

Pleasanton Weekly

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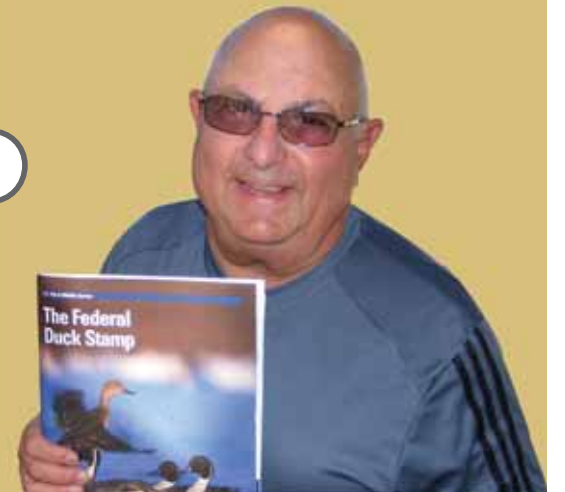
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VOL. XI, NUMBER 44 · NOVEMBER 12, 2010

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A feather in his cap

Pleasanton wildlife biologist judges art for prestigious 2010 Federal Duck Stamp Contest



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Dave Ham: The man behind the parade

As the public announcer again last Sunday for the 14th annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade on Main Street, I gained a new appreciation for the work of Dave Ham, senior vice commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Pleasanton Post 6298, who has been the parade coordinator for the last 14 years. It's a position Ham enjoys because of his commitment to honor veterans, but also one that keeps him busy many nights and weekends between parade dates. Next week, he'll assemble his core committee of 10 volunteers to review this year's parade and indoor ceremony that followed in the Veterans Memorial Building. All that's certain for 2011 is that it'll be the Army that's honored. This year it was the Navy. In 2012, those who served in Iraq will have special recognition, no matter which branch of service or government unit they were in.

Nearly 100 separate units participated in last Sunday's parade, from the Scouts to Daughters of the American Revolution to politicians to Pleasanton Military Families, an organization that offers support to those whose children, spouse or parents are on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio rode in cars in the parade, convertible tops up because of the rain, along with Danville Town Councilman and former Mayor Newell Arnerich, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton).

Because of the intermittent showers during the parade, Main Street was filled with umbrellas with barely visible faces below them. Even on the reviewing stand, we had rain gear. Tracy Beuscher worked with me, umbrellas held high over the 85 pages of commentary on each parade entry that we used to comment on organizations, vehicles and individuals passing by. Numbers for each unit were supposed to coincide with their position in the line of march, although there was one time when I announced the name of a Girl Scout troop about to come by only to find that it was a Huey helicopter on a float. Especially welcome was the Foothill High School marching band that played patriotic music all along the rain-soaked street

and the 300 sharply dressed cadets from the Oakland Military Institute whose snappy cadence matched their spirited chants.

As the parade moved north, Ham was at the Veterans Building making sure the ceremony that followed was ready to go. Because changes are the norm in military events, Ham held off distributing his final colored four-page program until Sunday morning, a program that included music by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, under the direction of Bob Williams, "The Star Spangled Banner," sung by Ward Belding, and a keynote address by Rear Admiral Jud Scott, U.S. Navy (retired). Because this year's event was dedicated to the Navy, Scott joined me on the reviewing stand while Navy Commander John Molinari served as the parade's grand marshal.

Ham, who has been commander of the local VFW post three different times, was in the Marines from 1965 to 1969 and saw service in Vietnam. He now is manager of site services for the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC). He and his wife Carol moved to Pleasanton 14 years ago. Their daughter Julie Castillo teaches first grade at Vintage Hills Elementary School. Son Alex is a junior and in the Army ROTC program at Arizona State University. Stepson Bob Weaver also lives in Pleasanton and helps with the parade. He is an IT specialist at Kaiser Permanente.

