

Pleasanton Weekly

Police chief leaving: After 30 years with Pleasanton P.D., Chief Michael Fraser set to retire **PAGE 5**

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Shop Around Pleasanton

Campaign promotes "shopping local"
to help retailers, restaurants thrive **PAGE 14**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Election keeps City Clerk Diaz busy

It may not be the oldest profession in the world, but the municipal clerk's job is considered the oldest of public servants in local government along with tax collector. The profession dates back to Biblical times when the early keepers of archives were often called "Remembrancers." The job has changed considerably since then with Pleasanton's City Clerk Karen Diaz today heading one of the most important departments in municipal government while also serving as its technology guru in making sure public meetings are posted in print, on live television, on DVDs and on podcasts.

At election time, the clerk's job is also at its busiest, making sure voters and the candidates they're selecting have all the information needed at the ballot box.

In a municipal election year, it starts in May when Diaz sends to the City Council a draft ordinance setting the date of the election and containing up-to-date information and requirements imposed since the last election by the council and state. Once enacted at least 127 days before the election, Diaz and her staff create a new candidates' manual with all the rules and criteria carefully explained for experienced and first-time candidates to review and follow. The manual, at one time more than 3-inches thick, is now given to candidates on a DVD where information is readily available and indexed.

Nominations for mayor and City Council this year opened July 12 — 113 days before the Nov. 2 election — and closed at 5 p.m. Aug. 6, or 88 days ahead of the election. Prospective candidates often met with Diaz ahead of time to discuss procedures and what they would need to file, and then returned their papers with at least 20 signatures from registered Pleasanton voters who were nominating the candidate. Once submitted, the paperwork was sent to the County Registrar, whose office verified the signatures and voting status, and then sent the certified document back to Diaz. Although each candidate could start campaigning, requirements from the city clerk's office continued, including filing the 460s, the campaign contribution and expenditure documents that are posted online regularly during the campaign. If there are any discrepancies in these reports,

Diaz asks candidates to re-file to correct the errors.

Diaz used to be badgered by questions from voters about campaign contributions. Scores of requests came in for printouts of some or all of the filing materials, which often involved days of photocopying and one-on-one conversations. Since the 460s were posted online at the request of the council to make campaign financing more transparent to the public, Diaz has had no requests for printouts. But she and her staff still get questions, many from vendors who want to contact candidates to sell election campaign related materials. They're given the same contact information available to everyone: usually a candidate's name and email address. Diaz also fields questions on the school board election, also being held on Nov. 2, although that information is handled by the Alameda County Registrar's office, not by local city halls. Her office is still the best known public contact so it fields numerous calls that come in during the election period about candidates, campaign signs and polling places, which can usually be answered.

Running for election isn't easy or inexpensive in Pleasanton. Filing forms that Diaz collects must contain information to show that there are no conflicts of interests. A deposit of \$1,117 is also required by Alameda County to print a candidate's information in the Sample Ballot. Based on a city's population, the fee can vary with adjustments made after the election. Diaz said a reason for the high fee is that the ballot is printed in three languages: English, Spanish and Chinese. Los Angeles County, where ethnic groups that comprise 5% or more of the population can have ballots printed in their native languages, now prints its Sample Ballot in nine different languages.

Diaz has been a City Clerk since 1987 when she was elected to the position in Southern California's city of Indio in Riverside County. Re-elected twice, she left there in 1995 to take an appointment by the Escalon City Council to serve as City Clerk in that small central San Joaquin Valley community. In 1999, she was appointed City Clerk in fast-growing Brentwood, moving to the same position in Union City in 2005. In 2006, she was hired by Pleasanton to succeed City Clerk Dawn Abrahamson, who took the same post in Fremont. ■

About the Cover

The city of Pleasanton is launching its "Shop Around Pleasanton" campaign to boost shopping and dining interest in the city. It follows efforts under way by a national organization urging the public to spend \$50 a month on three of their favorite independent retailers and restaurants during these difficult economic times. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XI, Number 42

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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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Streetwise

ASKED AT HARVEST PARK'S PUMPKIN PATCH

What was your most memorable Halloween costume?



Sophia Holbrook
Seventh grade

My most memorable Halloween costume was probably when I dressed up as a tree in fifth grade. I had a fake bird's nest in my hair and leaves on my arms. It said "Hug Me" on my shirt. My mom helped me create it and she was really good at it.

Jack Snyder
eighth grade

My favorite costume was when I was in second grade. I went as a robot and my parents and I built a costume using foil and a big box that we painted silver. It was a really fun project, but it did get pretty hot when I was wearing it.



Marsha Jones
Science teacher

My most memorable Halloween was when I was in kindergarten. I had always wanted to be a princess, and I was able to dress up like one. My costume was pink and sparkly, with a big skirt that I twirled around and around in. I loved it.

Karl Fernando
eighth grade

In second grade, a group of five of my friends and I dressed up as hippies. I had glasses and a hippie shirt, and they all wore hippie costumes, too. It was really fun to walk around school together.



Nicole Meehan
Seventh grade


My absolute favorite costume was when I dressed up as Jessie from the Toy Story movies. I was 3 and really into her, and I've liked Jessie ever since.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Enter college Film Fest

Las Positas College is collecting entries for its 2010 Student Film Festival with a deadline of 10 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Photography Department. The festival will include a Short Film Competition, Weekend Film Maker Challenge films, Movie Poster Design Contest, and the Mass Communication Video Journalism Showcase.

Entries will be accepted from all California students over 18 and enrolled in a California college, technical/trade school or ROP program. For a complete list of rules, contact Deanna Horvath at lpstudentfilmfest@yahoo.com or call 424-1285.

The Film Festival will take place at the college Dec. 10-11.

YMCA mentors

The Tri-Valley YMCA is starting a one-to-one mentoring program to match up 30 youths with caring, responsible adult mentors for one year. Mentors spend time with at-risk youths, ages 8 to 18, to serve as a friend, counselor, role model, supporter and guide. Mentors must be at least 23 and attend 15 hours of training.

An information meeting on the YMCA Building Futures Mentoring Program will be held at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 1, at the Tri-Valley YMCA, 4725 First St., Suite 200, in Pleasanton. A new training group will begin the week of Nov. 15.

Contact the Tri-Valley coordinator Tim Stier at 475-6107 or tstier@ymcaeastbay.org.

'Fertility 101'

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is presenting a free community seminar, "Fertility 101: Everything You Need to Know about Conceiving," from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.

Reproductive endocrinologist Aimee Eyvazzadeh will discuss the causes of infertility and what a couple can do to help improve their chances of conceiving a healthy baby. She will present pre-conception tips and answer questions plus discuss medical and surgical treatments that may improve fertility, and other options. Women and their partners at any stage of the conception process are welcome to attend.

Register by calling (800) 284-2878 or online by selecting Find an Event under Women's Services on www.OurSanRamon-Hospital.com.

Corrections

The dentist featured in last week's story, "Taking candy from babies?" is Dr. Steven Nerad. He will be buying back Halloween candy from children Nov. 2.

Fraser to retire as Pleasanton police chief

He was 30 years on the job, including last 3 years as chief

By JEB BING

Police Chief Michael Fraser will retire Nov. 12 as head of the Pleasanton Police Department after 30 years on the job, including the last three as chief.

Fraser is Pleasanton's fifth chief of police, appointed to the position in 2007 by City Manager Nelson Fialho and succeeding Chief Tim Neal, who retired that year. His annual salary currently is \$200,000.

Fraser came up through the ranks, joining the Pleasanton police force in 1980 when it had 29 officers. Today, there are 84 officers on the force.

During the course of his career, he had a broad array of assignments including patrol officer, field training officer, detective sergeant and SWAT commander. He was also the fourth motorcycle officer in the Pleasanton Police Department's history.

Fraser introduced the E-911 service to Pleasanton in 2007. This service allows residents with cell phones to punch in 9-1-1 during an emer-



Michael Fraser

gency and have the call go directly to the Pleasanton Police Department rather than a California Highway Patrol call center based in Vallejo. The change speeds up the local response time to an emergency by contacting Pleasanton police first during an emergency. "Mike Fraser has been an exemplary chief of police," Fialho said. "His depth into the community cannot be understated. He really embraced community policing and played a major role in the quality of life that we enjoy in Pleasanton."

"Chief Fraser has evolved the Police Department to align with the needs of the population, and his forward thinking has led to the implementation of a new dispatch system that expedites incoming calls, and specialized training for our officers, particularly in the area of diversity," Fialho added.

When he first joined the Pleasanton police force as a patrol officer in 1980, Fraser found a Pleasanton that was in the middle of a major economic boom, largely associated with the development of Hacienda Business Park. Stoneridge Shopping Center was under construction and preparing to open in nine months with the original anchor stores of Macy's, Emporium Capwell, and JC Penney. The average family income was \$30,000 and Pleasanton's population of just over 35,000 residents was experiencing rapid change.

"Pleasanton went from a small town bedroom community to a well balanced mid-sized city over the past 30-plus years that I have worked here," Fraser said.

"There is a vast difference between the 'then' and 'now' aspect of my career," he added. "In 1980, the Police Department was housed in what is now the Museum On Main with a locker room,

See **POLICE CHIEF** on Page 12



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Fran Pagliocca (left) and Terry Snyder look over pieces of art at Redcoats, one of 10 merchants participating in the downtown Pleasanton MerchantArts Walk last Thursday.

MerchantArts Walks begin on Main

Downtown becomes an art gallery as shops offer exhibits

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

MerchantArts Walk kicked off its monthly events in downtown Pleasanton last week with 10 businesses displaying exhibits within their stores and the organizers in front of the Main Street arch handing out maps and offering refreshments.

"The event was a big success," said John Trefethen, head of MerchantArts Walk. "I was thoroughly impressed by how well the merchants integrated the artwork into their stores' displays."

The art work is for sale and the commission is split with the merchants, he explained. People can begin the Walk anywhere downtown or start at his booth to find out which merchants are participating. They are also identified by a MerchantArts Walk sticker.

The events are scheduled for every third Thursday of the month. Attendance at the first Walk was a little low, noted Trefethen, probably due to the Giants playoff game that night.

"Some reports from merchants were they

served over 40 different people hors d'oeuvres, and the artists were all there for their receptions," Trefethen said. "Some merchants even reported making sales. They said, 'Being there that night was well worth it.'"

Artists who want to participate can learn more at MerchantArts.com.

"I want to make this more and more available to artists, to let them know they have a shot at having their work presented," Trefethen said.

The group decided this format would be better than setting up booths in the street, he said, adding that he has started similar successful events in Arcada and Eureka.

"It's my brainchild," Trefethen said. "I've got the Pleasanton Downtown Association supporting it and various arts groups. A lot has been happening behind the scenes."

Trefethen has high hopes the MerchantArts Walks will thrive through the winter.

"If we can show it's about community and people coming together, and free entertainment, it can be successful," he said. ■

Multiple districts mean different ballots here

Pleasanton voters will go to the polls Tuesday along with others across the country, but with some differences in the candidates they're considering for a city this size.

This city has three state Assembly districts, where most have only one, and two congressional districts.

Most of Pleasanton falls within the 11th Congressional District, where two-term Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) is seeking re-election against his Republican challenger, attorney David Harmer of San Ramon.

But for voters in northwest Pleasanton who have no doubt been following the media frenzy over the McNerney-Harmer race, when they vote they'll find different names on the ballot.

That's because they're in the 13th Congressional District that's been represented by Pete Stark (D-Fremont) for the last 38 years. He's being challenged by Forest Baker, a virtual political unknown who defeated the Republican Party's favorite candidate Luis "Coach" Garcia in the June primary.

Since the 13th District covers such a small sliver of Pleasanton, constituents here seldom see Stark. Baker has done no campaigning here.

The state Assembly districts are more significant, although the 15th, where the political battle is taking place, accounts for about 15% of the city on the northeast side. In a repeat of their 2008 contest, San Ramon's Republican Mayor Abram Wilson is challenging 15th District Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo).

Two other state assembly districts cover more of Pleasanton. Voters in the 18th, represented by Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-Castro Valley), will see her name on the ballot seeking re-election to a third term in the Assembly, which, because of term limits, will also be her last. Her Republican challenger is Michael Havig, 21, a college student.

In the 20th State Assembly District, which covers most of Pleasanton east of downtown and including Ruby Hill, Fremont Vice Mayor Bob Wieckowski is the Democratic candidate to succeed three-term Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, who is termed out. Wieckowski's Republican challenger is Adrian Shahab.

