

# Pleasanton Weekly

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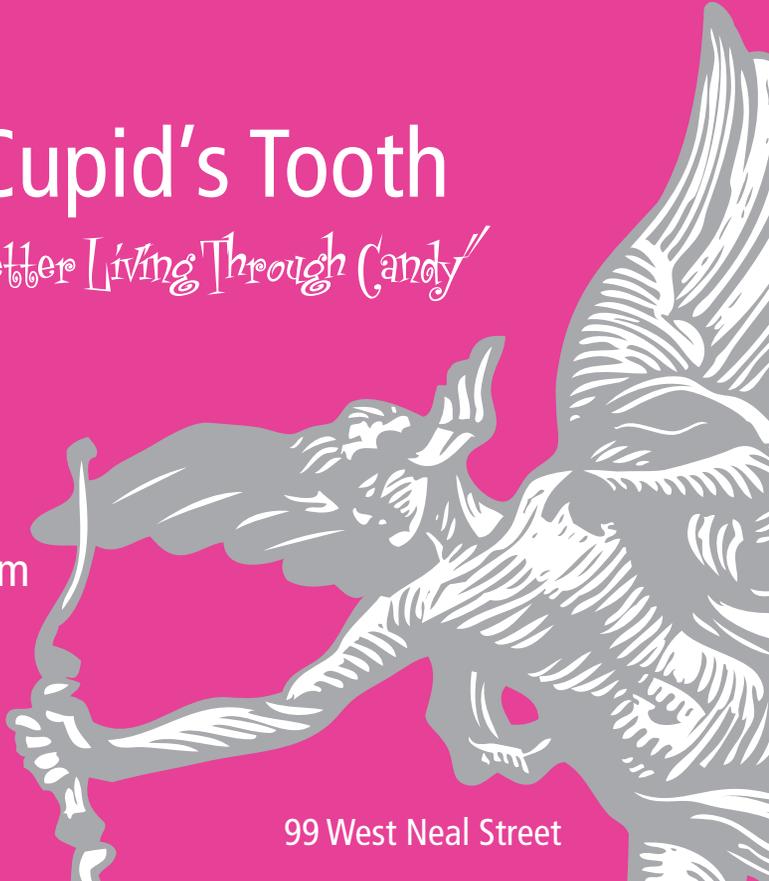
## MAN OF THE YEAR

Chris Miller, a crusader in supporting military families, may have stepped down but he's still stepping up **PAGE 12**

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



CITY OF PLEASANTON

Members of the Amador Valley High School marching band head down Main Street during a past Hometown Holidays parade.

## See you downtown!

If you like parades, holiday shopping bargains, outdoor ice skating and a major swim meet all at the same time, you'll surely like Pleasanton this weekend. We have it all this weekend with 2,000 swimmers and their families already in town as the Pleasanton Seahawks host the Junior Olympic swim meet at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center on Black Avenue. Ice skating started two weeks ago at the Sharks/Devcon skating rink on Old Bernal Avenue with more than 500 a day on average enjoying the first-ever outdoor rink that will stay open through Sunday, Jan. 10. Hundreds more will be on Main Street today and through the weekend for special events (and sales) sponsored by downtown merchants and restaurants. Then at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, thousands of spectators will line downtown streets to watch the annual Hometown Holidays Celebration parade.

The aquatic center will draw swimmers starting at 6:30 every morning, including today, through 8:30 p.m. with closing competition and awards Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free to this fun-filled event where families and swim clubs from throughout the West pitch tents well-stocked with energy drinks and snacks — even with a few cots — for those long waits between competitions.

Farmers Market opens at 9 a.m. tomorrow with larger-than-usual crowds expected because of the season and other events downtown. Also on Angela Street, the creators of Pipperoos will offer a creative drama event at Your Stage Toys, where children can participate in dramatic activities including pantomime and theme related role-playing games.

All day Saturday at Thriving Ink's new store on Main Street, Brenda Dronkers and her family have put together \$10-value care packages which they'll send to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan through the Blue Star Moms organization in the customer's name for every \$30 worth of purchases.

Also having holiday open houses Saturday are the Stork's Nest, Studio 7, Murphy's Paw and Gourmet Works, with gift card raffles, free refreshments and many giveaways.

Then, from 6 to 9 p.m., the Berry Patch at the corner of Angela and Main will host its annual holiday open house with music, holiday treats, raffles and shopper specials. Doug Linman will be there playing holiday music; Gary Winter will show his new Pleasanton miniatures; and Sue Evans will be showing and signing her Pleasanton photography work.

Also Saturday afternoon, Little Valley Winery will feature live music by The Black Pearl Project from 4 to 7:30 p.m. outside its store at 739 Main St., where owner Sandi Bohner will offer wine tasting sold by the glass, candy canes for children and warm places to congregate while watching the parade pass by.

Another warm spot for parade-watching is Towne Center Books, where owner Judy Wheeler will be offering hot beverages and treats. Towne Center Books also is offering breakfast with Santa for \$5 a person. That event started this morning and will be offered again on Dec. 12 and Dec. 19.

By the way, Wheeler is urging shoppers to make their purchases in Pleasanton when we can. She points out that just a 10 percent shift in business to local independent retailers can substantially boost the city's economy. For every \$10 we spend here, \$4.50 stays here. When we spend \$10 online, nothing stays local.

See you downtown. ■

## About the Cover

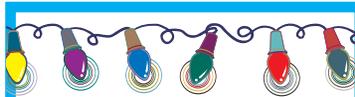
Former leader of Pleasanton Military Families Chris Miller is the Pleasanton Weekly's 2009 Man of the Year for his service to veterans and their families in the community. Photo by Jay Flachsbarth.

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# Food Allergies?

Food allergies, particularly in children, are clearly on the rise. According to Dr. Hugh Sampson, a food allergy specialist at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in N.Y. "We are certain that in the future the number of food allergies are going to increase."

Many food allergies are classified as "hidden" allergies due to the fact that an individual may be consuming a food, often times on a daily basis that they have no idea they are allergic to. Frequently, symptoms such as stomach aches, irritable bowel syndrome, acid reflux, indigestion, heartburn and bloating are directly related to food allergies.

Additionally, conditions such as migraine headaches, chronic sinusitis, post nasal drip, rashes, eczema, chronic fatigue, ADD/ADHD, mood swings and difficulty losing weight in many cases can be caused by food allergies.

Fortunately, a new, advanced method of allergy elimination is now available in the United States. Developed over a ten year period in Australia, a new technology called Advanced Allergy Therapeutics (AAT) is giving new hope to millions of allergy sufferers.

Not everyone reacts to certain foods. For those who do, their immune system is reacting to a harmless substance. In other words, an allergy is an error that causes the immune system to respond inappropriately. Rather than treat the allergy with shots or medications, AAT is a non-invasive, needle free, drug free, all natural treatment that eliminates the allergy altogether. AAT is safe and effective for people of all ages including infants.

AAT is also equally effective in treating airborne allergens such as pollens, grasses, weeds, trees, molds, dust and dust mites as well as pet allergens, chemical sensitivities and physical contactants.

AAT is now available in Pleasanton at Allergy Relief Centers located near Stoneridge Mall. For a limited time, Allergy Relief Centers is offering the initial consultation and complete testing session, normally a fee of \$125, for only \$25 to anyone who would like to eliminate their food allergies. A limited number of appointments are available, so call 925-468-0110 today for your appointment.

For more information please visit [www.allergyreliefcenters.com](http://www.allergyreliefcenters.com)

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# Streetwise

ASKED AT HOPYARD VILLAGE

## What is your opinion on the recent study saying women don't need to get mammograms until they are 50?



**Alisha Thompson**

*Mom*

I think 50 is a little late. I think it should be earlier. I'm not worried now at 27, but I would be worried if my mom didn't get one until she was 50.

**Susan Schall**

*Realtor*

I think it should be a woman's choice. It might make sense for a lot of people, but I think the decision should be between a woman and her doctor.



**Steve Romero**

*Mortgage Industry*

I think it's suspicious because health care is looming down our throats and it's a way to cut costs. It's timely and suspicious. Women have had breast cancer before 50, so it makes sense to get exams before then.

**Leann Kanowsky**

*Self-Employed*

I don't think I agree with that. My mom is a two-time survivor, so I really think it is important to get checked. I started when I was 40, and it just seems like a smart precaution.



**Teri York**

*Project Manager*

I don't know yet; I have to talk to my doctor. He's already started me on a two-year rotation, so he'll probably keep me on it. They keep coming out with things and then they change it. So I'll just wait a while and continue to follow my doctor's recommendation.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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# Newsfront

## DIGEST

### Free rides for seniors

Seniors in the Tri-Valley needing door-to-door service are eligible for a ride to medical appointments. Volunteers use their personal vehicles to drive seniors to and from medical appointments. Seniors must be 60 and over, living in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol, and unable to find a ride (relative, friend, bus, paratransit.) For a ride, or to volunteer, contact Jennifer Cullen at 931-5387 or ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding provided by the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Measure B Funds.

### Model trains now on display

The Blackhawk Museum in Danville hosts the European Train Enthusiasts model train exhibition again this year. The trains travel through the hand-crafted modular layout of the "old world" countryside. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays through Jan. 10. Special holiday hours include the Monday and Tuesday before Christmas and New Year's Eve. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, and children 6 and under are free. For more information, visit [www.blackhawkmuseum.org](http://www.blackhawkmuseum.org).

### Band to play holiday favorites

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents "Seasonal Surprises" featuring works by Mendelssohn, Anderson, Holst and other composers at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Enjoy the music of the holiday season as you listen to familiar holiday melodies including a few musical surprises. Call 846-5897 or visit [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org).

### Learn how to apply for a grant

The cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton are jointly sponsoring two application workshops for fiscal year 2010-11 Livermore Housing and Human Services grants, Pleasanton Housing and Human Services and Community grants, and Dublin Community Development Block grants. The workshops are designed for non-profit organizations that serve Tri-Valley residents. The first is from 10 a.m. to noon Monday at the Pleasanton City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. and the second is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Livermore City Council Chamber, 3575 Pacific Ave. RSVP to Fan Ventura at 931-5348 or [fventura@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:fventura@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

## DA's office reviewing Angela Street house fire case

Felony arson, forgery charges listed by Pleasanton police against woman burned in house explosion

By JANET PELLETIER

Two charges — felony arson and forgery — are included as part of an investigation Pleasanton police submitted to the Alameda County District Attorney's office for a house explosion last December on East Angela Street, the Pleasanton Weekly has learned.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department said police wrapped up their investigation "a few months ago" and sent the paperwork off to the DA's office for review. The DA will then make the decision on whether to charge Deonna Zuffa, 41,

with causing the explosion, which resulted in a fire damaging her home and two neighboring properties.

Knox declined to comment on what specific evidence or information led police to make the determination that the incident was her fault, referring questions to the DA's office. The case has been sent to the real estate fraud unit of the county DA's Consumer and Environmental Protection Division. Messages left for Deputy District Attorney William Denny, who heads up that department, were unreturned.

The home, located at 839 E. An-

gela St., east of downtown, exploded Dec. 8 and quickly caught fire, with flames seen reaching as high as power poles above. Zuffa, who had lived in the home with her husband Keith and their two boys, was the only person home at the time. She was seen by neighbors fleeing from the house, her clothing lit on fire. Zuffa received second and third-degree burns to her body and was receiving care for several months at a San Francisco burn center.

The home, located across the street from St. Augustine Catholic Church, has largely remained in

its charred state, save for some construction workers ripping out walls and removing debris, and has been rendered uninhabitable and fenced off. Knox said the home has since been turned over to the homeowner's insurance company.

"We released it to the insurance company," Knox said. "It's up to them what to do with it."

Several months after the fire, police determined the incident was arson, but said little else.

The fire at the Zuffa home began

See ZUFFA on Page 8



JANET PELLETIER

### Leaves, leaves everywhere

Golden-hued leaves are aplenty here on Angela Street just off of First Street downtown.

## Senior housing proposal fails of 1st try

City Council to consider task force recommendation again in January

By JEB BING

A recommendation to consolidate two 40-year-old Pleasanton housing projects into a new 150-unit facility for low-income seniors on Kottinger Drive failed to gain the support of at least two members of the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday night, although the plan is expected to come back for further consideration in mid-January.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern and Councilman Matt Sullivan indicated that they would vote against moving the recommendation by the Kottinger Task Force and city staff to a predevelopment stage when the proposal comes before the council again in mid-January. Both Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Councilman Jerry Thorne indicated they would favor the plan to hire consultants and outside contractors to provide more detailed cost and design estimates, which they said would enable the council and the community to take a better look at the proposed consolidation plan.

Once again, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was not at Tuesday's informal workshop discussion meeting, could cast the deciding vote on whether the task force plan will be rejected or move forward.

The task force has been studying the needs of the aging 50-unit Kottinger Place and 40-unit Pleasanton Gardens independent living facilities for the last five years. Both are filled to capacity with long waiting lists of older residents with qualified low incomes asking for apartments when they become available. The average age of those now living in the two facilities is in the 70s, with some much older. Monthly rents range from lows of \$80 at Kottinger Place and \$118 at Pleasanton Gardens to highs of \$700 and \$610, respectively, based on residents' incomes.

After determining that the units at both facilities are below standards set for today's affordable housing, the task force reported that it would be better to tear both facilities down and replace them with two- and three-story buildings where Kottinger Place now stands at 240 Kottinger Drive. The property which Pleasanton Gardens now occupies at 251 Kottinger Drive would be offered to the city of Pleasanton for other uses and development.

The estimated cost of the project was given

See KOTTINGER on Page 9

## Parade entrants prep for Hometown Holidays

Event Saturday night will be followed by ceremonial tree lighting at Museum on Main

Nearly 75 entrants for this Saturday's Hometown Holidays Celebration parade are ready to strut their stuff down Main Street as Pleasanton officially ushers in the holiday season.

The city will play host to the celebration, which kicks off with the parade at 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. The parade festivities always begin with one of Pleasanton's award-winning high school marching bands from either Amador Valley High School or Foothill High School. The band is followed by dozens of holiday inspired entries including Pleasanton's own Balloon Platoon, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and the Pleasanton City Council, hundreds of Cub Scouts and Brownies, local car clubs and dog clubs. An Elvis impersonator will also be on hand.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department

will join the United States Marines to collect Toys for Tots during the celebration. Visitors can bring new, unwrapped toys to drop in Toys for Tots bins set up on Main Street. Main Street will close to vehicular traffic at 4 p.m.

Following the parade, Hosterman will flip the switch to turn on the lights to the holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main Street. And the night's events don't have to stop there for the thousands expected to attend. New this year is the downtown ice rink, sponsored by the San Jose Sharks, which has been operating since Nov. 19 in the Pleasanton Library parking lot. Free horse-drawn carriage rides are being offered to and from the Museum on Main to help alleviate vehicle traffic. They will be up and running right after the parade ends.

—Janet Pelletier

## All's well that ends well

The Pleasanton Weekly ran a photo in last week's edition of a portrait of two mystery women. When Robert Thomas was closing his longtime downtown photo studio a few years ago, he was tossing a few large portraits that had been kept for display purposes. Local resident Gretchen Zaballos reported to us this week that the rightful owners of the portrait, Alison and Jennifer Frost, have been located. There were three portraits of them in total and they were identified by a former neighbor of the girls. Zaballos said Andrea Morris Hook was visiting her parents for Thanksgiving on Concord Drive and saw the picture in the paper. She identified them as Alison and Jennifer Frost, who along with their parents Jack and Pat are now residents of Florida.



Jennifer Frost contacted Zaballos from Florida to say that her Facebook page had a lot of hits and she was thrilled to be remembered by her Pleasanton friends. The portraits will be returned to them shortly.

