

Pleasanton Weekly

Music for marching: Foothill Band Review begins with a parade down Main Street tomorrow **PAGE 17**

Happy trails: \$10.2 million in stimulus funds will finish Iron Horse Trail, create jobs **PAGE 5**

INSIDE

VOL. XI, NUMBER 41 · OCTOBER 22, 2010

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**Lots of local opportunities
for shivers down your
spine **PAGE 12****

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Partial list

AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Hungry in Manhattan at 2 a.m.

We're just back from another quick trip to Manhattan to visit our son Chris, daughter-in-law Mary and our adorable 14-month-old grandson Jonathan. Chris met our midnight flight at JFK and we headed into the city, through heavy traffic, road construction, two accidents and an ambulance determined to make its way to the head of the line. Being in the midst of this frenzy of congestion, I again recognized there is nothing like the New York driver, whether on city streets or expressways, hand on horn, convinced that's the way to move traffic along. It doesn't take me long to remember I'm not in Pleasanton anymore.

Despite the late hour, none of us had eaten and Chris headed to 53rd Street and 6th Avenue to the Halal Brothers food cart, one of the regular stops on the tour for their many visitors. He dropped us off in front of a food cart calling themselves the "Halal Guys," not a customer in sight, and pointed to another identical cart about 200 feet away with probably 50 people in line, where we were to go. Although there was a curbside spot, he told us he would circle the block and be back when we got the food.

We took our place in line or "on line" as they say in NYC, not exactly sure if this was going to be worth the wait at 2 a.m. The cart's menu is simple: chicken or lamb or a combination of both served over a bed of rice and lettuce with pita bread and white and red sauces.

It's amazing how a long food line can unite a group of strangers. The folks in front of us were from Texas and were back for their fourth meal here in five days. The gentleman behind us was just out for a walk and decided to try the food based solely on the number of people in line. Another customer, a fashionably dressed woman who was talking on her cell, convinced someone to let her cut in line. Her idling BMW was parked at the curb with children in the backseat. As the line progressed, she ran down the street to back up her car closer to her position in the ever-growing line. She got her food, passed it out to everyone in the car and

drove away, phone still attached to her ear.

Our new group of 30-minute friends was abuzz when the young couple at the head of the line grabbed their order and headed to a waiting pedicab with a posted rate of \$140 for a tour of the city or maybe a ride home, or who knows what. Not that this was any of our business or our money, but we all agreed we would forgo the unbelievably costly bicycle ride and opt for, say, a classier dinner. The entertainment value alone, standing in this halal food line, is priceless. You almost don't want the gang to break up.

We got to the head of the line and ordered some of everything and met up with Chris who explained the reason he chose to circle rather than wait curbside, as is the custom in New York. A few weeks earlier he was waiting for friends in the Halal Brothers line when a corral of NYPD officers descended on foot and in squad cars, lights ablaze. Rather than the usual tap on the window signaling the order to move along, they blockaded the vehicles and issued tickets to each driver. The police, themselves grumbling at the chore of writing parking tickets usually discharged by mere "meter maids," said the two-wheeled food cart's popularity has caused so many traffic problems that they employ tactics unnecessary at nearby Carnegie Hall or Grand Central Station. Not only was it a hefty fine, the food was cold by the time the ordeal was over.

Our food, however, was delicious. Now I could understand the Halal Brothers' fame. For \$6, I don't think you could ask for anything more from food that comes in a tin container. Customers get at least two meals-worth of delicious spiced rice and savory meats. The lamb, in particular, is deserving of its reputation of winning over those who never liked lamb before. And despite the crowds, the line moves briskly — these brothers know how to run a cart business. They don't set up until about 7 p.m. so don't be fooled by the substandard impostor cart that is at that exact location during the day. I'd recommend this to anyone who happens to be in New York feeling hungry for what New Yorkers call "street meat" in the middle of the night, preferably without a car idling in the red zone.

It is worth the wait. ■

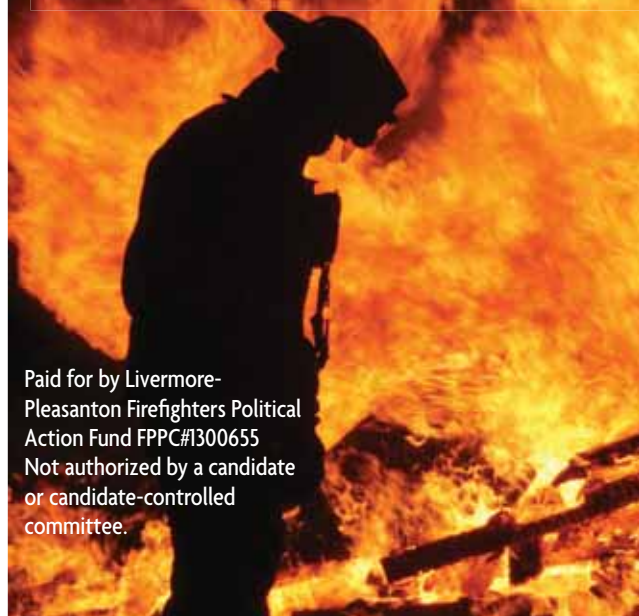
About the Cover

A photo wench watches as Jason Dunn mugs for the camera. Dunn, who traveled from Benicia to Pleasanton to see Pirates of Emerson, said people have a need to be frightened. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XI, Number 41

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- ____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 19, 2 - 4PM, ticket(s) \$30 per person
- ____ Tinsel Tea, Nov 19, 2 - 4PM, table for 10 at \$300
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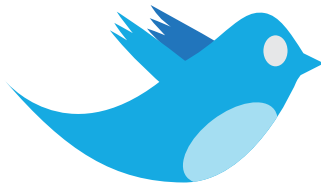
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ASKED AROUND TOWN

What are you watching on television this fall?



Sean Sinclair

Alameda County firefighter

Because I'm a fireman, Rescue Me particularly interests me. I also enjoy Dexter and Californication. Sons of Anarchy is a great show, too.



Dina Vilaysak

Owner, the Jelly Donut

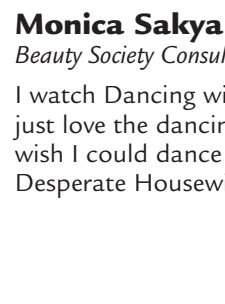
I really like the new Dr. Oz show, and we watch the news. I also watch Asian movies from the Internet.



Gerry Saba

Co-owner, Zen Pilates & Fitness

I don't really watch much television because I work a lot, but my wife and I really like The Office. It's really funny and entertaining; we even go on the Internet to catch up on old episodes. I never watch the news; it's too depressing.



Monica Sakya

Beauty Society Consultant

I watch Dancing with the Stars because I just love the dancing. It's so much fun and I wish I could dance like they do. I also enjoy Desperate Housewives.



Tracey Williams

Mobile veterinarian

I like The Event and Survivor, and I watch The Today Show every morning while I'm having my coffee. Sometimes I'll turn on Law & Order: SVU. There isn't anything on right now that I'm crazy about like True Blood or Big Love.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Taking candy from babies?

A Pleasanton dentist is hoping to help prevent cavities by buying back candy from kids, and sending it to our troops overseas.

Dr. Steven Nerab is offering \$1 a pound for the treats, with money going to local schools.

"They say cavities are the most prominent chronic childhood disease," Nerab said. "Halloween candy, if you have a bag of it, it encourages kids to pick a little bit here and there."

Nerab said the buyback will start Nov. 2, to give kids some time to enjoy a bit of their treats. He said the buyback has been in PTA newsletters and several middle and elementary schools are involved.

"We're keeping track of the pounds donated by the kids according to their school," Nerab said. "For first place we'll match that up to \$250, second place is \$100, and third is \$50."

Asked if shipping candy to soldiers would create problems for them, Nerab joked, "Maybe we can send some toothbrushes."

Climate Action Plan

Pleasanton will host a free community workshop about its Climate Action Plan (CAP) from 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The workshop will feature CAP experts who will provide an overview of the project, then lead group work sessions to discuss goals and targets.

The CAP will serve as a roadmap to reduce the carbon footprint of the collective community, which includes residents and people who work in Pleasanton. Through a series of workshops and special events, CAP will focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy, land use, transportation alternatives, green building, water conservation and waste reduction. Go to www.PleasantonGreenScene.org.

Rotary World Polio Day

Pleasanton's three Rotary Clubs are joining in observing Rotary International's World Polio Day on Sunday. Members of Pleasanton Rotary, Rotary North and Tri-Valley Rotary were honored for their efforts Tuesday with a proclamation by the Pleasanton City Council.

When Rotary began its mission to eradicate polio, more than 350,000 children were stricken with polio annually, said Tom Fox, president of the downtown Rotary Club. Since then, polio cases have been reduced by 99% to fewer than 1,700 cases last year.



GLENN WOHLTMANN
Congressman Jerry McNerney (D., 11th) announces a \$10.2 million grant, with part of the money headed to Pleasanton for work to complete the Iron Horse Trail.

Stimulus transportation funds heading to Pleasanton

Money will close gap in Iron Horse Trail, help other regional trails

More than \$10 million is headed to the area to help complete the Iron Horse Trail.

Surrounded by trail supporters and officials from the East Bay Regional Park District, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), made the announcement Wednesday that the U.S. Department of Transportation had chosen the Iron Horse project over more than a thousand other applications.

The money will come from the TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant program, part of President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

"The idea is to expand the Iron Horse Trail from Walnut Creek to Livermore," McNerney said. "This will create 500 jobs in this district."

While the \$10.2 million grant may be an economic boon to the area, it's also good news for walkers, bicyclists and commuters, and McNerney, a Pleasanton resident, said he'll be taking advantage of the expansion, too.

"I'm a jogger and a bike rider and I enjoy these kinds of trails," McNerney said, adding,

"It's good for the entire East Bay.

The grant will pay to close the 1.6 mile gap in the trail from the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station through the Hacienda Business Park (see story page 6) and complete the Iron Horse Trail between Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore.

The rest of the grant will fund other projects in Alameda and Contra Costa counties that are part of the Park District's Green Transportation Initiative.

Park District General Manager Patrick O'Brien said the complete project, with its links, will be the largest trail system in the U.S.

"We have about 170 miles of trails in the East Bay now," O'Brien said. "What this project does is connect them all."

The completed Iron Horse Regional Trail will run from Livermore in Alameda County to Suisun Bay in Contra Costa County. It will run more than 55 miles, connect two counties and nine communities, and will link to other trails that run to Martinez, Hercules and Oakland, among others.

—Glenn Wohltmann

Council OKs new Safeway superstore despite Sullivan's objections

Complex to include other retail stores, restaurants, pharmacy

By JEB BING

The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday night to approve plans by Safeway to build one of its new "Lifestyle" supermarkets in Pleasanton with a scheduled opening of November next year.

