

Pleasanton Weekly

Chopping block: School outlines a \$6.9M budget deficit for the upcoming school year

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Wine and dine: In a competitive market, Vine Cinema adds food, drink and indie films

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OUTLOOK

2010

What's ahead in the new year for Pleasanton PAGE 12

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Dee Wilson: A big man with a heart of gold

Dee Wilson, who was Pleasanton's oldest statesman when he died last Monday at the age of 90, was a special friend to all who knew him over the six decades he and his wife Shirley lived in Pleasanton, where they raised their four children. I knew him for only a few of those years. From the time this giant of a man — physically as well as his heart of gold — grabbed my hand with firmness I still remember, we became friends. A real estate developer who with his partner Louie Costanza built numerous residential subdivisions, apartments and commercial shopping centers in Union City and Fremont, he was best known in Pleasanton where he built over 400 homes, including those in Mission Park behind the office building on Sunol Boulevard, where the Pleasanton Weekly is located. He was a partner with the late George Spiliotopolous in the Cheese Factory in Santa Cruz and at the San Francisco Airport. He also participated in many projects and developments with his many "friends in town." He was always an honest, hardworking contributor in whatever he did. You could do business with Dee on a handshake.

A World War II naval veteran, Wilson was stationed in the Solomon Islands preparing for the invasion of Japan when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing the war to an end. After returning home, he attended San Jose State University, majoring in business and, later, Lincoln Law School in Oakland.

In 1966, Wilson and his wife Shirley came to Pleasanton to watch their son in a track meet. They liked the city and decided to move here in 1967. He served the community and region in numerous capacities, including two years as a BART Director (1973-1975); eight years on the Planning Commission (1978-1986); two years on the City Council (1986-1988), and 36 years as a director of the Alameda County Fair Board, serving two years as president.

He was a member of the Alameda County One Hundred Club since its inception in 1971, a board member of the George A. Spiliotopoulos Invitational Golf Tournament since its inception, a founding member in 1987 of the Pleasanton Men's Club and a longtime member of the Alameda County Honorary Deputy Sheriffs Association.

A few of those who served with

him were pallbearers at yesterday's funeral mass for Dee Wilson, which was held at St. Augustine Catholic Church. They were Frank Capilla, John Ferrari, Bob Philcox, Brad Hirst, Ted Fairfield, Ken Mercer, Tony Macchiano and Frank Brandes. It was quite a distinguished group: three ex-mayors, a former county commissioner, a plumber, a garbage company owner, an engineer and a real estate developer. All of them at least 15 years younger than Dee who would have been in high school when they were born, these close friends and their diverse professional and political interests showed the breadth of his involvement in Pleasanton affairs.

Described as intelligent, at times

a grouch and very savvy businessman, Dee had a wonderful sense of humor. He was also a determined leader who kept the best interests of Pleasanton at the forefront of everything he did. When he developed housing in the Gates neighborhood in land he acquired behind the Century House on Santa Rita Road, he spared that historic house, restored it and gave it to the city as a park. When City Council meetings were disrupted in the meeting room it used at the Fairgrounds because of a leaky roof, Dee and his friends built as a gift to the city the council chambers that are still used, attached to the Civic Center. When he and his family moved into their new home on Foothill Road, near Bernal, in the 1980s, he acquired two lots and, with a hired hand, farmed 2-1/2 acres with all kinds of fruits and trees, including field of tomatoes that he packaged and gave away to hundreds.

He was also instrumental in the founding of a youth activity center at what is currently the Gingerbread Preschool. He was a recipient of the Pleasanton Firefighters' Award in 1974, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award and the Western Fair Association Blue Ribbon Award, both in 2006, and he was also a recipient of the Mayor's Award.

Born in Oakland on Aug. 3, 1919 to Charles and Agnes Wilson, DeWitt Wilson is survived by Shirley, his wife of more than 60 years, and two of their four children: Tom Wilson of Capitola and Karen Williams of Santa Cruz. He was preceded in death by their two sons David and Robert Wilson. He also leaves seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. ■



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About the Cover

While many economists believe the recession ended in the middle of 2009, local analysts are still waiting for better results before agreeing that Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley are out of the woods. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XI, Number 1

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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

What are your thoughts on full body scans at the airport?



Katie Brown
Financial Analyst

They seem kind of intrusive. If they really think it'll improve security though, I guess it's good -- as long as they take the proper precautions. Also, I want to make sure there isn't excessive radiation. They haven't really said anything about that.

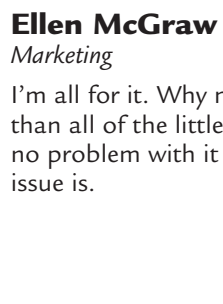
Kevin Cadinha
Landscape Contractor

I think it's a poor use of our resources. I think our taxpayer dollars should be directed at solutions for everyone, not creating more fear. They don't even really know the effects. And it's violation of civil rights and personal privacy.



Shel Harris
Contractor

It sounds creepy, right? It seems like a bad idea. They already take my shoes every time I fly, and it'll definitely slow things down.



Ellen McGraw
Marketing

I'm all for it. Why not? I think it's better than all of the little things they do. I have no problem with it and I don't see what the issue is.



Kenneth Lawrence
Electronics Engineer

I came through London Heathrow and I got full body scanned. I got felt up and got my bag searched, too. Actually, I think it's a good thing, but I don't think it should be done all the time. It should be done at random and on key events.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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Bank near mall robbed Friday

Around 1:12 p.m. Friday a man reportedly robbed a Washington Mutual Bank on Stoneridge Mall Road threatened to use a gun, although no weapon was seen.

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DIGEST

Updating the Youth Master Plan

The community is invited to a workshop to generate feedback on a draft vision, values and goals document that will be used to update the city's existing Youth Master Plan. It will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 30 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Draft values and goals emerged from a series of stakeholder meetings and focus groups conducted over the past year, as well as the results of a recent survey. Attendees will be eligible for prizes. Space is limited. RSVP by Jan. 22 to youthmasterplanupdate@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or call 931-5001.

Sixth to challenge McNerney

Jeff Takada of Manteca is the latest to join the race for the 11th Congressional district, a position currently held by Democrat and Pleasanton resident Jerry McNerney. This brings the number of Republican candidates to six planning to run in the primary in November. Takada and the other candidates, Tony Amador, Robert Beadles, Elizabeth Emken, Brad Goehring and David Harmer, will be at a luncheon presentation Jan. 26 at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. Lunch costs \$23. For reservations, call Leta Rockwell at 838-2908, or e-mail rockwellsnuggery@comcast.net.

Take a hike with John Muir

Presented by the Museum On Main, "Take a Hike with John Muir" is a lecture by re-enactor Frank Helling. The talk will explore the life of the environmental activist who devoted his energy to the conservation and preservation of Western forests in the U.S. It will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 28 at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, admission is \$5 for members and seniors, \$10 for non-members, and \$3 for students and teachers with school ID. For more information, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Poetry publishing workshop

Prominent poet Connie Post, first poet laureate of Livermore, will be featured at this workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. She will discuss how to handle editors, submissions guidelines and rejection while navigating the path to publication. Cost is \$10. Call 846-882 or visit www.civicsartsliterary.org.

Schools facing at least \$6.9M in cuts

PUSD's latest budget forecast may not have hit rock bottom

By EMILY WEST

In order to balance its budget, the Pleasanton Unified School District will need to cut at least \$6.9 million in reductions for the upcoming fiscal year.

The announcement of further cuts as a result of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's updated budget, released last Friday, was hardly a surprise. At a recent community forum regarding the budget, district staff said they knew there would be at least a \$3.6-million deficit as the result of funding positions last year with one-time dollars as well as rollover costs

for positions and programs.

With the latest figures, PUSD will now also have to make up for a negative cost of living adjustment and a reduction of \$2.9 million in revenue from the state. It may not be the final number, as the governor's budget includes "risky assumptions," according to PUSD, including \$6.9 billion of the \$19.9 billion deficit to be covered by additional federal funding.

Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services for the district, said this is just the beginning of the budget process. She

also pointed out that the cabinet-identified list of possible reductions was solely done in an effort to reach fiscal solvency, not as a way to improve quality of services.

The board was presented a list of possible cuts at its regular meeting Tuesday night, but was not scheduled to take any action. Several members of the community in attendance appeared to urge the board not to cut the Barton Reading Program, one of several programs facing cuts.

