

Pleasanton Weekly

New fire chief: Modesto chief to head up Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department **PAGE 5**

In living color: Meet artist Florence de Bretagne and her whimsical art next weekend **PAGE 18**

INSIDE

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MEMORIAL DAY 2010

*PLEASANTON SALUTES
AND REMEMBERS THOSE
WHO SERVED*

PAGE 12



YES ON D MEANS
WE GET 90% OF
OAK GROVE
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JENNIFER HOSTERMAN
Mayor, Pleasanton

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MAMA ROSA PIZZA AND PASTA

NOT ANOTHER LINK IN THE CHAIN

Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta is situated on the outskirts of Pleasanton near the 580 exchange on Santa Rita Road. Once a Baker's Square, this restaurant has been completely remodeled and boasts a beautiful antique bar, mirrored partitions, and exquisite brickwork throughout. Walking in to the restaurant brings a sense of comfort with the smells of homemade bread, fresh simmering sauces, and an attentive staff. Traditional Italian music is playing along with tunes from Italian icons such as Frank Sinatra and Mario Lanza.

Everything at Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta is made from scratch, including the cannoli shells, which taste like they come from Little Italy in New York. If you pop in the restaurant around lunchtime, you can smell the sauces simmering on the stove. Or, if you turn up between lunch and dinner, you can smell the desserts baking in the oven or the cannoli shells frying.

Mama Rosa's menu boasts a build your own pasta section, where you can choose from a variety of homemade sauces such as marinara, Bolognese, meat, alfredo, or pesto. They serve several house specialty pastas, such as chicken marsala, linguine with clams, spaghetti frutti di mare, and penne puttanesca, to mention a few. Bob from Pleasanton says "the best frutti di mare I have tasted. Wonderful!"

Mama Rosa's pizza is no doubt the finest Pleasanton has to offer. Watching the pizza artisan tossing the dough into the air is like watching a master craftsman at work. With dough made fresh daily, and a large variety of combinations to choose from, there is something to please everyone. Building your own pizza is also fun with unusual toppings available such as capers, shrimp, clams and garlic, and prosciutto. Marlene Dinsmore of Pleasanton says "Pizza is Excellent. Love it!!"

Mama Rosa is family owned and operated. Don't be surprised to be waited on by an owner or family member. Not another link in the chain, Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta is a great place for a romantic evening or some good family fun. Reservations accepted for large parties, team events, rehearsal dinners, and more.



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SUN-THURS 11-9:00 AND FRI-SAT 11-10:00

AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Smoking ribs for a benefit

It's hard to be a food taster when you're on a self-imposed diet so that I can look my fatherly best tomorrow when my youngest daughter Jenny is married. But more about that next week. It's even harder when you're faced with an abundance of carefully smoked ribs at a fairgrounds cook-out. It was the second annual "Taste of Summer" barbecue event hosted by Hacienda Business Park and the Tri-Valley Community Foundation to benefit Hacienda's "Helping Hands" program, a charitable campaign supported by contributions from Hacienda companies and affiliates. Proceeds of the annual campaign are used to make grants to health and human service organizations, educational programs, and cultural projects in our Tri-Valley communities, where Hacienda employees live and work.



JEB BING

Kathy Alameda (left) and Debra Doble, both CPAs and partners in the accounting firm of Sallmann Young & Alameda, talk about their recipe for faster-smoked ribs.

better because they were smoked in the old-fashioned country-cooking way using real charcoal, not propane-fire smokers. In the interest of full disclosure, team members pointed out that Clorox manufactures the popular Kingsford brand of charcoal they were using, with the product's research done right here in Pleasanton. Clorox employees enhanced the marinating process with Kentucky bourbon, bacon, corn and red bell peppers placed in the pan at the base of the smoker as the ribs cooked overhead.

The team from 1st United Services Credit Union showed its backyard skills using store-bought smokers and employee recipes tested over the last several months outside their offices at 5901 Gibraltar Dr., with 120 joining in. Their offerings at the Fairgrounds included sliders from pork shoulders smoked for 15 hours. These were clearly crowd-pleasers and went fast while judges tasted ribs that had been smoked all day above a grate of wood soaked in water and vinegar.

It turns out that even career accountants have cooking expertise as Kathy Alameda, a partner at Sallmann Young & Alameda proved. Her teammates wowed judges with their short-cooked ribs prepared in half the time others took. The ribs were marinated with pineapple, Hawaiian tea, fresh fruit and "a bit of sake." The meat was boiled for about an hour first, tenderizing it and making the smoking process faster and easier. Tasty results were achieved after three hours of actual smoking, clearly a technique I'll pass along to my Oklahoma friends tonight if time runs short.

Friday's winners, by the way, were: Clorox/Kingsford, best overall, best pie; 1st United, best team/community spirit, best team appearance; Pleasanton Garbage, best ribs; Faz Restaurant, best grilled vegetables. ■

After tasting a few of the ribs, I had to agree with food taster Steve Brozosky that picking the best in any of the six categories was a tough call. Whether you prefer moist, savory sauce-covered ribs or more dry (and less messy) ones where the meat falls off the bones, the cook-off competitors offered a variety to please every palate. It was also an opportunity to gain tips for the smoked barbecue wedding rehearsal dinner I'm hosting tonight for some 40-50 guests. Fortunately, Jenny's fiancé Jerry Brewer and his brother Neil from Broken Arrow, Okla., who are experienced "smokers," have set up special cookers at my house. So the ribs I tasted at the Helping Hands event and will taste tonight should give me all the smoked ribs I'll need for some time to come.

At last Friday's event, Chef Jose at Hyatt Summerfield Suites served ribs that he marinated overnight with apple cider, fresh garlic and more, and then slowly smoked the three slabs he prepared for five-and-a-half hours before serving. He used "baby" smokers which could only accommodate three-to-four slabs at a time but also provide more thorough smoking. Since each of the eight Helping Hands benefit contestants were also judged on the salads and pies they served — as well as how artfully they presented their fare — Jose included a tasty salad of avocados and tomatoes and a sumptuous blackberry crisp. These came on colorful blue plates, small enough for the judges to hold while marking their lists.

At the next booth, a team from Clorox offered ribs that judges deemed

About the Cover

Pleasanton resident U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph P. Peters was wounded in the D-Day Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944, and died June 8. On July 3, 1967, Peters Avenue, which runs parallel to Main Street, was named after him. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Don't Mess with our Ridges

Lot 26 Lot 35
Lot 27 Lot 36
Lot 37
Lot 38

Ridge in Oak Grove
Measure D proposes 50 mansions on the ridges

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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

Whom do you especially remember on Memorial Day and why?



Linda Rath
State Park Superintendent

All of the men and women who have given their lives for us fighting in the wars. They have done something above and beyond what most Americans would do and have fought for our freedoms.

Trevor Moniz
Project Manager

Wow, I guess I never gave it much thought. I always just think of it as an extended weekend.



Dave Coyle
Marketing Manager

My father. He was in the U.S. Marines and fought in Korea. The two years he was in the Marines corresponded with the two years of the war, so he saw the whole thing. He was in his early 20s, and I can't imagine what kind of experience that was, but I like to try.

Justin Grumm
Kid

I think of my dad because it's his birthday. And Ronnie. Ronnie is my dad's friend that has the same birthday as my dad. Ronnie was in the Navy. He comes over for Memorial Day.



Lynne Tersini
Administrator

My mind immediately goes to the Vietnam War and the members of the military that came back and are still surviving today.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

It's First Wednesday again

The First Wednesday "Jump Into Summer" street party will take place from 6-9 p.m. June 2 with 200 booths lining Main Street to market products and services, including community and nonprofit groups. The beer and wine garden will be open in the Round Table Pizza parking lot at 530 Main St. with featured band, the Cocktail Monkeys.

Merrill Moses, goalie for the U.S. Olympic Team and silver medalist at the Beijing Olympics, will be at Little Valley Winery, 793J Main St., from 6-8 p.m. to meet and greet water polo lovers.

Main Street will be closed from St. John Street to Old Bernal Avenue from 4:30-10 p.m. Parking will be available off Main Street in the railroad corridor between Main and First streets and at the Amador Valley High School parking lot.

Library closed for Memorial Day

The Pleasanton Library will be closed Monday for Memorial Day. It is also closed for Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Easter, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and the following Friday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Democracy video contest

A short video created by Nicole Dalesio, a third-grade teacher at Fairlands Elementary, is one of 18 finalists in the Democracy Video Challenge contest on YouTube. She is competing against two others to earn the grand prize from the Americas.

To vote for Delasio's video, "Democracy is a child," log onto www.youtube.com/democracy-challenge. People can vote once a day until June 15.

Stories of veterans

U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) is hosting a recording session for the Veterans History Project from 4-7 p.m. May 28 at his Pleasanton office, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 175. The goal is to collect and preserve the firsthand accounts of American war veterans by archiving video and audio recordings of their remembrances at the Library of Congress.

Members of the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program's TV Production and Multimedia class and the San Joaquin Delta College Radio, Television, Broadcasting Department will conduct one-on-one interviews with veterans and compile an audio or video recording.

Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department names new chief

Modesto Fire Chief James Miguel to start new post in July

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department has named James Miguel as its new fire chief, to begin July 6. Miguel has 27 years of fire service experience, including eight years as fire chief for the Modesto Fire Department, his current position.

"Jim Miguel understands and values the role of community and organizational stakeholders as partners," said Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho. "We are excited to have him at the helm of the LPFD."

As LPFD fire chief, Miguel will oversee a department with a staff of

129 that provides services to Pleasanton and Livermore residents.

These include emergency medical response, fire suppression, rescue emergencies and hazardous materials incidents. The department also does public education regarding fire prevention and emergency preparedness for residents and businesses.

Miguel began his career as a firefighter for the city of Modesto and

worked through the ranks of fire engineer, captain, battalion chief and operations division chief. He also has served concurrently in Modesto as the acting deputy city manager and director of finance.

"Jim's broad experience makes him the perfect match for the organization," said Fialho.

Miguel has a masters of science degree in executive fire service leadership from Grand Canyon University, and is a graduate of the executive fire officer program at the National Fire Academy. He resides in Manteca with his wife Susan.

Fire Chief Bill Cody, who was

at the helm of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department for four-and-a-half years, retired Oct. 16. Since then it has been a joint effort of Pleasanton and Livermore to hire a search firm, then interview candidates and reach a decision on a new fire chief. Chief Miguel will report to both Fialho and Livermore City Manager Linda Barton.

Cody noted upon his retirement that the opportunity to serve as fire chief in an organization that reports to two cities presented unique challenges and also the chance to be involved in city and civic activities in both communities. ■



Fire Chief James Miguel



GLENN WOHLTMANN

A view of the bombardier's seat on the B-17 Flying Fortress. Two gunners were normally stationed on either side of the bombardier.