Councilman Matt Sullivan voted against the project, contending that the new store could "suck the life" out of existing grocery stores in Pleasanton, possibly leaving employees at those stores without jobs.

But Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and others on the council disagreed, calling both the new Safeway superstore and the retail complex to be built with it a financial and shopping opportunity for Pleasanton.

"This new store, here in Pleasanton where Safeway has its corporate headquarters, will be the company's flagship store that will be continually updated with new ideas and products," Hosterman said.

Emily Wagner, Pleasanton's director of finance, said an economic and planning study by a Berkeley consulting firm showed that 25 percent of the sales to be generated by the new store will come from shoppers using Pleasanton stores for the first time. Because of its larger size and product offerings, including large organic foods and fresh vegetables sections, the Lifestyle store also will bring back Pleasanton shoppers who now go to supermarkets outside of Pleasanton to shop, the survey added.

The fiscal impact to Pleasanton will add \$123,000 to the city's general fund in the store's first year of operation and \$285,000 a year after that.

The 58,000-square-foot store with adjoining retail and commercial stores and restaurants will be built on a 12-1/2-acre site at the southwest corner of Valley and Bernal avenues adjacent to the I-680 northbound off-ramp. Construction is expected to start shortly after a second reading of the ordinance, which is scheduled for the next

council meeting on Nov. 16.

The council meeting that was scheduled for Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2, has been cancelled.

In a detailed presentation during a two-hour public hearing, Brian Dolan, Pleasanton's director of community development, said the new Safeway complex will include a bank with drive-up tellers and ATMs, a pharmacy, also with drive-up services, and restaurants. Walkways throughout the complex will connect the stores with sit-down outdoor plazas.

The project is being built on the edge of a 39-acre site owned by South Bay Construction and currently zoned for up to eight four-story office buildings. Approved in 2000, that development never got under way because of the downturn in demand for office space.

Sullivan, in voting against the Safeway project, said the city needs to "step back" and determine how best to use that site before allowing developments. He suggested that with the city now required to provide more low-to-moderate-priced housing, the South Bay property might best be used for high-density residential development with some retail.

"But not this development," Sullivan said. "I can't support it."

Facing Valley, the store will back onto the northbound I-680 off-ramp. Driveways will be positioned along Valley Avenue, and one on Bernal will link with the Koll Center driveway on the other side with a full-phase traffic signal to allow turns into and out of both centers in either direction. Although larger and newer than the Pleasanton Safeway at Valley and Santa Rita Road, that popular store will remain open.

Scott R. Trobbe, a principal partner at South Bay Construction, said he still plans to develop the rest of the 40-acre site it owns into an office building complex. Plans for the four-story campus haven't changed much since 2000, when South Bay joined with Greenbriar

See **SAFEWAY** on Page 6

RFK Jr. keynote speaker at water conference

Put people to work to make homes energy efficiency, says Kennedy

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is many things: professor, attorney, author and political activist, but it was his passion for the environment that brought him to Pleasanton.

Kennedy was keynote speaker at a regional meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council last week, and though his talk touched

on water issues, it focused primarily on the need to move away from oil and coal and toward green technologies, including solar, wind and geothermal energy.

He's calling for the building of a national power grid with lines that can carry power over long distances.

"What we need to do is to create in this country the same thing Eisenhower did in the '50s and '60s (building the interstate highway system)," Kennedy said. "We need to build a national supergrid."

Kennedy said that's just one of three keys needed to make sustainable energy a reality in the U.S. He also called for a national marketplace for energy, letting those whose homes generate more electricity than they use sell it to power companies at full market rate.

And, he said, the county needs to end what he called subsidies to incumbents. Kennedy said taxpayers not only subsidize oil and coal

See **KENNEDY** on Page 6



GLENN WOHLTMANN
Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Studying the Iron Horse Trail

New plans should be before City Council by the end of the year

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Studies continue on how best to complete the gap in the Iron Horse Trail from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station to Santa Rita Road.

Officials from the city, East Bay Regional Park District and consultants Callandar Associates are grappling with the pros and cons of different routes and hope to present a proposal to the City Council before the end of the year.

One problem is how to get the trail across two busy, multi-lane streets: Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive, said Sean Duggan, resources analyst for the Park District, which operates and manages the Iron Horse Trail. The favored route crosses Santa Rita north of Stoneridge to eliminate the second crossing.

"There's pretty much one proposed route now but we're going to have to do further research," Duggan said. "There are a lot of utilities in the area, mainly Zone 7's large demineralization plant on the corner."

The Iron Horse Trail, which stretches 30 miles from Concord to Pleasanton, includes 49 street crossings, including two bridges over busy roadways in Walnut Creek. The \$6.8 million bridge crossing over Treat Boulevard near the Pleasant Hill BART station just opened Oct. 2.

"We've discussed overcrossings but for this project we're not looking to do anything like Pleasant Hill," Duggan said. "We're looking at elegant ways to cross

streets without spending millions of dollars."

Three alternatives were presented at the second public meeting, held Sept. 29 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Pleasanton. Concerns from residents centered on plans for Owens Plaza Park at 5700 Owens Drive, who voiced fears about potential conflicts between commuting cyclists and neighbors using the trail for walking, rollerskating, etc.

Officials noted at the meeting that the improved trail will be as much for residents in the immediate community as for those cyclists passing through the area.

Plans for this new section of the Iron Horse Trail call for keeping the existing pedestrian pathways and upgrading the linear parks that are already in place.

"The trail corridor will go right next to Owens Park Plaza through the linear park on the west side of the wall," Duggan said. "A tennis court and a basketball court is within our right of way and we are proposing those be relocated in Owens Park."

Plans also call for separating the playground from the trail.

The \$50,000 study is being paid for by matching funds from the city and the park district for \$25,000, and another \$25,000 from a Measure B grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority.

The Iron Horse Trail has connections to three BART stations, 30 schools and eight parks. ■

KENNEDY

Continued from Page 5

companies, they also pay to clean up the wastes they leave behind and increased health care costs due to pollution.

Kennedy said sustainable energy could become a reality sooner rather than later if those three keys are put into place. Wind farms in the plains states could produce enough electricity to power the entire country; large-scale solar farms could do the same; and he said the U.S. is sitting on top of the second largest source for geothermal power in the world.

Creating sustainable energy, Kennedy said, would be good for taxpayers, calling it "the single biggest

tax break in America."

Businesses would benefit, too, he said, "because their single biggest expense is energy."

Kennedy can envision a national program similar to Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal," putting Americans to work to make homes energy efficient.

Ending the country's dependence on coal and oil would pay off for the environment, too, he said, because large mining and oil companies would no longer be dumping toxic chemicals.

Kennedy, the son of slain presidential candidate and former attorney general Bobby Kennedy, is vice chair and chief prosecuting attorney for Riverkeeper, an environmental group dedicated to

cleaning the Hudson River, and chairman of Waterkeeper Alliance, a network of people who patrol and protect rivers and streams worldwide. He said a fifth of the water in the Adirondacks is sterilized because of big coal, and because he's a fisherman and he eats what he catches, he has high levels of toxic mercury in his body.

His talk kicked off the two-day meeting of the U.S. Mayors Water Council. Among the issues discussed at the conference were the water supply and flood management of the Delta, CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and water laws, and how the endangered species act is affecting water supply and management in the state. ■

SAFeway

Continued from Page 5

Homes and others to acquire the full 510-acre Bernal site from the city of San Francisco, which had owned the land since the 1930s.

Greenbriar and KB Home have since built the homes and apartments the city of Pleasanton approved as part of the purchase agreement that included 370 acres as a gift to the city for public uses. The city's first development on its property — lighted baseball fields — was completed last year.

Trobbe said Tuesday that while the office building market is still sluggish, the synergism in the new Safeway section of the site could attract more interest.

Sullivan agreed that the office park plans of 2000 are probably no longer relevant and that the sluggish office market is likely to continue for years. Given the city's recent loss of its housing cap and a court-ordered mandate to build more affordable, high density apartments and other housing, the Trobbe property — including

the Safeway complex — could be where this housing should go, Sullivan said.

"Although it's not near BART, it is transit-oriented in that it's next to a freeway," Sullivan said. "I can see housing there and some retail, maybe even a grocery store, but not this."

As for the new Safeway store's impact on surrounding businesses, Wagner said the Berkeley consulting firm that analyzed the project found that 20% of the grocery store sales will be new to the city while 45% of other retail sales in the stores next to Safeway also will be new to the city.

However, she said, 80% of grocery store sales and 55% of other retail sales will come from the existing market.

"The analysis found that the estimated demand by Pleasanton residents for food stores and restaurants exceeds the supply, which means that there is a net outflow of consumer dollars from Pleasanton to other locations," Wagner said, calling the outflow "retail leakage."

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern said she was disappointed that Safeway dropped its earlier plans to include a gas station at its new store. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Triathlon inspiration: While in Pacific Grove the Bonannos, Careys, Banholzers and Huffs took time to check out the Pleasanton Weekly after Teri Banholzer raced in the 2010 Pacific Grove Triathlon. Teri raced in honor of her daughter, Sarah, for Team in Training, which benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

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Candidate forum: Incumbents cite performance while challengers promise to be responsive

Questions range from pensions to developers

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

With plenty of empty seats, last week's candidate forum conducted by the League of Women Voters of the Livermore-Amador Valley may have shown either a lack of interest in the Nov. 2 municipal election or that many voters have already cast their ballots.

About 40 people turned out at 7 p.m. for a one-hour question-and-answer session for the four candidates vying for two seats on the City Council: incumbents Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne, and challengers Karla Brown and Fred Watson.

The audience dwindled to about 20 observers for the second portion of the evening beginning at 8 p.m. between Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and challenger City Councilwoman Cindy McGovern.

Questions that focused on preferences given to developers and endorsements by unions indicated that some in the audience had come to support the challengers. Differences quickly emerged as Brown and McGovern positioned themselves as in the running to listen to people's concerns and not ignore them.

"I attended almost every City Council meeting in the last three years and I saw what it's like to be an active citizen and not be listened

to," Brown said.

The incumbents pointed out Pleasanton's successes under their leadership.

"We've been able to deliver quality services for a while lot less," said Hosterman about the fire and police departments.

"What is meant by a grassroots campaign? It is important or a worn-out concept?" asked one question.

"I'm so grassroots my fingers are green," said Brown. "It means long hours and not a lot of money and I'm proud of that."

"I am participating in a grassroots campaign," said Thorne. "I show up for events, talk to people. I don't think it's a worn-out concept."

"I'm currently in one, the Tea Party," said Watson. "It's our constitutional process at work. I'm 100% for it."

Cook-Kallio recalled walking precincts while still in her 20s.

"Very early in my life I realized the power of the word," she said. "I believe in listening, not just when campaigning but when in office."

The council candidates agreed that the fiscal health of Pleasanton is a priority.

"We need to return business to Pleasanton. It used to be a thriving economic center," said Brown.