## County plans H1N1 clinic in Pleasanton

Residents at highest risk eligible for free shot Dec. 12 at county fairgrounds

The Alameda County Public Health Department announced this week that it has scheduled five H1N1 vaccination clinics across the county on Dec. 12, including one that will be held at the county fairgrounds.

The clinic is open to county residents who are at the highest risk of complications from exposure to the swine flu, including:

- \* pregnant women
- \* people who live with or provide care for infants under the age of 6 months (e.g., parents, siblings and childcare providers)

\* children and young adults aged 6 months to 24 years old (note: children 9 and under will need a second vaccine in at least three to four weeks)

\* all others aged 25-64 who have chronic medical conditions that put them at higher risk for flu-related complications

The Pleasanton clinic, to be held in the fairgrounds' Hall of Commerce, will operate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the supply depletes. Enter the fairgrounds at Gate 12 on Valley Avenue, off of Bernal Avenue.

—Janet Pelletier

## Fake ID maker arrested

Pleasanton police said 25-year-old San Ramon man likely produced hundreds of fraudulent driver's licenses

Pleasanton police arrested a 25-year-old San Ramon man Wednesday on suspicion of producing fake driver's licenses that investigators believe were distributed to minors all over the state.

Roberto Palo Aguilar was allegedly in possession of three fake California driver's licenses when he was arrested by members of a Pleasanton police special enforcement unit, police said. Officers obtained a search warrant for his home and allegedly located computers, printers, a laminator, a card cutter and other items used to produce fake IDs, according to police.

Police said that based on the volume of items found in his home, Aguilar likely produced hundreds of fake driver's licenses for youth throughout the state.

Anyone with additional information regarding the case is asked to call Pleasanton police at 931-5170.

—Jeb Bing and Bay City News contributed to this report.

# Santa is Coming to Hopyard Village

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## Thanksgiving DUI arrests up slightly

CHP charged 207 drivers in the Bay Area over the holiday weekend

The number of Bay Area drivers the California Highway Patrol has arrested for being under the influence during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend is slightly up compared to last year, according to reports so far.

As of 6 a.m. Nov. 29, CHP officers had arrested 207 drivers for DUI offenses in the Bay Area during a maximum enforcement period that began 6 p.m. Wednesday.

That number is up from the 202 drivers arrested during the same period last year, according to the CHP.

There was one fatal crash in the Bay Area during the period, a collision that killed a family of four on Highway 37 in Sonoma County Saturday night. Last year, there had been two fatalities in the region by 6 a.m. Sunday.

Statewide, there have been 1,314 DUI arrests as of Sunday morning, down from 1,397 in 2008.

—Bay City News

# OF NOTE

## Amador junior earns Gold Award with recycling fair

Amador Valley High School student Emily Truax completed her Gold Award last month, holding a successful recycling fair held Oct. 25 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Truax is a junior and a member of Senior Girl Scout Troop 32314. she organized Go Green in Pleasanton in cooperation with the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District. Items collected included: 10,000 pounds of waste, 6 pounds of plastic, 20 pounds of aluminum, toiletries for the Clothing for the Homeless Vets of Alameda County, eyeglasses for Foothill Optometric Group to help needy people in Mexico and used ink cartridges recycled with Emp-ties 4 Cash. Environmental booths were also set up during the fair. All funds were donated to the school district for environmental or sci-



ence funding.

Truax said she credits a number of people for helping her on the project: Craig Higgins, assistant director of operations with the City of Pleasanton; and LeeAnn Pomplun, director of purchasing and director of the Environmental Awareness

Committee for PUSD.

It is said that one percent of all Girl Scouts earn the high distinction. Aside from her involvement in Girl Scouts, Truax is a member of the Amador Valley Marching Band, Jazz and Wind Ensemble, as well as Mock Trial and swim team.

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NC

## Teen recovering after robbery

Police said the four or five suspects were after electronics

By JANET PELLETIER

A local teen is recovering from a broken jaw after police reported he was accosted by a group of young men after their electronics.

The teen was with two friends as they were held up at gunpoint Nov. 22 while out walking near their homes off of Vineyard Avenue, police said.

The armed robbery occurred at 7:34 p.m. on Vine Street near Wild Flower Lane when the teens, two of them 18 and the other 17, were approached as they walked along the sidewalk by a group of men in their early 20s. One of the suspects pulled out a handgun and pointed it at the teens, according to Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department, and demanded they give them their

valuables.

"I think they were after electronics," Fenner said.

Another suspect allegedly punched the 17-year-old, giving him a broken jaw.

Fenner said the teens told police the incident only lasted 15 to 20 seconds and the suspects, believed to be four or five black males dressed in all black clothing, got into a dark color older model four-door sedan. They were last seen driving on Mavis Drive towards Vineyard. Police put out an area wide broadcast to officers but the suspects could not be located.

"We don't really have much to go on. If this rings a bell with anyone, please contact us," Fenner said.

The number to call is 931-5100. ■



JEB BING

The home at 839 E. Angela still stands today across the street from St. Augustine Catholic Church. Sgt. Jim Knox said the home has been turned over to State Farm, which will decide what to do with it.

## ZUFFA

Continued from Page 5

at 11 a.m. Dec. 8. Neighbors said they heard a loud explosion that shook the ground, followed by the blaze that has left the single-story home a total loss. The Zuffa family's two dogs were not injured in the fire as they had been taken to a pet groomer, fire officials said.

Police have acknowledged that the Zuffa family owned muscle cars and go-karts and had gasoline containers stored in the garage, but declined to say whether the gasoline may have contributed to the explosion or fire.

Police have also declined to say where the fire started, a fast-burning blaze that also damaged two neighboring homes and displaced a second family. The investigation was prolonged because police had not been able to speak with Zuffa as she was recovering. Police, her family and hospital spokespeople have declined to give an update on her condition. Attempts to reach Deonna Zuffa have been unsuccessful.

Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in June 2008, according to public records. Records also show the home, at one time valued at nearly \$1 million, was sold for \$75,000 in a foreclosure sale on in September 2008 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg in the name of the Greenberg Trust.

When told of the police department's decision to recommend charges, next-door neighbor Patsy DePiero said she'll be happy when the case is finally completed and things can return to normal on their quiet street.

The DePieros sustained damage to their rafters and a back bedroom and master bathroom. They had to move out of the home for more than two months and file a claim through their own insurance, paying a \$2,500 deductible that has still not been refunded, she said.

Despite the inconvenience the fire has left, DePiero said she's not happy hearing that Zuffa will face arson charges.

"It's surprising," she said. "I feel very sad for her." ■



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## Elderly woman's purse snatched

Young man allegedly grabbed it out of a shopping cart

By JANET PELLETIER

A woman pushing a shopping cart over the holiday weekend near Wal-Mart had her purse snatched, according to police.

The 77-year-old woman was approached Sunday from behind by a young man who ran up to her grabbed the purse from the cart and took off in a car, according to Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department.

"She was using the cart to assist her in getting to the bus stop," Sgt. Jim Knox said. She was not injured.

The incident occurred at 4:14 p.m. in the parking lot near Red Robin restaurant on Owens Drive near Rosewood Drive.

Witness reports detail the getaway car as a black, four-door sedan, possibly a Pontiac Grand-Am, and containing three white males and a white female. The suspect is described as white and between 18 and 25 years old.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call police at 931-5100. ■

## KOTTINGER

Continued from Page 5

as \$44 million, with the bulk of the funding to come from federal and regional housing agencies and about \$4 million from the city of Pleasanton.

Kottinger Place, built in 1970, is owned and operated by the city of Pleasanton's Housing Authority. Pleasanton Gardens was built in 1969 as a community effort by local churches and is privately-owned and operated as a non-profit by its own board of directors.

"I think it's important right now to move this plan forward so that we can come up with a plan that is consistent with what we need to accomplish," Thorne said. "We need to get started."

But Sullivan and McGovern questioned the wisdom of tearing down the garden-type single independent living units now at the two facilities to require those residents to move into what McGovern called "institutional style" living quarters, with their apartment doors opening into long corridors instead of to outdoor porches and flower beds as they now do.

"I think 150 units on the Kottinger site is too dense," Sullivan said. "It doesn't fit and I don't think it will work there."

"What I would really like to do is to put the 150 units on both sites and, if we designed it right, perhaps a large number of the new units could still have garden-like settings," he added.

McGovern said she favors adding more apartments for low income seniors but suggested they be built at other locations, keeping the ones at Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place.

"To me, you are recommending that we tear down 90 good units already in place and paid for by taxpayers so that you can re-build them again with taxpayer dollars," she said. "I have a problem supporting that in this day and age when dollars are so hard to come by."

"Also, I think that \$44 million for 150 units of senior housing is an enormous amount of money," she added.

Assistant City Manager Steven Bocian, who has been the city's representative on the task force study, said many of the apartments at both Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens are too small, some don't meet standards now in place for disabled tenants and that the cost of rebuilding those units would be far greater than a new building complex. ■



JEB BING

Top: Kottinger Place at 240 Kottinger Drive was built in 1970 and has 50 apartment units for low-income seniors. Above: This view of Pleasanton Gardens at 251 Kottinger, built in 1969, shows some of its 40 units for low-income seniors.

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# Opinion

## LETTERS

### Governor can make state a leader in reducing emissions

Dear Editor,

Governor Schwarzenegger, you can make California No. 1 in lowering CO2 or greenhouse gas emissions by insisting that the legislators reverse the ban on building new nuclear power plants in California.

Powerful information and evidence exists to refute the legislators' argument that there is no solution to nuclear waste. In addition to the website mentioned on the reverse, there is the Heritage Foundation list of Web Memos and the ANS or American Nuclear Society publications from which this page was copied.

Nuclear powered electricity is available 24/7, day and night, throughout severe weather and acts of nature which neither wind-power or sun-power can claim. Nuclear powered electricity can produce more jobs and for a sustained time than the other means of generating electricity including fossil-fueled plants and manure.

This would be a great addition to your legacy as governor if you act to reverse the ban on nuclear

power plants. I'm sure all the people going back to work and saving their homes for their families will be most grateful to you.

Thank you for being an action governor.

**Richard D. Hickman**

### Rotary club worth mentioning in cemetery article

Dear Editor,

I wish the Pleasanton Weekly article on the Pioneer Cemetery ("Sign up list growing for gravesites at Pioneer Cemetery," Around Pleasanton, Nov. 13 page 3) had mentioned the hard work of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton.

Over the last year the club has spent countless hours refurbishing grave sites on two different occasions with the help of local businesses who have contributed dirt, gravel and rocks. Somewhere between 35 and 40 sites have been weeded, leveled with added dirt and filled with gravel or rock to beautify one of our city's treasures. As well, headstones and barriers have been raised and straightened. We do it out of caring, but it would be nice to have had some kind of mention of the volunteer effort of one of the service clubs.

**David Walden**

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Happy Valley: Joining Pleasanton lot by lot

When Deanna and Marc Fey move into their new house in unincorporated Happy Valley early next year they will be among a slowly growing number of homeowners there who have agreed to have their properties annexed into Pleasanton if the issue ever comes up again. Happy Valley residents rejected an annexation proposal by a narrow margin of 88 to 83 in April 2002, missing a one-time opportunity provided by a developer to have Pleasanton city water and sewer pipes installed to their lot lines at a special discounted price. Since then, 12 property owners have paid the full cost of those connections — \$25,000 for a sewer hookup and \$16,000 for water — installations that are only allowed if they also agree to annexation if there's another vote. The Feys will be the 13th household to sign the agreement. With existing septic systems in Happy Valley aging and the quality of water being extracted from local wells frequently being tested, it's expected more property owners will want city water and sewer services. City pipes already run under Alisal Street on their way to the Callippe Preserve Golf Course, which Pleasanton installed with stubs along the way for future connections to Happy Valley homes. To tap in, homes must be contiguous to the lines. Alameda County is also denying permits to repair or install new septic systems if the property is within 200 feet of an existing sewer line.

There have been strained relations between some residents of Happy Valley since 2002 when the community's Alisal Homeowners Association led the campaign to turn down annexation. Then it sued to block the construction of an 18-hole golf course and adjacent residential community on 526 acres the city annexed southeast of the community, insisting that a bypass road be built first to handle golf course traffic. Today, 17 years later, there's still no bypass road, no money to build one and few in leadership positions in Pleasanton willing to ask taxpayers to follow through if indeed there ever was a firm commitment to build the bypass. Exacerbating the demand by those in Happy Valley still insisting that the road be built are the well-heeled new homeowners along Sycamore Creek Way, which was supposed to serve as the bypass for Alisal Street traffic. Their million-dollar-plus homes are within the city limits of Pleasanton, giving them more clout as they tell the City Council and others that they're not about to allow their residential street to become a thoroughfare to Callippe.

Of course, if Happy Valley had been annexed into Pleasanton, those who live there might have had a stronger voice at local government meetings where the bypass road was considered. It's not too late. Happy Valley already enjoys Pleasanton police and fire protection in emergencies; the city rebuilt Alisal Street, a county road, and installed water and sewer lines alongside with stubs for every Happy Valley residential street. Children who live there go to Pleasanton schools. And now, with the Feys' preannexation agreement, 13 homeowners who have city water and sewer services say PLW10 they would support seeing Happy Valley annexed unto Pleasanton if the opportunity comes again. We'd like to see that happen. ■

### Code of ethics

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

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### 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.

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**Fashionable Weekly:** The Yeffa and Will families, seen here with the Weekly, are proving there's no place like home for the holidays while wearing their "ugly" Christmas sweaters. We concur — and what a fashion statement!



**Alaskan Weekly:** Connie Cox brought the Weekly along with her to Anchorage, Alaska, where she poses with a moose statue in the background.

# TAKE US ALONG



**Fishing for the Weekly:** Mike and Carol Manning brought the Weekly along to Minnewaukan, North Dakota.



**Count those Weeklies:** Steve, Liz and Alex Fast brought the Weekly to their Lynch family reunion in Traverse City, Michigan. They rented houses on Silver Lake and enjoyed canoeing, sailing, jet skiing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, golfing and barbecuing. Family came from all over the states and Canada.



**Happy Birthday Weekly:** Lauren Cambra, pictured with Susan and Brent Cambra, took time from her semester at sea study abroad program to read the Weekly and celebrate her 21st birthday in Naples, Italy.



# MAN OF THE YEAR

Chris Miller, a crusader in supporting military families, may have stepped down but he's still stepping up

BY ELYSSA THOME

**C**hris Miller was born on the fourth on July. As a retired lieutenant colonel and Vietnam veteran, father of two active soldiers, and founder and former president of Pleasanton Military Families Support Group, it seems like destiny that he shares his birthday with the U.S.A.

But Miller's activities are not limited to love for his country and support of the military. The local Realtor is active in the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, a fixture at high school sports games and the Pleasanton Farmers' Market, active in several veterans groups, and has assumed a new role in PMF since stepping down as president this year. Miller's face is a familiar one in the Pleasanton Weekly newspaper and office, but this is the first time it has graced our cover. After years of dedicated service to Pleasanton, we have chosen Chris Miller as our 2009 Man of the Year.

Miller has a very simple philosophy when it comes to all of his service to the community. He does not expect praise, but just wants to help out.

"That's what life is all about: helping people," Miller said. "I think it's much better than not."

## A Pleasanton Military Family

Miller met his wife, Marty, in San Francisco. The two lived in the city before moving to Virginia, again to San Francisco, to Walnut Creek, and finally to Pleasanton in 1971. They have been an important part of the community ever since, and watched Pleasanton grow from a one-stoplight town to the place it is today.

"There was only one traffic light in Pleasanton at the time, and all of our friends thought we were moving to the sticks," Marty Miller said. "You never know when you move into a community what it will grow into. We have been very blessed."

