

Pleasanton Weekly

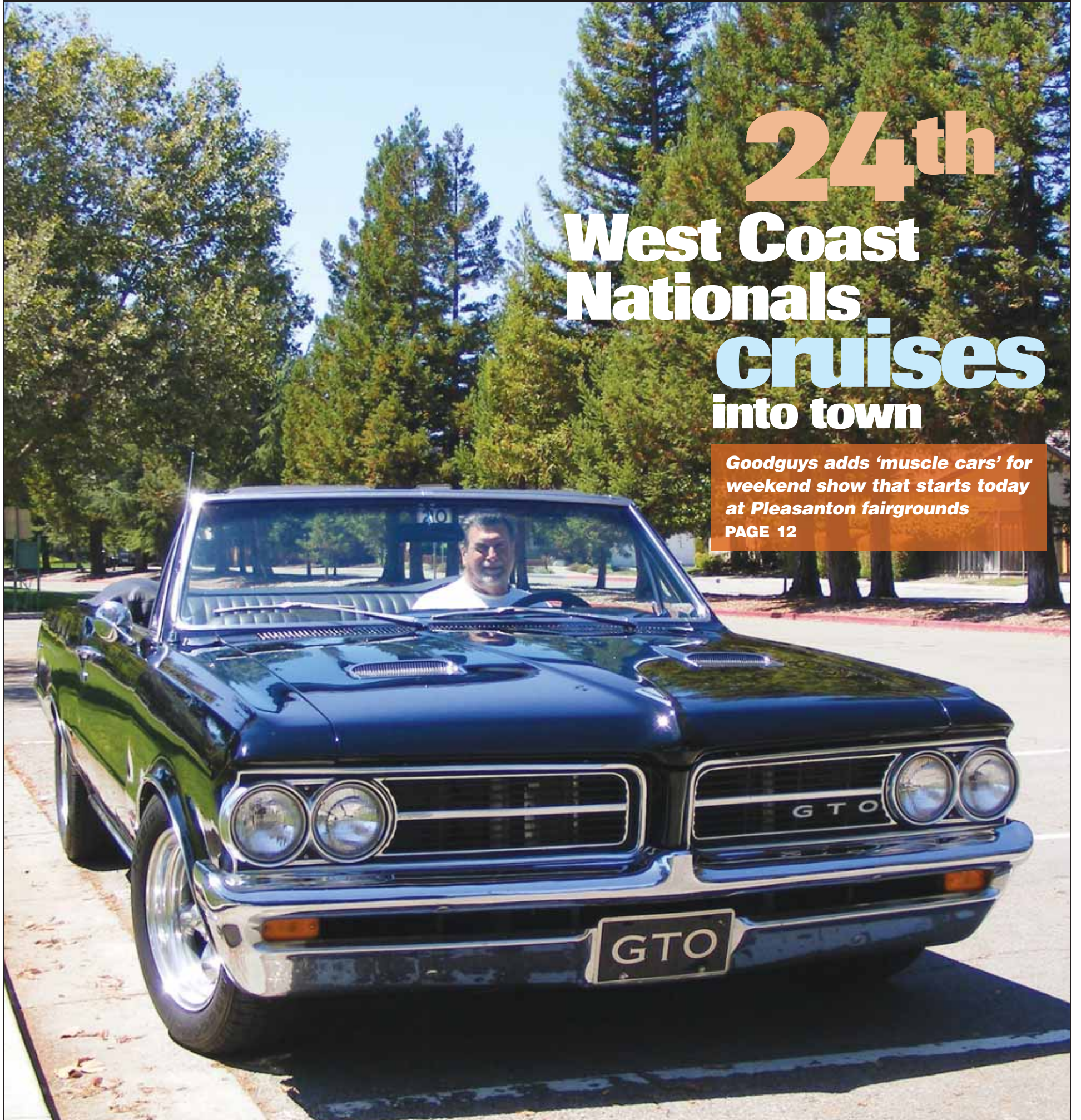
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*Goodguys adds 'muscle cars' for
weekend show that starts today
at Pleasanton fairgrounds*
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Amador Theater staying open

Facebook fans are in a tizzy over reports that Pleasanton's much-treasured Amador Theater will close or somehow take a long hiatus when the city's new Firehouse Arts Center opens next month. That's not true. City Manager Nelson Fialho said Wednesday that the Amador Theater, which seats more than 600 patrons, will remain a viable part of the Pleasanton performing arts facilities although there will be a push to book small productions at the new Firehouse, which seats 230. And with good reason. Fialho and the City Council, with grassroots support from the Cultural Arts Foundation, authorized the expenditure of \$8 million from the city capital improvement fund to build the downtown arts center and theater. The foundation raised \$2 million and is expected to contribute another \$100,000 at a council meeting next month. There was hope that the foundation would raise more, much more, enough in public donations to establish an endowment that would pay for ongoing programs, services and equipment once the Firehouse opens. But except for selling individual bricks at \$100 and \$150 and \$500 seats in the theater, contributions have dwindled. After a festive opening day Sept. 17, it's likely that the foundation and its hard-working, personable director Debbie Look will be out of business with any unspent funds to be turned over to the Cultural Arts Council.

The Cultural Arts Council provided the impetus for converting the old Railroad Avenue Fire Station No. 4 and the city fire department's headquarters into the majestic downtown arts center and theater that's nearly completed today. After the fire departments in Pleasanton and Livermore were merged with a new headquarters building constructed on Nevada Street and Bernal Avenue, it was decided to also build a new fire station on Bernal near the fairgrounds, which Station 4 served. For a time, plans called for bulldozing the old firehouse and selling the bricks. At the same time, the arts community was clamoring for a place to exhibit their works, hold art classes and store their materials. Why not convert the old brick firehouse into an arts center and build a state-of-the-art performing arts center at that location? With plenty of enthusiasm and volunteers, the arts council sought city support, first for \$4 million, then \$6 million and then more. In the end, just before the

project went out for bids, construction costs were estimated as high as \$12 million. Fortunately for the city, but not for the construction industry, the economic downturn brought in bids as low as \$8 million with another \$2 million added for "extras," such as solar panels and British-made artwork.

At no time was it ever contemplated that the Amador Theater would close. Many of Amador's productions require large sets, a large stage, frequent changes of scenery and more seats than the Firehouse can hold. For the winter and holiday classics that the city schedules, the competition comes from the even larger and technically superior Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Most of the performances planned at the Firehouse would be too small for Amador and the number of patrons too few for a professional appeal. Those kinds of smaller productions need smaller, almost black-box type theaters, which makes the Firehouse a perfect match and really without competition in its bookings. It also requires more performances to pay the bills, which is why the city has moved Bob Vogt to the Firehouse as its full-time director. Tickets for all performances, including upcoming shows at Amador Theater, will be sold out of the Firehouse box office, although Amador's will open when it has performances.

Just as the arts community and downtown merchants are lavishing their praise on the Firehouse, which is only a short walk to Main Street restaurants and stores, Fialho and the scores of admirers on Facebook haven't forgotten the Amador. It has served as the city's principal performing arts facility for more than 60 years. It was constructed in the late 1930s as part of the Amador Valley High School campus and has hosted innumerable school plays, concerts, lectures, assemblies and graduations. Over the years, it received a facelift and then in 1981, needing more repairs, the theater underwent a major overhaul. The Cultural Arts Council at that time spearheaded a fundraising drive, raising \$800,000 in cash and in-kind materials, with the renovation completed in 1989 and the city government paying the rest of the \$1.2 million needed in total funding.

As part of its agreement in taking ownership of the Amador Theater from the school district, the city allots 60 days a year for school performances and other uses. As performing arts productions seek reasonably-priced facilities in a market where the larger theaters have significantly raised their rents, the Amador Theater expects a busy and growing season even as the public's attention focuses in the coming weeks on the new Firehouse Arts Center. ■

About the Cover

Don Micale can be seen cruising Pleasanton with the top down on his 1964 Pontiac GTO from early spring to late fall — plus they will be at the Goodguys show this weekend. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann.



SHOP, DINE AND EXPERIENCE WHY THESE MERCHANTS WERE VOTED #1

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Berry Patch 350 Main Street, Ste. A, Pleasanton, 846-0155	Best Place to Buy a Gift
Blue Agave Club 625 Main Street, Pleasanton, 417-1224	Best Main Street Restaurant, Best Atmosphere, Best Outdoor Dining, Best Place to Have a First Date, Best Margarita
Body in Balance 4133 Mohr Avenue, Ste. E, Pleasanton, 417-8800	Best Acupuncture
Callippe Preserve Golf Course 8500 Clubhouse Drive, Pleasanton, 426-6666	Best Golf Course
Cardinal Jewelers 3003 Hopyard Road, Ste. B, Pleasanton, 416-1111	Best Jewelry Store
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Diablo Flooring 5600 Sunol Blvd., Ste. D, Pleasanton, 426-7847	Best Flooring Store
Eddie Papa's 4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266	Best American Food Restaurant, Best Meal Under \$20
Gay 90's Pizza & Pasta 288 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-2520	Best Pizza
Glover's Deep Steam 2843 Hopyard Rd., Ste. 190, Pleasanton, 462-4262	Best Carpet Cleaners
Haps Original Steakhouse 122 West Neal Street, Pleasanton, 600-9200	Best Steakhouse
Healthy Necessity Massage 610 Main Street, Ste. E, Pleasanton, 413-2629	Best Massage
The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill 3015 Hopyard Road, Ste. H, Pleasanton, 426-9600	Best Place for an After Work Drink, Best French Fries
Jazz N Taps 1270 Quarry Lane, Pleasanton, 484-0678	Best Place for Dance Lessons
Jue's Tae Kwon Do 5460 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 8, Pleasanton, 484-0308	Best Martial Arts Studio
Keller Williams 459 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-4663	Best Real Estate Office
Landmark Mortgage Group 6800 Koll Center Pkwy, Ste. 100, Pleasanton, 600-2000	Best Mortgage Company
Mary Lou Edwards 5199 Johnson Drive, Ste. 110, Pleasanton, 285-5333	Best Mortgage Professional
MD Spa 531 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-2772	Best Medical Spa
Meadowlark Dairy 57 West Neal Street, Pleasanton, 846-2261	Best Ice Cream / Yogurt Shop
Pleasanton Hand Car Wash 4005 Pimlico Drive, Pleasanton, 225-1777	Best Car Wash
Pleasanton Downtown Association (Concerts in the Park) 830 Main Street, Ste. A, Pleasanton, 484-2199	Best Place for a Picnic, Best Place for Live Music
Pleasanton Downtown Association (Downtown Pleasanton) 830 Main Street, Ste. A, Pleasanton, 484-2199	Best Place to Get Together With Friends, Best Place to Meet New People
Precision Auto Repair 164 Wyoming Street, Ste. A, Pleasanton, 462-7440	Best Car Repair
Red Smoke Grill 4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307	Best Barbecue
S&G Carpet and More 6070 Johnson Drive, Ste. F, Pleasanton, 469-8100	Best Carpet Store
Sato Japanese Cuisine 3015 Hopyard Road, Ste K, Pleasanton, 462-3131	Best Sushi / Japanese Restaurant
Savvy Seconds 560 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-6600	Best Consignment Store, Best Women's Clothing Store
Stacey's Cafe 310 Main Street, Ste. A, Pleasanton, 461-3113	Best Place for a Business Lunch
Studio 7 400 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-4322	Best Art Gallery
Sylvan Learning Center 6654 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 185, Pleasanton, 485-1000	Best Tutoring School
Towne Center Books 555 Main Street, Pleasanton, 846-8826	Best Bookstore
VIP Cleaners 1809 Santa Rita Road, Ste. F, Pleasanton, 846-4335; 3120 Santa Rita Road, Ste. E, Pleasanton, 462-8838	Best Dry Cleaners
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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

Do you have an opinion on plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero in New York City?