"The most important thing is to

protect our revenue stream," Cook-Kallio said. She also noted that a lot of work is being done behind the scenes to attract businesses.

Thorne listed his priorities as the community's fiscal health plus a "growth management plan that focuses on our infrastructure."

Watson said his priorities would be first, to establish a business group coalition; and second, transparency. "I believe everything Pleasanton is doing should be on our website."

The council candidates made closing statements, in part, as follows:

■ Watson: "We need to remember what built America — business men and business women. We need to embrace business as a virtue."

■ Thorne: "Take a look at each of us in our proven leadership ability. It doesn't take leadership ability to polarize the community; it does take leadership ability to bring people together."

■ Cook-Kallio: "It's important to understand that in the next four years, we need a plan. Where is the revenue stream? How are we going to pay for services? ... I have the ability to listen to the entire community."

■ Brown: "I would like us to be fiscally sound, address unsustainable pensions. ... I have a strong commitment to ridgeline protection ... I don't like citizens referred to as

'nimbys' and 'obstructionists.'"

Hosterman opened the mayoral forum by stating: "I feel I have a great track record, and I'm running on my track record."

McGovern said, "My candidacy offers you a leadership choice. ... I want to rebuild trust in local government."

From there they moved to questions about where to locate workforce housing, current and impending issues, Kottinger Gardens and maintaining the cemetery.

"Why have the City Council and the mayor not addressed pension reform until now?" was another question submitted.

"I think we have," said Hosterman. "We started a year ago having the discussion, both in white papers and city managers getting together."

"Pension reform is on the top of the heap for a lot of people throughout the state of California," she added. "Over the next few years we're going to get there."

"I think this is something the City Council needs to study more," McGovern said. "We need workshops to look at this complex issue and look at the best ways of making changes."

When asked to describe what experience in city government qualifies them to be mayor, Hosterman answered, in addition to her six years as mayor and two as a councilwoman, "I think passion is No. 1. You need to be passionate about our community to do a good job. You need to be accessible. After so many years I have so much knowl-

edge."

McGovern cited her 16 years on the school board and council.

"You can see I'm a hard worker and work with staff well," she said. "I'm very fair. It took all the volunteer hours and money of all the members of the community to make Pleasanton what it is today. I will be very respectful. I want (people) to be engaged and feel respected."

Among the final questions was a loaded one: "Explain the preferential treatment for developers over ordinary people."

"That doesn't happen," said Hosterman. "Anyone who watches City Council meetings knows better. We do enjoy relationships and I think that's a good thing. But at the end of the day I'm about providing projects that are best for the community."

"I believe there is preferential treatment occurring at City Council meetings," said McGovern. She went on to explain that Mayor Hosterman organizes the speaker cards so that paid consultants go last, which does not give residents the chance to ask them questions.

The moderator allowed Hosterman to respond.

"People said, 'I want to go first and then go home and watch it on TV,'" she explained. "So everyone who doesn't get paid to be here gets to go home."

"I think the public should be able to respond to something," countered McGovern.

The forum is being aired at 5 p.m. Wednesdays and at 11 p.m. Fridays on TV29. ■

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LETTERS

Committed to education

Dear Editor,

Joan Laursen and I moved to Pleasanton about the same time, a little over 15 years ago. We became instant friends. My daughter and her son, who are now 20 years old, started preschool together and through those years of Walnut Grove, Harvest Park and Amador Valley High School, I have seen Joan work tirelessly for Pleasanton schools. Whether it was as a classroom volunteer, a member of numerous school site councils, her role on the school district's Budget Advisory Board or President of the Pleasanton PTA Council, Joan has demonstrated her passion and commitment to education and our community. Her role in these positions as well as her background as a financial analyst give Joan the qualifications needed to manage through the challenging economic times we now live in. Joan is willing to look at both sides of any issue and prides herself on her attention to detail, making her one of the most fair-minded persons I know. Be assured that she will use these skills and more to the benefit of every student in our school district. So on Nov. 2, vote for Joan Laursen for Pleasanton School Board.

Christine Peterson

Thanks, candidates

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the three candidates who are seeking election to the Board of Trustees of the Pleasanton Unified School District. I am impressed by their willingness to invest so much of their own time, energy and money in the pursuit of a position, which will involve many late-night meetings and countless hours of email and phone communication.

As President of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, I was part of the selection committee, which interviewed the three candidates and assessed their qualifications for this important task. Each of the candidates demonstrated a passion for education and a dedication to the cause of improving Pleasanton schools. Overall, Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen clearly stood out as the best qualified.

Jeff Bowser has worked as a teacher and an administrator at the school, district and county levels. This experience combined with his expertise in business and management make him uniquely qualified to make a difference in our school district.

Joan Laursen cares deeply about Pleasanton's schools. Her extensive knowledge of public education and finance will help our district navigate the current challenging fiscal times and ensure that Pleasanton students continue to receive an outstanding education.

Trevor Knaggs

McNerney turned deaf ear

Dear Editor,

I find it amusing that U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (11th, Pleasanton) is seeking the support of constituents which he turned a deaf ear to when ObamaCare was being debated. Despite a majority of Americans expressing concerns for the cost and ultimate success of ObamaCare, Mr. McNerney chose to support a deeply flawed and horrendously expensive program for which he will undoubtedly be seeking to raise our taxes to pay for! As a registered Independent, I intend to urge family and friends to reject Mr. McNerney's re-election bid and say, "most assuredly no, Mr. McNerney!"

Scott Schroeder

Break up triumvirate

Dear Editor,

The Valley Times endorses Cindy McGovern and Karla Brown for Mayor and Council in Pleasanton, and I must say with very strong and sound reason. The Pleasanton Weekly endorses the Hosterman, Thorne, Cook-Callio triumvirate with weak commentary. In fact, they gave strong credit to McGovern and Brown. Further, they confirmed McGovern's and Brown's statements that Hosterman does not listen to citizens at council meetings, but they hope she will change. Why would she change? She has a triumvirate who will not challenge her.

So, Pleasanton, if you want a council that will honestly and openly listen to your concerns, then you must break up this triumvirate. If you want a council that is not beholden to the likes of Fred Lin, Hosterman and her cronies must go. If you want transparency in your government, you won't get it from the triumvirate.

If you want your council to be open, fair, attentive to your concerns and free of obligations to special interests, you must elect Cindy McGovern mayor and Karla Brown to City Council.

Paul Ebright

Piderit sees big picture

Dear Editor,

I have met Sandy Piderit and believe she has the background and insight needed for Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) School Board. What struck me most when I met her, and in watching her interact with others, is her interest in what other parents think and see as important in our school district. She is a wonderful communicator and listener, and able to see the big picture.

Secondly, she is running a "grassroots" campaign and not asking for any endorsements. This indicates she is not part of any of the status quo education organizations and will be an independent voice on school board.

Thirdly, as an MBA graduate professor, Sandy has the critical thinking skills needed for analytical

See **LETTERS** on Page 10

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A primer on the propositions: Nine choices before California voters

With nine statewide propositions on the ballot, Pleasanton voters have an opportunity to weigh in on a variety of issues on Nov. 2 ranging from the legalization of marijuana to budgetary reform to global warming. The topic of congressional redistricting is covered in two propositions — **Prop. 20** and **Prop. 27** — two measures that are essentially seeking to negate one another.

Prop. 20, if passed, would remove the state Legislature from the process of drawing up Congressional districts and place the responsibility with the Citizens Redistricting Commission, which was established by Proposition 11 in 2008. The Citizens Redistricting Commission draws districts for the state Assembly, state Senate and the Board of Equalization, while federal districts remain under the control of the Legislature. **Prop. 27** seeks to dissolve the Citizens Redistricting Commission and place the responsibility of drawing districts for both state and national office back into the hands of the Legislature. If both propositions pass, the one receiving the higher percentage of the vote will become law. Vote for Prop. 20 to keep the Legislature out of the redistricting process.

Proposition 19, formally known as the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, would allow people 21 or older to "possess, cultivate or transport" marijuana. Statewide, the issue has received mixed reviews, with groups such as the California NAACP and various branches of the ACLU standing in support of the measure, while most law enforcement agencies, as well as public safety advocates such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, are opposing the issue. No matter how Californians vote, the federal drug enforcement agency vows to continue its enforcement of a federal ban on marijuana. Drug legalization is a federal issue, not ours. Vote No.

Proposition 21 would place an \$18 annual surcharge on all vehicles registered after Jan. 1, and deposit the collected funds into the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. Given the state's tendency to "borrow" from any available fund, this one is likely to provide a future nest egg to help the state bail itself out of another budget shortfall. Vote No.

Proposition 22: Of the nine propositions on the November ballot, none has received more support from local governments than Prop. 22. Dubbed The Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act, Prop. 22 hopes to close an alleged "loophole" left after the passage of Proposition 1A in 2004, allowing the state to borrow or redirect funds from cities, counties and special districts in order to shore up holes in California's general fund. Just last year the state took \$5 billion in local revenues to balance its budget, including \$4 million from Pleasanton. Since 1992-93, the state has shifted approximately \$100 million in property tax revenue away from the city Pleasanton to fund its structural deficit. This loss of revenue could have been used to fund roads, parks, libraries and public safety services. Opponents of Prop. 22 claim that restricting the state's revenue options will hurt areas reliant upon the general fund, including public schools, universities and various social services. That's nonsense. These funds are local revenue not intended for use by Sacramento as it sees fit. Vote Yes on Prop. 22.

Proposition 23 aims to suspend Assembly Bill 32 — California's "global warming solution" law — until the statewide unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. Sounds reasonable at a time when unemployment and the need for job growth head everyone's priority list. Vote Yes.

Proposition 24 seeks to repeal three pieces of recently passed legislation that would allow businesses to lower their liability tax. This would result in an annual increase to state revenues of roughly \$1.3 billion due to higher taxes paid by some businesses or, in other words, \$1.3 billion less in business revenue needed for expansion and job growth. Vote No.

Proposition 25 hopes to reduce the two-thirds threshold required in both the Assembly and state Senate to pass a budget, to a simple majority vote. Supporters say that Prop. 25 would prevent the budget from being held hostage by a minority of lawmakers. Opponents believe that it would allow the majority party to simply ram through a budget without having to make concessions to the minority members. In our opinion, two-thirds may be too restrictive but a simple majority is far too lenient. Wait for something better to come along. Vote No.

Proposition 26 would require that certain state and local fees be approved by a two-thirds vote of the responsible governing body. Sounds good to us. Vote Yes. ■

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 9

discussions, providing a different perspective for oversight on the school board.

Finally, she is transparent about her priorities, listing them openly on her website. These include:

- Communicate proactively with community members about school district activities, budget issues, and strategic decisions
- Listen to all community members, maintaining confidentiality when needed
- Maintain high expectations for teachers, staff and management
- Ensure that professional assessment is rigorous and professional development will support continued growth in teaching effectiveness
- Make budget decisions from a long-term perspective and in a transparent way

Voters can find out more about Sandy at www.sandyp4school-board.com.