Even with ongoing committee planning meetings during the year, it's the last few days before the parade that Ham finds most hectic. He's usually able to button down participation in the parade by local groups, but it's the military that gives him the hardest time. Color guards are among the most difficult since their members are usually high up on lists of military to be deployed. An Army color guard unit last year told Ham they could be sent off to a war zone at any time but would come if they could. They did, but left the next day for Afghanistan. This year, the Coast Guard color guard failed to show. Early November also seems to be the time when top ranking officers are given new posts, with Ham waiting until late last week to learn who'd be this year's grand marshal.

A patriot through and through, Ham's only wish is that more people would turn out for the parade. On a bright sunny day, as many as 6,000 might show up; last Sunday, a count of umbrellas along Main Street indicated about 300 were there. ■

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About the Cover

Pleasanton resident Carlo Vecchiarelli was a judge at the recent 2010 Federal Duck Stamp Contest where the painting of a pair of white-fronted geese was chosen for next year's stamp. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XI, Number 44

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

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Mark Danckert
Sales

I wasn't happy with the results, because I am a Republican. I was hoping that Proposition 19 would pass, because I want to tax marijuana. My wife's vote negated my vote, though — she was against it.

Clay Sensiba
Student

It went pretty well. For the most part the outcomes were what I had hoped for and expected, so I'm happy.



Brad Hirst
Real estate developer

Nationally, I was very happy; statewide I was unhappy; and locally I was very, very happy.

Leslie Pesout
Retail

As dissatisfied as everyone is with the economy, I was disappointed. I work in retail, so it is very important that it improves. There were quite a few things that passed that I feel could have been improved upon.



Heather Mattos
Mom

Locally overall, I'm satisfied with the outcome. This election was a little different, because we have a new baby boy and I haven't been able to follow the candidates and issues as closely as I usually do.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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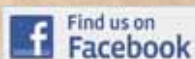
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DIGEST

Emergency drill set for Tuesday

Don't be alarmed if emergency vehicles seem to be on alert Tuesday evening. The Fall 2010 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class of 26 students is planning a disaster drill on Tuesday, beginning at 7 p.m.

There will be several Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department engines heading to the city's Operation Services Center at 4444 Busch Road from about 7:30-8 p.m., and officials want the public that this is just a drill.

Energy upgrade panel

The city of Pleasanton and the U.S. Green Building Council are sponsoring a free panel presentation about the Energy Upgrade California program, at 6 p.m. Monday at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton.

Energy Upgrade California is an alliance among California counties, cities, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, the state's investor-owned utilities and publicly owned utilities. It is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, California utility ratepayers, and private contributions.

Monday's program will feature presentations by guest speakers who will explain the program and discuss home assessments and available rebates. Speakers include Judie Ettlinger from StopWaste.Org, home performance technician Mark St. Raymond who has performed more than 100 home energy audits and retrofits, and Joanne Panchana from PG&E.

The City of Pleasanton is co-hosting this event as a part of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Those interested in attending are encouraged to register online at www.usgbcncc.org/.

Pirate lovers music

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present a free concert Sunday, "The Band at Sea with Pirates," featuring Jack Tar March, Zampa Overture, Pirates of the Caribbean: Symphonic Suite, The Pirates of Penzance, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Jolly Robbers, and Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End.

If you like pirate music then this concert is for you. It will begin at 2 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton.

Corrections

The Nov. 5 story on Eagle Scout Scott Nicholas should have attributed the background in Scouting to Nicholas, not his advisor.

PUSD trustees hear about parcel tax, marketing plan

Could go to voters in May

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton will support a \$98 parcel tax — if it's marketed right — experts who surveyed likely voters told school board members Tuesday.

The telephone survey contacted 400 residents, conducting an interview that lasted an average of 17 minutes. During that time, survey company Godbe Research learned a number of things, including:

- Education quality and retaining teachers is second only to keeping the crime rate low, and is tied in importance with job creation;

- 32% of voters would likely oppose a \$198 parcel tax, and only slightly fewer would oppose a parcel tax of \$164 or \$131;

- Voters would be a bit more likely to support a parcel tax that emphasized core academic instruction;

- Using money from a parcel tax to protect student programs, and not salaries or benefits, would make voters more likely to back it, as would keeping local all the money raised, independent oversight of how the money is spent, and the idea that a strong school district keeps home values high;

- About two-third of voters would be more likely to support the tax to help students behind in reading and math, prevent future cuts to programs and teacher layoffs, to protect classes and programs and keep schools safe, and recognizing that the state cut \$20 million in the last two years.

