

# Pleasanton Weekly

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**Natural network:** Neighborhood Fruit designs website, mobile app to cut down on waste **PAGE 18**

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VOL. XI, NUMBER 10 • MARCH 19, 2010

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*'It's great to be **Irish!***

Tri-Valley celebrates St. Pat's Day **PAGE 12**



## IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR THE REAL WORLD?

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**What:** Personal Finance 101  
**Where:** Amador Valley High School Library  
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**When:** Wednesday March 24th at 7PM  
**RSVP:** Seating is limited. RSVP to Kimberlee McKinsey at 925.866.7800 or kimberlee@summitadvisors.com by Monday March 22nd

Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Alameda County Food Bank

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## HIP AND KNEE REPLACEMENT FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



**Presented by:**  
 Aaron Salyapongse, MD  
*Fellowship Trained Orthopedic Surgeon  
 Medical Director, Joint Replacement Institute at ValleyCare*

**Topic:** Anterior Approach for Total Hip Replacement and Custom Knee Replacement

**Date:** March 30, 2010

**Time:** 6:30PM

**Location:** ValleyCare Medical Plaza  
 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton  
 2nd floor Conference Room

In this seminar Dr. Salyapongse will discuss the latest in the anterior approach for hip replacement as well as custom knee replacement surgery. Advances in hip replacement surgery allow the surgeon to replace a hip without dislocation or cutting of muscles or tendons. Patients are often up and walking the same day.

Dr. Salyapongse is also a leading surgeon performing custom knee replacements which allow for precise sizing and alignment based on each patient's knee shape. He will discuss how this procedure is less invasive and often leads to better outcomes for the patient.

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



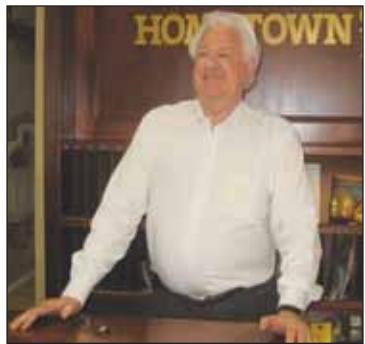
By JEB BING

## Selling real estate: Good if you can do it

If you're thinking about buying or selling a house in Pleasanton or refinancing one, do it now. That's the advice of Mike Peel, the broker in charge of Hometown GMAC Real Estate and one of the area's longest-serving and most respected real estate executives. Peel's been selling real estate here since 1975 when he joined Osborne Realty, which was located where Straw Hat Pizza now does business off Hopyard Road. In 1978, with several partners, Peel bought the agency from Larry Osborne, renamed it Hometown, and eventually moved the agency to its highly visible office on First Street just north of Bernal Avenue. It's often the first real estate agency newcomers see when they come to Pleasanton. Now the agency is closing, another victim of tight credit that makes money too costly if it's even available from banks and other lenders.

Peel has sold real estate in good times and bad, but he finds the current market slump the worst he's seen. Before, the down market was caused by oversupply or a recession with few buyers, but it always rebounded. Today, it's a credit problem with simply no funds available even for those with long-term records of credit worthiness. Those who have enough equity in their homes or cash in hand can still find mortgages and at low single digit rates that are the best in decades. But Peel is finding few prospective buyers in that category with too many agents chasing them. Of the 600 homes sold here last year, there were 835 agents competing to be the seller's agent or the buyer's agent. That averaged out to 1-1/4 transactions a year, hardly enough to pay the grocery bill. Both the number of agents still in the business and the number of homes for sale this year have dropped considerably, along with the selling prices.

Eyeing the record-high federal debt, Peel cites the added burden ahead of the proposed health care plan and the cap and trade regulations that could stymie business investment as warning signs that mortgage interest rates will soon start to climb. When that happens, even the slight turn-around now under way could end with mortgage money costing more even if individual loans become available. That may change in a year or two as the market readjusts, but late 2010 or early 2011 look troubling, Peel says. An added unknown is what this week's court ruling invalidating Pleasanton's housing cap will mean in the market. This remains a desirable community for builders and prospective buyers and



JEB BING

Mike Peel, broker at Hometown GMAC Real Estate, recalls industry challenges.

the elimination of the 29,000-housing unit ban could spur more growth here to offset the market restraints Peel sees.

Peel, who is 67, said Pleasanton had a population of about 21,000 when he became a Realtor. A native of the city of Alameda and a graduate of Alameda High School, he was superintendent of quality control for International Harvester's west coast truck manufacturing plant in San Leandro until it closed in 1975. He was also a project design engineer for the company's cab-over truck models. Lacking a college degree, he said it was fortunate he was at International Harvester in the troubling times, which meant he had ongoing, up-the-ladder promotions. At one time, he supervised two with master's degrees, four with engineering degrees and two draftsmen. Although offered a promotion when the company consolidated its operations in Fort Wayne, Ind., his "good times" as a non-degreed manager were likely over and he chose to stay here, studying for a real estate license instead.

Selling real estate is tough, especially at the beginning. Peel says a new Realtor can expect to work 60 hour weeks for the first three years, making cold calls and knocking on doors after exhausting the list of friends, relatives and neighbors who might become clients. Although still advocating real estate as a career even in the worst of times, Peel says it's more than the market downturn and stressful hours that have made the job more difficult. When he first became a Realtor, a purchase agreement consisted of a single page. Today, it's up to eight pages for the contract with disclosure forms to review now numbering 50 to 60 pages, all potential liabilities for the agent if there's a mistake. Still, a real estate career has its advantages. Agents are independent contractors for the broker/firm they're with, can work whatever hours they wish and are free to pack up and move with a 30 day notice to another real estate firm, taking all of their client listings with them. It beats making widgets, Peel says, if you're good at it.

Peel is married to Darlene Crane, also a Realtor at Hometown. The couple has five children. ■

## About the Cover

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty waves from a county fire truck in last Saturday's St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, where he lives. With him are his wife Rhonda. Photo by Jeb Bing.

Vol. XI, Number 10

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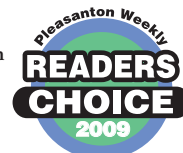
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**Negative stories about real estate often miss the mark**

On April 12, there was an article in the Wall Street Journal entitled, "Hot Homes Get Cold."

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**Town Square Forum**

**Pleasanton Weekly.com**

# Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

## Do you think the Census is important? Why or why not?



**Ferdie Perez**  
Banker

I think it is important to make sure we get the right funding from the government. Personally, I also like to know what America is made up of ethnically.

**Melanie Sadek**  
Owner of Murphy's Paw

I do think it is important. It gives a good perspective on our population and then it allows us to be funded properly.



**Jon Scudder**  
Retired

It's important if they don't get too personal. When they had the form with 100 questions, it seemed like some of the questions were for another purpose. One of the questions asked if you had roof rats and another asked how many flush toilets you had. This year there are 10 questions, so that's okay.

**Christina Miles**  
Bio-Tech Business Development

Yes, I think it is important. Maybe they'll see how many kids we have in our schools and it will help to improve our schools. In this economy, we really need that.



**Murray Peisakoff**  
Auto Finance

Yes, I do think the census is important, because it has an impact on the benefits that are given out by the government to the general population.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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## Do you know someone who deserves a nomination?

*It Takes Everyone to Build a*



**PLEASANTON COMMUNITY of CHARACTER COLLABORATIVE**

### Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award announced

April 1 deadline for submissions; winners to be named May 6

The Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award was established in 2008 to recognize Pleasanton residents chosen by their peers who consistently model high ethical and moral standards of behavior advocated by the Collaborative: Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity.

**Go to [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org).**

This year's Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award recipients will be announced May 6, 2010 at the Community of Character Collaborative Luncheon Celebration at Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. Cost per person is \$35 (this includes a \$5 donation to the Community of Character Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Scholarship Fund).

**Past award recipients are:**  
Lori Rice (2008), Diana and Howard Mendenhall (2008), Jerri Pantages-Long (2009), Sue Evans (2009) and Ken Mano (2009).

**Nomination forms and information available at [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org)**

**About the Community of Character**  
For information about our organization or on becoming an Organization of Character visit [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org) or contact us at P.O. Box 516 Pleasanton, CA 94566.

## DIGEST

### Mountain lion spotted in Ruby Hill

A mountain lion was allegedly spotted on a Ruby Hill home's yard Tuesday. The homeowner apparently saw the animal around 7:30 a.m. and called police. Officers searched the grounds in the vicinity of the Paladin Way home but were unable to locate the animal.

While these sightings are rare, police urge residents to be cautious. The public should avoid hiking or jogging alone in rural areas, especially during times mountain lions are known to be most active: at dusk, at night and early in the morning. Sightings should be reported to police immediately. To learn how to handle an encounter with a mountain lion, visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

### Relive St. Pat's Parade action

Whether you missed out the first time or want to relieve the fun, the Dublin Lions Club's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be rebroadcast on TV30 this weekend. The parade — which had more than 80 entries including clowns, bagpipers, local marching bands and equestrian riders — will be shown on Channel 30 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and at noon Sunday. Find TV30 online at [www.trivalleytv.org](http://www.trivalleytv.org).

### Vietnam veterans to be honored

Patriots of the East Bay, represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and other veterans and military-support organizations, will hold a "Welcome Home and Thank You" celebration for Vietnam veterans from noon to 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The event will feature live music, guest speakers, a Huey helicopter and more. Parking is free for this event. Vietnam veterans are encouraged to take pictures, medals and other memorabilia to display and share with others at "Memory Lane" tables. Those planning to attend are asked to email [vnvwelcomehome@yahoo.com](mailto:vnvwelcomehome@yahoo.com) with their name and the number of guests they will have with them.

### Keep the Irish celebration going

Members of the McBride School of Irish Dance will perform at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This performance is part of the library's ongoing Dance and Sing Around the World series. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

## Pleasanton's housing cap ruled illegal

Commercial building permits halted until city complies with court order

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council delayed any action Tuesday in response to an Alameda County court ruling that invalidated the city's 14-year-old housing cap.

The ruling immediately halted all commercial building in Pleasanton after Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch determined that the cap, which had limited the total number of homes and apartments allowed to be built in the city to no more than 29,000 units, violates state law and is invalid.

The ruling, deemed punitive for a city that thrives on corporate and business development, affects only permits related to those activities, not to residential development. Housing developers, in fact, are now able to plan their projects without many of the Planning Unit Development and other restrictions long associated with building residential units in Pleasanton, officials said.

"They'll still have to abide by design guidelines and those sorts of regulations," City Manager Nelson Fialho said.

Jonathan Lowell, Pleasanton's city attorney, said the city received a copy of the ruling Monday and is reviewing it. He met in a closed-door session with the City Council Tuesday night, but said the council had no decisions to report publicly at this time.

The council is expected to hold another closed session when all five council members can meet with Lowell to discuss options with regard to the court ruling. These range from filing an appeal to the ruling to accepting the judgment and rewriting provisions of the recently-adopted 2009 General Plan to remove all references to the housing cap.

The housing cap was approved by voters in 1996 to curb the housing development surge at the time and to serve as a benchmark for future

planning by the Pleasanton school district and streets, water and sewer departments.

But with roughly 27,000 housing units already built or approved, the number required to meet state requirements for affordable and so-called workforce high density housing was far exceeding what could be built under the cap.

In the first ruling of its kind, the court ordered the city to rezone sufficient land to meet its share of the region's affordable housing that is required by state law and in compliance with numbers set by the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG).

The case, *Urban Habitat v. City of Pleasanton*, was brought by nonprofit law firm and advocacy group Public Advocates Inc. on behalf of Pleasanton resident Sandra De Gregorio and regional environmental justice organization Urban Habitat.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 7



EMILY WEST

### Youth in Government

More than 80 students from all four Pleasanton high schools participated in the annual Youth in Government Day. The students shadowed city and school district staff, including the city manager and superintendent positions, school principals, and police and fire chiefs. To start the day, students and participating staff joined in the City Council chambers for introductions. Following a lunch break at the Veteran's Memorial Building, students broke into groups to discuss the youth commission's focus on finding life balance.

To complete the student involvement and the merging of the city and schools, there will be a joint City Council and school board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the school district board room, located at 4665 Bernal Ave.

## Census questionnaires are in the mail

Quick reply can save cost of personal interview

By JEB BING

Pleasanton households are starting to receive questionnaires for the 2010 census.

Residents are urged to mail the forms back as soon as possible to prevent census takers from having to go door-to-door, which will save millions of taxpayer dollars nationally, according to census officials.

The government pays 44 cents for a postage page envelope when a household mails

back the 10-question census form, but it costs the Census Bureau \$57 to send a census taker door-to-door to follow up with each household that doesn't respond, census officials said.