Elizabeth Dallmann

received his encouragement. That amounts to a "thanks for staying in business in Pleasanton" when it is most needed.

I enthusiastically support Jerry's re-election to the Pleasanton City Council. So on Nov. 2, mark your ballots where it will do the most good: next to Jerry Thorne's name.

Jerry Pentin

Keep California golden

Dear Editor,

Vote Yes on Prop 21.

My wife and I decided to settle in California for one reason, the beautiful scenery and wonderful climate; we disregarded the poor roads, higher taxes and higher cost of living. Now more Californians are leaving California than new people are moving into our state. California is the golden state because of its scenic beauty. We are about to lose our chance to enjoy that beauty. The state parks are in desperate need of support and next year will be worst. Parks will close and many will not recover in the future, they will be lost forever.

The proposed \$18/vehicle registration tax will solve this problem and will keep the parks open for everyone; this is less than the cost of two tickets to a two-hour movie and can provide free access to the parks all year long for free. This directly impacts you when the parks close: Not only will you not be able to picnic, run, walk dogs, hike, send school kids to trips, use the beaches, etc., but this will cause more people to become disenchanted with California and leave, driving down property values and increasing the general downward economic spiral. Don't lose the reason California is golden; please help save our parks.

Jim Holmes

Cook-Kallio for council

Dear Editor,

I'll be voting for Cheryl Cook-Kallio this November because she speaks for young families. Cheryl is working on the Hacienda Task Force to increase transit-oriented housing to allow families with young children to move back to the area and continue our city's familial tradition. I hope this will allow my daughter to move back to her hometown to raise her own family.

Cheryl understands school funding and is working with the city to support our struggling school district. Further, she made sure the Youth Master Plan was reevaluated to make sure all our young people are represented.

Cheryl has worked to expand protected area parkland including the Bernal Community Park, Marilyn Kane Trail, Alviso Adobe Community Park as well as the extension of the Iron Horse Trail.

Cheryl is also focused on senior housing and is working on the redevelopment of Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens senior housing. I hope that when I retire, I'll have the opportunity to live near my grandchildren.

Please join me in supporting Cheryl Cook-Kallio for City Council on Nov. 2.

Sarah Smoot

Re-elect McNerney

Dear Editor,

This is not the time to put the polluters, Wall Street bankers and outsourcers back in the driver's seat. It's not the time for Mr. Harmer, who is a former a Wall Street lobbyist, a credit card company lawyer and failed candidate in two states, and who would privatize Social Security and our entire education system.

Since he was first elected in 2006, Jerry McNerney's priorities have been to create clean energy and create green jobs in his district. He spent most of his working life in developing renewable energy as a wind turbine engineer and entrepreneur with a PHD. He can separate the spin from the solutions.

He wrote a bill to close tax loopholes that corporations use to ship American jobs overseas and one which was passed in the House to help train Americans for green jobs.

He delivered a new veteran's medical facility in his district that will create 900 new jobs. He also wrote a new law to improve care for veterans with traumatic brain injuries.

There are already too many lawyers and lobbyists in our government. McNerney possesses unique talents, experience, compassion and integrity that are much needed in Congress. Vote for Jerry McNerney.

Joe Ely

Vote for Thorne

Dear Editor,

As I applaud the recent news of many companies relocating to Pleasanton, such as Clorox consolidating its Oakland operations here, I want to point out my enthusiasm about Vice Mayor/City Councilman Jerry Thorne's support for small businesses in Pleasanton as well. Having lived here for nearly 20-years and owning/operating my company in town during that time, I appreciate his support of small businesses as well as his fiscal stewardship on a larger level. Be they but one or two-employee livelihoods, home-based or on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, small businesses have

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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton woman charged in bank scam

A local woman faces multiple charges after allegedly finding a purse and trying to open an account using the woman's name.

Dawn Nicole Anderson, 35, of Pleasanton was arrested Oct. 15 on charges of forgery, burglary, identity theft and giving false ID to police.

Pleasanton police Lt. Scott Rohovit said the incident occurred at the Bank of America on Stoneridge Drive at around 5:30 p.m. Rohovit said bank workers became

suspicious of the woman's identity and called police. The charge of burglary, he said, came from entering the bank with the intent to commit a crime.

Two other recent burglaries remain under investigation.

In one, which occurred between 5 p.m. Oct. 11 and 9:30 a.m. Oct. 12, \$2,400 in cash and a 37-inch flat screen television were stolen from Mission Expert Nails in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road. A police report said the front door had been pried open.

In the second, which took place between 6:30 p.m. Oct. 16 and 8:30 a.m. Oct. 18, two video projectors worth more than \$4,600 were taken from Precision System Science in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard. A police report said a lock punch was used on the front door.

POLICE REPORT

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

Oct. 12

Theft

- 1:33 p.m. in the 3100 block of Boardwalk Street; petty theft
- 3:25 p.m. in the 2600 block of Ingrid Court; identity theft
- 7:48 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; grand theft
- 8:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
- 9:12 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

Burglary

- 11:30 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:20 a.m. at the intersection of Old Vineyard Avenue and Vineyard Avenue; paraphernalia possession
- 3:47 p.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, endangering the welfare of a child, paraphernalia possession
- 10:12 p.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton Avenue and St. John Circle; DUI

Oct. 13

Petty theft

- 4:05 a.m. in the 200 block of

Kottinger Drive

Vandalism

- 2:05 p.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 14

Prank calls

- 7:12 a.m. in the 3600 block of Gettysburg Court

Public drunkenness

- 1:34 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Oct. 15

Theft

- 5:36 p.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive; identity theft, forgery, burglary, presenting false I.D. to police

- 8:15 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

- 1:27 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue
- 7:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 9:36 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street

- 1:28 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:18 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
- 8:15 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and St. Mary Street; DUI

Oct. 16

Theft

- 5:25 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:34 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; receiving stolen property

Burglary

- 2:21 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- 9:18 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Assault and battery

- 2:32 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:07 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and St. Mary Street; DUI
- 1:09 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

Oct. 17

Theft

- 10:38 a.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
- 6:57 p.m. in the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive; robbery

DUI

- 1:03 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Oct. 18

Marijuana possession

- 2 a.m. at the intersection of Franklin Drive and Stoneridge Drive

OBITUARIES

John (Johnny) Russell Hyde

John (Johnny) Russell Hyde died at his home in Pleasanton on Oct. 18 at the age of 61.

He was born Feb. 10, 1949, in Berkeley, was raised in Alameda, and attended Franklin and Haight elementary schools and Alameda High School, class of 1967. He received his AA degree from Laney College and attended Hayward State. He was employed until his death by Alameda Hospital, where he worked in radiology and was admired by his co-workers and developed lasting friendships

which he considered family. He moved to Pleasanton 10 years ago.

His lifelong passion was cars and he was a true car nut. He was an aficionado of both model and classic cars, and particularly enjoyed the cars of his youth from the '50s and '60s.

Mr. Hyde was predeceased by his parents John Russell and Florence B. Hyde, and his sister Kristin Hyde-DeKolver (George). He is survived by his sister Kathleen Holstead (Ray) of San Francisco; four nephews and several cousins. A viewing will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow with a funeral service at 2 p.m. at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. The burial will be private. Donations may be made to the charity of choice.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PCUP-282, Mark Anderson

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a music studio at 4430 Willow Road, Suite M.

• PCUP-283, Fred Li

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a church at 4430 Willow Road, Suites L and N.

• PCUP-276, Tina Ardeshiri, Simeon Properties

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a 24-hour convenience store (7 Eleven) at 3506 Old Santa Rita Road.

• PCUP-274, Tri-Valley Bread of Life Christian Church

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a church at 6678 Owens Drive, Suite 102.

• PAP 148, Mark Lobaugh/Complete Wireless Consulting Inc.

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's denial of design review application for the construction of a 65-foot tall faux pine tree to be operated as a wireless facility for Verizon Wireless at 6890 Koll Center Parkway.

• PTR-8020, Alameda County Surplus Property Authority

Application for Tentative Map approval for a 22 lot subdivision of approximately 124 acres located southwest of the intersection of I-580 and El Charro Road (Staples Ranch). 122.5 acres of the project site are in unincorporated Alameda County and are currently zoned Agriculture by Alameda County. City of Pleasanton pre-zoning for the property is PUD C (Planned Unit Development-Commercial) for the portion of the project site with the proposed Health Center and PUD-HDR/C (Planned Unit Development - High Density Residential/Commercial) for the remainder of the senior continuing care community site; PUD P (Planned Unit Development - Park) for the two park sites; and PUD C (Planned Unit Development - Commercial) for the auto mall site and the commercial site. An approximately 1.5 acre site already within the City of Pleasanton is zoned PUD MDR (Planned Unit Development - Medium Density Residential), PUD C (Planned Unit Development - Commercial), and PUD HDR/C (Planned Unit Development - High Density Residential/Commercial).

Energy & Environment Committee

- The October 27th meeting of the Committee on Energy and Environment has been cancelled.

Hacienda Task Force

Thursday, October 28, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road

- Presentation and discussion of Draft TOD Standards and Design Guidelines

**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

WEDDINGS

Fuller-Arslanian

Desiree Fuller and Rickey Arslanian were married Sept. 5 at Seascape Resort in Aptos, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, with a reception following. Desiree, a fifth-generation Pleasanton resident, is the daughter of Duke Fuller of Pleasanton and Konnie Fuller of Dublin. Rickey is the son of Rickey and Terry Arslanian of Pleasanton.

The bride and groom are graduates of Foothill High. Rickey works as a project manager for Mountain Cascade. Desiree works in accounting at Mountain Cascade and is studying for her bachelor's degree in business management.

The couple honeymooned in Cabo and reside in Livermore.



BIRTHS



Seth Michael Fuller

Seth Michael Fuller was born to Michael Duke and Lauren Fuller of Pleasanton on Aug. 26, weighing 8 pounds 4 ounces and 21-1/4 inches long. He is the great-great-grandson of Bud Dietrich and great-grandson of Mike and Sharon Fuller of Pleasanton.



Are you Scared

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Yaargh!

It's Halloween season, the traditional time of year to get your scare on, and the 13th scariest attraction in America (yes, there are apparently people who keep track of these things) has come to Pleasanton.

The Pirates of Emerson has, puns intended, sailed to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, where it's weighed anchor until Halloween night.

What do pirates have to do with Emerson? Not much, according to Chief Bogeyman Brian Fields, who runs the show.

Fields said the whole idea came from his Halloween's growing up in Fremont, when he and his friends on — you guessed it — Emerson Street started a tradition of scaring neighborhood kids. One thing led to another, and 19 years ago, Fields and his parents, Karl and Patty, opened "Pirates of Emerson — Haunting Fields." It's a bit of an inside joke: Are the fields the location or the family?