WWII planes coming for Memorial Day

'Flying museum' is chance to hear war stories

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Some American history will be flying into the area for Memorial Day weekend. Two World War II bombers — a B-17 Flying Fortress known as the 909 and a B-24 Liberator named Witchcraft — will spend the weekend at Livermore Airport, along with a support plane, a P-51C Mustang fighter called Betty Jane.

Called the "Wings of Freedom" tour, the three planes are a flying museum and tribute to the crews who flew and maintained them and the people who built them.

This is the 18th year the planes will stop in Livermore, and stop coordinator Kevin Ryan said there's always a big turnout. He said last year the three-day event drew around 3,000 people.

Ryan said his favorite part of the planes' local stop is hearing the experiences of the veterans who

flew in the planes, and their family's reaction to the stories.

Mick Hanou, another coordinator, said his father was in forced labor in Germany during the war, so the Memorial Day event has special meaning to him.

"It's the people who keep us coming out," he said. "The other thing that's important is that we do this for the veterans."

The planes will be open for tours, and a look inside gives a visitor a first-hand idea of the conditions bomber crews endured on a mission.

Walter Hughes, who now lives in Hawaii, was just 22 years old when he piloted a B-24 in World War II. He flew 35 missions during the war and will be on hand to talk about what it was like.

Hughes said every mission was different.

"There were a few that we didn't

have much opposition, they were called 'milk runs.' You'd see a little flack and nothing more. Then you'd get to some where there were 600 to 900 antiaircraft guns," he said, adding that planes often had to fly into clouds created by exploding shells. "The flack, that's pretty scary stuff. We had holes in the airplane on more than half the missions we flew."

The cold at altitudes of 21,000 feet was also a major factor.

"My average temperature was minus 40 on those missions. Sometimes, the equipment on the airplanes would freeze," he said. Although the crew wore heated suits, sometimes it was cold enough to affect the steering; other times, the bomb bay doors would freeze up.

At first, there were no fighters that could fly alongside the

See **BOMBER** on Page 6

No changes predicted for PUSD budget

Parcel tax moves ahead, school lunches rise

Pleasanton schools anticipated the latest round of state cuts and will bring in a balanced budget for the upcoming school year.

"If the budget situation changes and continues to worsen at the state level, and we get a further revised budget, we'll have further economic consequences," said School Board Chairman Chris Grant.

Pleasanton Unified School District officials said Tuesday that a state budget will be late — possibly not until November — and until that budget is finalized, there's no way to anticipate what other cuts it could contain.

The district is expecting another \$6.5 million in cuts for the 2011-12 school year and is once again considering a parcel tax to offset some of that loss. The board voted unanimously Tuesday to put out bid requests for a consultant and a survey regarding a parcel tax, and it anticipates awarding contracts by July. The last consultant, the Lew Edwards Group, cost the PUSD about \$32,000, with another \$228,000 spent on election costs, according to district spokeswoman Myla Grasso.

A parcel tax could bring in \$4.4 million to \$4.6 million. Even if passed, the school district would face additional cuts to make up the difference between the new revenue and the anticipated new cuts. The bulk of the school's current budget — 85.5 percent in the 2009-10 school year — is spent on personnel, and more personnel cuts would be likely whether a parcel tax passes or not.

School parcel taxes require a See **BUDGET** on Page 7

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Vineyard robbery

A pedestrian was robbed Monday night by two men in a car, according to a Pleasanton police report. The man was walking near his home in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue around 11:30 p.m. when a car pulled up and a passenger asked for directions.

When the man approached the car, the passenger told the him he had a gun and demanded money. No gun was seen, but the pedestrian handed over his wallet, with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The car was last seen traveling eastbound on Vineyard, possibly headed toward Livermore, the report said. It's described as an early 1990s two-door compact, dark in color, possibly a Toyota Camry or Honda Accord. It had manual transmission and a loud exhaust, and sounded like it had a hole in its muffler.

The victim didn't get a clear view of the driver, who is described only as a white male, but the passenger is described as a white male, 25-to 35 years old, a large build and a beer belly. He was unshaven and wearing a dark blue beanie-style cap with an orange stripe. Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Eric Fredgren at 931-5100.

—Glenn Wohltmann

PDA focusing on nightlife

By JEB BING

A downtown advisory group will hold its second meeting next week to further consider how to enhance Pleasanton nighttime vitality. The group of selected Individuals will meet June 3 with representatives of Santa Cruz-based Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) to focus on six areas: community, development, hospitality, entertainment, safety and research. The objective is to make Pleasanton's downtown more of an entertainment destination.

Although nighttime music and dancing have given North Main Street greater nighttime appeal, the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which is sponsoring the discussion meetings, wants the nightlife extended and expanded.

"Pleasanton's downtown has suffered the results of a poor economy just like the rest of us, but the future for downtown is hopeful," said Melanie Sadek, co-owner of Murphy's Paw, a Main Street business. "With new businesses opening and a waiting list for locations on Main Street, downtown is seeing renewed vitality. The next step is to extend this vitality into the evening hours."

Increasing nighttime entertainment opportunities has become a key initiative for the PDA, whose merchant and restaurant members are concerned that they are losing valuable business due to the lack of enough nighttime activities. The focus of the PDA and its advisory committee will be to address how to responsibly increase nighttime vitality in accord with the interests and concerns of those who own businesses, live and work in the downtown area.

Thursday's discussion will focus on issues of concern as nighttime activities increase, including public safety, transportation and neighborhood impacts. ■

BOMBER

Continued from Page 5

bombers on their long missions to drop their payloads of three to four tons of bombs over Germany. That meant they were on their own for much of the flight, and 75 percent of bombers were shot down.

Later, P-51s like the fighter that will accompany the two bombers this weekend started flying with them, and that dropped the casualty rate to 40 percent. During his 35 missions, just one of Hughes' crew was killed and only three were wounded.

Fear was an everyday event, but Hughes said "You just got through it."

In addition to seeing the touring planes and hearing veterans like Hughes, visitors will be able to see some locally based planes and military vehicles, along with historical photos and World War II memorabilia.

The planes will arrive Sunday and will be open for tours between noon and 4 p.m. and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. The



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Flight coordinators (left) Mick Hanau and Kevin Ryan in front of the B-17 "Nine-O-Nine" at a recent flight. The plane is one of three headed to Livermore for Memorial Day weekend.

Singing Blues Stars of the U.S.S. Hornet will perform songs from the 1940s and 1950s from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday.

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Gentlemen, start your engines

Good Guys car show returns to Fairgrounds

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

From Packards to parts, everything automotive will be headed to the Alameda County Fairgrounds next weekend, when the Good Guys Rod and Custom Association presents its 17th annual Summer Get Together.

The event is scheduled for June 5-6, and Good Guys Spokesman John Drummond said there will be some new events, along with the return of an old favorite.

"The Pleasanton Fairgrounds was a hotbed for autocrossing in the 1970s. We're bringing that tradition back," he said. "It's really a hot trend right now. It really adds a lot of motion and excitement to the event."

Autocrossing is a timed performance course testing drivers' skills and cars' limitations.

The Get Together will also feature a concourse exhibit with classic cars from the 1930s and 1940s, larger cars like Packards and Bentleys.

The Northern California Packard Club and the Blackhawk Auto Museum are getting those cars ready now, Drummond said last week.

Quarter racers will be racing, too. Those are one-fourth sized racing machines driven by 5- to 16-



THE GOOD GUYS

Hot Rods and muscle cars of all years, makes and models will fill the Alameda County Fairgrounds during the Good Guys 17th Summer Get-Together.

year-olds, with speeds up to about 30 miles an hour.

Among the old favorites are the car corral, where restored or modified cars will be available for sale — everything from a 1923 Ford to a 2010 Camaro, according to Drummond. He also said the event will feature a swap meet.

"You can't beat a Good Guys swap meet and car corral — they're utopia for gearheads," he said. "You can find everything including door handles for a 1962 Corvair. They're

a treasure hunt."

As many as 2,500 hot rods, custom cars, muscle cars and trucks of all years, makes and models will be on display, and Drummond said there will be kid-style entertainment, too.

"These are family events," he said. "It's great family entertainment and it's affordable."

Cost is \$17; children ages 7-12 are \$6. Tickets are available at the event or online at www.summerget-together.com. ■

BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

two-thirds majority to pass. Measure G last June was defeated although nearly 62 percent voted for the tax, something school officials take as a positive sign.

Grasso said the current plan would put a parcel tax measure on the ballot next spring.

Prices for school lunches across the district will rise by 25 cents for the upcoming year, bringing the cost for elementary school lunches to \$3.25 and secondary school lunch prices to \$3.50. Child Nutrition Services Manager Frank Castro noted it's been three years since the last increase, and that most other districts in the area already charge more.

"We really tightened down the hatches to make this budget work," Castro told the board, which unanimously approved the increase.

Castro said the raise in prices will bring in an additional \$7,000, just enough so that lunches would cover their own costs.

—*Glenn Wohlmann*

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Downtown and Dudley, the final chapter



If you remember "Downtown and Dudley — Parts I and II" you'll remember I submitted a request to the City asking for permission to operate "the Dudley," a restaurant/bar/lounge (food, drink, music, community events, etc.), a 1920 social club if you will on the 2nd floor of the old Odd Fellows building in downtown Pleasanton. I wondered how fast, fair and efficient the approval process was and suggested we follow Dudley as it winds its way through the system. If you remember, Dudley rocketed through the First Stage and had just entered into Stage Two territory, the alternate universe where Big Brother lives, and where time and events do strange things, and that I'd keep you posted.

Well Dudley's dead. Shot down somewhere on its way to Big Brother's house by a squadron of bizarre conditions and fees. **Music...Zap!** No amplified music. Plug in an accordion and Dudley's out of compliance. This alone eliminates most evening entertainment, Sunday afternoon wedding receptions, and darn near any other social gatherings where music might be a part. **Dancing...Zap!** No dancing, period, no matter how small the dance floor and music played. Sounds a lot like "Footloose" to me. **Fees...Zap!** A \$100,000 business fee not all businesses selling food, drink and a place to gather downtown paid.

The message was clear. At some level where it counts Dudley was not thought well of, and attempts to communicate wasn't going well either. For example, Pleasanton Planning Commissioners were invited to tour this unique old 2nd floor with me and not one member responded. But then neither did anyone from Pleasanton Downtown Association. Dudley was dead, crushed in Bizarro World by ego and arrogance.

Although I argue that in the world I live in, Dudley's not the loser. The real losers are downtown and the community itself. Downtown lost a little history, character and self-sustainable vitality, or as the "Secret Society" labels it "critical mass," and the community lost a year around gathering place for music, entertainment and social events.