Brandi Blotz
Sales and merchandising

I don't think that a mosque would be very appropriate. I think a patriotic monument should be constructed, because it was a tragedy that affected our entire nation.

Lydia Hollenback
Regional Sales Manager

I know that people are angered by it. I don't think that we should build anything religious so close to the site. The majority of our nation is not Muslim, and it seems that a better place could be found farther away from Ground Zero.



Janise Stevens
Independent consultant

I totally support mosques anywhere in the U.S., but I feel that it would be wrong to build it there.

Ian Erickson
Student

I don't think it's an appropriate location. It could possibly be disrespectful to those that lost their lives on Sept. 11.



Ron Assaid
Manager

Our country has freedom of religion according to the Constitution. That's what America stands for and what we believe in, so I think it should be allowed.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2010 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

Newsfront

DIGEST

Last 2010 First Wednesday

Sept. 1 will see the final First Wednesday street party in downtown Pleasanton for 2010. The theme is "Celebrate Pleasanton!" The Pleasanton Downtown Association, which hosts the event, notes that this is everyone's last chance to stroll down the middle of Main Street for awhile.

This month's featured band in the Beer and Wine Garden at 530 Main St. is Finding Stella, performing classic pop of the '70s and '80s. The north end of Main Street will have a Ford Mustang car show, live music by Rooster's Teeth, and a lot of seating for those who want to enjoy food from nearby restaurants.

First Wednesday runs from 6-9 p.m. Main Street will be closed starting at 4:30 p.m.

March down Main

The U.S. Marine Band San Diego, some 45 musicians strong, will march down Main Street from Old Bernal Road to St. Mary Street at 2 p.m., Friday, Sept. 3, a precursor to the 145th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games taking place at the fairgrounds that Saturday and Sunday.

The band will perform intricate marching maneuvers at intersections and under the arch, where officers of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco and dignitaries will be assembled. The march will include a piper to exemplify the Scottish event.

Marine Bands have long been a tradition at the Scottish event, performing in front of the main grandstand both days along with more than 30 pipe bands from the U.S. and Canada. The games are organized and presented by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco.

Managing diabetes

Diabetes Self-Management classes will be held Thursday afternoons in September at San Ramon Regional Medical Center. The program, which is certified by the American Diabetes Association, will cover Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, healthy eating, exercise and complications.

A physician's referral is needed to attend; Medicare and insurance may be accepted. The series will be held in the Blackhawk Conference Room located in the main hospital building from 3-5 p.m. Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30. The hospital is located at 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. To enroll, call 275-6020, option 5.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com



JEB BING

Giving a thumbs up as the Pleasanton City Council approves development plans for Staples Ranch on Tuesday night, these future residents of the planned Stoneridge Creek retirement community cheer the decision that moves their future housing complex toward construction.

Staples OK'd

Largest commercial development since Hacienda Business Park

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council unanimously approved development on Staples Ranch at its Tuesday meeting, paving the way for the 124-acre site in the city's northeast corner to become the largest commercial development since Hacienda Business Park was approved in the 1990s.

With two already-planned multi-million-dollar developments and more proposed, Staples will generate hundreds of new jobs, new services and millions of dollars in sales tax revenue for the community.

The council's action came after years of effort to develop the empty farmland that is owned by Alameda County. At one time, more than 300 homes were proposed for the site, but that plan was rejected by city officials. Ikea, the Swedish discount department store, also considered building a Tri-Valley outlet on Staples, but turned instead to Dublin and then abandoned the project altogether.

The current plan goes back at least six years when Alameda County and Supervisor Scott Haggerty sought to sell the land to developers with the intention of annexing Staples into the city of Pleasanton. Those efforts languished, mainly because of objections to extending Stoneridge Drive through Staples to connect to El Charro Road on the other side. Opponents feared drivers, stuck in traffic on I-580 and at the 580-I-680 interchange, would find it attractive to cut through on Stoneridge to avoid the congestion.

Proposals made this time, however, caught the

See **STAPLES** on Page 7

Tri-Valley to welcome its own Torah

Rabbi invites everyone to join in celebration

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"In the beginning..."

These words were written in Hebrew on parchment in February in Pleasanton to inaugurate the new Torah Scroll for the Chabad of the Tri-Valley. After the first three lines were penned by members of the community with a scribe, the scroll was sent to Israel for completion. Now the Torah has been returned and is ready for dedication Sunday.

The Torah is the first five books of the Old Testament, explained Rabbi Raleigh Resnick, who moved to Pleasanton five years ago to establish the Chabad. It contains lessons from 3,300 years ago, the words originally recorded by Moses, inscribed in Hebrew using 304,805 letters.

"They were written with a quill," said Resnick, displaying the completed Torah on Monday, soon after its arrival. "Hundreds and hundreds of families purchased letters in this Torah."

According to Jewish law, by endowing a single letter, word or sentence it is as if people have written their own Torah scroll. Some men chose the phrase in the Torah that they used at their bar mitzvahs, said Resnick. Other participants

picked the first letter of a newborn child's name.

Members of the Jewish community also donated the wooden rollers, ends decorated in silver, to hold the parchment, as well as a sterling silver crown to go atop the scroll, and a silver breastplate to go in front.

After the scribe in Israel completed the text, it was scanned by a computer to make sure that not one letter was omitted, said Resnick.

In the Jewish tradition, the letters of the Torah are likened to members of the community, he explained. The letters are interdependent so with even one link missing, the Torah is incomplete, similar to the Jewish people.

"To be healthy, we need every single person," Resnick said.

The last three lines of the new Torah Scroll were left undone, to be written by members of the congregation along with a scribe at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The dedication will take place at 2:30 p.m. with a grand procession.

"The Torah will be under a canopy — it will be walked and danced through the streets," said Resnick.

See **TORAH** on Page 7



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Rabbi Raleigh Resnick of the Chabad of the Tri-Valley uses a special pointer to read the newly completed Torah Scroll, which is being dedicated on Sunday at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

Trustees take 1st step toward parcel tax

Board members promise not to pursue without support

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school board has taken its first official step toward getting a parcel tax on the ballot in the spring. It voted Monday to hire a consultant group and also a company to survey residents on whether they'd support the tax to benefit the schools.

The board unanimously approved \$66,770 for seven months of consultation services, which includes \$21,270 for an 18-minute survey of local homeowners.

"Our desire would be to start as soon as possible," said Charles Heath, project manager with TBWB Strategies. That company's website notes that it specializes in placing "the best possible measure on the ballot" and "helping the volunteer campaign win the election."

Whether a parcel tax ever makes it to the ballot, however, will depend on the survey results, and the contract with TBWB Strategies will run month-to-month.

"We need to respect the data and what it says," said board member Valerie Arkin, whose comment met with general agreement.

Board member Jim Ott pointed out that the survey "is the piece missing last time." Starting on the survey as quickly as possible could also save the district money, since,

as board member Jamie Hintzke noted, "At whatever point we decide it's not feasible, we would just pull the plug."

The school district had solicited bids in June for a parcel tax survey, without consulting services, but no one responded.

In other action, the board approved transferring another \$147,000 from the Sycamore fund to pay for stucco and paint at Hearst Elementary as part of that school's ongoing mold remediation project, and accepted \$5,450 in donations for its Barton Reading tuition program.

The board also learned that California is in line for \$1.2 billion in federal aid to schools, although Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, said it's unknown how the state would distribute the money, which is restricted to compensation and targeted specifically for rehiring and retaining employees as well as eliminating furlough days.

Regarding employees, the board made official the appointments the school had announced over the summer. Trustees also approved one promotion, Sebastian Bull, from social studies teacher to vice principal at Amador Valley High School, and the hiring of Teresa Johnson as vice principal at Hart Middle School.

Board member Pat Kernan noted that nearly all the shifts due to retirements or staff taking other positions cleared the way for others to be promoted, and allowed the board to bring back some well-liked teachers and staff.

The board also received a briefing on STAR (Standardized Testing And Reporting), which showed marginal gains and losses in some test results. Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Program (AYP) results will be presented to the board in September.

STAR results did show some mixed results based on ethnicity. While white and Asian students generally do well on the test, other minorities have mixed results. Also, in general, when a class is delayed, a student is less likely to test well in that subject, according to STAR results.

School board candidate Sandy Piderit — the only one of the three running in the November election who attended the board meeting — questioned whether some of the data about students postponing harder work was related to those who transferred in from outside the district. Piderit also questioned whether the STAR data could be broken down to show differences in performance based on gender. ■



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Big day

Becky and Ingo Kustermann say goodbye to 5-year-old Kaeden as he heads off to his first day of school at Walnut Grove Elementary on Wednesday morning. Despite some anxious looks from parents and children alike, no tears were visible. "I was a little emotional to see my baby leave," said Becky as Kaeden got ready to enter his new classroom. Wednesday was the start of school in Pleasanton and the first day for some 700 kindergartners across the district.

New principal for Carden West School

BY JEB BING

Mark E. Neal has been named principal of Carden West School, a private, nonprofit toddler-middle school in Pleasanton.

Neal received his bachelor of science degree in Elementary Education from Florida International University and a master's degree in

Educational Leadership from UC Berkeley's Principal's Leadership Institute. While teaching fourth grade, he was an administrator in training in Union City and San Francisco from 1996-2003. Most recently, he was summer school principal for the Castro Valley Unified School District and associate principal at Creekside Middle School in Castro Valley from 2003 until his selection as principal at Carden West.

Neal designed the program training teachers to integrate technology into their language arts curricula as a technology instructor for the Alameda County Office of Education in 1999. Since 2007, he has served the Association of California School Administrators as charter president for Castro Valley, as well as the region's representative on the organization's

Equity, Achievement and Diversity for Success Committee.

"Upon researching Carden West, I was first very impressed with the curriculum throughout all grades and, particularly, with the exceptionally strong foundation the preschool provides to pre-kindergartners," Neal said. "As we know, a strong correlation exists between how well prepared children are when they come to kindergarten and how successful they

become throughout their school years. Carden West can say with conviction that its students leave preschool 'kindergarten ready.'"