All voters in Pleasanton will have a chance

See **DISTRICTS** on Page 12

TAKE US ALONG



Making friends: Saira Fatteh and daughters Zara and Raniya share their Weekly with a kangaroo at the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane, Australia, while dad Parvez (with baby Inaya) takes the photo.

Green Scene Fair draws vendors, visitors

First time event offers diversity from health foods to 'green'

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Perhaps part of it was preaching to the choir, but Pleasanton's first-ever Green Scene Fair held last week has been pronounced a success.

Some 75 vendors, including everything from energy drinks to home energy conservation, organic farmers and green vehicles took part in the fair. Waste cans on site allowed people to sort their trash, and at least one estimate was that nearly 650 people took time out of their Thursday to check out what's new in green tech.

The city of Pleasanton played a large role. Along with Hacienda Business Park, it sponsored the event and had multiple booths, showing people how to conserve water, a three-D demonstration on pollution and to push for attendance at the city's Oct. 27 climate action plan workshop.

"There's a statewide goal to meet 1990 standards by 2020, which means 15% to 20% reductions from where we are now," explained Jeff Caton, a consultant hired to help with the climate plan.

Laura Ryan, Pleasanton's recently hired energy and sustainability manager, called it the "first annual Green Scene Fair" and said it was a success, noting that she wasn't sure anyone would actually show up.

The point of the event, she said,



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Brian Lorimer, Pleasanton's source control inspector, shows off a three-D model that demonstrates how water pollution spreads, at the Green Scene Fair.

was to give people "ideas on how to reduce their carbon footprint and how important that is on a personal level."

Ann Pfaff-Doss has been attending similar events for years, but was impressed by this one.

"I liked having the diversity," she said. "This has health foods, the farmers market, the city of Pleasanton has a couple of booths, there are even banks."

Many of the booths were taken by the public sector. Alameda County,

for instance, had a booth to promote its green business program. BART, San Joaquin Regional Rail and the city of San Ramon all had booths that focused on transportation, while the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the non-profit group Breathe California had booths to promote clean air.

In addition, several organic farms had booths, and there were a number of private organizations with electric vehicles and solar power companies. ■

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Partial list

Young vets talk to congressmen, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Discussion centers on how to help new generation of veterans

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Two congressmen and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki met last week with veterans of all ages at the VA Center in Livermore.

They toured the hospital, nursing home and administrative offices then sat down for a roundtable discussion Oct. 18 that focused on issues affecting the new generation of veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and the need for educational benefits.

"Every person got a chance to speak," said 11th District Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton). "We got to talk about the backlog of veterans' claims, and the technical pressure for the California veterans."

He said he learned about the lack of communication among the veterans' groups on college campuses throughout the state.

"With a new generation of veterans returning home, it's critical that we address their needs and work to improve medical care and access to benefits," he said.

U.S. Rep. John Garamendi (D-Walnut Creek) noted that the VA Center is in the 10th District and said this was the most comprehensive look he'd had at the facility.

"I was impressed by the exten-

sive use of tele-medicine," he said.

One veteran participant was Kyle Braun, a 2005 graduate of Amador Valley High School and now a student at Las Positas College, who served in Iraq with the Marines from 2007-08.

"The VA has a backlog of dealing with claims," said Braun, who is attending college on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. "It takes eight to 10 months, although they're trying their best."

He said that because he was stationed in California when he was discharged, the CalVets knew about him. But veterans discharged in other states are not tracked so the VA would not be aware of their unemployment or homelessness.

Another participant was Navy Special Operations veteran Ryan Sykes, 28, of San Ramon. He served in Somalia and Colombia, and did two tours in Iraq and five in Afghanistan before he sustained a brain injury.

"I have firsthand knowledge," said Sykes, who speaks slowly and uses a wheelchair. "I helped show people if you do the right thing and apply the right technique in certain areas, you get a response."

Mike Conklin, founder of the Sentinels of Freedom, which provides housing and education for

seriously injured veterans, including Sykes, to help them become self-sufficient, said one problem for the VA is finding those who need help.

"Some avoid getting help, for a variety of reasons," said Conklin. "If you walk into a VA, it's almost impossible not to get help."

He lauded retired Gen. Shinseki's ability to run the Veterans Administration, noting that he had served as Chief of Staff in the U.S. Army.

"He's transferred his Army skills to the VA," said Conklin.

The Veterans Administration plans to move VA care to new locations in the San Joaquin Valley and in Fremont. Each area will have a new outpatient clinic and a new nursing home, but no locations have been finalized. Acute care will be provided at the Palo Alto VA Center.

The VA is still deciding what to do with the 113-acre facility on Arroyo Road in rural Livermore.

"Secretary Shinseki wants to keep flexibility," McNerney said.

McNerney wrote a law to improve care for veterans with traumatic brain injuries and has said the 113 acres on Arroyo Road would make an excellent setting for veterans suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome. ■

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Karla Brown

Pleasanton City Council

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The following is a partial list of my goals as a Pleasanton City Councilmember:

- #1 Remain Committed to Ridgeline Protection
- #2 Retain Slow Growth and Planned Progress
- #3 Restore Ethical and Representative Government
- #4 Revitalize Pleasanton's Economic Development

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Go, Giants! says Willie Mays fan

Attending a game is the 'thrill of a lifetime' for Parkview resident

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Everyone has Giants fever now but Vivian Fuller, a resident at Parkview Assisted Living in Pleasanton, has been a fan forever. She loves reminiscing about going to Giants games in the old days, when Willie Mays was slugging them out of Candlestick Park.

Vivian's dream came true recently when, despite her limited ability to get around, she attended a Giants game at AT&T Park with her grandson, Brad Summaria. The tickets were given to her by the Giants through Parkview's Thrill of a Lifetime initiative, which helps its residents have memorable experiences.

"It was wonderful seeing her face light up when we gave her a basket filled with Giants memorabilia next to the Giants game tickets," said Activity Director Patricia Rawlings. "Seeing our residents this happy is the best part of my job."

Vivian started attending Giants games with Brad when he was



COURTESY PARKVIEW ASSISTED LIVING

Vivian Fuller in her new Giants garb, ready to go to San Francisco and cheer them on to victory.

about 12 and saddened by his grandfather's death.

"When her husband passed away she noticed her grandson was upset about it so she took him to a

Giants game," said Aireen Tibon, Sales and Marketing Director at the Parkview.

As Vivian grew older and less able to get around, they stopped going to the ballpark.

"We contacted the Giants and they donated tickets and a gift package with souvenirs," said Tibon.

For the Giants outing Sept. 30, Parkview provided limousine service. The team displayed a welcoming message on its billboard. "Vivian Fuller, hope you enjoyed your 'Thrill of a Lifetime.'"

Vivian gets ready for each game by donning her Giants wear. She also can take some responsibility for their success. "She wished them luck and it sure did work," Tibon said.

Now, with the Giants meeting the Texas Rangers this week for the World Series, Vivian Fuller will be rooting for her team in front of the TV sets at the Parkview.

We can hear the cheers already. ■

Prop. 22: Depends on who you talk to

Cities vs. counties over state's right to 'borrow' municipal funds

By JEB BING

City and county representatives are sparring over the benefits of Proposition 22, the Nov. 2 measure that would block the state from borrowing or appropriating funds from city treasuries and redevelopment districts.

Although the proposition is meant to keep money for redevelopment, transportation and local projects and services in the hands of local government, county officials now say it could mean cuts

to other parts of the state budget, such as school funding and money for senior citizens.

John Gioia, chairman of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and chairman of the Urban County Caucus, said the initiative "does not serve the interests of local government."

But local officials including Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Chief Jim Miguel have endorsed Prop. 22.

"Voters have the opportunity to prevent state politicians from raiding local taxpayer funds that are slated for vital services such as emergency 911 response, police, fire, libraries, parks, transportation improvements and more," Hosterman said. "I encourage all Pleasanton voters to carefully study Proposition 22 because it can make an important impact on our quality of life for years to come."

For many years elected officials in cities have watched Sacramento use legal loopholes to siphon billions of taxpayer dollars designated for local government and transportation services. In 2009, the state took \$5 billion in local revenues to balance its own budget.

"The billions of dollars taken by state raids have forced deep cuts in local services that residents depend on every day," Hosterman said. "In fact, since 1992-93, the state has shifted approximately \$100 million in property tax revenue away from the city of Pleasanton to fund its own structural deficit. This loss of revenue could have been used to improve roads, public safety services, and maintain parks, libraries and recreation centers."

But Gioia said that Prop. 22 would lock in particular areas of the government at the expense of others.

"Cuts in other areas are going to be much deeper to achieve the savings," Gioia said. "Ultimately, this measure also puts pressure on raising taxes."

Among those cuts would be money to county governments, which he said depend largely on state money to operate. Gioia said the Contra County Fire District could lose \$12 million in state funding if Prop 22 passes.

See **PROP. 22** on Page 12



Re-Elect

Cheryl Cook-Kallio

City Council

www.votecook-kallio.com

Trusted Leadership: We must provide the best we can for our residents through tested leadership.

Economic Sustainability: Cheryl balanced the budget while sustaining city services and public safety. Cheryl will develop an economic stimulus program and streamline the permitting process.

Building Community: Cheryl was instrumental in revitalizing Pleasanton cultural centers. Cheryl will work to strengthen families by building transit oriented development and increasing access to affordable senior housing.

Regional Leadership: Regional collaboration is the most effective way to manage traffic congestion. Cheryl will fight for funds to ease traffic on 580/680 & 84.

Paid for by Cook-Kallio for Council 2010 FPPC #1289382

Coming together in support of Cheryl:

- Congressman Jerry McNerney
- State Senator Ellen Corbett
- State Senator Loni Hancock
- Assemblymember Joan Buchanan
- Assemblymember Alberto Torrico
- Supervisor Scott Haggerty
- Former Mayors Brandes, Mercer & Pico
- Former Councilmembers Denis, Michelotti & Mohr
- Trustees Grant & Kernan
- Tim Sbranti, Mayor of Dublin
- Marshall Kamena, Mayor of Livermore
- The Alameda County Democratic Party
- The Alameda Central Labor Council
- The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
- Livermore Pleasanton Firefighters

partial list

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LETTERS

Laursen perfect choice

Dear Editor,

It is my honor to support Joan Laursen for School Board. I served with her on Walnut Grove's PTA when she was president. She did an amazing job. Joan has incredible facilitation skills and considers every side of an issue before expressing her opinion. She's an active listener and is honest in her feedback, which is rare among leaders. Joan has worked very hard on behalf of our schools for many years, which makes her the perfect choice for the PUSD School Board. She really understands school governance, budgetary constraints and educational policy. Please join me in voting for Joan Laursen for School Board.

Yvette Miles

Shocking story

Dear Editor,

I urge your readership to see the documentary "The Tillman Story" playing at the Vine Cinema for one week only starting Friday, Oct. 29. Look it up. Read about it. It's a shocking story about how Americans are sometimes treated by their government. It's a sickening story about how an all-American soldier was treated by his own army. And it's a poignant story about the suffering of one American family caused by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the strength of that family to fight against the immorality of their oppressors.

Only 50 prints of this movie were made for the entire country. The Vine Cinema has one. For one week only. Please see it.

Fred Norman

Proven, and new

Dear Editor,

I'm voting for Cindy McGovern for mayor of Pleasanton because of her 16 years of service to the entire community. She has proven over the years that she works hard for us. Cindy can make difficult choices and expect fiscal conservatism regarding our city's unsustainable benefits/retirement packages. She has not taken campaign contributions from unions, special interest groups and developers who expect favoritism and "baby steps" instead of realistic scrutiny of our city's financial realities. She has fought for the protection of the citizen's right to challenge a development that is not in keeping with the General Plan guidelines, among her many contributions to our town over the past six years on the City Council. The majority of Pleasanton voters has spoken loud and clear about ridgeline protection but the three council incumbents weren't listening to us. Cindy listened and has proven that she will restore representative government and fiscal conservatism as mayor.

Cindy needs the help of a City Council who haven't sold out to the "Money Lenders," those big dollar

contributors who expect something in return from their large campaign contributions. Vote for Karla Brown, who is endorsed by McGovern among many others, to help bring integrity in government back to our community's political process. We need new leadership and better representation of our wishes, not more "political double talk" and political partiality that enables developers to sue private citizens and keep us on a course toward fiscal disaster that awaits us if swift action is not taken now to resolve these issues.