We believe the concept was sound and the 122 year-old space was born to play the part. But then don't take my word for it, come downtown Wednesday and check out where in 1914 Mary Pickford sat and screened "Rebecca of Sunny Brook Farm." Located above Redcoats Restaurant — St. Mary Street — Downtown Pleasanton — open for inspection and now also "For Lease" — June 2nd — 5 to 8 p.m.

—*Robert W. Byrd*

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

At last, a cemetery to be proud of

Memorial Day services Monday at Pleasanton's Pioneer Cemetery offer all of us a chance to spend a special hour over the three-day holiday weekend remembering the hundreds of veterans buried there as well as the chance to "express our gratitude" (this year's theme) for the uniformed men and women from Pleasanton who are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf. The ceremony, which starts at 11 a.m., is conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237 in cooperation with the city of Pleasanton.

Monday's service also offers the public a chance to spend some time touring the 120-year-old cemetery, which the city purchased in 2007 from the International Order of Oddfellows. It's become quite a different place since the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department invested time and money to cart away litter, repair broken benches and pavement, and spruce up the landscape. Members of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton also have spent time cleaning up and improving the looks of gravesites, including re-aligning monuments, leveling and adding dirt, bringing in surface rocks and generally making the graves more appealing to the public. Most noticeable is the improvement in the landscaping along the entrance to the cemetery on Sunol Boulevard, a marked change for the better to this highly visible gateway on the southwest side of Pleasanton.

This year, also take a look at the 400 new burial sites that have just now been completed to the west and north of the flagpole, where Monday's Memorial Day ceremonies will take place. The new plots will go on sale later this summer with Pleasanton residents who have their names on a reservation list to be offered first choice. Six months later, if gravesites are still available, those outside of Pleasanton will also have a chance to purchase plots. At \$10,198 for a full-burial plot and \$4,277 for a cremains plot, they're market rate in comparison with what other cemeteries charge but far more costly than the \$600-\$1,000 the I.O.O.F. was charging before it went bankrupt. They're also not as pricey as they sound since they're being offered as a two-for-one sale. The larger ones are full-size, double-deck plots, with one individual casket placed in a pre-installed cement vault lower in the ground and the second added on top when needed. The smaller cremains plots work the same. Also, the fee includes full burial services, all administrative costs and promised care and maintenance for at least 25 years.

Not long ago, the old cemetery was so unkempt that the late Mayor Ben Tarver refused to have his son-in-law buried there after he was killed in a Navy plane crash. Thanks to a citizens committee's successful effort to encourage the city to buy and restore the historic site, Pioneer is now one of only a few municipally owned cemeteries that serves as a tribute to those buried there as well as one others can now consider when the need comes. ■

GUEST OPINION

BY FRANK C. BRANDES JR., ROBERT BUTLER, KEN MERCER, ROBERT PHILCOX AND TOM PICO

Pleasanton's former mayors urge you to vote Yes on Measure D

We are taking this unusual step of writing as five former mayors of Pleasanton because we are united in our belief that passage of Measure D is important to our community in so many ways.

Other than our commitment to doing what we each believe is the "best for Pleasanton," we have often held divergent views on development issues, which makes this united appeal something Pleasanton voters should seriously consider. (None of us has a current or future financial interest in the approval of Measure D or the Oak Grove development.)

Join us in voting Yes on Measure D, a once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure that:

1. Pleasanton owns, controls and forever protects nearly 500 acres of open space as a public ridgeline park that also serves as a barrier to future development;
2. Our schools get \$300,000 each year in property tax for operations;
3. The city receives \$1 million in traffic fees and \$200,000 each year in tax revenue;
4. Our schools also receive school fees of \$2 million for facilities; and
5. We limit to 51 the number homes that are possible to build under strict design guidelines.

Oak Grove went through an

extensive public hearing and collaborative approval process and is a well-planned, environmentally sensitive development that provides amenities of great value.

A recent court ruling that Pleasanton's voter-approved housing cap ordinances are pre-empted by State Law makes the passage of Measure D possibly our last chance to protect the oak woodlands in the southeast hills forever as a public park.

Pleasanton's housing cap is no longer valid and the state is now in control of how many housing units we must plan for tomorrow. The city is being forced under

state laws to plan for more homes and no longer can require property owners to reduce the number of residential units allocated to their property. Can an attack on our Urban Growth Boundary be far away?

A Yes vote on Measure D allows Pleasanton, not the state, to be in control over the future development and uses of our southeast woodlands.

Vote Yes on Measure D, Oak Grove, keep local control, and leave a lasting legacy of a beautiful oak woodlands park for future generations to enjoy.

—The authors were mayors of Pleasanton in the following years: Frank C. Brandes Jr. (1979-80, 1985-86); Robert Butler (1982-83); Ken Mercer (1978-79, 1980-81, 1984-85, 1987-92); Robert Philcox (1976-77); and Tom Pico (2000-04).



Robert Butler



Ken Mercer



Frank C. Brandes Jr.



Robert Philcox



Tom Pico

YOUR TURN

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

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

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

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

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LETTERS

Trails mean traffic

Dear Editor,

I would like to encourage Pleasanton residents to vote No on Measure D on June 8. I grew up in the South Bay where a situation like this was going on with "Rancho San Antonio," an area with hiking and jogging trails. We all parked on neighboring streets, until the popularity of this park started to drive the neighboring homeowners crazy with all the traffic. The city had to build a parking lot and public bathrooms and hire rangers to accommodate the growing numbers of runners, bikers and hikers.

We are fortunate to live in an area with many wonderful existing hiking areas. Planning this in a residential neighborhood should not happen. We have already experienced fires in the hills when we first moved here. The area can get very dry during the heat of summer and anything that can spark has the potential to be a disaster reminiscent of the Oakland Hills fire. It was very frightening to watch the helicopters flying overhead trying to put the fires out.

The access to Oak Grove would be the same route that kids travel to grammar school, the Kottinger pool and to their friends' houses. All this additional traffic to Hearst is not a feel-good moment for parents that have grade school kids that travel this route daily. The reason so many of us live in Pleasanton is because it's a great community and a great place to raise our kids. Think about how you would feel if this was happening in your neighborhood. Please vote No on Measure D.

Alice Gregg

Keep open space — Yes on D

Dear Editor,

I am writing regarding Measure D. I am concerned that people have misleadingly been told that voting against Measure D will mean no development in the hills.

If "No on D" wins, it will mean that the city of Pleasanton will lose almost 500 acres of open space AND there will more than likely be more than the 51 houses planned for these hills. The property owners have a right to develop their land, and a new plan will probably mean more houses and less parkland. Measure D is not a choice between building on the hills or not building. Measure D is an opportunity to minimize the number of houses and maximize the open space.

I have been up on the hills of this property and have seen that this plan limits many of the 51 houses to one story and proposes to nest them within the trees, preserving the view from Pleasanton. Please join me in voting Yes on this plan so we can keep the benefits of all this open space for Pleasanton.

Patricia Belding

Opportunity to vote No

Dear Editor,

Beware! Multi-million dollar homes on the Oak Grove ridges

will not be paying their full share of expenses. Here's why:

■ **School Fees:** By law, future homeowners must pay mandatory school impact fees, but they fall short. Operating school fees come from the state on a "per student basis," called ADA for Average Daily Attendance. Schools get the same ADA for all students, and it is not enough. We ask kids to sell wrapping paper, cookie dough, magazines, etc., for more money, but it is not enough. More students mean even more shortfalls for the schools. Vote No on D.

■ **City expenses:** We'll pay for more firemen to keep their homes safe due to the high fire danger region. Plus we need more police, librarians, planners and road repairs. We will need more coaches, fields and pools for kids to play football, baseball, swimming and soccer. The income from their taxes will not begin to cover the total city costs. Vote No on D.

■ **Carbon footprint:** We teach our children to conserve resources, save water, gas and electricity, or just walk. This development is a giant black carbon footprint on our earth. Resources to build and maintain huge mansions are a staggering. Vote No on D.

This development was approved before Pleasanton's ridgeline protection in 2008. Delays were due to legal bullying by the landowner. We fought and won, so now you have the opportunity to vote No on Measure D/Oak Grove.

Karla Brown,
Co-Chair for No on D

Vote No — again

Dear Editor,

Why did Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Vice Mayor Jerry Thorne and Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio fail to follow the obvious will of the people of Pleasanton?

The City Council's approval of Oak Grove in November 2007 instigated both a referendum of their Oak Grove approval and a citizens' initiative to protect the Pleasanton hillsides. The people of Pleasanton voted to approve hillside protection ordinances with the passage of Measures PP and QQ in November 2008. While it is true we did not vote specifically on Oak Grove, we did vote for Measure PP, which prohibits this type of development on ridges.

Pleasanton voters passed PP, and thus clearly stated by virtual proxy that the Oak Grove development was not the type of development we want in Pleasanton. Somehow, the City Council majority determined that voters need to vote No again in order to be heard.

I don't see how the City Council majority could have failed to simply rescind their approval of Oak Grove. But no, the City Council majority decided to give the Taiwanese land speculator one more chance to push through the Oak Grove development.

If you are irritated by having to vote again on an issue that should have been resolved with the passage of PP, or because putting Measure D on the June ballot has cost Pleasanton \$95,000; you don't have to look far for the people to blame! The City Council majority

caused this mess!

Don't be fooled by misleading promises; please vote No on Measure D!

John Carroll

Saw Oak Grove for myself: Vote yes

Dear Editor,

After listening to both sides of Measure D at First Wednesday, I decided to see for myself. Living near by, I hiked up the hill into Kottinger Ranch. What did I notice? you ask. Only about eight cars passed me on my trip. Traffic in the neighborhood is non-existent. I saw many "No on D" signs on the lawns of multi-million dollar homes built on hills. Having seen for myself, I doubt that I would have ever noticed this development had it not been for this multi-year fight. The homes that are built won't be noticed any more than you notice Kottinger Ranch on a daily basis. If they are, most of our eyes won't be sharp enough to make them out.

To my conservative friends, Yes See **LETTERS** on Page 10

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OPINION

LETTERS

Continued from Page 9

on Measure D means property rights are honored. The owners negotiated in good faith and their plans are consistent with the General Plan. To my environmentalist friends, we'll have another vast expanse of open space in perpetuity. To Pleasanton families, a gift to our schools and a new place to walk the dog. Vote Yes on Measure D. Don't trust me? Go see for yourself.

Susan Piekarski

Protect the hillsides

Dear Editor,

The developer/land speculator of the proposed Oak Grove development on our southwest ridge lands has sued the city, sued the petitioners that have given you the opportunity to vote on this project, made large donations to City Council candidates, and continues to make false and misleading statements now leading up to the election on June 8. This developer/land speculator from Taiwan has large land holdings throughout the Tri-Valley and their only interest here is to make as much money as possible. They do not care how the development that they have proposed would affect Pleasanton. Please vote No on D and protect the beautiful hillsides that make Pleasanton so unique.