An updated list of reductions totals just under \$6.9 million, but

would also include flexing the state-deferred maintenance allowance, which would likely include borrowing from the Sycamore fund. The potential solution also includes delaying a \$670,000 OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) payment as they did last year. Doing this, however, would likely look bad to potential investors and hinder PUSD's ability to issue debt service.

Programs saved from last summer's fundraising effort, management givebacks and a delayed

See **SCHOOLS** on Page 6



Rainbow bright

This photograph of Tuesday morning's rainbow was taken by Pleasanton resident Sue Evans, who wanted to share it with anyone who wasn't fortunate enough to see it. The Tri-Valley was showered with rainfall all week long, with more rain expected over the weekend. Share photos of the community by sending them to publisher@pleasantonweekly.com or editor@pleasantonweekly.com. Include your name and when and where the photo was taken.

Poizner talks state budget, schools, water crisis in campaign for governor

Insurance commissioner speaks to small group at Livermore

By JANET PELLETIER

State insurance commissioner Steve Poizner brought his campaign for governor to the Tri-Valley this week, expressing his ideas on the public school system, a budget solution, the state water crisis, a constitutional convention and illegal immigration.

The Los Gatos resident, who is running in the Republican primary in June, spoke to a small group of about 20 people at the Livermore Chamber of Commerce Tuesday.

It was a passion for public schools that Poizner said gave him the impetus for getting into politics. As a teacher for two years at Mt. Pleasant High School in East San Jose, he said he saw the issues on a personal level.

"We've completely mismanaged schools," he said. "I want to rip control of schools from the hands of Sacramento."

"Hiring should be done at a local level," he continued, adding that charter schools are a

great example of that.

As the state is saddled with a \$20-billion budget deficit, Poizner offered his own way of reducing it: reworking the tax structure, putting a freeze on funding, spending and hiring and cut spending by 10 percent. To break it down, Poizner said he would cut personal income, corporate and state income taxes by 10 percent and capital gains taxes in half. Matching that with less regulation and reworking the legal system would provide the recipe for a balanced budget.

"We want innovators and entrepreneurs to come back," he said. "This is a lawsuit crazy state and we need some tort reform."

After Poizner highlighted his plans, the group asked a range of questions on such topics as the state water system, a constitutional convention, energy development and illegal immigration.

When asked about desalinization plants, Poizner said he would like to build them in conjunction

See **POIZNER** on Page 7

Former resident sentenced to 4 years for fraud

Brice Carrington, 46, who now lives in Ojai, also must pay \$4 million in restitution

A former Pleasanton man who falsely claimed he was a three-time Oscar-winning sound designer in a scheme to bilk investors in movie sound design products was sentenced to four years in federal prison.

Last Friday, U.S. District Court Judge D. Lowell Jensen also ordered Brice Carrington, 46, who now lives in Ojai, to pay \$4 million in restitution to 13 victims and pay another \$142,000 in restitution for unpaid income taxes.

In addition, Jensen ordered Carrington to forfeit Lamborghini, Hummer and Mercedes vehicles that he owned.

Carrington pleaded guilty in September to wire fraud and tax evasion in connection with the investment fraud scheme, according to U.S. Attorney Joseph Russoniello and Internal Revenue Service Special Agent in Charge Scott O'Briant.

In pleading guilty, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Carrington admitted that he lured investors by telling them he was well established in the entertainment industry and had been involved in many Hollywood productions.

To add credibility to his claims, Carrington paid a jeweler to make an Oscar statuette and also had another fake statuette, according to prosecutors.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Carrington displayed the fake Oscar statuettes and photographs of himself with the statuettes in his home during investor fundraising parties.

In addition, Carrington used investors' money without their knowledge to buy three luxury cars — a Lamborghini Murcielago, a Hummer H2 and a Mercedes SL 500R — and used them as props to help lure new investors into investing money with him, prosecutors said.

According to prosecutors, Carrington received about \$4.04 million from investors but used no more than \$430,000 of that money toward designing sound effects.

Carrington is scheduled to begin his sentence Feb. 12.

—Bay City News

Legislators call for legalizing 'recreational use' of marijuana

Quest by drug advocates just 'got a lot easier,' advocacy group says

Four Bay Area legislators provided the votes Tuesday as the state Assembly Public Safety Committee approved by a 4-3 margin a bill that would legalize adult recreational use of marijuana and allow the drug to be sold and taxed in the state.

The bill, AB 390, is authored by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco).

Stephen Gutwillig, the state director of the Drug Policy Alliance,

said he thinks the vote is "historic" because "it marks the formal beginning of the end of marijuana prohibition in the United States."

Gutwillig said, "Nobody thinks passing a bill of this kind is doable in 2010" but he said the fact that it passed out of committee is significant and potentially sets the stage for it to be approved by the full Assembly in the future.

Ammiano's spokesman, Quentin

Mecke, said, "We're quite happy because this is the first time in the U.S. that a bill like this has been carried and has been approved by a committee."

Mecke said Ammiano is still hopeful that the bill will be heard in the Assembly's Health Committee before a deadline on Friday but he admits that such an outcome is "unlikely."

—Bay City News

Garbage service to pick up trees

Pleasanton Garbage Service will pick up Christmas trees that are placed at the curb this Saturday. Trees must be placed curbside the night before pickup and cut in four-foot sections.

Stands, tinsel, ornaments and lights should be removed.

Christmas trees cut in two-foot sections can also be placed inside green waste containers and discarded at any time.

Pleasanton residents can also take Christmas trees to the Transfer Station at 3110 Busch Road free of charge until Feb. 1.

—Jeb Bing

TAKE US ALONG



Back on the farm

Don and Claire Mittelstaedt toted the Weekly with them to Wisconsin. While there, they went to Don's cousin's farm, where Don had spent many summers growing up. The trip was well-timed to see the fall coloring, Claire reports.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

OPEB payment would not be refunded in 2010-11: 4.5 reading

specialists, elementary strings and band, 6.1 counselors, three positions in technology support and library, 1.5 middle school vice principals, management assistant, half of Barton reading support and off-site counseling. The total for these programs is \$1.3 million.

Other outlined solutions could be \$659,000 in categorical programs such as school/library improvement plans, art and music, class-size reduction in ninth grade, and gifted and talented education. Counseling services would be cut by \$256,000. This is in addition to those lost by way of the one-time fundraising, meaning the district would move from 27.9 counseling positions in the current year to 15.5 next year. It would also eliminate class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grade, with ratios at 30 students per teacher for a savings of \$1.3 million.

Additional options could lead to the reduction of the elementary school day, resulting in the loss of specialists, such as physical education, science and music. Doing this could lead to \$1.9 million in savings and the reduction of 23.7 full-time positions.

Rounding out the list of possible reductions: reducing summer school offerings (\$200,000 savings), eliminating remaining reading specialists (\$360,000 for 4.5 full-time positions), eliminating the other half of the Barton support (\$45,000), reducing supplemental remediation hours (\$45,000), and reducing site funds (\$150,000).

Over the next few months, there are several meetings scheduled to address the budget that are in addition to the regular board meetings. The next is from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Amador Valley High School's multipurpose room. It's designed to be a casual environment, with people encouraged to give feedback by direct questioning or through cards read by the facilitator. The board will have their next regular meeting Jan. 26, followed by the meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee Jan. 27.

Meeting details and budget resources can be found on the school district's website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us or by calling 462-5500. ■



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PDA director Saldivar resigns post

By JEB BING

Christine Saldivar, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association since April 2004, has resigned her position effective Feb. 15 to move to Florida and marry her longtime friend John Roberts.

Saldivar, the longest serving director of the downtown business group, told the PDA's executive board about her plans.

Roberts, a scientist at the Livermore Lab and, before that, at Los Alamos Laboratory, is retiring. The couple decided over the holidays to marry this spring and to relocate to a home they have purchased in Cape Coral, Fla., a popular retirement destination that boasts having the most inland canals anywhere with docks located at homeowners' backyards.

Saldivar, 46, has more than 16 years of business organizational management experience. A Navy veteran who served in director positions at Chambers of Commerce in Lakeport, Oroville and Union City before establishing a consulting business in

Fresno, Saldivar headed numerous marketing and planning efforts and events, bringing that experience to Pleasanton.

Since taking the downtown business organization position here, she has added new members, including many from outside the downtown district "that have found that it's to their advantage to be part of our organization and the many special events that we have to help small businesses."

The PDA, which is a quasi-public organization, receives subsidies from the city of Pleasanton and membership fees from businesses in the downtown area that are required to be part of the organization. Its budget is just under \$500,000 for fiscal 2010.