The census takes place April 1. Census data determines boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

For more information, visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov).  
—Jeb Bing

## School district launches CORE fundraiser

Along with PPIE and parent groups, PUSD seeks \$150 per student

By EMILY WEST

Citing the state budget crisis, the Pleasanton Unified School District has said they need help from parents to continue to provide a high level of programs and services for students in the coming school year. The fundraising effort is called CORE, standing for Community Outreach for Education, and will run through June 1.

In a letter sent to parents last Friday — signed by Superintendent John Casey, Executive Director of PPIE (Pleasanton Partnerships in Education) Debi Covello and PTA Council President Joan Laursen — the budget reductions were listed as "too severe" to maintain the current level of programs and services. Last year, the district cut \$2 million, followed by \$11 million in the current year and an estimated \$8 million in the 2010-11 school year.

The fundraiser and list of supported programs were developed after parents and staff took a district-wide survey to show what programs they want to support most and how much they would be willing to give.

Families are being asked to contribute \$150 per student, with funds going towards various programs at each level. The focus is on technology specialists and support, library assistants and student support programs that would vary by site.

The goal is to raise just under \$1 million, with targets at \$339,375 in elementary, \$229,689 in middle and \$325,000 in high schools. PUSD has also outlined where the money would go if the goals were not met.

The letter acknowledges the current financial support already given by the parents, in areas like athletics and music, in addition to contributing to individual school sites.

Parents speaking at budget workshop meetings in recent months were mostly supportive of a district-wide fundraiser, but several mentioned they already make similar or larger

See **FUNDRAISER** on Page 6

## Groups preparing for happy campers

City hosts summer showcase event Saturday at Harvest Park Middle School

As summer nears, it's time to start thinking about camps and classes offered over the summer.

Each year, the city of Pleasanton has several programs to offer, so they have set up a summer showcase event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. The free event will allow residents to meet instructors, see demonstrations and sign up early before online registering opens on Monday.

To learn more, call 931-5340 or see the summer activity guide at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

For students in grades six through 11, Tri-Valley Community Television is again putting on its TV Camp. Designed for those considering a career in TV or video production, the 20-hour camp includes an introduction to studio production, field production, writing, producing and digital video editing. At the end, groups will produce their own TV program.

In its second year, organizers are encouraging those interested in participating to register quickly as it sold out last year.

This year's two sessions will be June 14 to 18 and Aug. 9 to 12, lasting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. The fee is \$495 and registration is limited. Visit [www.trivalleytv.org](http://www.trivalleytv.org) or call 462-3030.

A new offering this year is Camp Galileo for pre-K to fifth-graders. Operating by Galileo Learning,



Seventh-grader Dasha Ryutor operates the camera while Jeff Eorio, Director of Parks and Community Services for San Ramon, prepares to be interviewed for "Tri-Valley Youth View."

it offers creative art, science and outdoor summer enrichment curriculum at Carden West School. The camp curriculum is developed in partnership with the de Young Museum, Tech Museum of Innovation and Klutz, with learning themes including Adventures in Flight, Ocean Expeditions and Egyptian Art.

The camp has sessions from June 21 through Aug. 6. Fees range from \$349 for one week of camp to \$1,296 for four weeks. There is also the option to add on extended care for mornings and evenings and financial assistance is available. For details, call 1-800-854-3684 or visit [www.galileo-learning.com](http://www.galileo-learning.com).

—Emily West

## WHEELS awarded federal stimulus funds

Part of \$83.9 million being doled out to California transit agencies

The U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has announced that California will receive \$83.9 million in stimulus funds for transit improvements.

For the Tri-Valley, the only grant was a total of \$779,046 to the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority for preventive maintenance. The system operates the WHEELS bus line and charter buses for commuter groups.

In the Bay Area, the biggest recipients of the funds are the San Francisco Municipal Railway, which will receive \$18.2 million to rebuild and perform preventive maintenance on light rail vehicles, and BART, which will get \$17 million for railcar and station equipment improvements.

In addition, the Santa Clara Val-

ley Transportation Authority will get \$12.3 million to buy 20 40-foot buses, the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District will get \$6.7 million for preventive maintenance on its buses, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board will get \$2.7 million for the San Mateo bridges project and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation Department will get \$2.4 million to replace bus wash equipment.

Vallejo will receive \$2.4 million to repair and rehabilitate the Vallejo Intermodal Station, San Mateo County Transit will get \$2 million for preventive maintenance and the purchase of four replacement buses, the Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority will get \$1.1 million for preventive maintenance,

the purchase of lifts and parking lot repairs, and the Contra Costa Transit Authority will get \$1.1 million for preventive maintenance.

The city of Santa Rosa will receive \$1 million to buy two hybrid electric buses, the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency will get \$721,312 for bus rehabilitation and to buy shop equipment, and Sonoma County Transit will get \$448,161 to replace a 40-foot bus.

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said in a statement: "These critical investments will put Californians to work on transit projects that will ease congestion, improve air quality and speed Californians on their way to work and school."

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News

## FUNDRAISER

Continued from Page 5

donations each year. Most of the speakers in favor mentioned replicating what is apparently done in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, where almost mandatory parent donations occur during registration time.

Yet, with the fundraising and a parcel tax, SRVUSD's board of trustees recently voted to raise

class sizes and layoff 136 employees to deal with a \$30-million deficit over the next two years.

CORE is the second large education fundraiser in recent times, as the I Love Pleasanton Schools summer effort brought in \$463,379 to save counselors, reading specialists, class-size reduction and music programs. The ILPS goal was more lofty than CORE, seeking to take in \$2.8 million.

Those wishing to donate must do so by June 1. Checks can be

made out to PPIE (Tax ID 94-3046738) and should be attached to a form, available at the district website [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us). These can be sent in by mail or dropped it off to PPIE, PUSD offices or a school site office. Online donations are also accepted via Pay Pal at [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org).

More information about the fundraising event, including a list of frequently asked questions, is available on the district's website. ■

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## Garden club shared the message of Arbor Day

Tradition of elementary school presentations has gone on for nearly 10 years

By EMILY WEST

Second-graders at Donlon Elementary School could hardly sit still during the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club's Arbor Day presentation last week.

Volunteers Sharon Howard and Erica Dedon shared the history of Arbor Day and the benefits of trees. The students were excited to participate in the demonstration by giving the various reasons as to why trees are so important. Those with correct answers were given a story board that they touted around the Arbor Day Tree Pole, similar to a maypole.

Students were also instructed on how to care for Redwood seedlings, which they were each able to take home courtesy of Alden Lane Nursery.

LAVGC volunteers also held nine more sessions, to anywhere from 120 to 150 second-graders at a time, at other Pleasanton schools. These annual presentations have been going on for about 10 years.

California celebrates Arbor Day on March 7, which was famed Santa Rosa horticulturist Luther Burbank's birthday. In California, Arbor Day is officially celebrated on Luther Burbank's birthday, which is



EMILY WEST

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club member Erica Dedon shows second graders at Donlon Elementary School how to plant a Redwood seedling at the annual Arbor Day presentation.

March 7, 1849.

LAVGC holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month, excluding July and August, at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Call 461-1725 or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc). They are also planning their annual plant sale fundraiser from 9 a.m. to noon April 17 at the Amador Valley High School parking lot, 1155 Santa Rita Road. All plants are grown by club members. ■

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

The case was being closely watched by cities throughout California that have policies similar to Pleasanton's, aimed at curbing rampant growth although not housing cap mandates. Many cities moderate growth by limiting the number of residential permits developers can obtain each year. Pleasanton does this, too, with a permit limit of 350 units, although in the last few years, the number of permits issued has not approached that many.

Judge Roesch ruled the 29,000-unit housing cap unconstitutional because it blocks the city from meeting its share of the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) under California law. That law calls for Pleasanton to provide 3,277 housing units, including 2,524 affordable homes, for the period ending 2014.

The housing cap, Roesch ruled, has prevented hundreds of these "much-needed homes" from being built in the city, not just up to now, but through 2014 and even the indefinite future after that.

"Pleasanton imports workers to fill thousands of jobs, but excludes those workers and their families from a chance to live in the community," said Richard A. Marcantonio, managing attorney with Public Advocates Inc.

"Today's ruling dismantles the exclusionary housing and zoning policies that have harmed not only these families, but Pleasanton and the whole surrounding region," he added.

Also representing the plaintiffs were attorneys from Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP and The Public Interest Law Project.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown joined the case last summer.

"By lifting the city's de facto moratorium on housing construction, this ruling will create jobs and affordable housing, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Public Advocates said in a statement applauding the court decision.

Juliet Ellis, Urban Habitat's executive director, noted that 40,000 workers commute to Pleasanton because of the lack of housing near their jobs.

"We call on the city to show leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while promoting social equity," she said.

Since the suit was filed in 2006, Pleasanton has identified a number of potential housing sites in Hacienda Business Park, adjacent to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. Landowners at these sites have been actively trying to advance plans for mixed-use (residential and commercial), transit-oriented development for more than six years.

Last November, the city selected three of these sites for further study, and recently appointed a citizens' task force to determine the types of housing and related commercial development that should be built there. The task force was given 12 months to complete its report, but some members indicated they may need longer.

Roesch ruled, however, that this was inadequate, stating that while it "may start a process to cure the city's failure in this matter ... it is wholly inadequate to be considered a cure."

Roesch determined that Pleasanton officials had retained discretion to determine whether there was "good cause" to allow development anywhere in the city, stating that this

"discretionary determination ... will inhibit any developer from proposing any residential development."

Rezoning is necessary to satisfy Pleasanton's unmet obligations to accommodate affordable housing, the court ruled.

In order to comply with California law, Pleasanton had committed to rezone enough land for some 800 units of lower-income housing, and around 40 acres were to have been rezoned to meet this need by June 2004.

Since 1999, however, only 20 homes for very-low income families with children — such as a family of four earning \$40,000 — have been built in Pleasanton.

Noting that "the city still has not accommodated [the fair share of housing] allocated to it in 2001," Roesch ordered the Pleasanton City Council to complete that rezoning within 120 days.

"For too long, the housing cap has chased would-be residential developers away from Pleasanton, and forced neighboring jurisdictions to shoulder the burden of housing an expanding regional population," said Paul Hastings attorney Christopher Mooney. "The court today said 'no more.' Pleasanton must do its part to make affordable housing economically feasible within its borders."

The Court's ruling does not affect the city's urban growth boundary, which protects open space from development.

However, it not only invalidates the city's housing cap ordinance, it also orders that provisions specifying housing limits in recent voter-approved Measure PP and Measure QQ that affect housing development on hillsides also be removed. ■

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## LETTERS

### Oak Grove has benefits

Dear Editor,

Let's face it. The Oak Grove property will be developed some day. Today, we have the opportunity to get more as a community from a very small number of homes. It is important for everyone to remember how we arrived at this plan and to realize all the benefits that come with approving this plan.

The plan we are voting on in June is a plan that was created as a result of a two-year collaborative effort between the property owner and residents of the adjacent neighborhoods. This is also the plan that was approved 4-1 by our City Council.

But most importantly, we must acknowledge the great benefits that we are getting for such a small plan. For a mere 51 homes, Oak Grove will result in 496 acres of open space being donated to the City of Pleasanton, ensuring that our hills will be protected forever. Our schools will also receive \$2 million from development fees, not to mention up to \$200,000 in annual property taxes. And on top of that, the Oak Grove owners went above and beyond their responsibility by increasing their traffic impact fees from \$250,000 to \$1 million after a collaborative dialogue with adjacent neighbors and other

local residents. Throughout the life of this project, Charter Properties and the Lin family have negotiated in good faith with our community and our elected officials to come up with the smallest plan that will give Pleasanton the greatest benefits.

It's time to approve this plan once and for all.

**Jan Batchellor**

### Not all are NIMBYs

Dear Editor,

As one of the 5,000-plus residents who signed petitions to vote on the City Council's approval of Oak Grove, and as one of the vast majority of Pleasanton voters who subsequently passed Measure PP, I object to the charge of NIMBYism from Oak Grove supporters (see "Open space park would be an asset," Letters, March 12, page 8). Some residents of Kottinger Hills do indeed actively oppose Oak Grove. But quite obviously, most of us who object to this development in the Southeast Hills live elsewhere. Let me describe two much more universal reasons for opposing it. The plans for Oak Grove will involve significant environmental damage to a pristine area; and the end result will be a mere 51 houses, but of colossal size — up to 12,500 sq. ft. For many, perhaps most, the promise of open space parkland is not enough to overcome these fundamental objections to Oak Grove.