In 1990 the U.S. military was shipped out for the first Gulf War. Chris Miller and Alice Johnston created a support group for the families of soldiers in Pleasanton. When the war ended in 1991, the group disbanded. In 2003, with the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Miller again created a meeting place and support system for families in Pleasanton. Six years later, the group has developed into the Pleasanton Military Families Support Group.

In the beginning of the second Gulf War, the group met every Tuesday at different homes to share and find support with people who knew what the others were going through. Pat Frizzell, now chairwoman of PMF, joined the group in 2003 when her son David was deployed to Iraq.

"I remember that first night, a feeling of warmth and security being around people that know how I feel," Frizzell said of her first PMF meeting. "My first impression overall [of Miller] was just that he is a leader, but not with arrogance. He is easy to be around and easy to talk to."

The group now consists of about 180 families, 40 "active" depending on deployment of family members. It meets once a month and is also responsible for welcome home events — where soldiers return to their hometown amidst a motorcycle convoy, flag waving, and friends, family and neighbors — and pack outs, which send goods and cheer to local military currently deployed. PMF keeps an updated list of the addresses of the service men and women and sends the Pleasanton Weekly for hometown comfort.

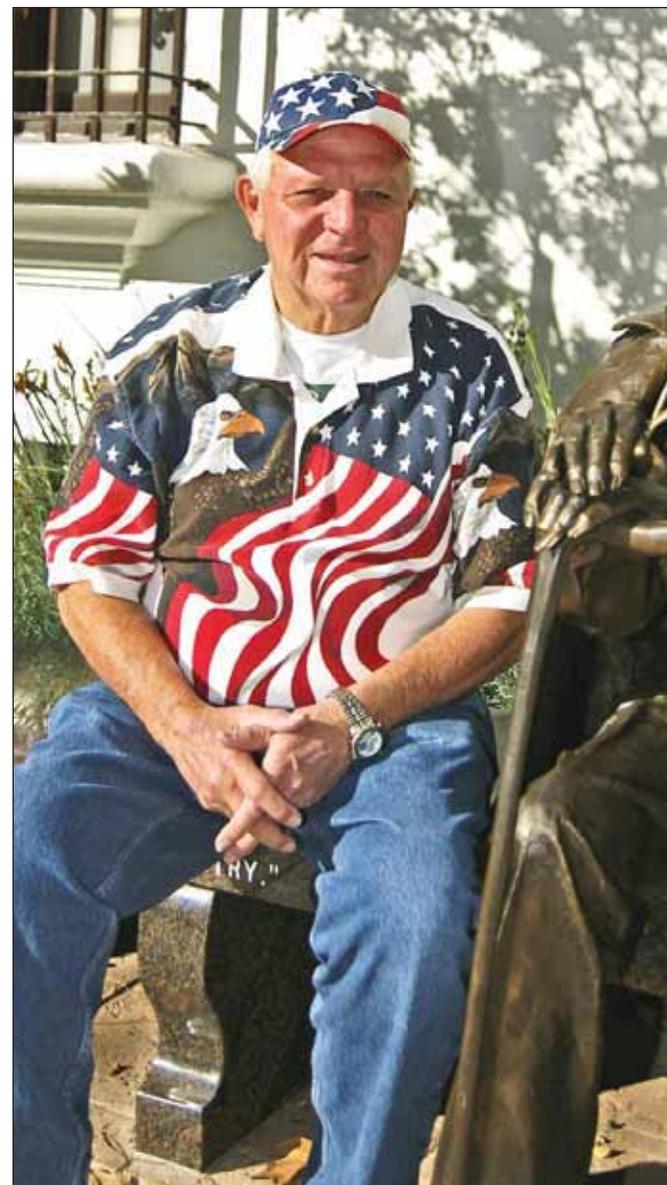
Tracey Buescher got involved in 2003 when her husband, Col. Chris Buecher was deployed to Iraq. Tracey Buescher met Miller when they shared an office at ReMax, and became a co-chair early on. She said the group was an important source of emotional support for her and her two daughters while her husband was gone, and they stay involved after he returned to give back to those that had been there when they needed it.

For Col. Buecher, knowing his family had somewhere to go provided comfort to him, too. "I got deployed right before the war started in Iraq," he said. "[PMF] was a way for them to meet with people who knew what they were going through in an area that doesn't have a lot of military. Just knowing that my family had an outlet to go to if they needed anything was really important."

In August, Miller stepped down as president, but he has assumed a role as "ambassador." Now he gets to spend more time doing the things that he really enjoys: one-on-one interaction with veterans and their families, making sure they are doing okay and providing important information on the V.A., G.I. bill and other available resources.

"This is the year he stepped down, but he left an organization that has meant a lot to a lot of military families," said Doug Miller, a friend of his (no relation). "He's left an organization that is going to go on and be very important to the community."

Miller and Miller met through church and became friends when they discovered they shared not just a last name, but also had both been helicopter pilots in Vietnam and have sons in the Air Force. As postmaster for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Doug Miller has appreciated Miller's support with his organization and visa versa.



**Above:** Miller, who recently stepped down as leader of the Pleasanton Military Families Support Group, moved to Pleasanton in 1971, watching the city grow from just a one-stoplight town to a city with a major airport in 1984. **Bottom right:** Miller is seen congratulating a veteran.



"Chris always has a lot of good ideas, and he has a lot of connections in the community," Doug Miller said. "When he comes up with an idea he usually has the resources, too. It makes implementing things easier. He also picks good people to help him with the organization. People that were groomed to be able to step up when he stepped down."

## Stepping Down

Miller's decision to step down this year had a lot to do with challenges his own family faced. Early in the spring, doctors found a spot on his wife's kidney. After researching treatment

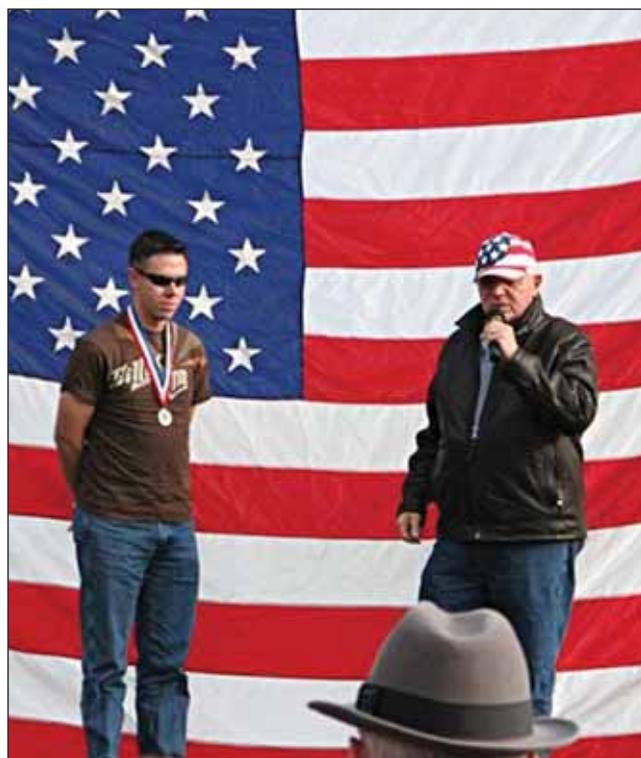


JAY FLACHSBARTH

Miller and his wife Marty Miller, president of the Pleasanton Military Families organization, is seated on a bench in front of the restored Veterans Memorial Building downtown. Miller and his wife Marty Miller are a Pleasanton stoplight town. **Bottom:** Miller stands by the helicopter he piloted for his last flight out of Hamilton Field in Marin County as a master Army sergeant for his service on behalf of PMF at a homecoming in his honor.



MILLER FAMILY PHOTO



JEB BING

options, the Millers chose to travel to Duarte, Calif. and have the kidney removed robotically at City of Hope Hospital.

"The discovery of cancer is a big deal for anyone who has this diagnosis," Marty Miller said. "That being said, it seems to be all around us and more so as we age. I feel very blessed to have had the cancer discovered before it had spread to other organs ... Of course I had my own personal caregiver, nurturer, encourager, travel arranger, supporter — Chris Miller who was there for me every step of the way."

After taking the time to be with his wife, Miller decided he wanted to have a lot more of it.

"You start reevaluating your life," Miller said. "It was time to step aside. I was overburdened. I was committed and I didn't want to miss anything. I just wanted to enjoy life a little more."

For Miller, enjoying life means spending more time as a husband, father and grandfather. Miller is the proud father of three sons. Christian, the oldest, lives in Sacramento with his wife, Adrienne, and two children, Lillyan and C.J. Christian is the lone civilian son. Jason and Mike, on the other hand, are both Tech Sergeant C-17 Loadmasters for the U.S. Air Force Reserve. The boys have 16 and 12 years respectively of service under

their belts and are both stationed nearby at Travis Air Force Base. Jason and his wife Alison are expecting their first child, and Miller is glad to have more time to be a grandpa.

### Welcome Home

When Miller returned to the United States after flying helicopters in Vietnam, he didn't exactly get a hero's welcome. Besides his own sub-par treatment, he also saw returning soldiers that had fought for their country face disrespect and contempt from fellow Americans during his time as a commercial airline pilot. He vowed to welcome soldiers the way they deserved if the United States went to war again.

"I always remember living in San Francisco and seeing returning Vietnam veterans shunned and mistreated," Miller said. "I never wanted to see a combat veteran not respected or treated well. If I ever had a chance to be involved with a proper welcome home, I would do so."

In 1990, Miller got the first opportunity to prove good on his word when the troops shipped out for the first Gulf War. The support group Miller set up, with the help of Johnston, welcomed each soldier as they returned. When the war ended in 1991 and the troops returned home, a parade was held on Hacienda in the business park, and Miller even arranged for a flyover by a C-5 and C-141.

When the support group came together again in 2003, the welcome homes restarted, too. They started primitively, with neighbors and friends gathering in courts to welcome the service men and women home. Over the years, however, Miller said the group developed a system to make things run more smoothly. Spike Shau of the Warriors' Watch Riders motorcycle brigade got involved, Bryan Welden and the Lafayette Flag Brigade got involved, and the production has become much more smooth and grand.

"It's been a great thing to be part of for me," Miller said. "I've done what I thought I could do at some point in my life when I thought about it way back then."

This summer, Miller got the welcome home he never had as a soldier. This time though, people gathered to say goodbye. While the surprise retirement party the families of PMF threw was not quite a surprise (Miller received invitation twice), the motorcycle escort provided by the Warriors' Watch Riders was. The treatment Miller received was the type he has arranged for returning soldiers for six years, and the type he never saw himself when he returned from combat.

Now that Miller has set the team in place, he'll get to just be a face in the crowd. He still steps in to help when necessary, and he still wants to show his support when he can, but stepping down from president will take off some of the pressure.

Miller says he's looking forward to being a face in the crowd, but it really isn't a new position for him. As a dedicated member of the Pleasanton community, Miller has faithfully supported local high school sports including football, volleyball, and basketball, even when his kids no longer attended any Pleasanton schools. He showed his combined passions as he talked about the group he built.

"All this is not about me, it's about the group," Miller said. "Yeah, I'm the guy that created the team, but it's like [Amador varsity football coach] Rick Sira says, 'Big team. Little me.' I'll be able to go away and see it continue, so that's nice."

### Yellow Banners

In addition to the Pleasanton Military Families, Miller has shown support for the troops through the Yellow Banner Project on Main Street. Miller hopes the banners raise awareness and support for those serving in the community. Even after stepping down as president, Miller followed through with updating the banners this year.

In addition to updating ranks and replacing weathered banners, Miller came up with a new system of hanging so they would twist less in wind and rain. Miller also clustered banners in family groups, with brothers, husbands, wives, and others grouped around the same pole. He placed banners where he knew family members would often see them, and personally delivered banners to the families of soldiers no longer in combat.

The personal touch Miller brought to the project is the hallmark of his service.

"It was never too much for him to make that phone call or just go over," Frizzell said. "Those are the things that just come natural. He never looks for the praise. He just does it because it is the right thing to do. When you have a passion for things, which he certainly does, that's what you do."

That personal touch has reached a lot of people in and around Pleasanton. Many sent messages of support to Miller when he announced his retirement through email and on the Pleasanton Weekly website. Miller said he is grateful to those who will continue the group — and they are grateful right back at him.

"I just think he is an incredibly fantastic person and this community is very, very, very blessed to have him," Tracey Buescher said. "He loves Pleasanton and the community. He supports and cares about everything in this community, not just the military and their families." ■

## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Draft Supplement to the Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment/Staples Ranch EIR.

The Proposed Project evaluated in the Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment/ Staples Ranch EIR assumed modification of the land uses of the Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan for the 124-acre Staples Ranch project site from 100 acres of retail and service commercial uses and a 17-acre community park to a 46-acre senior continuing care community, a 37-acre auto mall, an 11-acre retail/commercial center, a 5-acre neighborhood park and a 17-acre community park (Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment). The EIR also assessed the effects of a four-rink ice-skating center in the community park, together with the other Proposed Project land uses, as a project alternative (Ice Center Alternative).

This Draft Supplement to the Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment/Staples Ranch EIR (SEIR) reevaluates the Proposed Project to determine whether: 1) Updated surveys for the California tiger salamander, the California red legged frog, the western pond turtle, and the San Joaquin spearscale result in different impacts than described in the EIR; 2) Updated analysis of potential impacts to the environment resulting from the production of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are different from those described in the EIR; and 3) The Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative biological resources impacts, cumulative noise impacts and cumulative impacts in conjunction with nearby quarry operations are different from those described in the EIR.

**The Stoneridge Drive Specific Plan Amendment for Staples Ranch, adopted by the Pleasanton City Council on February 24, 2009, included a full four-lane extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road concurrent with development of the Staples Ranch site. The City Council also adopted the Ice Center Alternative, including the four-rink ice-skating center as part of the Staples Ranch land uses. This SEIR reevaluates this approved project as the "Four-Lane Concurrent Extension Alternative." The second alternative evaluated in this SEIR is the same as the "Four-Lane Concurrent Extension Alternative," with the single exception that it would limit the number of traffic lanes over the Arroyo Mocho to two lanes instead of four lanes, but would restripe the bridges to four lanes total at some point in the future. The SEIR identifies this alternative as the "Two-Lane Constrained Extension Alternative."**

Significant environmental effects anticipated as a result of the project which cannot be mitigated to a less than significant impact include: (1) Aesthetic and Visual Quality Impacts; (2) Air Quality Impacts (Including Greenhouse Gas Emissions); (3) Transportation Impacts; and (4) Noise Impacts.

**Please visit our website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) to view the agendas for the following meetings:**

### Civic Arts Commission

Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

### Library Commission

Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

### Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

**The December 9th Parks and Recreation Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting for this commission is scheduled for January 14, 2010**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME**

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

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Police arrest woman suspiciously parked near Hart Middle School

Pleasanton police arrested a woman passenger but released the male driver after searching their pickup truck that was parked near Hart Middle School at 7:30 a.m. Monday morning as students walked by on their way to school.

Police were called after Hart Principal Steve Maher, alerted by students, became suspicious of the couple, who had parked alongside a sidewalk used by students going to school. The driver, who police found

was on probation for an earlier conviction, told police he was waiting for the nearby Alameda County Superior Courthouse to open so that he could respond to a summons. Police cited the woman passenger for having a small amount of methamphetamine in her possession.

Maher, who went to investigate after students alerted him to the parked truck, said he became uncomfortable with the couple's comments about why they were there and asked the police department to check them out.

During the incident and as a precaution, Maher and other school staff directed arriving students into the school gymnasium and library. Students were allowed to go to their classes after police arrived and the pickup truck was moved.