During her tenure, Saldivar also increased business participation and public attendance at PDA events, including First Wednesday street par-



Christine Saldivar

ties in the summer months and Concerts in the Park, where concert-goers now fill both Lions Wayside Park and nearby Delucchi Park for the weekly summertime Friday night concerts.

Saldivar said the PDA will be actively involved in developing businesses and pedestrian attractions for the thousands expected to visit plays, galleries and classes at the new Firehouse Arts Center, which will open later this year. She looks for Railroad Avenue, where the new center is located, to become be filled with coffeehouses, restaurants and boutiques, enhancing the historic downtown on near-by Main Street and side streets.

"Downtown Pleasanton is truly amazing," she said. "We have people from other Main Street organizations throughout the country who ask how they can emulate what Pleasanton has done in their own downtowns. ■"

POIZNER

Continued from Page 5

with power plants, but added that "there's a short-term crisis we have to address now" with the state's decision to lessen pumping from the Delta to protect the protected smelt fish.

"This current water crisis is man made," he said.

"One judge is ordering the pump shutdown," he continued, adding that he would sue to overturn that decision.

On the prospect of a constitutional convention, Poizner said he feels "it's another excuse for why people can't get at problems now" and that the state needs to come together with a reform package that will lead to the promotion of free markets and a smaller, more accountable government.

"We need a safety valve," he said. "We do need changes to the constitution, but minimal."

One change he proposed was converting the state legislature from full time to part time, as is done in Texas, Poizner's home state.

"That would encourage people with real world experience to run for office," he said. "It would also force them to focus on issues that matter."

When asked about his stance on energy development, Poizner said "we're crazy to be so dependent on those petro-dictators," and said he supports offshore drilling and would allow companies to use slant drilling technology, something he said would help the budget crisis.

Acknowledging that illegal immigration is rampant, Poizner said the state needs to secure its borders and supports sending the National Guard and California Highway Patrol. In addition, he said the state needs to stop offering "magnets" to those who enter the state illegally — in the way of medical care, schooling and employment.

Poizner's only other opponent in the gubernatorial race for the Republican ticket former eBay CEO Meg Whitman, who visited Pleasanton in September. ■



JANET PELLETTIER

Poizner, State Insurance Commissioner, brought his campaign to the Tri-Valley Tuesday, speaking to a small group at the Livermore Chamber.

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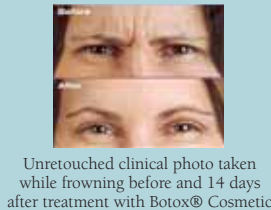
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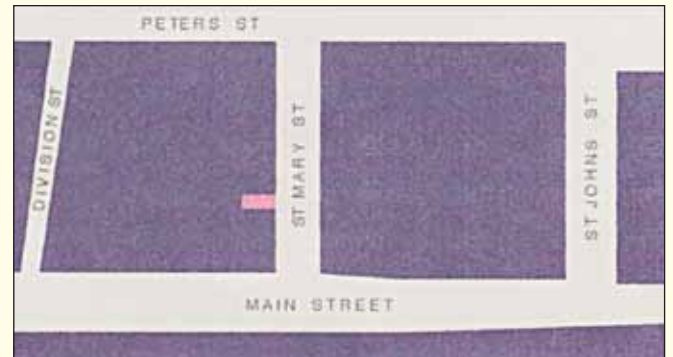
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Paid for by Robert Byrd

Downtown private or public



If a picture is worth 1,000 words, then this picture pretty much says it all. One private home placed smack dab in the middle of a commercial district we keep saying we're trying to "revitalize." This coming Tuesday the City Council will discuss the results — "Big Brother and the Redcoats." Yet in reality, the issue wasn't born today. The unavoidable confrontation between public and private space in downtown's commercial district has been lying around, unattended to by lack of understanding and foresight since the Downtown Specific Plan was revised in 2002, and made evident in 2005 when the Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) stood in council chambers and said, "This (private home) is exactly what PDA would like to see more of downtown."

However, time reveals everything, and we look to the past to see where to go in the future. As made evident again by the fact that these same experts are now out there stump'n the crowds with a whole new vision. Honestly, sometimes it seems like downtown exists without plan or purpose, that PDA just runs up and down Main Street like the Keystone Cops, putting out fires and rewriting the past, but never quite getting ahead of the present.

When this old "oddfellow" (IOOF) building on St. Mary Street (currently the culprit) first opened its doors to the community in 1888, it did so with music and song. And when the Oddfellows build the front section in 1910 they used the second floor for meetings, dances and special events, with music, food and drink, while the community itself held all sorts of private and public gatherings in the Oddfellows dance hall. The building was alive. When we purchased the property in the 1990's, our well-known goal from the very beginning was to breathe new life into an old building with a history of being a gathering place to the community. After many years, demands and delays I believe the old building is breathing on its own again. But with the 100 year old Oddfellows dance hall just sitting up there on the second floor, vacant, lifeless, and breathing on life support, I also believe we've reached only half the goal.

"Everyone wants a place to go where they feel a part of the community. The informal gathering place, separate from home and work, where one encounters people not normally part of either. The bar, the pub, or the coffee shop is the great good place, the place where people connect, where community evolves, separate from home and work, but a compliment to both."

Sociologist, Ray Oldenburg "The Great Good Place"

Now it seems to me that Barone's, Tully's "and" Redcoats, and 122 years of history have clearly demonstrated the value in those words and what people want from their downtown's commercial center — **new life, excitement and the out-of-the-ordinary.** But the real question is, what do you want? Remember, it's your town and when people lead, leaders will follow.

—Robert W. Byrd

Opinion

LETTERS

Angels do exist

Dear Editor,

When I heard about a 64-year-old woman who needed a car, I asked why and the answer was: Because she needs to live in it. Shocked by the answer, I immediately wondered what can I do to help. I figured I have about 42 names on my email list. I started my email with the word "imagine" and that they did. My angels came through for me. Before I knew it there was some money and a car that was donated which now will be used as this 64-year-old woman's new home. I know now that she is not alone. Where she is planning to park this car, is a park which already serves as a back drop for several other families and individuals living out of their cars.

What I learned from this experience is that "angels do exist" and that I am blessed with a number of them in my life. What I hope your readers will learn from this story is that they too need to surround themselves with good friends and like me; they too should count their blessings each and every day. Because, we never know when things can turn and if someone would care enough to send out an email to 42 of their closest friends on our behalf. These are my angels and that's how I know they exist: Zinat, Jack, Ninva, Shirin, Parvaneh, Ali, Zizi, Hossein,

Reza, Roya, Nasser, Farah, Shahab, Abbas.

Nasi Ehsani

Tarver came along at a crucial time

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the excellent article on former Mayor Ben Tarver ("Ben Tarver 1946-2010," Cover Story, Jan. 8, page 14). From my experience on the Ridge Committee and several election campaigns, I understood Ben to be politically astute, persistent, and tough yet caring. He believed strongly in preserving the quality of life here. He came along at a crucial time and without Ben Tarver, Pleasanton could have been more like Walnut Creek or San Jose than the town we enjoy today.

George Reid

Thank you for Tarver coverage

Dear Editor,

Thank you for a wonderful piece on Ben Tarver ("Ben Tarver 1946-2010," Cover Story, Jan. 8, page 14). I'm sure Jeanie and the family will appreciate what a thorough picture you created of Ben's contribution to his community. It has been forwarded to them so they will be sure to read it.

Lisa Beezley

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.

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Stepped-up law enforcement over holidays keeps DUI arrests low

More than 1,900 people were arrested in the Bay Area for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a regional anti-DUI crackdown over the Christmas and New Year's Day period that began Dec. 18 and ended Jan. 3. The regional "Avoid" campaign, which involved 125 Bay Area law enforcement agencies, including Pleasanton's Police Department, netted a total 1,960 arrests. Last year, the winter holiday Avoid campaign netted 3,261 arrests in the Bay Area. There were five DUI-involved fatal collisions in the region during the 2008 enforcement period, while there were two this year. More drunken drivers were arrested by California Highway Patrol officers over the New Year's weekend in the Bay Area than in 2009, with 160 drivers charged with being under the influence, up from the 2009 total of 116 during the same reporting period. The CHP reported no fatalities on Bay Area highways and freeways it patrolled during their Maximum Enforcement Period.

Jan Ford of the Avoid Campaign said the decrease in DUI arrests could indicate that drivers have become more aware of the dangers of drinking and driving. She called it a "tremendous drop this year, which makes us very happy because it sounds to us like people are getting the message about driving sober."