**Anne Childs**

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### A better city without a housing cap

Pleasanton's 14-year gamble as the only California city with a fixed limit on how many housing units can be built here has come to an end. Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch this week invalidated the law, which was enacted by a favorable vote of some 80 percent of those voting on the measure in 1996. At the time, some officials said the housing cap was needed to meet the ultimate capacity of water and sewer lines being built to serve the city or the streets that were being planned to handle the expected traffic. Actually, it was for none of those reasons as former Mayor Tom Pico later said. It was just a seemingly logical cap that would keep Pleasanton from becoming too big or too populated.

Logical or not, it worked and much of Pleasanton is now developed according to those artificial specifications that Judge Roesch, the Urban Habitat affordable housing advocate group, and Attorney General Jerry Brown contend is unfair. With the Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) saying that Pleasanton needs at least another 4,000 housing units to serve its ambitious and growing business workforce population, opponents of the cap accused the city of ignoring its obligation to provide sufficient housing for the tens of thousands who work here but can't afford to live in Pleasanton.

Without the cap and the earlier growth management controls that slowed development during the building surges of the 1980s and 1990s, Pleasanton today would likely have a population well above 100,000, with homes and apartments pressing against the municipal borders on all sides with high density housing on the south side of I-580 looking much like what we see in Dublin across the freeway. So it's clear that the housing cap did what was intended: slow down but not stop the development frenzy to a pace most in the community believe has enhanced the quality of life.

Still in place is the Growth Management ordinance, which has limited the number of new housing permits to 350 a year, another arbitrary number that, although not necessary in today's depressed building market, has also stopped the runaway growth that we have seen in neighboring communities. These self-imposed development restrictions have also affected future growth planning, especially in the school district which has now based its future classroom needs on the 29,000-unit housing cap.

The concerns of Urban Habitat and Atty. General Brown have more to do with Pleasanton's reluctance to rezone enough land to accommodate more housing, not to actually build the housing units unless developers see a market here for more affordable housing. Urban Habitat's lawsuit was specific: it wanted the housing cap removed so that more land could be rezoned without infringing on the city's self-imposed housing unit limit.

The question for the City Council now is how much time and money in legal action the city should spend in battling the court's decision over a housing cap that (1) was arbitrary from the start and (2) may no longer be needed with the city largely built out and still in full control of limiting residential growth. We hope the council will decide to let the decision stand and instead host a series of meetings with Urban Habitat and its leaders, the community at large and the often vocal number of affordable housing advocates who live here over what steps can be taken to get on with the job of providing ample housing to meet the needs of those who also want the benefit of living in Pleasanton near the rapid transit hub this city has become and in Hacienda Business Park, still one of the largest business parks of its kind west of the Mississippi. Living near where we work is a goal most of us pursue. As a city we should help make that happen for our workforce. ■

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# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Brothers allegedly running a home meth lab released by judge

Accused brothers Robert Willard Magoon, 50, and Matthew Magoon, 40, were reportedly released from jail by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Hugh Walker after being arrested for running a methamphetamine lab out of their Pleasanton home.

Their release came after the Alameda County District Attorney's Office had yet to file charges

against the two.

Robert and Matthew Magoon were arrested March 10 for allegedly operating a methamphetamine lab out of a home on the 800 block of East Angela Street.

Despite the release, Matthew Magoon was still listed as being in custody in Santa Rita Jail on \$60,500 bail up until Tuesday as he was pending extradition for warrants issued in Patterson, also having to do with meth possession and manufacturing.

## POLICE REPORT

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

### March 9

#### Theft

- 8:20 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
- 1:51 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft

#### Burglary

- 11:48 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Vandalism

- 10:39 a.m. in the 3600 block of South Gettysburg Court

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:20 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; marijuana possession, controlled substance possession
- 4:53 p.m. at the intersection of Diavila and Milani avenues; paraphernalia possession
- 6:34 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; driving with marijuana
- 11:40 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Golden Eagle Way; DUI

### March 10

#### Theft

- 10:54 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
- 2:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 5:27 p.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue
- 7:21 p.m. in the 1100 block of Mataro Court; identity theft

#### Burglary

- 9:20 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Enrique

- 8:41 p.m. in the 7400 block of Alder Court

#### Vandalism

- 7:05 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:41 a.m. in the 7900 block of Dorac Court; public drunkenness
- 12:38 p.m. in the 800 block of East Angela Street; paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance, controlled substance production

### March 11

#### Theft

- 9:22 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen property possession
- 10:51 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:02 a.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue; identity theft
- 5:52 p.m. in the 2700 block of Laramie Gate Court

#### Public drunkenness

- 3:11 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

#### Robbery

- 9:22 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue

#### Illegal weapon possession

- 3:51 p.m. in the 4900 block of Johnson Drive

### March 12

#### Theft

- 9:02 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive; petty theft
- 4:53 p.m. in the 1100 block of Baur Court; forgery

#### Vehicular burglary

- 8:18 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive

- 9:41 a.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:04 a.m. at the intersection of Calle Enrique and Paseo el Cajon; paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 10:59 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; marijuana possession

#### Robbery

- 2:25 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### March 13

#### Public drunkenness

- 12:27 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Gibraltar Drive
- 1:08 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- 7:51 p.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue

#### DUI

- 2:00 a.m. in the 60 block of West Neal Street

#### Animal cruelty

- 9:25 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

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

### City Council – School District Board Joint Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
School District Office, 4665 Bernal Avenue

### Committee on Energy and Environment

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.  
Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

### Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, March 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.  
Large Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

### Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for March 24, 2010 has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on April 14, 2010.

## 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](http://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.

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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.  
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## Barber Dan's

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# Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

## OBITUARIES

### Jim Gleich

AC Transit Deputy General Manager Jim Gleich died suddenly March 7 at the age of 66.

Mr. Gleich was a dedicated transit official with a dry sense of humor and a "get-the-job-done" style. With an already long and impressive background in community affairs, Mr. Gleich joined AC Transit in 1994, as an employment/accessibility specialist. He rose quickly through the ranks, becoming an assistant general manager in 1997 before being promoted again in 1999 to deputy general manager for external affairs. During much of his tenure at AC Transit, Mr. Gleich was the District's representative to the California Transit Association and was currently serving as a member of its executive committee.

Prior to AC Transit, Mr. Gleich's work history in public service included more than 30 years as an executive with state and federal government agencies. He was the chief executive officer of public agencies in both Massachusetts and South Dakota; and served as an executive staff member for the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Gleich also was the executive director of the Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund, and served on the boards of directors for the Pine Ridge Education/Action Project; Berkeley/Oakland Jobs for the Homeless Consortium; and the Massachusetts Halfway Houses Corporation. He was a member of the Hearing Panel for the National Citizens Review Commission on the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Gleich also did volunteer work at San Quentin. But perhaps nothing thrilled him more than being appointed Principal-For-A-Day at Howard Elementary School in East Oakland where he returned repeatedly to read to the children.



### Janet Mary Silva Houle

Janet Mary Silva Houle died Nov. 11, 2009 at the age of 58 after battling the increasingly debilitating effects of inoperable brain tumors.

Mrs. Houle was born April 24, 1951 to her loving parents, Joe and Dorothy Silva. Mrs. Houle grew up on the family ranch out on Tassajara Road in Pleasanton and attended Alisal Elementary and Pleasanton Junior High School. She excelled at school, played clarinet in the school band and began her 4H club activities. While at Amador Valley High School, she was President of the Alisal 4H Club. Alameda County 4H All Star, named 1968 California State Outstanding Junior Catholic Daughter of America, and played clarinet in her high school marching band.

Mrs. Houle went on to earn a bachelor's degree at UC Davis in Child Development and Physiology

and a master's degree in School Psychology and Special Education at California State University Hayward. She spent most of her career first as a School Psychologist and then Director of Special Education for San Mateo County. Mrs. Houle also worked in Pleasanton, Gilroy and Imperial School Districts during her career. She loved her work helping children with special needs and was a tireless champion of their rights at both the local and state levels.

Mrs. Houle Jan loved family outings, boating, waterskiing, traveling the world with her "cruising partner" Mom, as well as exploring the United States with her family. She and her family lived in Cupertino until 2001 before moving to Spokane, Wash. and then to Vancouver, Wash. in September 2008. Mrs. Houle's health was good enough so she enjoyed her son Jonathan's wedding to Anna, completing the family circle. They enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year in 2008 with Jonathan and Anna. Most recently, the family spent time with son and daughter, plus Mr. Houle's mom and sister, at a family reunion in Vancouver and Pendleton in August.

She loved life, family, friends, and enjoyed life's dance to the fullest.

Mrs. Houle is survived by her husband Peter, their son Jonathan and his wife Anna, the daughter she always wanted. She is also survived by brother Leonard Silva and sister Wilma Shannon.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation on behalf of Mrs. Houle, the family the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). To donate, call 800-533-2873 or visit [jdrf.org](http://jdrf.org).

### Scott Joseph Crawford

Scott Joseph Crawford died March 7 with his loved ones by his side. He was 46.

Born June 6, 1963, he then graduated from Irvington High School in Fremont in 1982. Mr. Crawford was a member of the Fremont FFA, where he met his many life-long friends. He was a member of the Laborer Union Local 304 and specialized in aggregates. Mr. Crawford began his 23-year career with Lonestar Industries and continued as the company transitioned finally into Cemex.

An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Crawford enjoyed hunting, especially with his daughters, and his close friend Guy DeValle. He loved the ranch lifestyle where he made his home for his devoted family where they could enjoy livestock and 4-H. He was a great gardener known for growing huge pumpkins.

Mr. Crawford is survived by his beloved wife Donna of 26 years and their daughters Jessica and Bonnie. He is also survived by his brother Mark Crawford of Kansas City, Miss.; his parents Norm Crawford of Shelton, Wash. and Joyce Duke of

Quitman, Texas; and his grandfather "Pop" of San Diego.

Mr. Crawford was a treasured family member to his in-laws, many nieces, nephews and cousins. His love, devotion, straight-forward attitude, friendship and goofiness will be missed by all that were fortunate enough to know him.

He was preceded in death by his brothers Brett and Dean Crawford.

A celebration of life service was held March 13 at the Sunol Community Park in downtown Sunol. Donations can be made to The Crawford Girls Benefit Account at any US Bank branch.

### Richard (Dick) Warren Withoft

Richard (Dick) Warren Withoft died March 3 at the age of 81.

A Bay Area native, Mr. Withoft was born in Oakland, the son of Clarence and Eleanor Withoft. He graduated from Oakland High School and U.C. Berkeley and served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953.

In 1954 Mr. Withoft married Muriel and started a 35-year career as an accountant with General Motors. After retiring from GM, he worked for a number of years as a controller for Power Refrigeration Co.

Mr. Withoft was a very compassionate man and always first in line when he knew someone needed a helping hand. He was a devoted and proud husband, father and grandfather and he was also a devoted Christian. Since 1966 he was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton.

He enjoyed cooking and his delicious meals were enjoyed by both family and friends especially his "Cream Puff Ministry." He loved the great outdoors, especially camping, hiking and his great passion for fishing. He also enjoyed traveling and he and Muriel had the opportunity to visit many countries abroad as well as most of the United States.

During his six-year challenge with cancer his positive attitude was an inspiration to his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife Muriel, daughters Rhonda (Brian) Fuery and Sheryl (Calen) Thomas; son Jeff; and four grandchildren, Daniel and DeAnna Fuery, Drew and Devin Withoft.

A Memorial Service was held March 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, special gifts in memory may be sent to The Foundation Fighting Blindness, 11435 Cronhill Dr. Owings Mills, MD. 21117-2220.

## BIRTHS

### Jan. 26

Angela and Richard Buttafuco, a boy

### Jan. 30

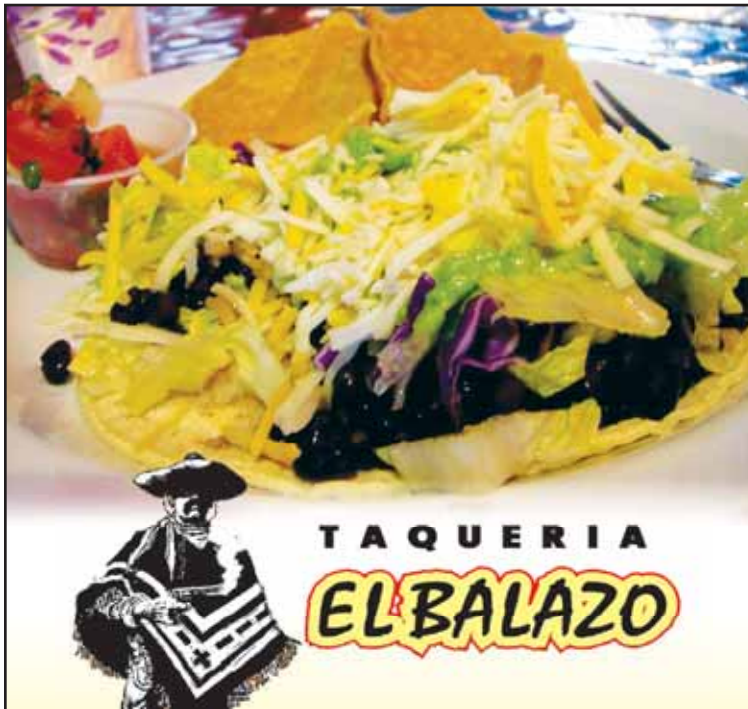
Jennifer and Jason Gotchall, a girl

### Feb. 15

Alyssa Kliment and John Muniz, a girl

### Feb. 18

Jaylene Sharp and Sean Kurz, a girl



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## Parent photographers

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



## RAGE U16 plays Folson Magic tomorrow

A banged-up RAGE Under 16 Orange team overcame stiff competition and stiff winds on a banged-up pitch to win their pool and advance in the California Youth Soccer association Cup at Morgan Hill last week. The Orange clinched their place in the next round through two impressive victories on Saturday.