At \$20 a person at the Fairgrounds, more for add-ons like a speed pass or munions (coupons for side attractions like a misfortune teller's booth and "carnevil" booths), along with \$8 for parking, it's not cheap. Discounts are available online at PiratesofEmerson.com, which, by the way, has some cool animations.

The haunting fields are actually six separate haunted houses and other attractions, including a maze and the carnevil booths, and there's a lot to do to get it all ready on any given night. In addition to making sure everything is working right, Fields said, "I've got 60, 70 people I've got to get into costume and made up every night."

Fields has another worry — the Giants. While he wants them to win, he's concerned that people may end up staying home to watch the post season games and not come out. So far, he said, "Pirates" is doing well.

While it nominally opens at 7 p.m., there's usually a short delay while Fields runs around doing a final check. The crowd gathers, waiting in groups outside. Someone inside bangs on the wooden entrance doors, drawing some nervous laughter.

There's a technique to getting the most out of a haunted house: Put the person most easily scared in front. This accomplishes two things — first off, it's funny to watch, plus it makes everyone else in the group look fearlessly by comparison.

It worked really well on a recent Friday night with a group of three wending their way through the "Dig of the Dead." Teera Abernathy, the screamer of the group, had to literally be pushed along, face in hands, while Ty Abernathy and Diane O'Shea pushed, watched and tried not to laugh too hard.

Another group, a bunch of 14-year-olds from Livermore, was having fun at the expense of one of their friends, Tristan Knuth.

"I like it, but the main reason I come out is so I won't get called a chicken by my friends," Knuth said. He managed to keep his eyes closed the entire time he went through the Pirates of Emerson attraction, led along by Devin Badger, who said he comes for the adrenaline rush.

It's tempting to give away the details about what's inside each of the haunts, but that's best left to the imagination. It's worth noting, though, that there are people who actually get paid to stand along the way and scream at the top of their lungs. One can only imagine their job interviews.

Then there are the pirates — people with hooks and eye patches — who get paid to walk around and say things like, "Avast there, ye salty dogs."

The real question is: What draws people to things designed to frighten them?

Jason Dunn, who came all the way from Benicia, may have had the best answer.

"There's probably something deep down inside that wants to be scared," he said.

If "Pirates" isn't scary enough, there's a whole crop of movies almost guaranteed to make you leave the lights on all night. George Romero's classic black-and-white "Night of the Living Dead" may top the list, although some zombie purists

suggest "Dawn of the Dead" — also by Romero is better. Rent them both and decide for yourself.

It may be of note to zombie movie fans that Romero didn't actually start the genre until 1968's "Night of the Living Dead." If you prefer your zombies with humor, "Shaun of the Dead" and "Zombieland" may be your while.

The humorous horror movie — into the category of humorous, not like Ed Wood's infamous "Plan 9 from Outer Space," where the same furniture is used both outdoors and indoors — and flying hubcaps on strings are the norm — include "An American Werewolf in London," "Arachnophobia," its twisted sister "Eight Legged Freaks," "Tremors" and "Evil Dead II" (the only the latter is leave-the-lights-on scary).

If you prefer classic horror, there are plenty of the classics like "The Blob," (both the 1986 and 1988 versions are good — the same goes for both versions of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers") and the original "Halloween" along with modern favorites like "The Thing."

Vampire movies are hot right now, but if you're best fear factor, forget "Twilight" and "True Blood." "Lost Boys," from 1982, which is both funny and scary (plus it has the two Coreys, Harold and Michael Feldman), or Quentin Tarantino's "From Dusk Till Dawn" or "30 Days of Night," are argu-



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Above: Pirate Randy Foreman with three young women enjoying a ghouls night out. Top right: Chief Bogeyman Brian Fields, one of the creators of Pirates of Emerson; the event runs through Oct. 31.

Halloween in Pleasanton

Dead Time Dreams

This haunted house is open from 7-10 p.m. Oct. 21 through Oct. 31 at Stoneridge Shopping Center, in the parking lot near Macy's and Sears. Rated PG-13. Cost \$10.

Downtown Pleasanton Ghost Walks

Stop at the Museum on Main and learn the fascinating stories about Pleasanton businesses that once harbored ethereal beings. Or learn that maybe, just maybe, they haven't really left their haunted locales. Walks take place starting at 6 p.m. and run every 30 minutes Oct. 22, 23, 29 and 30. Costumes are welcome. Tickets are \$18 for adults; students, \$13.

Halloween at Alviso Adobe

Imagine the ghosts of Francisco Alviso or milkmen-past from the old Meadowlark Dairy. City Naturalist Eric Nichols will talk about nocturnal animals and some of the eerie myths that surround the site, and participants will make a Halloween craft. All ages welcome; 20-minute tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:20 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22, and Saturday, Oct. 23, at the park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Cost \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Call 931-5340.

Pumpkin Carving

Alviso Adobe Community Park, Oct. 23, 2-3:30p.m. Ages 4 and up. Pumpkins and tools provided. Cost \$15 for residents, \$18, non-residents.

Un-Scary Halloween

Creepy or cool? Meet special Halloween guests — a bat, a tarantula, a snake and a great horned owl with Sulphur Creek Nature Center

Naturalist Diane Lang, 2-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 3400 Bernal Ave. Best for ages 5 and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Trick or Treat!! Dublin

Have a safe and fun Halloween evening at the Tri-Valley Adoption Center in Dublin featuring a scavenger hunt, time to meet the animals, fun activities, and of course costumes. Costumes strongly encouraged from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, at 4651 Gleason Drive. Free.

Livermore Downtown Halloween Carnival

The second annual Downtown Halloween Carnival will take place from 4-7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 27, for families with children age 12 and younger. A \$5 Fun Pass will give children access to downtown activities on Friday and Saturday at the intersection of K Street between First and Second Streets at the Livermore Valley Plaza and the Bernal Plaza. For information, call 373-1795.

'Nightmare' Improv

"Nightmare," a terrifying night of improv presented by the Creatures of Impulse, will be performed by the Creatures of Impulse's own teen improv troupe, with 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 28; Friday, Oct. 29, and Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Firehouse Center, 444 Railroad Ave. Participants will create the story, setting and characters in an interactive and completely unscripted performance. Tickets are \$5-\$8. Call 931-4828.

Harvest Valley Church Harvest Festival

The festival is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 25, at Harvest Valley Church, 3200 Hop-

yet?

Lots of local opportunities for shivers down your spine

omero — yourself. fans that e, which or, “Zom-be worth

scariest vampire movie ever.

That's not to mention the enormous number of slasher films out there. Tops among them is probably “Texas Chainsaw Massacre” but “Scream” and all of the “Nightmare on Elm Street” movies — except part four.

Then there are the haunted house movies, with the 1963 classic “The Haunting” still standing tall, so to speak, despite remakes and adaptations like “The House on Haunted Hill.” “Poltergeist” is still scary as ever, as is “The Amityville Horror,” and, yes, despite getting blasted, both the “Blair Witch Project” and “The Shining” are enough to draw goosebumps.

The best thing about renting a horror movie is that you can always hit pause if things get a little too intense.

There are tons of scary books out there, too, and although Stephen King gets a bad rap, he does creepy really well. “The Shining” and “Pet Sematary” and the short story “1408” may be his scariest. Also worth a mention is the graphic novel series “The Walking Dead,” which is as much about what happens to people when the world they know is over as it is about zombies.

If getting the bejeezus scared out of you isn't your cup of nightshade tea, there's a graveyard full of other events in the area. Happy Halloween. ■



ton: Parties, Pumpkins, Poetry

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with food, games, inflatables, puppets and live music. Call 484-2482.

Bark & Brew and Howl-o-ween Costume Contest

Tricks AND Treats! Enjoy beer or wine while you help select winners in numerous canine costume categories, from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29. Visit Murphy's Paw, 410 Main St., for details. Donations benefit Valley Humane Society.

Tennis Halloween Fun Night

Tennis buffs of all ages can bring their frightening forehands, scary serves and gruesome ground strokes to the fifth annual Halloween Fun Night from 6-8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29, at the Pleasanton Tennis Complex, Hopyard Rd. and Valley Ave. Kids and adults who attend in costume can tour the Haunted Hallway of Horror. Enjoy treats and tennis games for all age groups. Call 931-3446.

RADD (Recreation Activities

for the Developmentally Disabled) Halloween Dance DJ, dancing and a light snack from 7-10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$16.

Capture the Cauldron

Put on your camouflage and join other Dublin teens as you lurk around Emerald Glen Park in the dark, searching for and capturing the cauldron. It is recommended that participants wear clothes that can get wet and dirty. From 8:30-10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 29, at Emerald Glen Park. \$5 with student ID. Snacks provided.

The Second Annual Fall Fest in Downtown Pleasanton Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a Spooky

Scavenger Hunt. Kids can come in costume and register at the Museum. Every location they find will reward them with a Halloween treat or toy. Find all the downtown locations and win a surprise goody bag! The Fall Fest will also have a Sweet and Savory Tasting Contest, with restaurants and bakeries participating. Tasting cards are \$10 apiece and limited to the first 200 participants. Also, bring your pumpkin to the Museum on Main for a carving contest. The pumpkins will be divided up by age groups and categories. Public votes will determine the winners.

Halloween Comedy and Costume Contest

Fifteen comedians will perform in costume, each of them doing a five-minute set, from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30, at Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. The audience will vote for its favorite comedian and favorite comedian in costume. Cost is \$10. Call 264-4413.

yesterFEST

An old time autumn festival with fun for all ages, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Food, activities, games and entertainment. Free with canned food donation. Call 846-6622, ext. 10.

BOO-etry

Spooky poems read by teens followed by a special reading by a guest poet from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Open mic to follow (spooky poems welcome); Halloween costumes optional. Cost \$5; students free with ID. Call 931-4848. ■

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

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Author Visits

KEVIN MCGARY BOOK SIGNING Kevin McGary, a resident of Hayward, will be available to sign copies of his political science book, "Insanity," at 1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, at Borders, 4575 Rosewood Dr. Call Chris Coffey at 1-888-361-9473 or email ccoffey@tatepublishing.com.

Book Clubs

PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB The club meets at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The book this month is "Stones into Schools" by Greg Mortenson. Call 931-3400 ext. 7 or visit www.pleasantonlibrarybookclub.wordpress.com.

Classes

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT Classes on domestic violence will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30, at Las Positas College Room 203 in Livermore. Statistics show that one in every

three women will be abused during their lifetime. This course will cover the definition of domestic violence, and the pattern of misusing power to control and hurt someone in an intimate relationship. Cost \$59, and \$5 for materials. Call 216-2025 or email nasiehsani@gmail.com.

Concerts

JAZZ STAR TIA FULLER & QUARTET Tia Fuller takes the stage from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. She was selected to be a member of the all-female band touring with R&B star, Beyonce, and has recorded three of her own CDs with her quartet. Tickets are \$17-\$27 for adults; \$12 for children; and \$22 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Events

FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is recognizing Fire Prevention Week with open houses at all its stations from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow, with the theme, "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" Each station will have smoke detector and replacement battery giveaways, plus fire prevention and disaster preparedness information, as well as continuous tours.