—Jeb Bing

## POLICE REPORT

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

### Nov. 21

#### Theft

- 11:59 a.m. in the 4400 block of Clovewood Lane; identity theft
- 3:20 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 8:23 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Burglary

- 9:48 a.m. in the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive
- 3:49 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

- 7:06 a.m. in the 7500 block of Homewood Court

#### Battery

- 5:42 p.m. in the 600 block of St. John Street
- 10:30 p.m. in the 4200 block of Pleasanton Avenue

### Nov. 22

#### Theft

- 3:44 a.m. in the 5700 block of San Luis Court; stolen vehicle
- 5:37 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 6:26 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Public drunkenness

- 1:04 a.m. in the 4000 block of Bernal

Avenue; public drunkenness

#### DUI

- 1:16 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
- 1:58 p.m. at the intersection of Via de los Milagros and Via del Cielo
- 10:26 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive

### Nov. 23

#### Theft

- 9:28 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; embezzlement
- 12:54 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 2:07 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; forgery

#### Burglary

- 10:54 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
- 12:48 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

#### Vandalism

- 9:01 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

### Nov. 24

#### Theft

- 10:55 a.m. in the 4700 block of Holland Drive; identity theft
- 12:03 a.m. in the 3000 block of Bolero Court; identity theft
- 3:51 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:28 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:54 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:06 a.m. in the 400 block of Montori Court; driving with marijuana
- 6:53 p.m. in the 6800 block of Corte Salcedo; DUI
- 11:21 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI

#### Robbery

- 7:33 p.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Mavis Drive

### Nov. 25

#### Theft

- 12:50 p.m. in the 2400 block of Pomino Way; identity theft
- 12:44 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- 1:14 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- 6:41 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hummingbird Road; grand theft

#### Burglary

- 6:17 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 8:42 a.m. in the 6100 block of Kavala Court
- 10:03 a.m. in the 3500 block of Ballantyne Drive; vehicular
- 11:11 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicular
- 1:14 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:37 a.m. at the intersection of Stanely Boulevard and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 8:02 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; marijuana possession, public drunkenness
- 8:25 p.m. in the 400 block of St. John Street; public drunkenness

### Nov. 26

#### Vandalism

- 10:19 a.m. in the 100 block of Main Street
- 11:51 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue

#### Public drunkenness

- 12:29 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street
- 1:29 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita
- 3:43 p.m. in the 4400 block of First Street

### Nov. 27

#### Theft

- 8:19 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 11:05 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 12:23 p.m. in the 3600 block of Kamp Drive; identity theft; grand theft
- 1:27 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 1:31 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

- 12:17 a.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive

#### Public drunkenness

- 7:37 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Battery

- 12:17 a.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive
- 11:30 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street

#### Disturbing the peace

- 8:36 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

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# Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

## OBITUARIES

### Lt. Col. Thomas J. Laut

Lt. Col. Thomas J. Laut, USAF Ret., died peacefully Nov. 11 in his San Ramon home, surrounded by family and friends after a short battle with cancer.

Mr. Laut was born Dec. 2, 1944 to Ken and Dorothy Laut in Massachusetts. He grew up in Ohio, where he graduated from West Lafayette High School in 1962.

During his youth, he became an Eagle Scout, was a camp counselor and spent his summers at his beloved family cabin in the Berkshires. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1968 and entered the U.S. Air Force where he began a dedicated 32-year military career as both a fixed wing and later a combat helicopter pilot. He became a member of the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing at Moffett Field where he served as an instructor pilot and was involved in humanitarian rescue and life saving efforts over both land and sea until his retirement in 2000. His professional and heroic service throughout his career brought him military awards recognition including the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. Laut had a love of road trips, the outdoors, current events, animals and spending time with family and friends. He was an avid reader and lifelong learner and enjoyed discussing most any topic with others. His keen insight and warm sense of humor, strength of character and high integrity enriched the lives of those fortunate enough to know him.

He is survived by his children, Jennifer Rice and Aaron Laut; brother, Larry Laut; former wife, Nina Irvin; and a multitude of other friends, family and associates. He was preceded in death by parents, Ken and Dorothy Laut.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday on the NASA parade grounds at Moffett Field, followed by a reception beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the nearby Tied House restaurant in Mountain View. In lieu



of flowers, donations may be made to the Sacramento SPCA or other favorite charity of choice.

### Josephine J. Diana

Josephine J. Diana died Nov. 26 at the age of 80.

Mrs. Diana was born Jan. 25, 1928. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She was a graduate of St. Vincent Nursing School, New York, in 1949.

She worked at Donlon Elementary School for 27 years on the playground. She was a 47-year Pleasanton resident.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Robert; children, Robert Jr., Joanne and Stephen; grandchildren, Michelle, Gary, Michael and Nicole; and great-grandchild, Lily Jo.

A service was scheduled to be held Dec. 2, at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

### Jeffrey Joseph Alves

Jeffrey Joseph Alves died Nov. 13 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 50.

Mr. Alves was born May 13, 1959 and raised in Pleasanton. He graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1977. He lived in Los Angeles for the past 25 years, pursuing his dreams of owning his own business, 24/7 Rentals, and working in the entertainment industry.

He is survived by his loving wife of 11 years, Blanca; their two children, Isabel (7), and Anthony (3) of Van Nuys, Calif.; parents, Ed and Dorene Alves of Pleasanton; and sisters, Janell (Richard) Anderson of Mountain View and Jennifer (Steve) Dowden of Pleasanton.

He will be remembered by his nieces and nephews as "Mr. Fun" because of his spontaneity and the light-hearted games he played with them.

A service was held Nov. 18 in Encino, Calif. Donations in his name may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (www.pancan.org).



## BIRTHS

Oct. 1

Christi and Colin McIntyre, a boy

Nov. 3

Lizette and Paul Gianfortone, a girl

Nov. 11

Christina and Robert Rockett III, a boy

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...

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Town Square Forum

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

**WEAVE** (leather), black & chestnut.

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**RELAXED** (leather), natural & black. Relaxed is available in sizes 12 1/2 & 13.

**SUNTHER** (leather), white, blue, copper & black. Pearl toes. Design color, brown & black.

**STRIPPY** (leather), brown & black.

**SIMPLY** (leather), brown, white & black. White, copper, antique white & black. Pearl toes & pearl blue.

**EASIER** (leather), white, black, navy & black.

**TWIN** (leather), natural, brown & black.

**FREE TIME** (leather), white, blue, black, navy & black. Tan & black & charcoal. WWW widths available in black.

**METRO**, black crinkle patent, brown crinkle patent & wine crinkle patent. Handbag: DELLA (brown crinkle patent). Also in wine crinkle patent & black crinkle patent.

Women's shoes above: METRO, black crinkle patent, brown crinkle patent & wine crinkle patent. Handbag: DELLA (brown crinkle patent). Also in wine crinkle patent & black crinkle patent.

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- Belly Fat
- Irritability
- Sluggish Metabolism
- Depression
- Low Sex Drive
- Mental fog
- Panic Attacks/ Anxiety
- Insomnia
- PMS



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**Community fund reaches \$125,000 mark**

Donors meeting critical needs of thousands in Tri-Valley

**By JEB BING**

Thanks to the early generosity of our Tri-Valley contributors, the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund reached the \$125,000 mark Wednesday, a new high for the first few days of this seventh annual campaign.

Since the launch of this year's drive, 186 donors have contributed \$20,931 with another adding \$4,069 as anonymous contributors. Thanks to our partnering with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, the Holiday Fund is receiving a 4-to-1 match, meaning that for every \$1 contributed another \$4 will be added through this unique opportunity this year to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley.

The Tri-Valley Regional Initiative is a collaborative economic recovery initiative sponsored through the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Because of this, gifts to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund are benefiting from 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.

Through this effort, the Weekly's campaign will continue to provide grants to Pleasanton and Tri-Valley non-profit organizations that provide "wrap around" services for families, such as Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven and the Tri-Valley's Senior Support Services. These and many other organizations will benefit more than ever by the 4 to 1 match that will help them provide necessary services to families in need.

Last year, thanks to your generous gift and matching funds from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, seven non-profit 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 our new partners for 2009, we hope that total contribution will be at least five times as much.

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.

Please be a leader in this unique community fundraising effort by returning your donation as soon as possible by filling out the form on the facing page. ■

**Holiday Fund donors**

Since the launch of the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 186 donors have contributed \$20,931 to the fund. Thirty anonymous contributors have given \$4,069.

**Individuals**

Sycamore Heights Bunco Babes.....**	Rod, Christina, Alyssa & Danielle Browning 100
Ron & Kathy Anderson..... 200	Gerry & Barbara Brunken ..... 100
Geoff Southworth & Jill Anderson ..... 100	Mrs. Terry Messick-Cass & Mr. Barry Cass 100
Andrew Bailey & Lauren Purcell..... 1000	Miguel & Julie Castillo .....**
Rick & Dawn Barraza ..... 250	Mike & Diana Champlin ..... 500
John & Bonnie Batty..... 250	Gina Channell-Allen .....**
Chris & Glenda Beratlis..... 500	The Christensen Family.....**
Jan & Jeb Bing..... 200	Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Ciccarello..... 1500
John & Mary Bjorkholm ..... 100	John & Gretchen Clatworthy .....**
Bert & Dee Brook ..... 200	Pauline Coe .....**
Ryan Brown & Julie Harryman ..... 100	Chris & Linda Coleman ..... 200

**HOLIDAY FUND**

Stuart & Cheryl Craig .....	250	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Spangler .....	100
Dave Cryer .....	50	Mike & Kerry Jo Stephan .....	100
Isabel Curry .....	**	John & Kay Stewart .....	**
The Darrin Family .....	50	Jack & Carol Sum .....	100
The David Family .....	100	Jim & Debbie Tracy .....	**
Randall & Elizabeth Davidson .....	500	The Ulrich Family .....	**
Ed & Kathy Deenihan .....	**	Glenn & Janet Wenig .....	100
Ms. Alice Desrosiers .....	100	Walter & Martha Wensel .....	100
Mike & Suzanne Dutra .....	50	Mr. Stephen V. Wickersham .....	**
Paul & Lorraine Ebright .....	**	George & Carol Withers .....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Emberton .....	25	The Yamamoto Family .....	**
Ms. Joan Evans .....	25	Steve & Becky Yeffa .....	100
Michael & Katherine Ferreira .....	50	The Jeffery Family .....	**
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fredette .....	**		
Kathleen Glancy .....	50	<b>As A Gift For</b>	
Roy & D'Aun Goble .....	100	Tricia Martin — Love, Sparklie, Herbie,	
Frank & Connie Gouveia .....	25	Zephyr and Kimmy! .....	**
Michael & Deborah Grossman .....	**	V & A Johnstone .....	**
Carol Guarnaccia .....	100		
Hank & Corrine Hansen .....	100	<b>In Honor of</b>	
Tim & Sharyn Henshaw .....	**	Grandmas Adeline & Eva .....	100
Janice Hermann .....	150	Daggett Children & Grandchildren .....	**
Jourdin Hermann .....	150	Auntie Junk & Uncle Stevie from	
Paul & Ann Hill .....	**	The Silcox Family .....	50
Sarah Hollister .....	100	The Staff of Pleasanton Nursing & Rehab	
Garrett & Angela Holmes .....	100	Center from Leslie Rutledge .....	**
Charles & Kay Huff .....	**	Karissa, Chelsea, Sarah, Dashell &	
Bill & Cathy James .....	100	Desmond .....	**
Steve & Bobby Jensen .....	500		
Rudy & Marge Johnson .....	100	<b>Businesses</b>	
Ms. Jean P. Jones .....	100	Accusplit / Pedometer Wellness Team .....	200
Robert V. Juniper .....	50	Charla's Pampered Pets .....	50
Don & Jean Kallenberg .....	**	DeBernardi Development Construction &	
Jim & Elaine Keysor .....	250	Remodeling .....	**
Betty Kirvan .....	100	Karen E. Morliengo, LMFT .....	75
George & Mary Kozloski .....	**	Mission Pipe & Cigar Shop .....	150
Blaise & Amy Lofland .....	250	Ponderosa Homes .....	**
Cameron & Jill Lorentz .....	**		
Walt Lupeika .....	100	<b>In Memory of</b>	
Earl & Dorothy Maddox .....	100	Our Mom Lora from Dmitriy & Lada	
Srikant, Christina, Ashley & Thomas		Kosarikov .....	**
Mantha .....	30	Gene Rega .....	25
Ron & Staci Marchand .....	**	Gam & Papa Abbott from The Casey	
The Markel Ohana .....	250	Family .....	**
Doug & Raela Marshall .....	100	Laura Maya .....	**
Ken & Barbara McDonald .....	**	Nicholas Daniel Lesser .....	**
Robert Horton & Cathy Medich .....	100	Verna Mae Silva from Steve & Kathy	
Evan & Debra Miller .....	**	McNichols .....	1000
Phil & Doris Mitchell .....	100	Tony Paradiso & Gene Paradiso from	
Mr. & Mrs. John Moffat .....	**	Dorene Paradiso-Carroll .....	**
Ruth Morlock .....	100	Dan Gabor from Ann Gabor .....	125
Tom & Patrice Morrow .....	200	Linda Scherschel .....	50
Jeff & Kathy Narum .....	100	Doris T. Walberg from Todd & Brenda	
Fred & Cathe Norman .....	100	Walberg .....	100
Greg & Janet O'Connor .....	**	Rob Meierding .....	100
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Neill .....	**	Aldo Macor .....	**
Clint & Tina Onderbeke .....	**	Gene Strom, Keith Strom & William Kolb	
Mr. & Mrs. Daryn Oxe .....	100	from Carol (Kolb) Strom .....	**
The Pearce Family .....	100	Mary Erickson from Al Copher .....	50
Mrs. Anne Pearson .....	50	Matt Rybicki & Michael Conner from Jerry	
Joe & JoAnn Pennisi .....	**	& Josine Pentin .....	100
Bob & Orley Philcox .....	500	Althea McGill from The Grimes Family .....	**
Tom & Patty Powers .....	**	Tom & Karen Elsnaab from Nancy T.	
Bob & Judy Robichaud .....	100	Elsnaab .....	**
Ron & Carol Russo .....	25	Clifford Cowan from Mrs. Nancy Cowan .....	**
Bill & Pat Ruvalcaba .....	300	Lindsey Jones .....	**
Mr. & Mrs. Samel .....	**	Nick Del Boccio .....	**
John & Sheila Sanches .....	**	Rick Aguiar from Nancy Aguiar Fargis .....	**
Owen & Rebecca Saupe .....	**	In Loving Memory of Brian Melin from	
Rose M. Schoop .....	25	Patricia Melin .....	100
Peter Schulze .....	**	John A. Mavridis from Mr. & Mrs. Ted	
Chris & Cecile Seams .....	**	Mavridis .....	**
Howard & Emilie Seebach .....	50	Teddy & Arthur Adams .....	100
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Severin .....	100	Our Grandparents from The Grimes	
John & Barbara Severini .....	500	Family .....	**
Sonal & Ajay Shah .....	**	Liz Ray from Alex & Emily Corbishley .....	**
Steve & Bonnie Shamblin .....	100	Marilyn Bowe from James Bowe .....	50
Ron & Lonnie Shaw .....	100	John Silva .....	100
T.H. & S. J. Shen .....	100	Ed Kinney, George Spiliotopolous, Hank	
Richard & Corrie Simon .....	**	Gomez, Ralph Romero & Roger Dabney	
		from Ken Mercer .....	400

\*\*The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



# 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, \$5 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.

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to designate my contribution as follows:

In my name as shown above

**OR**

In honor of:  In memory of:  As a gift for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person)

Business or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to contribute anonymously.  Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to **Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund**

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Holiday Fund, Pleasanton Weekly**  
**5506 Sunol Blvd, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566**



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 give will equal a \$5 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.