Carden West, located at 4576 Willow Road in Pleasanton's Hacienda Business Park, is a private nonprofit, nonsectarian school that offers preschool-eighth grade education as well as extended care and summer camps for all age groups. ■



Principal Mark E. Neal

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California Civics Day

A resolution establishing an annual "Civics Day for the Teacher" and sponsored by Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D-15th) was signed into law Aug. 9.

The resolution, ACR 111, establishes the first Friday in December as Civics Day and is meant to illustrate the importance of teaching civics in all grade levels.

Buchanan, whose 15th Assem-

bly District includes part of Pleasanton, said the special day not only highlights the important role of civic education in a participatory democracy but it hopefully also will encourage staff development for teachers who want to strengthen the teaching of civics in their classrooms. It's consistent with the goal of the California Civic Mission of Schools. ■

Alleged child pornographer arrested in Pleasanton

35-year-old man accused of seven month involvement with 13-year-old girl

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

A Nebraska man already under federal indictment for child pornography is facing new charges involving an underage California girl following a traffic stop by Pleasanton police.

Todd Tackwell, 35, of Hastings, Neb., was arrested after the stop when police became suspicious of

a 13-year-old passenger. After talking to the girl and her parents, the officer determined there had been inappropriate sexual behavior involving the pair, a Pleasanton police report said.

Tackwell admitted to police that the day before his arrest, he'd been notified of the indictment, follow-

ing an investigation by Homeland Security into a child pornography distribution case dating to 2008, the report said.

Police say Tackwell met the 13-year-old through a chat room in October 2009 and continued the relationship by phone.

In January, he drove cross country

to meet the girl and began "a seven-month extensive sexual molestation of the child" that ended with his arrest, the report said, which stated the girl's parents were not aware of Tackwell's contact with her.

Tackwell is being held in Santa Rita Jail on a charge of continuous sex abuse of a victim under the age of

14. He's set to enter a plea Sept. 9.

Police withheld the information from the arrest, which occurred July 24, because of what they describe as "the sensitive and complex nature of the investigation."

Anyone with information that could help in the investigation is asked to contact police at 931-5100. ■

STAPLES

Continued from Page 5

interest of Pleasanton with plans to make Staples a business, senior residential, recreational and retail center.

Hendrick Automotive Group told the city it was fast running out of room at its Pleasanton auto mall on Rosewood Drive along 580. At the same time, Continuing Life Communities (CLC) out of Southern California approached the city for available open space where it could build one of its upscale independent living and assisted care retirement communities. A subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks also asked to build a public ice facility in Staples. Together, with a planned 11-acre retail center, Staples suddenly took

front and center in planning, political and economic discussions.

Tuesday night's approval also brought cheers from a roomful of supporters of CLC's retirement care complex, called Stoneridge Creek. In fact, it was that group of mostly senior citizens, wearing yellow shirts and persistent in their demands that their retirement community be approved, that received much of the credit from council members and others for moving the issue forward.

"I think your organizing efforts were effective and your approach should serve as a model for what can be done when we all come together on something that's good for the community," said Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio.

Councilman Jerry Thorne

agreed.

"I think that it's a great thing that we finally managed to get everybody working together to get these agreements made and get this project under way," he said. "Wouldn't it be great if when another project comes forward that has these kinds of huge benefits to our community that we could approach it in an environment of how can we get this done and not on how many roadblocks and obstructions can we throw at it."

Councilman Matt Sullivan also praised the work of the Alameda Creek Alliance and Safe Streets Pleasanton for efforts to make sure the Staples' project would do no environmental damage. Through their work and in agreements approved Tuesday, endangered plants

and species will be protected and in some cases relocated to comparable soil and open space.

A long-time foe of extending Stoneridge Drive until traffic congestion on I-580 can be eased, Sullivan said he believes the new agreement protects neighborhoods adjacent to Stoneridge with new and higher sound walls, sound-abating pavement and a firm policy on actually opening the street to El Charro only when Livermore completes its extension of Jack London Boulevard and work begins on Highway 84.

Praising the city staff for its work on the Staples agreement and the yellow-shirted crowd in the audience, Councilwoman Cindy McGovern said of the agreement she was approving: "This feels good

and I hope it feels good for you, too."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said "this long, protracted and sometimes painful journey" turned into a success for the entire community with Tuesday's council action.

"I've lived with the Staples Ranch issues my entire life as an elected official and it's good to see it now completed," she said. "We are blessed in these tough economic times with a staff of experts who have been able to sock away money and to come up with city budgets that year after year keep us whole in these tough economic times without any loss in services or our quality of life."

"Money magazine has listed us as one of the top cities in the country," she added. "With Staples Ranch, we're even better." ■

TORAH

Continued from Page 5

At 4 p.m. there will be a festive buffet to celebrate the historic occasion.

Resnick emphasized that everyone is invited to the festivities, which are free, to dedicate the Tri-Valley's first Community Torah. In February the Torah Inauguration Ceremony drew 350 people, including community dignitaries and

state officials.

"This is a huge, momentous event," said Resnick. "This Torah is the newest scroll — it is very, very powerful."

The creation of the new Torah continues a wonderful tradition, he noted. It is divided into 53 parts, and its yearlong reading begins with the new year, Yom Kippur, which this year starts at sunset Sept. 17.

The celebration Sunday is also to recognize the five-year anniversary of the Chabad of the Tri-Valley, which was begun to provide meaningful programs to local Jews who may not already belong to a synagogue.

"It's part of the Chabad movement all over the world," Resnick said.

For more information, telephone 846-0700 or visit www.JewishTri-Valley.com. ■



TAKE US ALONG



Vampire vacation: On a trip to Italy last spring, Kimberly Warren and her sister Melissa Scott and their Weekly make a stop at Piazza del Priori in Volterra, where the Twilight sequel "New Moon" was filming.

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Opinion

LETTERS

Purple potties rule

Dear Editor,

We were taking a day trip today in the beautiful finger lakes (upstate New York) around Taughannock Falls. On the way there we saw a curious sight, a purple toilet in a front yard, and on our way home via a different route we saw another. We got home and I googled "purple toilets" only to find your article (April 22, 2008) about Relay for Life and donations in connection with the purple potties, all the way over in California. Wow, great idea! Guess it caught on here in the east as well. Wonder where it started?!

Tina Spratley
Waterloo, N.Y.

Happy Talkers Thanks

Dear Editor,

On behalf of everyone at School of Imagination, we want to thank the community and the dozens of volunteers at this year's "Happy Talkers Community Outreach," which gave immediate help, reassurance and hope for hundreds of parents and their children throughout the Bay Area. Held at the Schaefer Ranch Model Homes in Dublin earlier this year, the Outreach is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in Northern California.

Experts and specialists donated their time to provide more than 300 free developmental screenings. These experts included pediatricians from Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Tri Valley Pediatrics, Dr. Deborah Sedberry, as well as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, child development specialists, psychologists and audiologists, all connected by Internet-donated Comcast. They collaborated with support specialists from the Regional Center, Autism Speaks, Axis Community Health, Stanford Autism Center and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

We also want to thank our hosts, Discovery Homes, special partners, Black Tie Transportation, Child Care Links, Cobalt Equipment, Royal

Restrooms and IEWC, who ensured the Outreach was successful.

Delicious lunches and refreshments were donated by Ovation Foods, Trader Joe's, Mimi's Cafe, FJL Too, Dreyer's, Meadowlark Dairy, Peet's, Cheese Steak Shop and the Lockhart family. Volunteers from Pleasanton North Rotary, Dublin Lions, Dublin/Pleasanton Soroptimists and Magician's Roy and Zappo entertained and provided refreshments between screenings.

We greatly appreciated Congressman Jerry McNerney, (11th), Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and former Mayor Janet Lockhart breaking from their hectic schedules to attend.

Charlene and Mitch Sigman
School of Imagination

Focus on quality of life

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton recently achieved noteworthy status — 63rd among all U.S. cities — on Money Magazine's Best Places to live list. This is an achievement to make everyone in Pleasanton proud. As a small business owner operating an Allstate Insurance agency here, I also see this as a challenge to us all to continue making our city one of the greatest communities in America for years to come.

Our climate, property values and commitment to education stand out as reasons why Pleasanton is noteworthy nationwide.

It is other characteristics like our nature trails and park lands, and our robust art, cultural and entertainment choices that help further establish Pleasanton as an extraordinary place to live.

Let's continue to display a genuine interest in our neighbors' well-being. Let's keep our sidewalks and streets safe for pedestrians and bicyclists and — better still — even increase our personal use of foot- and pedal-power. And let's focus on the quality of life matters that help attract and keep successful businesses and services in our area for all our benefit.

In these ways and others, Pleasanton will maintain and even grow its reputation as being among the best places in America.

Gary Pinkis

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Council's action means jobs, tax revenues, senior care heading our way

Sometimes it takes a few years to get it done right, which seems to be the prevailing attitude on the City Council's decision Tuesday to finally approve a development plan for the empty 124-acre Staples Ranch site at the southwest corner of El Charro Road and I-580. Long eyed by developers for a large residential project and once as the site of an Ikea department store when that firm thought about adding an outlet in the Tri-Valley, Staples has been the focus of a new group of developers for at least the last six years. Tuesday, the council signed an agreement plan that will bring the Alameda County-owned land into Pleasanton with two developers: one from Southern California that plans to build an independent living and assisted care complex for seniors and Hendrick Automotive, which plans to relocate and expand its upscale auto mall to Staples. Tuesday's action also sets in motion a longer-range plan to extend Stoneridge Drive east through Staples Ranch to El Charro Road, with Stoneridge eventually opening to through traffic when Livermore extends Jack London Boulevard on the other side.

Perhaps after all of the months — even years — of public meetings, workshops and environmental and technical studies, it was a welcome relief to find the council chamber Tuesday night filled with scores of seniors almost in a party mood and wearing their familiar yellow shirts in support for building Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, the privately financed care facility planned by Continuing Life Communities. Units there won't be cheap, ranging from \$279,000 for a small apartment to as much as \$1.5 million for the super-large homes that are planned. Most of those at Tuesday's council meeting are buying units in the \$700,000 category and long ago made the required 10% down payment to hold their homes. There's also a requirement that those moving to Stoneridge Creek be in good health since, once in, residents can stay forever, with assisted living and skilled nursing care units always available if needed. That's why this group of "yellow shirters," motivated by some with political savvy who have served on commissions, including a former Pleasanton school superintendent, stepped up their demand that the council quit postponing Staples Ranch decisions and get on with approving the project. Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio called the group's persistence "very effective and a model of what can be done when we come together to make something that's good for our community happen."

The economic benefits of Staples Ranch are huge. When completed it will be the largest commercial and residential development in Pleasanton since Hacienda Business Park was developed in the 1990s. Hendrick, whose auto mall is now located along the 580 freeway on Rosewood Drive, is already one of the largest payers of sales taxes in Pleasanton. Its complex will be much larger, occupying a 37-acre site it is acquiring on Staples Ranch for the larger complex of new and used car sales and services. With the current soft economy, Hendrick will likely delay construction for another year or two. CLC, on the other hand, with major demand from prospective buyers, has its financing and is ready to start building. As a result of the council's approval, those in the yellow-shirt crowd should be able to move into their new Pleasanton homes in 2012.

