** Luster Trust to D. & K. Lewis for \$625,000
  - 515 South Livermore Avenue** Green Star Properties to J. & L. Norcup for \$521,000
  - 788 South Livermore Avenue** Beauchemin-Gordon Trust to K. Carney for \$460,000
  - 78 Trixie Drive** Ace Securities to C. Trevor for \$525,000
  - 893 Waverly Common** Costello Trust to S. Reese for \$530,000
  - 243 Woodland Court** L. & C. Sarkis to B. & D. Brennan for \$665,000
- Pleasanton**
- 3679 Annis Circle** Washington Mutual Bank to K. Syao for \$635,000
  - 3860 Appian Street** Shah Trust to M. Shah for \$571,000
  - 4089 Churchill Drive** M. Giovanni to F. Ren for \$525,000
  - 451 Junipero Street** Maraviot Trust to J. & A. Brown for \$739,500
  - 4296 Nova Court** M. Continillo to B. & L. Young for \$495,000
  - 5703 San Antonio Street** R. & C. Vanepps to S. Abbas for \$630,000
  - 5707 San Luis Court** Lamb Trust to N. & M. Jordan for \$703,000
  - 4191 Torino Court** D. Espinoza to Y. Wang for \$383,000

**San Ramon**

- 3534 Ashbourne Circle** R. Bhasin to P. & M. Motekaitis for \$1,200,000
- 2962 Bailey Way** Centex Homes to D. & F. Patel for \$831,000
- 480 Bollinger Canyon Lane #374** Federal National Mortgage to S. Guerrero for \$190,000
- 481 Bridle Court** Davidon Homes to T. Tung for \$1,306,000
- 2800 Caramoor Lane** P. & M. Hancock to Z. Li for \$830,500
- 3328 Chartwell Street** Bank of America to Responsible Management for \$595,000
- 184 Copper Ridge Road** Legacy Copper Ridge to I. Johnson for \$268,500
- 131 Coralflower Lane** C-Bass Mortgage to W. Parker for \$505,500
- 2069 Echo Place** Ellis Trust to T. Hoang for \$582,500
- 135 Enchanted Way** G. Haskell to S. Wu for \$534,000
- 1905 Hollyview Drive** American Home Mortgage to U. & S. Patel for \$740,000
- 30 Hurst Court** Bahk Trust to T. & K. Lewandowski for \$780,000
- 6215 Lakeview Circle** D. & V. Defreitas to R. & A. Herterich for \$550,000
- 903 Lysander Court** J. & L. Morrissey to S. & A. John for \$942,000
- 116 Norris Canyon Place #D** A. Keden to C. & K. McArthur for \$300,000
- 309 Norris Canyon Terrace** K. Estep to S. & S. Bhattacharya for \$298,000
- 2036 Sorrelwood Court** A. & A. Taylor to M. Fang for \$1,050,000
- 505 Summer Valley Court** D. & J. Klein to Z. Huang for \$790,000
- 18 Terraced Hills Circle** M. & S. Polk to S. Carvajal for \$612,000
- 7842 Veronica Court** J. Ha to J. Morgenthaler for \$506,000



**BLAISE LOFLAND**

**925.846.6500**

www.blaiselofland.com  
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com



**CASA DE CAIAFIA**



**5464 BLACK AVENUE, PLEASANTON**  
Custom builder meets Casa de Caiafia!!! Three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. Remodeled kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Approximately 1,330 square feet. Upgraded bathrooms. Custom tile flooring, crown molding, upgraded baseboards. Large master with walk-in closet and balcony. Two car garage. Great location! Walk to Downtown!  
**OFFERED AT \$429,500**

**SAN LEANDRO**

OPEN SUN 1-4



**1307 WAYNE AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO**  
Five bedroom, three bath home. Approximately 1,795 square feet. Great for larger family! Separate living and family rooms. Central heat. New carpet. Newer dual pane windows. Private rear yard with fruit trees, newer perimeter fencing and new rear deck.  
**JUST REDUCED TO \$429,000**

**BRIDLE CREEK**



**902 SUMMIT CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON**  
Wow! Highly upgraded Premier Model on premium elevated .34 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Over \$400K in front and rear yard landscaping! Built by Greenbriar Homes. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard with built-in pool, separate built-in spa, travertine/ Napa Stone patios and outdoor kitchen. Four bedrooms + bonus room and formal office, three bathrooms. Approx. 3,445 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Custom limestone flooring, crown moulding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.  
**OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



**The latest from The 680 Blog**

**Pleasanton October Update – Inventory Continues to Drop**

The Pleasanton Market saw the inventory shrink yet again, with 133 single family homes on the market at the end of October, continuing a trend that began in May, when there were 243 homes on the market. October's inventory is the lowest level in Pleasanton since February 2006 and is a sharp decline from October 2008, when there were 249 homes and October 2007 when there were 204 homes on the market. As I mentioned last month, inventory levels below 150 are very low for Pleasanton.

Sales remained strong, with 58 pending sales in October, up from 55 in September, but remained below this year's high of 76 set in July. With the inventory at such low levels, it can be difficult to sustain high levels of sales. Here is a graph of the inventory and pending sales activity for the past 15 months.