In addition, Amelia Davidson of Godbe Research said support was higher among women, Democrats and younger voters.

"Overall, there's significant information that

can be presented to voters to make it more likely to be successful," Davidson said.

The survey also looked at opposition to the measure. Among the results were concerns that there would be no rules on how the money would be spent, that it could go for raises for administrators, teachers and staff, and that the administration is already overpaid and has too many perks.

"Affordability of the measure is key."

Bryan Godbe,

President of Godbe Research

"Affordability of the measure is key," Bryan Godbe told the board. "We did find some tax sensitivity."

"We need to be prepared to head off the salary issues," he continued.

Godbe also said that turnout for the vote would be critical, adding, "There's a tremendous amount of information that voters need to hear and needs to be repeated to them."

A \$98 parcel tax would bring in about \$2 million a year. Board Member Jamie Hintzke asked how voters would react if the district still needed to make cuts even after the additional money.

Godbe said the survey addressed that, and there would still be support.

"What's affordable is what drives this," he said.

Charles Heath of TBWB Strategies, a company that helps public agencies design public finance measures and works with communities to run advocacy campaigns, spoke about selling the parcel tax to voters.

Although only two of the parcel tax measures statewide passed earlier this month, Heath said that was in part due to mid-term election sentiments. He suggested the dissatisfaction many voters had with officials would be over before a spring election.

TBWB's plan would be to hold an all mail ballot election May 3, at an estimated cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000; by comparison, the last parcel tax measure, which failed by a small margin, cost \$230,000.

The campaign would begin in March, Heath said.

"That's when you start direct mails, that's when you set up phone banks," he said.

The phone banks would be run by volunteers from school sites. The goal would be to persuade and mobilize 11,000 Yes votes.

Although school board members would be able to volunteer their time, the district could not advocate or use employee time to push for a Yes vote.

While the board took no formal action on the proposal, it will likely be considered after the two newly elected candidates take their seats next month.

The two departing members, Pat Kernan and Jim Ott, who served 14 years and four years on the board respectively, were the recipients of accolades and awards from everyone, from Congressman Jim McNERNEY's office to local employees' unions. Chairman Chris Grant choked with emotion when listing the accomplishments of Kernan, among them continually improving test scores for his entire 14-year term, and Grant gave up his seat to let Kernan chair the meeting.

"Jim Ott is the closest thing I know to a renaissance," said Ott.

See **PARCEL TAX** on Page 7



KERRY NALLY

Veterans Day Parade marches on despite the rain

Despite intermittent showers, several hundred turned out Sunday for the 14th annual Tri-Valley Veterans Day parade on Pleasanton's Main Street. The Pleasanton Police Department motorcycle unit led the parade with more than 80 floats, military vehicles, marching groups and others following. Stirring marching music was provided by the Foothill High School marching band with more patriotic music provided by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band at an indoor ceremony following the parade.

Commander John Molinari of the Navy Operational Support Center in San Jose was the parade grand marshal with this year's event dedicated to the men and women Navy veterans and those still serving in the Navy. At the indoor ceremony, Rear Admiral Jud Scott, U.S. Navy retired, gave the keynote address in a program that included a medley of service songs honoring veterans of all branches of military service. A welcoming address was given by Joseph Stieber, commander of Pleasanton's American Legion Post 237, with Doug Miller, commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, honoring wounded warriors.

Burglar nabbed in string of Pleasanton thefts

Suspect linked to at least 10 burglaries

A Castro Valley man has been arrested in connection with a string of local burglaries.

Peter Grgurevic III, 19, has been linked to 10 burglaries in northwest Pleasanton and Castro Valley and will likely be connected to more, according to a report from the Pleasanton Police Department.