Ten acres on Staples is also being set aside for a multi-million-dollar, four-rink ice arena to be built and operated by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks. Another 11 acres is earmarked for a retail shopping center, which could include a new supermarket needed to serve city's far northeast side. With Safeway planning to build one of its largest supermarkets at Bernal Avenue and I-680 later this year, Pleasanton is likely to be the economic envy of the region with major gains ahead in jobs, services and tax revenue benefiting the entire community. ■

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

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

Human Services Commission – 2 Members, 1 Alternate

Library Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate

Parks & Recreation Commission – 1 Alternate

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee (BPTC)

- Five (5) at-large members
- One (1) at-large youth member.

Economic Vitality Committee – 1 representative from each of the following categories:

- Commercial Services Firm
- Environmental Industry
- Infrastructure
- Medical Technology
- Professional Services Firm

Energy & Environment Committee – 1 Youth representative to complete an unexpired term ending April 2011

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee—1 representative from each of the following categories:

- Faith Community Representative
- Five (5) High School Seats (Amador Valley High School, Foothill High School, Village High School)
- Middle School Representative (Harvest Park)
- Young Adult Age 18-22
- Preschool Parent At Large
- Middle School Parent At Large
- High School Parent At Large

Kottinger Place Task Force – 1 At-Large (Kottinger Neighborhood Resident) representative

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee

- 2 Pleasanton representatives

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging

- 1 Pleasanton representative

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

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 10, 2010. Postmarks are not accepted.

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

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

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

POLICE BULLETIN

Arrest after gunfire on Rosewood Drive

A San Ramon man out on bail for an alleged prior crime faces new charges after a robbery with shots fired at the victim Aug. 19.

Employees of the CVS Pharmacy in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive reported shots fired in the parking lot around 10 p.m., according to a police report, which said two men were seen running toward a Honda sedan and an SUV. Both vehicles left the scene, but the 23-year-old victim, whose name was not released, told police he had been robbed of an iPod at gunpoint, and that two shots were fired at him. Those shots missed and the victim was able to escape without harm.

Evidence and information at the scene led police to Antonio Faraz Rad, 19, who was arrested the same night. Rad was charged with robbery, attempted murder and a felony enhancement for committing felonies while out on bail.

Police are continuing their search for a second sus-

pect and a gray or silver SUV that may be linked to the crime. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

Couple robs Nation's, escapes in minivan

Police in Pleasanton are looking for a pair of robbers in connection with a holdup at Nation's restaurant on Saturday.

A man and woman entered the restaurant at about 10:45 p.m., according to a police report, which said the male "simulated a handgun and demanded money from the register." A clerk handed over an undisclosed amount of cash, and the couple fled and ran behind the restaurant, where a gray '90s-era minivan was spotted speeding from the scene and through the Pleasanton Inn parking lot.

The man is described as 5 feet 4 inches to 5 feet 6 inches tall, about 140 pounds, with brown hair and green eyes. The woman is described as about the same height, approximately 110 pounds, with green eyes. Both were wearing dark "hoodie" sweatshirts pulled over their heads and dark pants.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

POLICE REPORT

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

Aug. 16

Petty theft

- 10:50 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Vandalism

- 8:46 a.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Coronado Lane
- 12:26 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol charges

- 1:07 p.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Birch Creek Drive; public drunkenness
- 3:23 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Koll Center Place; possession of marijuana
- 9:24 p.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Drive; public drunkenness
- 10:28 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness

Aug. 17

Theft

- 1:14 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 2:56 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; grand theft
- 4:41 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; grand theft, forgery

Public drunkenness

- 7:03 a.m. at the intersection of Washington Street and Wyoming Street

Aug. 18

Theft

- 8:15 a.m. in the 4300 block of Bristolwood Road; auto burglary
- 9:22 a.m. in the 4200 block of Muirwood Drive; auto burglary
- 2:18 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Vandalism

- 9:21 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street
- 1:43 p.m. in the 3200 block of W. Lagoon Road

- 9:23 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

DUI

- 11:36 p.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Drive and Koll Center Parkway

Aug. 19

Theft

- 11:14 a.m. in the 7300 block of Hillsdale Drive; auto burglary
- 11:36 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:41 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; auto theft
- 6:53 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vine Street; auto theft
- 8:57 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 9:54 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft
- 11:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard road; auto theft

Vandalism

- 11:50 a.m. in the 600 block of St. Mary Street

Underage possession of alcohol

- 10:41 p.m. in the 2900 block of Chardonnay Drive

Aug. 20

Petty theft

- 7:25 p.m. in the 1500 block of Loganberry Way

Public drunkenness

- 11:44 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Ray Street

Aug. 21

Battery

- 12:45 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street
- 7:52 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive
- 9:50 p.m. in the 5100 block of Greentree Court

Aug. 22

Theft

- 5:51 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft
- 9:47 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; auto theft, public drunkenness

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OBITUARIES

John Brendan McWilliams

John Brendan McWilliams died Aug. 18, surrounded by his family, after an 11-year battle with kidney cancer. He was 60 years old.

A lifetime resident of Pleasanton, he was born in Livermore on Feb. 4, 1950, to John L. and Barbara J. McWilliams, who both predeceased him. He attended Pleasanton schools and was a 1968 graduate of Amador Valley High School. After graduating from college in 1971, he began his lifelong career working for the city of Pleasanton's Public Works Department. He retired in 2006 as Chief Utilities Systems Operator. Mr. McWilliams, like his father before him, enjoyed watching Pleasanton grow and serving this community and its residents. He could always find time to tell a story or two about the "old days" and was proud to call Pleasanton his home.

He is survived by his wife Donna; daughter and son-in-law Erin and Scott Hanau, and daughters Megan and Mallory McWilliams; sisters Lynne (Philip) Champlin, Janis (Larry) Miller and Barbara Echer, brother Lee McWilliams; and his dog Bailey. A vigil was held at 7 p.m. Aug. 26 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton, with a Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m. today. Interment will be private. Donations in Mr. McWilliams's memory may be sent to "The John McWilliams Memorial Fund," c/o US Bank, 749 Main St., Pleasanton 94566, or Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin 94568.



Patricia Lee Hagberg

Patricia "Pat" Lee Hagberg, a Pleasanton resident, died unexpectedly Aug. 22 at Valley Care Medical Center at the age of 69.

She was born in Upland, Calif., on Oct. 29, 1940, to Rollin and Mary Lemon. She joined the Navy Waves when she graduated from high school, and soon thereafter married Edward W. Hagberg.

Mrs. Hagberg began babysitting her children and their friends, which grew into a home business of watching the neighborhood kids after school. When her daughters were young, she managed their softball games alongside her husband, "Coach" Ed, and enjoyed scorekeeping and leading cheers. When her kids grew up, she went to work for General Electric as a Security Supervisor and retired in 2006. After that, she spent every waking moment with her four grandchildren, taking on the challenges to do things they did,



such as riding roller coasters, water slides, jet skis, bungee jumping, and zip lines. She liked traveling and spending time in Las Vegas, Tahoe and Southern California. She also enjoyed playing computer games, as well as making and designing leather belts, watchbands and wristbands for her kids and their friends.

She is survived by her husband Ed; daughters Robin Martin and Teri Kolon; son Eddie Hagberg; four grandchildren; sister Helen and brother-in-law Hal Edmon; and many relatives and friends. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton with reception immediately following. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in her name.

Beverlie S. Bota

Pleasanton resident Beverlie S. Bota died July 27 at the age of 81 from a long-term illness that in-

cluded Alzheimer's disease.

She was born July 11, 1929, in Schenectady, N.Y. She was a graduate of Oswego State University where she earned her teaching credential. She was a member of the of the California State Professional Teachers Association and a member of the National Mesa Organization. She worked for 40 years as a teacher, positively affecting thousands of students over her career.



She is survived by husband Ricardo Bota; sons Rick Bota and Andrew Bota and daughter Maria Groves; daughter-in-law Kim Bota; and four grandchildren. A private Catholic Mass was celebrated Aug. 9 at St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Alzheimer's Association.

Susanne Kirstina Mullfors-Kernan

Susanne Kirstina Mullfors-Kernan, the daughter-in-law of Pleasanton School Board Member Pat Kernan, died Aug. 6 at the age of 37.

She was born in Karlskoga, Sweden, on Feb. 13, 1973, and was a gifted artist and gardener.

She is survived by her husband Phil, sons Sami, 9, and Timmy, 6, and daughter Sara, 4; parents Tapio and Aulikki Mullfors; sister and brother-in-law Pia and Henrik Dahlstrom, and in-laws Pat and Marcia Kernan, Rebecca and Phil Darke, Karissa and Doug Murray, Brittany, Stephanie and Breanna Kernan; and many friends. Memorial services were held Aug. 14 at her home in Brentwood.

Donations to help support her children may be made payable to the "Kernan Memorial Account" and mailed to UNCLE Credit Union, Attention Jim Ott, 2100 Las Positas Court, Livermore 94551.

BIRTHS



Matthew Dean Dickinson

Matthew Dean Dickinson was born at 9:56 p.m. July 28 to parents Ray and Michelle Dickinson of Pleasanton, brother Noah and sister Megan. He weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long.

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By Glenn Wohltmann

If the phrase “four-speed dual quad posi-traction 409” means more to you than a line from a Beach Boys’ song, you might want to cruise over to the Alameda County Fairgrounds this weekend.

For the first time, classic American muscle cars from the ‘60s and early ‘70s, the ones that inspired a generation of songwriters from Jan and Dean to the Ramones are being welcomed to the Goodguys show in Pleasanton today through Sunday. Whether the perfect car tune for you is “Mustang Sally,” Ronny and the Daytonas’ “GTO,” or the Jonathan Edwards’ classic “Roadrunner,” you’ll be in good company.

“Prior to this year the event was only open to 1957 and older vehicles but we wanted to swing open the gates to the muscle cars to welcome more people to this prestigious event,” explained John Drummond, Goodguys spokesman. “Muscle cars also appeal to the younger generations so we’ll see a lot more young guys showing cars and coming to see the muscle cars.”

Pleasanton’s muscle car contingent will be out in force, with at least six muscle car owners and their vehicles expected to enter the competition. Among them is Don Micale, whose 1964 Pontiac GTO can be seen on Pleasanton streets with its top down from early spring to late fall. This is the third early model GTO Micale has owned. He bought his first off the showroom floor when he was just 17, earning the money by playing stand-up bass in a jazz combo in clubs he was too young to enter as a patron.

Micale recently sold his second, one he’d had for years, after acquiring his third. His current GTO, a black convertible, was owned by the grandmother of a friend, whose family bought it new in 1964.

For Micale, entering the show is about camaraderie, not winning.

“People come up and say, ‘My dad had one,’ or ‘My friend had one,’” Micale said. “People appreciate it.”

