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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Downtown studies need public exposure

Two outside consulting agencies have been hired to help the city and the Pleasanton Downtown Association come up with marketing and nightlife entertainment strategies that can attract more people to Pleasanton's downtown. The efforts coincide with a ray of economic light that more shoppers and diners are visiting downtown stores and restaurants after a post-Christmas lull that's been absolutely dreadful. Some merchants such as Thriving Ink are seeing more activity, with owner Brenda Dronkers re-opening the garden patio behind her Main Street store. Business is also good at Redcoats British Pub and Barone's Restaurant, both for regular diners and the two establishments' entertainment and dancing venues. It's these successes that the PDA, with the help of the city-paid marketing program, hopes to replicate up and down Main Street.

For the city's part, it has contracted with Danville communications agency EMC Creative for some initial marketing research. EMC will define the marketing strategy that the PDA and downtown merchant group leaders Mike and Melanie Sadek of Murphy's Paw have put into place, which has included discount coupons and later evening hours, even on Saturdays. Because it's a city-financed effort, EMC won't limit its strategic thinking to just the downtown, but will also include retail centers in other parts of Pleasanton. Stoneridge Shopping Center, which has its own marketing team, will continue on its own.

EMC's a good choice for the marketing job. Since its founding in 1980, it has grown to be the largest advertising agency of its kind, specializing in master-planned and urban/suburban communities in northern California. Its professionals are now interviewing Realtors, commercial brokers who are seeking tenants for empty stores in the downtown, and other stakeholders, including building owners who need tenants. When sales tax figures are announced for the fourth quarter of 2009 in a week or two, EMC also will analyze that data to see what sells the best downtown and, based on its survey work in other retail centers, what downtown Pleasanton could do to attract more shoppers. Questions asked at the crowded First Wednesday street parties in the summertime show many who participate in



JEB BING

Redcoats British Pub now offers nightlife entertainment four nights a week.

these events come for the fun but seldom or never to shop.

The PDA on its own has contracted with the second consulting agency to focus on making the downtown more of an entertainment destination. Although nighttime music and dancing have given North Main Street greater nighttime appeal, the PDA wants the nightlife extended and expanded. With the \$10-million Firehouse Arts Center scheduled to open in September, it's expected there will be several hundred theater-goers walking down Railroad Avenue, Main Street and the side streets after the performances. Already there have been inquiries from cafes and bars about opening on those streets and the PDA wants to be ready.

It has hired Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) out of Santa Cruz to handle that initiative, with seminars scheduled later this month with a select group of individuals to focus on six areas: community, development, hospitality, entertainment, safety and research. If you haven't already been asked to share your views with RHI on what downtown needs, you're not part of the study. RHI's problem right at the start is that it will undergo its study behind closed doors with the media, other interest groups and retailers not in the downtown and Stoneridge representatives not invited. It's likely that those being hand-picked for the mission also are those who think Pleasanton should have a "right to do business" ordinance similar to Livermore's, where nighttime entertainment can open anywhere in the downtown district with the same hours and noise-limit considerations as given to Barone's and Redcoats. The PDA, with RHI's help, might win the City Council's approval for its long-wanted one-size-fits-all entertainment ordinance. If RHI recommends that, the private seminars and backroom deal-making will have to start all over again. This is a town that doesn't like decisions made behind closed doors. ■

About the Cover

With town square forums and political candidate interviews on its agenda this year, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is taking a much broader, community-wide role beyond its more traditional business interests in helping to shape Pleasanton's future. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XI, Number 9

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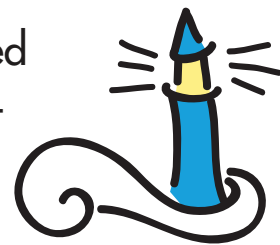
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What do you enjoy doing on a rainy day?



Farhod Sigarchi

Phlebotomist

When it's raining outside I like to work on music. I am a DJ, so I work on DJing inside.

Jennifer Pickering

Student

I like to watch shows on my DVR, usually Jeopardy. My husband and I record it through the week, so whenever we get a chance we watch it rapid-fire. We'll watch five episodes in a row sometimes.



Rita Relja

Blood Collection Assistant

I like to read books, because I can't go outside and do other things like biking. Although I read books when it's sunny, too. To be honest, I really just want to sleep when it's raining.

Megan Sill

Hairdresser

If it's raining I like to go get a cup of coffee. I just love to get coffee because I love the socializing.



Bob Lee

Retired

I don't mind going to the gym on a rainy day. You need something to pick yourself up.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor or post your opinion on Town Square at

PleasantonWeekly.com

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

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DIGEST

Livermore woman found safe

A 28-year-old Livermore mother who went missing Feb. 28 turned up last Thursday night at a Sacramento medical facility, police said. Police said Olivia Aguirre — who on Monday morning left her 3-year-old child with her mother and said she was going to the store for a few minutes — checked herself in to the facility at about 9 p.m. March 4. The circumstances of her disappearance are still being investigated, police said. According to police, Aguirre's family said she has medical conditions that if left untreated could cause a stroke or heart attack.

PFL starts the season

From 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, the Pleasanton Foothill Little League celebrates opening day at the new Bernal Fields. The ceremony is hosted by San Jose Sharks announcer Randy Hahn, with special guest speakers Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), 2009 Hall of Famer Rod Woodson, and Mark Spiller from the city's parks and recreation department. A barbecue follows at 11 a.m. and a bake sale for Haiti will be ongoing during the event. Due to limited parking, a free shuttle service will take people to and from the field from Pleasanton Middle School.

Prom dresses for the needy

The Princess Project is again giving away free prom dresses and accessories to high school girls who can't afford them. The East Bay dress giveaway is Saturday at 2201 Broadway in Oakland. Girls must bring a valid high school ID and one female companion to help them shop. Wristbands to allow girls a specific appointment during the day will be distributed by 8 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. For details, visit <http://princessproject.org/get-a-dress>.

City hosts annual transit fair

The city's fifth annual Transit Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 17 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This free event is open to the public and will feature representatives from local transit agencies, such as WHEELS, Pleasanton Paratransit Service, BART, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), the Department of Motor Vehicles and the ACE train. There will also be free evaluations for seniors over 65 conducted by trained professionals.

Pleasanton men, teen arrested for alleged felony assault of a disabled man

Two men allegedly kidnapped, shot 19-year-old with a BB-type gun

By EMILY WEST

Two men and a 16-year-old girl from Pleasanton have been arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping, torture and false imprisonment of a 19-year-old learning disabled man, police said.

The assault reportedly occurred in the evening of Feb. 18 when the victim entered a local business around 7:40 p.m., bleeding from the hand. Police said the man said he had been shot then ran out of the store, got into a car and left the area. A witness was said to have retrieved the license plate number of the car and the victim was later located and found to have been shot 20 to 25 times with a BB-type gun.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department said the victim knew the suspects and considered them friends. They reportedly met up with him at a fast food restaurant before taking him to be assaulted.

"The victim stated that this had occurred several times prior to this incident but it was never reported," Knox said.

Investigators were able to identify the suspects as Jonathan Fala and Sergio Ramirez, both 19. The 16-year-old girl was not identified.



Jonathan Fala



Sergio Ramirez

Fala was arrested Feb. 28 and the other two were arrested March 2.

Police said the three suspects allegedly drove the victim to a remote location off of Foothill Road, told him to stand near a tree and the male suspects shot the victim. BB pellets were found lodged in the victim's hand and leg, and also had injuries to his neck, back and head. The victim was treated at ValleyCare Medical Center, which included stapling several wounds and removing the pellets. ■



EMILY WEST

Students and teachers gathered in front of Foothill High School last Thursday morning to support Day of Action, an effort to get better funding for education.

Schools take part in Day of Action

Efforts, some peaceful and others not, were to support education funding

In the 30 minutes before school started last Thursday, Pleasanton teachers, classified staff, administrators and parents — and even many students — joined the statewide effort to support public education.

Called the "Day of Action," it was a nationwide effort to protest against cuts to education. Although the demonstrations were peaceful and lasted about an hour in Pleasanton, the protests were louder and more aggressive in other parts of the Bay Area.

Demonstrators got an early start at UC Santa Cruz, where protesters gathered to block both entrances to the campus, canceling most classes. By late Thursday afternoon, the west entrance to the campus had reopened as demonstrators convened to discuss possible solutions the funding cuts.

While Thursday's events were mostly peaceful, an incident off campus was reported where students allegedly broke the rear windshield of a car attempting to break through a picket line.

In Oakland, an estimated 2,000 people, including some who came from an earlier rally in Berkeley, attended a peaceful rally at Frank Ogawa Plaza near 14th Street and Broadway.

However, an estimated 150 people were arrested Thursday evening after a splinter group



JEB BING

Pleasanton Middle School teachers, parents and teachers showed their support.

broke away from the larger protest and took to Interstates 880 and 980, Oakland police said.

Additionally, one protester was seriously injured tried to escape police.

In Contra Costa County, a large group of students held a rally at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. The demonstrators had a band, made speeches and marched through the campus, but the rally remained peaceful.

Emily West and Bay City News contributed to this report.

1,400 Iraqi Americans cast ballots in Sunday's election

Pleasanton serves as polling location for Iraqis eligible to vote

By JEB BING

Just over 1,400 registered Iraqi voters cast ballots at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton last weekend, one of eight polling locations across the United States where Iraqi Americans who still retain their Iraqi citizenship had the chance to vote.

There were 18.9 million Iraqis eligible to cast ballots in last Sunday's national elections in Iraq with an estimated 60 percent turnout. They voted to fill 325 seats in the Council of Representatives, Iraq's parliament, representing the country's 18 provinces.

Voting outside of Iraq began last Friday in the U.S. and in some of the 15 other countries where Iraqis are living, including the United Kingdom, Turkey, Iran, Canada and others in the Middle East and Europe. There were no exact figures available on those eligible to cast ballots abroad. Estimates on turnout have ranged anywhere from 300,000 to 3 million.