Kelly Cousins

Outstanding candidate

Dear Editor,

I'm writing in support of an outstanding school board candidate, Joan Laursen. I have known Joan personally for many years and have always respected her dedication to both the educational system and the education of her own children. Joan is not interested in just making sure kids can meet the barest minimum standards. She is interested in a higher standard of learning. Not just reading, but reading sophisticated texts. Not just math basics, but math essentials a child needs for college. I have seen this in how she raises and educates her own children and how dedicated she was as a PTA president. Also, she has been extremely hands-on with higher learning activities, leading Destination Imagination teams and supporting school band programs.

Joan has a wealth of educational information and experience, and a whole lot of common sense. Just the kind of person I want in charge of my kids' education. Join me in voting for Joan Laursen for Pleasanton School Board in the November election.

Rhonda Chase

McNerney works for education

Dear Editor,

In our desperate economic times, the prices of education have risen while the resources for it have significantly declined. Congressman McNerney has made it apparent that he wishes to instill educational reform that will make class sizes smaller, decrease tuitions and fees, and provide schools with the technology needed to enhance their learning environments. He is currently lobbying for Pell Grants that will help children gain access to loans for a college education. Furthermore, he has saved a significant amount of money for after school tutoring programs and help centers to aid children in the public school systems in achieving their goals and becoming eligible for higher education such as college. McNerney's plans for educational reform are a step in the right direction, and it is important that we as a community recognize his efforts and keep him in office to fulfill these goals that will only better our education system that is currently facing deep turmoil.

Anika Nayyar

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Pleasanton Weekly endorsements

11th Congressional District — Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton)
10th State Senate District — Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro)
15th State Assembly District — Abram Wilson (R-San Ramon)
18th State Assembly District — Mary Hayashi (D-Castro Valley)
20th State Assembly District — No endorsement
Pleasanton Mayor — Jennifer Hosterman
Pleasanton City Council (2 seats available) — Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Jerry Thorne
Pleasanton School Board (2 seats available) — Jeff Bowser, Joan Laursen

State Propositions:

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. **Vote No.**

Proposition 20, would remove the state Legislature from the process of drawing up Congressional districts and place the responsibility with the Citizens Redistricting Commission. **Vote Yes.**

Proposition 21, would place \$18 annual surcharge on all vehicles registered after Jan. 1 for State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. **Vote No.**

Proposition 22, would stop state from borrowing or redirecting funds from cities, counties and special districts in order to shore up holes in California's general fund. **Vote Yes.**

Proposition 23, would suspend "global warming solution" law until statewide unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. **Vote Yes.**

Proposition 24, seeks to repeal recently passed legislation that would allow businesses to lower their liability tax. **Vote No.**

Proposition 25, would reduce the two-thirds threshold required in both the Assembly and state Senate to pass a budget, to a simple majority vote. **Vote No.**

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

Proposition 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. **Vote No.**

Not in character

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton's goal is to be a Community of Character. There are six characteristics that define that goal. They are on banners at every school, around the city office buildings and hung from the Pleasanton sign on Main Street. The schools even select students for awards who conduct themselves in the definition of each characteristic.

I was one of the many seniors who was present at the City Council meeting on Sept. 7 where the council approved the long awaited Staples Ranch project. I congratulate and thank them for that.

During the open forum portion of the meeting I witnessed three individuals speak who have no concept of what these Pleasanton characteristics mean. I won't embarrass them further by naming them. They embarrassed themselves enough at that meeting. Four of the characteristics — Compassion, Self-discipline, Respect and Integrity — were brutally violated in their tirades against the City

Council and its members. One of these speakers is running for Pleasanton City Council in this election. I hope every voter checks the council minutes and votes accordingly.

We are continually trying to educate our children with the city's stated goals and this incident was a poor example for them all.

Alvin Baer

Laursen for trustee

Dear Editor,

I have known Joan Laursen for seven years, since our daughters were in kindergarten. We've volunteered in classrooms and participated in many school functions together. Joan and I have also worked closely coaching Destination Imagination teams for the past several years. During this time, we've talked ... a lot. Joan is the most passionate advocate of public education for all children of anyone I've ever met. Several years ago, Joan took it upon herself to learn how public schools are funded. As a result of her efforts and her finan-

See **LETTERS** on Page 10

LETTERS

Continued from Page 9

cial background, Joan knows more about the environment surrounding our public schools than anyone I know. She is also calm, rational, and logical. Joan listens equally to all sides and seems always to know how to tactfully return the conversation to its main purpose. The Pleasanton Unified School District is a vital and visible part of our community. Joan's strong community background, school funding knowledge, and leadership skills are just what our city needs in a school board member as we navigate the next several years together. Please join me in voting for Joan Laursen for school board.

Gale Naylor

'A no-nonsense leader'

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support for Joan Laursen for School Board. Joan has spent the last 15 years committing thousands of hours to support Pleasanton schools. Most recently, Joan served as the Co-Chair of the PPIE's CORE Fundraising campaign which enabled our schools to retain valuable educational services.

Having served on numerous district committees as well as serving as the president of Pleasanton PTA Council, Joan has gained in-depth knowledge of school finance and education issues. With this immense knowledge and experience, Joan will be able to step into the role of School Board Member and immediately make a positive impact on our children's education.

Joan has proven to be a no-nonsense leader clearly focused on improving the quality of education in Pleasanton. Please join me in voting for Joan Laursen for School Board in November.

Teri Banholzer

Don't vote for incumbents

Dear Editor,

Mayor Hosterman, Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio do not deserve the public's trust, nor do they deserve your vote. They attempted to confuse and mislead the voters with their competing Measure QQ with the poison pill clause in an attempt to foil the citizen-launched Measure PP. They failed to enact ridge-land protection as a council, and approved the Oak Grove development without the Planning Commission's approval.

They purposefully and willfully attempted to thwart the will of the public by submitting the gutless Measure QQ, which was little more than a plan to create a plan. Even after Measure PP passed, these incumbents decided, rather than rescind their approval, to have Pleasanton voters decide on Oak Grove. As if we were not clear when we voted for Measure PP.

They misled the public with regard to the Oak Grove development, and tried to infer that the homes would not be built on the ridges: Google maps and the city's own grading map prove the mansions were to be built on ridges.

These incumbents worked hard against the will of the people, and provided the developer with every possible advantage.

Claiming they did not get their message across, after the developer spent more than \$565,000, is hard to swallow. I believe they betrayed their duty to the public.

We should not condone their actions by voting for any of these incumbents. Restore representative government back to our City Council. Please vote for Cindy McGovern for Mayor, and Karla Brown for City Council.

John Carroll

McGovern for mayor

Dear Editor,

We're supporting Cindy McGovern for Mayor because of what we view as a major leadership deficiency of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. The Pleasanton Weekly comments that they agree that Mayor Hosterman "sometimes ignores constituents who address the council" and they hope she "spends more time listening and evaluating good suggestions from the lectern...." The characteristic the Weekly refers to goes beyond council meetings, as the mayor appears to be only interested in advancing her own agenda. Therefore, she does not need to listen to the advice of residents.

We're in agreement with the Weekly when they say, "Cindy McGovern has been our long-time favorite on the City Council, and before that for the years she served on the Pleasanton school board. She'd make a good mayor..." We were disappointed that they then supported our current mayor. We urge you to vote McGovern for mayor.

We're concerned that the mayor's financial support from unions and political action committees may influence her decisions more than the advice of residents. We are glad that McGovern is running a grassroots campaign that does not accept campaign financing from any special interest. McGovern is focused on the betterment of Pleasanton and devotes her energies where they'll do the most good — she works for Pleasanton residents.

Please vote for Cindy McGovern.

Dennis de Freitas

Vote McGovern, Brown

Dear Editor,

Elect Cindy McGovern as mayor and Karla Brown as City Council member to bring trustworthiness back to local government. McGovern and Brown, endorsed by The Independent, Valley Times and Tri-Valley Herald, will fight for the reforms needed to stop government employee pension-spiking that already costs taxpayers way too much.

Public employee pensions have mushroomed out of control. Hosterman, Cook-Kallio and Thorne voted in favor of a last-minute retroactive raise for the recently retired city attorney. This resulted in a jaw-dropping, gold-plated pension per year for which we foot the bill. Fiscally responsible McGovern voted against this pension-spiking raise.

When the incumbents caved to special interests and reneged on the city-signed Staples Ranch Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the city incurred needless litigation costs.

When the incumbents failed to rezone land to meet state housing requirements, not only did their inaction result in the loss of the housing cap, but the city incurred over a million dollars in litigation costs. Someone must step in and stop this financial train wreck.

McGovern and Brown will deliver. They'll represent the citizens, not special interests and will bring credibility back to local government.

Please join me and vote for McGovern and Brown on Nov. 2.

Anne Fox

Thanks to Jerry Thorne

Dear Editor,

Play Ball! It's easy for all ages to do so in Pleasanton thanks to Vice Mayor/City Councilman Jerry Thorne, who is seeking re-election on Nov. 2. Thanks to Jerry's attention to sports, the playfields at Donlon School have been improved, at Pleasanton Middle School the tennis courts now have lights and resurfacing, and renovation has spiffed up the athletic fields at Amador Valley Community Park. But Jerry is not just a "good sport," he has earned excellent grades for his classroom help. He has chaired the school district/City Council liaison committee and backed the city with its \$1.2 million line of credit to help the school district's cash flow and meet debt service payments. A man for all reasons, a man for all seasons. Vote Jerry Thorne.

Jennifer Pearce

Laursen's expertise needed

Dear Editor,

I wholeheartedly support Joan Laursen for the Pleasanton school board in the November election. Joan has worked tirelessly for the past 15 years on numerous school and community organizations in Pleasanton and will bring a good background in financial analysis to the board. She worked in the banking industry for a number of years resulting in a solid understanding of governance, oversight and fiscal accountability. Her expertise is just what we need in these challenging economic times. Pleasanton is fortunate to have someone of Joan's experience and qualifications willing to serve the Pleasanton community as a school board trustee. I encourage you to vote for Joan Laursen for Pleasanton school board on Nov. 2.

Dorothy Bishop, immediate past president, Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women

Cook-Kallio for council

Dear Editor,

Sometimes things are going so well we forget to notice what's been done by those responsible for the success. One of the people responsible for the stability of Pleasanton

is Cheryl Cook-Kallio. In addition to being a committed teacher, she is passionate about our government, especially in her home city of Pleasanton. During her tenure as a city councilwoman, she has:

- Helped push through the Stoneridge drive completion
- Been an advocate of the senior housing projects including Kottinger Ranch
- Tried to bridge opposing sides by being the voice of reason
- Been responsive to those who have contacted her regarding issues
- Helped maintain and build our \$22 million reserve through cutting expenses with no layoffs

Throughout the downturn in the economy, Pleasanton has survived and remained fiscally sound — a feat in and of itself considering other cities in the Bay Area. Cheryl and the current council have contributed and spearheaded the efforts to keep us that way. I urge you to vote for Cheryl Cook-Kallio for Pleasanton City Council.

Jennifer Olson

Time to restore trust

Dear Editor,

Cindy McGovern and Karla Brown are the right choices for mayor and City Council. It's long overdue to restore trust in local government.

Incumbents Jennifer Hosterman, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne have been inundated with developer/corporation/union/PAC campaign funding. Public sector union employees have endorsed them. With the city now faced with \$120 million of unfunded liabilities for pensions and fiscally unsustainable union contracts, we need Cindy McGovern and Karla Brown, who have the courage to restore fiscal responsibility.

In addition, Hosterman, Cook-Kallio and Thorne, with their special interest money, have been pawns of the developers, with a herd of expensive consultants to invent and package their every move. They failed to protect Pleasanton's ridgelines. Time and time again, they've ignored their constituents in favor of special interests.

Cindy McGovern and Karla Brown do the detailed research and ground work to come to their own conclusions, and have the backing of the Valley Times, Tri-Valley Herald, the Independent and an ever-growing grassroots base.

To restore representative government that we can trust, it is time for leadership with individuals with high energy, strong principles, a "can do" attitude, who have reputations for telling the truth.

Elect Cindy McGovern Mayor and Karla Brown to City Council on Nov. 2.

Kay Ayala, City Councilmember 1996-2004

Vote for City Hall change

Dear Editor,

We have a candidate for mayor and one for City Council that demonstrates their understanding and commitment to the residents of Pleasanton. Cindy McGovern for Mayor and Karla Brown for City

Council.