Like many Americans at the time, when gas was less than

50 cents a gallon, Micale said he never thought muscle cars — with their big block engines, carburetors, lots of horsepower and low gas mileage — would ever die out.

The muscle car owners interviewed from Pleasanton have a few things in common. For one, each wanted the same car they had as teens.

“I always loved the car in high school,” explained Lou George, owner of a 1970 Mustang Boss 302. “I always loved it and wanted it back but, you grow up and have kids. It’s always been important for me, personally, to have that car again.”

Beyond that, each said they had understanding wives, although Ben Haddad, the owner of a 1967 Camaro SS, joked that his wife “hates that I have more time and money for this than for her.”

Haddad has spent 12 years restoring his car to its original condition, although he upped the engine size to a 502, larger than this car originally had.

Every one also is willing to spend big bucks to have exactly the kind of car they want. Haddad, for example, has poured more than \$45,000 into his Camaro.



George, who has had his Boss 302 for nearly five years, has spent an estimated \$80,000 — and he’s not done.

“I’ve spent the last four years bringing it back to factory condition,” he said.

He wants a car that looks like it’s still on the showroom floor, right down to the invoice on the window. “To see an original car to original factory specs, it’s pretty unusual.

“The car was restored by Scott at Car Concepts in Idaho by removing every nut and bolt and placing the shell on a rotisserie for body and paint,” he said. “I’ve personally spent the last four years tracking down all of the factory



Ford original parts, and my goal is to return it to the original showroom condition by 2012.”

Much of that involves networking, like finding the former Ford employee who saved documents when the factory she was working at closed. That was where George got the factory invoice — the sticker — that one day will go up on the window of his car.

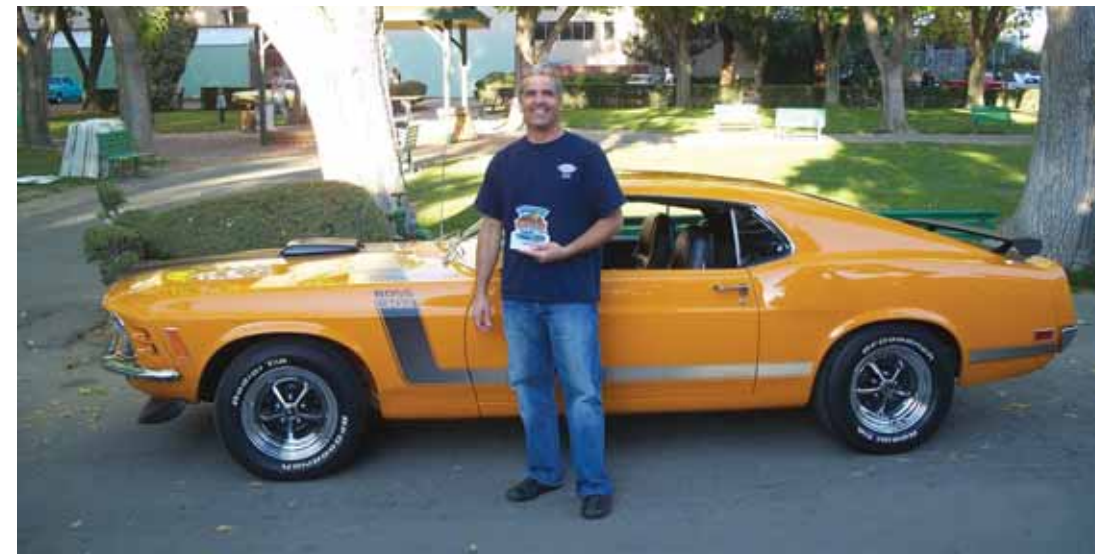
“Much of it is tracking down parts. People who have parts are not willing to let them go without a premium. People who know these cars and what goes into them realize they’ll appreciate,” he said.

George is happy that the Goodguys show here finally opened up to later model cars

“These are my favorite shows of the year. This August show has always been one of the Goodguys’ largest events,” he said. “Unfortunately, I couldn’t bring my car. It’s always been a complaint of mine to the Goodguys: ‘You need to open this up to 1972, 1973.’”

George said he wins an award of some kind about 80 percent of the time at shows.

For Bob Hansen, the owner of a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro



Clockwise from bottom left: Bob Hansen’s 1969 Camaro Z28 Rally Sport, complete with hideaway headlights; the classic American big block engine in Hansen’s 1969 Camaro; Ben Haddad and his 1967 Camaro SS; Lou George and his 1970 Mustang Boss 302 holding a Goodguys award; a look under the hood of the Boss’ power plant; a shot of the Boss’ interior — note the stock Hurst shifter; Don Micale enjoying the sun in his 1964 GTO convertible.

Z28 Rally Sport, it’s about more than owning the car he had in high school — it’s a love story. He met his wife, Sherri, through his car.

“We both had Camaros. She had a ‘68 and I had a ‘69 when we met in Oregon,” Hansen explained. “You get older and have kids and you always want your old car back.”



He spotted one in the 1990s that took about 10 years to restore.

“My wife told me to go ahead and buy it. My goal was to bring it back to complete original,” Hansen said, adding his car was modified to run as a street racer before and at that time “was made to get you in trouble.”

Hansen did what’s called a “frame on” restoration, having parts taken off one at a time.

“Inside, outside, every nut, bolt, clamp was original,” he said. “The tires and the headers are the only things that are not factory correct.”

There are a couple of things on Hansen’s car that make it a rarity, including a dual carb cross ram (a carburetion system), and “Vigilite” Lamp Monitors, which are fiber-optic head, tail-lamp and directional signal monitors. He estimates his car to be worth about \$60,000.

Although Hansen isn’t banking on taking home a prize for his Z28, he has nothing but praise for the Goodguys show.

Good guys, good gals to gather

Who: Goodguys Rod & Custom Association

What: 24th West Coast Nationals

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today-Saturday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Where: Alameda County Fairgrounds, Bernal and Valley avenues

Attractions: More than 3,500 Rods, Customs & Classics through ‘72; Swap Meet & Cars 4 Sale Corral; Goodgals Gallery; Hot Rod Seminars; Kid’s Play Area

Special Awards: America’s Most Beautiful Street Rod, Muscle Car of the Year, Truck of the Year Early, Goodguys Builders Choice Awards, Street Rodder Top 100 Event and PPG Dream Car



“The Goodguys is a great show to go to, and Pleasanton is a great place to live and work and have a hot rod,” he said.

And, as Chevrolet pointed out in a billboard a few years ago: “They don’t write songs about Volvos.” ■



24th West Coast Nationals cruises into town

Goodguys adds ‘muscle cars’ for weekend show that starts today at Pleasanton fairgrounds



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY STUDIO 7

Lucky Bug: Meet Tim Cotterill, aka the Frogman, who will be at Studio 7 Fine Arts on Main Street tomorrow. He is known for his signature bronze, platinum and stainless steel frog sculptures that capture the joyous creatures in eye catching colors. "I enjoy creating extraordinary frogs because they have such a unique way of captivating the imagination and bringing out the joy and laughter that is all too often hidden due to our busy lives," said Cotterill.

Author Visits

WINE SEEKERS GUIDE TO LIVERMORE VALLEY Celebrate with author Thomas Wilmer at 6 p.m. Aug. 28 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. The first exclusive guide to this little-known wine region, introducing adventurous wine lovers to more than forty wineries, the owners and wine-makers, and their superb wines. Reservations will be helpful, call 846-8826. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St, Pleasanton.

catered dinner, parking and more. Call Gayle at (209) 602-9057 or Joanie 462-4312, or email lglund@mindspring.com or jim-joanie@sbcglobal.net.

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

Book Clubs

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

Classes

BEGINNING BRIDGE Classes designed for new bridge players will take place weekly from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sept. 2-Oct. 21 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Bridge has been proven to increase short-term memory and increase one's immune system. Cost \$50 for resident and \$55 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

HEALTHY COOKING Six Healthy Cooking classes will be offered from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 9 through Nov. 4 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Topics include eating for health; stocks, soups and stews 101 (two classes); salads; appetizers; Thanksgiving side dishes; and desserts. Cost is \$40 resident per class, and \$45 non-resident, plus \$12 supply fee. Ages 18 and older. Visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org for detailed schedule. Call 931-5365.

HOPE HOSPICE Community training class will be held from 6:30-9 p.m.,

Thursdays, Sept. 2-Oct. 21, at the Hope Hospice Offices, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin. Hospice will offer comprehensive information on the practice and philosophy of providing hospice care. Cost \$75 general registration for class materials or \$120 for CEUs, class and materials. Call 829-8770.

Clubs

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS The Pleasanton Newcomers club is open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley area. Activities include a coffee on the first Wednesday of the month, a luncheon on the second Wednesday of the month, Bunco, Mah Jongg, bridge, walking and

Class Reunions

AMADOR HIGH CLASSES 1941 TO 1964 Amador High School graduating classes from 1941 to 1964 are holding a joint reunion from 5-11 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Teachers and classmates are invited to see what made the school part of the "Wonder Years." Cost is \$45 for a

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Concerts

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Enjoy great music from 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at Lions Wayside Park (corner of First and Neal streets), a wonderful community event. Enjoy Latin Rock tunes from Ruckatan on Aug. 27, and come back for Rock 'N Roll from Public Eye on Sept. 3. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events

29TH ANNUAL HARVEST WINE CELEBRATION Livermore Valley Wine Country's Labor Day Weekend tradition, the Harvest Wine Celebration, will take place from noon-5 p.m. Sept. 5 and Sept. 6 at area wineries. Offering the region's best wine, food, art and music to ticket holders. Bus transportation between wineries will be available Sunday only, and wineries will offer special activities to festival guests Monday. For more information and pricing, call 447-9463 or visit www.lwine.org.

GREEN VEHICLE ALTERNATIVES

A lecture and panel discussion about green vehicle alternatives will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The subject will include compressed natural gas vehicles, electric vehicles, and other transportation options such as natural gas operated scooters and Segways. Vehicles will be on display. This is the second in a free lecture series by Pleasanton's Committee on Energy and the Environment. Call 931-5500.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE

Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 8, at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Call Cathe at 462-7495 or email Matt at mjs7882@gmail.com or visit www.pleasantonians4peace.org.

Exhibits

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

The Pleasanton Art League and Museum On Main are presenting their fourth art exhibit, "Imagination Expressed 2010," through Oct. 17, featuring the work of 35 PAL members at the museum, 603 Main St. The museum is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Fundraisers

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS

Sleep Train is collecting school supplies for children in need, from July 19 through Sept. 9 at all its stores. Call 1-800-378-2337 or visit www.sleeptrain.com.

THE GREAT CATSBY CASINO NIGHT

This gala evening under the stars to benefit the Valley Humane Society will take place from 6-11

p.m. Sept. 11 at the home of Becky and Murray Dennis, 838 Gray Fox Circle. Tickets for \$65 include dinner, two drink tickets, valet parking, gambling chips. Music by Toucan Jam. Buy tickets online at www.valleyhumane.org or at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. Call 426-8656.