This was Iraq's fifth nationwide vote since 2003, but only the second for a full four-year-term parliament.

Every voter, including the estimated 1,400 who voted in Pleasanton, walked away with a purple ink-stained finger, evidence of casting a ballot.

Although there were 6,000 candidates in Sunday's election, most voters here said they had made up their minds long before reaching Pleasanton to cast their ballots.

Iraqi voters huddled in casual circles at the fairgrounds to discuss the election before and after casting their ballots, walking back to Pleasanton Avenue where most had parked their cars. Vans also shuttled voters in from other cities.

The calm here contrasted sharply from Iraq, itself, where 36 people were killed in mortar and rocket attacks in various Baghdad neighborhoods.

In Iraq, counting took place at the polling stations at the end of voting, under the gaze of United Nations observers. Preliminary results were not available by press time. Results will start emerging for each province as soon as votes are tallied from 30 percent of polling centers in that province. ■

Downtown welcomes newest mural

Art piece honors Pleasanton's past as it looks into the future

By EMILY WEST

The wall on the side of Valley Plumbing's Home Center, at Peters and Rose avenues, is the new home for Pleasanton's latest mural installation.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association sponsored and funded the mural project, which was completed by artists Ron Norman and Bill Weber. It is the second mural funded by the PDA, which has a mural subcommittee as part of its design and beautification

committee, and a third one is being planned.

Norman and Weber were up for a challenge in not only depicting historically accurate details, but also painting on wavy metal siding.

For Norman, it was a welcomed project, as he was a Pleasanton resident for more than 20 years. Now a resident of Pacheco near Pleasant Hill, he painted the mural in the City Council Chamber in 1984, depicting

the sister city relationship with Tularcingo, Mexico.

The sepia-toned artwork recalls Pleasanton in the 1920s, with Ford Model Ts, and a giant Southern Pacific steam train. With old photos gathered from the Museum On Main, they created a pastiche that was translated into the mural. Adding a touch of modernity, the mural includes a man, painted in color, capturing the scene with a digital camera. ■



EMILY WEST

Artists Bill Weber (left) and Ron Norman (right) explain the mural alongside local history buff Charles Huff at the dedication last Thursday.

Healthcare workers take 1-day walkout at county jail

Contract employer calls action illegal

By JEB BING

Nurses, physician's assistants, dental assistants and others who provide medical care at Alameda County's two correctional facilities staged a one-day walkout Tuesday, charging their private employer with unfair labor practices, over-staffing levels and workplace safety at the facilities.

The workers are members of the United Healthcare Workers-West (SEIU-UHW), part of the Service Employees International Union, a national union with 2.1 million members. They were joined on the picket line by SEIU International President Andy Stern.

Healthcare services at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and at the Glenn Dyer Detention Center are contracted out to Prison Health Services, a Tennessee-based for-profit corporation. It holds a \$77-million, three-year contract with Alameda County to provide medical services at the two facilities.

"This is about the selfishness of an out-of-state corporation — Prison Health Services — with earnings of over a half-a-billion dollars that is pocketing taxpayer dollars instead of using the money to benefit the county and our people as it promised," said Maxine Persky, a nurse at the Santa Rita Jail for 10 years.

In a statement signed by Adriana Surfas of the SEIU-UHW, the union accused Prison Health Services of launching "a campaign of threats and intimidation against workers including notifying employees of a seven-day illegal lock-out following Tuesday's planned one-day strike, and cancelled workers' approved vacations."

The union statement also said that in its contract with the Alameda County, Prison Health Services budgeted for a 10-percent increase in wages and healthcare benefits in years two and three of its county contract. ■



EMILY WEST

Learning the 'Laws of Life'

Foothill High School last week hosted the sixth annual Laws of Life luncheon, honoring students who had done well in the essay and art contests. More than 820 students — or about 40 percent of the student body — participated in the contest this year, compared to 350 in 2005. More than 90 judges volunteered to read each and every entry and select winners. Since its inception, it is estimated that over 3,000 students have shared their experiences with the Laws of Life characteristics: responsibility, compassion, honesty, integrity, respect and self-discipline.

Outgoing Superintendent John Casey was the featured speaker at the luncheon, where winning students in each grade level also presented their essays. Winners freshman Kelly McDeavitt, sophomore Mitchell Schena, junior Ellen Wilson and senior Naman Barman spoke about everything from giving to the less fortunate to helping the elderly.

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District to send preliminary layoff notices

Superintendent search narrows with 34 applicants vying for top spot

By EMILY WEST

Three of the five Pleasanton school board members were present at a special meeting Wednesday night and voted to send notices of possible layoff for just under 27 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bill Faraghan said initially the number was at 32 FTE, but they were able to lower that number. The positions on the potential chopping block include services from art, computers, science, music, world languages and more. Faraghan said most of these cuts are at the high school level, but may change when dealing with seniority and enrollment.

The number of layoff notices was less than anticipated when the \$8-million deficit was first projected, as the district and teacher's union were able to save some positions with concessions.

As of Wednesday, they were unsure how many people would be sent notices by the March 15 dead-

line.

San Ramon Valley Unified School District's board, a district that is often compared to PUSD, voted this week to increase class sizes and send out 136 layoff notices to teachers and other employees.

Another change in staffing is preparing to take place as Superintendent John Casey prepares to retire June 30. The deadline to apply for the top post was March 5, and there are 34 people vying for the position.

Preliminary results from trustee Valerie Arkin — who is acting as the liaison for the district and the search firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd. (HYA) — showed a majority of candidates hailing from California, with no confirmation of applicants from within the district.

Early on, the school board had outlined dates for feedback meetings, drafted a list of stakeholder groups for the search firm to meet with and encouraged the community to fill out feedback forms.

While the two public meetings held at the district offices only attracted a handful of participants, Arkin said there were more than 100 responses from feedback forms that were sent directly to HYA.

HYA compiled a "leadership profile" that combines the top qualities that the community requests of a future superintendent.

Some of these characteristics, according to Arkin, include a long-range planner, charismatic leader, someone who is able to take criticism, is an out-of-the-box thinker, trustworthy, approachable and is a good communicator.

The ability to bring people together is important as well, she said, because the community can be divided during difficult times such as these with the district facing multi-million-dollar cuts.

The board has scheduled an open meeting with HYA at 5 p.m. Monday, March 15 at the district office board room. ■

O'Malley seeks election to county DA post

Appointed to succeed Orloff last year, she wants voters' OK

By JEB BING

Nancy O'Malley filed papers this week to put her name on the June 8 ballot for election as Alameda County District Attorney, the position she was appointed to fill last September when long-time D.A. Tom Orloff retired.

With her appointment by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, O'Malley became the first female District Attorney in the history of the office.

O'Malley served as an Alameda County prosecutor for 25 years and prosecuted thousands of felony cases from child sexual assault to murder before being promoted to Chief Assistant District Attor-

ney under Orloff. Last year, she prosecuted the case against three defendants on a crime spree, which included the shooting of Christopher Rodriguez, the 10-year-old boy who was shot and paralyzed while taking his piano lesson in Oakland.

"I am committed to the pursuit of justice and that is why I am running," O'Malley said. "Over the course of my career, I have worked tirelessly on behalf of vic-



Nancy O'Malley

tims of crime. I am proud to be a nationally recognized expert on the advancement of victims' rights and have successfully changed laws to expand the rights of victims."

O'Malley led the creation of the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC), a one-stop shop for victims of family violence, sexual assault, elder abuse as well as child abuse and sexual, commercial exploitation of minors.

Most recently, she introduced H.E.A.T. Watch, a multi-tiered program designed to protect and rescue minors who are victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. ■

Ott says he won't seek re-election

School board member says it's time to pass the baton

Jim Ott, a member of the Pleasanton school board since 2006, has announced that he will not seek re-election to the board in November "in order to give others in the community an opportunity to become part of this board."

"Serving in this important leadership position has been a challenge and an honor," Ott said. "But it's much like a relay team. It's time to pass the baton on to the next person."

Ott becomes the first of two current school board members whose terms expire in November to announce his intentions. Pat Kernan, the longest serving school trustee, told the Weekly that he has not decided if he will seek re-election.

Referring to the current school budget deficit that now totals \$8 million, Ott said: "It's certainly a challenging time to be on the board. But I want to be able to provide an opportunity for other

people in the community to become part of the school board."

Ott, who is the chief executive officer of UNCLE Credit Union, was first appointed to the school board in May 2006 to replace board member Gloria Fredette, who resigned. He ran for election to a full four-year term of office in November 2006 along with Kernan, who was seeking to be re-elected. Since nobody else ran at that time, the two were declared inners in the uncontested race without ever facing voters.

Ott recalled that in his first few years on the board, ample budget dollars made it possible to increase programs in the school district and to hire more counselors. Today, with a budget deficit in the current school year and a much greater one for next year, the board's challenge is just the opposite: finding ways to trim expenses without major cuts in programs and services in the schools.

"I'm not going anywhere for now, however," Ott said. "I still have another eight to nine months to serve. During that time, we'll approve a new fiscal year budget and hire a new school superintendent."

Besides his executive responsibilities at UNCLE, Ott also teaches English in the evening at Las Positas College and hosts a regular book review program on community television TV30, called "In a Word."

He is a board member on the Las Positas College Foundation and the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, and has served as chairman of both boards.

Ott, who is 53, is married to Pamela Ott, director of economic development for the city of Pleasanton, and has two daughters: Melissa, 17, a senior at Amador Valley High School, and Kelsey, 14, who is in eighth grade at Harvest Park Middle School.

—Emily West



JEB BING

Prudential Stoneridge real estate agents Connie Cannella and Bill Wells pack boxes Saturday that will be sent to Pleasanton troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. Firm is working with Pleasanton Military Families organization on Easter-time project.