In a time when the actions of Pleasanton's mayor has given us great reason to lose trust in government, Cindy McGovern stands out as the people's candidate. While our current mayor has given special access and supports the developers who have lined her campaign with large donations, Cindy consistently stands up for the residents. Cindy has always made herself accessible to the public and has done great things in this community as a City Council member and as our School Board Trustee and School Board President, earning her awards as Pleasanton Weekly "Woman of the Year" and the Mayor's Award for Community Service.

When our elected officials have not been responsive to the residents, Karla Brown has been there as a community advocate. A long-time resident and Pleasanton business person, Karla worked tirelessly in bringing ridgeline protections to the voters as well as standing up to PG&E when they attempted to put untested, high-voltage transmission lines through the middle of Pleasanton neighborhoods. Local papers state that Karla stands out as the only one who fully supports the will of the voters on hillside development.

It's time to restore City Hall as a place where the elected officials work for us, not against us.

Join me in voting Cindy McGovern for Mayor and Karla Brown for City Council.

Steve Brozosky

Re-elect Cook-Kallio

Dear Editor,

I have felt very privileged to live in the city of Pleasanton so I was not surprised when the city was recently voted one of the top 100 cities in the United States. As a 39-year resident I have enjoyed the excellent schools and terrific amenities that are provided for residents; this didn't occur by accident it took hard work planning and leadership

It is important that we re-elect Cheryl Cook-Kallio to Pleasanton City Council. She possesses common sense and has the ability to bring people from throughout the community together.

She has shown leadership in fiscal management, making sure the city has a balanced budget, while maintaining a healthy reserve. She works tirelessly, does the research necessary, and has the vision to understand all sides of an issue.

Four years ago she was the one who had the political will to do what was right in promoting the completion of Stoneridge Drive, paving the way for annexation of the Staples Ranch area. We need leaders like Cheryl Cook-Kallio who knows how government works, has the ability to get things done, and cares about Pleasanton. She is supported by a wide range of individuals from our community; please join me in supporting Cheryl Cook-Kallio for City Council in Pleasanton on Nov. 2.

Erlene DeMarcus, Former BART Director

LETTERS

Continued from Page 10

Officials need to listen

Dear Editor,

Throw the (Pleasanton) Bums Out.

Mayor Hosterman has stated she doesn't believe the citizens should have the right to circulate initiatives or referend specific council actions; it was certainly OK for herself when she opposed the original Oak Grove (Kottinger Hills) housing development. Councilwoman Cook-Kallio has also stated that the citizens should not question their government officials once they have been elected; and she teaches high school government classes. Both have said we should just vote them out of office if we don't like the way they vote.

Not only have Hosterman and Cook-Kallio ignored the citizens of Pleasanton after they voted for hillside protections several times, they actually fought the voters by placing competing measures on the ballot and then actively campaigned against their constituents. They are still at it and have enabled several lawsuits against the city by their actions. This is no way for leaders of a "Community of Character" to act.

Let's take their advice and vote both of them out of office. We need elected officials that actually listen to their citizens rather than rationalize their way around them. Vote Cindy McGovern for Mayor and Karla Brown for City Council.

Nicole Johnson

Cook Kallio for council

Dear Editor,

I endorse Cheryl Cook Kallio for Council because Cheryl:

- Carefully studies information and has a thorough understanding of issues;

- Listens to citizens and challenges information if gaps or questions so she can make the most thoughtful decisions;

- Is not afraid to push back to all sides (developers, staff, citizens) to get to the best information to make these decisions.

I believe Cheryl always strives to make the best/balanced decisions to keep Pleasanton such a special community to live in. For example, even when Cheryl has taken a position that we differ on, she has a strong rationale for that decision and it is clear she has studied it carefully and weighed all sides. In summary, I strongly recommend re-electing Cheryl as she demonstrates what I believe leadership is all about: Being well informed, objective, willing to take on important issues, always striving to make the best decisions to support Pleasanton, and continually learning and growing.

Nancy Allen

Thorne for council

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in support of Jerry Thorne for Pleasanton City Council. I have known Jerry for 15 years and have admired his work ethic and his ability to build a consensus.

I met Jerry in the 1990s when we were new to Pleasanton and he

led the grassroots effort to build a 50-meter pool and renovate the aquatic center. Jerry skillfully put together a coalition of people with varying backgrounds and skills to be the voice of Pleasanton to get the pool built. This included a stand against the developer of Ruby Hill over the issue of park fees. Jerry saw a need and acted on it.

I also admire Jerry for his willingness to check all sides of an issue. When Jerry was running for City Council a few years ago and the West Las Positas interchange was an issue, he investigated all sides and concluded that there was a huge safety issue and the interchange was no longer prudent. It took a significant amount of courage to change his mind, but I have no doubt that his position was driven by what he viewed as in the city's best interest.

I know there are positions that Jerry and I may not see eye to eye on; however, I am confident of this: Jerry makes decisions on what he truly believes is best for Pleasanton, not for any personal agenda or motive. I would urge everyone to vote for Jerry Thorne for Pleasanton City Council.

Laura Darrow

Thorne is experienced

Dear Editor,

Retain Jerry Thorne on Pleasanton's City Council. There's been a lot of talk this campaign about "special interests" having an influence in Pleasanton politics. I'm a long-term Pleasanton resident and have known Jerry Thorne for seven years. I've watched him on the City Council. The only special interest he answers to is the city of Pleasanton. I believe he has consistently had the best interests of the city as a whole in mind as he has worked through the issues. He raised the issue of city finances and the challenge of funding growing pension obligations back before the recession began, when things were booming. Pretty accurate foresight, I would argue.

Given the current challenges facing Pleasanton I think it's important we retain a strong level of experience on our City Council. The current slate of candidates can be placed in two groups: those with the needed experience and those without. Let's retain those with the experience; let's retain Jerry Thorne.

Arne Olson

Demonstrated leadership

Dear Editor,

Please join me in electing Joan Laursen and Jeff Bowser, two highly qualified, deeply experienced Pleasanton leaders. Laursen and Bowser combined have over 30 years of demonstrated leadership and close involvement in our schools.

Laursen is the past president of the Pleasanton PTA Council, has served numerous years on school site councils, is a co-founder of our Community Outreach for Education (CORE) program and a member of our district's Budget Advisory Committee. A financial analyst by training, Laursen spent 12 years in the financial services industry and brings a solid understanding of governance, oversight and fiscal accountability to the board.

Bowser is a past School PTA

President, member of our district Budget Advisory Committee, Legislative Chairman of the PTA Council, and a longtime coach and leader in numerous youth based programs. Bowser brings a master's degree in Educational Leadership and 13 years experience as a teacher and school administrator. Bowser's decade-long experience in business and management in the private sector provides a solid foundation for policy development, governance and fiscal management.

Both Laursen and Bowser are committed to continued academic and social excellence and will join me in supporting programs that meet the needs of all our students, open and active communication with the community, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

I encourage you to join me in voting for Joan Laursen and Jeff Bowser for Pleasanton School Board.

Chris Grant, President, PUSD Board of Trustees

Vote David Harmer

Dear Editor,

Your recent endorsement of Congressman Jerry McNerney was a disappointment, but hardly a surprise. By focusing on predictable pre-election posturing and the largesse Mr. McNerney has facilitated via his "Stimulus" vote, you apparently disregarded the fact that he and the current Congress have placed our country in a tenuous financial position. Sadly, your endorsement confirms that public political support may indeed be purchased by spending other people's money in the right places.

I'm hopeful that the majority of people in the 11th District believe it is more important to do the right thing for our country instead and will vote David Harmer into office on Nov. 2.

Tamy L. Shaw

Trust Jerry Thorne

Dear Editor,

As the time nears to mark our ballots, I am mindful of the vast range of endorsements for one Pleasanton City Council candidate, Jerry Thorne. I believe it is a matter of trusting Jerry. From business to labor, from much of our citizenry to our four local newspapers (Jerry is the only candidate to receive endorsements from the quartet), it's a recognizable fact that Jerry Thorne can be trusted to do the right thing for our community. His record as vice mayor/city councilman shows he has done the right thing for all of us, from school kids to the veteran and military families to senior citizens. I want my vote to help re-elect Jerry Thorne, a trusted voice in our community.

Kathy Narum

Keep incumbents

Dear Editor,

Challenging times require deliberate leaders who study all the facts and make informed decisions for the benefit of all our citizens, not just one neighborhood or clique. We voters in Pleasanton face a clear choice in next month's election. Three candidates stand out well above their challeng-

ers in terms of the ability to carefully consider all issues and act decisively. Re-elect Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, and Councilmembers Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne.

Ward Belding

Piderit uniquely qualified

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton Unified School District is lucky in many ways: dedicated teachers, hard-working students, passionate parents, experienced management, and open-minded union leadership. With so much to celebrate and protect, PUSD board members must navigate carefully when guiding our district through current financial challenges. They each must examine the value of existing programs, weigh the risks and rewards of new ideas, and dare to innovate while seeking lasting solutions for all Pleasanton students.

Among the three excellent candidates, Sandy Piderit is uniquely qualified to offer fresh perspective as a board member. Sandy and her family moved to California in 2007, bringing with her a decade of teaching experience, a passion for education, and an outsider's clear view of the challenges facing our district. I've been impressed with her thoughtfulness and engagement during district budget negotiations and during the superintendent search. I share with her a belief that Pleasanton Unified can be a model for creative solutions to California's education challenges, combining our proud legacy of excellence with open-minded, clear-eyed innovation. Join me in voting for Sandy Piderit for School Board on Nov. 2.

Jeff Dormer, Business Owner and Parent

Reaffirm good work

Dear Editor,

Our country and our state are faced with very challenging times. Here in Pleasanton we are very fortunate to be weathering the economic storm better than most. The only way for things to remain the way they are is by electing good leaders who listen, then act in the best interests of everyone in town.

On Nov. 2, we have the opportunity to reaffirm the good work of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Council Members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio to keep Pleasanton moving forward, on fiscally solid ground, while continuing to provide our community with the services we all value.

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, vote for Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, and Council Members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne.

Vic Malatesta

Chamber and politics

Dear Editor,

I am at once befuddled and bemused at Matt Sullivan's constant hand-wringing over the chamber's involvement in local politics (Letters, Oct. 8). The business community's collective voice when it comes to electing a mayor and City Council members has been successful, as Sullivan correctly points out. He would rather business sit on the

sidelines while a small percentage of residents decide its fate, electing those who will vote on critical issues impacting the local economy. As a sitting council member, Sullivan should know that business contributes over 60% of what drives the health and well-being of our community, mostly in the form of sales and property taxes. To infer the business community should not have an opinion and not support candidates is naive. He should suggest that to the PTA and teachers union when it comes to electing our school board members.

David Bouchard

Karla for council

Dear Editor,

Please join me in voting for Karla Brown for Pleasanton City Council. Karla favors planning decisions that originate from a consensus of Pleasanton's citizens — not outside interests. As Karla's treasurer I can validate that 100% of contributions to Karla's campaign are from Pleasanton. Residents support Karla's principled stances respecting the value of Pleasanton's surrounding undisturbed open spaces and scenic resources. Karla is also an independent businesswoman smart enough to shape the Pleasanton of tomorrow in balance with Pleasanton's small-town pace of life. Please vote Karla Brown for City Council.

Matt Morrison

Vote No on Prop. 23

I read your piece in the Editorial section, "A Primer on the Propositions: Nine Choices Before California Voters." I noticed in particular your suggestion that voters support Proposition 23 and I disagree.

Proposition 23 relaxes pollution standards in California by suspending Assembly Bill 32 until the unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. The Weekly states, "Sounds reasonable at a time when unemployment and the need for job growth head everyone's priority list." When considering an issue as important as AB32, we cannot simply make a decision based on the proposition sounding "reasonable." We must think priorities first. Jobs are important; however, the future of climate change is on thin ice. Changing the course of our attempts at preserving the environment and helping the Earth is not the answer. Green jobs, Yes! Relaxing pollution standards, No!

AB32 (the "global warming solutions act") was enacted in 2006 to take a stand on the air we breathe, our environment, our health and our ability to create green jobs. California has become a leader in reducing the nationwide carbon footprint and move away from our dependency on fossil fuels.

Proposition 32 is backed by oil companies and others motivated by profits and are not interested in preservation. The American Lung Association is encouraging California voters to vote No on Proposition 23. Our health is at stake.

Protect your health, our air and our environment. Vote No on Prop. 23.

Sophia Holbrook, seventh-grader, Harvest Park Middle School

POLICE CHIEF

Continued from Page 5

briefing room, report writing room and lunch room. We kept track of all calls with paper and pencil. Everything was done manually.”