The day started with the Rage playing Rincon Valley, intent on avenging a loss to the Revolution from August. After a scoreless first half, the Rage seemed primed for victory playing with the wind in the final period. When Katey Cloonan smashed an unstoppable shot into the roof of the net after 40 minutes it looked to be all over, but an amazing last few minutes left everyone gasping. Rincon tied it up at 50, but Rage came right back with Delaney Holmes skillfully netting a shot off the outside of her foot from Katey's pass.

Just five minutes later it was 2-2 after a well-worked goal, but

the girls in orange were not to be outdone, with defender Megan Smart scoring the winner with two minutes left with her first goal for the team.

Later, with two victories and the other teams managing no more than a draw, the Rage Orange clinched the Pool title.

Sunday brought on a Palo Alto team playing for pride coupled with an opportunity for the Rage to rest some of the walking wounded. Rage was rocked with two super goals by the Red Power in the first eight minutes, but gradually Orange took control. Not giving up, Palo Alto scored from the after-effects of a free kick — their only serious threat of the half — and despite intense Rage pressure, it ended at 2-3 for Palo Alto.

There is little rest for the weary. The Rage Orange continue to nurse their injuries and prepare for a showdown against the always potent Folsom Magic in Ripon tomorrow.



## LifeStyleRx Tiger Sharks swim with pride at All Star meet

Miranda Heckman and Caroline Eckel, both 8, were chosen to represent Zone 2 at the Pacific Swimming All Star Meet in Morgan Hill. Miranda swam her personal best and took fourth place in her 25 yard butterfly with a time of 16.40 and sixth place in her freestyle with another personal best time of 15.48. Miranda also took third place in 25 yard backstroke and joined her 100 yard medley relay team in taking second and her 100 yard freestyle relay team swam into fourth place. Caroline placed thirteenth in her 50 yard freestyle and swam for personal best times in her 25 yard backstroke with a time of 19.22 giving her seventh place and her 25 yard breaststroke with a time of 22.71 placing tenth. Caroline joined her 100 yard freestyle relay team placing fifth and her medley relay team placing second. Caroline and Miranda are proud to be a chosen part of the Zone 2 team which swam their way to victory, becoming the winners of the Pacific Swimming All Star Meet. Miranda and Caroline proudly swim under LifeStyleRx Tiger Sharks Swim Team under the coaching expertise of David Tambuwun and Jeremy Wada.

## Little League, girls softball league start games tomorrow

Season starting week late because of rain, soggy fields

BY JEB BING

It's "Opening Day" tomorrow for the Pleasanton Girls Softball League (PGSL) and the boys Little League teams, delayed a week because of rain and soggy field conditions a week ago.

The Pleasanton Foothill Little League (PFL) will launch its 2010 season with a ceremony at 10 a.m. at the new Bernal Community Park fields, where it will play its games this season.

The two other boys teams — the Pleasanton American Little League (PALL) and the Pleasanton National Little League (PNLL) — will hold their opening day ceremonies at Sports Park.

For the girls, Terri Molina, the

PGSL's publicity manager, said opening day ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. tomorrow on fields 6 and 7 in the Sports Park.

The Foothill Little League will start its games after the ceremonies, or about 11 a.m. Because of limited parking at the new Bernal fields, the league will provide free shuttle service between Pleasanton Middle School and the fields from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

League officials warned fans that Pleasanton police plan to enforce "No Parking" rules along Valley Avenue and the Bernal park entrance.

The shuttle's pick up and return area will be located along the Pleasanton Middle School bus bays. No food or drinks are allowed on the

shuttle bus at any time. Also, the shuttle will be unable to accommodate equipment, such as bat bags, and chairs.

Players and fans are advised to drop these items off at the Bernal fields prior to parking at the middle school and boarding the shuttle.

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**Top left:** Parades aren't just for people as Steeler, this 170-pound English Mastiff, shows while watching from his curbside vantage point as he joined his family Jordyn, Kaila, Austin, Giselle and Katia. **Bottom left:** Tim Sbranti, Mayor of Dublin, with his children Kai, 5, and Hiro, 3. **Middle:** Dublin's Councilwoman Kate Ann Scholz, standing on lower step; Councilman Don Biddle; Mayor Tim Sbranti and Councilman Kevin Hart wave to crowds. **Top right:** Congressman Jerry McNerney waves to the crowd from the parade route. **Bottom right:** Wells Fargo probably found the banking business a bit easier back in the days when it acquired this stagecoach and team of horses.

# 'It's great to be Irish!

## Tri-Valley celebrates St. Pat's Day

BY JEB BING

It's been a week for seeing green throughout the Tri-Valley, and we aren't talking about the environment this time.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations started early this year because the actual day to applaud the Irish patron was Wednesday. By Irish proclamation, the week-long celebration ends today.

Pleasanton merchants seized the advantage with Irish-themed merchandise ranging from flags and banners outside the Berry Patch on Main Street to fancy green-iced cakes at Primrose Bakery and even a green-garbed dog at Murphys Paw.

For those with a taste for green beer, it was a do-it-yourself exercise at the Hop Yard Grill and AleHouse where owner Otis Nostrand pointed to a California rule that no longer allows bartenders to serve green beer because of a state health code that prohibits tampering with already-certified products. So, with a squish of dye that Nostrand and others provide, the beer

can still come out green.

Perhaps the largest private party celebrating St. Patrick's Day is at Kathleen and Bronco Hinek's home in Kottinger Ranch. It was started 12 years ago by the couple, who are both 100 percent Irish. Last Saturday, more than 200 invited guests came to eat corned beef and cabbage sandwiches, bread and enjoy Irish soda and other Irish-inspired beverages.

Always, though, the biggest celebration is the Dublin (California, that is) St. Patrick's Day parade and fair, which was celebrated last weekend, where Mayor Tim Sbranti and the City Council waved to thousands of spectators along downtown streets for the two-hour-long parade. Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) wasn't far behind.

But perhaps the most genuine Irish politician in the parade was County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, an Irishman whose ancestors hail from Cork County in Ireland.

The largest county on the Emerald Isle, in Cork County three things are taken very seriously, Haggerty said:



Rebecca Chisholm serves a lucky cake at Primrose Bakery on East Angela Street.

sports, food and politics.

This may explain many things about Haggerty who has served on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors representing Tri-Valley communities for the

past 13 years.

"My dad was the Irish in the family and I have many great memories from St. Patrick's Days of past," said Haggerty. "I've been told that when my ancestors immigrated here the family name was originally O'hegerty. After their arrival in the U.S., and like so many immigrant families, O'hegerty evolved into Haggerty."

Descended from immigrants, Haggerty has a deep appreciation for the contributions of those that come to this country seeking to work towards a better life for themselves and their families.

"I encourage my children to learn about and enjoy the best of their Irish heritage," he said. "My daughters learned Irish dance and I always enjoy watching them perform. And riding in the Dublin Saint Patrick's Day Parade and all the related festivities has become a fun tradition that the entire family looks forward to each year."

Haggerty, by the way, lives in Dublin, a fitting place for an American descendant of a Cork County O'hegerty.

This was the 27th year that Pleasanton has hosted its St. Patrick's Day celebration. The two-day celebration includes a pancake breakfast, parade, and the annual Shamrock 5K & Walk marathon. With an estimated 100,000 at this year's event, it's the largest observance of the Irish holiday in the area behind San Francisco's, although Dublin, Ireland draws half a million to its week-long event.

Throughout the two-day celebration, more than 100 arts and crafts booths filled Dublin's Civic Center with a variety of goods, selling wares, some even with an Irish flavor. Irish music, carousing, and international foods and drinks were the attraction for the thousands who trekked through the fair both days.

We were there, too, with representatives of the Pleasanton and TriValley Views and our online editions of those two newspapers at [www.sanramonexpress.com](http://www.sanramonexpress.com) and [www.danvilleexpress.com](http://www.danvilleexpress.com) demonstrating to the public how easy it now is to follow local news. ■



TriValley Views sales representative Paul Crawford enjoys a few minutes away from selling with Adriel Hampton and his two sons. Perry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) took a break from the health care debate in Washington, D.C. to greet crowds along the parade.

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## Pupcoming Events!



### Bark & Brew

*Friday, March 26th, 6pm to 9pm*

Our most popular event! We will have drinks and refreshments for you and your canine companion. Donations benefit the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Enjoy a cocktail-wagging Friday evening in downtown Pleasanton with other local dog lovers. It's Yappy Hour!

### Pet CP-arf Class

*Sunday, March 28th, 9am to 12pm*

Join us & other pet owners as you learn to recognize emergencies, perform CPR & first aid, administer medications & much more! Presented by the American Safety Academy. Call 1-877-380-4CPR (4277) to enroll. Cost is \$50. Ask about our \$10 off coupon!

### Murphy's Wag & Walk

*Saturday, April 17th, 8am to 9am*

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PHOTOS BY JEB BING

**Top:** A few found curbside seats, but most stood shoulder-to-shoulder as thousands packed the streets in downtown Dublin.

**Bottom:** Sandi McDonnell serves a glass of Guinness while making it green at Hop Yard Alehouse and Grill in Pleasanton.

## ON THE TOWN



### AMERICAN

#### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

### BARBECUE

#### Red Smoke Grill

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

### BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

#### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

### ITALIAN

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### Stories of Seuss

Amador Valley and Foothill high schools are joining forces again for their annual spring musical. This year they present "Seussical the Musical," which incorporates elements from at least 15 Dr. Seuss books. Pictured is Jo Jo, the Who, who gets in trouble for thinking. This year more than 100 students from both schools are participating. Shows continue at 7:30 tonight and Saturday, as well as March 25 to 27 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$12 for adults and seniors, and \$10 for students. To purchase, visit [www.civictartstickets.org](http://www.civictartstickets.org).

## Book Clubs

**BRAIN LEARNING BOOK CLUB** The club meets from 7-8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of every month at Town Center Books, 555 Main St. Non-fiction book club for folks interested in reading about neuroscience and learning. Call 872-8728 or email [kathryn@bellamenti.com](mailto:kathryn@bellamenti.com). Pleasanton.

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

**PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB** The Pleasanton Library's Adult Book Club meets from 7 to 8 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month except December at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. If you enjoy reading and talking about books, join our group. For more information visit [www.pleasantonlibrarybookclub.wordpress.com](http://www.pleasantonlibrarybookclub.wordpress.com). Call 931-3400 ext. 7.

## Careers

**IAAP MARCH CHAPTER MEETING** This meeting is from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. March 20 at the Pleasanton Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. Presenting Sydni 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/](http://www.iaap-laspositas.org/).

## Class Reunions

**AMADOR VALLEY CLASS OF 1990** This private party reunion is from 7:45 p.m. - 12 a.m. Sept. 11 at Redcoats, 336 St Mary St. No tickets at the door. Tickets are \$35 by June 11 or \$40 by Sept. 1. Call 916-768-5734 or visit [www.amadorvalley1990.com](http://www.amadorvalley1990.com).

**AVHS CLASS OF 1980 30TH REUNION** The reunion is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 17. Fri. night BBQ meet & greet; Sat. night will be held at the Pleasanton Hilton. Call 453-7673 or email [minsmith@aerosurf.net](mailto:minsmith@aerosurf.net).

## Classes

**BEGINNING BRIDGE 1** Classes are 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 6 - May 25 at

the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Designed for new players with no previous bridge experience. Instructor Audrey Rennels, is a Life Master trained teacher. Must be 18 and over. Cost is \$50 for residents or \$55 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit [www.pleasanton-seniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasanton-seniorcenter.org).

**YOGA BASICS COMMUNITY CLASS** Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, teaches Yoga Basics, a yoga class that is open to the public and meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnwood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Supplies are available for class. Cost is \$12. Call 200-4060.