## ON THE TOWN



### AMERICAN

#### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

### BARBECUE

#### Red Smoke Grill

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

### BREW/PUB/ALEHOUSE

#### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

### CATERING

#### Pampered Palate Catering/ Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 925.484.1001. Pleasanton's premier restaurant and catering company for the last 15 years. Family owned. Signature pastas, seafood and steaks. Full bar. Private banquet room. Reservations accepted. [www.girasolegrill.com](http://www.girasolegrill.com)

### ITALIAN

#### Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 925.484.1001. Pleasanton's premier restaurant and catering company for the last 15 years. Family owned. Signature pastas, seafood and steaks. Full bar. Private banquet room. [www.girasolegrill.com](http://www.girasolegrill.com)

#### Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has been an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Reserve our banquet facilities for large parties, up to 70 guests.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

**Garre' Winery**  
7986 Tesla Rd.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925.371.8200  
GARREWinery.COM

**DON'T MISS 'HOLIDAY IN THE VINEYARDS'**  
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!

Garre' Gift Certificates!  
Come to our vineyard and enjoy bocce ball, seasonal live music nights and treat that special someone to our award winning wines and cuisine at CAFE GARRE

Book Your Holiday Event at GARRE

**Regional American Cuisine, Handcrafted Artisan Cocktails and Old World Hospitality**

**AMERICAN HANGOUT**  
*Eddie Papas*  
**HANGOUT**

**Come hangout this weekend for brunch**  
Regional breakfast classics from across the country served 10am-2pm Saturday and Sunday

New York Eggs Benedict  
West Coast Crab Benedict  
Hawaiian Loco Moco  
Texas Chicken Fried Steak and Eggs  
San Francisco Joe's Special

Denver and New Orleans Omelets  
Alaskan Sourdough Pancakes  
Maine Blueberry Pancakes  
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Southern Fried Chicken and Waffles plus much more!

**READERS CHOICE 2009** Winner "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal Under \$20"  
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2417 First St., Livermore • 373-6650

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- Open Patio
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(facing Division Street)  
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925-271-7708  
[www.yolatea.com](http://www.yolatea.com)

**Holiday Grand Prize Drawing! i-Pod Raffle for December**

1 raffle ticket for every \$4.00 spent. Drawing on Tuesday, Dec. 22nd

**Tri-Valley Seafood Chinese Restaurant**

**Best Chinese Cuisine & Dim Sum**

Dim Sum

Chinese Cuisine

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Fax: (925) 734-0242  
[www.trivalleyseafood.com](http://www.trivalleyseafood.com)

**We Deliver!!**  
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- Banquets • Full Bar

"Most Romantic Restaurant"

**READERS CHOICE 2009** **READERS CHOICE 2008** **BEST OF PLEASANTON 2007**

Open for Lunch during the month of December. Monday-Friday 11:30-2:30pm

**New Happy Hours**  
4:00pm - 6:00pm

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Best Thai Food in the Bay Area Since 1996

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(925) 251-9877  
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6601 Dublin Blvd., Ste. B Dublin  
(925) 828-8218  
Fax (925) 825-8221

**GRAND OPENING**

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Mon-Sun • Lunch 11am-3pm  
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**Dinner Special**  
**15% Off**

2 entree minimum. Not valid with any other offer or on take out. One coupon per table. Expires 1/03/10

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## Auditions

**LIVERMORE'S 2010 TALENT COMPETITION TRYOUTS** Livermore's 2010 Talent Competition is accepting applications through Dec. 11. Top prize is \$2,500. Visit [LivermoresTalentCompetition.com](http://LivermoresTalentCompetition.com) for details.

**SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE** Are you 16 and older and have a yearning to release your inner thespian? Consider auditioning for the Sunol Repertory Theatre at 7 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Sunol Glen School auditorium, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Contact [lorinielsen200@yahoo.com](mailto:lorinielsen200@yahoo.com) or visit [www.sunol.net](http://www.sunol.net).

## Civic Meetings

**CITY COUNCIL** The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**HOUSING COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION** The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month

at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

**SCHOOL BOARD** The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

**YOUTH COMMISSION** The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

## Classes

**BASIC YOGA CLASS** Beth Fox instructs this yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary. Limited class supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

## Clubs

**CAREER NETWORKING EVENT FOR EXECUTIVES** Executives are invited to a Breakfast Career Networking meeting for mid- and senior-management from 7:30-9:30 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members if pre-registered; \$35 at the door. Call 218-1868.

*Something to crow about!*

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At The Historic Pleasanton Hotel



**\$10.95**  
per person



## Family Style Fried Chicken Dinner\*

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy ★ Butter Milk Biscuits ★ Vegetables

**Pleasanton's Hometown Holiday Celebration Parade & Tree Lighting**  
Join us for Dinner this Saturday, December 5th

\*Kids eat Free (10 & Under) \* Must mention this ad.

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**NEW**

**Karaoke Night with Ed!**

Wednesdays  
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**LIVE MUSIC & DANCING**

Every Friday & Saturday Night at The Farmer!

FRI 12/04 8-12pm ★ RODEO HOUSE - COUNTRY  
SAT 12/05 8-12pm ★ MICHAEL PAUL BAND - COUNTRY  
FRI 12/11 8-12pm ★ TOP SECRET BAND  
SAT 12/12 8-12pm ★ BUMPY ROAD



**Best Breakfast Deal in Town!**

**\$1.50**

# WAFFLES + OATMEAL!

## December 4th, 5th & 6th

Try a Waffle or an Organic Steel Cut Oatmeal with a coffee, tea or hot chocolate for \$1.50



**COUPON**

**Buy One, Get One 50% OFF!**

Good for one frozen yogurt purchase of equal or lesser value.

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**TRY OUR NEW FLAVORS OF THE WEEK**  
Banana Peppermint  
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**20% OFF\* Wednesdays!**  
Until 9pm  
\*When you wear our Brewery shirt!  
\* Not combined with other offers.

**GET YOUR NEW YEAR'S TIX NOW!**  
Dec. 31st with **PUBLIC EYE**  
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**PLEASANTON MAIN ST. BREWERY**

**PLEASANTON'S ONLY BREW-PUB!**

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Remember *Blessing* Restaurant?  
We're back in Pleasanton after being gone for 3 years. Come taste our premiere Chinese cuisine. Mission Plaza Shopping Center (next to Uncle Credit Union).

OPEN 7 days a week  
11am - 3pm  
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OUT OF 4

BY THE TRI-VALLEY HERALD

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Premier Restaurant in Pleasanton Since 1983 [www.blessingasia.com](http://www.blessingasia.com)



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Serving **BREAKFAST & LUNCH**  
Patio Dining

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201 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton  
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**Authentic Indian Cuisine Close to Home!**

**INDIA GARDEN RESTAURANT & BAR**

210 Rose Ave. in Downtown Pleasanton  
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We invite you to embark on an extraordinary culinary journey of India, in a modern and sleek atmosphere. We offer a tantalizing blend of traditional and contemporary flavors representing multiple Indian regions.

Please join us for Friday Wine Tasting  
Dec 11th at 5:30pm  
Wines from California and New World Wineries.

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
LUNCH BUFFET 11 AM - 3 PM (MON-FRI) • FINE DINING 5 PM - 10 PM

**HALF PRICED DINNER**  
Buy 1, Get 2nd 1/2 OFF (up to \$15)  
With this coupon only. Cannot combine offers. Must present coupon. Expires 1/03/10

**\$1 Off All-You-Can-Eat Lunch Buffet**  
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With this coupon only. Cannot combine offers. Must present coupon. Expires 1/03/10

**20% OFF Catering**  
With this coupon only. Must present coupon. Expires 1/03/10

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR**, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month. It is a time for social gathering and history of our American roots. We are descended from Patriots who won the American Revolutionary War of Independence from England. For meeting time and location, call Susan, 699-4147.

**KIWANIS CLUB** The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB (LAVGC)** This club

meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Blvd. Guest speaker Brian Debasitis will discuss healthy soil compositions, ecosystems, growing healthy gardens and lawns without chemicals. All garden enthusiasts are welcome to attend. Call 461-1725 or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc).

**NARFE** All NARFE current and retired are invited to the holiday luncheon/meeting by the Livermore Chapter 0397 Dec. 10 at Emi Villa's Restaurant, at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. There will be a silent auction and door prizes. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

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

**TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION** This business networking organization meets at 7 a.m. Thursdays for breakfast at Vic's All-Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Membership is open to businesses that are not in competition with a current member and the first two meetings are free. Call 736-4522 or visit [www.trivalleyexecs.com](http://www.trivalleyexecs.com).

**WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF REALTORS** This group meets from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Networking is from 11:15-11:45 then the meeting is from 11:45-1:30. Key note speakers are at every meeting. Cost is \$25 for members with reservations; \$30 for guests, including lunch. Call 455-7000.

## Concerts

**CANTABELLA CHILDREN'S CHORUS** Cantabella Children's Chorus performs Dec. 5 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The 18th annual winter concert is entitled "Gaudete! Gaudete!" (Rejoice! Rejoice!) and includes medieval, classical, traditional and contemporary music sung in Latin, Hebrew, Finnish, Basque and English. The 1:30 p.m. concert

features training and performing choirs and the 4 p.m. concert features performing choirs only. Tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20. Call 373-6800 or visit [cantabella.org](http://cantabella.org).

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH** The Pacific Chamber Symphony will perform the 'original' Handel's Messiah at 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$26-\$38 for adults and \$7 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit [www.pacificchambersymphony.org](http://www.pacificchambersymphony.org).

**HOLIDAY CONCERT** The Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents "Seasonal Surprises" featuring works by Mendelssohn, Anderson, Holst and other composers at 2 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Enjoy the music of the holiday season as you listen to familiar holiday melodies including a few musical surprises. Call 846-5897 or visit [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org).

**HOLIDAY CONCERTS** The Valley Concert Choral will have holiday concerts at 8 p.m. Dec. 12 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore; and at 3 p.m. Dec. 13 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call 866-4003 or visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org).

**SING-IT-YOURSELF MESSIAH: VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE'S FOURTH ANNUAL EVENT** Join in singing Part I of Handel's choral masterpiece from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$10, 18 and under free with paying adult. Call 866-4003 or visit [www.valleyconcertchorale.org](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org).

## Events

**CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL TO SPEAK** Akiva Tor, the Consul General of Israel for the Pacific Northwest region will be speaking at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, at 7 p.m. Dec. 6. The topic is "Israel: Challenges and Opportunities." Call 462-7279.

**FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA FOOD DRIVE** Get a free photo with Santa with the donation of a non-perishable food item to feed the needy from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 12 at 3655 Vineyard Ave. Sponsored by Chris Vick of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

**Frozen Yogurts, Gelato, Smoothies, Tea, and Waffle Meal Set**

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**35¢ per oz.**

**Happy Hours 3PM-5PM**  
1 Free Topping Everyday

**Every Sat/Sun Buy 1 large yogurt Get 1 Free mini yogurt**

**CAFÉ delatti**  
It's a Fabulous Café!

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Tel: 925-485-4254



**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).

**LAS POSADAS AT THE LIBRARY** Bring the whole family to an after-hours community holiday celebration in the Mexican tradition. It's from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 11 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Includes music, drama, food and a pinata.

**LIVERMORE LIGHTS** A Livermore house dances to music with 48 independently controlled channels that make over 20,000 Christmas lights, flood lights, and rope lights dance in sync to music. Open from 6:30 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 25. Visit [www.LivermoreLights.com](http://www.LivermoreLights.com)

**MANSION WINETASTER DINNER AT ELLISTON VINEYARDS** Elliston Vineyards, 463 Kilkare Road in Sunol, hosts its Holiday Winetaster Dinner Dec. 5, 11 and 12. A champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception is at 6:30 p.m., followed by a 5-course meal with Elliston wine pairings. Tickets are \$85. Call 862-2377 or visit [www.elliston.com](http://www.elliston.com).

at the Wild Vine, 2187 First St., Livermore from Dec. 10 to 31. An artist reception will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 10. Most drawings and paintings are drawn from life at the Figure Drawing Workshop on Friday mornings at the Bothwell Center.

**HEAVENLY VISTAS** This exhibit features photography with encaustic wax painting and encaustic landscape paintings from contemporary California artists Thea Schrack and Paula Wenzl Bellacera. It is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 26 at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. A reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 5. Call 866-561-0838.

**HOLIDAY ART SHOW** The annual Holiday Art Show featuring works by local artists is from 7 to 11 p.m. Dec. 11 at Art Explosion Studios' two locations: 2425 17th St. and 744 Alabama St. in Livermore. Free admission and refreshments. Visit [www.artexplosionstudios.com](http://www.artexplosionstudios.com).

**WILD ABOUT ART** Kids Love Art School of Fine Arts, 1989-G Santa Rita Road, presents its first student and instructor art exhibition and reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 15. View more than 30 pieces of art in various media by students ages 5 to adult.

Santa Rita Road, is holding its annual toy drive to support the Tri-Valley Haven and their families. The wish list by age group is at the club where toys can also be dropped off by Dec. 7. Call Sue, 989-4113. Pleasanton.

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

## Holiday

**A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS** A Festival of Carols is at 4 p.m. Dec. 13 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. It features traditional Christmas music performed by the Centerpointe choir and the church's hand bell choir, accompanied by musicians playing stringed instruments. A reception will follow. The suggested donation is \$10, with proceeds going to support the church's choral music program.

## START A NEW TRADITION

Enhance your holiday with Cold Stone ice cream cakes and pies.

**Candy Cane Wonderland™**  
Candy Cane ice cream with chocolate shavings, devil's food cake & ganache

For a limited time get  
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any cake

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## Exhibits

**FIGURATIVE WORK BY BARBARA STANTON** Figurative work by Barbara Stanton will be featured

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Monday - Thursday  
5pm - 7pm  
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**What a surprise!**

An Italian restaurant with an Italian Chef and Italian Management



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**Best Sushi/Japanese Restaurant**

**Authentic Japanese**

Sushi Bar ♦ Tempura ♦ Teriyaki Sushi  
Lunch ♦ Dinner ♦ Catering

Owner Operated  
For 25 Years Makoto Sato  
Open Tues. – Sun.



925.462.3131  
3015-K Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton  
(in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center)

# Holiday Greetings

We wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity!

From all of us at Tri-Valley Conservancy



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**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 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.

**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.

**GOLDEN BOUGH** Golden Bough's festive family program combines old world carols, Celtic holiday songs and original compositions played on an array of unique acoustic instruments. They perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 4 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15 to \$25 for adults and \$10 to \$20 for children and seniors. The audience is encouraged to bring food donations to the theater to benefit The Haven Food Pantry. Call 931-3444 or visit

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**HOLIDAY BOOK SALE** The Friends of the Dublin Library present a Holiday Book Sale from noon to 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at the library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. There will be hard-cover, children's and holiday books, as well as cookbooks, photographic collections, collectible books, game sand more. Call 828-1315.

**HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE** Pleasanton CPA firm, JL 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.

**HOLIDAY SHORTS** Join teen improv team Creatures of Impulse as they perform Holiday Shorts at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Audience suggestions will inspire holiday themed games, scenes and audience interactions. Tickets are \$8 or \$5 for students with ID in advance, or \$10 at the door. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

**HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING** Make a fresh wreath for the holidays at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Bring gardening gloves, shears and additional decoration to personalize your holiday masterpiece.

Class is \$3. Call 556-4511.

**PET & FAMILY PHOTOS WITH SANTA** Create a holiday remembrance of your pet from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 5 at Pet Extreme, 4500 Arroyo Vista Drive, Livermore. Cost is \$20 for two 4x6 photos and supports the animals at Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. No appointment needed. All animals must be on a leash or in a carrier.