Fraser has a bachelor's degree

from the University of San Francisco and a master's degree from Cal Poly University, Pomona. He graduated from Command College in 1996 and the FBI National Academy in 2001. He has lived in Pleasanton for more than 27 years with his wife Diane. They have

two daughters, Valerie and Stacie.

Fialho said recruitment for Fraser's successor will begin immediately with the final selection probably occurring in the March/April timeframe. Interim command will be provided by Capts. Eric Finn and Dave Spiller. ■

PROP. 22

Continued from Page 8

Gioia was joined by Liz Kniss of the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, who said counties have already seen a 12% cut in funding. Kniss said Prop. 22 would make counties and cities adversaries.

Kathy Long, chairwoman of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, said the proposition would have “unintended consequences,” specifically that county funding for health and human services and public safety would be cut.

The three county officials, along with Matt Rexroad of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, urged people to vote No on Prop 22, calling it ballot box budgeting.

“When you do this kind of lack of real reform, lack of real dialog — one that has a catchy title,” Long said, “it's disingenuous to all the voters.”

But Hosterman said that Prop. 22 is a straightforward measure that simply ensures that existing local tax dollars and existing gas taxes cannot be taken away by the

state Legislature again.

“This past year, Pleasanton has had to defer the replacement of aging fire equipment due to the threat of further state takeaways,” she said. “Proposition 22 would legally keep locally generated tax dollars in our community. In addition, Prop. 22 will prevent the state from taking or diverting gas taxes we pay at the pump that voters dedicated to transportation improvements such as pothole repairs, traffic congestion relief and mass transit.”

She continued, “More importantly, during these tough economic times Prop. 22 will not increase taxes. This bill is supported by a broad and diverse coalition of public safety, business, taxpayer groups, labor, community groups, senior and local governments groups including AAA Northern California, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Group, California Chamber of Commerce, the California Library Association and more than 300 California cities and towns, including Pleasanton.”

Reporter Glenn Wohltmann
contributed to this report.

DISTRICTS

Continued from Page 5

to choose the next mayor. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman is seeking her fourth and final term against challenger and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern. Seeking the two seats available on the City Council are incumbent council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne,

being challenged by Realtor Karla Brown and Open Heart Kitchen administrator Fred Watson.

Voters in the Pleasanton Unified School District can select two of three candidates seeking election to the school board: Jeff Bowser, Joan Laursen or Sandy Piderit. Board members Pat Kernan and Jim Ott are stepping down this year.

—Jeb Bing

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- 30+ years Community Volunteer

Awarded:

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- Chamber of Commerce, Community Service Award
- Pleasanton Weekly "Woman of the Year"

ENDORSEMENTS

“We endorse Councilwoman Cindy McGovern for mayor... Of the two mayoral candidates, McGovern was the one sensitive to the concerns of residents during the fight over hillside development...”

Valley Times

“McGovern recognizes the ... huge long-term debt the City must bring under control quickly... The community needs leaders who respect the will of the voters.”

Tri-Valley Herald

“Cindy McGovern is the best choice for Pleasanton Mayor... She never forgets that she is there to serve the people of Pleasanton. She can be trusted to provide an honest, transparent explanation for any decision she makes. We believe she would be a unifying force as mayor.”

The Independent

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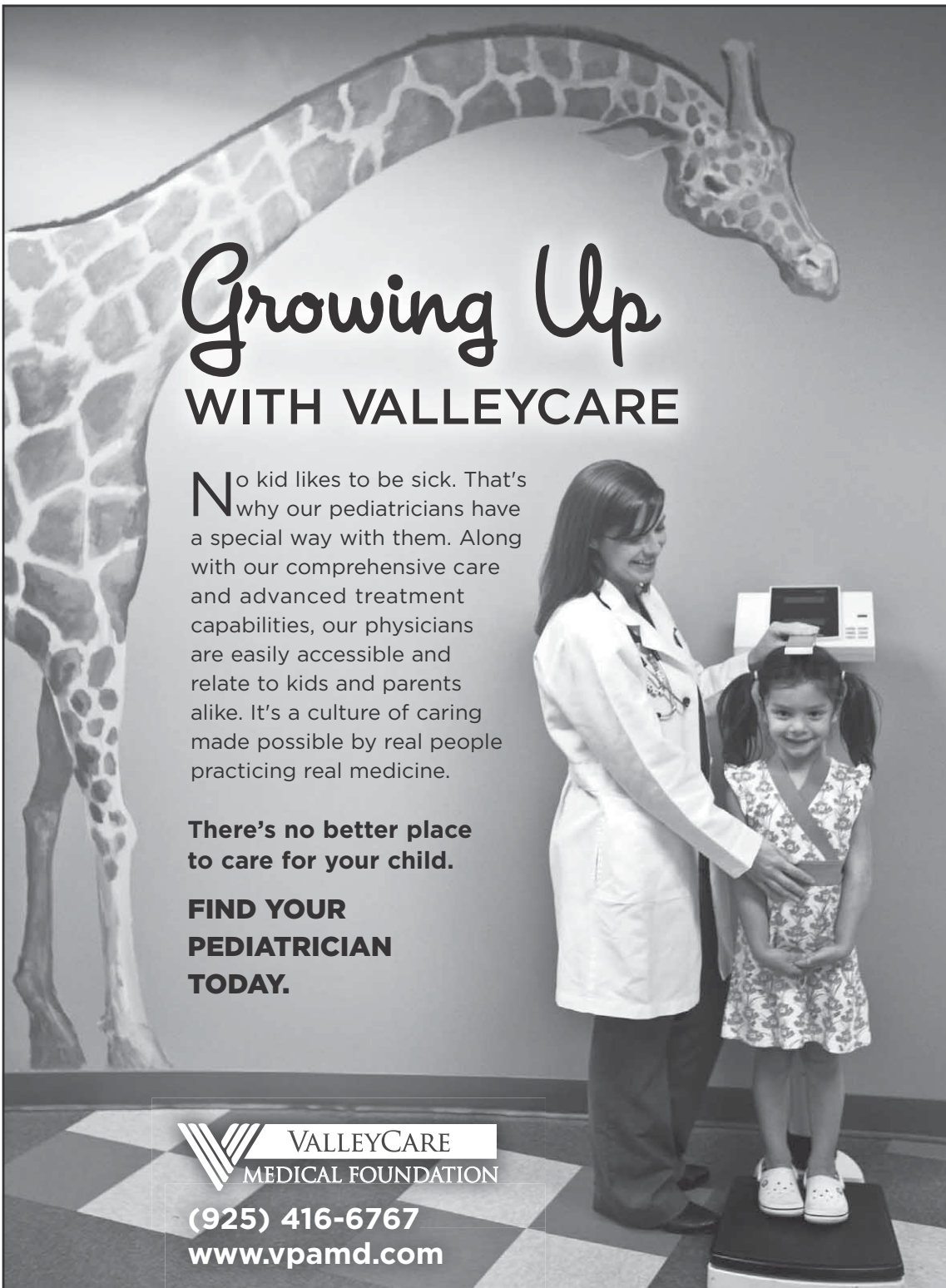
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Shop Around

Campaign promotes 'shopping local' to help retailers, restaurants thrive

BY JEB BING

When you're planning your holiday trips, think Pleasanton. That's the message local merchants, owners, city officials and, most of all, Pleasanton taxpayers are touting. "Shop Around Pleasanton" campaign is a call to action.



Downtown Pleasanton and the Saturday Farmers Market are usually bustling. To keep sales up, the city is starting the new "Shop Around Pleasanton" campaign, which includes a 3/50 project that asks consumers to choose three favorite businesses and commit to spending \$50 per month in them.

According to a national study, independent retailers' sales have climbed 10 percent for cities that have a shop local campaign. For the comparison, sales in cities with no campaign fell just 1 percent. The campaign is a call to action for consumers to support local businesses.

The Pleasanton campaign follows the lead of other cities. A national study found that cities with a campaign saw a 10 percent increase in sales. "I've seen a free market where everyone is competing for their customers. To have a free market where everyone is competing for their customers is a free market where everyone is competing for their customers."

hours, I received more than 350 calls. "What else have you got?" So I launched it in mid-afternoon on Monday. Baxter is a retail consultant who is to strengthen independent businesses. Having spent 14 years as a retail store owner, she knows retail inside out and is now using her experience to help other retailers.

Pamela Ott, Pleasanton's economic development manager, said the Shop Around Pleasanton campaign is designed to promote dining throughout the city, from neighborhood shopping centers to the downtown Shopping Center. But while major retailers like Macy's and JC Penny have large budgets for advertising, promoting smaller businesses is the smaller "mom and pop" stores that lack those kinds of funds.

"If we don't support them, they're going away," said Laura Olson, Pleasanton Downtown Association president. In getting the City Council to approve the \$58,000 on the Shop Around Pleasanton campaign, Ott explained that the economic climate of the past few years has been particularly difficult for retail establishments as many consumers have less income to spend.

"While the economic forecast is not looking ahead at a slow recovery, it is a sign of hope. To assist local businesses in their recovery and profitable upcoming holiday season, and as part of the city's effort to maintain a stable local economy, the city has agreed to fund the shop local campaign. "This will benefit merchants and consumers alike."

and Pleasanton

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residents and visitors to talk about the shopping attributes that are to be found throughout Pleasanton," Ott said.

Of course, Pleasanton is not alone in facing a continued business slowdown. The office market is at an all-time low, few building permits have been issued for new housing in recent years, and the city of Pleasanton has put a hold on hiring and capital spending. Even the school district is facing back-to-back budget shortfalls because state aid is not keeping up with increased costs and enrollment. Downtown and in most neighborhood centers, some stores have closed.

According to financial writer Bruce Watson, retail and food service revenues across the country are at four-year lows and the small business loan failure rate has now passed 12%.

"It's clear that America's independent retailers need some serious help," Watson writes. One solution might be the grassroots 3/50 project, which asks consumers to choose three favorite businesses and commit to spending \$50 per month in them."

"That's what we are hoping happens here," the PDA's Olson said. "We want to remind people that purchases made here benefit our community. If we want to remain a vibrant, active town, we need vibrant and active businesses."

Pleasanton's campaign got under way last month with a retail seminar for local merchants. Ott and her team, including the city's Economic Vitality Committee that she handles, discussed promotional opportunities with other sponsors, including the PDA, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Hacienda Business Park Owners Association and the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

"The campaign is both innovative and timely in that it uses a social networking platform to engage merchants and consumers in an ongoing dialogue about shopping around Pleasanton," Ott said. "This online approach is being augmented by traditional marketing outreach, including posters, postcards and media advertising."

"A highlight of the campaign is a \$1,000 Pleasanton gift card that will incentivize consumers to share their favorite local shopping experience and thereby encourage others to participate," Ott added.

The campaign, which runs through the end of the year, includes a downtown art walk from 6 to 9 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, and the Magical Holiday Evening on Friday, Nov. 19.

The next day, the PDA and the Livermore downtown association are co-sponsoring a 7 a.m. "shopping extravaganza" in downtown Pleasanton, with a call to shoppers to come dressed in their pajamas to get their Christmas shopping started as soon as they get out of bed.

Called "Earlier than the Bird," Olson said the Saturday, Nov. 20 shopping program follows a similar one Livermore has been conducting for the last four years and also comes a week ahead of "Black Friday," the traditional start of Christmas shopping on the day after Thanksgiving.

Using public funds, Ott also is expanding her promotion of Pleasanton's shopping opportunities in publicity written for Bay Area media and through other promotions. A consulting agency she has hired also has conducted telephone surveys asking Pleasanton residents why they shop in Pleasanton or why they don't, and out-of-town shoppers here are also being asked about the advantages Pleasanton businesses offer that keeps them coming back. ■

—Gina Channell-Allen



Directory aims to boost Pleasanton business, shopping

The "shop local" movement is gaining visibility and supporters throughout the nation, as studies have shown that communities benefit more from dollars spent close to home.

Research has shown that 68% of the money spent at a locally owned business remains in the community, compared to only 43% for national chain-store purchases.

The "Shop Local" program conducted this holiday season by the city of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Downtown Association will be closely followed by another program to connect Pleasanton shoppers with local businesses.

A new website — a directory of nearly all businesses in Pleasanton — will feature profiles of companies, special offers and coupons, restaurant menus, photos, maps, event announcements and more.

The program is a collaboration of the Pleasanton Weekly, the city of Pleasanton, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, and the Pleasanton Downtown Association. Its aim is to raise awareness of the products and services offered by local merchants and their importance to the vitality of the community.