## Clubs

**BOOST YOUR CAREER AT TOASTMASTERS** Grow professionally at Chamber Chatters, a Toastmasters club that meets from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave. Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. Visit [www.chamberchatters.wordpress.com/](http://www.chamberchatters.wordpress.com/).

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

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

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB (LAVGC)** The event is from 7-9 p.m. April 8 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Blvd. Topic: "The importance of gardening for farmers: Embracing failure for success." Guest speaker Fred Hempel, will share his knowledge on gardening. He is an amateur tomato breeder. Call 461-1725 or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc).

## Concerts

**EARLY MUSIC CONCERT AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE** The concert is from

7:30-10 p.m. March 20 at Las Positas College Library, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Yuko Tanaka on harpsichord and fortepiano. Three Generations of Bach. The Bach family name is synonymous with music. Their music in the hands of Ms Tanaka will demonstrate the reason for their fame. Pre-concert talk features harpsichord builder, Kevin Fryer. Reception following the concert. Cost is \$15 or \$5 for students. Call 424-1209 or visit [www.lpclearlymusic](http://www.lpclearlymusic).

## Events

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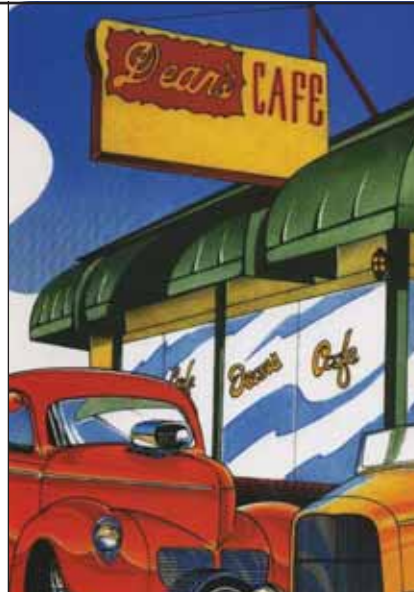
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May 1. Donate canned goods, go on a nature walk, participate in a Water-Wise workshop, enter in the Dublin Pride Week Poster Contest and more. Visit [www.dublinprideweek.com](http://www.dublinprideweek.com).

**EDUCATIONAL THERAPIST AT THE LIBRARY** The event is 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

March 12, 19 & 26 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Kathryn Tourmat, MS, ET/P, of BellaMenti offers free parent consultations. She will answer questions about your child's learning issues and recommend next steps. Call 872-8728 or visit [www.BellaMenti.com](http://www.BellaMenti.com).

**FARMERS MARKET** Island Earth's farmers market is open from noon to 6 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays in the parking lot between Macy's and Sears at Stoneridge Shopping Center. It features organic produce, artisan wares, fresh flowers and more. Call 415-834-5358 or visit [islandearthfarmersmarket.org](http://islandearthfarmersmarket.org).

**FOOTHILL HOSTS NCBA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW** The event is 8 a.m.-10 p.m. March 27 at Foothill and Amador High Schools. NCBA Championship Show having over 120 middle and high school units from all over northern California are coming to compete in winterguard and percussion. Cost is \$12 for adults, or \$8 for kids and seniors. Email [wintershow@foothillband.org](mailto:wintershow@foothillband.org).

**GOODGUYS 28TH ALL AMERICAN GET-TOGETHER** The Goodguys 28th All-American Get-Together is California's largest two-day automotive event and will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 27-28, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The event features indoor and outdoor car shows with over 3,000 hot

rods and custom cars, a swap meet, vendor exhibits, arts and crafts, music, cars for sale area, model car show and more family fun. Admission is \$17 for adults; \$6 for children ages 7-12; and free for children 6 years and under. Call 838-9876 or visit [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com).

**IMPROV WITH TWISTED GRAY MATTER** Twisted Gray Matter specializes in short form improvised comedy, that is created on the spot by using ideas from the audience. Show is at 8 p.m. March 31 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Call 264-4413 or visit [www.bunjocosmody.com](http://www.bunjocosmody.com).

**LIVERMORE SPRING ART SHOW** Livermore Art Association is holding its annual Spring Art Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 27-28 at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Over 100 local artists will display works. A reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. March 27 with food and local wines. There will be live music, and judges will present awards. Call 606-1088 or visit [www.livermoreartassociation.org](http://www.livermoreartassociation.org).

**LVWA BARREL TASTING AT FENESTRA** This event is 12-5 p.m. March 20 at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Barrel tasting weekend hosted by the LVWA. Fenestra will be one of the many winery participants in hosting a unique experience of tasting future wines right from the barrel! Tickets are \$25 in advance. Call 447-9463 or visit [www.lvwine.org](http://www.lvwine.org).

**MURDER IN MOROCCO MYSTERY DINNER** An interactive mystery dinner theater is at 7:15 p.m. March 26 at The Farmer Restaurant, 855 Main St. The scene is set in 1941 and is "Casablanca" style. Tickets are \$69. For reservations, call 399-6690, ext. 17.

**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.ThriveHolic.com/vegsoociety.html](http://www.ThriveHolic.com/vegsoociety.html).

June 30. City of Pleasanton will welcome an interactive art exhibit by internationally-known sculptor J. Seward Johnson to sidewalk locations in downtown Pleasanton. Eleven life-size, three-dimensional bronze sculptures depict the everyday activities of people who may be found anywhere. Call 931-5355 or email [jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

## Film

**A METAPHOR FOR LIFE A PHOTO ESSAY BY SUE EVANS** The presentation is 2-3 p.m. March 28 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Join us for a slide show presentation which explores the similarities between nature and our lives. Sue Evans has lived in Pleasanton for over 28 years and will delight you with her photography adventures. Call 931-3405 or visit [www.photographybysueevans.com](http://www.photographybysueevans.com).

**IRON-JAWED ANGELS** The film is shown at 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 27 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Women's History Month, a contemporary drama shows us the second wave of young suffragettes who lead the final fight for the 19th amendment. Stars Hillary Swank. Meet and greet begins at 6:30 p.m., film follows. Refreshments are served. Call 462-3459.

## Fundraisers

**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.

**MAGIC OF MUSIC: SIDEWALK CAFE** The event is 6 p.m. March 27 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The Amador Friends of Music presents the 6th annual magic of music "The Sidewalk Café." Evening includes a French Bistro menu, dancing, auctions, raffles and games. Dance to the music of the award winning Amador jazz bands. Purchase tickets by March 20. Cost \$65. Call 699-7921 or visit [www.amadormusic.org](http://www.amadormusic.org).

## Exhibits

**SEWARD JOHNSON SCULPTURES COMING TO DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON** The sculptures will be on display from April 1 through

**Live Music Every Friday & Saturday**

- Zoo Station**  
Fri, March 26th  
U2 Tribute Band
- Cocktail Monkeys**  
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Classic Rock/Dance/Pop

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**PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL MOVIE** This event is at 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.praythedevilbacktohell.com](http://www.praythedevilbacktohell.com).

**RELAY FOR LIFE** The fundraiser is 9 a.m.-9 p.m. July 24 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. One day, one night, one community, one fight. Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together the community to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost to the disease, and fight back against the disease. Call 683-2659 or visit [www.relayforlife.org/pleasantonca](http://www.relayforlife.org/pleasantonca).

## Kids & Teens

**HACIENDA SCHOOL SCIENCE LEARNING ADVENTURE** The class is held from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. April 5 at Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Dr. The science camp is open to 1-8 grade. It is also open to outside students. Cost \$325. Call 485-5750 or visit [www.headsup.org](http://www.headsup.org).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**CONFESSIONS OF A WRITING CONTEST JUDGE** This lecture is from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. March 20 at Empire Buffet, 1070 Stanley Blvd., Livermore. California writers club Tri-Valley, author Beverly Lauderdale, a frequent judge at regional and national writing contests, will discuss what writing contest judges look for. Cost is \$21 for members or \$27 for non-members. Call 462-7495 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.org](http://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](mailto:cmgarcia@ethanalleninc.com).

**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 is \$5. Call 426-2510 or email [fmhewitt@yahoo.com](mailto:fmhewitt@yahoo.com).

**WATER WISE GARDENING** This workshop is from 2-3:30 p.m. March 27 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Save money by eliminating water waste. Features local plant and irrigation specialist. Visit [zone7water.com](http://zone7water.com)

## Live Music

**CHRIS BRADLEY'S JAZZ BAND** Enjoy live jazz music from the 20s, 30s and 40s from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Sunol Jazz Cafe,

11986 Main St. Cover is \$5.

**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

**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION NOMINATIONS** The Pleasanton PTA Council is now accepting nominations for the 20th Excellence in Education Awards. Please nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff member of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Instructions and forms are available on the PTA Council [www.pleasantonpta.org](http://www.pleasantonpta.org).

## On Stage

**RENT AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE** Las Positas College presents RENT, the musical, April 2-18 at the college theater, 3033 Collier Canyon Road. The rock opera is about a group of young New York artists struggling to forge relationships, express creativity and find meaning, while dealing with poverty and AIDS. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students and seniors. Call 424-1166 or visit [laspositascollege.edu/performingarts](http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts).

**REVERIES & REMEMBRANCES** This production takes place 1-3:30 p.m. March 27 at Livermore High Performing Arts Theatre, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Le Tableau Magnifique, premier Ballet Company with Livermore School of Dance, presents Giselle, excerpts from The Firebird and contemporary ballet set to Michael Jackson and "Masquerade Ball" from Phantom of the Opera. Tickets \$8.00 adults, \$6 children 17 under. Call 245-9322 or visit [www.livermoredance.com](http://www.livermoredance.com).

**SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE MELODRAMA** The Sunol Repertory Theatre presents its 29th season production of "She Was Only Marginally Modest" or "Have You No Shame?" by Vern Harden and directed by Sue Marshall. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays from March 6-27 at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets are \$15 and on sale at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St., Pleasanton.

## Scholarships

**LPD AAUW LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP** The Local Scholarship Foundation of the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of AAUW is now accepting applications. Applicants must be women who live, or have gone to high school, in the branch cities, be an undergraduate planning to attend a four-year college in fall 2010. Applications are due April 1. Call Joan at 484-0602.

## Seniors

**OAKLAND AVIATION MUSEUM — DAY TRIPPERS** This trip is from 9-2 p.m. April 17. Tour the historic North Field at Oakland Int. Airport. View a collection of planes including the Mark III "Flying Boat" featured in the movie, Raiders of the Lost Ark. Picnic Lunch included. Cost \$25 resident \$28 nonresident.

Call 931-5365 or visit [www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org).

## Spiritual

**EASTER SERVICES** Celebrate Easter with festival music and joy April 4 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Services with Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclarespleasanton.org](http://www.stclarespleasanton.org).

**ECK WORSHIP SERVICE** The event is 11-12 p.m. March 21 at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. "Living Life as a Spiritual Exercise" is the theme of the upcoming Eck worship service. Call 944-0118.

**GOOD FRIDAY** Service is from 6:30-8 p.m. April 2 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Observe Good Friday and the Crucifixion of our Lord. Stations of the Cross at Noon & 6:30 p.m. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclare-spleasanton.org](http://www.stclare-spleasanton.org).

**GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER** This event is from 8-12 p.m. April 3 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Welcome Easter with a dramatic service beginning outdoors in darkness with the lighting of the New Fire, followed by the reading of scriptures, baptisms, hymns and Holy Eucharist. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclare-spleasanton.org](http://www.stclare-spleasanton.org).

**PROCESSION OF THE PALMS** Sunday, March 28, celebrate Palm Sunday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Procession of the Palms followed by Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclare-spleasanton.org](http://www.stclare-spleasanton.org).

## Support Groups

**LIVERMORE PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY SUPPORT GROUP** The group meets from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. March 23 at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Gain knowledge and suggestions for managing Neuropathy. Call 447-6158 or email [ralaye@comcast.net](mailto:ralaye@comcast.net).

**WOMEN WITH ADHD SUPPORT GROUP** The groups meets at 7:30-8:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at DeLatti's Ice Cream, 5424 Sunol Blvd. Support group for all women, mothers and daughters living with ADHD or executive function challenges. Call 872-8728 or email [kathryn@bellamenti.com](mailto:kathryn@bellamenti.com). 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free

## Volunteering

**AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE** American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive at the Safeway Employee Fitness Facility from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 7, at the facility, 5858 Stoneridge Mall Rd. To schedule an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) (Sponsor Code: SAFEWAY84). One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.