Realtors send Easter gift packages to troops

Join Pleasanton Military Families in holiday effort

By JEB BING

Agents, administrative staff and executives of Prudential Stoneridge worked together this week to package hundreds of contributions from those in the community they serve for military men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lori Johnson of the firm's office at 5960 Stoneridge Drive said Prudential Stoneridge agents collected the contributions during client calls and at the office. The firm worked with the Pleasanton Military Families Support Group in the collection and packaging effort.

More than 100 boxes were packed for the Military Families group's effort to send packages to troops from the Pleasanton area in time for Easter, Johnson said. Donated items from cur-

rent clients, friends and other in the Tri-Valley included socks, T-shirts, sunscreen and foot powder along with food items, such as beef jerky, Girl Scout cookies, powered drink mixes and even a few chocolates. Because of the intense summer-time heat in both countries, chocolates can't be sent there after March 31.

A used cell phone drive was also conducted by the Stoneridge agents with the old cell phones traded for calling cards that were sent in the mailing for troops to call home.

Pleasanton Military Families meets once a month to support families with loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism. To contact the group, email pleasantonmilitaryfamilies@gmail.com. ■

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LETTERS

Debate needs to be respectful

Dear Editor,

I've lived in Pleasanton now for 10 years and read the Weekly regularly, and I was quite appalled at recent letters from some residents.

Where is the respect? I enjoy reading the variety of opinions regularly expressed in the Weekly, for healthy debate helps us all make the right decisions for our precious community. However, I was quite appalled with recent very harsh descriptions of our council members, bordering on slander. Publicly calling our mayor and two council members fiscally irresponsible and afraid to take responsibility for their actions, in regards to the Oak Grove ballot measure, is wholly disrespectful and inappropriate. What's more, these attacks fail to account for the responsibility of those opposed to the development. We live in a democracy and hopefully welcome disagreements, but where is the respect? Is that too much to ask?

James Garber

Open space park would be an asset

Dear Editor,

Augustin Bernal Park near the top of Pleasanton Ridge is a community asset without equal. On walks along its trails I have seen deer, fox, bobcat and even the occasional snake in its tree covered wilderness.

Now Pleasanton has an opportunity for an open space park twice the size of Augustin Bernal Park with Oak Grove (497 acres

v. 237 acres). That won't happen unless we vote yes for Oak Grove.

The Oak Grove referendum was started by a minority of rich NIMBYs from the adjacent neighborhoods. A majority of the neighborhood committee compromised on a development plan for Oak Grove, but then a minority broke away to start this referendum. A few rich NIMBYs don't want to look at houses that look just like their houses.

But, for those of us who would enjoy a 500-acre open space park with trails and over 12,000 oak trees, I recommend a yes vote on Oak Grove.

Peter MacDonald

Says ads attacking PDA are erroneous

Dear Editor,

Over the course of the past few months there have been paid advertisements displayed in the Pleasanton Weekly criticizing the Pleasanton Downtown Association. These criticisms contain erroneous and misleading information. The Pleasanton Downtown Association is committed to promoting the economic vitality and hometown character of downtown Pleasanton. We support and promote all of our members. Anyone having suggestions, criticisms or comments regarding the Pleasanton Downtown Association is encouraged to contact a board member or attend one of our regularly scheduled meetings. Your feedback is valuable and appreciated. Information regarding meetings and board members can be found at www.pleasantondowntown.net.

**Janet Yarbrough
President, Pleasanton
Downtown Association**

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

With city salaries frozen, it's time for pension reform

With school district and city budget shortfalls in the millions of dollars all around, we found it interesting that Palo Alto, which is experiencing its own shortfall of \$6.2 million and climbing, just hired a new assistant city manager at a starting salary of \$195,000. Pamela Antil is moving to the Peninsula from Novi, Mich., where she no doubt earned less, and will report to City Manager James Keene, who was hired two years ago at a starting salary of \$240,000 a year, plus a \$600 monthly transportation allowance and a housing package. Those seem like big dollars, even for Palo Alto, which helps explain why 153 qualified individuals applied for Antil's job. Still, Antil's starting salary on a staff that includes several other assistants to City Manager Keene and in a city that is facing a \$6-million budget deficit seems excessive at a time when many in the private sector, who still have jobs, have taken substantial pay cuts.

By comparison, Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho earns \$197,000, but hasn't had an increase since 2007 because of a hiring and management salary freeze he imposed when tax revenues here started heading south. The new City Attorney Jonathan Lowell earns \$1,000 a year less. He was hired to succeed retiring City Attorney Michael Roush who earned \$177,000. City managers in Dublin and Livermore earn more than Fialho but nowhere near the \$325,000 annual salary that San Ramon pays to its city manager, Herb Moniz.

On this side of the Bay, elected officials and city managers are working with their cities' financial staffs to curb spending and block pay increases. Pleasanton, besides ordering a hiring and management pay freeze, has also stopped all expenditures that can wait until the economy improves. Building inspectors and others now carpool to job sites when they can. Livermore has laid off 11 municipal workers and Dublin has also put job and salary freezes in place.

Shaken not only by their own city budget deficits but also by rising pension costs, city managers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties are working on solutions. Through their organizations — the Alameda County City Managers Association, which Fialho now heads, and the Contra Costa County Public Managers Association — they've formed a joint working group on pension reform. The working group is rooted in three main concerns:

- The general state of the economy has sparked a public outcry over public pensions that may lead to overreaching and inappropriate pension reform by statewide initiative;

- The majority of current public pension programs under the California Public Employee Retirement System (CalPERS) and most other public retirement systems are not financially sustainable;

- It is important for cities in the same geographic region to work toward a uniform set of goals for pension reform so as to avoid an inherent competitive disadvantage in hiring qualified staff.

Although pension programs have worked well in the past, changes made by the state legislature have made them financially unsustainable. The city managers, therefore, are recommending a new tier pension offering that could be implemented through upcoming bargaining processes for union employees. Pleasanton already has curbed healthcare benefits for employees hired after Jan. 1, which includes cutting healthcare benefits entirely once the retired employee reaches age 65 and is eligible to receive Medicare benefits. In these times, it is very possible that employees also will be asked to contribute to their medical insurance premiums, which the private sector long ago required.

In a white paper prepared by the two county city manager associations, the managers state that the goal of any new plan for pension reform should be to provide current and future employees with an appropriate pension upon retirement, but also one that is fiscally sustainable for employers and taxpayers. We agree. It's also important, the city managers insist, that there be a regional pension standard based on sound actuarial work. Because of the global recession, local revenues are significantly depressed. Property taxes and sales taxes are not expected to recover to their previous levels for some time — perhaps years. With cities wrestling with declining revenue and mounting budget deficits, this is the time to also wrestle with pension plans. We support Fialho and others (including our elected officials), who are willing to control these costs. ■



Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.

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POLICE BULLETIN

San Ramon man arrested for alleged sexual abuse of Pleasanton girl

Pleasanton police arrested a 22-year-old San Ramon man Wednesday for child molestation of a young girl from the time she was 6 years old until she was 9.

Sgt. Jim Knox said Robert Turner was recently arrested in San Ramon and booked at Santa Rita jail in Dublin for "continual sexual abuse of a child." This charge requires evidence of at least three acts of the crime over a time period of three or more months with a child who is 14 years old or younger.

Knox said the girl is from Pleasanton and the incidents occurred in Pleasanton.

The victim of the crime is now 15 and recently revealed the incidents to a school counselor.

If Turner is convicted, he could face a sentence of up to 16 years in prison, Knox said.

POLICE REPORT

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

March 2

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:49 p.m. in the 600 block of Peters Avenue; public drunkenness

March 3

Theft

- 12:16 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 2:56 p.m. in the 3900 block of Rockingham Drive; identity theft
- 3:49 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:23 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; stolen vehicle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:24 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Navajo Court; marijuana possession
- 7:17 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; marijuana possession
- 11:35 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; DUI

March 4

Theft

- 10:25 a.m. in the 6300 block of Corte Esperanza; identity theft
- 11:09 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; grand theft, petty theft
- 7:45 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 8:06 a.m. in the 3400 block of Old

Foothill Road

- 1:02 p.m. in the 1900 block of Harvest Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 7:26 a.m. in the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 9:30 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession, controlled substance for sale, marijuana for sale

Loitering

- 12:15 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street

March 5

Theft

- 7:31 a.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; identity theft
- 4:49 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 2:26 a.m. in the 8100 block of Ensenada Drive; vehicular
- 8:14 a.m. in the 600 block of Windmill Lane
- 1:59 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; shoplifting
- 3:57 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, lock picking

Vandalism

- 3:17 a.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court
- 12:59 p.m. in the 1100 block of Laguna Creek Lane
- 1:14 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:32 p.m. at the intersection of St.

Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue; public drunkenness

- 11:33 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and St. Mary Street; DUI

Battery

- 8:37 a.m. in the 5500 block of Owens Drive

March 6

Theft

- 10:26 a.m. in the 100 block of Main Street; identity theft
- 3:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; stolen property possession, conspiracy
- 4:04 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 4:39 p.m. in the 3400 block of Stanley Boulevard; petty theft

Burglary

- 8:40 a.m. in the 7800 block of Chestnut Way; vehicular
- 12:56 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

- 11:28 a.m. in the 4400 block of Arbutus Court
- 3:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

DUI

- 12:33 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Vineyard Place
- 2:08 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and westbound I-580 onramp
- 8:36 p.m. at the intersection of Morganfield and Santa Rita roads

Battery

- 1:13 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

OBITUARIES

Franklin Carson Ford

Franklin Carson Ford died peacefully at home in Pleasanton March 7. He was 88.

Mr. Ford was born Jan. 28, 1922 in Chewella, Wash. He was raised in San Francisco and was known as "Ol' Blue Eyes."