Fundraisers

BSM DROP ZONE Bay Chapter 101 Blue Star Moms are having a

drop zone from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, at WalMart, 4501 Rosewood Dr., collecting donations for its Summer Fun 2010 Care Package mailing. Come say hello, sponsor a care package mailing (\$12.50 per box), make a postcard or two, or drop off a donation to tell the troops thank you for their service. Call 336-0882 or email smsperl@aol.com.

MINI RELAY FOR LIFE The American Cancer Society and Boy Scout Troop 908 are hosting a mini relay for life to honor the fight against cancer, from 1:30-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Cancer survivors will be honored at the event. Free entry; voluntary donations are accepted. Call 399-5066.

Live Music

A CEREMONY OF CELLOS A Ceremony of Cellos will be performed in memory of cellist Larry Granger at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Mr. Granger, who grew up in Pleasanton, became known as the "Mr. Cello" of the Livermore-Amador Valley, playing with local symphonies and teaching cello. Tickets are \$16-\$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Miscellaneous

BOB TANEM AT WESTERN GARDEN NURSERY KSFO's Bob Tanem

PET OF THE WEEK

Add Spice to your life

Don't be suspicious of this black cat! She is a sweet girl looking for a home before Halloween comes. Posh Spice has been a resident here since last November and is really anxious for her forever family. Shelter life gets a little bland when you've been here so long! If you are interested in adding zest to your family, come on down to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City, located at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton, open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Call 426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org.



MELISSA BONNEL

will bring his radio show "In The Garden" to Western Garden Nursery from 7-10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at 2756 Vineyard Ave. Stop by anytime to join his live audience. Bring your garden questions. Call 462-1760 or visit www.westerngardennursery.com.

On Stage

'THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre will present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 22-Nov. 7 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$33 for seniors, and \$25 for juniors under 18. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Support Groups

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this support group's mission is to provide support and comfort to the families of Pleasanton residents whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. This group has monthly meetings and other events such as the upcoming Dec. 5 Christmas/Holiday "pack out" of comfort and care items to be sent to these deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where these personnel have yellow streamers displayed with their name, rank and branch of service. Contact Pat Frizzell, Chairman at PleasantonMilitaryFamilies@gmail.com or Chris Miller at millercj3@gmail.com.

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Bands on parade

2010 Foothill Band Review begins with a march down Main Street



This rendition of the Foothill Band on parade was created by Steffi Gross of the Foothill Band Programs. Tomorrow's band review begins at 8:30 a.m. with a parade on Main Street and continues on the football field at 4 p.m.

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Seventy-six trombones, possibly more, will march through town tomorrow morning as Pleasanton welcomes middle and high school bands to the 36th annual Foothill Band Review.

"It's a really cool event," said Foothill band director Josh Butterfield, who participated as a musician himself in the 1990s when he was a student at Foothill.

"We're the host band so we're not competing," he explained, "but as a band we travel around almost every Saturday to compete in field and jazz competitions at other high schools."

The parade begins at 8:30 a.m. with about 45 bands marching down Main Street starting near Amador Valley High. Pleasanton Unified School District's new Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi will be the grand marshal. It is estimated that the parade will continue through 1 p.m.

Bands will perform for five minutes in front of the judges, professional music educators from the

Northern California Band Association, who will be across the street from Dean's Cafe, 620 Main St. When each band arrives at Angela Street, its percussion portion will step out to perform for a judge at that intersection.

Meanwhile 20 concert bands will be competing at the Amador Valley High theater and multipurpose room from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

"In the afternoon there is an awards ceremony that we host at 2 p.m. on our field," said Butterfield. "It's for all of the parade and concert bands that have competed."

These events are free.

Then at 4 p.m. about 24 show bands will take over the field at the Foothill football stadium to compete until 10 p.m.

"Each group gets five minutes in the parade, but for the field competition they have a 15-minute performance slot," Butterfield said.

A food court will include Coldstone Creamery, Cooler than Ice, Nellie's Catering, Peter's Kettle Corn and Rodney Chun Chow Mein.

It's a great family event, said Butterfield.

"I have a 4-year-old who comes to all these," he noted. "It should be a pretty good turnout."

The event is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Band Boosters, and it helps pay for new instruments to replace those that have worn out as well as for instructional assistants. The evening show costs \$10; students and seniors are \$7. Children 5 and under are free.

"Altogether we're hosting over 65 bands from all over California," Butterfield said. "It's pretty labor intensive to host 4,000 people, to park buses for 30 bands at Foothill."

He credits the organization to the Band Boosters and this year's chairman Terry Abbey, who is coordinating with the city and the Police Department.

Foothill High School has about 200 students in the instrumental program, Butterfield said.

"Pretty much every student and every parent of every student volunteers on this day to make it happen," he added. ■

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Real Estate

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Pleasanton, 10 other California cities lead U.S. as 'priciest'

Newport Beach continues to top Coldwell Banker's nationwide real estate survey

By JEB BING

Despite the recession and some cities showing high foreclosure rates, California and the Bay Area continue to lead the country with the priciest real estate markets.

Pleasanton was 14th on the list, with an average sales price of \$896,488 in a survey by Coldwell Banker called the 2010 "Home Listing Report."

The survey compared the prices of typical four-bedroom, two-bath homes in various parts of the country between February and August 2010 from nearly 300 select U.S. markets where Coldwell Banker Real Estate has a presence.

The U.S. average for the surveyed listings was approximately \$353,000.

Not surprisingly, Newport Beach led the list of most expensive real estate markets in America, with an average home listing price of approximately \$1.83 million. By contrast, the country's "most affordable" housing market was Detroit, with an average home listing price of approximately \$68,000.

Known for its sandy beaches and historic Balboa Pavilion (established in 1906), Newport Beach, the most expensive market, has been the backdrop to numerous television shows including "The O.C." and "Arrested Development." Detroit, the most affordable market, is the only major U.S. city that looks south to Canada. Residents of the Motor City take great pride in Red Wings hockey and appreciate the city's hard-working industrial and automotive history.

Among the top 20 most expensive markets, Pleasanton and other familiar Bay Area cities appear again in this year's survey. Palo Alto ranked second in the report at \$1.48 million; San Francisco was fourth at \$1.33 million; San Rafael was 11th at \$956,654; the Monterey Peninsula was 12th at \$926,616;

Pleasanton was 14th; San Mateo was 15th at \$890,961; and Santa Cruz was 17th at \$868,217.

Even so, Jim Gillespie, chief executive officer, Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC., said home ownership in the U.S. is generally affordable, with nearly 30 percent of the studied markets averaging \$200,000 or less for a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home, "a size many buyers aspire to own."

"Today those who have the financial resources and a desire to move up to a larger home have a unique opportunity to take advantage of historically low mortgage interest rates coupled with comparatively lower prices and greater selection," he added.

2010 Coldwell Banker U.S. Home Listing Report Highlights:

- America's Most Affordable Markets: In addition to Detroit, America's most affordable real estate markets are as varied in culture and trivia as they are in listing price ranges:
- Grayling, Mich., is home to many top cross-country skiing destinations.
- Sioux City, Iowa, has been recognized as a top U.S. economic community for areas between 50,000 and 200,000 people.
- Cleveland, Ohio, is home to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
- Muncie, Ind., has gained notoriety for its successful prep sports programs.
- Norfolk, Neb., is home to many healthcare and manufacturing companies.
- Kansas City, Mo., is just behind Rome, Italy, for the largest number of fountains in a city (more than 200).
- Canton, Ohio, is home to the Professional Football Hall of Fame.
- Port Huron, Mich., features the School of Strings, which presents over 50 concerts a

See SURVEY on Page 21



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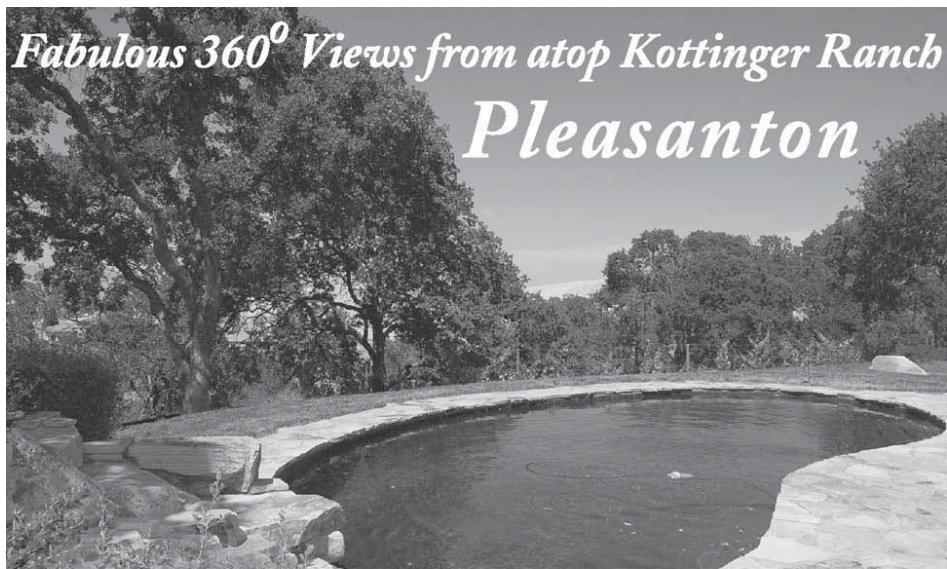