Del Valle Fine Arts Presents:



## Los Angeles Guitar Quartet

Friday, March 26, 8:00 pm

Bankhead Theater  
Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center  
2400 First Street, Livermore

Recognized as one of America's premier instrumental ensembles and winner of a 2008 Grammy Award, the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet (LAGQ) is one of the most charismatic and versatile groups performing today. Their program, which will showcase their versatility, includes *Music from the Time of Cervantes*; *Capriol Suite* by Peter Warlock; *Four American Classics*; *Images of Brazil* by LAGQ; *Paisaje Cubano con Lluvia* by Leo Brouwer; and *Carmen Suite* by George Bizet.

**Tickets:** \$35, \$30, \$25. Available at LVPAC Box Office, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Open Tue-Sat, noon to 6 pm; on performance days, open two hours prior to performance. 925/373-6800. [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org). Free youth tickets and reduced-price student rush tickets available on day of performance.

**Future Concerts:** 4/17/10-Parisii String Quartet



Information about Del Valle Fine Arts is available at [www.delvallefinearts.org](http://www.delvallefinearts.org).

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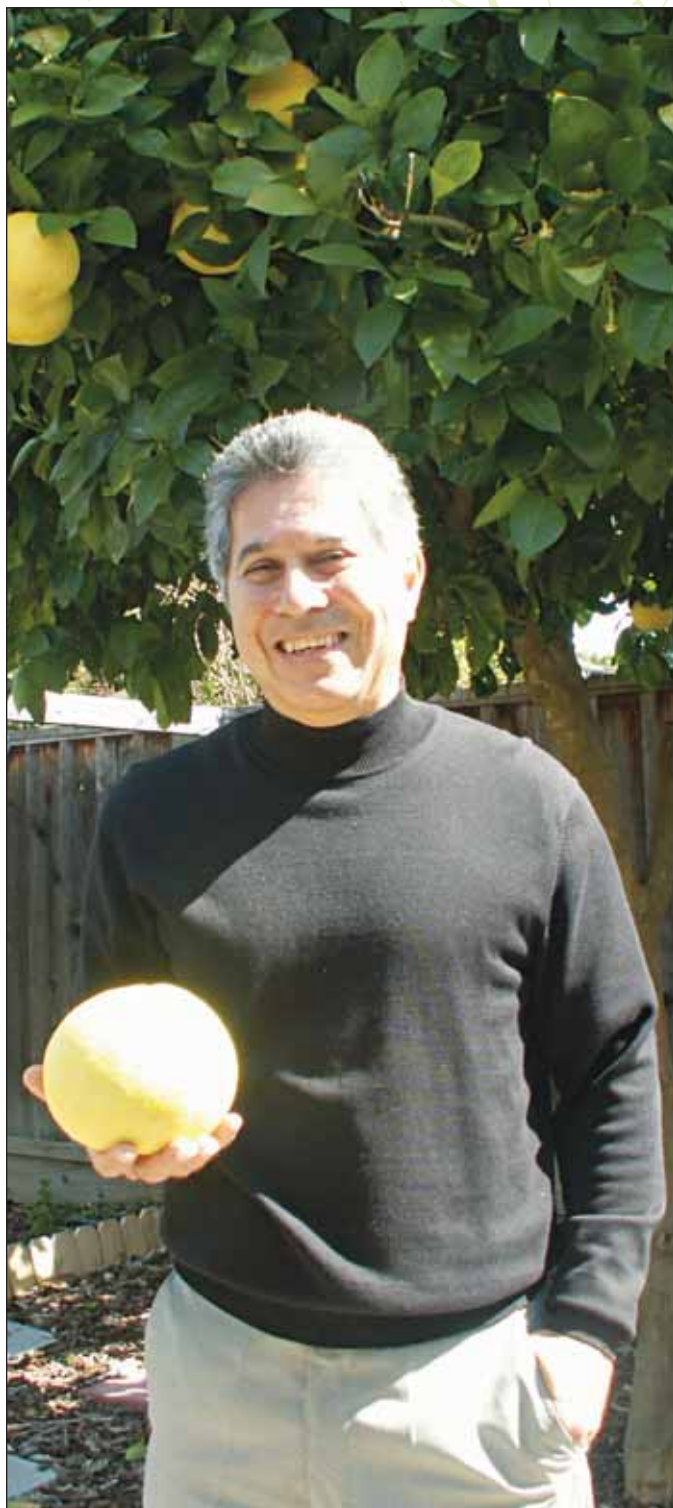
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EMILY WEST

Jimy Uranwala has grapefruit aplenty in his Pleasanton yard. Having trouble using and giving away all he grows, he recently turned to neighborhoodfruit.com to share the abundant crop.

# Fruit FOR THE *taking*

Neighborhood Fruit seeks to end waste by creating an online network

BY EMILY WEST

**K**aytea Petro, co-founder of Neighborhood Fruit, walked to work everyday by a neighbor's apple tree. Hungry, she wanted to grab one. Yet, she knew she didn't want to steal anything, but even her outgoing personality wouldn't bring her to ask the neighbor if she could take some.

With all the fruit trees on private as well as public land, she dreamed of connecting the hungry with people who had excess crop.

Joining forces with Oriana Sarac, who is part of the more technical side of the operation, the two founded neighborhoodfruit.com, a website and iPhone application that connects people to available fruit. While the majority of its 4,000 users are in Northern California, there are also many others scattered across the country in New York, Honolulu, Salt Lake City, Seattle and beyond.

Rotten fruit littering a backyard is not only annoying, but wasteful.

"Our conservative estimate of how much backyard fruit goes to waste is around 116 million pounds annually," Petro said, noting the estimate is based U.S. Census data.

While there isn't much data to support a similar estimate for fruit on public land, she said she would guess that the figures are similar.

"It seems like such a shame that there is such a useful and nourishing thing that's being wasted," she added.

Jimy Uranwala, a Pleasanton resident for the past 21 years, recently listed some of his abundant crops to the site after his daughter told him about it. In his backyard are lime, cherry, grapefruit and orange trees and many times he has a hard time using and giving away all that he grows.

Through the site, he even met up with people from Milpitas who were interested in some of the fruit he offered.

While there isn't much Neighborhood Fruit activity in the area yet, Uranwala said he hopes the community will join together in this effort.

"With issues of the economy, money and waste and recycling, (Neighborhood Fruit) addresses those things," he said.

Of course, there is something to be said about safety when opening up your location to the world. Uranwala said he is comfortable posting his home and enjoys meeting new people.

It's just like doing a (transaction) through Craigslist or Freecycle, he said. And if someone isn't comfortable with people coming into their backyard, they can leave a box of fruit out front, he added.

Petro said initially, they expected to get the most feedback from the people getting free fruit, but have actually heard most from people giving it away.

"They are feeling really excited not to see the fruit rotting on their lawn," she said. "They also like meeting someone in their community who is appreciative of this gift."

Neighborhood Fruit was started in 2009, with the beta launch in June. As the site grows, they hope to grow their product as well. Petro said her goal is to secure funding for the site to take it to 20,000 to 30,000 users this year.

With opening the services to more people, they are planning to charge for the services around June of this year. The plan, while still being worked out, would likely include a nominal fee where you could pay to use it for a month, as well as a premium service that would have features for professional users. Currently, the iPhone application is 99 cents.

There are many groups glad to utilize the site, including area food banks and nonprofits looking to feed the needy. Petro said they hope to secure a grant to build a data management tool for the nonprofits and food banks to track the use of the site and amount of fruit collected. There are also those who need large amounts of fruit to make and sell jam, for instance.

When mentioning the service to friends, Uranwala said he hears about people saying they don't have time to participate. It's as easy as email, he said, and would take the same amount of time as going to the Farmer's Market where you have to pay for it. ■

## NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY PETER CANAVESE

**Remember Me**

★

Rated PG-13 for violence, sexual content, language and smoking  
One hour, 53 minutes



Twihards, start your engines. Those on "Team Edward" will swoon for "Remember Me," a romantic drama starring and executive-produced by Robert Pattinson. For those non-initiates who don't recognize the "Twilight" jargon, discreetly begin backing away.

"Remember Me" is engineered to make teen and tween girls giggle, swoon and weep. It's only slightly edgier and no more sensible than a Nicholas Sparks story, but it does build to the mother of all tragic rug-pullers (which viewers not blinded by Twi-life will see coming all the way up Liberty Street). The story opens in 1991 Brooklyn, where 11-year-old Alyssa Craig witnesses her mother's death. Ten years later, Ally (Emilie de Ravin of "Lost") is a New York University student prone to falling for a man who understands personal loss.

That'd be Tyler Hawkins (Pattinson), also 21, a "brooding introvert" who always smells of beer and cigarettes and unfulfilled potential. His Bohemian odor cannot hide his sensitive soul, proven in his loving attentions to his equally sensitive, 11-year-old (ah, the symmetry!) sister Caroline (a precocious Ruby Jerins). They and their divorced parents (Pierce Brosnan and Lena Olin) live in the shadow of Tyler's older brother, who committed suicide.

Tyler and Ally meet in a way never seen outside of a romantic movie: Tyler makes a move at the behest of his obnoxious roomie, who has visions of prankish revenge against Ally's father, the gruff cop (Chris Cooper) who just hauled the boys in on drunk and disorderly charges. Would you believe that Tyler and Ally wind up in love, and that the truth of how they met will eventually threaten — zzzzzzzzzzz ... Oh, wha — sorry, I'll finish the review.

With the full support of first-time screenwriter Will Fetters, Pattinson does his best James Dean. Smoldering bad-boy poses? Check. Angry, emotionally intoxicated rants at Dad? Check. Jokey declaration of "whatta you got?" rebellion? Check. (Ally: "I don't date sociology majors." Tyler: "Lucky for you I'm undecided." Ally: "About what?" Tyler: "Everything.") Though he can be volatile (like Ally's dad — go figure), Tyler is also a thinker: He holds down a job at the Strand when he's not quoting Gandhi or scribbling in his notebook. All in all, he just feels more than the most of us, y'know?

Pattinson does well with what he's given, but the contrivances compound, and after a while, it's apparent that the movie isn't very interested in Ally, after all (de Ravin's vacuousness doesn't help). Though requisite to make the movie a romance, she's poorly drawn and fades out of the plot as the Hawkins family drama takes precedence.

Absent a careful balance between the leading characters, "Remember Me" might have been better off as a family drama rather than a romance. Brosnan does good work as the workaholic businessman so damaged that he comes off proudly aloof (for that matter, Cooper is flawless as Ally's pained father).

In short, let me bogart the movie's "carpe diem" message: Seize something other than this movie. ■

## Time for tea with the Assistance League

Local volunteer group hosts 15th annual tea fundraiser to support charitable projects

The members of the Assistance League of the Amador Valley are bringing out their best china and crystal for their annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

The event, from noon to 4 p.m. April 24 at the Aahmes Shrine Event Center in Livermore, is the group's biggest fundraiser that allows them to continue their philanthropic efforts around the Tri-Valley. In its 15th year, the tea includes food, a hat contest, raffle prizes and a champagne bar. For entertainment, there will be a The Goodwill Bags Fashion Show featuring authentic vintage clothing.

Tickets are \$50 and must be reserved by April 9. Proceeds will go towards the group's program that provides school clothes and shoes for children in need in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore.

For more information, call Carmen at 371-4566 or visit [www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org](http://www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org).

—Emily West



ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

The annual tea, put on the Assistance League of Amador Valley, takes place April 24 in Livermore.

## TAKE US ALONG

## Thankful for local news

Bud, Carol and Colleen Mayes were thankful for the Weekly, and the chance to get away, for their Thanksgiving trip to Basel, Switzerland where they stand atop a bridge on the Rhine River.



## Celebrating 7 years

The Weekly makes the perfect anniversary present, as Jim and Betty Simone can attest, as they stop to read during their trip to Limon, Costa Rica for their seventh anniversary.



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## Steam Train Adventure for the Whole Family

On March 27 & 28, grab your family and friends and come out for a journey behind a vintage steam locomotive through beautiful Niles Canyon. It's a perfect choice for everyone in your group and a great way to just sit back and relax.

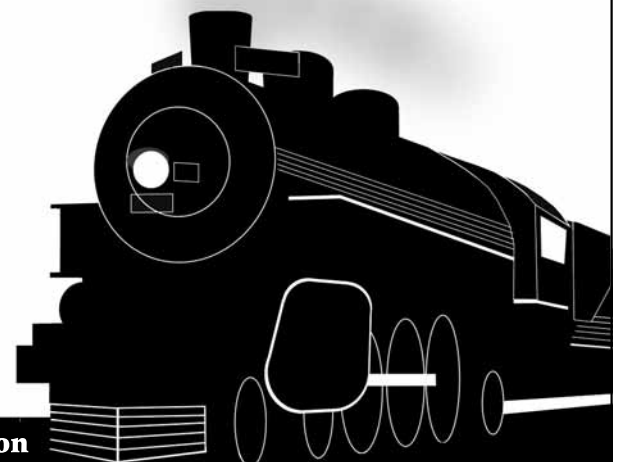
With ticket prices starting at \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids and convenient departures on both Saturday and Sunday, it's a great excuse to start a new family tradition.