With the website, any business physically located in Pleasanton can create a free profile, including photos, product offerings, coupons, links to its website, gift certificates and much more. Residents can search for businesses by name or category, display profiles with maps and contact information, browse special offers of all merchants, buy gift certificates and post comments about individual businesses. New offers or updates to a business's profile can be quickly spotted through a news feed on the site. Look for it after the holidays. ■



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POLICE BULLETIN

Gunmen rob Denny's diners, employees

Police still are looking for three armed men who robbed employees and customers at a Denny's restaurant in Pleasanton on Oct. 20.

At 11:55 p.m., an employee at the restaurant, located at 6455 Owens Drive, notified police that an armed robbery had just occurred. The employee told police that three men had entered the business, pointed handguns at patrons and employees, and fled with cash.

The suspects were last seen running west on Owens Drive toward Johnson Drive. Police from Pleasanton and Dublin searched the area with the help of K-9 units and a California Highway Patrol helicopter but failed to locate the men, police said.

The suspects are described as black men in their 20s, dressed in dark hooded sweatshirts and black pants. They were seen carrying a black duffel bag, according to police.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.



ROXANNE PLOTTS

Lillie Rotta, a resident of Pleasanton for 42 years, is surrounded on her 100th birthday by her children (l-r) Betty Kaufman, Glenna Rotta, Vince Rotta, Lelona DiDonato and Maryann Hallum.

100 years young

Centenarian attributes longevity to physical activity

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Lillie Rotta was surrounded by quite a crowd when she turned 100 on Aug. 2. They were mainly family members:

- She is mother to five;
- grandmother to 11;
- great-grandmother to 16; and
- great-great-grandmother to six.

that's not even counting in-laws. Lillie attributes her longevity to the physical jobs she did growing up and the walking she did all her life. Plus she never smoked.

"She never did drive; she used to walk forever to get places," said her granddaughter Roxanne Plotts.

Lillie moved to Pleasanton from Oakland in 1968 to be near her family. She settled into Kottinger Place in 1970, the year it opened.

She was born in Montague, Texas, as Lillie Pellegrinelli. She grew up on a farm with her parents and two sisters and remembers picking cotton and carrying it in sacks to be weighed. The girls walked about two miles to school, rain or shine, and Lillie recalls going to church in town in a wagon pulled by horses. Her

parents had an ice box and no electricity, just lanterns.

"At some point her dad bought a car and taught himself to drive and eventually her older sister learned to drive and she could drive them to school," Roxanne said.

Lillie met her husband, Vincent Rotta, at a dance in town, where his brothers played the fiddle and guitar, and he began to visit her on horseback. The couple was married and in 1944 they moved to Oakland for him to work at a sausage factory where his cousins found him employment.

"They came by train, and she was nine months pregnant with her fifth child," said Roxanne.

She worked at Hinks Department Store in Berkeley for many years.

Lillie moved into Parkview Assisted Living about a year ago, where she uses a walker to get around.

"We moved everything over there and she has a wall (of photos) for each family," Roxanne said.

Lillie's offspring now live in Livermore, Modesto, Utah and Colorado as well as Pleasanton. The extended family gathered at the Plotts house in August to celebrate its matriarch turning 100.

"Cousins were there I hadn't seen in years," said Roxanne. "A nephew came out from Texas she hadn't seen." ■



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for City Council

Please join your Firefighters in supporting these candidates when you vote by mail or at the polls on November 2

OBITUARIES

Frank I. Belecky

Frank I. Belecky, 78, passed away at his Pleasanton home on Oct. 23 at the age of 78.

He was born March 22, 1932, in Cheyenne, Wyo. He married Patricia Torres on June 22, 1952, in Cheyenne. They were married 52 years prior to her death in 2004, and he will be buried next to her in St. Augustine's Catholic Cemetery.

Mr. Belecky served in the U.S. Air Force and the Wyoming Air National Guard, then attended the University of Wyoming. He transferred to Michigan State University



and received a bachelor's degree in Administration of Justice. He was then hired by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and his first assignment was in St. Louis, Mo. His career also took him to management positions in offices in Honolulu, Oakland and finally San Francisco. He retired from ATF in 1986 and became a full time real estate agent in Pleasanton.

He is survived by sons Steven of Eastlake, Colo., and Michael of Pleasanton; daughter Cindy King of Tracy; mother Fern Belecky and sister April Belecky Jones, both of Cheyenne; 11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Memorial services will be held at the Palm Pavilion at the Pleasanton Fairground at 2 p.m. Nov. 2. Donations may be made to www.scleroderma.org or to the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum, P.O. Box 2720, Cheyenne, WY.

ON THE TOWN



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Author Visits

CAL BERKELEY AUTHOR VISIT Tri-Valley Cal Alumni invite you to meet Cal grad Maria Murnane, author of the award-winning comedy *Perfect on Paper*, from

6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Wine Steward, 641 Main St. Maria shares her inspiring story about ditching the rat race and how her adventures led her to write this humorous book. Wine and appetizers included. Prepayment of \$20 required.

Call 730-3862 or email audrey.glaflkides@mssb.com.

Concerts

DAVID BURNHAM TO ENTERTAIN AT CABARET SERIES David Burnham

will entertain with an assortment of songs from Broadway roles along with favorite selections from his debut solo CD from 8-10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15-25 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$15 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

SONG RECITAL A festive evening of fun and song with duets and solos from everyone's favorite musical theater and classical music composers will take place from 7-8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. It's the fall recital for students of the Sarah Sloan Vocal Studio,

and students from Amador, Foothill and Dublin High School will perform. Call 719-4984 or visit www.sarahsloan.net.

Events

'NIGHTMARE' IMPROV "Nightmare," a terrifying night of improv as presented by the Creatures of Impulse, Pleasanton's own teen improv troupe, will begin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 28; Friday, Oct. 29; and Saturday, Oct. 30, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 444 Railroad Ave. This is a dramatic Halloween experience you won't want to miss. Participants can help create the story, setting and characters for

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29TH IA 'OE E KA LA HULA FESTIVAL OF N. CALIFORNIA The Kumu Hula Association of Northern California presents this festival on Nov 5-7 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Event includes a hula dance competition, crafts area, authentic food booths, music and more. Call 650-355-6451 or visit www.kumuhulaassociation.com.

GRAND OPENING POKER RUN BIKE RIDE TheCyclePros is hosting a grand opening celebration beginning with a Poker Run bike ride at 9 a.m. and a free barbecue from noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30, at TheCyclePros, 728 Main St. The ride will feature short and long routes to Calaveras and back. The barbecue, provided by Main Street Meat and Fish Market, is open to everyone. Events will include a vendor fair, wheel demo and test rides. Call 400-4336.

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 in regards to their comedy only and then for their favorite comedian in regards to their costume only. Cost is \$10. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjoscmedy.com.

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 alike attend in costume to tour the Haunted Hallway of Horror, enjoy treats and tennis games for all age groups. Call 931-3446.

HAUNTED HOUSE Dead Time Dreams - Haunted House is open from 7-10 p.m., Oct. 21 through Oct. 31, at Stoneridge Shopping Center, located in the parking lot near Macy's and Sears. Rated PG-13. Cost \$10. Email gravensteine@gmail.com.

HOMETOWN HEROES CELEBRATION The Dublin Senior Center will be hosting the annual Hometown Heroes Celebration to honor all our veterans at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 31, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Special presentations will be followed by the 191st Army Band, Band of the Wild West. If possible, donate new socks to benefit Operation S.A.M. Call 556-4511 or visit www.DublinSeniorCenter.com.

PIRATES OF EMERSON-HAUNTING FIELDS Award-winning pirates are bringing thrills and chills to Pleasanton at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., with over four acres of haunted houses, theater, games and a fiery pirate ship from Oct. 1-31. General admission is \$20. Not recommended for children under 13. Call (510) 657-2121 or visit www.PiratesofEmerson.com.

SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL Pleasanton's Fall Fest is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30, downtown. Spooky Scavenger Hunt starting at 10 a.m.: kids come in costume and register at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Sweet and Savory Tasting Contest will have restaurants and bakeries participating. Tasting cards for \$10 let you go find the tasty treasures. Limited to the first 200 participants. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net for locations. Carved pumpkin contest will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Museum. Call 484-2199.

YESTERFEST yesterFEST, an old time autumn festival with fun for all ages, will take place from 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, or visit www.valleycommunitychurch.org.

Fundraisers

22ND ANNUAL GALA FOR VALLEY PREGNANCY CENTER Valley Pregnancy Center is proud to announce its 22nd Annual Fundraising Gala from 6-9:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12, at the Palm Event Center at Mitchell Katz Winery, 1184 Vineyard Ave., with a powerful testimony by Dr. Tony Levatino and his wife Ceil, inspiring music and great food. Contact Teri Price at 828-4458.

BALL AT THE MALL North Rotary announces the first annual New Year's Eve Ball at the Mall from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at Stoneridge Shopping Center. The \$75 gala event will feature a live band, DJ, a piano bar, cocktail foods and no-host bars, to benefit children in the community. Champagne in commemorative glasses will be served at midnight. Call 877-543-7852 or visit www.theballatthemall.org.

SECRET SANTA TOY DRIVE In an effort to make sure every child enjoys a bright holiday season, Sleep Train is collecting new, unwrapped gifts for California's 80,000 foster children. Become a "Secret Santa" and make a donation from Nov. 1 through Dec. 12 at Sleep Train, 6050 Johnson Drive, Suite C. Call 1-800-378-2337 or visit www.sleeptrain.com.

THE ST. ANDREW'S BALL If you love Scotland, you'll Love this. The St. Andrew's Society of Oakland and The East Bay will be hosting the 132nd annual St. Andrew's Ball from 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Pleasanton Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. A fun-filled evening of Scottish culture, music and dance including pipers and dancers, dinner, wine and dancing with DJ Steve Fox. Cost \$70. Call 487-4223 or visit www.standrewssocietyofoakland.org.

Health

ACUPRESSURE: A COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY TO AIDE THE HEALING PROCESS ValleyCare Health System is hosting a free "learn at lunch" event on Acupressure from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10, at

ValleyCare Health System Women's Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Conference Room 240. All cancer patients and their families are welcome to come as well as community members. All registered participants will receive a free-boxed lunch. Register at 734-3319.

LIFESTYLERx COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR Free blood pressure checks, gait analysis, body fat analysis, target heart rate and Zumba will be available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30, at LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Adult flu shots available for \$25. Trick or treating for kids, plus face painting, crafts, and jump houses. Call 454-6342.

Holiday

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE The Pleasanton Senior Center's Peddler Shoppe is holding a Holiday Boutique from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The Shoppe features one-of-a-kind items handcrafted by local seniors. All proceeds go back into the community. Call 922-0454.

PREPARE A CHRISTMAS FORM LETTER - LET US TRANSCRIBE FOR YOU A volunteer will transcribe your holiday letter on the computer, and a copy will be made for you to mail or email. Call for an appointment to discuss your correspondence. Available by appointments only from now until Dec. 23 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Cost \$1.25 per page; copies extra. Call 556-4511 to schedule an appointment.

Kids & Teens

HOPE HOSPICE CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP Children can be overwhelmed with their grief after the death of a loved one. This support program offers a nurturing environment to help them understand emotions using music, games, writing and art, and to learn healthy coping skills. The group meets from 4:30-6 p.m., Thursdays, Sept. 30-Nov. 11 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL No.14 This group meets at 7 p.m., on the second and fourth Monday of every month, at Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Rd. It is for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 who have a Masonic relationship. It teaches the girls team work, leadership and public speaking. Call 683-5401.

TEEN AND MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LIBRARY Pleasanton Public Library offers Volunteer Information Meetings for teens in high school that may volunteer at the library at various times of the year like the Friends of the Library Book Sale or help with the Children's Summer Reading Program. Students (not parents please) will need to visit the blog at www.ptownteenlib.blogspot.com to find out when new volunteer training dates are available before e-mailing Teresa Parham at tparham@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Also,



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middle school students are invited to help run the library's summer reading program by becoming a "Kid Power Volunteer" to help children sign up for and play the summer reading game, as well as distribute prizes. For more information, call the Children's Desk 931-3400, ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

'FERTILITY 101: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CONCEIVING' The San Ramon Regional Medical Center will present this free community educational seminar on "Everything You Need to Know about Conceiving" from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Aimee Eyvazzadeh, reproductive endocrinologist, will discuss the causes of infertility and what a couple can do to help improve their chances of conceiving a healthy baby. Register by calling 800-284-2878 or online at www.oursanramonhospital.com.