Live Music

NASHVILLE RECORDING ARTISTS

Rodeo House will be performing country and Southern rock from 8 p.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday, Aug. 27-28, at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. All ages welcome. Bring your ticket from the Goodguys car show and get a flaming skull shirt and specials all night. Call 705-3036 or visit www.rodeohouse.com.

WHAT'S UP BIG BAND Tap your toes to the music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Harry James and more from 2-4 p.m. Aug. 29 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The Big Band era will come alive with the 17-piece What's Up Big Band. Call 931-3405.

Miscellaneous

FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER GRAND OPENING

The new Firehouse Arts Center will have its grand opening from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 18 at 4444 Railroad Ave. Following the dedication, the public is invited to view the facility, which features a performing arts theater, art gallery and arts classrooms. The free open house will have music, refreshments, drawings and activities for children. Call 931-5340 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK SALE

Did you know you can buy books from the Friends of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

KITTENS ADOPTION

Adopt a kitten from noon-4 p.m. Aug. 27 through Aug. 29 at PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin, and Pet Extreme, 4500 Arroyo Vista, Livermore, and receive half-priced fees on all male kittens and waived fees on all adult cats. This promotion also applies to cats and male kitten adoptions through www.tvvar.org.

On Stage

MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents "My Way: A Musical tribute to Frank Sinatra" at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays from Sept. 17-Oct. 10 at Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Ln., Suite 309. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$20 for students. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

SATURDAY NIGHT FUNNIES Andrew Norelli, born in New York and

raised in Danville, will be onstage from 7:30-9 p.m. Aug. 28 at Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Raised in California surroundings but with a New York mentality, his sense of humor reflects this blend. Cost \$15 plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjoscomedy.com.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING share election enthusiasm and learn how to help the Republican tide roll to victory in November at a meeting from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 9, at Cattlemens Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$26 for TVRWF members; \$30 for guests. RSVP required by Sept. 5; call 462-4931 or visit www.trivalley-republicanwomen.org.

Recreation

HORSE N' AROUND Gather the clan and hitch up your wagon to learn about the history we share with the wonderfully intuitive creature that helped shape the world we live in - the horse, of course - from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at Alviso Adobe Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. There will be crafts, some horsing around and a visit from a special guest. Cost: \$5 resident; \$8 non-resident. Call 931-3483 or email enicholas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

ITSY BITSY SPIDERS! Worried about spiders? Fear not those that help you! Learn all about the great things these creatures do for us and even meet a few friendly ones from 11 a.m.-noon Sept. 4 at Alviso Adobe Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Participants under the age of 7 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the entire class. Cost: \$9 resident; \$12 non-resident. Call 931-3483 or email enicholas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Spiritual

Lowdown on High Holy Days Congregation Beth Emek is holding an event Sunday to help demystify the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish

New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). The Lowdown on the Jewish High Holy Days will take place from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 29 at 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton. It will feature a welcome breakfast, a keynote address and workshops. The event is free but advance registration is encouraged and lunch may be ordered. Go to www.bethemek.org/lowdown or call 447-4875.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red Cross will hold a volunteer orientation at its Pleasanton Blood Donation Center from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 23, at 5556-B Springdale Ave. Tour the center and learn about ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors or help post fliers at key locations. Advance sign-up required. Call (510) 594-5165.

LIBRARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS Pleasanton Public Library needs volunteers for its Homebound Service, which provides homebound residents with library books, videos and CD's to community residents. In addition, the library hosts the Pleasanton Reads Project that needs volunteer tutors to provide one-on-one instruction in both basic literacy and English as a second language to residents over 18. Students and tutors usually meet once per week at a mutually convenient time and place. Tutoring and all necessary materials are free of charge. Contact Jan Bauman at 931-3411 or jbauman@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE Do you love animals? Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is holding an orientation for new volunteers, from 1-2:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Learn about volunteer opportunities like fostering dogs or cats, socializing shelter animals, helping at adoption events and fundraisers, and many other roles. For ages 18 and older. Cost is \$10 cash or check to help cover the cost of materials. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvvar.org.

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Local girl goes native in The Gambia

2005 Amador graduate serves as Peace Corps ambassador in Africa

Top: Joanna LaFrancesca with her host mother, Hawa Jallow. **Far right:** Members of the Banni village girls soccer team with their new ball. **Below:** LaFrancesca, who's also known as Binta Jallow, with the women from her host family.

PHOTOS COURTESY ROSEMARIE LAFRANCESCA



By Glenn Wohltmann

Imagine living in a small village in Africa, staying in a mud hut, sleeping on a grass mat, using an outdoor pit latrine and, occasionally, chasing baboons from the local garden.

Now imagine doing it by choice. Clearly, it's not for everyone, but it's a dream job for 2005 Amador Valley High School graduate Joanna LaFrancesca.

LaFrancesca is working as a Peace Corps volunteer in The Gambia, a tiny country on the west coast of Africa, just south of Senegal. In Banni, the remote village that's Joanna's home until 2012, there's no television, no cell phones, no Internet and no electricity.

Joanna — who's called Binta Jallow in her village — is totally off the grid, but her mother, Rosemarie LaFrancesca, said Joanna has wanted since high school to work in the Peace Corps.

"She went to Mexico in ninth grade with a church group to build a house," Rosemarie said. "I think she got the bug there. She wanted to give back."

Joanna spent a month teaching English to locals in the cloud forests of Ecuador before joining the Peace Corps.

After she was accepted into the Peace Corps program, the 23-year-old, who graduated from Chico State in 2009, spent three months learning the local language, Puular, before getting shipped out on her assignment. In a blog that Joanna updates when she makes the rare long trek to a town that has Internet access, she described passing village after village in the Peace Corps bus, asking as they entered each one, "Is this Banni?"

She's the first Peace Corps volunteer in the village, which meant she got a huge welcome — by village standards, anyway — when she arrived.

"(A)s I got out of the car there was a large group of women and children playing the drums (empty oil containers), singing and dancing," she wrote in her blog. "They quickly formed a circle around me and each proceeded to enter the circle and would individually dance to me as a welcome."

"They would put their arms around me shake my hand and invite me to dance with them, which I did enthusiastically. This lasted for a while and I felt so welcomed and overwhelmed by their hospitality and excitement I felt like I could burst out in tears."

Joanna has been adopted by a local family, with Alieu Jallow her adoptive father. She has two adoptive mothers: Hawa Jallow in Banni and another woman, Mariama, an older woman who sells fruit in the larger village, Wassu, and gives her free bananas on the village's weekly trip to its market. Joanna eats with her hands from a communal food bowl. She's learning to carry heavy loads on her head.

Her American mom, Rosemarie, said one of Joanna's main projects is a community garden.

"They're building a fence to protect it from the baboons and other creatures. They hope to grow enough to take it to market," Rosemarie said. "They plan to grow vegetables — they want to grow more green, leafy-type vegetables."

Joanna has started a library at the village school, where they set aside a room for her, and does tutoring as well.

Although Joanna played lacrosse at school, she decided it would be too hard to bring the sticks, so instead she started a girls' soccer team, which has gotten worldwide attention thanks to the recent World Cup in South Africa.

"Girls don't have many opportunities there," Rosemarie said. "She started teaching soccer to the girls at the school. They only have one ball, and she was teaching them the rules and things. It's a nice outlet for them other than just working."

Mondays are market days, so the villagers dress in their finest clothes and make the journey to Wassu.

"As the crow flies, it is not that far away but due to limited transportation and poor road quality it can take hours to get there, but it's a social experience and fun. The women put on their best outfits, jewelry and even paint their eyebrows for the occasion. We start out on a donkey cart packed with vegetables to sell and people, and sometimes goats and chickens, accompany us," Joanna wrote.

The villagers cross the river that divides much of the country in tin motorboats Joanna compares to vending machines, with the larger animals swimming, but the goats and chickens inside the boat. It takes several trips back and forth to get everyone across.

"The marketplace is huge and bustling with everything from fresh meat, fruit, vegetables, fabrics and Nescafe/condensed milk coffee stands (so good, by the way). Everything is outdoors sheltered by rice bags strung up ahead. There are endless winding alley ways, each district of the market with different goods. One of my favorite areas is the fabric section, lines and lines of outdoor shops with gorgeous fabrics hanging on display," she continued. "Occasionally I get called a 'Tubab' (or white person) by someone and my mother, who is hilarious, started responding to them as if they were greeting



her, which clearly they were not. It's kind of interesting being the only Tubab in the village and much of the area. Sometimes I actually forget that I am white."

Recently, Joanna's host mother got sick and had to be brought to the nearest hospital, which meant another long journey, another river crossing, and a reminder that The Gambia is still a third-world country.

"When we entered into the hospital I thought I could vomit from the smell," Joanna wrote. "A few lights hung from fans whose only purpose now was to host dust, cobwebs and insects. The 12 beds were lined up on opposing walls with no dividers. It reminded me of a makeshift hospital room during World War II or in a refugee camp. At the far end an old naked man lay on his bed swatting mosquitoes away with a rag. A young teenage boy who resembled a skeleton flailed around in panic, moaning from pain and sweating profusely. Under his emaciated body was a bare mattress tattered from use and with many questionable stains."

After sleeping on the cement floor outside the hospital overnight and patiently waiting for attention from the doctors and nurses, Joanna's African mother learned she was pregnant.

Returning home, Joanna was reminded of an AIDS poster that hung at the nearest Peace Corps office. It read "We can do better." ■

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new and unused kitchen items, storage items, yarn and quilting supplies, barely used digital cameras, costume jewelry, brand new luggage, vintage Oakland A's jackets, and much more - no reasonable offer refused!
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Pleasanton Weekly

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Frank

Why did we name this dog "Frank"? Because his airplane ears remind us of the Sinatra tune "Fly Me to the Moon"! Frank is a shepherd mix with red and black fur, warm brown eyes, and some graying in his muzzle. He's a handsome boy with a beautiful smile. Frank LOVES treats and he needs a loving new home to call his own. Learn more about Frank (pet No. 95818) by visiting him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; telephone 803-7040.



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July existing home sales fall as expected, but prices rise

27.2% drop puts sales nationally at the lowest level since Realtor group's accounting

By JEB BING

Existing-home sales were sharply lower in July following expiration of the home buyer tax credit but home prices continued to gain, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family, town homes, condominiums and co-ops, dropped 27.2% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.83 million units in July from a downwardly revised 5.26 million in June, and are 25.5% below the 5.14 million-unit level in July 2009.

Sales are at the lowest level since the total existing-home sales series launched in 1999, and single family sales, accounting for the bulk of transactions, are at the lowest level since May 1995.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said a soft sales pace likely will continue for a few additional months.

"Consumers rationally jumped into the market before the deadline for the home buyer tax credit expired," Yun said. "Since May, after the deadline, contract signings have been notably lower and a pause period for home sales is likely to last through September. However, given the rock-bottom mortgage interest rates and historically high housing affordability conditions, the pace of a sales recovery could pick up quickly, provided the economy consistently adds jobs."