Mr. Ford served his country with honor as a Navy fighter pilot during World War II; had a distinguished career as a nuclear physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; and was a proud scratch golfer and past president and member of the board of Castlewood Golf and Country Club. His love of sports spanned the seasons. From his favorite TV chair, he filled our home with the sounds of the stadium and the golf course gallery. His was a quiet, unspoken love. But its silence embraced those

he loved. The memories he leaves behind will last for all seasons.

Mr. Ford is survived by his loving wife, Lourdes; his sister Fay; his sons and daughters, Cameron and Jan, Carol and Tom, Lou and Jim, Iza and Bernie, Isabel and Niall, Lia and Jack, Sherry and Don, Weena and Joey, and Marika; grandchildren, Miggy and Kelly, Nikki, Dominique, Rocky, Francesca, Angelica, Anton, Sela, DJ, Brandon, Steve, Eric, Brian and Tommy; his caregiver, Chona; his faithful

companion, Pooch and devoted pack, Stacia, Gucci and Chiquita.

Mr. Ford was preceded in death by his first wife, Gladys, and his daughter, Noel.

A memorial service was scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. March 12 at the Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4617 First St., with a reception following.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Ste #100, Dublin, CA, 94568.

ENGAGEMENTS

Lisa Curtis and Michael Millard

Jack Kiser and Paddy Bryant announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa Curtis to Michael Millard, son of Paddie and the late Jack Millard. Michael proposed on Christmas Eve and the couple will marry at the Pioneer Living History Village in Phoenix, Ariz. on Oct. 23. Michael Millard grew up



in Pleasanton and graduated from Foothill High School in 1982.

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Alameda County Congestion Management Agency and Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority status updates on the State of Transportation in the Tri-Valley
- Status regarding Tri Valley Transportation Council (TVTC) Fee update
- Authorize the inclusion of a representative from the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Board of Directors to be included in the Hacienda PUD Modification Task Force
- Consider an amendment to the membership of the Affordable Housing Task Force to include one resident from both Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens and a City Council member
- Adopt a resolution accepting the Mid-Year FY 2009-10 Operating Budget Update and amending the FY 2009-10 Operating Budget

Housing Commission

Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of Federal HOME Funds and City Lower Income Housing Funds Related to the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHS) Program for Fiscal Year 2010-11
- Update Regarding the Urban Habitat Lawsuit and Related Matters
- Update Regarding the Kottinger Place Window Installation Project

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Marketing Study Update

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

- Civic Arts Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate
- Housing Commission – 1 Member
- Human Services Commission – 2 Members, 1 Alternate
- Library Commission – 1 Alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission – 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission – 6 Youth Members
- Committee on Energy & the Environment -- 1 Member
- Economic Vitality Committee -- 1 representative from each of the following categories:
 - Commercial Services Firm
 - Environmental Industry
 - Infrastructure
 - Medical Services
 - Medical Technology

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee
3 Pleasanton representatives

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging -- 1 Pleasanton representative

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2010. Postmarks are not accepted.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.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

The barrel treatment

New wine event gives a sneak sip into future releases



BY EMILY WEST

Wanting to look into the future? Forget the crystal ball, it's all about the wine barrel.

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association hosts Barrel Tasting Weekend, from March 20 to 21. The group's newest event, in its second year, allows tasters to get a preview of wine that's not quite ready to be bottled.

Mitchell Katz, winemaker at the winery with the same name on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton, said the event is also a good opportunity to experience how wine is made. They will have two barrels containing the same varietal — their 2008 Sangiovese — to allow tasters to taste the difference in barrels.

"The best way I describe the barrels," Katz said, "is like a spice rack. Each French oak company gets wood from a different terroir (terrain). You get a difference with every barrel."

This event is good for those wanting to educate their palate, as they can learn more about the journey of wine, from grape to glass. Katz said it's good to ask the winemaker how old the wine is and how it will change. People ask him how one wine might have a vanilla characteristic, for example, and he said it's partly the grapes, but also a result of using different barrels.

While the wine still has a ways to go until it's bottled, sampling it now will provide a good indication of what it will become. If participants find something they like, many wineries are selling the wines at a discount before they are bottled and released to the public — also known as buying futures.

Katz will be pouring his 2008 Sangiovese, which was won best of class in seven of the last eight California state fairs, and it will be discounted at \$14 instead of \$25. They will also serve the popular 2007 Fat Boy Reserve Cabernet, which is regularly \$40 and will be \$26 during the event.

Jim Ryan, winemaker at Concannon Vineyard in Livermore, will be on hand with a wine thief — the glass dropper —

ready to provide barrel samples and answer questions at their remodeled tasting room on Tesla Road.

"People get to see where the wine is in its lifespan and try to see where it's going," Ryan said. "You don't have the opportunity (to taste from the barrel) that often, and it's a whole different flavor profile. It's all free instead of squished in the little bottle."

One of his favorite parts about these types of events, Ryan said, is talking with customers and getting a feel for what they want.

"We get all of the Nielsen ratings, facts and figures and trade publications, but out there we get a good barometer of the people, what they like and what they don't like" he said.

People in the valley, as well as nationally, are looking for value.

"One of the great things about the Livermore Valley is that our wines are still a pretty big value," he said.

Ryan will be serving a cabernet sauvignon out of a brand new oak barrel and a neutral barrel, as well as petite sirah — the wine Concannon is credited for first making in 1961.

Events such as the Barrel Tasting Weekend are helping to attract people to the Livermore Valley, still considered to be a hidden gem to some, including Katz.

"It seems that every weekend, more and more people are coming from San Francisco and the peninsula," he said. "When I started, we were winery No. 16 in 1998 and now there are over 50 wineries. The bar has definitely been raised. There's more competition, so there's better wine."

More than 25 of these wineries will be participating in the Barrel Tasting Weekend, which is from noon to 4:30 p.m. March 20 to 21. Tickets are \$25 when purchased online by March 19 or \$30 at the event. Ticket sales are limited, however, and sold out last year. The price includes an official tasting glass and a map.

For a list of participating wineries and more information about the event, visit www.lvwine.org or call 447-WINE (9463). ■

EMILY WEST

Barrels are the foundation for the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, as they are for winemaker Mitchell Katz.

The Pleasanton winery of the same name is one of more than 25 to participate in the Barrel Tasting Weekend March 20 to 21.



READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

BY JOE RAMIREZ

Broken Embraces

Sony DVD & Blu-Ray
2 hours, 7 minutes
Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Director Pedro Almodóvar's "Broken Embraces" is a summation of the great director's fascination with the movies that make him tick. He fervently conjures up widescreen comedies of the '50s, Antonioni's bleakness, and Hitchcock, lots of Hitchcock (with a nod to Louis Malle's "Elevator to the Gallows") to boil up a movie about an ill-fated movie, and the lingering effects on its creators. Now, I know that sounds like cheesy horror, or misplaced noir, whose roots "Broken Embraces" may be firmly planted, but in the hands of its director it becomes a labyrinth of controlled kinkiness and moving melodrama, something Almodóvar specializes in. It stars his pop-muse Penélope Cruz in a variety of wigs and dresses and an appropriately subdued performance by Lluís Homar as a director/screenwriter who takes refuge in the movies he loves.

To get my low-rent surliness out first, I have to comment that Almodóvar's recent movies lack the spontaneity or sense of naughty thrills his earlier movies oozed. Now, this is a man that made "Tie Me Up/Tie Me Down!" and created a minute dream sequence that uses an anatomical part as a major prop in "Talk to Her" (my favorite of all his movies). So it's disappointing to have a sneaking sense that his latest fare, especially since "Bad Education," feels weirdly spayed, as if his newfound prestige has challenged his sense of fun. He is a gifted moviemaker, with all the right moves, but this is what happened with Fellini in the later '70s, where the challenge to create something intricate for the critics, and thus feed his ego, superseded the drive to

create a movie for people to connect with. "Broken Embraces" subtly suffers from the same syndrome, but its headiness outweighs its aloofness.

It is blind screenwriter Harry Caine (Homar), however, who does not create such distant fare. He is, although, a distant man, living like all good noir men in the shadow of his past. In this case, it is an affair with an actress, Lena (Cruz), which has left him not only physically robbed, but emotionally as well. In flashbacks we find that Caine is actually a pseudonym (and a nod to "The Third Man"), and that he worked as a director under the moniker Mateo Blanco whose last film — a comedy starring Lena — was sabotaged and butchered by its producer Ernesto Martel, who happens to be the Lena's very jealous husband. We also discover how the making of this comedy, which becomes a fascinating story-within-a-story (à la Almodóvar's earlier movies), is the downfall of Blanco, but also an introduction into living what we suspect is his favorite genre.

"Broken Embraces" is the most carefully constructed out of all Almodóvar's movies, and for this it can combat the detachment of his most recent fare. Every scene, like in all mysteries is carefully placed and detailed. There has always been a sense of Kubrickian analness to his movies, but his flamboyancy was enough to energize the plot. Here he seems to compartmentalize this verve into the movie-within-a-movie sequences, which becomes the overall plot's significant source of life. Almodóvar expresses Caine's one true love — the movies — in these scenes, which acts like a coup-de-grace for the audience. "Broken Embraces" may not be Pedro Almodóvar's best movie, but it is his best constructed one that can especially be appreciated by a movie nerd like him — or me. ■



BY DON COLMAN

'Diwine' intervention

Merlot, poor merlot. Right now, this might be the most unwanted wine in the land. Fortunately, the "bad rap" is unwarranted. Grapes, like clothes and music, go in and out of style and right now, merlot is completely out of style. Why these fads happen is anyone's guess, but unlike leather ties, this is a fad that will come back.