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<p>VIA DI SALERNO, RUBY HILL Premium Golf Course Lot \$690,000</p>	<p>1819 MADDALENA CT, RUBY HILL Exquisite, Prime Lot \$1,400,000</p>	<p>1225 LOZANO CT, RUBY HILL Classic Italian Villa CALL FOR PRICE.</p>	<p>49 UPPER GOLF RD, CASTLEWOOD Open Sat & Sun 1-4 \$749,500</p>	<p>9663 CROSBY DR, PLEASANTON The Preserve \$1,898,000</p>
<p>New Price! Lot Acres Apx: 0.50 Flat premium lot on the 16th fairway w/ fully approved plans for a 7,300sf+ custom home. Great opp. for one of the last two golf course lots in RH! Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>Lot Acres Apx: 1.27 Located on the West side featuring an over-sized flat building pad w/ Mt. Diablo, vineyard, & golf course views. Cul-de-sac, private neighbors. Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>2 Bd 2 Ba • 2,000+/- sq.ft., 0.27+/- Acres High ceilings, hardwood floors, rock fireplace. Hm could use up dating, car port easily converted into 2 car garage. Basement work shop. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544</p>	<p>5 Bd 4(2) Ba • 5,200+/- sq.ft., 0.62+/- Acres This stunningly beautiful home is located in the desirable West side. The finest materials & workmanship thruout, views of the hills & vistas. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>
<p>6645 AMBER LN, PLEASANTON Carriage Gardens \$1,398,000</p>	<p>1587 E GATE WAY, PLEASANTON Walnut Hills \$998,000</p>	<p>5377 SONOMA DR, PLEASANTON Potential! \$415,000</p>	<p>3258 ROYALTON CT, PLEASANTON Court Location \$625,000</p>	<p>3905 FAIRLANDS DR, PLEASANTON Lovely Neighborhood \$649,000</p>
<p>5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved 1/2 acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>	<p>6 Bd 5 Ba • 3,760+/- sq.ft., 0.13+/- Acres Full bed & bath ds, perfect for in-laws, guests or au pair. Large eat-in kitchen opening to family room w/ fire place. 1 bed/bath carriage house. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2550</p>	<p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,469+/- sq.ft. This home has lot's of potential. Large backyard and gargage was converted into bonus room, no permits on that. Ray J. Marquez 925.648.5471</p>	<p>3 Bd 3 Ba • 1,941+/- sq.ft., 0.15+/- Acres Value! court location, upgrades; new dbl pane windows, new flooring, new carpet & new baths! New ext/int paint, recessed lights in kitchen. Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065</p>	<p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,540+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres Very nice home in lovely neighborhood. Hardwood floors, bonus room, large yard perfect for entertaining, great schools & much more! Lisa Doyle 925.855.4046</p>
<p>5063 MONACO DR, PLEASANTON Open Sun 1-4 \$975,000</p>	<p>RACoon HOLLOW CT, PLEASANTON Custom Home \$1,458,000</p>	<p>2670 TREVOR, PLEASANTON Fabulous Opportunity \$625,000</p>	<p>6224 GUYSON CT, PLEASANTON Val Vista \$599,000</p>	<p>2743 HUFF DR, PLEASANTON REO/ Bank Owned \$629,900</p>
<p>5 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,079+/- sq.ft., 0.18+/- Acres Semi-custom Pleasanton Hills home w/Mt Diablo View! 5 bedrooms plus theatre room w/fireplace plus den! Theatre, remodeled kit w/pine cabinets. Diane Sass 925.583.2168</p>	<p>6 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,366+/- sq.ft., 0.80+/- Acres Private park-like setting w/ valley views. Open layout w/ grand entry & luxurious master suite. Crown molding & custom designer features. Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</p>	<p>3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 0.07 +/- Acres Featuring open floorplan. 1,614 sq.ft w/ attached 2 car garage. Laundry room upstairs with a corner lot location. Light and airy feel throughout! Julia Kim 925.648.5405</p>	<p>4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,489+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres Remodeled rancher, court. All new kitchen granite counters. Extensive new lighting, flooring & moldings. Close to schools, shopping and freeway Glen Landrum 925.837.7110</p>	<p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,574+/- sq.ft., 0.12+/- Acres Great single story home w/ gourmet kitchen, cozy living room w/ fireplace, spacious master bath and tranquil backyard patio. Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559</p>
<p>850 CONCORD ST, PLEASANTON Vintage Hills \$750,000</p>	<p>647 BONITA AVE, PLEASANTON Pleasanton Heights \$668,000</p>	<p>7294 KOLB PL, DUBLIN West Dublin Beauty \$629,000</p>	<p>000 HANSEN RD, LIVERMORE Wine Country \$790,000</p>	<p>9877 FOOTHILL RD, SUNOL Custom Home 16+/- Acres \$1,890,000</p>
<p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,052+/- sq.ft., 0.23+/- Acres CUSTOM home. Pool w/ newly resurfaced pool. Granite kit, dual pane windows. Detached garage w/ lots of parking, beautiful grounds. The Bowers Team 925.785.3795</p>	<p>3 Bd 3 Ba • 1,838+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres Charming pottery barn cottage in downtown. Newer walnut floors throughout, crown mouldings, 3 remodeled bathrooms. Walk to downtown. The Weiner McDowell Group 925.251.2550</p>	<p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,026+/- sq.ft., 0.16+/- Acres Updated and Expanded Briarhill Beauty Beautiful West Dublin home! Located on a cul-de-sac, this home has it all. Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547</p>	<p>Lot Acres Apx: 3.23 Wine country unique opportunity for retail. Commercial site designated as "Wine Country Retail" in the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p>	<p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 16+/- Acres Exceptional Pleasanton Ridge Access. Newly Built "2009" Custom Home. Pleasanton Ridge Water. Panoramic Views. Single Story Dream Home. Kristy and Company 925.251.2536</p>

Blackhawk East

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West

3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville

15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2010

Dublin

- 7516 Burnham Way** Bielke Trust to Lemr Trust for \$450,000
 - 7294 Dover Lane** Sami Trust to S. & R. Bertalotto for \$457,000
 - 5892 Hillbrook Place** E. Reyes to S. Miao for \$503,500
 - 3269 Madden Way** Wells Fargo Bank to A. Chau for \$838,500
 - 3360 Maguire Way #140** M. & R. Vaziri-Tousi to M. & I. Shim for \$313,000
 - 3360 Maguire Way #231** Toll Dublin Limited to M. Lin for \$200,000
 - 6667 Maple Drive** Manzanita Trust to A. Voellinger for \$550,000
 - 6946 Post Road** Tri-Valley Golden Investments to P. & J. Sandomenico for \$540,000
 - 4665 Rimini Court #44** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to T. Gregory for \$612,500
 - 5633 Walnut Street** J. & C. Spofforth to S. & D. Biswas for \$735,000
 - 5688 Walnut Street** J. & C. Sharani to R. Pang for \$635,000
 - 11428 Winding Trail Lane** C. & M. Kersten to R. Widmont for \$445,000
- Pleasanton
- 4382 1st Street** GMAC Mortgage to R. Lee for \$368,000
 - 6246 Camino Del Lago** S. Yeung to H. Lai for \$780,000
 - 674 Concord Place** T. Cacique to A. Blair for \$285,000

- 4351 Denker Drive** S. Flashberger to B. & L. Schoenweller for \$620,000
- 3059 Flora Court** Boas Trust to R. & E. Juarez for \$430,000
- 581 Happy Valley Road** C. Darrow to D. & S. Pierce for \$1,025,000
- 266 Kottinger Drive** F. Kalajkovic to R. Herron for \$510,000
- 301 Lone Oak Drive** Darrigo Trust to L. Liao for \$500,000
- 9988 Longview Lane** W. & K. Bonnar to V. & A. Doshi for \$1,623,500
- 5059 Monaco Drive** P. McBride to N. & J. Testa for \$850,500
- 584 Neal Street** Seed Trust to N. Falk for \$525,000
- 1750 Orchard Way** Spicka Trust to M. & L. Gagnon for \$806,000
- 6716 Paseo San Leon** S. & E. Cobar to S. Zhang for \$820,000
- 3831 Picard Avenue** O. Li to D. & T. Girvan for \$1,270,000
- 3436 Smoketree Commons** Alvernaz Partners to J. Guzman for \$242,000
- 503 St. John Street** Flavio Trust to R. & S. Ramkissoon for \$502,000
- 5137 Willowview Court** GMAC Mortgage to S. Lahsaeizadeh for \$410,000

San Ramon

- 9025 Alcosta Boulevard #245** A. Arbabaraghi to C. Patel for \$159,000
- 2624 Ashwell Lane** P. & J. Graves to S. & R. Navelkar for \$570,000
- 76 Ayamonte Court** Y. Lee to B. Soares for \$535,000
- 450 Bollinger Canyon Lane #191** L. Stevenson to T. Quiocho for \$195,000

- 2259 Britannia Drive** B. & D. Tastor to S. Lau for \$995,000
- 1004 Canyon Hills Road** J. Lee to M. Timmer for \$700,000
- 1363 Canyon Side Avenue** Aurora Loan Services to C. McHenry for \$441,000
- 434 Constantine Court** California Housing Finance to I. Lam for \$558,000
- 3623 Crow Canyon Road** K. Kieffer to T. & S. Chan for \$265,000
- 307 Daybreak Court** T. & K. Kraemer to E. & J. Noonan for \$440,000
- 3126 Fioli Loop** Centex Homes to P. Aluri for \$555,000
- 63 Foster Drive** Bank of New York to H. Ghauri for \$820,000
- 12982 Hawkins Drive** Conklin Trust to M. Ziblat for \$770,000
- 2315 Joree Lane** E. & M. Lafkas to V. Lau for \$410,000

- 2032 Maidenhair Way** A. & V. Sanatkar to Maidenhair Way Trust for \$570,000
- 3060 Marble Canyon Place** Candolo Trust to D. & M. Forbes for \$785,000
- 1833 Percy Lane** RBI Financial Group to R. Pari for \$882,000
- 11 Plum Tree Lane** West Coast Home Builders to L. Carrillo for \$371,000
- 27 Portsmouth Court** Greenleaf Properties to R. & A. Nimmo for \$975,000
- 3015 Tahoe Place** GMAC Mortgage to B. Halim for \$488,000
- 12251 Toluca Drive** Cartus Financial to S. & S. Peruvemba for \$855,000
- 4017 Tulip Way** RWW Properties to J. & W. Steiner for \$1,125,000
- 6132 Yardley Lane** T. & L. Bautista to J. Santosa for \$515,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 12
 Lowest sale reported: \$200,000
 Highest sale reported: \$838,500
 Average sales reported: \$523,292

Livermore

Total sales reported: 32
 Lowest sale reported: \$195,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,225,000
 Average sales reported: \$472,203

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 17
 Lowest sale reported: \$242,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,623,500
 Average sales reported: \$680,412

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 23
 Lowest sale reported: \$159,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,125,000
 Average sales reported: \$607,783

Source: California REsource

SURVEY

Continued from Page 19

year with its Fiddle Club, Faculty and Student Ensembles. ■ Topeka, Kan., was once temporarily renamed "Topikachu," in honor of the Pokémon franchise.

Homeownership Affordability:

In total, there are 85 U.S. markets in the HLR with average reported listing prices less than \$200,000. There are 183 markets (out of a total of 296 surveyed) that are less than \$300,000.

Great Midwest: Michigan has three markets on the most affordable housing list (Detroit, Grayling and Port Huron), and all 10 of the most affordable markets are in the Midwest.

Low Monthly Payments: Put in perspective, a \$200,000 30-year-fixed mortgage at a 4.5% rate could cost a buyer a relatively low monthly mortgage payment of just above \$1,000. The average \$68,000 four-bedroom, two-bathroom home in Detroit could average less than \$350 a month.