Tiffany Tarver Nakken

What 'D' means

Dear Editor,

There is ongoing controversy with Proposition D and the ridgelines. Proper investigation will show that new homes built on the site will not interfere with the ridges. A drive up Hearst Drive to the site will prove this. Supporters of Yes on D are giving tours on the property to illustrate the point.

A Yes vote on D means that:

1. The high quality of homes built

there will bring in more taxes to Pleasanton, and go toward maintaining Pleasanton as a wonderful place to live. That will certainly be a positive in keeping and adding to the value of existing homes.

2. A Yes on D will contribute \$2 million to our schools and add another \$300,000 annually to their funding.

3. The provision of 496 acres of open space, with hiking and nature trails provided for posterity makes Yes on D something that is a "no brainer." Why would any thinking person turn this down?

4. Yes on D will protect our beautiful ridgelines, open space and large old oak trees, and will permanently block any future development of the site.

When you vote, think of your future, as well as that of your families and all Pleasanton citizens. Think of Pleasanton, the city we all love and have all worked for over the years! Our family urges you to vote Yes on D.

Florence L. Bras

Yes on public open space

Dear Editor,

Yes on Measure D, Yes on Public Open Space.

No on D claims they are "grassroots," just scraping by to try and beat the large developer. Their grassroots have plenty of "green"! No on D is supported by homeowners living in Grey Eagle and Kottinger Ranch, custom, high-end homes, some estate size. No on D demonizes the Oak Grove land owners for protecting their property rights while presenting the adjacent property owners who have considerable self-interest in opposing this project as somehow being grassroots.

No on D claims the grading required for the Oak Grove roads and 51 home pads is environmentally bad. The last phase of Kottinger Ranch required 25 percent more grading than will take place on the

entire Oak Grove site. Remember Grey Eagle project? The grading for those homes was very substantial, and of course those homes are on top of the "ridges" and highly visible. Double standard?

Please put the issue of ridgeline location to rest by reviewing the map on page 60 of the sample ballot info booklet showing the location of the housing pad sites and the regional trail. The last home pad is 200 feet below the ridgeline, the public trail is on the ridgeline!

Oak Grove will be a lovely neighborhood similar to those adjacent to it. It will secure 496 acres of public open space and trails for all to enjoy and will benefit our city for years to come.

Yes on D, it's good for Pleasanton.

Gerry Brunken

Hikers unite!

Dear Editor,

I sincerely hope that we in Pleasanton do not let this unique opportunity elude us to convert almost 500 acres of what is now private property into Pleasanton's largest and, I'll wager, most beautiful public parkland, replete with hiking trails and beautiful views, accessible to all. I refer, of course, to the Oak Grove property, the subject of Prop D.

I see signs around town, shouting, "Don't mess with our ridges," but these are not our ridges. Not yet. The only way they truly become our ridges — open and accessible to all Pleasanton residents and the public — is if Measure D passes. Otherwise, it remains private property.

I cannot see any such ridges from my home in Birdland, nor can I view them as I drive throughout most of the area north of Main street. Rarely, when I can view the ridges, I am struck with the thought that while looking up there is nice, it would be so much nicer

See LETTERS on Page 11

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— BAYWOOD COURT RESIDENT

LETTERS

Continued from Page 10

to actually access the property, hike the ridges and oak-shaded valleys and hillsides, picnic on and explore the land and enjoy the views. What a splendid opportunity this is!

And besides this beautiful public parkland, we get \$2 million to our schools and another \$1 million to the city? This is as good as it gets.

I will truly mourn the loss of this beautiful and expansive public parkland, for all of us to enjoy, if this measure fails.

Hikers Unite — Vote Yes on D!
Diane Ravnik

Plan needs more work

Dear Editor,

We are voting No on Measure D. As residents of Pleasanton for over 40 years, we have seen many changes take place here, some good, some not so good. But, the best decisions seem to always be the ones supported by the people who live here, not huge, outside money interests. If this development is approved, there would be hillsides dozed away, trees uprooted and destroyed, changes made to our environment, views and community that cannot ever be undone. Please beware, this plan needs so much more work. Join us in voting No on Measure D.

Bonnie and Fred Krichbaum

Bad compromise

Dear Editor,

Please vote No on Measure D and the Oak Grove project. PBS recently aired the Ken Burns' documentary, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." It illustrated the grand struggle to preserve natural beauty without bad compromises. Oak Grove represents a bad compromise. It violates Measure PP, which prevents future ridgeline development and was passed by an overwhelming majority of Pleasanton's voters. The project pre-dates Measure PP and is only on the ballot because three members of City Council with close ties to the developer continue to support it (despite the subsequent passing of PP). Can you imagine if Yosemite National Park was a short trail through the valley exchanged for a 12,000-square-foot mansion atop a flattened Half Dome, after 43 feet were graded off the top? The southeast hills of Pleasanton are indeed on a smaller scale, but just as precious to the city of Pleasanton.

Yes, developments provide funds to the city, but a more environmentally sound project in compliance with Measure PP could have the same economic benefit that is provided by future homeowners (not the developer).

Do not be deceived by the media blitz paid for by the developers (a development conglomerate, not a small Pleasanton family rancher). Please vote No.

Lou Astbury

We can't be bought

Dear Editor,

Oak Grove could have been a sensible development that all Pleasanton could have embraced. Instead a very, very wealthy land speculator/

developer got very, very greedy.

They decided to build huge mansions on top of our beautiful ridgelines to maximize profits. They will need to bulldoze those ridgelines and dump the remains in the valleys below. They will need to cut down countless old standing oak trees.

They submitted a plan that has absolutely no restrictions on energy or water usage. Those 51 mansions will use the energy and power of 250 normal-sized homes.

They sued the city and one of its most concerned citizens, costing us thousands of dollars to defend. The Appeals Court and the California Supreme Court found that they had no basis for that suit. Their motive was to bully us into submission with dollars and high priced lawyers.

Now they are sending out countless mailers using deceptive arguments trying to buy our votes. Their opposition, Save Pleasanton Hills, cannot afford to send out one of those mailers. Instead our volunteers must walk door to door to place our information under your doormat.

Please become informed and tell this greedy developer that the citizens of Pleasanton cannot be bought, tricked or bullied. Vote no Measure D.

Bill Rasnick

'Web of deceit'

Dear Editor,

The Lins have spent over \$1 million in campaign contributions to foist their sprawl developments on us.

How? Because through their local proxies, the Lins, who are Taiwanese land speculators, sued the state to overturn the Political Reform Act's ban on those living overseas from contributing to local ballot measures.

Hong Yao Lin spent a whopping \$440,000 to oppose a Tri-Valley initiative to prevent ridgetop houses and on slopes greater than 20 percent. And prior to that, Lins spent over \$500,000 on ballot measures for Kottinger Hills and massive subdivisions in East Dublin.

To silence the voters, when Pleasanton citizens started an initiative to prevent ridgetop houses and on slopes greater than 25 percent and to referend Oak Grove, Hong Yao Lin spent \$37,841.07 to stop signatures from being gathered with a political committee run by Hosterman's and Cook-Kallio's campaign consultant and Jerry Thorne's treasurer.

Now the developer is bombarding residents with fancy PR-created mailers, letters and telephone calls with false information. They are even trying to fool voters saying the Oak Grove monster mansions are on flat land and not on the ridgetops. Not true! Don't believe the developer's web of deceit.

On June 8, Vote No on Measure D.

Anne Fox

Editor's Note: Anne Fox is a former member of the Planning Commission

Must guide growth

Dear Editor,

Up until last weekend, the only information I heard about Measure D was from the opposing side. This is unfortunate as there are quite a

few positives to Measure D and the pros and cons of this plan need to be considered in the basis of reality.

First off, this land is going to be developed eventually, voting No now will only delay the inevitable. This is the third proposal by the developers and quite generous in several respects in that it guarantees that 496 acres of parkland will be created AND permanently blocks any future development on the land to the southeast.

Opponents to Measure D stand on the motto "Don't Mess with our Ridges." I sympathize completely, but progress is a fact of life and is required for growth and improvement. There is no way to stop growth — what we must do is control and guide it to best suit our needs. This plan protects our ridgeline from future development and creates parkland for all residents to enjoy!

Many current homeowners are complaining that their views will be blocked; well, guess what, when their houses were built they blocked someone else's views!

I recommend that everyone (Yes, No and Undecided voters) schedule an appointment to walk the land and learn how the development plans work with the local environment. When you vote on June 8, be fully informed.

Alyssa Williamson

Loudest applause

Dear Editor,

Republican Harmer's LOUDEST APPLAUSE ("An over-the-shoulder look at Harmer," page 3, May 21) was, like 70 percent of Americans (but not Pleasanton Weekly's sample), for enforcing neglected USA immigration law, like Arizona.

Legally immigrated Mexican-Americans, many of them my patients, also want to stop the queue-jumpers and criminals encouraged by Democrat McNerney, ACORN, census-padders.

Howard Long

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PLEASANTON SALUTES AND REMEMBERS THOSE WHO SERVED

MEMORIAL D



Little train bell dedicated to infantry regiment

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A story in the Sacramento Bee in November 1950 describes the 184th Infantry Regiment's first landing in World War II, at the island of Kiska in the Aleutian Islands.

"Stomachs, already upset by the rough sea, tightened into knots, muscles became taut, beads of cold perspiration trickled down spines, mouths were dry and hands tightly clutching rifles were clammy," reads the yellowing article from 60 years ago.

The men of the 184th Infantry fought their way across the Pacific as part of the 7th Division after they left San Francisco in 1942.

Before shipping out, the National Guard unit from Sacramento was bivouacked in woods next to Fleishhacker Park. Knowing they could go at any time, the GIs often went out at night and tried to sleep during the day. But their

daytime slumber was constantly interrupted by a bell clanging on a children's train in the nearby playground. Even at night, the bell would ring as the wind jostled it. One day the bell disappeared. The soldiers were suspected of having "requisitioned" it but a search of their tents — and the offer of a \$25 reward — yielded nothing.

By the time the 84th Infantry landed for battle on the island of Kiska in August 1943, everyone had forgotten the bell.

"Over the side of the ship they went and into the landing craft," continues the story in the Bee. "Faces were white and drawn as the boats touched the beach — and then, above the din of the Navy's guns and the bombs of the cover aircraft, came the sound of a ringing bell. Someone laughed — the tautness vanished. The tension was broken and the 184th was ashore."

The Japanese had already left that

island, and the regiment's ship headed for the Marshall Islands. In February 1944 they braced for another landing, on Kwajalein. Except this time the enemy forces were waiting and determined to defend their island: The entire outfit was under fire before the men even reached the shore. Again the sound of the ringing bell eased the tension, and men of the 184th said afterward that they felt many lives were saved that day due to their uplifted spirits.