Unfortunately, I follow the trends, too. I have drifted away from merlot and have become attracted to other grapes. It had been months, perhaps even a year, since I sat down with a glass of merlot. I can't tell you what made me reach for it this time — call it "diwine" intervention, but am I glad I did. The 2007 Blackstone Merlot, at only \$12 a bottle, is a down right steal. When I sit down to review a wine, I check for three things.

First is the look of the wine. This wine is a deep red, with very little residue giving a clear finish. Although this does not guarantee quality in wine, it does indicate clean filtering and is appealing to the eye.

Second is the smell, my favorite part of any wine. This is where you prepare your taste buds for what they are about to experience.

As with many Californian wines, this is a fruit-forward wine with odors of nut fruits (plums, cherries, etc.) being most prevalent. In addition, there is a hint of oak that comes through providing this wine with some needed complexity.

Third is the actual taste of the wine. I am of the school of thought that most of the flavors are sensed during the smelling of the wine. The taste of the wine tells me two things. First is where you sense wine on your tongue. The front of the tongue is sweet, sides are bitter and the back is sour. In this case it was a sweet taste followed with a touch of bitterness. The second part of the taste is looking for tannins, which come from the skin of the grapes. The longer the juice stays in contact with the skins, the greater the tannin feel to the wine. I call this the "chewiness" of the wine. In this case, the wine has a very soft and silky feel, meaning it is light on the tannins.

When you put all of these things together, you end up with a high quality, easy to drink, reasonably priced wine. In matching this to food, I would aim for everyday type food — spaghetti and meat balls, burgers, pizza, etc.

If merlot was in style, you would see this wine selling for \$5 to \$10 more. Just like it is smart to buy an umbrella when it is sunny, now is a great time to buy a merlot.

Until next time, cheers!

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

I've decided not to leave my wife.

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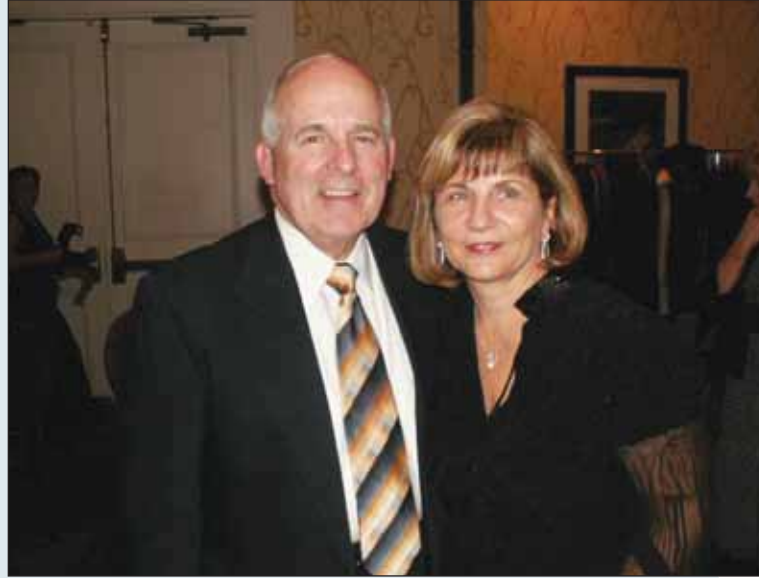
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“We are governed by local business members. As the executive, my job is to have a staff that works with business leaders who are engaged in committee activities, board activities and a variety of other activities.”

Scott Raty, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce



Realtor Steve Fast is sworn in as chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for 2010.



Joe Cristiano and his wife Janet at the Pleasanton Chamber's community awards dinner where he was given the "Distinguished Individual Service" award for contributing exceptional service to Pleasanton.



Kelly O'Lague Dulka, executive director of the YMCA, is a member of the YMCA's board directors and has contributed to the nonprofit organization that continues to serve the community.

THE VOICE OF PLEASANTON

Chamber plans public forums on 2010 local issues, political candidates

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is planning town square forums and candidate interviews as it moves aggressively to be the business community's spokes-organization in this year's local, regional and national primary and general elections.

“Our agenda is a community agenda,” said Scott Raty, president and chief executive officer of the Pleasanton chamber. “Politics is certainly a part of that at the local, state and federal levels. That's our focal point.”

Raty pointed out that the chamber is an association with more than 800 business and some individual members that advocates a strong local economy. Its weekly agenda is filled with meetings to advance business objectives and support individual companies, including many start-up or recently established entrepreneurs.

Its recent publication, “Pleasanton 2015: A Community Vision,” lists major programs the chamber is sponsoring, including education, health and human services, housing, community leadership and improving the local economy.

Concerned by inadequate state aid to public schools, the chamber considers the current funding crisis to education as a number one priority. Strong schools, access to higher education and workforce skills development are essential to sustaining a vibrant community, maintaining a strong business environment and excellent quality of life for Pleasanton resident, Raty explained.

“Pleasanton schools consistently rank in the top five unified school districts statewide based on the California standardized testing and reporting results,” Raty said.

“As everyone knows there are huge issues going on today in public education, with major funding gaps that continue to go unresolved,” he added. “We'll put together public meetings so that the community can talk publicly about what it is prepared to do and how the chamber can help solve those problems.”

As part of its recognition of organizations working to help Pleasanton schools, the chamber gave this year's Business Philanthropy Award to locally-based Safeway, Inc. for providing philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity. In 2009, the chamber noted, shoppers who used e-scrip when buying groceries enabled Safeway to donate more than \$270,000 in funds to some 40 Pleasanton schools and organizations.

On the political front, the chamber, through its 501(c)6 foundation, will likely sponsor candidate forums in advance of the Nov. 2 election for school board candidates. Two seats on the board will open, including board member Jim Ott's since he has decided not to seek re-election, and long-time member Pat Kernan, whose four-year term will expire this year. He has not said yet whether he will seek re-election.

The chamber also will hold breakfasts or evening forums for City Council seats. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman has announced that she will seek re-election to another



Scott Raty, president and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce since 2007, says the organization will accelerate its pace of community involvement in 2010.

two-year term, which would be her last, and council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne are seeking re-election to additional four-year terms, which also would be their last if re-elected because of term limits.

essentially acts as the group that that advises the volunteer
of other things that make up our agenda each year. ”

er of Commerce



of the Tri-Valley YMCA, and Mark Ruggles,
s, accept the "Excellence in Service" award
distributed the most to Pleasanton in 2009.



Laura Olson, marketing director for UNCLE Credit Union, steps down as chair-
woman of the Pleasanton Chamber for 2009.

PLEASANTON BUSINESS

The chamber either directly or through its foundation
also will sponsor additional town hall forums, including
one next month in partnership with the Bay East Association
of Realtors on Pleasanton's housing situation and
its need for more "workforce" or affordable housing.

Raty said the chamber also plans to engage the public
in discussions on transportation, transit-oriented
developments, the city's 29,000-unit housing cap and
what should be done if opponents of that cap win their
current suit in Alameda County Superior Court, and a
general discussion of the state's budget crisis and how
the public sees these issues being resolved. Even health
care based on the outcome of current measures under
consideration in Washington are possible topics for
chamber-sponsored public meetings.

While most cities and states have chambers of commerce,
and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is a national
force in presenting the views of American business in
Congress, local chambers such as Pleasanton's are independent.
They work with the California State Chamber of
Commerce on statewide issues of importance to local
business, but they are depending on local business
membership for guidance on Pleasanton issues and local
funds to pay for chamber activities and campaigns.

"We're not a division or a branch," Raty explained.
"We are governed by local business members. As the
executive, my job is to have a staff that essentially acts
as the group that that advises the volunteer business
leaders who are engaged in committee activities, board
activities and a variety of other things that make up our
agenda each year."

Part of his job is to be visible, very visible. He's seen
everywhere: at City Council and Planning Commission
meetings, public forums, business mixers and at a number
of similar events in neighboring cities. Although
board members and leaders change year by year, Raty

and his staff stay, handling chamber issues from its
building at 777 Peters Ave.

"We're the glue that holds it all together," he said.

For Raty, taking the helm at the Pleasanton chamber
was an easy transition from his 14 years as head of the
Hayward Chamber. His career path, in fact, has provided
management and operational experience that is
serving him well in Pleasanton.

Raised in Danville, he earned a teaching credential when
he graduated from San Jose State University. He taught for
several years before accepting a management position in
the San Jose Job Corps program, becoming a top regional
executive in country's longest running, federally funded
program for job training and education. Married to Kathy
Raty now for 33 years in June, he chose to stay in the Bay
Area rather than accept a promotion to a Washington, D.C.
position, and took the Hayward position. The couple has
two children: Mike, 28, and Adam, 24.

Raty said chambers of commerce date back to the
1400s, established first in major seaports where local
merchants organized the early chambers to fight off
outside interests that were "shopping" their wares.
Chambers have evolved ever since.

Here in Pleasanton, it wasn't long ago that newcomers
found chamber packages at their doorstep with maps
and business promotions. Those have been replaced by
online services, including a daily-updated website about
Pleasanton chamber activities. Also, members are not
only business people; nonprofits such as the Tri-Valley
YMCA and even the clergy belong.

A highlight of the chamber is its annual installation
dinner and community awards program, usually held the
last week in January. This year's event at the Pleasanton
Marriott Hotel filled the ballroom, with Realtor Steve Fast
sworn in as chairman of the chamber for 2010, succeeding
Laura Olson of UNCLE Credit Union. ■



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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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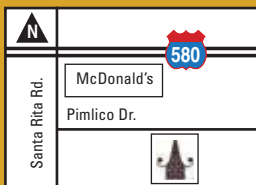
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Careers

DON'T 'HUNT FOR A JOB' University of Phoenix, in partnership with Opportunity Junction, Robert Half International and TTG Consultants of Northern California, will host a workshop on how to hunt for a job from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, at University of Phoenix, 2481 Constitution Dr., Livermore. This workshop is free. Call 349-2331.