The news was even better in Pleasanton where tough police enforcement led to the arrest of 13 drivers on suspicion of driving while intoxicated, down one from a year ago. Last year, there were two accidents attributed to drunken driving; this year there were none. Even the number of accidents over the New Year's weekend was down, totaling eight compared to 13 in the same period a year ago. The only numbers that increased, in fact, were calls to the police department to report problems, but Police Capt. Dave Spiller said that's a number he likes to see rise because it shows more residents are watching their neighborhoods and helping police by reporting suspicious activity. He credits the department's Outreach program, which encourages citizens to call police if they see unusual activities near their homes or elsewhere in the city, including retail center parking lots.

As for New Year's Eve itself, Spiller said the city was quiet and calm, with party-goers celebrating inside and using designated drivers if they had to use a car to go home. It's always good news to report no fatalities, few arrests and a calm, peaceful community on New Year's Eve, often the most difficult night of the year for police everywhere. ■

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. 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.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

Pleasanton Weekly

PRESIDENT

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

PUBLISHER

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 111

Features Editor

Emily West, Ext. 121

Contributors

Dennis Miller
Jerri Pantages Long
Joe Ramirez
Elyssa Thome

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Lili Cao, Ext. 120
Kristin Herman, Ext. 114
Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 120

ADVERTISING

Advertising Sales Manager

Mary Hantos, Ext. 123

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Ad Services

Sandy Lee, Ext. 116
Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail: circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE REPORT

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

Jan. 3

Burglary

- 9:00 p.m. in the 6600 block of Amber Lane

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:03 a.m. in the 4800 block of Drywood Street; underage drinking on private property
- 1:26 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 1:57 a.m. at the intersection of Muirwood Drive and Hillview Court; public drunkenness

Jan. 4

Theft

- 9:17 a.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
- 1:16 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 6:16 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 1:16 p.m. in the 7000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:22 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 5:43 p.m. in the 6000 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness

Jan. 5

Theft

- 7:42 a.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets
- 8:58 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

- 4:45 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft

Vandalism

- 7:42 a.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets

Drugs for sale possession

- 9:51 p.m. at the intersection of Third and Angela streets

Jan. 6

Theft

- 5:13 a.m. in the 5200 block of Case Avenue; petty theft, stolen property possession
- 3:08 p.m. in the 1800 block of Tanglewood Way; identity theft
- 4:29 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary

- 7:41 a.m. in the 4800 block of Case Avenue

Vandalism

- 7:49 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:11 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Koll Center Parkway; DUI
- 6:35 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 10:59 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance

Loitering

- 5:13 a.m. in the 5200 block of Case Avenue

Threats

- 3:09 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 7

Theft

- 11:42 a.m. in the 1500 block of

Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 1:03 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; grand theft

- 1:26 p.m. in the 2500 block of Wilde Avenue; identity theft

- 1:40 p.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; petty theft

- 4:20 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

- 6:57 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement

Burglary

- 9:38 a.m. in the 600 block of Romeo Court

Vandalism

- 9:08 a.m. at the intersection of Wyoming and Nevada streets

- 2:47 p.m. in the 4800 block of Harrison Street

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:17 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

- 11:42 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; marijuana possession

- 6:04 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Johnson drives; DUI

- 9:56 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Johnson drives; driving with an open alcohol container

Battery

- 9:06 a.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court

Threatening calls

- 10:21 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Jan. 8

Theft

- 7:46 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
- 11:02 a.m. in the 3700 block of North Hawaii Court; identity theft

- 1:13 p.m. in the 1100 block of Tiffany Lane; grand theft

- 6:19 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:56 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI

- 6:53 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; public drunkenness

Jan. 9

Theft

- 1:46 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa

Rita Road; petty theft

- 1:14 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 2:29 p.m. in the 2700 block of Huff Drive; grand theft

- 6:12 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:10 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; driving with an open alcohol container, DUI



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Approve recommendations for use of Citizens' Option for Public Safety Program (COPS) Year 13 appropriation
- Accept the City Clerk's Certification of the Referendum Petition for Ordinance No. 1961 regarding the Oak Grove Development, Consider Options for the Petition and Related Election Procedures
- Confirm members of a Task Force to guide the Hacienda PUD Modification Process
- **Continued to February 2, 2010** - Public Hearing: PAP-139 - Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of PCUP-257, the application of Mari Kennard to modify the approved Conditional Use Permit (PCUP-129) for the operation of Redcoats British Pub and Restaurant located at 336 St. Mary Street to expand the days/hours for indoor music

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Operation Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Marketing Study Scope and Overview Presentation
- Stimulus Program Participation Update

Housing Commission

The Housing Commission meeting scheduled January 21st has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on February 18, 2010.

GENERAL INFORMATION

City Hosts Community Workshop on Youth Master Plan Update

Saturday, January 30, 2010

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Pleasanton Library ~ Community Room

400 Old Bernal Avenue

All Pleasanton residents are invited to attend the workshop. Please RSVP early by emailing youthmasterplanupdate@ci.pleasanton.ca.us, or call (925) 931-5002. Attendees will be eligible for prizes and must be present to win. For more information about the Youth Master Plan Update please contact Maria Lara (925) 931-5002 or mlara@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

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

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

OBITUARIES

Guadalupe "Lupe" M. Garcia

Guadalupe "Lupe" M. Garcia died peacefully Jan. 5 with her family by her side at the age of 73.

Born Dec. 27, 1936 in Santa Paula, Calif. and moved to Pleasanton with her mother and siblings.

A member of Catholic Community of Pleasanton, she graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1955. Her first job was with Bank of America located downtown. She worked for Pleasanton Unified School District for more than 30 years and in the summers at the Alameda County Fair. She volunteered at her church, while her children attended CCD at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

She touched many lives in many ways with her generosity and kindness, strength and determination throughout her life.

She is survived by her brother, Jess; two sisters, Carmen and Frances; children, Rick, Mike, Cathy (Claypool) of Livermore, Dolores (Hobaugh) of San Ramon, Ray of Pleasanton and Linda of Austin, Texas; five grandchildren with a granddaughter due any day; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Rick, who died in July.

Services were scheduled to be held Jan. 11 and 12. Burial was to follow at St. Augustine Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests that gifts in her memory be made to St. Elizabeth Seton, Building Fund.

DeWitt "Dee" Clinton Wilson

Surrounded by his family, DeWitt "Dee" Clinton Wilson died peacefully Jan. 11 in his home in Pleasanton.

Mr. Wilson, a former Pleasanton City Councilman (1986-1988),

Planning Commissioner (1978-1986), BART director (1973-1975) and director of the Alameda County Fair Board for 36 years, is profiled in this issue's Around Pleasanton column (see page 3).

A service was scheduled to be held Jan. 14 at St. Augustine Catholic Church with burial following at Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery.

The family requests donations be sent to the Stanford Cardiovascular Department at 300 Pasteur Drive, Stanford, CA 94305 or to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin, CA 94568.

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Bill & Pat Ruvalcaba.....	300
Douglas & Mary Safreno.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Samel.....	**
John & Sheila Sanches.....	**
Owen & Rebecca Saupe.....	**
The Sborov Family.....	**
Dale & Carlotta Schauer.....	25
John & Cecilia Schieber.....	1500
Rose M. Schoop.....	25
Tim & Belinda Schultz.....	100
Peter Schulze.....	**
Howard Scott.....	100
Chris & Cecile Seams.....	**
Bill & Audrey Sears.....	**
Howard & Emilie Seebach.....	50
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Severin.....	100
John & Barbara Severini.....	500
Sonal & Ajay Shah.....	**
Steve & Bonnie Shamblyn.....	100
Ron & Lonnie Shaw.....	100
Larry & Carol Shaw.....	**
T.H. & S. J. Shen.....	100
John & Jackie Shurtleff.....	100
Joe & Sue Silva.....	**
Bob Silva.....	100
Richard & Corrie Simon.....	**
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Spangler.....	100
Mike & Kerry Jo Stephan.....	100
Duane & Donna Stevens.....	**
John & Kay Stewart.....	**
Nancy Storch.....	**
George & Hillary Strain.....	250
Jack & Carol Sum.....	100
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Swanson.....	**
Robert & Carole Sygiel.....	100
The Jeffrey Family.....	**
Shel & Vivian Thorson.....	100