Pfc. Pat Burke, who is buried in Pleasanton's Pioneer Cemetery, is credited with ringing the bell during both landings. He was mortally wounded at Kwajalein but he managed to pass the bell to a comrade, according to the Bee.

Burke's nephew, Victor Lund Jr., and his wife Patsy still have letters written to his mother, Mercedes Burke Lund. She was living on a farm in Pleasanton at the time and raising three children, and had asked for details about her brother's last moments.

"We were pinned down for a few minutes and Pat ran up to give my part of our line a hand," wrote Sgt. R. Fitzgerald. "He jumped into a fox-hole and a sniper was hiding in the tree just above the fox-hole. The Sniper shot Pat, the bullet struck him in the head and he

died without pain. I can assure you that the sniper that killed Pat, lived a few second (sic) more without doing more harm."

The bell continued to ring the 184th Regiment into battle in Okinawa and Leyte, becoming a cherished sound to the soldiers. After the war, the bell was in the possession of Burke's friend, Warrant Officer Glenn Gwinn, and by that time the train at Fleishhacker had acquired a new bell.

When San Francisco Mayor Elmer Robinson heard the story after the war, he saw to it that Gwinn received clear title to the bell. He engraved it in memory of Pat Burke and presented it to the regiment — if it ever goes into battle again, the bell once again will go with it.

Mercedes Lund went to Sacramento for the ceremony in 1950, and son Vic and his then-girlfriend Patsy went, too.

"We were in high school, Amador Valley," recalled Patsy Lund.

Vic Lund was 10 when his Uncle Pat was killed in Kwajalein.

"After he was killed over there one of his friends came by the house and relayed the story of the bell to us for the first time," Lund remembered. "After he was shot, then another one of his friends

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Kwajalein...

MAY 2010



CALIF. NAT'L GUARD PHOTO

Burke (above) carried the bell into the Pacific with the 184th Infantry California National Guard, until he died in Kwajalein on Feb. 4, 1944. The bell was dedicated Dec. 6, 1950, in memory of Burke in a ceremony with his mother, Mercedes Lund of Pleasanton, and Warrant Officer Glenn Gwinn, who brought the bell back to the United States after the war. Left: Vic Lund, 9, stands in his soldier's uniform with his Uncle Pat. The Gary Meyer Memorial Grove at Kottinger Park was dedicated in 1969 to the Pleasanton serviceman killed in action in Vietnam and to all who gave their lives.

up." The family moved to its Pleasanton home near the Fairgrounds in 1939, and his grandmother also moved to Pleasanton and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery near Pat. Vic's brother Larry also has all the clippings about the bell and photos of Pat.

The train operated from 1925 until 1954, carrying children around the San Francisco Zoo until the tracks were removed to make way for Gorilla World. The train reopened after an extensive renovation by railroad enthusiasts.

Lund resides in the museum in the former Guard Armory in Sacramento, another call to duty. Kwajalein, the devastation of the four-day battle killed Pfc. Burke, has regained its lushness and palm trees. It is now part of the U.S. Army and is used to store equipment from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Patsy Lund goes every year to Memorial Day event at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery and keep fresh flowers on their relatives' graves. As they visit their Uncle Pat and mourn his life, at the age of 26, they also smile at the thought of him ringing that little bell with his comrades on

Pleasanton's fallen

What began as a simple idea to gather the names of Pleasanton residents killed in U.S. wars turned into a project that took a year and a half and involved extensive interviews, mining veterans' websites, and accessing monuments in Washington, D.C.

"I didn't want people to forget these guys," said researcher John Pecoraro, quartermaster for Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298.

He compiled his findings into a booklet, "Pleasanton's War Casualties: World War II and Beyond." His research didn't yield anyone earlier.

"My intent was that I give a copy of this to the library and one to the museum downtown to use as a reference," said Pecoraro.

He found the stories of World War II casualties from pioneer people who are still around town. Gloria Stahlnecker, who was active for years with VFW Post 6298 Auxiliary, shared her wealth of memories from the 1940s. The post is named after Ambrose D. Regalia, the first Pleasanton casualty of World War II.

"We lost nine guys in World War II," Pecoraro said, noting that Pleasanton at that time only had a few thousand people. "For a small town that was a lot. We lost a lot in major battles."

The names of those killed in Vietnam are all listed on the Memorial Wall in Washington, which he visited.

"The Vietnam people were more transient," Pecoraro remarked, but he found contacts on the Internet once he had the names. "I got a lot of their stories from platoon sergeants."

Pecoraro's research yielded the names of nine men killed in World War II; one in the Korean War; and seven in Vietnam. Each has a page or two in the book with his photo and information about how he lived and how he died, and in one case letters of condolence sent to his family from President Roosevelt and from the military commander.

"It would be nice if Pleasanton could raise a memorial someday to these guys, a stone or something with the 17 names on it," said Pecoraro. "The important thing is that people know these guys died."

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



Pfc. Gary Paul Meyer

World War II

Pvt. Ambrose D. Regalia
 Tec4 William Joseph Theodore
 2ndLt. James W. McCann
 Sgt. Joseph P. Peters
 SSgt. Joseph P. Amaral
 Cpl. Morris Joseph Bernard
 Pfc. Joseph G. Cardoza
 Pfc. Alfred Cattalini
 Pvt. Robert J. Ashe

Korean War

Cpl. Vernon (Buster) Joseph Church

Vietnam War

Pfc. Gary Paul Meyer
 Sp4 Joseph Mario Cagnacci
 Sgt. Joseph Cloud Jr.
 Cpl. Ronald Allen Beardsley
 Pfc. Abel Joseph De La Paz
 Sp4 Jeffrey Lynn Davis
 Sgt. Richard Dean Covert Jr.

Honoring the dead

Pleasanton's Memorial Day event is scheduled for 11 a.m.-noon Monday at the Pioneer Cemetery, 5780 Sunol Blvd., to include patriotic speeches and a 21-gun salute. Afterward, VFW Ambrose D. Regalia Post 6298 will provide a free lunch of sandwiches and chips at the Veterans Hall, 301 Main St.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Jewelry stolen in two burglaries

Pleasanton police report that tens of thousands of dollars in jewelry were stolen in two separate break-ins.

The first occurred between April 29 and May 3, but was reported May 13. That incident took place in the 5400 block of Northway Road. According to police reports, a gold bracelet valued at \$6,000 was stolen, along with three gold rings: one with an oval diamond valued at \$1,500; another with a diamond, valued at \$2,000; and a third with three small diamonds, valued at \$500.

The second burglary took place May 18 between 10

a.m. and 3:20 p.m. in the 7300 block of Royal Oaks Court. A police report shows two Rolex watches stolen — a women's watch valued at \$11,500 and man's watch worth \$6,500 — along with a platinum wedding set valued at \$7,500; a PS3 video console, worth about \$400; and a number of video games valued at about \$1,250.

The last week, Pleasanton police reported a burglary of jewelry and cash at an apartment in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court. Taken in that burglary was \$8,000 in cash and \$825 in jewelry and coins.

Police in the area have reported a rise in daytime break-in attempts, with people knocking on doors and ringing doorbells to see if homeowners are present. Residents have been asked to watch for suspicious behavior.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted. A complete log was not available.

May 17

Theft

■ 4:20 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; grant theft

Burglary

■ 9:54 p.m. in the 5600 block of Baldwin Way

Prank calls

■ 3:08 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court

Drug/alcohol charges

■ 12:16 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; possession of a controlled substance with another person's

prescription

May 18

Theft

■ 7:45 in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement

Robbery

■ 3:45 p.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road; robbery, false imprisonment

Drug/alcohol charges

■ 6:40 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of a controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia

May 19

Theft

■ 11:12 a.m. in the 5700 block of Sonoma Drive; petty theft

■ 11:58 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

■ 12:10 p.m. in the 7100 block of Johnson Drive; theft, petty theft

■ 1:47 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft

■ 5:07 p.m. in the 200 block of Kottinger Drive; identity theft

■ 7:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; two counts grant theft; identity theft, forgery

Forgery

■ 3 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

■ 5:37 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Indecent exposure

■ 4:23 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol charges

■ 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Mary Street; possession of alcohol in a vehicle by a minor

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Introduction of an ordinance approving sewer rates and amending Municipal Code Section 15.20.180 to place sewer fees in the Master Fee Schedule and adoption of a resolution approving water rates
- Public Hearing: PUD-87-19-03M, Dr. William and Lydia Yee – Consider the application, initial study, and mitigated negative declaration for a major modification to an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow four custom lots, custom lot design guidelines, and off-site construction on an approximately 29.8-acre site located at 4100 Foothill Road. The subject property is zoned PUD – LDR/RDR/OS (Planned Unit Development – Low Density Residential/Rural Density Residential/Open Space)
- Public Hearing: Introduction of an ordinance to renew the Tri-Valley Tourism Business Improvement District

May Tips-Bring on the Heat!

In this May series of weekly tips presented to you by the City of Pleasanton's Committee on Energy and the Environment, we offer some ideas to help you make smart spring choices that contribute to a cleaner environment and sustainable energy future.

As things heat up, take a little extra time to think about how your warm-weather habits impact the environment.

Happy Grilling!

Hey, barbecue fans! Spring is here. If you don't have the grill out yet, you're late. Keeping the oven off in the sweltering heat will help keep your kitchen cool, but make sure you're barbecue is green, too. This year, give your BBQ an environmental tune-up, and you'll be able to grill all summer long with minimal impact on your planet.

Charcoal and briquettes may be your cheapest option when it comes to fuel, but they're also the dirtiest. Every time you fire up the charcoal, you're sending soot and carbon monoxide into the air.

Lump charcoal (made from unprocessed charred wood) is a major contributor to both deforestation and greenhouse gas; briquettes, on the other hand, though generally made from sawdust and wood scraps, can often contain a variety of chemicals from the wood's previous life, sending carcinogenic fumes up to your food and your nostrils.

Environmentally-friendly and healthy options exist. Pick up a bag of coconut shell charcoal, which burns without smoke, odor, or harmful emissions. Or look for charcoal which is free of additives, coal, chemicals, or fillers. It's often made from leftover furniture.

Propane or natural gas are your most environmentally-friendly liquid options. They're not perfect, but they're generally more efficient even than your oven. Solar barbecues are starting to hit the market check one out when you are ready to replace yours.

Finally, just because it's BBQ doesn't mean it has to be meat. Keep up that **low-meat diet**. Skewered veggies (think peppers, zucchini, red onions) with marinated tofu cubes is a great summery option.