## Kids & Teens

**CELEBRATIONS OF LIGHT** Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Drive, invites you to experience the traditions of Dong Zhi, Winter Solstice, Diwali, Las Posadas, Hanukkah and more through stories, food and activities families. The event is from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 16. Call 485-5750 or visit www.headsup.org.

**FOOTHILL MINI CHEER CAMP** Foothill Mini Cheer Camp for kids in K-6th grade is from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Foothill High School small gym, 5848 Foothill Drive. Cost is \$45 and includes T-shirt, lunch and a parent performance at the end of the day. Contact Marti at mjscale2@comcast.net.

**KIDS HELPING KIDS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Road, hosts an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 4. Andy Z will sing at 5 p.m. Karito Kids will attend and share about their charities. Bring a gently used toy or canned good to share.

Call 460-5163 or visit www.goldenappletoys.com.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**ART TALK FROM TRICIA POULOS LEONARD** Award-winning artist and educator Tricia Poulos Leonard will present a talk on "Understanding Abstract Paintings" at 6:15 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Pleasanton City Offices, 250 Bernal Ave. Her abstract painting, "Midnight on the Boulevard," is on display in the lobby and will be considered for purchase by the city. For details, visit www.triciastudio.com.

## Miscellaneous

**CARE PACKAGES FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS** Mandarin-speaking members of the Pleasanton Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are sponsoring a service project putting together care packages for victims of the recent typhoon which devastated portions of Taiwan. All items will be provided, including shipping materials and customs forms. Packaging is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 28 at 8203 Village Pkwy., Dublin, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 5 at 3574 Vineyard Ave. A donation of \$15 is suggested. Contact Jim Doxey (jdoxey@gmail.com), Rich Ambrose (richard.ambrose@comcast.net), or Tim Bean (megahalred@yahoo.com).

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# Wineries ready for Holidays in the Vineyards

Sample reds and whites while shopping for presents at the two-day event in Livermore Valley



By JANET PELLETIER

For 10 hours this weekend, 38 wineries are rolling out their respective welcome mats for holiday cheer — wine tasting and shopping.

Called Holidays in the Vineyards, the annual event is held from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and visitors can travel to participating wineries, which will be offering wine tasting, food pairings, live music, Santa Claus and arts and craft vendors.

“For a lot of people, it’s a time to couple something that you have to do anyways which is buy gifts for colleagues, family, friends, and make it a fun event,” said Chris Chandler, who is executive director for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, which puts on the event.

Chandler said the style is an open house format for the wineries and no ticket is necessary to participate since it’s free.

“Some wineries have a tasting fee, but it’s also applicable if you purchase a bottle of wine, so you could actually go taste and conceivably purchase wine as a gift and then have your tasting fee applied to the gift you just bought,” she said.

Each winery is offering its own list of activities.

“The arts and craft vendors have different boutique stores from around the area so people can get unique, different gifts than if you were to go to a more traditional shopping area/mall,” Chandler said. “The wineries are decorated, there’s usually holiday music, and some of the different wineries have Santa Claus visiting. There are also carolers.”

Coinciding with the Holidays in the Vineyards, the LVWA will be sponsoring a toy drive for Toys for Tots.

“This has been a really successful program that we’ve partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps on,” Chandler said. “We accept toy donations and cash donations, and some of the wineries offer special incentives if you bring a toy.”

For a complete list of participating wineries and what special events they are offering, visit [www.lvwine.org](http://www.lvwine.org).



STEVEN F. KELLY

**Top:** A wreath adorns the Livermore Valley Wine Trail sign, marking the start of the holiday season. **Above:** 38 wineries, including Pleasanton’s Mitchell Katz (bottle displayed), will be offering special activities this weekend for Holidays in the Vineyards.

## Holidays in the Vineyards

**What:** An annual wine country tradition where wineries showcase their tasting rooms with arts and craft vendors, holiday music and special wines. Guests are encouraged to bring toys to their favorite wineries, which will be donated to the Toys for Tots Foundation after the event, directly benefiting children in need throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

**When:** noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

**Cost:** Free (tasting fees vary by winery)

### Participating wineries:

- Bent Creek Winery
- Big White House & John Evan Cellars
- Bodegas Aguirre Winery
- Charles R Vineyards
- Chouinard Vineyards (Castro Valley)
- Concannon Vineyard
- Crooked Vine Winery
- Cuda Ridge Wines
- Deer Ridge Vineyards
- Eagle Ridge Vineyard
- Eckert Estate Winery
- el Sol Winery
- Elliston Vineyards (Sunol)
- Fenestra Winery
- Garré Vineyard & Winery
- La Rochelle Winery
- Les Chênes Estate Vineyards
- Little Valley Winery
- Longevity Wines
- McGrail Vineyards & Winery
- Mitchell Katz Winery
- Murrieta’s Well
- Nottingham Cellars
- Occasio Winery
- Page Mill Winery
- Retzlaff Estate Winery
- Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery
- Ruby Hill Winery
- Stony Ridge Winery
- Tamás Estates
- Tenuta Vineyards
- The Singing Winemaker
- The Steven Kent Winery
- Thomas Coyne Winery
- Wente Vineyards
- White Crane Winery
- Wood Family Vineyards

**Info:** Visit the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association website at [www.lvwine.org](http://www.lvwine.org)

## THE EVERYDAY WINE GUY



By DON COLMAN

### Surviving the holidays, Part 1

This is the reminder, or perhaps more appropriately, the warning to start stressing about the holidays. Parties, gifts and dinners create stress of what to give, what to drink and how much to spend? This article is designed to help anyone who had such problem.

Six different wines. That is all you need. With these six wines you will have all of your bases covered. Everything from Christmas turkey to New Year's Eve and whatever can sneak up in between. The survival guide will cover three of these wines in this issue and three in the next. This time we will focus on the basics of holiday wine planning: Chardonnay, pinot noir and cabernet sauvignon.

#### Chardonnay

The 2006 Robert Mondavi Reserve Chardonnay (\$40) is bursting with flavor. It has a polished brass color and is very complex on the nose and palate. This is one of the most versatile wines I have ever tried as it pairs very well with many different foods. The crisp and light apple tones allow it to match white meat (turkey for example), while the smooth, silky, buttery feel enhances red meat and pastas. It is the must have white wine for dinner parties, holiday toasts and guests who prefer white over red.

#### Pinot noir

The turkey wine! This is your wine to serve with the big holiday feast. The pinot noir grape is one that I have struggled with all my life. I often find them too earthy, lacking in fruit or just plain boring. The 2006 Etude

Pinot Noir Caneros (\$42) is everything I love in a pinot. It is a light yet flavorful wine with strong scents of berries, oak and a hint of pinot's classic earth aroma. The medium light body allows the wine to match well to delicate meat while the flavor is sweet enough to match to gravy and cranberry sauce. The aftertaste is a long, mouth filling experience and allows this is a special wine to enhance the turkey feast. Make sure to have extra bottles available as they will disappear quickly.

#### Cabernet sauvignon

The 2005 Silverado SOLO (\$85) is a good old fashioned cabernet sauvignon. The wine is 100 percent cabernet sauvignon with all of the grapes coming from one vineyard (hence the name SOLO). This leads to a very powerful yet smooth wine that even the most discriminating wine drinker will cherish. It is deep purple in color and very aromatic with tobacco and black current scents. It is a full bodied, dry red wine with a very powerful flavor that is sweet at the start and moves to a slightly bitter finish. It is the perfect wine to have tucked away as a gift. If a neighbor or friend shows up with an unexpected gift for you, slip into another room and grab this bottle, they will be truly impressed. (A little trick here, keep a silver glitter pen close by and personalize the bottle by writing a little note on the label.)

This should easily get you through the first part of the holidays. In the next issue, the survival guide will focus on New Year's Eve and other critical wines to have around the house for the rest of the seasons. Until next time, cheers!

Don Colman lives in the East Bay and writes a wine blog at [www.nosetoglass.com](http://www.nosetoglass.com). Contact him at [don@nosetoglass.com](mailto:don@nosetoglass.com).

## READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

By JOE RAMIREZ

### Gomorra

Criterion DVD  
2 hours, 24 minutes  
Director: Matteo Garrone  
Subtitles

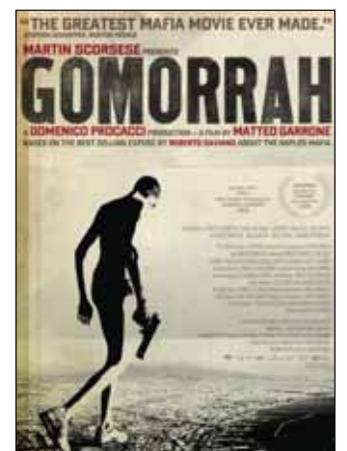
What a dreary universe the characters of director Matteo Garrone's "Gomorra" inhabit. Garrone's movie is based on journalist Roberto Saviano chronicling the Neapolitan Camorra crime syndicate whose fingers, we learn, are in the global arena, but whose power stifles all aspects of the city of Naples. As you may or may not have heard, the Camorra, the oldest Italian crime syndicate, has their hands not only in drug trafficking, but also in the fashion industry and, especially, garbage disposal, which links them even to the 9/11 cleanup and rebuilding. The movie follows five different stories, cross cutting their protagonists, all the while building the maze of the Camorra from the inside out. It is a labyrinth, we find, that entraps their bodies and souls, in which escape is never an option.

"Still desiring, we live without hope" writes Dante in his "Inferno," and I cannot think of another parallel so just in its description of the lives of not only all connected with Italy's Camorra crime syndicate, but gangster movies en masse. However, hope may not be the best term for their motivations; habit, maybe, or fear, which is a portent of ennui. I find it very telling that two of the "Gomorra's" teenage characters, Marco and Toto, worship director Brian DePalma's 1983's "Scarface," the biggest influence of modern gangsta lore. That movie's legacy surprises me because Pachi-no's Tony Montana is such dour sociopath, without charm or wit, a righteous façade to the crime family in "Gomorra" and not the stuff of cult-movie legend (although his antics are — who can't recite "Say hello to my little friend!").

We are introduced to the Camorra's techniques at the beginning of the movie, with an assassination at a tanning booth that is as garish as the victims. Who ordered the murder does not matter; it is all part of the

murky business. We then follow an array of characters whose eclectic fates are all touched by the syndicate. Don Ciro, a middleman that distributes money to family members of imprisoned Camorra, is approached by another clan and forced to reveal where he receives the payments. Toto is a 13-year-old who wants to join the family and is put through the rigors of initiation, only to be inaugurated with a painful, moral test. Marco and Ciro want to make a name for themselves, and only wind up making the family angry. Pasquale is a Camorra haute couture tailor who is secretly hired by a Chinese company to train their garment workers and Roberto is a college-educated lawyer who finds that his boss's methods of toxic waste disposal are also ethically challenging.

I find, between the dermis of "Gomorra" the sly threads of criticism of 21st century global, big business policies, with the only difference between the Camorra and large, "legitimate" companies being the drug trafficking. The audience gets the feeling that one cannot function without the other, the ying covering for the yang. What is also so engrossing about Garrone's movie is his patience and perseverance in telling the stories; he does not preach or prod, but documents in what feels like transparent, harrowing detail. Yes, this is a violent movie, but the violence is not for kicks (unlike "Scarface"). People are shot, violence escalates, but mostly we find tiny, desperate characters living in tenements of what seem straight out of Orwell. ■



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## NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

By SUSAN TAVERNETTI

**The Fantastic Mr. Fox**

★★★★

Rated: PG for action, smoking and slang humor

1 hour, 27 minutes



When Mrs. Fox says there is something kind of fantastic about being different, she could have been referring to Wes Anderson's animated adaptation of Roald Dahl's 1970 children's yarn. Imaginative, quirky and brimming with visual wonder, the tale about a fox that loses his tail — but gains the love and respect of the animal kingdom — epitomizes Fantastic-ness.

The storybook enchantment opens with Dahl's poetic introduction to those horrible crooks Boggis, Bunce and Bean — “one fat, one short, one lean” but “nonetheless equally mean.” Co-scribes Anderson (“Rushmore”) and Noah Baumbach (“The Squid and the Whale”), who collaborated on “The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou,” expand Dahl's slight narrative into an exhilarating character study and adventure.

Whimsical details set the tone from the start. A hand displays Dahl's book with its library spine label, making the first subtle pro-reading statement. Mr. Fox (voiced by George Clooney) has turned from a life of fowl poaching to journalism, where his “Fox About Town” column runs in the Gazette. The newspaperman reads at the dining room table, clipping articles of interest. His son Ash (Jason Schwartzman) buries his nose in superhero White Cape comics and yearns for dad's approval.

The clever and charming Mr. Fox has been tamed somewhat by his wife (Meryl Streep). She knows her husband. Although nattily dressed in a corduroy suit, with two stalks of wheat smartly tucked in his breast pocket, the family man's sartorial style can't disguise his true nature: He's an animal. A vulpes vulpes to be exact.

How can a fox ever be happy without a chicken in his mouth?

Such existential musings make Mr. Fox a fascinating character. And one with dreams of upward mobility. He doesn't want to live in a hole anymore. A tree house provides a room with a view — of the Boggis-Bunch-Bean estates — and the corresponding temptation and danger to raid them.

The three nasty villains operate corporate farms and big-box retail establishments. Their capitalist greed supplants the class distinctions in Dahl's book. Size, volume, electrified fences, surveillance devices and heavy machinery define their operations. Their steel-reinforced businesses claw away at the natural landscape, which Anderson colors in flaming hues of autumnal reds, yellows and oranges.

The vibrant color palette and stop-motion animation, in which every facial expression and movement are painstakingly filmed frame by frame, give the film a unique look. In lesser hands, the stop-motion techniques could be stilted and the pacing uneven. But Anderson instills the visuals with cinematic verve. The camera moves as quickly as a fox, sometimes cutting to a close-up of expressive eyes or an extreme long shot of small figures scampering above ground or digging beneath it.

The film has a retro feel but also the freshness that typifies Anderson's best work. When Mr. Fox and his sidekicks Badger (Bill Murray), Kylie the opossum (Wallace Wolodarsky) and Kristoffer-son (Eric Anderson, the director's brother) follow their wild-thing instincts and decide to poach some poultry from the farmers, the movie catapults into a caper flick. Showdowns with a red-eyed rat (Willem Dafoe) have the markings of a Sergio Leone western. There's the good, the bad and the ugly as the animals must outdig and outfox the formidable Bean (Michael Gambon) and his forces.

Chapter titles flash on the screen, and the comic antics zip by. The toon has a fanciful spirit enhanced by an eclectic soundtrack of songs ranging from “The Ballad of Davy Crockett” to the Beach Boys warbling “I Get Around.” Light and uplifting on the surface, the movie has much to say. Insights about relationships, mortality and survival are shaded in a darkness that children won't see.

Most of all, the foxy adventure offers a family pack of fun. ■



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Debbie Lopes

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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.



## Rage U14 Orange win District Cup

The Rage U-14 Orange won the District Cup Nov. 14. Rage began the tournament against Mustang Stampede, scoring when midfielder Kayla Bautista won the ball in the RAGE goal area, dribbled it up the left side, and sent a through pass to forward Vanessa Villanueva. Vanessa powered up the left side and sent a perfect cross to forward Courtney Seams at the near post for a score. Mustang's best threat was a corner kick that fullback Katie Oross cleared out.

Game two against Dublin, Rage midfielder Rebecca Dumanski won control of the ball on the right sideline and crossed it to Courtney who received it then passed to the far post where Claire Williams found net. Laura Morgan maintained the lead when the speedy fullback ran down and stopped a Dublin breakaway. Vanessa then scored on a header shot from a Kayla assist. Forwards Paige Peterson, Courtney, and Vanessa kept pressure on Dublin with 32 possessions in the Dublin side of the field.