Deborah Tomlin.....	100
Jim & Debbie Tracy.....	**
Mike & Lillian Tsai.....	100
Mark & Kathy Tucker.....	**
The Ulrich Family.....	**
Carlo & Geraldine Vecchiarelli.....	100
The Verkuilen Family.....	**
The Villegas Family.....	**
Thomas Wardrope.....	100
Glenn & Janet Wenig.....	100
Walter & Martha Wensel.....	100
Mr. Stephen V. Wickersham.....	**
Mr. Horace Robert Williams.....	500
Ralph & Pat Williams.....	50
Kristen Winslow.....	**
Craig & Karen Wissman.....	**
George & Carol Withers.....	100
Robert & Joyce Wong.....	200
The Yamamoto Family.....	**
Steve & Becky Yeffa.....	100
Esther Yu, Kaelan Song & Eric Song.....	130
The Zong Family.....	100

Businesses and Organizations

Accusplit / Pedometer Wellness Team.....	200
Amador Valley Lions Club.....	300
AST POS.....	**
Bay East Association of Realtors.....	2500
Bay East Association of Realtors Livermore Marketing Association.....	250
Bay Valley Medical Group.....	**
Brown & Cold, An Accountancy Corporation.....	**
California Self Defense Consultants.....	200
Camp Character.....	**
Charla's Pampered Pets.....	50
David & Sue Flashberger / Flashberger Realtors.....	500
DeBernardi Development Construction & Remodeling.....	**
Dublin Tool & Manufacturing.....	100
East Bay Insurance & Financial Services.....	250
Event Credit Card Auction Sales.....	1250
Extensions Physical Therapy.....	**
Garcia Door & Window.....	**
Hacienda Bunco Group.....	60
Hometown GMAC Real Estate.....	**
Isberg Nott Company.....	**
Karen E. Morliengo, LMFT.....	75
Keller Williams Realty Tri-Valley Cares.....	2500
Kim Ott and Associates, Inc.....	250
L.L. Cox "Business Account".....	20
Landmark Lending.....	**
LawTech.....	100
Lipman Insurance Administrators, Inc.....	1000
Livermore Amador Valley LPA.....	100
Livermore Lions Club.....	300
M. Block & Sons / Patrick McMullen.....	**
Mathnasium.....	**
Mission Pipe & Cigar Shop.....	150
Online Resources Corporation, Valley Real Estate Network - Keller Williams.....	250
PIPE CAM, Inc.....	295
Pleasanton Fairways Ladies Golf Club.....	300
Pleasanton Pet Sitting.....	50
Pleasanton Properties Real Estate, Inc., The Fabulous Properties Team.....	1000
Ponderosa Homes.....	**
PUSD Retired Secretary's Lunch Bunch.....	**
SA Real Estate Services.....	700
Senior Sales Consultant.....	500
Special Termite, Inc.....	200
Stan Angelov.....	**
Susan Sparber, CMT.....	**
Sycamore Heights Bunco Babes.....	**
Tahara Detox & Weightloss Center.....	**
The Karena Lee Sanford Charitable Foundation.....	**
The Pleasanton - Livermore Junior Women's Club.....	500
Tri-Valley YMCA.....	**
Unlimited Success, Inc.....	250
Vagaro.com.....	**

Valley Marketing Association.....	4500
Wednesday Tennis Gals.....	**

As A Gift For

Tricia Martin - Love, Dad, Mom, and Sparklie.....	**
V & A Johnstone.....	**
From: Friends of Joan.....	100
Garrett Cesaretti.....	**
Steven Cesaretti.....	**
Bertie Wilson.....	**
Jill Lindross.....	**
Dave & Kris Snyder & Ross & Sheri Kapp from Jim & Diane Brittain.....	**
Jim & Diane Brittain & Dave & Kris Snyder from Ross & Sheri Kapp.....	**
The Francis', Otvos' & Malatesta's from The Schussel's.....	**
Adrian & Bernie Wong from Alex & Kit Wong.....	**
Ross & Sheri Kapp & Jim & Diane Brittain from Dave & Kris Snyder.....	**
Frank & Ann Lordman.....	100
Jim & Holly Oswald.....	50

In Honor of

Grandmas Adeline & Eva.....	100
Daggett Children & Grandchildren.....	**
Auntie Junk & Uncle Stevie from The Silcox Family.....	50
The Staff of Pleasanton Nursing & Rehab Center from Leslie Rutledge.....	**
Karissa, Chelsea, Sarah, Dashell & Desmond.....	**
Our Military from The Gualandri Family.....	100
Jana Grant from Steve & Jori Grant.....	100
Bobbie Jensen, Capt. Callippe Niners.....	100
Barb, Kevin, Michael & David Brooks from Dan & Lou.....	250
Rev. Paul Henshaw & Rev. Kim Risedorph from Rev. Gary & Debbi Grundman.....	**
The Staff of Lynewood United Methodist Church, Diana, Cindie, Donna, Carlene, Michelle & George from Rev. Gary & Debbi Grundman.....	**
My Grandchildren from Doris A. Slater.....	**
Our Military from The Cederquist Family.....	**
A special group of employees City of Pleasanton.....	1000

In Memory of

Our Mom Lora from Dmitriy & Lada Kosarikov.....	**
Gene Rega.....	25
Gam & Papa Abbott from The Casey Family.....	**
Laura Maya.....	**
Nicholas Daniel Lesser.....	**
Verna Mae Silva from Steve & Kathy McNichols.....	1000
Tony Paradiso & Gene Paradiso from Dorene Paradiso-Carroll.....	**
Dan Gabor from Ann Gabor.....	125
Linda Scherschel.....	50
Doris T. Walberg from Todd & Brenda Walberg.....	100
Rob Meierding.....	100
Aldo Macor.....	**
Gene Strom, Keith Strom & William Kolb from Carol (Kolb) Strom.....	**
Mary Erickson from Al Copher.....	50
Matt Rybicki & Michael Conner from Jerry & Josine Pentin.....	100
Althea McGill from The Grimes Family.....	**
Tom & Karen Elsnab from Nancy T. Elsnab.....	**
Clifford Cowan from Mrs. Nancy Cowan.....	**
Lindsey Jones.....	**
Nick Del Boccio.....	**
Rick Aguiar from Nancy Aguiar Fargis.....	**
In Loving Memory of Brian Melin from Patricia Melin.....	100

John A. Mavridis from Mr. & Mrs. Ted Mavridis.....	**
Teddy & Arthur Adams.....	100
Our Grandparents from The Grimes Family.....	**
Liz Ray from Alex & Emily Corbishley.....	**
Marilyn Bowe from James Bowe.....	50
Ed Kinney, George Spiliotopolous, Hank Gomez, Ralph Romero & Roger Dabney from Ken Mercer.....	400
John Silva.....	100
Hilda Gutierrez from Martin & Amory Gutierrez.....	**
Lola Palladino.....	100
Bill & Ann Brown.....	**
Bob Williams.....	**
Jim Snodgrass.....	**
Norma Holway from Joe & Janice Biggs.....	**
Beverly Oberg from Ed & Holly Heuer.....	**
Grampa Ray & Grampa Tom from Jeff, Annie & Kevin.....	**
Don Foreman.....	100
Marie Petrone from Jim & Kate Anderson.....	**
Susan Dawson from Mark & Janet Mullaney.....	150
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Karl K. Witze.....	500
Betty Patrick from Chuck & Joan Brown.....	**
Stan Kallo from Blake & Suzanne Heitzman.....	300
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Sarah Lees from Mr. & Mrs. Donald Person.....	**
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Bob, David & Jodi Armknecht.....	150
Anthony Prima from Daniel & Teresa Morley & Family.....	**
Marge Schaefer & Skip Mohatt from Tom & Barb Treto.....	**
May, Harold & Mike Consedine from The Hamm Family.....	100
Dave Chestnut from Tim & Teri Bush.....	**
Kyle O'Connor from The Dadrass Family.....	**
MaryAnn Butler, Gil & Juanita Haugen & Brent Lovell from The Bob Group.....	**
Kittie, Edward & Margie Turnbull.....	**
Gerald Grater Love from Laurie Woods.....	150
Mary May.....	**
Fred Elling.....	**
Floyd Bueno from Gil & Gretchen Zaballos.....	100
Bonnie Zenter.....	100
Dorothy Gordon.....	**
Allan Hillman, Randy & Margie Warner.....	100
Hank Gomez from Frank, Debra & Dorothy.....	125
Ernie Bridges from The Bridges Family.....	**
Laura Mayo from Don & Nancy Shelton.....	**
Grandpa Dot from The Reedy Family.....	**
Howard Hill from Sally Hill.....	**
David DeBernardi from Connie DeBernardi.....	150
Mary DeBernardi from Connie DeBernardi.....	150
Joe Hatfield from Helen Hatfield.....	**
Jeffrey J. Alves from Ed & Dorene Alves.....	100
Ernest Alverson from Bill & Janis Alverson.....	**
Elizabeth Stewart & Lisa Lum from Gordon & Elite Stewart.....	200
Doris Cink & Charles Glass from Vern & Tracy Cink.....	**
Maurice I. Smith from Carol Smith & Family.....	50
Karen & Tom Elsnab & Chuck Volonte from Jon & Linda Elsnab.....	150
Bill Haraughty from Anita Haraughty.....	**
Ralph Romero from The Coffee Guys at Vic's Cafe.....	140
John Bell from Phoebe Bell.....	**

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

From L-R: Residents gather downtown at the popular Farmers' Market, where more shoppers are heading this year. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, is taking more from local governments and cutting school funds. Wrestling with those cuts are school board members (from left) Pat Kernan, Valerie Arkin, Jim Ott, Jaime Hintzke and Chris Grant.