For more details or to purchase tickets visit [ggrm.org](http://ggrm.org). Save 10% on your tickets by using discount code G215.

Trains arrive and depart from the Sunol Depot located on SR-84 just west of I-680.

**Golden Gate Railroad Museum Pacific Locomotive Association**

Sponsored by the Golden Gate Railroad Museum and the Pacific Locomotive Association to support the continued restoration of historic artifacts and rail line for today's and tomorrow's generations.





**115 Announcements**  
**GAIN NATIONAL EXPOSURE**  
 Reach over 5 million young, educated readers for only \$995 by advertising in 110 weekly newspapers like this one. Call Jason at 202-289-8484. This is not a job offer. (AAN CAN)

**PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION?** Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

Blastoff is here

**Book-Keeper needed part time**  
 Small family business owner seeing for experienced bookkeeper to handle weekly paycheck. This position is open for the following duties and responsibilities:  
 -Accounting Software Setup  
 -Printing and mailing weekly paycheck with check software.  
 -Ordering letter envelopes and forms from shipping courier company.  
 -Mail checks via FedEx/UPS next day air shipping  
 Requirements:  
 -Personal computer  
 -Internet access.  
 -Laserjet/Inkjet printer.  
 Time: 10AM-12NOON  
 Days: Mondays-Fridays  
 Wage: \$300 weekly  
 This is home-based office duties We are looking to hire immediately. email: charleslooney1@yahoo.com

Easter Egg Hunt  
 Fibromyalgia Pain Stress Mgmt  
 Fun activity for families!  
 Livermore Lioness Club seeks new  
 SHARPEN UP AT THE FARMERS MARKET  
 Spring Break Science Camp  
 Stress and Pain Mgmt Strategies

**130 Classes & Instruction**

**Free Advice!**  
 We'll Help You Choose A Program Or Degree To Get Your Career & Your Life On Track. Call Collegebound Network Today! 1-877-892-2642 (AAN CAN)

**Free Advice!**  
 We'll Help You Choose A Program Or Degree To Get Your Career & Your Life On Track. Call Collegebound Network Today! 1-877-461-5940 (AAN CAN)

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

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!**  
 Graduate in just 4 weeks!! FREE Brochure. Call NOW! 1-800-532-6546 Ext. 97 http://www.continentallacademy.com (AAN CAN)

**High School Diploma!**  
 Graduate in 4 weeks! FREE Brochure. Call Now! 1-866-562-3650 ext. 60 www.SouthEasternHS.com (Cal-SCAN)

**133 Music Lessons**  
**HARP LESSONS FOR ALL AGES**  
 Try Something New!  
 Call Bennetta Heaton  
 (925) 820-1169 - located in Danville -

**135 Group Activities**  
 Adult Kickball on Thurs Nights!  
 CLUTTERLess (CL) Self Help Mon.  
 CO-ED SOFTBALL

**145 Non-Profits Needs**  
**DONATE YOUR CAR!**  
 Breast Cancer Research foundation! Most highly rated breast cancer charity in America! Tax Deductible/Fast Free Pick Up. Call - 1-877-464-8203 (AAN CAN)

**150 Volunteers**  
 Children's Book Illustrator

**155 Pets**



**Great Pit Bull needs a home**  
 Eddie is a 1 year old male, neutered Pit who needs a permanent home. He is very loving and sweet. Needs a home with a lot of space and where he will get a good daily workout. Gets along great with my other dogs, and has never shown any aggression towards my cats or kids. Tory (415) 602-1354  
 Lost Australian Shepherd - 3/13



**201 Autos/Trucks/Parts**



**Dodge 2006 Ram 2500**  
 Laramie 5.9 Cummins Diesel, Crew cab, Leather, Heated Seats, low miles, Asking \$4800, contact gus2tz@msn.com / 8312996973 MGB 1970 GT - \$5500

**202 Vehicles Wanted**

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

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

**210 Garage/Estate Sales**

**Pleasanton, 1533 Harvest, march 20th, 8:00 to 2:00**  
 Spring Cleaning !!! T.V, Computer, clothes, books video games Sam Ramon, 1040 Vista Monte Drive, March 20

**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**

**GET 2 COMPUTERS FOR PRICE OF ONE!** Bad/Credit? NO PROBLEM!  
 Starting at \$29.99/week. Up to \$3000 credit limit Guaranteed Approval! Call Now! 888-860-2420 (AAN CAN)

**NEW DELL-HP COMPUTER GUARANTEE**  
 Bad Credit? No Problem! FREE Printer Digital Cam & LCD TV Starting at \$29.99/week. Up to \$3000 credit limit. Call Now-888-860-2419 (AAN CAN)

**230 Freebies**  
 Children's Mystery Book - FREE  
 Office Furniture - FREE

**237 Barter**  
 carpentry

**240 Furnishings/Household items**  
 3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10  
 Bakers Rack - \$350

**Bakers Rack**  
 Excellent condition. (925)600-9498.  
 BOSCH Washer and Dryer - \$1,000/pr

**Dinning Table/6Chairs**  
 44" Round Table w/3 leaves. Good condition/Pecan Pleasanton 925-600-9498  
 Entertainment cabinet - \$75.00  
 MOBopoly Board Game - \$35

Oak Roll Top Computer Desk - \$375 OBO  
 Sleep Comfort Adjustable Bed - \$499

**245 Miscellaneous**

**Sawmills**  
 New Norwood LumberMate-Pro handles logs 34" diameter, mills boards 28" wide. Automated quick-cycle-sawing increases efficiency up to 40%!  
 www.NorwoodSawmills.com/300N  
 1-800-661-7746 ext. 300N. (Cal-SCAN)



**2008 Kubota**  
 BX24 Compact Tractor, Loader, backhoe, Diesel, 4x4, Asking \$4600, don't miss out, ptm7dd7@msn.com / 8183372974

HOME STAGING DESIGN eBooks - \$12.00  
 Mobile composter - \$100

MOBopoly - Strategy Board Game - \$35  
 Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

Power washer on wheels - \$850.00  
 RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25.00

**260 Sports & Exercise Equipment**

Razor scooter - \$75.00  
 Yamaha Golf Cart - \$2600/OBO



**330 Child Care Offered**

Live in AuPair Childcare

**340 Child Care Wanted**

**I need a caregiver for Aretta**  
 I need a caregiver who could watch over my lil daughter Aretta Contact me @: puretparks@gmail.com

**345 Tutoring/Lessons**

French/Spanish tutoring

**Math & Chemistry Tutoring**  
 Retired Scientist enjoying TUTORING High School & College STUDENTS in algebra, geometry, pre-calculus & chemistry. CALL DOUG @ 925-858-5842

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

**Private Math Tutor**  
 Patient experienced Math Tutor drives to your place. From Elementary to College, SAT Math, Algebra, Geometry and Trigonometry  
 Please call 925-876-6866



**425 Health Services**

**Type 2 Diabetes?**  
 If you used Type 2 Diabetes Drug AVANDIA and SUFFERED a STROKE or HEART ATTACK. You may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727. (Cal-SCAN)



**550 Business Opportunities**

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

**Start Your Own Business**  
 BE YOUR OWN BOSS working with top direct selling company, SouthernLiving at Home. \*Work your Own Hours\* No Quota's \*No Inventory\* Call TODAY!! Elaine (925)485-1960

**560 Employment Information**

**\$\$\$HELP WANTED\$\$\$**  
 Extra Income! Assembling CD cases from Home! No Experience Necessary! Call our Live Operators Now! 1-800-405-7619 EXT 2450 http://www.easywork-greatpay.com (AAN CAN)

**Bartender Trainees**  
 No experience necessary. Make up to \$40 an hour in wages and tips. Meet new people, work in an exciting atmosphere. Call (877) 568-9534 (AAN CAN)

**Drivers - Class A**  
 SLT needs Class A team drivers with Hazmat. \$2,000 Bonus. Split \$0.68 for all miles. Regional contractor positions available. 1-800-835-9471. (Cal-SCAN)

**Full Time Opportunities**  
 H.S. grad ages 17-34. Full Pay, benefits, training, 30 days vacation/yr, \$ for school. No experience needed. Call Mon-Fri. 1-800-345-6289. (Cal-SCAN)

**Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!**  
 No experience. Get paid to train. California Army National Guard. High School JR/SR and Grads/GED. Up to 100% tuition assistance. Part-time work with full-time benefits. www.NationalGuard.com/Careers or 1-800-GO-GUARD. (Cal-SCAN)

**Loan Officers**  
 Now is the TIME To Work for a direct lender. 85% Commission (W-2), FHA, VA Reverse Mortgages. For info go to www.OakTreeFunding.com click Virtual Agent. (Cal-SCAN)



**645 Office/Home Business Services**

**Advertising Online**  
 In a network of 50-plus newspaper websites. Border to Border with one order! \$7 cost per thousand impressions statewide. Minimum \$5,000 order. Call for details: (916) 288-6010. www.CaliforniaBannerAdNetwork.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Classified Advertising**  
 In 240 Cal-SCAN newspapers for the best reach, coverage, and price. 25-words \$550. Reach over 6 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SCAN.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Display Advertising**  
 In 140 Cal-SCAN newspapers statewide for \$1,550! Reach over 3 million Californians! FREE email brochure. Call (916) 288-6019. www.Cal-SCAN.com (Cal-SCAN)



**715 Cleaning Services**

**BRAZILIAN HOUSE & WINDOWS CLEAN**  
**Convenient Cleaning**  
 Over 12 years exp. Will bring supplies. 3 hour min., \$60. Lic. 060612. Natalie, 925/371-6842

**726 Decor & Drapery Changing Spaces**  
 ReDesign, Staging & Color Consults 4 any budget. jilldenton.com 925.998.7747

**741 Flooring/Carpenting**

**Cal Floors-Hardwood Floors**  
 SAVE BIG on ALL our flooring services. For a QUICK QUOTE call 415-706-7199 or call 925-954-5012

**759 Hauling Hauling & Cleanup**

**Service**  
 Residential/Commercial \*Yard & Garage Clean-Up, Dump Runs Appl & Furn, construction demo removal. Low Rates/ Free Est 925-899-5655



**801 Apartments/Condos/Studios**

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - 904.00

**805 Homes for Rent**

**ALL AREAS - HOUSES FOR RENT**  
 Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: http://www.RealRentals.com (AAN CAN)  
 Pleasanton, 3 BR/1 BA - \$2,195/month

**809 Shared Housing/Rooms**

**ALL AREAS - ROOMMATES.COM**  
 Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: http://www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)  
 Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$750.00

**825 Homes/Condos for Sale**

Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$879,000  
 Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$849,000  
 Dublin, 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$339,000  
 Dublin, 4 BR/3 BA - \$849,000

**850 Acreage/Lots/Storage**

**Nevada: Bank Owned Land!**  
 10 acres. Fish Lake Valley, NV. \$39,750. Substantial discount, gorgeous views. Great recreational opportunities, upscale ranch community. Rainbow Trout creek frontage. Financing available to qualified buyers. 1-877-236-5204. (Cal-SCAN)

**855 Real Estate Services**

**Avoid Foreclosure**  
 Your First Steps to Avoid Foreclosure is a FREE report that I've prepared for you, available at: www.savehomenow.com

**Marketplace Pleasanton Weekly**

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 website: www.bodemantax.com

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Tabitha the torbie**

Meet a friendly and inquisitive torbie housecat named Tabitha. Tabitha has beautiful stripes in varying shades of rust and browns and her eyes are a pretty shade of green. She is 5 years old, spayed, Felv/Fiv tested, vaccinated, and she has a microchip for identification. Tabitha is the curious sort and she is looking forward to exploring every inch of a new home. Tabitha loves attention from adults and children alike and she gets along well with other cats. Visit Tabitha at the East Bay SPCA - Tri-Valley adoption center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670. Learn more about pet adoptions at www.eastbayspca.org.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

8286 REGENCY DR., PLEASANTON, **\$1,325,000**



What a beautiful Laguna Oaks home! This La Jolla Model was built in 1998. This 3800 square foot home with 4 bedrooms comes with granite counter tops, hardwood floors, and a sparkling solar heated pool. It is walking distance to Foothill High School, and have great freeway access. Listed by Cindy Gee of Prudential California Realty and sold by Julia Murtagh of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 997-2411

## First-time buyers, lower prices drove housing market in 2009

Realty group survey finds 47% were first-time buyers

By JEB BING

Affordable home prices, tax credits for homebuyers, historically low interest rates and a large number of distressed properties prompted many first-time homebuyers to enter the market in 2009, according to the A study by the California Association of Realtors (CAR).