Pacific Paradise: Out of the 20 most expensive real estate markets, 11 are from California: Newport Beach, Palo Alto, San Francisco, La Jolla, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, San Rafael, the Monterey Peninsula, Pleasanton, San Mateo and Santa Cruz. ■



PLEASANTON STONERIDGE



San Ramon Exceptional 4,176 sq ft, 5BR/3BA home on 13,645 sq ft lot. Home is highly upgraded, has 3 fireplaces, and 1BR/1BA downstairs. Manicured landscaping, 3 car attached garage, and only 5 years young. A great home for entertaining! **\$1,088,000**



Fremont Desirable single level, 3BR/1BA home. Most windows are dual pane, newer laminate flooring throughout. Recently painted interior and exterior. New gutters, huge side yard w/RV parking, and easy access to 680/880/BART/ACE. Near Irvington High School! **\$480,000**



Danville Beautifully maintained home on a premium lot adjacent to the club house, pool and walking trail. 4BR/2.5BA plus a loft and 3,812 sq ft of living space. Updated kitchen with new granite counter tops, and the home has plantation shutters! Ready and waiting for you! **\$799,000**



Pleasanton Gorgeous 2 story home and only 11 years new. 3BR/2.5BA, spacious living and dining rooms, cozy family room. Large master bedroom with updated master bath. Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counters and tile floors. WOW! **\$587,888**



Pleasanton Gorgeous 5BR/4BA home with 3,265 sq ft. Kitchen has granite slab counter tops, stainless steel appliances, Wolf stove, wine refrig and built-in refrigerator. There is 1BR/1BA downstairs. Wonderful views of the hills! **\$999,000**



Livermore This charming ranch style home is located in The Wine Country. It has 4BR, 2BA and 2,024 sq ft of living space. The kitchen and baths have many recent upgrades, and the home also has a newer roof, dual pane windows, and solar inground pool. **\$539,950**



MASON-McDUFFIE

5960 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 101

925.734.5000

To view our listings go to www.bhghome.com/pleasantonstoneridge

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californiamoves.com



DUBLIN
 Open SUN 12 - 3 5229 LONDONDERRY DRIVE
HUGE PRICE REDUCTION \$650,000
 5 BR 3 BA + bonus rm down. Neutral colors, open flr plan w/ frplc in fam rm. Walk to park!
 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
 Open SUN 1 - 4 4386 KRAUSE STREET
BEAUTIFUL! \$590,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA many upgrades! Dual pane windows, private backyard with patio and fountain
 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
 Open SUN 1 - 4 2532 SHADOW MOUNTAIN COURT
BEAUTIFUL AND QUIET! \$579,999
 3 BR 2 BA whole house remodeled in last 6/7 years including kit, bth bths, wd flrs thruout, nice master
 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

5990 HILLBROOK PLACE STUNNING HOME! \$485,000
 3 BR 3.5 BA adjacent to hills/open space, SS appli, granite counters, hrdwd flrs, plantation shutters
 925.847.2200

736 SUNSET DR LIGHT & OPEN \$449,950
 3 BR 2 BA extended master/liv rm, updated bath, dual pane windows, frplc in fam rm, tile flrs, huge pl
 925.847.2200

184 JUNIPERO STREET GORGEOUS REMODEL! \$599,950
 2 BR 2 BA w/tons of upgrds! Custom kit w/ grnite, SS appli, breakfast bar, chrry hrdwd, vaulted ceilings
 925.847.2200

DUBLIN
 3499 RIMINI LANE
GREAT HOME! \$792,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA + loft, 3 years new, granite counters in kitchen, lots of upgrades! Community pool/club-house
 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE
 1687 QUAIL CT
AMAZING HOME! \$1,220,000
 5 BR 3 BA apprx 1 acre, 5 car gar, workshop, media rm, updated kit w/SS appli, huge bedrms, hrdwd flrs
 925.847.2200

1255 SPRING VALLEY CMN SHARP & CLEAN! \$199,500
 3 BR 2.5 BA laminated flrs, neutral paint, many upgrades, inside laundry, dual pane windows, A/C, great loc
 925.847.2200

211 RACHAEL PL WALK TO DOWNTOWN! \$449,900
 3 BR 2.5 BA updated kit w/granite counters, SS appli, hrdwd flrs, 2 car attached gar w/built-in cabinets
 925.847.2200

3589 RIMINI LN BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED! \$699,900
 3 BR 2.5 BA open flr plan, w/high ceilings in main liv areas, kit w/granite, island w/brkfst bar/SS appli
 925.847.2200

911 CURLEW ROAD LIGHT, BRIGHT, BEAUTIFUL \$615,000
 4 BR 3 BA new carpet, large kit/family room combination with slab granite counters & newer appliances
 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON
 530 DOLORES PLACE
STUNNING REMODEL \$1,129,000
 3 BR 3 BA slab granite, crown moldings, huge great room w/full wet bar, hickory floors, custom rock pool
 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON
 7722 STONELEAF
 Open OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$598,888
 3 BR 2.5 BA, huge master w/walk-in closets/views, attached 2 car gar, upgraded kit, granite/SS appli, hrdwd flrs
 925.847.2200

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Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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7208 ROSECLIFF CT. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE



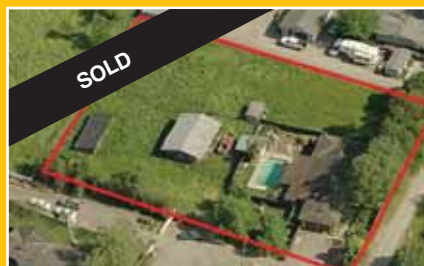
5 BD 5.5 BA 5,330sf. on a 13,242sf. lot. Entertainer's dream! Outdoor kitchen, home theater, guest suite on main level. High end finishes.
\$1,649,000

3088 CRESTABLANCA DR. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN VINTAGE HEIGHTS



4 BD 3 BA 2,788sf. on a 10,462sf. lot. Bedroom and full bathroom downstairs. 3 car garage, hardwood flooring, custom built.
\$1,030,000

910 E MOCKINGBIRD LN. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN HAPPY VALLEY



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.
\$950,000

5271 CRESTLINE WAY PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN BIRDLAND



4 BD 2.5 BA. Great location! Updated baths, wood flooring, crown moldings, POOL & grass area, side yard access.
\$795,000

1077 KOLLN ST. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN JENSEN / AMADOR



3 BD 2 BA 1,475sf. on a 6,500sf. lot. Remodeled and expanded. Master w/ walk in closet. Open floor plan, updated throughout, pool, spa & side yard.
\$650,000

1357 KOLLN ST. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN JENSEN / AMADOR



3 BD 2 BA 1,734sf. on a 6,500sf. lot. HUGE family room addition, granite kitchen, updated baths. Side yard access.
\$649,000



4127 ALVARADO ST. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN JENSEN/AMADOR

3 BD 2 BA 1,347sf. on a 6,500sf. lot. Hardwood floors throughout. Family & living rooms. Updated kitchen and baths.
\$619,000

COMING SOON

LOCATED IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS
 5 BD 3 BA 2,441sf. court location
\$690,000

LOCATED IN PHEASANT RIDGE
 6 BD 6 BA 5,096sf. amazing backyard
\$1,675,000

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apr.com

VENTANA HILLS

COMING SOON



981 HOPKINS WAY, PLEASANTON
"Top of the Mark" excellent location! Beautiful upgraded home in Ventana Hills. Panoramic views, large (.34 acre) premium lot, private rear yard with in-ground pool, large separate lawn area, extensive patio with multiple pergolas. Enjoy some wine on your viewing deck, with panoramic views of the valley. Remodeled kitchen with granite, four bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3,016 square feet. Three car garage. Walk to Main Street downtown & great neighborhood park.
PRICE TO FOLLOW

COUNTRY ESTATE

EXCLUSIVE LISTING



6300 LAURA LANE, PLEASANTON
Best of both worlds! Country estate (1.26 acre), just 5 minutes from downtown Pleasanton. Beautiful home in the country. Private rear grounds with in-ground pool, and guest/pool house (1 bed/1 bath), deck with outdoor BBQ area, large fenced land area (to do whatever you want), in addition to the landscaped area with pool, patio, etc. Four bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3,100 square feet plus pool/guest house, remodeled master bathroom, three car garage.
OFFERED AT \$1,495,000

LOS OLIVOS



2951 PICHOLINE COURT, LIVERMORE
Beautiful, highly upgraded Los Olivos home on professionally landscaped private .25 acre lot. Don't miss it! Five bedroom (bonus room 5th), 3.5 bathrooms, plus detached studio/guest quarters (1 bed/1 bath). Approximately 3,889 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets, granite slab countertops and stainless steel appliances. Highly upgraded spacious master suite with granite. Beautiful grounds include large private patio, spacious lawn area, garden/play set area, and atrium/side patio. Views of surrounding hills. Minutes to quality golf courses and Livermore Valley wineries.
OFFERED AT \$939,000

BRIDLE CREEK



897 SUNSET CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON
Single level in Bridle Creek on .29 acre premium view lot. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2000. Beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private rear yard with built in pool. Beautifully landscaped. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
OFFERED AT \$1,379,000

BRIDLE CREEK

OPEN SAT 1-4



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, 4,434 square feet. 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 \$1,529,000

KOTTINGER RANCH

OPEN SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30



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 \$1,195,000

NEW CUSTOM SINGLE LEVEL



1588 FOOTHILL ROAD, PLEASANTON
New custom single level home on private country lane off of Foothill Road. This private half acre lot is located adjacent to Golden Eagle with ridge views. Four bedrooms, bonus room/guest quarters, home theater room, private office, lockable 400 bottle wine cellar, 4.5 bathrooms, 4,762 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops, top of the line appliances. Oversized three car garage (4th car option). In-ground pool, detached buyer room (office/workout room) seller to credit buyer for brand new landscaping. Near Castlewood Country Club.
OFFERED AT \$1,695,000

VINSANTO

PENDING



2845 VINE COURT, PLEASANTON
Beautiful highly upgraded home in excellent condition. Panoramic views of vineyards and surrounding hills. Five bedrooms (4th is private office, 5th in guest house/casita), four bathrooms (4th in casita). Approximate total square footage 3,553. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertop & backsplash, two fireplaces, plantation shutters throughout, three car garage. Private gate & rear grounds include separate guest house/casita, expansive exposed aggregate patio, lawn area, fruit trees and vineyards. No backyard neighbors. Close to wineries & golf courses.
OFFERED AT \$849,000

PLEASANTON SEMI-CUSTOM

PENDING



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

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

SOLD



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



Quality care is right around the corner.

It's easy for you to fit us in—choose a health plan that allows you to choose a John Muir Health primary care doctor.

Your day is chock-full but you need to see a doctor in between the grocery shopping, the bank, picking up one kid and dropping off another. Make it easy on yourself and choose a John Muir Health primary care doctor. You and your family will experience high quality care where and when you need it. Just ask the 9 out of 10 people who would recommend their own John Muir Health doctor. Our many locations make it easy to fit us in. And our 4 Urgent Care Centers offer extended hours on weeknights plus weekend hours for anything unexpected. So choose a location near you—and cross “finding a doctor” off your list.



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