IAAP MARCH CHAPTER MEETING This meets from 9-12 p.m. March 20 at the Pleasanton Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. Presenting Sydney Craig Hart CPS/CAP and Avery Dennison, getting organized. A networking and learning opportunity for administrative professionals and office staff. Cost \$20. Visit www.iaap-laspositas.org/.

Classes

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING Learn skills to assist your neighborhood, school, or workplace respond to disasters from 6-9:30 p.m., March 18, six sessions, 3301 Busch Rd. Call 510-454-2361 or email CERT@lpfire.org.

Events

FENESTRA'S CHOCOLATE & CABERNET WEEKEND This event takes starts at 12 p.m. March 13 at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Red wines are paired with different chocolate dishes, both savory recipes and sweet chocolate treats. \$10 gets you a logo glass and buffet plate and \$5 for non-drinkers and children. Call 800-789-WINE or visit www.fenestrawinery.com.

JUNIOR GOLF PASTA FEED The event is from 2-4 p.m. March 21 at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir. Believing, learning and making good choices in life and through the game of golf. All youth ages 7-17. Cost is \$15. Deadline to sign up March 15. Call 366-7956 or visit www.thefirstteetriveralley.org.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE Pleasantonians 4 Peace is again sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Contact Cathie Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM STYLE TOURNAMENT This event is from 3-7 p.m. March 14 at Sunshine Saloon, 1807 Santa Rita Rd. Cost is \$100. Prizes for 1st through 5th place. Taco bar opens at 3 p.m. and tournament begins at 4 p.m. Players must be 21. Call 463-9393 or email pleasantonholdem@gmail.com.

TRI-VALLEY VEGETARIAN MUSIC LECTURE EVENT The event is from 5-7:30 p.m. March 20. Join us for an evening of original piano music and lecture with on Dr. Tuttle's uplifting book, "The World Peace Diet" as he speaks about passion and compassion for a new world. Donation \$10-\$15. Call 989-1811 or visit www.ThriveHolistic.com/vegsociety.html.

Fundraisers

LYDIKSEN RUMMAGE AND WAREHOUSE SALE Gently used clothes, sporting goods, furniture, household items, books, toys, games and more will be fore sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 13 at Lydiksen Elementary School, 7700 Highland Oaks Drive. Brand new excess inventory donations too. Proceeds support student programs.

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL MOVIE This event is from 7 p.m. March 26 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. The Tri-Valley Chapter of Sisters in Service presents the movie, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell," an inspiring story of women coming together to bring peace to war torn Liberia. All proceeds will go toward supporting needy women and children overseas. Suggested donation is \$10. Call 998-3785 or visit www.praythedeviceilbacktohell.com.

VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL PASTA FEED This event is from 4-7 p.m. March 18 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. Pasta Feed and Silent Auction Dinner includes: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, cookies, ice tea or lemonade. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, or \$3 for kids under 8. Take out available. Call 426-4260 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/village.

Kids & Teens

DR. SEUSS AT THE LIBRARY Enjoy a sneak peek at scenes from

"Seussical the Musical", a joint production by Amador Valley & Foothill High Schools from 2-2:45 p.m. March 13 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400 ext 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library.

IRISH DANCE AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY The event is from 4-4:45 p.m. March 20 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Dance & Sing Around the World, family cultural series presents the McBride School of Irish Dance. Enjoy an afternoon of individual & line dances by members of this award-winning group. Cost free. Call 931-3400 ext 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/.

Lectures/ Workshops

CONFESSIONS OF A WRITING CONTEST JUDGE This lecture is 11:30 - 3 p.m. March 20 at Empire Buffet, 1070 Stanley Blvd., Livermore. California writers club Tri-Valley, author Beverly Lauderale, a frequent judge at regional and national writing contests, will discuss what writing contest judges look for. Cost \$21 members \$27 nonmembers. Call 462-7495 or visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

ETHAN ALLEN WORKSHOP: DRESS YOUR BED IN STYLE The event is 10-11 a.m. March 20 at Ethan Allen, 4230 Rosewood Dr. RSVP by March 15. Call 734-6675 or email cmgarcia@ethanalleninc.com.

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GNON TRADESHOW This event is at 5:15 p.m. March 24 at Allegra Print & Imaging, 1063-A Serpentine Ln. GNON Girls Night Out Networking, the informal yet productive networking group everyone in town is talking about. RSVP to Frances by March 20. Cost \$5. Call 426-2510 or email fmhewitt@yahoo.com.

GOING NATIVE DITCHING YOUR LAWN Learn to create a low maintenance, low water garden from 7-9 p.m. March 15 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Call 519-3003 or email jen.pinter@gmail.com. Presented by Kat Weiss, Owner of Kat Weiss Landscape Design in Livermore & a Registered Landscape Architect.

Live Music

THE COOL TONES This event is 2-3 p.m. March 21 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Bernal Ave. The Cool Tones swing band plays favorite tunes. Call 931-3405.

Miscellaneous

CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, TRI-VALLEY DIVISION 85 The group will hold a luncheon meeting at 11:15 a.m. March 16 at The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall (IBEW), 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The meeting will feature a panel

discussion on domestic and foreign travel. The cost is \$11. Guests are welcome. Call 443-9913.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE VALLEY TOUR The Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour is celebrating its 5th year as one of our most successful fundraisers for homeless pets. We're currently searching for private gardens in Pleasanton to include on our tour this year. The tour will be held at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. May 16. Gardens must be in Pleasanton city limits. If you have a beautiful garden that you want to show off please contact Charli Hyden at 918-0799.

Political Notes

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP & CAMPAIGN SPENDING This group meets from 7-9 p.m. March 15 at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. TriValley Democratic Club presents Derek Cressman Regional Director of Common Cause. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON Tri-Valley Republican Women hosts Laurie Firestone, former White House Social Secretary, at 11:30 a.m. March 13 at Castlewood Country Club. Cost is \$30. Advance reservations required. Call 454-2927 or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.com.

On Stage

SEUSSICAL! THE MUSICAL! Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools present "Seussical! the Musical" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, March 18-20 and March 25-27, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Seussical is based on the works of Dr. Seuss. Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors; \$12 for adults. Visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/avhsweb/hartman/Productions/mainlistregular.html.

STRAUSS OPERA 'DIE FLEDERMAUS' WALTZES INTO BANKHEAD THEATER Shows are at 8 p.m. March 13 & 20 and at 2 p.m. March 14 & 21 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Romantic comedy performed in English. Tickets are \$29-\$59. Opening night gala March 14 and tickets are \$50. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

Scholarships

RECRUITMENT GRANT AVAILABLE A \$500 recruitment grant from the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is available for a female student pursuing a career in education. The deadline to apply is March 20. For information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Kathy Brooks, 1581 Oslo Ct., Livermore, CA, 94550.

Spiritual

TAKING STOCK 10 a.m. March 14 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Taking Stock is the sermon topic of guest speaker Rev. Margaret Stortz. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

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145 Non-Profits Needs

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155 Pets



Great Pit Bull needs a home
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MGB 1970 GT - \$5500

202 Vehicles Wanted

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215 Collectibles & Antiques

Antique - Mahogany End Table - \$75.00

Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$110.00

Old Records for sale - \$see ad

Royal Doulton figurine - \$35

220 Computers/ Electronics

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230 Freebies

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Oak Roll Top Computer Desk - \$375 OBO

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245 Miscellaneous

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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$750.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$879,000

Dublin, 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$339000

Dublin, 4 BR/3 BA - \$849,000

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855 Real Estate Services

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Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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PET OF THE WEEK

Great Wilis

Meet a 120-pound Great Dane/Labrador mix named Willis. Willis is tall and lean and his ears seem to indicate in which direction the wind is blowing! He has shiny black fur and warm brown eyes. Willis is a friendly 1-1/2-year-old who would do best in a home without small children due to his size and exuberant nature. SPCA staff recommends Willis for someone with dog experience who will continue his schooling. Right now Willis is like a rambunctious kid who is learning to sit still in class! Willis is playful with most other dogs and he will need lots of daily exercise. Visit Willis at the East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. See additional pets available for adoption at www.eastbayspca.org.



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2158 Pomezia Ct., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



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Single story home in Ascona in Ruby Hill, 4 BR, 3 full BA, 2,670 sq. ft. Absolutely gorgeous.
Offered at \$1,030,000

2576 Gillian Ct., Vineyard Hills, Pleasanton

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NEW LISTING - Vineyard Hills
4 BR, 3 1/2 BA, 3,575 sq. ft. of living space. Impressive high end features, private with tranquil views of the hills. **Offered at \$1,350,000**

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3504 Ovella Way — Beautiful Villa with amazing panoramic views adjacent to the Ruby Hill Golf Club, 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, 4,339 sq.ft. **Offered at \$1,450,000**

3254 Novara Way — 5 BR, 4 full/2 half baths, 5,272 sq.ft., impeccable home with high quality features, gorgeous cul-de-sac and golf course views and beyond. **Offered at \$1,950,000**



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

6703 CORTE SANTA MARIA, PLEASANTON, \$737,500



This upgraded Ponderosa home, with 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms, features a gourmet granite & maple kitchen, formal living and dining rooms with vaulted ceilings, spacious family room, and luxurious master suite on a private cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool & spa! Centrally located near schools, parks, shopping, BART, I-680, I-580, and downtown Pleasanton! Sold by Doug Buenz of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 463-2000

Keller Williams acquires Hometown GMAC

End of an era for 32-year-old downtown firm

By JEB BING

Hometown GMAC, a name that's almost symbolic with Pleasanton's historic downtown, has been acquired by Keller Williams Realty, which has its main office at West Las Positas Blvd.

Steve Fast, president and co-owner of Hometown, said all Hometown agents have agreed to transfer to Keller Williams. Except for pending sales that are in escrow, all transactions by Hometown Realtors will now be carried forward under the Keller Williams flag.