CAR's 2009-2010 "State of the California Housing Market" report shows that the percent of first-time buyers increased dramatically in 2009, from 35.9 percent in 2008 to 47 percent in 2009.

According to the report, the share of first-time buyers exceeded the long-run average of 38.6 percent and was the highest since 1995, when more than half of all buyers were first timers.

"It is clear that the federal tax credit for homebuyers worked well in 2009 and is continuing to drive home sales," said CAR President Steve Goddard. "The homebuyers' tax credit is arguably the most successful strategy employed by the government's efforts to stimulate the economy."

According to a survey conducted by CAR on the effectiveness of the federal tax credit for homebuyers, nearly 40 percent said they would not have purchased a home if the federal tax credit was not offered. On the same note, nearly 70 percent of these buyers said the tax credit was either "very important" or "most important" in their decision to buy a home. The large number of distressed properties led to more than half of all first-time buyers purchas-

ing an REO/foreclosure or short sale property.

Statewide, REO/foreclosures and short sales accounted for almost half of all annual sales in 2009, an increase from 35.6 percent in 2008. The median price of distressed properties declined nearly one quarter to \$250,000 in 2009 compared with \$330,000 in 2008. Meanwhile, the median price of non-distressed properties decreased only 10.4 percent to \$485,000 compared with \$541,000 in 2008.

Many sellers sold their homes for a loss in 2009, and those who experienced a net cash loss increased for the fifth consecutive year. With one-third of sellers experiencing a net cash loss in 2009, it was the highest level on record since CAR started tracking net cash losses in 1989, and was more than triple the long-run average of 9.3 percent. Following two consecutive years of significant declines in prices, the median net cash from home sales declined 50 percent last year to \$50,000 from \$100,000 in 2008.

Although sellers experienced a steeper net cash loss, lower home prices across the state sent affordability for first-time buyers to record-high levels in 2009. CAR's First-Time Buyer Housing Affordability Index (FTB-HAI) rose to 64 percent in the third quarter of 2009. The FTB-HAI measures the percentage of households that can afford to purchase an entry-level home in California and also reports first-time buyer indexes for regions and select counties within the state. ■

### OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

#### Dublin

##### 4 BEDROOMS

**7330 Hanse Drive \$609,950**  
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2547

#### Livermore

##### 4 BEDROOMS

**349 Hummingbird Lane \$439,900**  
Sat 12-5/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 200-5272

#### Pleasanton

##### 3 BEDROOMS

**3020 Staples Ranch Drive \$648,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 600-7653

##### 4 BEDROOMS

**3768 Pimlico Drive \$708,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Re/Max Accord 600-7653

**5369 Mallard Drive \$799,900**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 895-9950

**728 St. John \$865,000**  
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 463-6175

##### 5 BEDROOMS

**788 Vineyard Terrace \$2,095,000**  
Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

To advertise or have an open home listed please contact Andrea Heggelund at (925) 600-0840 ext. 110 or e-mail aheggelund@pleasantonweekly.com

## 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



#### 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!

#### NEW TO THE MARKET! 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

Search for all new home listings at [www.GailBoal.com](http://www.GailBoal.com)

**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
REALTY



## THE FINEST OF DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON



Walk to restaurants, coffee houses, shops, parks and all that downtown Pleasanton has to offer! This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with 2159 sq. ft. has soaring ceilings, rich flooring, decorator



paint and decor throughout and a floor plan that is great for entertaining. Private lot with your own long driveway, lush gardens and private rear yard and a great downtown location completes the package! Don't miss this opportunity!! Priced at \$865,000 • 728 St. John



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5075 Hopyard Rd. Ste. 110  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925.251.2500  
**Livermore**  
1983 Second St  
Livermore, CA 94550  
925.667.2100

**GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATE**



**8044 GOLDENEAGLEWAY 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**

**PRESERVE COMMUNITY**



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

**REO/ BANK OWNED**



**2919 CHOCOLATE ST PLEASANTON**  
Gourmet kitchen, granite counter tops, spacious living room, valuted ceilings, located near schools and shopping. 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1,920+/- sq. ft.  
**Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559**

**VINES & HILLS GALORE**



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

**CONTEMPORARY LIVING**



**7870 GALWAY CT DUBLIN**  
New custom, top of the line features incl; solid quartz counters, glass mosaic, designer fireplace, Wolf appliances, home theater w/wet bar, steam shower & more!  
**Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416**

**GORGEOUS CUSTOM ESTATE**



**2801 GRAY FOX COURT PLEASANTON**  
Panoramic views, 1.91 acres of privacy. Resort-like backyard w/ pool, spa, swim up bar, barbeque, palm trees. See details: www.2801GrayFox.com  
**Phyllis 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 bd 3 ba, 4,300 sq. ft., 0.50+/- acres.  
**Bryan Craft 925.855.4141**

**WALK TO DOWNTOWN**



**3911 VINEYARD AVE PLEASANTON**  
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**



**2670 VERNAZZA DR LIVERMORE**  
Custom paint, beautiful hrdwd flrs, granite ktchn counters w/full granite bcksplsh, ss appliances, surround sound & more! Desirable Vinsanto neighborhood!  
**Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199**

**AMAZING LOCATION**



**5120 ROYAL PINES WAY DUBLIN**  
Upgraded TOLL home w/ Travertine flooring including custom Medallion, custom window covering, upgraded appliances, 2 fireplaces, corner lot, LIGHT & Airy.  
**Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653**

**DRAMATIC HOME!**



**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 downtown Pleasanton. Custom Cherry Cab's. Granite Slab. S/S appliances. Harwood floors thru-out.  
**Todd E. Martinez 925.784.7000**

**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**

**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**

**RUBY HILL ESTATE**



**655 EAST VINEYARD AVE LIVERMORE**  
Fabulous 20+ acre parcel w/ 8,090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates.  
**Carol Cline, CRS 925.648.5415**

**OPEN SAT 12-5 SUN 1-4**



**349 HUMMINGBIRD LANE LIVERMORE**  
Approximately 1561 Square Feet of Living Space Lot Size: Approximately 7,500 +/- Square Feet 4 Beds, 2 Baths. Updated Kitchen & Baths.  
**Anne Athenour Martin 925.200.5272**

**OPEN SUN 1-4:30**



**7330 HANSE DRIVE DUBLIN**  
Approx 1,900 sqft, 7,600+ sqft lot, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, updated kitchen, dual pane windows, updated master bath. Close to shopping and easy freeway access.  
**Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547**

**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

**Montclair/ Piedmont**  
6116 La Salle Ave., Ste 200  
Oakland, CA 94611  
510.339.4800

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

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

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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



**PLEASANTON**  
1463 GROTH CIRCLE \$498,500  
2 beds, 2 baths, new carpets, vaulted ceilings, 2 car gar, mast w/wlk-in closets, close to park 925-847-2200



**PLEASANTON**  
4117 CRISFIELD LN  
**DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION** \$648,000  
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 - 5 145 COPPER RIDGE RD.  
**CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES PRICES START IN HIGH \$200s**  
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses,vaulted ceilings avail,w/garages,gated,renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

## 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

PENDING! 2140 CANYON CREST AVE  
**GORGEOUS!** \$775,000  
4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & aprx 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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**BLAISE LOFLAND**

DRE# 00882113



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www.blaiselofland.com  
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

## CHATEAU COUNTRY ESTATES

JUST LISTED

OPEN SUN 1-4



### 788 VINEYARD TERRACE, PLEASANTON

Country Chateau Vineyard Estate on approximately 1 acre secluded lot (40,029 sq. ft.). Professionally landscaped with multiple heritage oaks, adjacent to vineyards. Panoramic views of Mount Diablo and the surrounding hills. This semi-custom beautiful private home built by Greenbriar Homes in 2008 has a total square footage of 6,476. The main house at 5,330 square feet includes five bedrooms plus library (6th), six bathrooms and a super bonus/home theater room. Also included are a four car garage and private carriage house at 1,146 square feet.  
**OFFERED AT \$2,095,000**

## THE PRESERVE

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**

## VENTANA HILLS

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**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



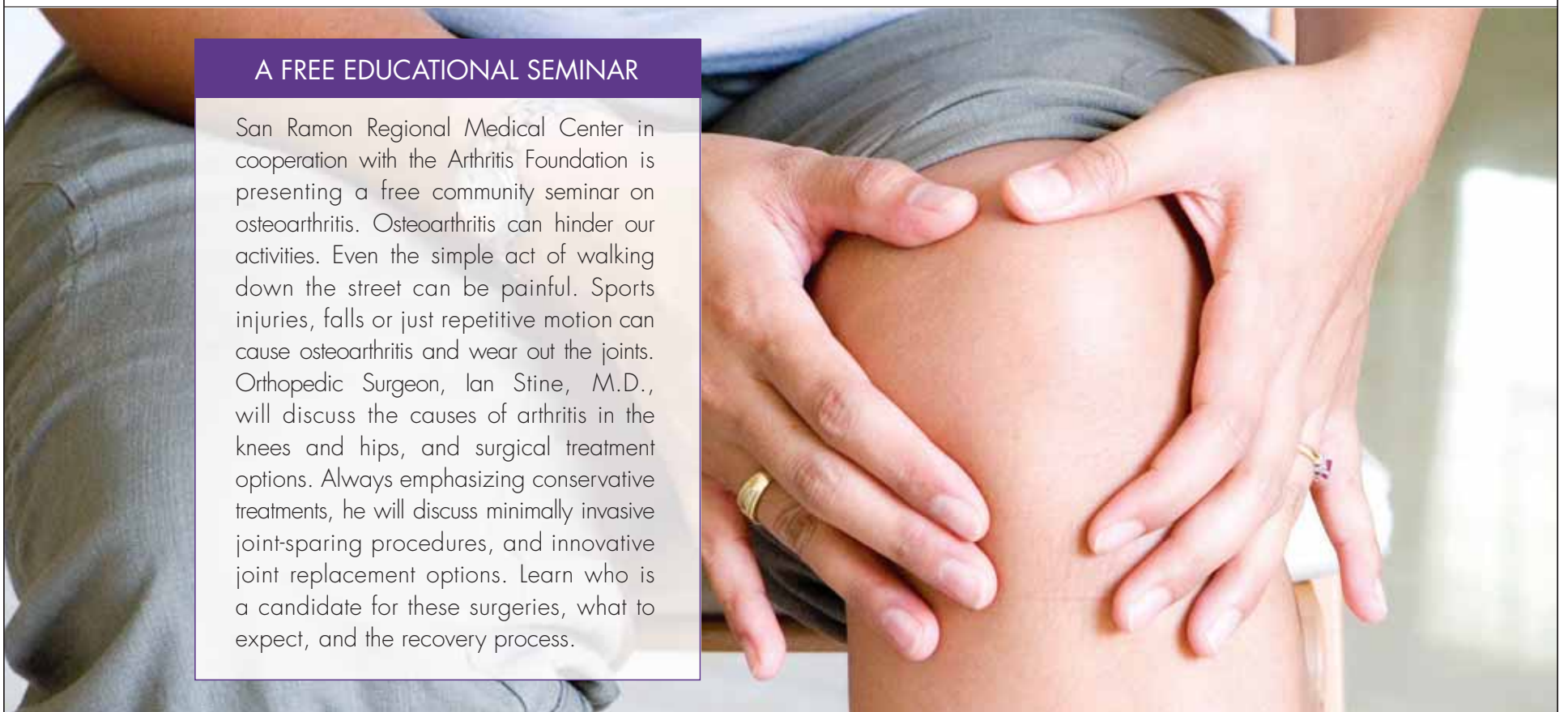
A FREE Osteoarthritis Seminar

ADVANCED SURGICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR  
**KNEE AND HIP PAIN**

Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

A FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

San Ramon Regional Medical Center in cooperation with the Arthritis Foundation is presenting a free community seminar on osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis can hinder our activities. Even the simple act of walking down the street can be painful. Sports injuries, falls or just repetitive motion can cause osteoarthritis and wear out the joints. Orthopedic Surgeon, Ian Stine, M.D., will discuss the causes of arthritis in the knees and hips, and surgical treatment options. Always emphasizing conservative treatments, he will discuss minimally invasive joint-sparing procedures, and innovative joint replacement options. Learn who is a candidate for these surgeries, what to expect, and the recovery process.



**SPEAKER**

**Ian Stine, M.D.**  
*orthopedic surgeon*

**SEMINAR LOCATION**

**San Ramon Regional Medical Center**  
South Conference Room  
South Building  
7777 Norris Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA 94583



**SAN RAMON**  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**Reservation Required**

Call 800.284.2878 or visit [www.OurSanRamonHospital.com](http://www.OurSanRamonHospital.com)