Game three against Castro Valley, Vanessa scored on a Kayla corner kick. This was Vanessa's team leading 9th goal and Kayla's 16th assist. The RAGE defense gave up the 1st goal of the tournament when Castro Valley sent a long shot into the upper corner. Erica Goldhawk and Patti Norcross assisted in stopping additional CV threats. Rage played the Mustang Eagles for the championship. In the fifth minute, Kayla sent a corner kick past the near post where midfielder Lindsay Curlett fired it into the back of the goal. Ariel Gershman, Kayla, and Rebecca controlled the ball 31 times in the midfield while fullbacks Olivia Deutschman and Katie Oross anchored the defense turning 17 balls to the outside and passing most up the sides. Ariel cleared out a dangerous Eagles corner kick. Goalie Nikki Costello also had a nice stop. The RAGE defense held until the last two minutes when a long Eagles shot found the upper corner to tie the game. RAGE and Eagles went scoreless in two OTs and the game went to PKs. Vanessa, Lindsay, Paige, Kayla all had successful PKs and after five shooters the teams were tied 4-4. In PK sudden death, Rage's Claire Hickel's shot found net. Nikki then stopped the sixth Mustang shooter to seal the win.

## SPORTS DIGEST

### Pleasanton Seahawks turn in new cuts, times

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) turned in many new cuts and times at the Orinda OAPB Last Chance Meet, Nov. 14-15. New B Times: Sara Jeffrey and Michael Martin. New A Times: Samantha Howell, Taylor Park, Aditya Gupta, Wolfgang LaChance, Rishab Nair, Tyler Rhoads, Michael Yao, Madison Burson, Analese Chinn, Stephanie Jeffrey, Dylan Devries, Chloe Bantock, Bridget Booe, Heather Chandler, Elise Cox, Maya Gilchrist, Bernadine Martin, Roshni Nair, Cassidy Booe and Emily Saccullo.

New JO Cuts: Anna Parker, Alex Gilchrist, Regis LaChance, RJ Scott, Brian Lee, Andrew Song, Caleb Wang and Theresa Martin. New Far Westerns (FW) Cuts: Seohyun Kim and Tony Shen. New Pacific Reportable (PRT) Times: Jason Chen.

### Amador senior signed to University of Oregon

Caroline Federighi, a senior at Amador Valley High School, has been named as one of nine recruits signed to play lacrosse for the University of Oregon in the 2010-11 school year.

Federighi is a goal kicker for Triple Threat LAX and helped the Dons reach the semifinals of the North Coast Section (NCS) for the third consecutive year in 2009. She started in all 21 games as a junior, recording a save percentage of 61 percent. Other accomplishments include: being named East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) MVP, Team MVP, 2009 U.S. Lacrosse first-team All-American and U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American.



## Two Blue Devils teams win hockey division

Eight youth ice hockey teams from the Tri-Valley Blue Devils, based at Dublin Iceland, competed in the Silver Stick Regional tournament over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in San Jose. The tournament was attended by teams from all over the West Coast and Arizona. Seven Blue Devils teams made it to the semifinals, five moved on to play in the championship games and two won their division.

The Blue Devils Mite (under 8) and PeeWee B (under 12) teams will represent the Pacific District in the Silver Stick International tournaments in January. The Mites will travel to St. Clair Shores, Mich. and the PeeWees are headed to Pelham, Ontario, Canada. Both teams will face opponents from across the U.S. and Canada as they battle for the International Silver Stick title -- one of the oldest and most prestigious in youth hockey. Five of the players and the head coach of the Mite team live in Pleasanton. On the PeeWee B (under 12) team, there are two players from Pleasanton: Mitchell Walsh and Jeremy Goldhawk.

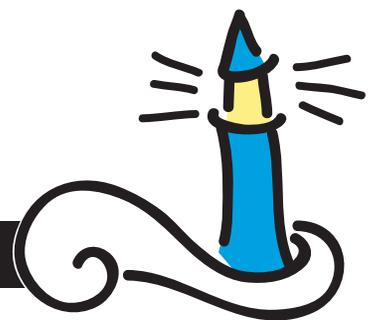
Pictured are players and coaches from the Tri-Valley Blue Devils Mite (under 8) hockey team: Ben Biester, Jackson Butler, Michael Casseti, Cole Chimenti, Max Liss, Scott McManus, Addison Miller, Anthony Persi, Jack Ruble, Thomas Seuis, Ethan Skelton, Cole Sniffin, Conner Sniffin, Alex Swenson-Lennox, Michael Takahashi, Jeremiah Van Puffelen, Mikhail Vasilyev, Coaches, Head: Lino Persi, Asst: Doug Miller, Asst: Dean Skelton.

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Pleasanton Girls Lacrosse Sign Ups for 2010 Lacrosse Season are happening NOW!  
Go to www.pleasantongirlslacrosse.com to sign up and find out more about our "No Cost" upcoming New Player Clinic & Returning Player Clinic on  
December 5th, 10-12 at Hearst Elementary in Pleasanton. Pleasanton

Girls Lacrosse will be fielding teams for U15, U13, U11 and now U9 ages.

Team Placements for U13 & U15 will be on Sunday, December 13th from 10-1pm at Foothill High School on their all weather field. Placements will be held Rain or Shine. Go to our website

www.pleasantongirlslacrosse.com to Register and find out more details. Players must register for events to participate. Space is limited and the Deadline is fast approaching, so register now!

Girls Lacrosse Sign Ups!!

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Toyota 2002 4Runner Sport - \$9,000

Toyota 2002 4Runner Sport - \$8,500

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## 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 165 Heritate Park Dr., Dec. 5, 8 - 2

**Pleasanton, 2609 Becard Court, Dec. 5, 7am-5pm**  
Christmas Boutique  
Beautiful Designer Aprons, Ironing Board Covers, Wine Gift Bags  
Wreaths and Decorations, Baked Goods, Cookbooks, Santa Baby Tees

## 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antique - Mahogany End Table - \$85.00

Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$125.00

Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$150.00

Royal Doulton figurine - \$35

WASHSTAND - \$250.00

## 220 Computers/ Electronics

FAX MACHINE - GESTETNER - F919 - \$200 or B/

COMPUTER KEYBOARD - \$10.00

GESTETNER F9199 FAX MACHINE - \$250 or B/

PS2 Cars game set - \$25.00

## 230 Freebies

Free conference room table - FREE

## 240 Furnishings/ Household items

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9 drawers dresser - \$40

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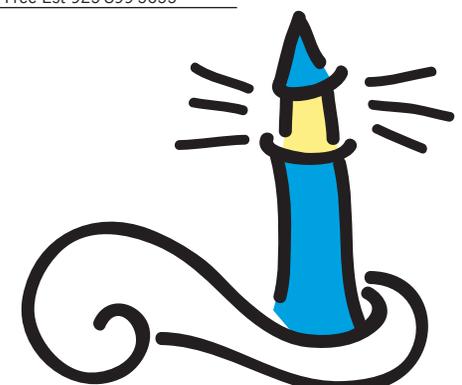
Livermore, 4 BR/3 BA - \$705000

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CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Do not miss the Holiday Home Tour from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 6. This magical home tour through downtown Pleasanton features eight beautiful homes decked out in their holiday finest. Tickets are \$35 and the event benefits Valley Humane Society. Live music, unique shopping boutiques, and delicious treats complete the festivities. Stay downtown for dinner and a spin around Pleasanton's holiday ice rink. See www.valleyhumanesociety.org for more information about the tour, and to learn more about Jitterbug and his many friends awaiting adoption at Valley Humane Society.

### Pitbull unleashed

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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## SALES AT A GLANCE

### Dublin

**Total sales reported:** 10  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$325,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$765,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$469,200

### Livermore

**Total sales reported:** 17  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$300,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$568,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$403,824

### Pleasanton

**Total sales reported:** 10  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$305,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$675,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$556,100

### San Ramon

**Total sales reported:** 17  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$450,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,066,500  
**Average sales reported:** \$701,824

Source: California REsource

## HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2009

### Dublin

**8853 Bandon Drive** C. McFaul to A. Africawala for \$505,000  
**8002 Crossridge Road** Bohnet Trust to L. Harms for \$607,000  
**3385 Dublin Boulevard #142** Toll Dublin Limited to A. Wain for \$397,500  
**3465 Dublin Boulevard #310** Toll Dublin Limited to Y. Lam for \$409,000  
**3465 Dublin Boulevard #345** Toll Dublin Limited to K. Yiu for \$365,500  
**3724 Finnian Way** A. Bogdanova to Y. Yin for \$325,000  
**3360 Maguire Way #418** Toll Dublin Limited to M. & M. Bradley for \$408,000  
**5759 Newfields Lane** Indymac Bank to A. Tam for \$765,000  
**6774 Oak Court** Saxon Asset Securities to A. Knight for \$420,000  
**4721 Perugia Street** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to M. Souve for \$490,000

### Livermore

**895 Almaden Court** W. & T. Ledda to A. Kershaw for \$345,000  
**1448 Arlington Road** H. Singh to A. & J. Dorn for \$355,000  
**589 Bernal Avenue** M. Murdoch to E. Jimenez for \$335,000  
**52 Cameo Drive** W. & C. Allison to J. & H. Martin for \$425,000  
**545 Cinnabar Drive** L. Strong to E. & S. Yeoman for \$510,000  
**1221 Echo Summit Street** Cottral Trust to H. Gor for \$480,000  
**396 Jensen Street** Trangi Development to R. Martinez for \$370,000  
**5313 Lenore Avenue** Federal Home Loan Mortgage to J. Hannah for \$300,000  
**5832 Lobelia Way** J. Anderson to T. Corpuz for \$530,000  
**1371 Martha Street** J. Tusio to S. Li for \$380,000  
**744 Nightingale Street** Woodbridge & Rogers Investors to B. Hooper for \$395,000  
**433 Ontario Drive** C. Theet to R. & C. Harrison for \$432,000  
**4114 Pinon Way** JP Morgan Chase Bank to D. & D. Williams for \$310,000  
**4129 Pomona Way** M. & I. Harlan to M. Burns for \$370,000  
**882 Seminole Drive** Structured Asset Trust to J. & J. Anguiano for \$300,000  
**788 South Livermore Avenue** Beauchemin-Gordon Trust to K. Carney for \$460,000  
**5683 Woodrose Way** Livermore Valley Investors to S. Kodialam for \$568,000

### Pleasanton

**3491 Beecham Court** J. & S. Hillman to C. Chang for \$500,000  
**6267 Calle Fuego** R. Mendonca to S. Yu for \$631,500  
**2106 Corte Ricardo** Camacho Trust to S. Martinelli for \$595,000  
**5520 Corte Sierra** Sevilla Trust to Q. Tomlin for \$662,500  
**5914 Hansen Drive** Kurtzer Trust to J. Jiang for \$580,000  
**2930 Liberty Drive** D. Karst to H. Archambault for \$490,000  
**3660 North Olympic Court** M. & D. Warrender to J. & J. Green for \$600,000  
**2279 Oakland Avenue** J. & L. Ransdall to X. Yan for \$675,000  
**601 Palomino Drive #A** C. Roomian to P. Hartshorn for \$305,000  
**4137 Rennellwood Way** J. Williams to S. & N. Kiff for \$522,000

### San Ramon

**2807 Ascot Drive** M. & P. Bickford to R. & M. Boyce for \$809,000  
**9563 Belle Meade Drive** Young Trust to V. Young for \$527,000  
**605 Bond Court** Lennar Homes to N. Leng for \$772,000  
**9603 Brockton Avenue** J. Foreman to C. & S. Jensen for \$559,000  
**2930 Calais Drive** Salisbury Trust to D. & H. Jaisingh for \$450,000  
**5033 Campion Drive** B. Molai to H. Chen for \$695,000  
**1260 Canyon Side Avenue** M. McCoy to R. Knibb for \$675,000  
**327 Dawes Court** Lennar Homes to J. Shah for \$1,043,000  
**332 Dawes Court** Lennar Homes to W. Si for \$926,500  
**2576 Harlow Lane** A. Kumar to H. Chen for \$775,000  
**21 Inverness Court** R. Bardin to N. & A. Tomasello for \$675,000  
**7837 Kennard Lane** Brookfield Santorini to T. & C. Kang for \$1,066,500  
**510 Linford Place** Nelson Trust to R. Panigrahy for \$540,000  
**25 Palamos Court** R. & R. Burke to S. & S. Vispute for \$632,000  
**2873 Springdale Lane** C. & B. Martin to C. Freimanis for \$476,000  
**3242 Vera Cruz Drive** J. Evans to L. Tsang for \$665,000  
**4041 West Lakeshore Drive** RBI Financial Group to P. Chavez for \$645,000

Source: California REsource

**OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND**

**Danville**

**2 BEDROOMS**

**122 Tweed Drive \$525,000**  
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 766-5329

**4 BEDROOMS**

**380 Glen Arms Drive \$1,068,000**  
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 487-1658

**4 Glen Hollow Road \$1,079,000**  
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 876-7089

**5 BEDROOMS**

**4 Ohlson Lane \$2,395,000**  
Sun 12-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-0717

**Dublin**

**3 BEDROOMS**

**10739 Dulsie Lane \$419,000**  
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 997-1994

**5 BEDROOMS**

**8019 Brittany Drive \$939,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

**Livermore**

**3 BEDROOMS**

**742 Catalina Drive \$399,900**  
Sat 1-3 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**Pleasanton**

**3 BEDROOMS**

**4496 Desertwood Place \$729,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

**4 BEDROOMS**

**9 Castlewood Drive \$1,095,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel 876-4459

**7229 Detjen Court \$1,495,000**

Sun 1-4 Blaise Loffland 846-6500

**2367 E. Ruby Hill Drive \$2,200,000**

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

**4379 Clovewood Lane \$649,000**

Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 785-8239

**3825 Cheshire Court \$755,000**

Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

**557 E. Angela Street \$799,900**

Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-9500

**5 BEDROOMS**

**2175 Pomezia Court \$1,249,000**

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

**1075 Shadow Hills Court \$1,399,900**

Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

**1713 Via Di Salerno \$1,898,000**

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

**9663 Crosby Drive \$1,998,000**

Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416

**1531 Honeysuckle \$2,199,000**

Sun 12-3 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**6 BEDROOMS**

**417 East Vineyard Avenue \$3,998,000**

Sun 1-4 Randall Davidson 461-3316

**San Ramon**

**3 BEDROOMS**

**2621 Fountainhead Drive \$324,998**

Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

**4 BEDROOMS**

**4055 Marblehead Court \$1,079,000**

Sun 2-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3858

**9543 Ernwood Street \$619,950**

Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

*The Fabulous Properties Team*  
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**The #1 Resale Team in Pleasanton and Ruby Hill**  
www.FabulousProperties.net • www.RubyHill.net

**2367 E. Ruby Hill Dr., 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. Offered at \$2,200,000 OPEN SUN 1-4

**1713 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton**



Stunning, Frank Lloyd Wright inspired single story 5 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 4,467 sq. ft. with views of golf course. Offered at \$1,898,000 OPEN SUN 1-4

**2175 Pomezia Court, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton**



Lovely family home with 5 bedrooms, (or 4 plus office), 3BA, 3,850 sq. ft., located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Offered at \$1,249,000 OPEN SUN 1-4

**2309 Romano Circle, 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

**KELLER WILLIAMS** Call us if you are thinking about moving. NOW is the time to prepare for the Spring market.

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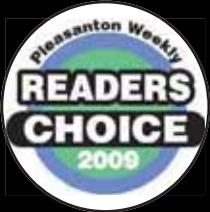
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**THIS SUNDAY!**  
**12/6 • 1-4 PM**