Fast said Hometown first started out as the Osborne Real Estate Agency in the mid-1970s. Real estate broker Mike Peel and other investors bought the agency in 1978 as the Pleasanton office of the national Better Homes & Gardens franchise. Better Homes Publishing sold its real estate franchises to

GMAC in 1990. GMAC recently sold its holdings to Brookfield, one of Canada's largest real estate firms, which wanted to change Hometown's name.

"The Hometown name is part of Pleasanton," Fast said. Peel and I saw no value in changing the name at a time when the real estate market is struggling, and our agents agreed."

Keller Williams plans to keep the Hometown office and will assume the lease starting March 19 when the Hometown plaque on the front wall visible from First Street will be replaced with the Keller Williams sign.

"Like any well known business that closes, it's sad," Fast said. "But Keller Williams is also a well-known and highly respected real estate firm. The people of Pleasanton will continue to be well served." ■

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Dublin

2 BEDROOMS

7406 Oxford Circle \$399,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4034

5 BEDROOMS

7870 Galway Court \$1,688,000
Sat 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS

5255 Lenore Avenue \$429,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 583-1111

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

3322 Santa Rita Road \$305,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

607 Palomino Drive \$338,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 352-7307

4356 Valley Avenue \$429,500
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

4779 Harrison Street \$499,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5787

3 BEDROOMS

1021 Division Street \$619,000
Sun 1-4 Julia Korpi 963-6135

1909 Brooktree Way \$635,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

4117 Crisfield Lane \$648,000
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

2576 Gillian Court \$1,350,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

3504 Ovella Way \$1,450,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

2367 E. Ruby Hill Drive \$2,100,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

3911 Vineyard Avenue \$629,950
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 998-3138

2515 Skimmer Court \$785,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

3355 Touriga Drive \$849,950
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 487-2907

1839 Begonia Court \$945,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

5 BEDROOMS

1075 Shadow Hills Court \$1,399,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2556 Arlotta Place \$1,438,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential Cal Realty 963-1984

5 Red Feather Court \$1,688,888
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

3254 Novara Way \$1,950,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

1515 Honeysuckle Court \$1,975,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2555

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

2920 Fountainhead Drive \$329,900
Sun 2-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 890-8433

Getting to know your Local Real Estate Agents

We asked your agents: What is your lucky charm?

Look out for the Buying & Selling special section coming April 16th!



The sun is my lucky charm, when it is shining, I feel happy and energized!

Anni Hagfeldt

519-3534

Alain Pinel Realtors
www.annihagfeldt.com



1994 silver half dollar that my deceased Grandmother gave me just before she passed away. When I look at it, it reminds me of what a very loving & special lady she was!

Joanne Durso

730-4006

RE/MAX Accord
www.jdurso.com



A Chinese Buda I received on a Chinese New Year from a friend years ago!

Julia Korpi

463-6135

Prudential California Realty
www.juliakorpi.com



My great grandmothers wedding ring which has been worn by 3 generations previous to me. I feel blessed and loved when I wear it!

Melisa Mazotti-Johnson, VP

580-2777

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



My lucky charm is "positive thinking." It works!

Kat Gaskins

621-4050

Alain Pinel Realtors
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I believe that having a positive attitude brings positive results!

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Keller Williams



My little boy and girl!

Emily Barraclough

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Call Andrea at 600-0840 x110 for information on Buying & Selling!

Actually I eat Oatmeal!

Pat Griffin

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8044 Golden Eagle Way PLEASANTON
Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Level park-like backyard, pool, spa, lrg grass area. Photos - www.8044GoldenEagle.com
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

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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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REO/ BANK OWNED



2919 Chocolate St PLEASANTON
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Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559

RUBY HILL ESTATE



655 East Vineyard Avenue LIVERMORE
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Carol Cline, CRS 925.648.5415

CONTEMPORARY LIVING



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2801 Gray Fox Court PLEASANTON
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Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

GOLF COURSE 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.
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3911 Vineyard Ave PLEASANTON
Contemporary living. One the the most upgraded homes you'll find for the price. Hand scraped hickory flooring, crown molding, maple cabinetry, granite counters.
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

VINES & HILLS GALORE



3615 Caldeira LIVERMORE
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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

DOWNTOWN LIVING



4524 2nd Street PLEASANTON
Stunning remodel on desirable 2nd St. Walk to all that downtown Pleasanton has to offer. Custom Cherry Cab's. Granite Slab. S/S appliances. Harwood floors thru-out.
Todd E. Martinez 925.784.7000

WELL MAINTAINED



3771 Platt Ct N PLEASANTON
Fantastic opportunity for large, 4-bedroom home in established Pleasanton neighborhood. This property has been well-maintained, with an updated kitchen.
Greg Fielding 925.855.4029

VINSANTON COMMUNITY



2670 Vernazza Dr LIVERMORE
Custom paint, beautiful hrdwd flrs, granite ktchn counters w/full granite bckspsh, ss appliances, surround sound & more! Desirable Vinsanto neighborhood!
Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199

MEDITERRANEAN STYLE



7810 Bloomfield Ter DUBLIN
Completely remodeled with high end upgrades. AGA gourmet stove, Sub-Zero Frig, Stone stairs, Bonus Room, Farmers sink, Cherry plank floors throughout.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED



1515 Honeysuckle Ct PLEASANTON
Prestigious Golden Eagle Estates home! Beautifully appointed w/ 4 bd, 5 full ba, plus Library, Retreat & Bonus Room, 4892+/- sq.ft. w/ pool & spa on over an acre.
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

ENERGY EFFICIENT



3355 Touriga Dr PLEASANTON
Highly energy efficient turn key home. Mostly everything has been updated or replaced in the last year. 4Bd, 2.5Ba 45K solar system w/ no energy bill. Vintage Hills
Jared Higgins 925.855.4178

TWO ESTATES



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

NEXT TO PARK



Mollie Cir LIVERMORE
Very Nice Home, GREAT location next to park. New tile floors in Family Room and Kitchen. Formal Dining room, open floor plan. Side Yard Access for RV or boat.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

REO/ BANK OWNED



3429 Ashbourne Cir SAN RAMON
This property is warm & inviting. Gated Community, built in stainless steel Refrig, easy access to freeway, school, parks and malls. Pool is in need of completion
David Azimi 925.251.2580

Blackhawk East
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

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

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

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

Livermore
1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

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

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

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

Gail Boal Proudly Presents...

Sold in 48 hours - Multiple Offers!



3702 CROFTERS CT., PLEASANTON

Just move in and enjoy!
Beautifully remodeled single level on a large lot with 3 car garage!
Gorgeous kitchen!
\$679,900

Open House Sunday 1-4



4779 HARRISON ST., PLEASANTON

Charm, charm, charm!!
The perfect downtown bungalow! 2 beds, 1 1/2 baths- totally remodeled!
Zoned for more homes (ck with City)
\$499,000 Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Coming Soon! 3332 Smoketree Commons, Pleasanton

Adorable lower level condo- 2 bed/2bath, neutral carpet, inside laundry, one car garage! \$255,000



Gail Boal
DRE# 01276455
925.577.5787
www.gailboal.com

Rich Cameron
DRE# 01843721
925.989.1272



5433 Old School Road ~ San Ramon



Prime Country Property

7 acres of peaceful, serene land with panoramic views and a 2747 sq. ft., 4BD/2B Ranch style home. Features tile flooring throughout, Corian counters and a 3-car garage w/half bath and a horse ready barn!
Offered at \$949,950

7729 Creekside Drive ~ Pleasanton

Gold Creek Townhomes

3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths,
Approx. 1614 sq. ft.
Beautiful Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors throughout.
Secondary bedrooms have Bamboo wood floors.
Two Car attached garage, two patios, deck off master bedroom.
Offered at \$493,500



Delores Gragg
REALTOR®
Lic#01206964

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DeloresGragg.com

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SonaliSells.com



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DANVILLE
1349 LAWRENCE ROAD
EQUESTRIAN'S DELIGHT
\$1,389,900
5 BR 3 BA 1.4 level acres,pl/spa,covered/lighted arena w/sand ftng,5 stall barn w/pipe paddocks
925.847.2200



DUBLIN
5143 S FORESDALE CIRCLE
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED
\$725,000
5 BR 3 BA large bedrooms,w/additional loft/play area,hrdwd flrs,granite counters,great location
925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SAT 1-4
DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION
\$648,000
4117 CRISFIELD LN
3 BR 2 BA w/pl/spa,open floor plan + office/den area,kitchen w/tile,backsplash,island,breakfast bar
925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open FRI/SAT/SUN 11 - 5
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

DUBLIN

5982 HILLBROOK PL — PENDING
STYLISH/SOPHISTICATED
\$470,000
3 BR 3.5 BA Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters/island,SS appli,1 bed/bath on lower level, 2 car garage
925.847.2200

8899 BELLINA COMMONS
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED
\$399,900
3 BR 2.5 BA aprx. 1600 sf,2-car garage,built 2006,great commute loc,kitchen w/granite slab/island
925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

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

1624 CINDY WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME!
\$1,099,000
4 BR 3.5 BA gourmet eat-in kit w/cherry wd cabs,slab granite,SS appli,cntr island w/sink,3 car garage
925.847.2200

2528 LEONA PLACE — PENDING
QUAINT COMMUNITY
\$1,095,000
3 BR 3 BA den/optional 4th bdrm,wonderful floorplan,granite counters/island,29,000 sf lot w/privacy
925.847.2200

4107 MOLLER DR — PENDING
BEAUTIFUL!
\$550,000
3 BR 2.5 BA upgraded baths,frplc/ upstairs

patio,new SS appli,granite cntrs/laminate flrs,great loc
925.847.2200

3655 VINEYARD AVE
VINTAGE CHARMER
\$499,900
2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs in living,hall & both beds,dual pane windows,mast w/walk-in,deck/covered patio
925.847.2200

2935 LIBERTY DR — PENDING
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!
\$460,350
2 BR 2 BA updated w/tile flrs,newer appli/inside laundry,light/bright,beautiful yard w/rear deck
925.847.2200

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

SAN RAMON

2140 CANYON CREST AVE
GORGEOUS!
\$775,000
4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & apx 8000 sf lot.Walk to elem sch!! Gourmet kitchen,backyard w/large patio
925.847.2200

CUPERTINO

LISTINGS COMING! PRICED IN UPPER \$900s
4 new homes, 4 beds, 3 baths, 1750 sq. ft., hrdwd flrs, granite counters, Cupertino schools
925.847.2200

"If you are a licensed realtor interested in joining our real estate office please contact Will Butler, Manager at 925.847.2257. We look forward to welcoming you to Coldwell Banker!"