KEEPING DEBT UNDER CONTROL: AVOID DETOURS When your debt is out of control, the road to your financial security may take a detour. Learn how to identify the warning signs of a credit crisis from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. If you have already been derailed by debt, find out about options available to repay creditors and bypass the debt detour. Cost \$1.25 in advance or \$2 at the door. Call 556-4511 or visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

Miscellaneous

'SHIFTING GEARS' Las Positas College invites high school seniors and their parents to learn about "Shifting Gears" from high school to college, from 6:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Faculty and staff will be available to speak with students and parents, and there will be presentations about majors, transfer academic programs and student support services. Call 424-1421 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu.

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

GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) is calling all women in the Tri-Valley to its tradeshow at 5:15 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at Allegra Print & Imaging, 1063-A Serpentine Ln. This is the "informal" yet "productive" networking group everyone in town is talking about. Cost \$10 for appetizers; BYOB - bring your own beverage.

RSVP by Nov. 1 at 426-2510 or email gnoners@gmail.com.

On Stage

BOO-ETRY Spooky poems will be 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 and students free with ID. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Seniors

BONE HEALTH Learn what Osteoporosis is and how to improve bone health through exercise and nutrition and exercises to improve posture, and reduce risk of fracture, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost are \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

BRAIN MATTERS Enjoy a morning of fun while learning how to keep your brain active and your memory sharp. The class is held from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Word games, puzzles, challenging activities, reminiscing and more, geared to help you age-proof your mind. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

WII BOWLING Play Wii Bowling on the big screen from 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Wednesday afternoon at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$1.75 resident and \$2.25 nonresident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Sports

LACROSSE CLUB-(BOYS) Registration is open for spring 2011 season for new and returning players for age groups: U9,U11,U13,U15, and high school. Register before Nov. 1 to avoid \$50 late fee. Tryouts for team placements to be held Dec. 4 and 11. Register for new player clinic on Nov. 14 at Hart Middle School. Email mdcranney@gmail.com.

PGSL REGISTRATION FOR 2011 Registration is open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League for 2011. All girls (grades K-high school) living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. For registration details and additional information, visit the league's website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

PGSL WALK-THRU REGISTRATION Pleasanton Girls Softball League representatives will be available from 5-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St., accepting registration forms and answering questions regarding the upcoming 2011 season. For more information, email Christine

Tanis at christine.t@pleasanton-softball.org.

Support Groups

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support group meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at LifeStyleRx, 1111 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call 833-2784 or visit www.valleycare.com. 7:30-9 p.m.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem-solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

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 millerj3@gmail.com.

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the fourth Monday of every month, at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Fynnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For information, call JoAnne during the hours of 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at 875-0960.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE A blood drive will take place from 8 a.m.- 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at CARR America, 4400 Rosewood Dr., Conference Center, Tassajara Room. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: CARR).

TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Back for its sixth season of covering team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley, Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr B" Baljevich will present commentary and footage covering this season of football and girl's volleyball. The show will air at 3:30, 7 and 10 p.m. Monday-Friday, and is available via Video on Demand at www.trivalleytv.org.

PET OF THE WEEK

Red hot kitty cat

Chili Pepper is a big cat with a big personality to match, who would love to rule your home! But don't worry, this big boy is quite affectionate and rules with a velvet paw. Even though he's a senior, he doesn't act like one, and still has an active and friendly demeanor. He loves getting his back and head scratched, purrs a lot, and won't hesitate to make himself right at home with you. Because we consider him a senior kitty, Chili Pepper is a member of our Club Second Chance, meaning he has a discounted adoption fee and comes with a special card good for discounts at several east bay area vet clinics, pet supply stores and groomers. Come see Chilli Pepper at the East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. Telephone 479-9670. Or visit www.eastbayspca.org.



MICHAEL MALONEY

Quirky over-achievers face off in 'Spelling Bee'

Unlikely subject makes for entertaining musical

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tri-Valley Rep's new production is a w-i-n-n-e-r with a cast of nine super-talented actors who sing and dance their way through "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

Those who were traumatized in their youths by spelling bees might find it cathartic to attend "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which opened Friday night. As the contestants emphatically shout: It's just so unfair. One is asked to spell "cow" while another struggles with "capybara." No wonder they burst into the song, "Pandemonium."

The musical traces the life of a spelling bee from the gathering of the six quirky hopefuls, exploring their motivations and backgrounds, through the mounting tension as spellers are eliminated. The actors make each character lovable, funny and memorable.

We meet William Barfee (played by Anthony Everhart), whose unkempt appearance includes the proverbial pulled out shirttail, who keeps exclaiming, "It's pronounced BarFAY." But it never is.

Campus activist Logainne Schwartzangrubenierre (Titian Lish) wants to please her two overbearing fathers. Olive Ostrovsky (Melissa Heinrich) leads a lonely life as evidenced by her song, "My Friend, the Dictionary." Chip Tolentino (Jordan Adelman) refuses to leave the stage ("Didn't you hear, I said two Ts.") Leaf Coneybear (Brian Daughlath) figures it's all gravy since "I'm Not That Smart." And super-overachiever Marcy Park (Catherine Gloria) protests that she does not speak five languages, she speaks six. As they become acquainted with each other and themselves they learn that there is more to life than winning and those who lose are not necessarily "losers."

For each performance, the cast adds four audience members who are quickly primed to portray additional spellers. Friday's opening night guest spellers included a young man who was introduced as William, "who has been struck by



Rona Lisa Peretti revels in memories of winning the spelling bee 22 years before, while the vice principal falls in love with her.

lightning — twice," and he managed to convey an appropriately befuddled expression. As spellers were eliminated they were given a box of juice as compensation and escorted offstage by Mitch Mahoney (Mia Sagan), who is acting as "comfort counselor" for community service.

Presenting the words is Miss Rona Lisa Peretti (Jennifer Kosta), the winner of the third annual spelling bee who continues to glory in her winning word, "szyzgy." She displays the bubbling optimism of her profession — she's a Realtor — which causes Vice Principal Douglas Panch (Jeff Seaberg) to become smitten.

The Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre always adds imaginative twists to its productions, not to mention bringing them up to date. "This spelling bee has more misspellings than a Tea Party protest sign," states one speller. Somehow they make it through one long spelling bee and 20 songs in just two hours, under director Carol Hovey; vocal director Cary Litchford; choreographer Morgan Breedveld; and musical director Jo Anne Fosselman.

If you find words fascinating, or if you like singing, dancing and physical humor, be sure to see "Spelling Bee," which continues at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 7 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$35 for adults (18-60), \$33 for seniors (60-plus), and \$25 for juniors, at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, or by calling 373-6800. ■



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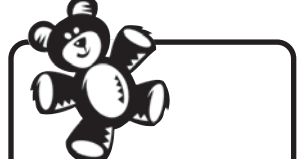
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Real Estate

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September home sales show strong gain over August

But down 19% from year ago

By JEB BING

Existing-home sales rose again in September, affirming that a sales recovery has begun, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Existing-home sales, which are completed transactions that include single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, jumped 10.0 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.53 million in September from a downwardly revised 4.12 million in August, but remain 19.1 percent below the 5.60 million-unit pace in September 2009 when first-time buyers were ramping up in advance of the initial deadline for the tax credit last November.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said the housing market is in the early stages of recovery.

"A housing recovery is taking place but will be choppy at times depending on the duration and impact of a foreclosure moratorium," he said. "But the overall direction should be a gradual rising trend in home sales with buyers responding to historically low mortgage interest rates and very favorable affordability conditions."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage fell to a record low 4.35 percent in September from 4.43 percent in August; the rate was 5.06 percent in September 2009.

The national median existing-home price

for all housing types was \$171,700 in September, which is 2.4 percent below a year ago. Distressed homes accounted for 35 percent of sales in September compared with 34 percent in August; they were 29 percent in September 2009.

NAR President Vicki Cox Golder, owner of Vicki L. Cox & Associates in Tucson, Ariz., said opportunities abound in the current market.

"A decade ago, mortgage rates were almost double what they are today, and they're about one-and-a-half percentage points lower than the peak of the housing boom in 2005," she said. "In addition, home prices are running about 22 percent less than five years ago when they were bid up by the biggest housing rush on record."

To illustrate the jump in housing affordability, the median monthly mortgage payment for a recently purchased home is several hundred dollars less than it was five years ago.

"In fact, the median monthly mortgage payment in many areas is less than people are paying for rent," Golder said.

Housing affordability conditions today are 60 percentage points higher than during the housing boom, so it has become a very strong buyers' market, especially for families with long-term plans.

"The savings today's buyers are receiving are not a one-time benefit. Buyers with fixed-

See **SALES** on Page 24

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Dublin

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5229 Londonderry Drive \$650,000
 Sun 1-3 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Fremont

3 BEDROOMS
4782 Garnet Common \$620,000
 Sat 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
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 Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS
1953 Hall Circle \$715,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
5 BEDROOMS
2514 Merlot Lane \$899,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
3452 Smoketree Common \$209,000
 Sat 12-2 Valley Brokers 437-5830
1819 Sinclair Drive \$472,500
 Sat/Sun 12-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111
49 Upper Golf Road \$749,500
 Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-8844
3 BEDROOMS
10783 Sornoway Lane \$425,000
 Sun 1-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

4386 Krause Street \$590,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

6535 Singletree Way \$598,000
 Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 519-8226

4 BEDROOMS

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 Sat/Sun 11-2 / 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 202-6298

3637 Pontina Court \$1,799,000
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 Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-8844

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6740 Via San Blas \$729,000
 Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

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3 BEDROOMS
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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

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<p>6535 Singletree Way, Pleasanton</p>  <p>Val Vista charmer. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,560 sq. ft. fully updated home with tile and hardwood throughout, remodeled kitchen, inside laundry, large yard. Offered at \$598,000 OPEN SAT 1-4</p>	<p>3637 Pontina Court, Ruby Hill</p>  <p>Gorgeous Italian Villa features 4 BR, 3.5 BA, formal office, huge bonus room, custom millwork and more. End of cul de sac location. Lovely. Call for pricing. OPEN SUN 1-4</p>

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2010

Dublin

- 7516 Burnham Way** Bielke Trust to Lemr Trust for \$450,000
- 7600 Donohue Drive** M. Voellinger to Richards Trust for \$430,000
- 7610 Gardella Drive** J. & L. Bolar to B. Frazier for \$449,500
- 5892 Hillbrook Place** E. Reyes to S. Miao for \$503,500
- 4787 Woodrose Circle** GMG Real Estate Investments to R. Chen for \$770,000

Livermore

- 1825 6th Street** Federal National Mortgage to D. & L. Frost for \$305,000
- 785 Berryessa Street** A. Chavez-Jesus to W. & J. Sidun for \$432,000
- 529 Cinnabar Drive** K. Bell to W. Davis for \$522,500
- 1464 Columbine Way** R. & N. Robbins to J. & K. Dawson for \$560,000
- 5415 Kathy Way** Ace Securities to P. Wongvilbulsin for \$380,000
- 5297 Lenore Avenue** Albayeros Trust to M. & D. Eberstein for \$280,000
- 476 North K Street** R. & C. Strobe to L. Adams for \$312,500
- 5581 Oakmont Circle** Wells Fargo Bank to C. Krinard for \$361,000
- 1826 Peary Way** Neudorfer Trust to D. & D. Mitchell for \$275,000
- 725 South M Street** Livermore Valley Investments to W. & L. Manley for \$340,000
- 5472 Starflower Way** J. Ortega to K. & P. Warren for \$400,000
- 6912 Sunridge Drive** M. Vavra to T. Edwards for \$490,000
- 521 Teal Court** Deutsche Bank to M. Thompson for \$335,000
- 1142 Wagoner Drive** Schoenfelder Trust to J. & B. Fragoso for \$350,000
- 867 Wagoner Drive** J. & D. Borges to C. & H. Roberts for \$362,000

Pleasanton

- 648 Bonita Avenue** Matthies Trust to J. & S. Walsh for \$700,000
- 2127 Delucchi Drive** K. & H. Akli to C. & M. Safta for \$410,000

- 2879 Diavila Court** F. & W. Vanwesting to B. Kwon for \$648,000
- 584 Neal Street** Seed Trust to N. Falk for \$525,000
- 1054 Shadow Hills Court** M. & S. Singh to Z. Ng for \$1,448,000
- 3517 South Glacier Court** Washington Mutual Bank to Sutter Street Investments for \$319,000
- 1117 Tiffany Lane** Harborview Mortgage to J. Golomeic for \$450,000
- 4111 Torino Court** Mellor Trust to V. & P. Gupta for \$480,000
- 2731 Wheatman Court** J. & C. Atkins to V. Jaju for \$700,000