JEB BING



OUTLOOK 2010

WHAT'S AHEAD IN THE NEW YEAR FOR PLEASANTON

BY JEB BING

While many economists believe the recession ended in the middle of 2009, local analysts are still waiting for better results before agreeing that Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley are out of the woods. Office vacancies in Hacienda Business Park continue to hover at 25 percent, a record high, although Kaiser is now moving employees into two buildings it has acquired from Oracle and Roche is expanding. James Paxson, head of the Hacienda Business Park Owners Association, called it "a very cloudy crystal ball" that we're looking at right now.

Pamela Ott, the city's economic development manager, is more optimistic, saying the economic outlook is better than a year ago. She is working with the Pleasanton Downtown Association and retail centers throughout the city on a marketing plan that will promote Pleasanton throughout the Bay Area.

"We're doing everything we can to find new businesses and encourage them to come to Pleasanton," Ott said. "Everyone has managed to hang on through the worst of times. It's looking a bit brighter."

"I think all of us have been anxiously waiting for 2010, and thankfully, here it is," said Judy Wheeler, owner of the Towne Center Books on Main Street. "During the last quarter of the year, customers were much more upbeat about shopping and spending in general. What was especially heartening were the comments so many made about the need to shop and dine in Pleasanton."

"I think the message we've been pushing is finally registering," said Melanie Sadek, owner of Murphy's Paw, also on Main Street. "We've been pointing out to customers that we have an important asset in our historic downtown, but merchants need the public's support if we're going to survive and grow."

New stores and restaurants are expected to fill vacancies downtown, including a bid to rent the large former Domus building. A new owner will re-open in the former Panda Restaurant next month with both Redcoats and The Farmer Restaurant expected to expand night time entertainment venues.

Sadek points out that economists are pinning their forecasts for better times on the growth and better profits of small businesses across the country.

"When it comes to small businesses that can use that kind of support, we're right here in downtown Pleasanton," Sadek said. "Come and see us."

Generally, restaurants enjoyed full houses during much of the holidays, with managers crediting the popularity of the city's outdoor ice rink for increased business, helped, too, by the free horse-drawn carriage rides that attracted hundreds to downtown stores.

Also popular were gift cards avail-



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



EMILY WEST

able in any denomination that are good at more than 60 downtown stores and restaurants. Wheeler said those who received them as gifts are dining and shopping downtown, some for the first time, with the value of the hundreds of gifts cards sold averaging \$100. The cards, which are sold at Wheeler's store and by the PDA, will be offered throughout 2010.

Because of the recession and concern over stable tax revenue, the city of Pleasanton postponed con-

segment with prices, low interest rates, and tax credits so first-time buyers can afford to buy in Pleasanton. Turley cites statistical evidence that residential real estate in the Tri-Valley may have hit bottom with resale prices starting to rise and buyer interest accelerating.

Commercial real estate transactions are also expected to improve during the year with Brad Hirst of Equity Enterprises reporting that his firm had two offers on commercial

to where it was in a year or two," Clarkson said. A board member of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Clarkson said he's perplexed by the enthusiasm on Wall Street and what he calls its "mini-bull-run at a time when federal spending and a falling dollar should raise a yellow flag.

"It's clearly much better than a year ago and 2010 looks good for investors," Clarkson said.

Paxson shares Clarkson's caution. He's especially concerned about California's \$20-billion debt burden that is now affecting regional and local governments and school districts.

"Even though some sectors in the East Bay's private sector are doing well in the new year, government agencies also represent a huge employment sector where we may see considerable downsizing."

Paxson also cited the closing scheduled this spring of the NUMMI plant in Fremont, where as many as 4,400 workers could lose their jobs. A number of them live in Pleasanton and some Pleasanton commercial businesses have business dealings with NUMMI.

The new year also presents a challenge to Dave Rice, president of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. Even with some improvement in the economy, Rice said the ripple effect from the recession is still causing economic and health problems for hundreds in the Tri-Valley who have lost their jobs and not been able to find new ones.

"Even if they see their business improving, employers are still reluctant to add more to their payroll because of the ongoing uncertainties," Rice said. "That's putting enormous pressure on charitable organizations who find demand for their services growing with fewer contributions coming in to pay those costs."

Sadek, owner of the specialty shop Murphy's Paw, heads a group of retailers who are keeping their stores open more nights during the weeks and offering discounts for restaurant diners and shoppers.

"We have weathered the storm of 2009 and are now positioned to build our businesses in 2010," she said. "Being a pet store owner, I just hope the people of Pleasanton will help by shopping downtown — and perhaps owning more dogs." ■



JEB BING

Judy Wheeler, owner of Towne Center Books downtown, said she is anxiously awaiting this year's prospects, adding that late 2009 sales figures at her store were promising as customers reported feeling upbeat.

sideration of new capital projects, although it has continued funding the construction of the Firehouse Arts Center on Railroad Avenue. The facility will open later this spring and it's expected to attract more restaurants, late-night refreshment stops and other retailers to its location on Railroad Avenue. Retailers are also pressing for improvements to Division Street to turn it into a vibrant walkway connecting the theater and Main Street.

Real estate, in the doldrums for the last three years, also could see a better year. Rick Turley of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, said the local market is benefiting from bargain hunting at the entry-level

condos in Livermore just this week.

"Globally, we've heard and read a lot of positive things in the market, but it's not been that kind of a turnaround here, at least not yet," Hirst said. "I do see less doom and gloom moving into the new year, albeit with more ebbs and flows. The commercial market is definitely getting better, but I don't hear anyone saying that business is robust."

Steve Clarkson of Heritage Investment said he is even pleasantly surprised by the near-glowing optimism in both the stock market and the investment community.

"The pundits in the trade press seem to be fairly positive, writing that they see the market getting back

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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.

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Author Visits

MAGGIE ANTON, AUTHOR, RASHI'S DAUGHTERS Maggie Anton, best-selling author of the "Rashi's Daughters" trilogy, will be at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17. Admission is \$5 and refreshments

will be served. Learn about life in medieval France and its fascinating similarities to our lives and modern times. Call 931-1055.

Clubs

SENATOR ELLEN CORBETT SPEAKS IN DUBLIN TriValley Democratic Club presents California Senator Ellen Corbett at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Call 451-4303 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Events

16TH ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER The Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus-Sister City Organization is celebrat-

ing its 16th annual Burns Supper Jan. 30 at the Pleasanton Marriott. The event honors Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland, in memory, song and poems. Tickets are \$65 or \$600 for a group. RSVP by Jan. 20. Visit www.pbfsco.org or call Malcom Carden, 510-654-7627.

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peace as we remember Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 18 at UCC Livermore, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Designed to be children/youth friendly as well as inter-generational. It will include listening to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. A \$3-\$5 donation is suggested. Email Jen@jenlock.com.

Exhibits

THE ART OF QUILTING: LANDSCAPE IMPRESSIONS Alexander's Fine Art, 608-G Main St., hosts "The Art of Quilting: Landscape Impressions" by Denise Oyama Miller and Nancy Ryan. Artists reception is from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 15 and discussions with the artists is from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 16. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexandersfineart.com.

Film

POWER TRIP This film is a humorous, heartbreaking look at the culture clash between American corporate power suppliers and citizens of post-Soviet Georgia, where corruption and chaos rule the day. Meet AND greet starts at 6:30

p.m., with film at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A short discussion follows the film. Refreshments provided. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Fundraisers

5TH ANNUAL CLAWS FOR PAWS The fifth annual Claws for Paws crabfeed, sponsored by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, is from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by Jan. 15 and \$50 thereafter. Includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, Caesar salad, dessert and tea/coffee. A no-host bar available for wine, beer and soft drinks. Call 828-8664 or visit www.tvrar.org.