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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OPEN SUN 1-4



WALK TO DOWNTOWN!!

1021 Division St., Pleasanton

This Victorian home is set on a large open lot with a calm view of the Arroyo and upper level sights of the foothills. This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath room with 1926 square feet has been meticulously maintained. The neutral décor features gleaming hardwood floors downstairs and rich new carpeting upstairs. A sunlit kitchen with family room combination along with formal dining area too, is perfect for entertaining! Relax in the master bedroom suite high amongst the surrounding greenery which also features a fireplace and balcony.
Offered at \$619,000!



Julia Korpi

925.963.6135
www.juliakorpi.com
juliakorpi@comcast.net

Come on by and take a look!



www.925hometeam.com



2515 Skimmer Court, Pleasanton

Gorgeous home on a court location in the desirable Birdland neighborhood of Pleasanton. Home consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and is approximately 2150 sq ft of living space. The home has a 3 car garage plus side yard access for a boat or storage. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen with breakfast nook that opens to the family room. Upgrades include hardwood floors in entry and kitchen, granite counter tops in kitchen and guest bathrooms and dual paned windows. Formal living room, with vaulted ceilings and sky lights, that flows into the formal dining room. Spacious Master Suite with large walk-in closet and views of the park. Private back yard with hot tub and large deck with an arbor. No rear neighbors – this home backs to Woodthrush Park. This is a must see! **Offered at \$785,000**
Open Home Sat & Sunday 1-4pm.



Emily Barraclough

www.925hometeam.com
emilyb@apr.com
(925) 621-4097

PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



1436 IRONGATE CT. PLEASANTON
IRONWOOD ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD



5 BEDROOMS, 4.5 BATHS 4,205SF.
10,722SF. LOT COURT LOCATION,
OPEN FLOOR PLAN & BONUS ROOM
\$1,350,000

3641 HUFF CT. PLEASANTON
STONERIDGE ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD



5 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHS 2,913SF.
4,995SF. LOT COURT LOCATION,
OFFICE & BONUS ROOM
\$880,000

LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



6 BEDROOMS, 6 BATHS 5,096SF.
14,519SF. LOT. OPEN FLOOR PLAN,
OFFICE AND BEDROOM DOWNSTAIRS!

1839 BEGONIA CT. PLEASANTON
CHARTER OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD



4 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHS 2,541SF.
8,140SF. LOT. BEDROOM AND FULL BATH
DOWNSTAIRS, 3 CAR GARAGE & POOL/SPA
\$945,000

4022 FRANCISCO ST. PLEASANTON
JENSEN/AMADOR NEIGHBORHOOD



3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS, CENTRAL AIR,
NEW WINDOWS
\$505,000

3322 SANTA RITA RD. PLEASANTON
LOCATED CLOSE TO 580 & BART



2 BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHS, 1,140SF.
INDOOR LAUNDRY & GARAGE
\$305,000

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BUYERS NEEDS

5 BD 3,000+/-SF. UP TO \$1.3M • 4 BD W/BD & BA ON 1ST FLOOR UNDER \$850K
3 BD SINGLE FAMILY UP TO \$500K • 2 BD CONDO/TOWNHOUSE UP TO \$350K

The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update - Inventory & Sales Up

Inventory and sales levels of single family homes increased for the second straight month in Pleasanton, driven primarily by homes priced under \$1 million. Homes in that segment made up 51% of the inventory and 87% of pending sales. Pending sales actually decreased for homes priced from \$1 million to \$2 million.

The total inventory of single family homes increased in February by 17 homes, a 17% increase over January. Because of the inventory gains in homes priced below \$2 million, there is now approximately 2.3 months of inventory in Pleasanton, up from 2 months at the end of January. Pending sales increased by two to 52 at the end of February.

Homes priced below \$1 million saw the greatest increases in both inventory and pending sales in February. Inventory increased 12 units or 24% to 61 homes. That gets us back to the levels we saw in October and November of 2009 but still

considerably short of the 128 homes on the market in February 2009. Pending Sales in this segment increased 25% or 9 units to 45 in February. That is a strong number

for Pleasanton, especially compared to the 16 pending sales we had in February 2009. With increases in both inventory and sales, inventory remained nearly >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

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925.463.2000
680Homes.com



DRE #00843458

Expert real estate services

Go to 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



JUST LISTED

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!
\$1,599,000



JUST LISTED

Spacious upgraded home in West Pleasanton on cul-de-sac. 4 BR, 3 BTH with upgraded granite kitchen, new carpeting, and a prime location backing to greenbelt with views of the ridge
\$838,800



OPEN SUN 1-4

Luxury 2 BR, 2 1/2 BTH townhouse with hardwood floors, upgraded kitchen, dramatic living room with fireplace, private yard with patio, and 2 car garage.
\$429,500
4356 Valley Ave



JUST SOLD

Ruby Hill 4 BR, 3 BTH home with hardwood floors on prime 1/3 Acre cul-de-sac lot with pool!
\$880,000



JUST SOLD

Spacious 1 BR condo in luxury complex shows like a model! Granite kitchen, designer paint and carpeting, spacious living room with cozy fireplace, and private patio backs to creek with no rear neighbors!
\$215,000



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BLAISE LOFLAND

DRE# 00882113



925.846.6500
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blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

BRIDLE CREEK

PENDING



806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON
Highly upgraded Hillstar Model on premium .35 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Faces open space. Highly upgraded with beautiful front and rear grounds. Includes in-ground pool and spa. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2002. Five bedrooms, plus guest suite and bonus room, 5 bathrooms. Approximately 4,455 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

THE PRESERVE

PENDING



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

PENDING



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

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



4222 REMILLARD CT \$1,699,999
Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Updated kitchen, granite counters, new appliances, panoramic views, large backyard.

STASIA POIESZ OPEN SUN 1-4



5 RED FEATHER CT \$1,688,888
Beautiful recently remodeled 5+bd/ 4+ba home on 1+/- acre. Secluded by hills, 4400+/-sf of living space. 4 car garage. Contemporary home. Close to everything.

GAMACHE TEAM BY APPT



1541 MAPLE LEAF DR \$959,950
Absolutely gorgeous 4bd/3ba, highly upgraded, gourmet kitchen, Beautiful pool with built in BBQ, outdoor kitchen and stone waterfall, large arbor, too much to list.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPT



447 EWING DR \$885,000
Adorable nicely updated 2350 sqft. +/- 4 bedroom 2 1/2 Bathroom home on a large expansive lot with a wonderful pool. Located in Pleasanton.

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPT



3185 W LAS POSITAS BLVD \$859,000
Expanded, remodeled, 4bd/3ba, 2750+/-sf on 6412+/-sf lot. Maple/cherry/kitchen w/granite counters, travertine backsplash, stainless appl., large island, wilsonart floors.



open.apr.com
The Bay Area's only complete online open home guide.

EMILY BARRACLOUGH OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



2515 SKIMMER COURT \$785,000
Gorgeous 4bd/2.5ba home on Court location in desirable Birdland! Fabulous floor plan, open kitchen & FR. Many upgrades. No rear neighbors, backs to park.

CATHY SPENCER BY APPT



517 COLUMBIA CREEK DR \$740,000
Rare opportunity to find a single story home with a 3 car garage in San Ramon. Spacious, open floor plan. 4 bedrooms 2 baths with formal dining and eat in kitchen.

JOYCE JONES BY APPT



3032 FERNDAL COURT \$670,000
Single story, built in 1985, prime court location, 3bd(possible 4th), 2ba, updated kitchen w/granite counters, bamboo floors, large side yard, roof 2003 & low HOAs & more.

LINDA FUTRAL OPEN SUN 1-4



4326 BELLMAWR DR \$669,950
Grand and gracious describe this beauty w/master suite on the first level. Roman style solar pool and spa w/sideyard access. Granite slab kitchen, upgraded floors.

TIM MCGUIRE OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



1909 BROOKTREE WY \$635,000
3bd/2ba Charming "Country" model, updated master bath, new roof/AC/furnace and more, Located on quiet street, walk to K-12 schools and community pool.

ANDY PORYES BY APPT



4603 TERRA GRANADA DR #2B \$499,950
Highly upgraded Rossmore Condo with great views. Upper Montrose model, 2 Bdrms, 2 Baths, 1577 SqFt. Granite Kitchen, walk in spa tub, crown moldings, garage.

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPT



4427 VALLEY AVE \$446,500
2 Mstr Br Suites +/- 1557 sq. ft; Attached 2-car garage "Model Home Perfect! Gourmet kitchen w/granite. Formal LR and DR, fresh paint, new carpets, large yard w/patio.

MARK LAFFERTY OPEN SUN 1-4



5255 LENORE AVE \$429,950
Beautiful 3 bdrm, 2 bath home. Features include tile flooring, granite, stainless steel appliances, new carpet, new paint inside & out, six panel doors, side yard access.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



3322 SANTA RITA RD. \$305,000
2bd/1.5ba 1,146sf. Located close to BART & 580. Indoor laundry, garage and patio. Newer AC & furnace.