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

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

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EVENT **Red, White & Blues** July 7th **Night Fever** BAND

EVENT **Dog Days of Summer** August 4th **Public Eye** BAND

EVENT **Celebrate Pleasanton** SEPT ONE **Finding Stella** BAND

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

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Classes

HEALTHY COOKING CLASSES The class is from 6-9 p.m. June 17 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Emphasizes the use of S.O.U.L. (seasonal, organic, unrefined, and local). Six classes cover heart health, healthy food kids will love, Farmers Market tour, cancer prevention, healthy appetizers, healthy desserts. Instructor: Suzanne Aziz. Cost \$40 resident and \$45 non-resident plus \$12 for supplies. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Clubs

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB (LAVGC) The club will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. June 10 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Ln., Livermore. The meeting will have a "Question and Answer" segment on gardening problems and their solutions. Please note, the next monthly meeting will be Sept. 9 with the location to be determined at a later date. Call 461-1725 or visit www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. For more information, visit www.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

Events

"EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE" Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237 will conduct a Memorial Day service 11 a.m.-noon May 31 at Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery, 5600 Sunol Blvd.

Several speeches and songs are planned for the ceremony, including a welcoming speech by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. The Pleasanton Community Band will perform. The Air Force ROTC Honor Guard will conduct the "21-gun salute." A free lunch of sandwiches and chips will be provided immediately following the ceremony, at the Veterans Hall at 301 Main St.

ALOHA IN PARADISE The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop is having an "Aloha in Paradise" event from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 29 and May 30 at American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Rd. featuring tropical, beach Hawaiian clothing, accessories, home decor and more. Call 462-7374 or email monda.wiseman@cancer.org.

ANTIQUÉ AND COLLECTIBLE STREET FAIRE The semi-annual Pleasanton Downtown Association Antique and Collectible Street Faire is back and will be held from 8-4 p.m. May 30 on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. Admission is free. Visit www.pleasantonantiquefaire.com.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY Celebrate with the families and friends of the teachers and staff of the Pleasanton Unified School District who are receiving 2010 Excellence in Education Awards, from 4-5:30 p.m. June 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. Call 846-3327 or visit www.pleasantonpta.org/Excellence_In_Education.html.

FIRST WEDNESDAY STREET PARTY Music and summer are in the air during downtown's popular event from 6-9 p.m. June 2 in downtown Pleasanton. Cocktail Monkeys are the featured band and will be performing at Round Table Pizza's parking lot. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

HOOK AND LADDER RUN Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation and Wenté Vineyards will be host-

ing the 2nd Hook and Ladder Run starting with the kids fun one-mile run at 6:30 a.m.; kids one-mile run at 9:30 a.m.; and both the 5k and 10k run start at 8 a.m. at Wenté Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. No dogs. No picnicking. Water and refreshments will be provided at the end of the race. Wenté Vineyards will have additional food and wine tasting for purchase. For more information and to register online www.onyourmarkevents.com.

THE GOODGUYS 17TH SUMMER GET TOGETHER CUSTOM CAR SHOW 2,500 hot rods, custom cars, muscle cars and trucks of all makes and models will be on display from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. June 5 and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. June 6 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Plus a hi-speed autocross road course, vendor exhibits, automotive swap meet, cars for sale corral, kids entertainment, arts & crafts and lots more. Cost \$17 general admission and \$6 for children 7-12 years old. Call 838-9876 or visit www.summergettogether.com.

THOMAS COYNE WINERY SPRING OPEN HOUSE Thomas Coyne Winery will release two new wines and will host an open house from noon-5 p.m., Saturday-Monday, May 29-31, at the winery's tasting room, 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. This event will feature "Bottle Your Own Wine." Cost is \$5.50 with your bottle, \$6 with the Winery's bottle. Bring a picnic and enjoy a stunning view. Call 373-6541 or visit www.thomascoynewinery.com.

USS HORNET MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY A Memorial Day ceremony will be held on board the aircraft from 1-2 p.m. May 31 at the former Naval Air Station in Alameda, 707 West Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Veterans of past and present wars will be honored during a special Memorial Day service, followed immediately by a

wreath ceremony. Regular admission price is \$14 for adults, \$12 with Military I.D., and \$6 for children. Free parking. Call 510-521-8448 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

Exhibits

ARTIST GERALD BROMMER The exhibit will be on display from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wed-Sun, May 21-29 and 1-4 p.m. Sunday at The Museum on Main, 603 Main Street. Brommer has had several solo exhibits and has won many major awards nationally. Donation of \$2 is requested. Call 462-2766 or visit curator@museumonmain.org.

SEWARD JOHNSON SCULPTURES IN DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON Pleasanton is hosting an interactive art exhibit by internationally known sculptor J. Seward Johnson at sidewalk locations in downtown Pleasanton through June 30. 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.

Film

THE GREAT WHITE HOPE The movie will start at 7 p.m. June 3 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Film stars James Earl Jones and Jane Alexander and directed by Martin Ritt. Call 931-3405.

Fundraisers

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY NEEDS VOTES TO WIN \$50,000 Valley View Elementary is the only Pleasanton school in the race for a \$50,000 grant from the PEPSI Refresh Project: www.refresheverything.com Voting June 1-30. Support your local school without money! Every email can vote 1X/day every day. Even children can vote! Spread the word

nationwide! Call 510-773-3810 or email jollysox@earthlink.net.

HELP FOR CATHY KENDRICK Barbecue, drinks, drawings, live auction and more starting at 5 p.m. June 5 at 1836 Begonia Ct. Raising money for a liver transplant and all that is to come. Cost \$25. RSVP 580-4661 or visit cchase@vcb-ca.com.

LOCKS OF LOVE DONATION DRIVE The fundraiser is from 12:30-3:30 p.m. June 6 at Image Salon, 6280 West Las Positas Blvd. Locks Of Love Hair Donation drive makes ponytails for cancer patients. Call 484-3650 or visit www.image-salon-spa.com.

THE SURVIVOR The event is from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. June 14 at Ruby Hill Golf Club, 3400 West Ruby Hill Dr. 100 holes of golf in about 10 hours. Two-person speed scramble charity golf tournament. This event benefits both the American Heart Association and CancerCare. Limited to first 26 teams. Cost \$750 per person or \$1500 per team. Call 353-0760 or email kbtain@me.com.

Health

UPDATES IN SCREENING AND MAMMOGRAMS ValleyCare Health System in conjunction with Komen San Francisco Bay Area affiliate is hosting a free breast cancer seminar on screening and mammograms from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 15 at ValleyCare Health System Women's Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Conference Room 240. All registered participants will receive a free lunch. Call 734-3319.

Kids & Teens

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rather than on religion. Meet the families of the Jewish Culture School, from 5-7:30 p.m. June 12 at Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Community's traditional short non-religious havdalah ceremony and pizza dinner. Call 485-1049 or visit www.Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

LIFE SKILLS ART TILE MURAL Youth ages 7 to 17 are invited to create a community Life Skills Art Tile Mural at ClubSport from 1-5 p.m. June 5 at ClubSport, 7090 Johnson Dr. Log on to The First Tee Tri-Valley website at www.thefirstteetrivalley.org for participation forms. It is FREE to the first 300 youth who sign up! Deadline May 30.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT AT THE LIBRARY! Pre-schoolers will have a rollicking time of music, movement and all-out fun with licensed Kindermusik instructor, musician and gymnast Andrea Gaspari from 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 9 at Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. A repeat Bay Area Parents' Choice award-winner, Andrea returns to the library by popular request. For ages, 18 months-4 years. Call 931-3400 ext. 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/.

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.

DOO-WAH RIDERS For over 20 years the Doo-Wah Riders have been riding their own patch of the musical range throughout the west and will perform at 8 p.m., Friday, June 11, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$26-\$36 and \$15 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

On Stage

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM Presented by Livermore School of Dance Ballet Division full-length ballet of Shakespeare's comedic tale will be at 7 p.m. June 5 and at 2 p.m. June 6 at Livermore High Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Cost \$12. Call 245-9322 or visit www.livermoredance.com.

FOOTLOOSE Livermore School of Dance Jazz and Tap divisions show will have music and dance styles for everyone at 7 p.m. June 4 and 2 p.m. June 5 at Livermore High Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets \$12. Call 245-9322 or visit lsodjazz@yahoo.com

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents "The Heidi Chronicles" at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays June 6 through June 27, at the TVRT Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Ln., Ste 309. Published in 1989, "The Heidi Chronicles" received the Pulitzer Prize for drama as well as the Antoinette Perry (Tony) and New York Drama Critics' Circle awards for best play. Cost \$20-\$25 for adults \$20 for children. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

Seniors

DAY TRIPPERS — MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM The trip is from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. June 17 leaving from the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Visit the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. Explore the Outer Bay, Otter, Sea Horse and Penguin exhibits. Lunch on your own in downtown Monterey. Chartered motor coach transportation. Cost \$70 resident and \$75 non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

PETER PAN IN SAN FRANCISCO SENIOR TRIP The excursion departs the Pleasanton Senior Center at 10:30 a.m., arriving back at 6 p.m. June 9. First stop will be at Westfield Center where you can shop and enjoy lunch on your own. Then on to the Threesixty Theater to enjoy Peter Pan. Cost is \$88 and includes the bus ride and the performance. Call the travel desk at 931-5370 or Joanne Kelly at 224-9888. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

TOUR COLUMBIA Pleasanton VIP Travel will host a trip to tour Columbia State Park, National Hotel and Railroad on Saturday, June 19. Bus will depart at 7 a.m. and drop off at 8 p.m., at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$78 for VIP members; \$79 for non-members. To register, call 931-5365 or sign-up at the travel desk inside the Senior Center.

For a complete list of East Bay events check out Community Calendar at PleasantonWeekly.com

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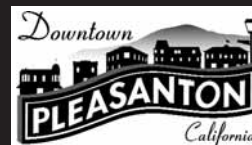
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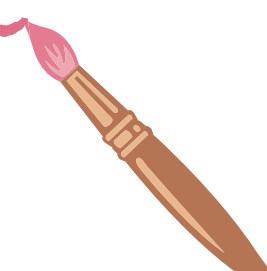


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Say bonjour! to Florence de Bretagne



Colorful balloons and lollipops and circles a-swirl

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

If you're walking down Main Street next Saturday, the colors blooming inside Studio 7 may reach out and grab you. Don't resist.

Contemporary artist Florence de Bretagne will make her debut at Studio 7 Fine Arts on June 5 with her imaginative creations. They are bursting with brilliant colors and circles, often lollipop-like trees or perhaps balloons.

"I really like this shape," de Bretagne said. "I'm a bit obsessive. It has been like a signature."

Not only will de Bretagne be on hand to show and to talk about her work, she will be painting.

"The light here is excellent," she noted when visiting the gallery last week. "I will come with a painting already started and try to finish it by the end of the day."

This is a departure from her usual work habits in her atelier, the converted garage at her home in Palo Alto.

"I like to be really alone, super-focused," she said.

But Studio 7 owner Dirk Christiansen suggested she let people see her at work.