AAHMES SHRINERS' ANNUAL CRAB FEED The crab feed is Jan. 23 at Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. No-host cocktails at 6 p.m., with all-you-can-eat dinner of crab, pasta, salad, bread and dessert at 7. Includes DJ and dancing. Tickets are \$40. No tickets at the door. Call 373-4880 or visit www.shrineeventcenter.com.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB CRAB FEED The Lions Club Crab Feed is Jan. 16 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. A no host bar opens at 6:30 p.m. and crab is served at 7:30 p.m. The event includes casino games and dancing. Tickets are \$38. For tickets, call Greg Aynesworth, 484-3524 or Steve Grimes, 336-6069.

Health

HOW TO CLEAN GREEN! Jump into the New Year with a green start from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 18 with Holistic Moms at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Have questions on how to clean green? Do you have some fantastic green cleaning solutions that you've discovered and would like to share? Join the Green

Cleaning discussion. Free to members and first-time visitors. Call 519-3003 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM Learn about Lymphedema, risk factors, prevention and treatment from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Free boxed lunch and drink will be provided to all cancer patients, their loved one and staff. Register at 734-3319 by Jan. 18.

Kids & Teens

FREE TEEN WORKSHOP ON LOSS Teen can learn how to deal with disappointment and loss, identify different types of loss, explore emotions surrounding loss and learn coping strategies from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Share experiences in a supportive and confidential setting. Free \$5 jamba juice card. Call 600-9762 ext. 7 to register.

Lectures/ Workshops

MOTHER-DAUGHTER WORKSHOP ON 'GROWING UP FEMALE' Mothers and their fifth- or sixth-grade daughters are invited to attend an uplifting workshop about body changes and the realities of being female from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, 3999 Bernal Ave. The cost is \$30. Register in advance by calling Sharon at 846-3531.

Scholarships

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM The American Legion Pleasanton Post 237 hosts a high school oratorical scholarship program. Entry deadline is at 5 p.m. Jan. 15. Contact Norman Houghton at 846-8725 or norm4064@email.com with name, school, age, phone and email.

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Wine & dine at the Vine

Livermore's 2-screen theater takes on the indie market

By EMILY WEST

They say grapes grow best in tough soil, and the same may be true for the Vine Cinema.

The two-screen theater on First Street in Livermore has faced many challenges in its 53 years of operation. Perhaps the biggest was the opening of a 13-screen theater on the other side of the downtown just two weeks after the Vine celebrated its silver anniversary.

Operator Kenny Way, who has been with the Vine since 1990, said over the years, the theater has flourished. For a while, it was one of the highest-grossing movie theaters in the area.

Yet, it's been a tough few years with the latest competition paired with a rough economy, which Way said has forced them to adjust their business model. The decision in July to offer independent movies was partly due to requests from patrons, but also because of the competition with Livermore Cinemas to show the blockbusters. The Vine, he said, usually didn't get top pick for popular films.

In addition to showing a different type of film, they are moving toward what Way says is the future of movie theaters.

"We're more than just a movie theater," he said. "We're an event theater."

For those interested in dinner and a movie,



PHOTOS BY EMILY WEST

Top: Susan and Tony Mathews of Pleasanton order from the concessions stand from bartender Stephanie Webb. **Above:** The Vine Cinema on First Street has been part of Livermore's downtown for more than 50 years. It now shows independent movies and offers food as well as beer and wine.

it's now available all in one place. As of September, the Vine is able to serve beer and wine as well as light meals provided from next-door neighbor Zephyr Grill. The fare includes easy-to-eat foods such as burgers and salads.

"You can order from the snack bar and

have it delivered to you in the theater," he said.

Many people, however, order their food in time to eat before the movie begins, Way added. The adult beverage selection includes Livermore Valley wines and "off the beaten path" beers. Currently, the most popular se-

lections are Wente's Riva Ranch Chardonnay and either Blue Moon or Lagunitas IPA.

In the two screening rooms, they have taken out a few seats to make room for small round tables, with the tops reflecting popular movie posters. In about two weeks, couches will be installed.

Way said that attendance hasn't dramatically increased with the changes, but they do have a loyal crowd as well as new customers. Way said news of the improvements has mostly spread through word-of-mouth, and that about 75 percent of their customers are surprised by the offerings when they walk in.

It is a draw for those who like independent films, since the other options can take movie buffs as far away as Pleasant Hill, Berkeley and San Francisco. The film "Precious" has proved to be a draw, attracting people from Danville, San Ramon and even Modesto and Stockton.

In addition to showing movies, the Vine also hosts private parties and football game viewings. At 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. the next two Sundays, they will show the playoff games on the big screen, leading up to a big Super Bowl showing on both screens Feb. 7. Admission to these games is free, but there will be a \$10 food minimum for the Super Bowl.

To learn more about the Vine Cinema, visit www.vinecinema.com or call the movie showtime line at 447-2545. ■



NOSE TO GLASS

BY DON COLMAN

Open to suggestions

One of the best parts about writing a wine review is the suggestions that come in from readers. Some of these wines I try are spectacular and others, well, not so much. Recently, I had some people send me recommendations that were simply outstanding and are now added to

my repertoire of go-to wines.

The first wine, 2005 Bennett Lane Cabernet Sauvignon (\$55), would typically be a considered a gift wine. I had been saving it for a special occasion — but simply could wait no more. It turns out that a Saturday night can be a special occasion. The wine is spectacular, to say the least. It is a deep ruby red color with a very powerful aroma to it. The scents are true to the Cabernet Sauvignon varietal: black currants, cedar and even fresh cherries. The taste of the wine is perfectly balanced and smooth, which starts off sweet and then moves to a bitter finish. This Bennett Lane is a big, bold, full-bodied cab that is dry and full of tannins, which

give it a mouth filling, chewy feel.

Even more impressive, the wine has already started to age and is ready to drink today or should continue to improve for the next three or four years. We paired this with a grilled filet mignon and it was perfect. It needs to be paired with heavier meats or served alone as the it will over power anything that is too delicate. For a real treat and to taste even more flavors, try this wine with semi-sweet pieces of chocolate as an after dinner treat.

The second wine, 2005 Rutherford Hill Merlot (\$25), is priced more as an everyday wine and is also very nice and easy to drink. It is much lighter in color, almost the

color of brick, and is a light to medium depth. What it lacks for in color it makes up for with a very aromatic scent: lots of sweet cherries, vanilla and a hint of oak waft out of the glass creating a beautiful bouquet urging you to take a sip. The taste is a medium bodied, slightly dry wine which is light on the tannins yet very complex on the palate.

It moves from a sour to bitter taste, making the food pairing critical. This is a versatile red wine that be could matched to pork, chicken, heavier fish or most pastas. All in all, this is

a very nice wine that is a refreshing change from your typical merlot.

Both of these wines were great recommendations from readers. They show how one reader can love a big bold cab while someone else can find pleasure in a more delicate merlot. My best ideas come from those who send me suggestions. If you have a wine you want me to try, email me at don@nostoglass.com. I look forward to trying your favorites. Until next time, cheers!

Don Colman lives in the East Bay and writes a wine blog at www.nostoglass.com.

READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

BY JOE RAMIREZ

Moon

Sony DVD & Blu-Ray
1 hour, 37 minutes
Director: Duncan Jones

Director Duncan Jones' ("Zowie Bowie!" David's son) "Moon" is a movie of big aspirations that actually hits a few of them. Given Jones' age (he is 38), his father's reputation for otherworldly characters ("Ziggy Stardust" notwithstanding) and with the long shadow cast from late 1960s and early '70s space operas (especially "2001" and "Silent Running"), I can see how Jones could be the prime candidate for a low-tech revival of classic science fiction. The result is "Moon," which wisely utilizes the unsung Sam Rockwell (our most undervalued actor working today) and an economical looking robot to detail the story of a lone moon miner who may not be so alone as he thinks. The movie comes pretty close to filling its big shoes, but falls short due to the sketchiness of its deflated finale.

I mentioned Sam Rockwell as one of our most underrated actors and I believe this absolutely. He is one of those actors that started out in the late '80s on TV and in independent movies and sports an indistinct, every man quality that makes him invisible in lesser roles. However, he hit it big with 1999's "The Green Mile" as an erratic murderer, but really got to flex his stuff in 2002's "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" in which his real gift for comedy (he is the best part of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy") is juxtaposed with his subdued intensity. In the right role, he can appear to be the plain guy with big problems that makes him instantly interesting and,

when mixed with his natural vulnerability, believable. He is the suburban, post-modern Jimmy Stewart whom we never doubt.