San Ramon

- 6697 Aberdale Circle** R. Murphy to S. & T. Matthews for \$585,000
- 8975 Alcosta Boulevard #133** Downey Savings to J. Barrie for \$122,000
- 9085 Alcosta Boulevard #325** Federal National Mortgage to W. Cheng for \$170,000
- 3072 Bernard Avenue** Booth Trust to W. Wright for \$522,500
- 3088 Bernard Avenue** Wells Fargo Bank to J. Chan for \$536,500
- 509 Cashew Court** Austere Trust to B. Cook for \$570,000
- 517 Columbia Creek Drive** R. Therp to A. & Y. Yu for \$660,000
- 132 Copper Ridge Road** Legacy Copper Ridge to S. Sadaghiani for \$340,000
- 25 Copper Ridge** Legacy Copper Ridge to Baptist Trust for \$347,000
- 2231 Goldenrod Lane** V. Perez to A. Doddaballapur for \$650,000
- 3407 Java Drive** A. & L. Cooper to J. & L. Vanrandwyk for \$710,000
- 3976 Knightsbridge Way** US Bank to R. & S. Gathwala for \$890,000
- 3411 Lanai Drive** C. & D. Huston to M. & E. Koduru for \$712,500
- 8 Parlin Place** Bank of New York to W. Okanovic for \$450,000
- 208 Salamanca Court** W. Hogeboom to G. & M. Pilecki for \$680,000
- 2401 Talavera Drive** M. Larson to D. Morrison for \$545,000
- 2483 Talavera Drive** M. & J. Maners to M. Shum for \$500,000
- 921 Vista Pointe Drive** B. Lee to A. & M. Mei for \$616,000

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SALES

Continued from Page 23

rate mortgages will save money every year they are living in their home ñ this is truly an example of how homeownership builds wealth over the long term," Golder added.

Total housing inventory at the end of September fell 1.9 percent to 4.04 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 10.7-month supply4 at the current sales pace, down from a 12.0-month supply in August. Raw unsold inventory is 11.7 percent below the record of 4.58 million in July 2008.

"Vacant homes and homes where mortgages have not been paid for an extended number of months need to be cleared from the market as quickly as possible, with a new set of buyers helping the recovery along a healthy path," Yun said. "Inventory remains elevated and continues to favor buyers over sellers. A normal seasonal decline in inventory is expected through the upcoming months."

A parallel NAR practitioner survey shows first-time buyers purchased 32 percent of homes in September, almost unchanged from 31 percent in August. Investors were at an 18 percent market share in September, down from 21 percent in August; the balance of purchases were by repeat buyers. All-cash sales were at 29 percent in September compared with 28 percent in August.

Single-family home sales increased 10.0 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.97 million in September from a pace of

3.61 million in August, but are 19.5 percent below the 4.93 million level in September 2009. The median existing single-family home price was \$172,600 in September, down 1.9 percent from a year ago.

Existing condominium and co-op sales rose 9.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 560,000 in September from 510,000 in August, but are 16.2 percent lower than the 668,000-unit level one year ago. The median existing condo price5 was \$165,400 in September, down 6.2 percent from September 2009.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the Northeast increased 10.1 percent to an annual pace of 760,000 in September but are 20.8 percent below September 2009. The median price in the Northeast was \$239,200, which is 1.4 percent below a year ago. Existing-home sales in the Midwest jumped 14.5 percent in September to a level of 950,000 but are 26.4 percent below a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$139,700, down 5.2 percent from September 2009.

In the South, existing-home sales rose 10.6 percent to an annual pace of 1.77 million in September but are 14.9 percent lower than September 2009. The median price in the South was \$149,500, down 2.6 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the West increased 5.0 percent to an annual level of 1.05 million in September but are 16.7 percent below a year ago. The median price in the West was \$213,600, which is 4.9 percent lower than September 2009. ■



DUBLIN
 Open SUN 1 - 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



LIVERMORE
 Open SUN 1 - 4 2514 MERLOT LANE
GORGEOUS HOUSE \$899,000
 5 BR 3.5 BA 14000 sq ft lot w/pl, 1 bed/1 bath down, office on main flr, 3 fireplaces, great neighborhood 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
 Open SUN 1 - 4 1953 HALL CIRCLE
SHOWS LIKE A MODEL! \$715,000
 4 BR 3 BA hrdwd flrs, crwn mldng, gourmet kit w/ SS appli, outdr liv area. Visit www.RomarProperties.net 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

DUBLIN
 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

Open SAT 11 - 5 4688 CREEKWOOD DR
TOTALLY UPDATED INSIDE \$608,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA 1644SF, Walk To Popular Forest Park. \$5000 Bonus To Buyer, Call or Stop By For Details! 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

FREMONT
 Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5 5815 COMMERCE DR
GREAT HOME! \$625,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA 1593 SF, brand new kit, new paint/ carpet, tile flr downstairs, executive living in Ardenwood 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

PLEASANTON
 5211 CAPARELLI CT
AVILA'S FINEST! \$675,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Open Flr Pln w/2 car Garage/Driveway. Eat-In Kit/Dining Area. Corner Lot. Walk to Comm Pl 925.847.2200

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

Open SAT 11 - 5 4782 GARNET CMN
LARGE CORNER LOT \$620,000
 3 BR 2.5 BA 1607 SF, Brand New Kit/Flrs Downstairs! \$1000 Bonus To Buyer, Call or Stop By For Details 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

3689 PIMLICO DR
GREAT HOME! \$653,000
 3 BR 2 BA w/double side yrd access, 1 RV sewer hookup, kit w/new cbs, slab granite, tile flrs, updt bths 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON
 Open SAT/SUN 1-4 7722 STONELEAF RD
NEW TOWNHOUSE IN GALE RANCH! \$598,888
 3 bed, 2.5 bath, 2,228 sf, upgraded kit, master w/walk-ins, hrdwd flrs, great landscaped yard. 925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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The latest from The 680 Blog

There are no "Mulligans" in real estate contracts

We are currently making an offer on a house we would like to buy. We have gone back and forth with counter offers, and the seller sent us counter offer #5, which we promptly rejected, as we felt the seller was being too unreasonable. In fact, we have decided we don't want to buy this property at all, and want to look at some other options. The next day, the listing agent came back and told us "Good News. The seller has accepted your Counter offer #4. Congratulations! We have a deal!". Can the seller do this?

This is a great question. There is a lot of confusion over this issue. Essentially, once a party executes a counter offer, they have modified the contract, and it is only a valid contract if the other party agrees to the modified terms. There are no "mulligans" in the contractual world. If the other party does not agree to and sign the counter offer, then there is no contract. You can not go back and say "just kidding. We will accept your previous counter offer". Unless of course the other party agrees. And even in this case, the other party would have to execute a counter offer in response at the ear-

lier price and terms, and all parties would have to sign it. Counter offers are sequential, and the existence of a new counter offer renders the other counter offers null and void on their own (the terms become part of the new counter offers subject to modification). So no, the seller in this case can not go back, pick a previous counter offer, and decide to accept it after they have already countered it.

Mulligans work well in golf (lord knows I use them at a dizzying pace), but in the contractual world, they are not enforceable unless both parties agree.

As always, consult with an attorney or qualified legal >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

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 925.251.1111
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Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.



GOLDEN EAGLE!

Elegant Golden Eagle custom home with 4 BR plus office, 3 1/2 BTH, new cherry & granite kit, plantation shutters, and incredible .42 acre flat lot!
\$1,500,000



PRIVACY & VIEWS!

Extreme privacy & panoramic views! Sharp 4 BR, 3 BTH home remodeled from top to bottom on .79 acres at end of private road.
\$1,199,900



JUST SOLD!

Stunning Mediterranean with 5 BR + office, 4 1/2 BTH, and resort-like .5 acre lot with pool, spa, sport court, and fire pit!
\$1,499,900



COMING SOON!

Luxurious single story on a large flat 1.1 Acre lot with 4 BR + office, 3 1/2 BTH, hardwood floors, gourmet granite kitchen, & more!
Call for price



JUST LISTED!

Fabulous single story 4 BR, 3 BTH home on an incredible private .90 acre wooded flat lot with gate. Gourmet kit with island, huge master suite & more!
\$1,389,000



JUST SOLD!

Stunning single story custom on 1+ acre lot with 6 car garage, hardwood floors, granite kit, finished attic/storage, and private location backing to Pleasanton Ridge open space!
\$1,625,000





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925.846.6500
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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

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 permitted room (office/workout room) seller to credit buyer for brand new landscaping. Near Castlewood Country Club.

OFFERED AT \$1,695,000

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



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



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

LOS OLIVOS

PENDING



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 \$959,000

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

THE COTTAGES AT DUBLIN RANCH

SOLD



4444 CHANCERY LANE, DUBLIN

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

OFFERED AT \$529,000





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REALTORS

PRESENTING THE PROPERTIES OF OUR *Pleasanton & Livermore* OFFICES...

LANCE AND KELLY KING BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$2,495,000
Exquisite and original craftsmanship still remains in this incredible vintage estate on almost 2.25 acres with huge development potential! 4260 First Street

LINDA TRAURIG BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,599,000
Premium oversized lot, resort like backyard, pool, spa, custom built-ins, private guest suite, and gourmet kitchen with large wine refrigerator. 838 Sunny Brook Way

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$980,000
One of a kind custom home; 2 Master Br downstairs! 4 Br+Lg Bonus Rm. Huge Gourmet Kit w/adjoining Family Rm. Formal Dining/Living Rm. 326 Diamond Ct

ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$875,000
5bd/3ba home in desirable Birdland. Close to award winning schools, downtown, sports park, 580/680. www.5023blackbirdway.com. 5023 Blackbird Wy

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$795,000
New master bath, 2 year old upstairs bath. Newer dual paned windows, hardwood flooring, crown molding. Pool, large yard, and more. 5271 Crestline Way

JOYCE JONES WED&SAT 2:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$729,000
Del Prado neighborhood. 5 bd/2.5 ba, approx. 2469+-sf living space, approx. 6700+-sf lot, eat-in kitchen w/adjoining family room. 6740 Via San Blas

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$649,000
3BD 2BA 1,734sf. 6,500 sf. lot Open floor plan with the added family room. Updated kitchen with new cabinets, granite counters and recessed lights. 1357 Kolln St.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$619,000
3BD 2BA 1,347sf. 6,500 sf. lot This charming home features an updated kitchen with granite counters. Wood floors throughout. Nicely landscaped. 4127 Alvarado St.

KAREN CROWSON BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$525,000
Move-in ready home. Neutral colors throughout and freshly painted. Kitchen opens to great room, living room areas. Raised ceilings. 390 Encino Dr

LESLIE FAUGHT SAT&SUN 12-4



PLEASANTON \$472,500
This 2 bd, 2 full ba 1056+-sf 1 story home can be yours to celebrate the holidays! 7k+-sf lot, Close to great schools, shopping, 580 & 680. Many upgrades. 1819 Sinclair Drive



How Deep Do Those Roots Go?

The deeper the roots, the more stable and resilient the tree. In real estate, the deeper the roots in the community, the better the service that a company can provide.

Which explains why Alain Pinel Realtors enjoys a leadership position in Bay Area real estate. APR has the most experienced agents and managers in the business. We were born here. We live here. We love it here. Let our success in Bay Area real estate help you too.

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Re-Elect Jerry Thorne for Pleasanton City Council

Trusted Voice of Pleasanton

Only Candidate Endorsed by all Four Local Newspapers

Pleasanton Weekly The Independent Tri-Valley Herald Valley Times

Check Out Jerry's Stands on the Important Issues

Fiscally Responsible

- The Number One Concern of our Citizens is the Fiscal Health of Our Community

Bringing Jobs to Pleasanton

- Partner with Businesses We Want to Attract or Retain in Pleasanton to Get Things Done Rather Than Trying to Find all of The Reasons Why We Can't

Cutting Back Regulations and Red Tape

- Streamline our Processes. They Take Far Too Long

Easing Traffic Headaches

- Implement Our General Plan

Defender of Our Kids' Education

- Partner with Our School District to Share Facilities and Eliminate Unnecessary Duplication of Internal Services

A Champion of Veterans and Military Families

- Welcome our Military Veterans with the Dignity and Respect They Have Earned

Jerry's Supporters (partial list, see www.jerrythorne.com for full list)

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