"I thought, 'Why not?' Surprises always come as an artist. It will be an interesting experience for me," said de Bretagne. "Painting is really very dirty — I wear very dirty clothes and sometimes have paint in my hair."

"Most of the time I have music on while I work," she added. "I'm inspired by jazz."

She usually does her paintings on the floor, she said.

"Sometimes I have a vision and it works very well," she explained. "Most of the time I don't know what I'm going to do."

As a painting goes into different directions, it can take years to complete, she remarked.

The results are whimsical paintings bursting with color and character.

"The meanings are really spontaneous — it comes from my heart," she said.

De Bretagne moved to the United States four years ago from her native Paris. She said she is impressed by the optimism of Americans and feels that her paintings done here reflect this.

"I begged my husband to come here," she recalled. Thibaut de Bretagne works for Cisco.

"I like the atmosphere here," she said. "People are positive, and optimistic that if they have ideas they will come through."

She mentioned that a painting she began in Paris took on brighter colors as she worked on it in the United States.

"I use very bright colors," she said. "I buy my own powder and create my own colors."

She paints in acrylic and often adds oil on top. Last year she began to add text around the edge of her paintings, to give them more meaning.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

At Studio 7 Fine Arts Gallery, contemporary artist Florence de Bretagne explains her large painting, which depicts her family's country home and other images from her life. "It tells my own story, with gardens and trees," she said.

"They are mostly in French but one began in French and finished in English," she said.

De Bretagne did one exhibition with all small painting that could be creatively grouped and combined as her patrons preferred.

"One person bought 16," she recalled.

Her work has been exhibited recently at the SFMOMA Artists Gallery at Fort Mason and galleries on the peninsula and in Los Gatos.

De Bretagne, who was born in Paris in 1972, first approached art as a hobby, attended business college and earned a law degree. But when a bad back kept her out of the workplace for 18 months, she spent her time painting and also read Rainer Maria Rilke's "Letters to a Young Poet," which inspired her to embrace her inner artist. She passed an examination for the National School for Decorative Arts in Paris, where she studied painting and photography.

She said she mostly paints these days but her photographs can also be seen on her website, www.florencedebretagne.com. She has photos from the landfill in Palo Alto as well as the industrial junkyards of San Francisco: Where others see ugliness, she can see beauty.

"I try to think outside the box," she said.

When she began to paint professionally, the circles kept reappearing. She painted a mural of huge lollipop flowers on the bedroom wall of her daughter, Zoe, who is now 9. Her son Dominic is 5. Her afternoons are sometimes spent doing art projects with her children, such as fun collages with everyday objects.

Children are welcome to the demonstration at Studio 7, said de Bretagne, who remarked that she always loves to see the work of children. Christiansen said he will have paper and crayons for young ones to produce their own images as they are inspired.

"The wonderfully fun and unpredictable visual scenes created by Florence de Bretagne paintings create a very special display opportunity for Studio 7 Fine Arts," said Christiansen, who noted that her paintings "both inspire and redefine a room."

Studio 7, located on Main Street and Angela, will have French music playing during her appearance, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and will serve French coffee. Guests will be welcomed with a big red balloon and the brilliant colors and works of Florence de Bretagne — as well as the artist herself. ■

POETIC PLEASANTON



BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Remembering Dad with poetry

Ah, June. The end of school and start of summer. The time to say "Thank You" and "Good Luck" to our Teen Poets Laureate, Vivienne Chen and Nick Quan, who are graduating from Amador Valley High School and Foothill. Vivienne will be attending Princeton, and Nick may attend Cabrillo College.

June is also the time to think about fathers.

My Father was Not a Poet

You could say my father was not a poet.

*A wallpaper-seller and baseball-watcher,
my father pattered in the backyard
and constructed things, like a fountain.*

*Other fathers built custom homes
with libraries and coffee table books,
decorated their yards in magazine good taste.*

*Who but a poet would name
the humble spit of land with homemade
water feature his "Fontainebleau?"*

*I never saw him near a book of verse
or heard him recite a poem aloud.
When he spoke, he mostly told jokes.*

*But he knew all about words,
especially the Yiddish words of his native tongue*

carried from Russia by his immigrant parents.

*He taught me those words,
how their sounds
carry more meaning than any dictionary.*

My father was always busy working in his store or in the yard. Though he couldn't take us to his parent's homeland, he taught us about their culture through the elements of language.

Coming soon: Poetry Rocks in Many Languages

At our "Poetry Rocks in Many Languages" program from 2-4 p.m. June 6, you can experience the pleasure of hearing poetry in other languages. Liz Fortini of Pleasanton will host this session, which features accomplished Northern California poets reading in English and Western European languages. Fortini will read her poems in English and Italian. Jabez Churchill of Ukiah will read his poems in Spanish and English. Dublin Poet Laureate Ronnie Holland will read in French and English.

At the Open Mic afterward, we welcome everyone — especially students — to read an original poem, up to 40 lines in length in another language with translation.

Century House is located at 2401 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton. Cost is \$5; students are free with ID.

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's Poet Laureate. Email her at pleasantonpoetry@gmail.com.

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TAKE US ALONG



Wading with the Weekly: Greg and Tammy Creighton catch up on hometown news while enjoying the water at Roaton, Bay Islands, Honduras, during Christmas vacation 2008.

When it rains, there are falls: John Deus poses with his Weekly at Murietta Falls in the Ohlone Wilderness in February 2009 after a heavy rainfall. The hike is 13 miles roundtrip, he noted, and Murietta is the longest waterfall in the Bay Area.



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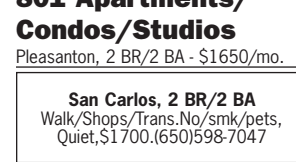
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825 Homes/Condos for Sale

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

Dublin, 4 BR/3 BA - \$819,000

Livermore, 5+ BR/4+ BA - 2,195,000

850 Acreage/Lots/ Storage

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Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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PET OF THE WEEK

Looking for a Lab lover

Meet Ruger, a young adult male black Labrador with sparkling eyes. Ruger is probably less than 2 years old, and he is a big, friendly boy. Ruger sits for treats and he is always happy to go for a walk. He must be neutered prior to settling into a new home, and Ruger would love to continue with basic obedience training. He is such a handsome dog! Come and see him for yourself. Visit Ruger (No. 93464) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily; telephone 803-7040. The animal shelter will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day holiday.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

Youth pastor Geoff Haskell loses fight with cancer

Fundraiser helped Haskell family enjoy one last trip to Disneyland

Geoffrey Edward Haskell, 35, died Friday in his Pleasanton home, surrounded by his family, after a 10-month fight against colon cancer. He was well-known in town as a youth pastor at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church and an assistant varsity baseball coach at Foothill High School.

In February the Pleasanton Weekly helped publicize a community effort to send his young family on its first trip to Disneyland. His cancer had just spread to his liver, and his friends wanted to give them a trip to the Magic Kingdom before he began an intensive round of chemotherapy.

Mr. Haskell was born Sept. 27, 1974, in Berkeley. After spending five years in New Jersey and Orange County, the Haskell family settled in Moraga. A gifted athlete, Mr. Haskell spent his formative years playing baseball and soccer, and swimming in the ocean and his grandparent's pool. He attended Campolindo High School where he met his future wife, Kendra Carey, during their sophomore year. He excelled in school and played varsity baseball for the Cougars. He also became active in the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

He attended the University of Arizona, where he enjoyed hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. He also mentored high school students through the Young Life organization. In 1996, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

He returned to the Bay Area where he and Kendra married Aug. 11, 1996. Mr. Haskell soon went to



Geoff Haskell and his family — son Matt, daughters Kate and Emily, and wife Kendra — enjoy a last family trip to Disneyland that was a gift from the community.

work in the youth ministry at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. He led many trips to Mexico to build houses for underprivileged families. He attended Fuller Seminary and graduated with a Masters of Divinity in 2003. After graduation, he and the family moved to Plano, Texas, where he served as a youth pastor.

After two years, the family returned to the Bay Area and Mr. Haskell became the pastor to youth and their families at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church. He also became a volunteer chaplain with the Pleasanton Police Department and an assistant baseball coach at Foothill High School, where his wife Kendra is a tennis coach.

He left Centerpointe Presbyterian

Church in January 2009 to begin a career in medical supply sales and was in that job less than six months when he was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer.

Mr. Haskell is survived by wife Kendra; daughters Kate and Emily and son Matt; mother and step-father Ellen and Bill Sardella and father Greg Haskell; brother Scott Haskell; in-laws Chuck and Linda Carey; and brother-in-laws Chris and Kevin Carey. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 5, at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore. The family notes that the celebration will be appropriate for children to attend. ■

Mary Kathleen Capitani (Connors)

Mary Kathleen Capitani died at her home in Sunol with her family at her side on May 22, at the age of 62.

She was born Nov. 3, 1947, in Vancouver B.C., Canada. She and her family moved to California in 1952. She graduated from Logan High School in 1965 and from San Jose State with a degree in French and Spanish. She taught the languages she loved for 26 years. She retired from Foothill High School last year and truly missed teaching. She was a remarkable wife, mother, and grandmother, who always put her family first.

Mrs. Capitani was predeceased by her parents Mary and Stanley Connors. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, John; daughter Christine and son-in-law Brandon Buckley of Pleasanton; son Tom of San Jose; daughter Libby of Alameda; three grandchildren,

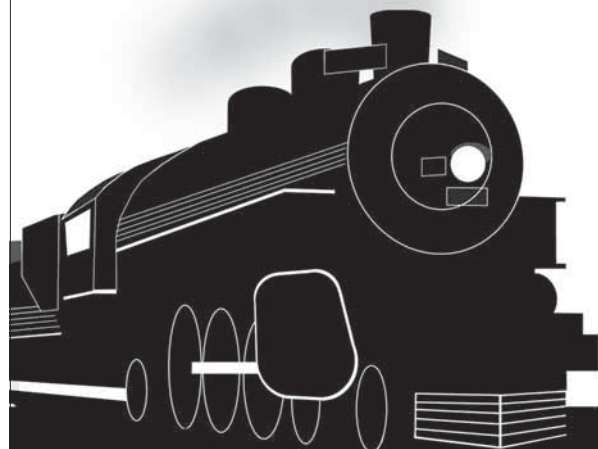
Charlie, Maggie and Katherine Rose; brother and sister-in-law Don and Diane Connors; mother-in-law Peggy Capitani; brother-in-law Larry Capitani; her sister-in-law Sandy Capitani; three nieces and one nephew. She is also survived by a large extended family in British Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, donations can

be made to "The Kathy Capitani Memorial Scholarship Fund" at Wells Fargo account No. 8379317830 or to a charity of choice. A Memorial Service will be held at noon May 29 at St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton; reception to follow at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.