Randall Davidson 925-461-3316 Elizabeth Davidson 925-699-4236

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Whether you are looking for a private retreat, a space to create family memories, or a quiet retirement close to town, when you see this elegant 8,848 SqFt, 20 +/- acre property, you need look no further. This designer owned dream home has been infused with charm and unique details. Contact us for a personal tour or any other inquiries. Randall Davidson DRE#01799450 • Elizabeth Davidson DRE#01861633

**WWW.YOURVINEYARDHOME.COM**  
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**PLEASANTON 1623 CINDY WAY**



**4 ACRE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL**  
3000 SF Custom 3BR/3BA home, large Family room w/valuted ceiling, fireplace & wet bar, pool & patio. **\$1,800,000**  
Roger Manning, Realtor® Lic#00518423  
**925.426.3818**

**SAN RAMON 4055 MARBLEHEAD CT.**



**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4 PM**  
**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**

**LIVERMORE 8953 TESLA ROAD**



**5 ACRES** nestled in the heart of the Livermore Valley. Main home has approx. 2300 sq. ft. 3BD/2BA. Guest Cottage has 1BD/1BA, kitchen & living area, +fenced yard. **\$1,025,000**  
Jo Hunter, Realtor® Lic#00692588  
**925.413.4278**

**PLEASANTON 1156 WENIG COURT**



**CHARMING SINGLE STORY 3BR/2½BA** with approx. 2162 sq. ft. Great Room has hardwood floors, shutters, and fireplace. Granite counters in Kitchen. **\$879,000**  
Steve Fast, Realtor® Lic#01084321  
**925.785.8239**

**PLEASANTON 4379 CLOVEWOOD LN**



**OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-4 PM**  
**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. **\$649,000**  
Steve Fast, Realtor® Lic#01084321  
**925.785.8239**

**PLEASANTON 173 HELIGAN LANE**



**PRICE REDUCED**  
**MONTAGE TOWNHOME** Views, Sunlight, Sophistication & Comfort, 1,180 sq. ft. with 2BR/2BA, 1-car attached garage. Built in 2008 with many upgrades. **\$348,000**  
Louise Davis, Realtor® Lic#00551850  
**925.426.3834**

**PLEASANTON 4728 SAGINAW CIRCLE**



**LAS POSITAS GARDENS 3BR/1½BA** Town home within walking distance of hospital. Many upgrades bamboo hardwood floors new carpet, and granite in kitchen. **\$295,000**  
Dorothy Broderson, Realtor® Lic#01779623  
**925.963.8800**

**PLEASANTON 7520 CANYON MEADOW**



**CONDO WITH VIEWS** Desirable end unit on upper tier of building. Spacious living and dining room with fireplace and private balcony off living room. **\$225,000**  
Louise Davis, Realtor® Lic#00551850  
**925.426.3834**

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## Prudential California Realty / Pleasanton Hopyard



**PLEASANTON** - Classic old-world charm. Open front gate to brick-lined path to 180-degree breathtaking view of the surrounding ridge, hills, & intense colors of the fall season. Kitchen updated. Silestone counters w/ tile backsplash. Four-bdrms/3-baths. Bright open floor plan. Too much to describe here. Come see.

**557 E ANGELA STREET \$799,900**



**PLEASANTON** - INCREDIBLE VIEWS!!!! from most rooms, Rich cherry cap, granite, gorgeous hardwood floors, fabulous master suite/master bath w/ marble floor and sweeping views of Mt. Diablo and the valley below, city lights, custom recent paint! Sparkling pool, close to 580/680 shop, downtown.

**2117 BLACK OAK CT. \$2,598,000**



**WALNUT CREEK** - Peaceful, serene, panoramic views from almost every window! End unit with no side neighbors and no front neighbors. Freshly painted interior, new carpeting, high end Trane furnace & A/C. Remod. bathrooms w/ granite counters. Sunlit kitchen and dining area. Too much to list!

**1905 CACTUS COURT \$479,888**



**PLEASANTON** - Fabulous court location! Great views out front of Hansen Park. Updated baths, kitchen, beautiful mahogany wood floors and newer a/c. 4 bedroom set up with Master on ground floor. Rear yard with pool, fruit trees, patio and lawn. Spacious side yard with raised garden beds. Great opportunity!

**2109 CORTE RICARDO \$729,000**



**PLEASANTON** - 3 Bedrooms + Detached Office! Better than New - Large Lot, 2 Side Yard access points. Gourmet Kitchen - Granite Counters, 6 Burner Gas Stove, Convection Oven, Stainless Appliances. Completely Renovated w/ Wood Floors, Natural Stone, Recessed Lighting, 6 panel Doors, Pebble Surface Beach Pool.

**4496 DESERTWOOD PL. \$729,000**



**OAKLAND** - LOCATION\*LOCATION\*LOCATION\*! maculate fourplex and duplex with a total of 6 units located at the quiet end of 83rd with views of magnificent trees, easy access to BART, freeway, schools, shopping and other conveniences!

**2350 83RD AVE. 478,888**



**LIVERMORE** - Beautiful Townhouse with many upgrades! Kitchen and bathrooms remodeled. Kitchen has maple cabinets, granite slab countertops and stainless steel appliances. Floors downstairs are wood laminate, Berber carpet upstairs. Lovely yard.

**1553 PEACHTREE CMN \$279,000**



**PLEASANTON** - GORGEOUS Laguna Oaks home offers: GRANITE, hardwood, maple cab. tile entry, wet bar, four bed, bonus, office, 4 CAR GARAGE, 1st floor Master suite w/ fireplace and gorgeous view of private backyard. Sparkling Pool. Much, More!! tennis, parks, com pool, commute, Award winning schools and shops

**8286 REGENCY DR. \$1,398,000**



6111 Johnson Ct., Suite 110

**925.463.9500**

To view all our listings go to [www.prurealty.com/pleasantonhopyard](http://www.prurealty.com/pleasantonhopyard)

**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 TV.  
**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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 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

**KOTTINGER RANCH**



**1332 BORDEAUX STREET PLEASANTON**  
 Single story, vaulted ceilings, hardwood flooring, kitchen features granite counters, extra cabinet space and nook. French doors to rear yard and patio. closets.  
**Jon Wood 925.280.6421**

**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**

**SWIMMING POOL**



**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**

**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**

**LOT ACRES APX: 10.88**



**16515 GRANT LINE ROAD LIVERMORE**  
 Over 10 acres but still in Livermore. Versality galore with rolling hills and only minutes from 580. Privacy/view/serenity. Older ranch home. Out building. Auto gate opener.  
**PENNY CHRISTENSEN 925.730.5262**



**PLEASANTON**  
**2924 AMOROSO COURT**  
**HANDSOME & CONTEMPORARY** **\$1,100,000**  
 4 BR 2.5 BA 1 stry on cul-de-sac w/views,hrdwd flrs,priv yrd w/pl,patio overhang/new rf Sept 2009 925.847.2200



**SAN RAMON**  
 Open **SUN 1-4** **2621 FOUNTAINHEAD DRIVE**  
**SUPER LOCATION** **\$324,998**  
 3 BR 1.5 BA New carpet,paint, baseboards,large master,trees/walk-ways.SRV School District.Com-munity pl 925.847.2200



**SAN RAMON**  
**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



**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

## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

**360 GLADSTONE DR**  
**OVER 55 GATED COMMUNITY** **\$398,500**  
 2 BR 2 BA cherry floors/cabinets,plantation shutters,built-ins,10 years,surrounded by golf course 925.847.2200

## DUBLIN

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

**11373 RAMPART DRIVE**  
**DESIRABLE WEST SIDE** **\$699,900**  
 4 BR 3 BA Aprx. 2262 sf on almost 14000 sf lotBeautiful & remodeled/upgraded,lrg/priv bckyrd 925.847.2200

## LIVERMORE

**2643 BRIARWOOD DR**  
**MUST SEE!** **\$455,000**  
 5 BR 2 BA dual pane windows,built-in pl,open flr plan,aprox.2300 sq. ft.,11434 sq. ft. lot,2 car gar 925.847.2200

**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 bckyrd,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 desireable Avila!Court location,eat-in-kitchen,large living/family rm w/frplc/built-ins 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 HONE** **\$489,995**  
 3 BR 2.5 BA updated granite kitchen,newer tile & wood flooring, custom paint,excellent court location! 925.847.2200

**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

**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



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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**1048 Harvest Circle, Pleasanton**  
 4bd/2.5ba, 2371 sq.ft home close to Downtown, newer roof, vaulted ceilings.  
**Sold for \$722,500**  
*(represented Buyer)*



**2886 Calle Reynoso, Pleasanton**  
 4bd/2.5ba, 1636 sq.ft turn key home, granite kitchen, hardwood floors.  
**Sold for \$639,500**  
*(represented Buyer)*

# BUYERS NEEDS

**Couple relocating from Colorado seeks minimum 3bd/2ba, 1600+sq.ft home with rear yard up to \$775,000. Pre-approved with Wells Fargo, flexible on Close of Escrow date.**

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**THE PRESERVE**

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



**6229 DETJEN COURT, PLEASANTON**

Wow! Beautiful and priced to sell. This upgraded home in the desirable Preserve community on a private .68 acre (29,506 square foot) estate lot. This beautifully landscaped property backs to open space. Enjoy the views of the surrounding open land and the quiet court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, private office, 4.5 baths, approximate total square footage 4,689. Fully integrated home sound system with individual multi-source, multi-zone audio selection key pads. Furniture negotiable. **OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

**SAN LEANDRO**



**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. Two car garage\*. **\*May not meet the technical size requirement for a two car garage. OFFERED AT \$429,000**

**BRIDLE CREEK**

**SOLD!**



**902 SUMMIT CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON**

Highly upgraded Premier Model on premium elevated .34 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Over \$400,000 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, plus bonus room and formal office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3445 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, custom limestone flooring, crown molding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **SOLD FOR \$1,475,000**

**GREY EAGLE ESTATES**

**SOLD!**



**4 EAGLET COURT, PLEASANTON**

Experience breathtaking panoramic views from this secluded hilltop home, located in the gated community of Grey Eagle Estates. This beautiful private estate (1.36 acre lot), features 5,460 square feet of living space with five bedrooms, AuPair/ Guest Room (4th) and four and a half baths. Large downstairs bonus room and private office (5th). The remodeled gourmet kitchen and master bath. Extensive basement storage area and separate wine cellar. Marble and hardwood flooring. Separate pool house with pool/spa/waterfall/kitchen/bathroom. Tile roof. Four car garage. **SOLD FOR \$1,975,000**

**CARLTON PLACE**

**SOLD!**



**1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE**

Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium .41 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries. **SOLD FOR \$825,000**

**MISSION HILLS**

**SOLD!**



**451 JUNIPERO STREET, PLEASANTON**

Highly upgraded Mission Hills home with views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private Yard with in-ground pool. Large, open upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms. Approximately 1,919 square feet. Remodeled bathrooms. Formal living and dining rooms. Laminate flooring, crown molding. Newer dual pane windows. Close to Mission Hills Park, schools, shopping & Downtown! **SOLD FOR \$739,500**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



**The latest from The 680 Blog**

**Quick: What do you Get For \$583,000?**

Let's test your real estate knowledge. What can you get for \$583,000?

- A 1775 sq ft house in Windemere
- A 2200 sq ft house in Dublin Ranch
- A 1500 sq ft houses in Pleasanton
- The Pontiac Silverdome

The correct answer is ANY OF THEM. The city of Pontiac, Michigan sold the storied 80,000 seat Silverdome, along with 127 Acres, to the highest bidder recently for a paltry \$583,000. The structure was built in 1975 for a cost of \$55.7 Million. I wonder what Zillow.com says it's worth?

Of course, the Detroit Lions no longer play there. And the maintenance costs are no doubt staggering. But seriously, which of the above would you rather have?

Surely there are some folks out there who would love to own a place where you can have the Foo Fighters play live

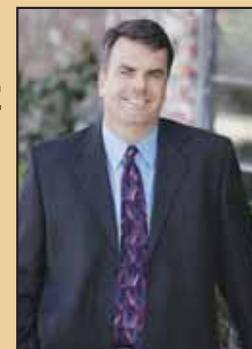
(you can try it in Windemere, but I'm fairly sure the CC & R's have some kind of restriction on that). And how much fun would it be to play that card at one of those glitzy fundraisers where the cocktail talk revolves around real estate. "Yeah, your 8,000 sq ft pad sounds nice, but I own the friggin' SILVER-DOME! SCOREBOARD BABY!"

**Go to [www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) for more real estate information!**



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Expert real estate services

*Go to [680Homes.com](http://680Homes.com) for more information on these homes and other properties.*

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



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**  
**1075 Shadow Hills Ct., Pleasanton**

**POOL & SPA!**



Fabulous 4 BR, 2½ 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**

**OPEN SUN 1-4**



Room to grow! 4 BR, 2½ BTH detached home, approx 2600 sq ft, with huge family room, private yard, and excellent location close to award winning schools!  
**\$619,950**  
**9543 Ernwood St., San Ramon**

**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!*



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



SUSIE STEELE OPEN SUN 12-3



**PLEASANTON \$2,199,000**  
Stunning Custom Home in Golden Eagle Estates nestled on 1 acre+/- featuring a backyard paradise with a pool backing to open space and incredible views of the TriValley. Reduced! 1531 Honeysuckle!

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 OPEN SAT 1-4



**HAYWARD \$1,690,000**  
Gated private one acre lot with views of SF Bay and more! Prestigious Greenbrier 5500+/- sf remodeled 1 story 4bd in main house + 1bd, 1ba guest house. Pool, gazebo 4 car garage. 4023 Oak Manor Court

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



**PLEASANTON \$1,495,000**  
Views of surrounding open land, quiet court, situated on .68+/- acre private estate lot. This 4689+/-sf, 4bd + bonus + office, 4.5 bath, upgraded home with beautiful landscaping has it all! 6229 Detjen Ct

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



**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! 1075 Shadow Hills Ct.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPT



**PLEASANTON \$1,299,000**  
Absolutely 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 large barn with loft on 7.8+/- level acres. Plenty of room for horses.

SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



**PLEASANTON \$1,299,000**  
Immaculate, Expansive, 5bd, 3.5 ba, 3991+/-sf home situated on .76+/- acre lot. Numerous upgrades. Go to www.2303Gloria.com Too Much to List!

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



**FREMONT \$969,000**  
Immaculate home in Mission San Jose! Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, fresh paint, light and bright home ready for occupancy. Sparking pool with solar unit

JOYCE JONES OPEN SUN 2-4



**PLEASANTON \$755,000**  
Desirable 4bd, 2.5ba, prime court location, 2150sf+/- living space, large 8197sf+/- lot, updated kitchen, w/granite counters, hardwood floors, roof 2009, exterior paint 2009 & more! 3825 Cheshire Court

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



**PLEASANTON \$744,950**  
Elegant 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home with gourmet granite kitchen, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, and prime cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool!

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.

KIM OTT/KIM RICHARDS 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.

STEVE ELDRIDGE OPEN SAT 1-3



**LIVERMORE \$399,900**  
Charming 3bd/2ba home in desirable Livermore with LR, DR, FR and spacious open floorplan. The home has an updated kitchen, tile, hardwood and carpet floors and is 1519+/-sf. 742 Catalina Dr.

KIM OTT/KIM RICHARDS BY APPT



**HAYWARD \$305,000**  
Cute 3bd/1ba home in the Hayward Hills. Updated kitchen with tile counters and oak cabinets with a breakfast nook. Hardwood floors. Inviting backyard.

CHESTER HALL BY APPT



**BRENTWOOD \$165,000**  
Spacious 2bd/2ba, 1224+/-sf, fireplace, 2 car garage on a 4150+/-sf corner lot. Rooms big enough to hold furniture. Room for indoor or outdoor living.