The biggest decline came in the under \$1 million segment, where the inventory of available single family homes declined

to a total of 61 single family homes on the market at the end of the month, compared to 74 for September. Inventory in this segment was 137 a year ago. Pending sales, while relatively strong, fell to 44 homes, from 46 in September. This is approximately a 1 1/2 month supply of homes, which indicates that market conditions are strong in >>Go to [www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.



**Doug Buenz**

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925.251.1111  
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**NEW PRICE!**  
Newer luxury 5 BR, 4 BTH single story home on prime .31 Acre cul-de-sac lot with hardwood floors, granite/cherry/stainless kit, and more!  
**\$1,399,900**



**POOL & SPA!**  
Fabulous 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home with remodeled granite kitchen, hardwood floors, and prime cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool!  
**\$744,900**



**COMING SOON!**  
Gorgeous remodeled 4 BR, 3 BTH home on 1.75 acres with sports court and plenty of room for horses!  
**\$1,299,000**



**GREAT VALUE!**  
Room to grow! 5 BR, 2 BTH detached home, approx 2600 sq ft, with huge family room, private yard, and excellent location close to award winning schools!  
**\$639,900**

**Recent Pending & Sold Homes**

- 815 Tunbridge Rd ..... \$1,195,000
- 560 Rosso Ct..... \$960,000
- 2782 Calle Alegre..... \$1,000,000
- 5769 San Carlos Way ..... \$699,900
- 2824 Foothill Oaks Ter ..... \$1,640,000
- 5682 Sunset Creek Ct ..... \$1,445,000
- 9459 Blessing Dr..... \$1,549,500
- 315 Golden Grass Dr ..... \$1,645,000

*I can sell your home too!  
Call me today!*

apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

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



**ANNI HAGFELDT** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$1,699,999  
5bd/4.5ba beautiful custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Panoramic views, large backyard, pool, and more. A must see.

**MARY JANE DEERING** BY APPT



**HAYWARD HILLS** \$1,690,000  
Gated private one acre lot with views of SF Bay and more! Prestigious Greenbrier 5500+/- sf remodeled single story 4bd in main house + 1bd/1ba guest house. Pool, gazebo, 4 car garage. Gorgeous!

**DOUG BUENZ** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$1,399,900  
THIS IS IT! Rarely available luxury single story, .32+/-acre lot, 5bd/4ba, granite/cherry/stainless kitchen w/island, designer carpeting. Better than New!

**SALLY MARTIN** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$1,399,000  
Immaculate, Expansive, 5bd, 3.5 ba, 3991+/-sf home situate on .76+/- acre lot. Numerous upgrades. Go to www.2303Gloria.com Too Much to List!

**SUSIE STEELE** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$1,299,000  
Absolutley Charming in Castlewood! Completely Rebuilt from Floor to Ceiling, this 1 story 4bdrm. Plus an Office on a 1/2 Acre is a dream come true!

**CHRISTINE STARK** BY APPT



**LIVERMORE** \$1,299,000  
This property features 4bd/2.5ba, 2400+/-sf plus a large barn with loft on 7.8+/- acres.

**SUE MCKINLEY** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$990,000  
Beautiful 4bd, 3.5ba, 3206+/-sf Custom Home,open floor plan,Country Views! Easy access to 680 freeway, Top Rated schools just minutes away.

**GAMACHE TEAM** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$989,950  
Fabulous 4bd/3ba, 2637+/-sf home, updated throughout. Beautiful pool with large arbors and outdoor BBQ. Must See! Too much to list!

**JOYCE JONES** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$755,000  
Desirable Pleasanton, 4bd, 2.5ba, prime court location, 2150sf+/-living space, large 8197sf+/-lot, updated kitchen, w/ granite counters, hardwood floors, roof 2009, exterior paint 2009 & much more!

**JULIA MURTAGH** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$719,000  
"Windsor" Premier location across from Cabana Club.4 bd/2+ba, great Open floor plan, recently updated kitchen and bath. Close to freeway, shopping and downtown. Call 997-2411 for appoint.

**MOXLEY TEAM** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$699,000  
3BD,2B, 1,204SF home on 21,000 SF lot. Possible second home on lot or possibility to sub-divide lot. Close to freeways and downtown Pleasanton.

**JOYCE JONES** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$619,000  
Single story, built in 1985, prime court location, 3bd(possible 4th), 2ba,updated kitchen w/granite counters, bamboo floors,large side yard,roof 2003 & low HOA's-so much more. Call me! 621-4055

**KEVIN COLLINS** BY APPT



**LIVERMORE** \$499,900  
Mostly original,hardwood floors, 2003+/-sf, large corner lot, two fireplaces, currently 4 bd/2.5 ba easily converted back to 5 bd.

**KIM OTT** BY APPT



**DANVILLE** \$466,900  
Cozy 3bd/2ba has slate entry/large LR has built-in FP. Master opens to deck has large closet with organizer. Master bath has slate/marble counters/skylite.Kitchen has granite/gas stove/skylite.

**DANIEL ALPHER** BY APPT



**LIVERMORE** \$439,900  
Light, bright and super clean 5bd/3ba 1600+/-sf home. Custom remodeled kitchen/dual panes/laminate floors/ fruit trees/private entrance lots of possibilities! Moments from Historic Downtown!

**BLAISE LOFLAND** BY APPT



**PLEASANTON** \$429,500  
3bd/2.5ba, remodeled kitchen with granite counters, stainless appliances, 1330+/-sf, custom tile floors, master w/balcony, walk to downtown!