"Even with sales pausing for a few months,

annual sales are expected to reach 5 million in 2010 because of healthy activity in the first half of the year," Yun added. "To place in perspective, annual sales averaged 4.9 million in the past 20 years, and 4.4 million over the past 30 years."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage fell to a record low 4.56% in July from 4.74% in June. The rate was 5.22% in July 2009. Last week, Freddie Mac reported the 30-year fixed was down to 4.42%.

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$182,600 in July, up 0.7% from a year ago. Distressed home sales are unchanged from June, accounting for 32% of transactions in July; they were 31% in July 2009.

"Thanks to the home buyer tax credit, home values have been stable for the past 18 months despite heavy job losses," Yun said. "Over the short term, high supply in relation to demand clearly favors buyers. However, given that home values are back in line relative to income, and from very low new-home construction, there is not likely to be any measurable change in home prices going forward."

Total housing inventory at the end of July increased 2.5% to 3.98 million existing homes available for sale, which represents

a 12.5-month supply at the current sales pace, up from an 8.9-month supply in June. Raw unsold inventory is still 12.9% below the record of 4.58 million in July 2008.

NAR President Vicki Cox Golder, owner of Vicki L. Cox & Associates in Tucson, said there are great opportunities now for buyers who weren't able to take advantage of the tax credit.

"Mortgage interest rates are at record lows, home prices have firmed and there is a good selection of property in most areas, so buyers with good jobs and favorable credit ratings find themselves in a fortunate position," she said.

A parallel NAR practitioner survey shows first-time buyers purchased 38 percent of homes in July, down from 43 percent in June. Investors accounted for 19 percent of sales in July, up from 13 percent in June; the balance went to repeat buyers. All-cash sales rose to 30 percent in July from 24 percent in June.

Single-family home sales dropped 27.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.37 million in July from a pace of 4.62 million in June, and are 25.6% below the 4.53 million level in July 2009; they were the lowest since May 1995 when the sales rate was 3.34 million. The median existing single-family home price was \$183,400 in July, which is 0.9% above a year ago.

Single-family median existing-home prices

were higher in 11 out of 19 metropolitan statistical areas reported in July in comparison with July 2009. However, existing single-family home sales fell in all 20 areas from a year ago.

Existing condominium and co-op sales fell 28.1% to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 460,000 in July from 640,000 in June, and are 24.0% below the 605,000-unit level in July 2009. The median existing condo price was \$176,800 in July, down 1.7% from a year ago.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast dropped 29.5% to an annual pace of 620,000 in July and are 30.3% lower than a year ago. The median price in the Northeast was \$263,800, up 4.8% from July 2009.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest fell 35.0% in July to a level of 800,000 and are 33.3% below July 2009. The median price in the Midwest was \$151,600, down 2.8% from a year ago.

In the South, existing-home sales dropped 22.6% to an annual pace of 1.54 million in July and are 19.8% below a year ago. The median price in the South was \$156,300, down 3.3% from July 2009.

Existing-home sales in the West fell 25.0% to an annual level of 870,000 in July and are 23.0% below a year ago. The median price in the West was \$224,800, up 3.3% from July 2009. ■

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5744 San Carlos Way \$799,000
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1151 Donahue Drive \$799,500
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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 895-9950

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 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2550

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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential CA 734-5061

3142 Arbor Drive \$899,950
 Sun 1-4 Jim Lavey - Allied Brokers 846-3755

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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

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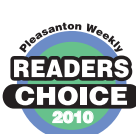
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0.80+/- Acre Lot \$1,495,000 Private park-like setting w/ pool for this beautiful custom home with amazing valley views. Spacious open layout and custom designer features throughout. Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454	Lovely Neighborhood \$695,000 Very nice home. Hardwood floors, bonus room, large yard perfect for entertaining, great schools & much more! Hurry! Lisa Doyle 925.855.4046	Pleasanton Hills \$1,029,000 Upgraded semi-custom home w/ Mt Diablo View! theatre room w/fireplace plus den! Cathedral ceilings & MORE! Diane Sass 925.699.9508	The Preserve \$1,898,000 Stunningly beautiful, located on the desirable West side. Beautiful views, backs to open space. Excellent, well planned floorplan and much more! Weiner & McDowell 925.251.2585	Val Vista \$599,000 All new kitchen, granite counters. Extensive new lighting, flooring and moldings. Large fenced yard. Close to schools, shopping and freeway. Glen Landrum 925.837.7110
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4524 2nd St, Pleasanton 4 Bd • 3 Ba • 1,675+/- sq.ft.	2670 Trevor Pkwy, Pleasanton 3 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 1,614 +/- sq.ft.	6124 Corte Padre, Pleasanton 3 Bd • 3 Ba • 1,472 +/- sq.ft.	Via di Salerno, Pleasanton Ruby Hill, Lot Acres Apx:0.50	E. Gate Way, Pleasanton 5 Bd • 3.5 Ba • 3,760 +/- sq.ft.
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Downtown \$789,000 Stunning remodel on desirable 2nd St. Walk to downtown Pleasanton. Custom Cherry Cab's. Granite Slab. S/S appliances. Harwood floors thru-out. Todd E. Martinez 925.251.2571	Open Floor Plan \$649,000 Mohr Schools! Attached 2 car garage. Laundry room upstairs w/ corner lot location. Light & airy feel throughout! Julia Kim 925.648.5405	Resort Setting \$630,000 One bed and bath on main floor, no steps. Lots of upgrades including tankless water heater. Remodeled Kitchen. Mahshid Shaghafi 925.648.5340	Golf Course Lot \$790,000 Big flat premium lot on the 16th fairway with fully approved plans for a 7,00sf+ custom home. Great opportunity, one of the last two golf course lots in RH! Uwe Maercz 925.306.8758	Open Sun 1-4 \$998,000 Walnut Hills, in Pleasanton. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 3760 sq.ft. with a carriage apartment above the garage. Weiner & McDowell 925.251.2585
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5545 Crestwood Ter, Dublin 4 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 2,584 +/- sq.ft.	7785 Georgian Oaks Ct, Dublin 4 Bd • 3.5 Ba • 2,936 +/- sq.ft.	4073 Rosehill Pl, Dublin 4 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 2,550 +/- sq.ft.	636 Sycamore Ct, Livermore 4 Bd • 2.5 Ba • 2,553 +/- sq.ft.	6390 Owl Way, Livermore 5 Bd • 3 Ba • 2,554 +/- sq.ft.
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Bright & beautiful \$849,900 1 bd & 1 1/2 ba downstairs, volume ceilings, Travertine entry & kitchen flooring, neutral colors throughout, large master w/ retreat. Cul de sac location. Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653	Gourmet Kitchen \$849,000 Court location! (4th BDRM is an office), plus large bonus rm, perfect theatre room set up. Gorgeous distressed hrdwd flooring and more! Bonnie Glennon 925.648.5437	Open Sun 1:30-4 \$749,000 Beautiful Greenbriar home is located on a wonderful court location in the desirable Rainsong development. Entertainer's dream with professional landscaping. Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547	RV Parking \$679,900 Court Location. RV Parking & private backyard for entertaining. Granite counter tops and MUCH MORE! Corey Green 925.899.6011	Corner Lot \$639,000 Pride of Ownership is reflected in this gorgeous home. 4 bd, + a downstairs office & 3 full ba. Expanded & remodeled kitchen w/ slab granite & more. Bowers Team 925.785.3795
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Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Ste. 200 Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100 Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	Montclair/ Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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DANVILLE
 Open SUN 1 - 4 1349 LAWRENCE ROAD
PRICE REDUCED! \$1,299,000
 5 BR 3 BA 1.4 level acres,pl/spa,covered/lighted arena w/sand fting,5 stall barn w/pipe paddocks 925.847.2200



DUBLIN
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 5229 LONDONDERRY DRIVE
GREAT LOCATION! \$710,000
 5 BR 3 BA + bonus rm down.Neutral colors,open flr plan w/ frplc in fam rm.Walk to park! 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
 6056 CLIMBING ROSE COMMON
GORGEOUS UPGRADED HOME! \$425,000
 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



SAN RAMON
 Open SAT/SUN 12 - 4 145 COPPER RIDGE RD.
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES AVAIL PRICES START IN HIGH \$200'S
 1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses,vaulted ceilings avail,w/garages,gated,renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

DANVILLE

6975 JOHNSTON ROAD
PRICE REDUCED! \$1,697,000
 4 BR 3 BA 19+ acres,living w/stone/travertine frplc,9 stall barn covered indoor arena & MUCH more! 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

4685 SUMMER GLEN
BEAUTIFUL HOME \$929,900
 5 BR 4 BA Lrg kit/fam rm w/eat-in dining,granite kit cntrs,wd flrs on main level,soaring ceilings 925.847.2200

3499 RIMINI LANE
GREAT HOME! \$799,500
 3 BR 2.5 BA + loft,3 years new,granite counters in kitchen,lots of upgrades!Community pool/clubhouse 925.847.2200

FREMONT

5839 NORTHLAND TER
LOTS OF UPGRADES! \$645,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA laminated wd flrs throughout,central air,frplc in fam rm,kit w/new tile & granite counters 925.847.2200

34155 TONY TERRACE
GREAT LOCATION! \$540,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA new paint throughout,wd laminate flrs,frplc in liv rm,tile entry,bckyrd w/roses 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

#30 STORYBOOK LANE
ONE OF A KIND PROPERTY \$899,000
 WELL IS IN. Rock walls to property,Perked for septic. Paved drwy to parcel, many imprvemnts 925.847.2200

#10 STORYBOOK LANE

GORGEOUS PROPERTY! \$499,000
 well is in,perked for septic,paved driveway to parcel,NOT raw land,many imprvemnts are in! 925.847.2200x

1866 CORTE CAVA
OPEN AND BRIGHT! \$399,000
 3 BR 3 BA 1 bedroom and 1 bath downstairs and much more! 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

2237 KAMP COURT
BEAUTIFULLY REMODELED \$1,050,000
 4 BR 3 BA Approx. 2,900 sq. f.t, kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances/beautiful pool 925.847.2200

4386 KRAUSE STREET
BEAUTIFUL! \$595,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA many upgrades! Dual pane windows, private backyard with patio and fountain 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

7912 PERSICA CT
GREAT HOME! \$558,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA on court location w/lrg yard, tile flrs, granite kitchen, wd flooring upstairs, long driveway 925.847.2200

STOCKTON

2128 BLACK ROSE LN
GREAT OPPORTUNITY! \$175,000
 4 BR 3 BA 2300+ sf,3 car gar, low-maintenance yard, much more! For info visit www.RomarProperties.net 925.847.2200

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



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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7208 ROSECLIFF CT. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



AVAILABLE
 5 BD 5.5 BA 5,330sf. on a 13,242sf. lot. Entertainer's dream! Outdoor kitchen, home theater, guest suite on main level. High end finishes. \$1,750,000