Steam Train Adventure for the Whole Family



This Memorial Day weekend, grab your family and friends and come out for a journey behind a vintage steam locomotive chugging 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 Monday, it's a great excuse to start a new family tradition.

For more details or to purchase tickets visit ggrm.org. Save 15% on your tickets by using discount code **B410**.

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

Golden Gate Railroad Museum

Services, equipment and offers are subject to change without notice. Complete details available at ggrm.org. This event is made possible through a partnership between the Golden Gate Railroad Museum and the Pacific Locomotive Association to continue to restore historic railway equipment and right-of-way for today's and tomorrow's generations.

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Perfect Starter Home!
 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths, approx. 1,619 sq.ft. Pride of ownership here, Approx 80,000 in recent upgrades include Alder wood cabinetry with cherry finish, new appliances, granite slab countertops, vaulted ceilings, plantation shutters
 Offered at \$639,000

993 Madeira Drive Pleasanton

Beautiful 4 bedroom 3 bath home in Vintage Hills, Maple cabinetry, granite slab countertops, newer windows, new carpet, new paint inside and out. Large lot with Pool and basketball court.
 Offered at \$735,000

Vintage Hills

PENDING

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

2515 SKIMMER CT., PLEASANTON, \$759,000



This gorgeous home in Birdland consists of 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths and is approximately 2,150 square feet of living space. The home has a 3 car garage plus side yard access. The fabulous floor plan has a sunny open kitchen with breakfast nook that opens to the family room. Upgrades include hardwood floors in entry and kitchen, granite counter tops and dual paned windows. Sold by Emily Barraclough of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 621-4097

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Pleasanton		5 BEDROOMS	
3 BEDROOMS	1012 Bartlett Place	\$1,100,000	
4042 Suffolk Way	\$749,950	Sun 1-4	Pat Burns 846-4982
Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones	398-6706		
7823 La Quinta Court	\$925,000	5029 Hummingbird Road	\$799,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA	519-1455	Sat 1-4	Alain Pinel Realtors 895-9950

Prudential California Realty

Press Release

Pleasanton, CA

Gina Piper Recognized for Outstanding Results in 2009

All members of the Prudential California Realty Pleasanton / Hopyard office gathered recently to celebrate a very successful 2009. During this meeting, Gina Piper was awarded multiple awards for her business excellence last year. **Gina was acknowledged as the Top Office Producer, Top Listing Agent, and the Rock Star for 2009.** She has over 15 years of experience in the Tri-Valley as a REALTOR® and she is widely respected for the quality of her work and for the high level of professionalism she exhibits in all that she does for her clients. Gina also gives freely of her time to help other agents in the Hopyard office and she is always at or near the top of office production year after year.

Once again, the entire team at Prudential California Realty Pleasanton / Hopyard wants to congratulate Gina on an incredible year. We know it will be just one of many to follow.

Contact Gina at (925) 462-9175 or via e-mail at Gina@GinaPiper.com

PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY - PLEASANTON HOPYARD
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Happy Memorial Day...

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."
 -Joseph Campbell

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- Orinda**
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Orinda, CA 94563
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PRICE REDUCED! **\$1,349,000**
 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



LIVERMORE
1248 DEEP CREEK
GREAT HOME! **\$675,000**
 3 BR 3 BA 1 stry aprx. 1858 sf,kit w/SS appli,granite countrs/islnd,crown molding,fully landscaped
 925.847.2200



NEWARK
36336 LA SALLE
GREAT FLOORPLAN **\$415,000**
 3 BR 2BA, 2 car gar, new carpet/paint, great kit/fireplace in fam rm, landscaped bckyard, floorplan. 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

5143 S FORESDALE CIRCLE
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED **\$740,000**
 5 BR 3 BA large bedrooms,w/additional loft/play area,hrdwd flrs,granite counters,great location
 925.847.2200

PENDING **8034 IGLESIA DRIVE**
WALK TO DOLAN PARK **\$709,000**
 4 BR 2.5 BA Vaulted Ceilings,Rem Kit,Mstr w/Views. Updtd Bths,Prk-Like Bckryd www.RomarProperties. net 925.847.2200

7432 OXFORD CIR
VERY LIGHT & BRIGHT! **\$407,900**
 2 BR 2.5 BA hrdwd flrs down stairs,wshr,dryer,frige all stay,2 master beds/1 w/sitting area,gr8 loc
 925.847.2200

PENDING 3704 FINNIAN WAY

HIGHLY UPGRADED CONDO! **\$359,900**
 2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs,updtd kit w/chrry cabs,granite slab countrs/bcksplsh,cntr islnd,minimal stairs 925.847.2200

FREMONT

4249 NERISSA CIRCLE
GREAT FLOOR PLAN **\$550,000**
 3 BR 2 BA 1 Stry/Vaulted Ceilings, Bck Yrd/no rear neighbors,Updtd Bths,cls to Shppng,Dining,Schl/Prk
 925.847.2200

5123 SHALIMAR CIRCLE
CHARMING TOWNHOUSE **\$405,000**
 2 BR 2.5 BA bamboo flrg thruout,upgrdtd kit cabs/cntr tps,mstr bth/built in dining bar,nice treks deck
 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

6056 CLIMBING ROSE COMMON
GORGEOUS UPGRADED HOME! **\$445,000**
 3 BR 2.5 BA + upstairs loft,kitchen w/tile countrs,SS appli,hrdwd flrs in kit/fam/dining,1/2 bth down 925.847.2200

21800 MINES RD
COUNTRY LIVING **\$325,000**
 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

6975 JOHNSTON ROAD
PICTURESQUE VIEWS! **CALL FOR PRICE**
 4 BR 3 BA 19+ acres,living w/stone/travertine frplc,9 stall barn covered indoor arena & MUCH more! 925.847.2200

7467 ASTER COURT

PRISTINE HOME **\$670,000**
 3 BR 2.5 BA French doors open to deck leading to backyard!Lrg mstr suite w/walk-in closet, great views 925.847.2200

3655 VINEYARD
WALK TO DOWNTOWN **\$475,000**
 2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs,dual pane windows,master w/sep blocked glss shwr,walk-in clst,patio/cvered deck 925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54
GREAT LOCATION! **\$19,900**
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 925.847.2200

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7971 Foothill Knolls Pleasanton

Perfect for Summer entertaining, this 3,900 square foot westside Pleasanton Home sits on a beautiful 29,000 square foot lot with spectacular views and an amazing setting. Beautiful Pool with fountains, Large pool deck with safety Gate, and Trex deck, add to the ambiance and versatility of this spacious yard. The Home is meticulously maintained and features: 4 Spacious Bedrooms, Plus a VERY large Bonus Room, (1 bedroom and full bath are downstairs) 3 Full Baths, Large Formal Living room & dining room with vaulted ceilings, 2 wood burning fireplaces, 3 car garage and so much more. Coming Soon and **Priced to sell in the mid-\$1,000,000's**

coming soon

Designer upgraded first floor 2 Bedroom, 2 bath ground floor Condo with No stairs and fabulous serene, private setting. This Spacious 1100 square foot condo features an oversized deck backing to a private and quiet hillside setting.



Designer paint, 2 spacious bedrooms, 2 Full baths, large & open kitchen-living room set up, oversized deck, 1 car garage and 1 assigned parking space, Inside Full Sized washer and dryer, and So Much More! **Priced to sell in the mid - \$300,000's**



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PLEASANTON HEIGHTS



4262 TAMUR COURT, PLEASANTON

Walk to downtown from your custom home. Great location at back of court and adjacent to Kottinger Park. Don't miss the large park-like private rear yard with in-ground pool, expansive decking, mature trees and beautiful landscaping. Approximately .27 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Everything is on one level, except downstairs bonus or guest suite. Four bedrooms, three baths at 2,524 square feet. Three car garage. Optional sauna. Walk to elementary school(s). **OFFERED AT \$879,500**

CHATEAU COUNTRY ESTATES



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 \$1,995,000**

DIAMOND COLLECTION



COMING SOON

749 CRYSTAL LANE, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this beautiful home in the desirable Diamond Collection. Five bedrooms, 5th is office/guest suite downstairs, three bathrooms, updated kitchen with new granite countertops, custom tumbled marble backsplash & stainless steel appliances. Expansive master suite with retreat & viewing balcony, new carpet throughout, three fireplaces & three car garage. Approximately 3,000 square feet. Private rear yard with in-ground pool/spa & lawn area. Lot size is 8,230. Located on quiet street. Walk to great neighborhood park and Main Street downtown Pleasanton! **OFFERED AT \$1,195,000**

PONDEROSA VINEYARDS

PENDING



6259 CORTE FUEGO, PLEASANTON

Beautiful upgraded home in a quiet court location in Ponderosa. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms and upgraded kitchen with granite countertops. Approximately 2,400 square feet. New paint. New carpet throughout. Wood flooring, crown molding, travertine entry and hall and wood burning fireplace. Lot size is 8,822 square feet and includes upgraded landscaping, beautiful rear yard with spacious new custom stamped concrete patio, mature trees and spacious lawn area. Walk to great neighborhood parks. **OFFERED AT \$849,500**

CASTLEWOOD

PENDING



480 BUNKER LANE, PLEASANTON

Beautiful upgraded private estate on .73 acre lot, built in 2000. Panoramic views of surrounding hills. Four bedrooms, bonus/game room, 3.5 bathrooms, approximately 3,606 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Private office with custom cherry built-ins. Beautifully landscaped. Viewing balcony. Expansive very private rear grounds ideal for entertaining. Includes: pebble tec solar heated in-ground pool & elevated spa, covered cabana with built in BBQ, bathroom & heater. Bocce court, play area, oversized three car garage. **OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

PLEASANTON HILLS



5071 MONACO DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Beautiful upgraded Harrington Model in Pleasanton Hills. Panoramic views of Mount Diablo, the valley and Pleasanton Ridge. Four bedrooms (one downstairs), three bathrooms, upgraded kitchen, crown molding, plantation shutters, upgraded doors and casings, newer dual pane windows and three car garage. Expandable option for fifth bedroom. Approximately 3,000 square feet. Lot size is 8,158 square feet with upgraded landscaping. Located on quiet street. Just steps to great neighborhood parks and Main Street Downtown Pleasanton! **OFFERED AT \$999,500**

BRIDLE CREEK

SOLD



806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON

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

THE PRESERVE

SOLD



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 HILLS

SOLD



4848 DOLORES DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Beautiful upgraded Pleasanton Hills home. Four bedrooms, plus office/nursery/workout room, three bathrooms and upgraded kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Approximately 2,710 square feet. Lot size is 10,269 square feet with upgraded landscaping. Located on quiet street with private rear yard. New carpet throughout, new interior paint. Two fireplaces. Three car garage. **SOLD FOR \$950,000**