"Moon" exits in the same universe that Kubrick's "2001" inhabits, however, instead of aliens mucking up humanity, the action revolves around a lone mining station where Sam (Sam Rockwell) and his robot companion GERTY (voiced by Kevin Spacey) carry out all operations. After three years, however, Sam is getting a little anxious about leaving. Given that he has two more weeks to go, it is understandable because, due to a broken transmitter, he has not had direct contact with his wife or bosses since the beginning of his stay. Sam also understandably is becoming paranoid about his relief not arriving in a timely manner, which coincides with an accident, which leads him to suspect that he may not be so alone after all.

There is a twist, of course, but it's one that belongs to a short story instead of a feature length movie. Thankfully, Rockwell is enough to keep the audience engaged, pulling it off with both pathos and purpose. The great production design by Tony Noble, and Art direction by Hideki Arichi and Josh Ficarek, is a big plus while also being a sly nod to Kubrick's movie: the base itself is both workmanlike and NASAesque and a very sly in-joke. Unlike Kubrick's movie, however, Jones fleshes out a truncated resolution, as if he and his screenwriting partner Nathan Parker gave up at the end of the writing process. The result is a feeling of being stunned when the credits roll, as if the party were cut short just when it was starting to find its mojo.

PET OF THE WEEK

Cuddle with Ozzy

Meet Ozzy, just one of several small dogs currently available for adoption at the East Bay SPCA — Tri-Valley adoption center in Dublin. Ozzy is a 1-1/2-year-old apricot Poodle/Silky Terrier mix who loves to cuddle. Right now, his fur is clipped short to remove mats, but just wait until it grows out. He will be even cuter than he is now, and that is pretty darn cute! Ozzy only weighs 12

1/2 pounds, so he is the perfect size for a lap dog. Ozzy will need regular grooming and daily exercise. He gets along well with most other dogs and he may be compatible with cats. Ozzy would be a fine choice for a first time dog owner. Visit Ozzy at the Tri-Valley adoption center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. See more photos of Ozzy at www.eastbayspca.org and click on virtualpetadoptions/Dublin.



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925.984.1867
510.681.3215 cell
jdemarinis@windermere.com
www.JohnDeMarinis.com

For Market Place Ads Contact Karen
(925) 600-0840 x122
kklein@pleasantonweekly.com

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS

1012 Bartlett Place \$1,129,950
Sun 1-4 Homelown GMAC 426-3833

6229 Detjen Court \$1,495,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

589 Burger Court \$899,950
Sun 1-4 Jim Lavey - Allied Brokers 846-3755

5 BEDROOMS

925 Sherman Way \$1,095,000

Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3424 Gravina Place \$1,259,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 858-4198

2309 Romano Circle \$1,285,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

6 BEDROOMS

417 East Vineyard Avenue \$3,998,000
Sun 1-4 Randall Davidson 461-3316

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

2102 Maidenhair Way \$549,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 735-7653



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- City Home Buying Assistance Programs
- **FREE** Credit Report

Join Us for FREE Breakfast and the Latest on the Home Buyer's Programs Saturday, January 23 - 10:00 a.m. at Zephyrs in Livermore
Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 20th
To Leslie at 925-784-7979 or Leslie@apr.com
Hosted by Leslie Faight, REALTOR®, DRE #01027778 - Alain Pinel REALTORS

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PLEASANTON 1012 BARTLETT PLACE



THE GIBSON Two story 4BR/3BA optional 5th bedroom, approx. 3180 sq. ft. with 3-car garage, fireplaces in both living room & family rm sumptuous master suite with retreat. **\$1,129,950**
Patricia Burns Realtor® Lic#0039535
925.426.3833

SAN RAMON 4055 MARBLEHEAD CT.



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. **\$1,065,000**
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

TRACY 33053 S.KOSTER RD



HORSES OK! Beautiful single story U-shaped Rancher. Sparkling Aqua pool with carved rocks, waterfall, and stamped concrete patio. Lots of parking. **\$549,950**
Helen Gentile, Realtor® Lic#00768353
925.719.2894

PLEASANTON 1117 TIFFANY LANE



CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN 2BD/2½BA, 1705 sq. ft. with beautiful hardwood floors in entry, hallway and kitchen. Low HOA dues. Small development. **\$499,000**
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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**
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BRENTWOOD 820 BOONE DRIVE



AFFORDABLE 3BR/2½BA with a nice floorplan. Large backyard has extra large wood deck. Gas stove. Central heat & air. Located in nice neighborhood. **\$250,000**
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2367 E. Ruby Hill Dr., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



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

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

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

3254 Novara Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Custom home in Ruby Hill. Beautiful cul-de-sac location with golf course views. Approx. 5,300 sq. ft., 5 BR, 5 BA. Call for details.
COMING SOON Offered at \$2,050,000



COMING SOON: 3 bed, 2.5 bath near tennis park gorgeous gardens...
poured concrete kitchen counters, new designer paint. \$675k

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



The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update – The Ever Shrinking Supply

A drop in the inventory of single family homes in December is no surprise (it pretty much happens every year) but given the low inventory we already had, this decline feels bigger. The supply fell 25%, from 120 homes to 90. By comparison, the inventory fell 19% in December 2008 and 25% in December 2007 but the starting point in each case was much higher (223 and 178 respectively). The fact that inventory levels were already at historical lows just makes things that much tighter. We have not seen inventory levels this low since early 2005. The tightest segment of the market was for homes priced below \$1 million, where there is now less than 1.4 months worth of inventory.

Following the dropping inventory, sales of single family homes also fell for the sixth straight month but remained relatively strong compared to prior years. 40 homes were pending sale at the end of December, which was the lowest number since February 2009. The 90 homes on the market represented 2.25

months of inventory. Here is a graph of the inventory and pending sales data for the past 15 months.

The inventory of single family homes priced below \$1 million fell to 47 in December after holding steady at 61 in October and November. Pending sales also fell, but only slightly, from 36 in November to 40 in December. **Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



Doug Buenz

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925.251.1111
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Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.

COMING SOON!



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

COMING SOON!



Fabulous luxury home featuring 6 BR plus bonus room & office, 5 1/2 BTHS, granite & stainless kitchen, dramatic living areas, and private .41 Acre lot with sparkling pool!
\$1,699,000

COMING SOON!



Luxury 2 BR, 2 1/2 BTH townhouse with hardwood floors, upgraded designer kitchen, vaulted ceiling, dramatic living room with fireplace, private yard with patio, and 2 car garage.
\$429,500

PENDING SALE!



Fabulous 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home with remodeled granite kitchen, hardwood floors, and prime cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool!
\$744,950

*The market has changed!
Call me today to discuss how you can take advantage of the new market. Opportunity is definitely knocking!*

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THE PRESERVE

OPEN SAT/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

VENTANA HILLS

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



925 SHERMAN WAY, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Five bedrooms, 5th is bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Lot size is 9452 (.21 acre lot), with large side yards. Located on quiet street. Private rear yard backs to single level home. New carpet throughout. New exterior paint. Three fireplaces. Walk to great neighborhood park and Main Street Downtown Pleasanton!
OFFERED AT \$1,095,000

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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
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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

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.
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GOLDEN EAGLE



1515 HONEYSUCKLE CT PLEASANTON
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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

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

NEW PRICE!



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

GORGEOUS TOWNHOME



3877 VINE ST PLEASANTON
Completely remodeled with all the goodies, grant, tile, hardwood floor and much more. 2 bed 2.5 bath, 1200+/- sq.ft., built in 1985.
Mary Nawabi-Parwizwi 925.219.5144

MEDITERRANEAN ESTATE



MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE
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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.
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2752 CHABLIS WAY LIVERMORE
Custom built home located walking distance to downtown. Beautiful curb appeal, Ideal for gatherings, located in a cul-de-sac and close to the HOA park and pool.
Angela Adams 925.580.4513

CURB APPEAL



927 MARCELLA STREET LIVERMORE
Lovely 2-story home with lots of curb appeal. Great location; easy access to shopping, dining areas, schools, and Hwy 580. 4 bd/ 2.5 ba. 2,055+/- sq.ft.
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OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-4:00



10942 INSPIRATION CIRCLE DUBLIN
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OVER 3.5 ACRES



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