910 E MOCKINGBIRD LN. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN HAPPY VALLEY



COUNTRY QUIET, CITY CLOSE
 1.2 acre lot with existing structures - buildable lot. Single level home 1,937sf. 3 BD 2.5 BA. Barn, workshops, chicken coop!...Endless opportunities. \$1,235,000

5846 CORTE MARGARITA PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN COUNTRY FAIR



4 BD 2.5 BA 2,016sf. on a 7,605sf. lot. Tile floors, granite counters and an open floor plan. Pool and private lawn. Quiet court location. \$825,000

1151 DONAHUE DR. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN IRONWOOD CLASSICS



OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30
 3 BD 2.5 BA 2,163sf. on a 5,500sf. lot. Open floor plan, hardwood flooring throughout. Single level built in 2005, move in ready. \$799,500

541 GERARD CT. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN



PENDING
 4 BD + office 2.5 BA 2,573 sf. on a 8,088 sf. lot WOW! Amazing upgrades throughout. Tons of private space, new kitchen & baths. \$799,000

5133 GENOVESIO DR. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN VALENCIA



PENDING WITH 3 OFFERS
 4 BD 3 BA 1,926sf. on a 3,550sf. lot. Open floor plan, updated granite kitchen with dinette area. Bedroom and FULL bath on main level. \$729,000



OPEN SUN 1:00-4:00
 7647 ARBOR CREEK CIR.
 LOCATED IN DUBLIN'S WEST SIDE
 2 BD 1 BA 764sf. with garage. Updated top to bottom, indoor laundry and designer touches throughout. \$325,000

COMING SOON

3 BD 2 BA Jensen/Amador neighborhood in Pleasanton, single level w/ pool. Updated throughout.

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TYLER MOXLEY

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 apr.com

KOTTINGER RANCH

JUST LISTED - OPEN SUN 1-4



1327 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON
 Great Location! Beautiful Semi-Custom Home on .40 Acre Lot. Expansive Deck with Panoramic Views! Private Rear Grounds. Five Bedrooms, 4.5 Bathrooms, 4,026 Square Feet. Upgraded Gourmet Kitchen with Granite Countertops, Newer Paint & Carpeting. Extensive Hardwood Floors. Expansive Master Suite. Community Pool, Park, Tennis Courts and Open Space. Walk to Main Street and Award Winning Schools!
OFFERED AT \$1,298,000

PLEASANTON SEMI-CUSTOM

OPEN SUN 1-4



4150 CREEKWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON
 Don't miss this private, Pleasanton home on premium 1/2 acre lot. Large multi media/game room, upgraded kitchen and bathrooms with granite. Five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, three car garage, 4,002 square feet. Large secluded park-like rear yard includes expansive Trex deck, in-ground pool, Hot Springs grande covered spa, waterfall/pond, playhouse, zip line, large lawn area, mature redwood trees and large cemented side yard area. Walk to great schools & neighborhood parks.
OFFERED AT \$1,195,000

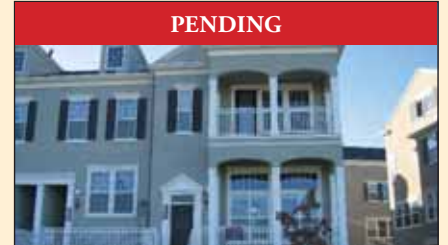
BRIDLE CREEK



863 SUNNY BROOK WAY, PLEASANTON
 Upgraded Avalon Model in Bridle Creek on premium .28 acre lot. Beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private rear yard with built in Fire Pit, Custom Pergola and Putting Green. Beautifully Landscaped. Five bedrooms, Private Office plus Private Guest Suite/Bonus Room (5th), 5.5 Bathrooms, 4434 Sq Ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Custom Tile and Hardwood Flooring, Plantation Shutters. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2001. Located on Quiet Street with No Through Traffic. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

COTTAGES AT DUBLIN RANCH

PENDING



4444 CHANCERY LANE, DUBLIN
 Beautiful upgraded Westcott model in excellent condition! Three bedrooms, plus bonus area (4th bedroom), 2.5 bathrooms, 2,250 sq. ft. Granite countertops, hardwood floors, all appliances included. Master suite includes spacious sitting/viewing balcony. Washer & dryer included. Spectacular views and easy access to two car garage (drive straight in). Across the street from new park. Walk to Emerald Glen Park. Not far from Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center and Dublin Ranch Golf Course. **OFFERED AT \$529,000**

ORIGINAL COUNTRY FAIR

PENDING



2468 VIA DE LOS MILAGROS, PLEASANTON
 Desirable "Original Country Fair". Excellent location. Convenient to everything. Walk to all levels of schools & parks. Customized highly upgraded home with five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, bonus/game room, 3,787 square feet. Three car garage, remodeled kitchen with granite and custom backsplash, custom cabinets & built-ins, plantation shutters throughout, newer high quality roof, two wood burning fireplaces. Very private beautiful grounds include in-ground black bottom solar heated pool & spa, exposed aggregate patio with flagstone, beautiful landscaping on .27 acre lot.
OFFERED AT \$1,369,000

COUNTRY FAIR

PENDING



2649 CALLE ALEGRE, PLEASANTON
 Original Ponderosa's Country Fair. Location, location, location. Convenient to everything. Great schools. Don't miss this Pleasanton home in sought after Original Country Fair. Four bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2,651 square feet. Two wood burning fireplaces. Beautiful private rear grounds include in-ground pebble tech pool, built-in outdoor kitchen/BBQ, expansive stone patio, sauna, basketball/sports court and waterfall on .26 acre lot.
OFFERED AT \$999,500

PLEASANTON HEIGHTS

SOLD



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

VENTANA HILLS

SOLD! REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER



998 HOPKINS WAY, PLEASANTON
 Beautiful, highly upgraded home on premium lot in Ventana Hills. Four bedrooms, formal office (4th), 2 1/2 bathrooms, 2,550 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen and master bath. New hardwood flooring, newer carpet, three car garage. Private rear yard with panoramic views, built-in BBQ island, backs to open space on 9,216 square foot lot. Walk to Main Street downtown & great neighborhood park.
SOLD FOR \$1,065,000 "AS IS"

BONDE RANCH

SOLD! REPRESENTED BUYER



4914 MIDDLETON PL., PLEASANTON
 Beautiful private home in Bonde Ranch. Four bedrooms, 4th is office/guest suite downstairs, bonus room, 3.5 bathrooms, updated kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances. Expansive master suite with retreat, three car garage. Approximately 3,609 square feet. Private rear yard with in-ground pool/spa & lawn area, covered patio. Lot size is 11,994. Located on quiet street. Walk to great neighborhood park and Main Street downtown Pleasanton!
SOLD FOR \$1,295,000

CASTLEWOOD

SOLD



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.
SOLD FOR \$1,465,000

PONDEROSA VINEYARDS

SOLD



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.
SOLD FOR \$950,000

SYCAMORE HEIGHTS

SOLD! REPRESENTED BUYER



1092 SYCAMORE CREEK WY, PLEASANTON
 Highly upgraded home on premium 20,180 square foot lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Backs to open space. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2006. Four bedrooms, plus guest suite and bonus room, 5 bathrooms. Approximately 4,974 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.
SOLD FOR \$1,525,000



apr.com

Go to **open.apr.com** for the Bay Area's only complete online open home guide



LINDA TRAURIG OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



727 VINEYARD TERRACE \$1,549,000
5bd/4ba on .50+/-acre lot. Located on beautiful south side of Pleasanton. Gorgeous carriage house with full kitchen,bath and laundry. Must See! PLEASANTON

TREVOR CREAGER BY APPT



622 HAPPY VALLEY RD \$1,500,000
This gorgeous lot has stunning 360 degree panoramic views! 3.5+/-acre parcel. Bring your horses & building plans! you will not find another like it! PLEASANTON

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



7909 DORAL COURT \$1,499,000
Fabulous Golden Eagle luxury home! 4bd/3ba, granite/cherry kitchen, pool ,spa, BBQ, stunning views of the ridge! PLEASANTON

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



4150 CREEKWOOD COURT \$1,195,000
Premium 1/2 Acre Lot. Multi Media/Game Room, Upgraded Kitchen and Bathrooms with Granite. 4,002 Square Feet. Park-Like Rear Yard with Deck, Pool, Spa and Pond! PLEASANTON

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



6415 AMBER LANE \$949,000
6bd+bonus, 3ba, huge upgraded kitchen, hardwood floors, large private yard, sparkling pool, side access and more! PLEASANTON



KAT GASKINS BY APPT



5791 SAN CARLOS WAY \$854,950
Semi-custom home offers pure serenity! 4bd,3ba, court location, updated granite/tile kitchen, new carpet and paint throughout, private backyard with waterfall! PLEASANTON

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



1151 DONAHUE DRIVE \$799,500
3Bd 2.2Ba 2,162sf. Single Level. Hardwood flooring, open kitchen, large master suite. Formal dining, nook & bar seating. Walk to community pool. PLEASANTON

SYLVIA DESIN OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



5744 SAN CARLOS WAY \$799,000
NEW PRICE! Nice 2-story, 3-bedroom home near elementary & middle schools, 680 freeway, and downtown Pleasanton. Many custom details. Updated kitchen and baths. Great floorplan. PLEASANTON

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



4520 LIN GATE ST \$799,000
4bd/3ba, 2,179+/-sqft home on a Court, full bed/bath downstairs, Hardwood floors, Granite eat-in kitchen, inside laundry, custom wrought iron staircase, Plantation shutters and fresh paint PLEASANTON

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



1545 ORLOFF DR \$775,000
4bd/2ba, 2348+/-sqft single story home, Granite/Cherry kitchen, SS appliances, fresh paint, carpets, Great Room with vaulted ceiling, remodeled baths PLEASANTON

JOYCE JONES BY APPT



3232 BALMORAL COURT \$749,950
Updates Galore, 4bd, 3ba, w/pool, hot tub, granite counters, white cabinets, raised ceiling w/sky light in kitchen, hardwood flooring, beautifully updated baths, indoor laundry and MORE! PLEASANTON

LANCE AND KELLY KING BY APPT



5833 NEWHALL WAY \$719,950
Boasting a gourmet kitchen with granite slab, ss appliances, center island, formal living and dining rooms, built in media niche, sparkling new pool and hottub, outdoor kitchen, and attached garage. PLEASANTON

GINGER MCGRAIL BY APPT



381 MARIE CMN \$348,950
Pride of ownership, Immaculate condition 2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2 Car Garage. Freshly painted inside and out. Brookmeadow Park Duet. Desirable corner lot, across from Pool-Spa. LIVERMORE

BRAD SLABAUGH SAT&SUN 2:00-4:00



2403 RAVEN RD \$770,000
6bd/2.5ba, 2538+/-sf, new kitchen appliances, granite counters. Baths have new tub/shower's, new counter & flooring. 2 zone heat/AC w/electostatic air filters. New carpets. Side yard access possible. PLEASANTON