Police credit two leads in breaking the case: a laptop stolen in one of the burglaries that had loss prevention tracking software, and a police artist sketch produced after an interrupted burglary in late October.

A search warrant at Grgurevic's home turned up hundreds of items, including jewelry, electronics, high-end purses and jewelry boxes, said police. The report said Grgurevic has admitted to being responsible for numerous burglaries in Pleasanton and Castro Valley; police will be contacting victims to see if they can identify items seized from Grgurevic's home.

Grgurevic is being held at Santa Rita Jail on seven counts of residential burglary. The arrest was the result of a cooperative investigation with Pleasanton police and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

—Glenn Wohltmann



Peter Grgurevic III

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Caribbean cruise: The Cambruzzi and Huseman families look at the headlines of the Pleasanton Weekly while at Labadee on the Island of Haiti in August 2009, after a day of riding jet skis and relaxing on the beach. This was the first stop of a seven-day Western Caribbean cruise.

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Scherer trial set for end of November

Pretrial motions continue

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Jury selection is expected to begin the end of this month for Ernest Scherer III, the son of a couple brutally killed in their Castlewood home in March 2008.

Scherer was charged in the brutal murders of his father, Ernie Scherer Jr., 60, and his wife, Charlene Abendroth, 57, in February 2009.

Pretrial motions for Scherer will likely take up the time until then. In motions heard Monday at Alameda County Superior Court, defense attorney Richard Foxall asked that evidence of Scherer's skirmishes with the law be excluded.

Scherer had been taken into custody in Biloxi, Miss., about two months after the deaths, when chips disappeared from a gaming table where he was playing; no charges were filed. Scherer also was accused of battery in July 2008 when a woman who stayed at his hotel room in Las Vegas filed a complaint with police. Those charges were later dismissed.

Judge Jeffrey Horner ruled that neither of those incidents could be brought up in court unless Scherer contradicts earlier statements if he takes the witness stand, opening him up to a perjury charge.

Foxall also moved to have Scherer's debts excluded from evi-



Ernest Scherer Jr., right, with his wife, Charlene Abendroth; the couple was killed in their Castlewood home in March 2008.

dence.

"Evidence of the wealth or poverty of a defendant is not admissible," he told Horner.

Prosecutor Michael Nieto disagreed.

Evidence is admissible, he said, "to refute a defendant's claim that he did not commit a crime for financial gain."

Horner's ruling about those debts could be key because of a special circumstance clause that could boost any jail sentence Scherer receives, if he's convicted. He also faces a second special circumstances clause for multiple murder.

Earlier reports said the couple had been dead inside their Castle-



Ernest Scherer III

wood Country Club home for about a week before they were found by a club employee acting on a request by the couple's daughter.

The two were apparently bludgeoned and stabbed repeatedly, but Alameda County Prosecutor David Stein said late last year that prosecutors won't seek the death penalty.

Scherer Jr. was an active Republican fundraiser and former member of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board. While he dabbled in playing poker for small amounts of money he made his living in real estate and investment property.

Scherer III was linked to the scene by a red Chevy Camaro, similar to the one he owned, that was spotted in the neighborhood at the time of the killings.

Scherer, in a dark suit and with neatly trimmed hair, fidgeted and looked around the nearly empty courtroom from time to time, occasionally talking in low tones to his attorney.

He has been in custody since he was arrested in February 2009. ■

PARCEL TAX

Continued from Page 5

sance man," teachers union President Trevor Knaggs told the crowd. "Pat (Kernan) more than most understands the highs and lows as a board trustee. Under his watch, Pleasanton

Unified School District has evolved into one of the highest performing school districts in the state."

Kernan and Ott left laden with plaques, proclamations and gifts, and Grant joked they'd have to build additions to their homes to hold them all. ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Persuasive voice for school parcel tax

If the Pleasanton school board is going to ask voters again next year to pass a parcel tax, as is likely, it can count on its new superintendent Parvin Ahmadi to be a persuasive advocate. Ahmadi is winning praise both for her early leadership in the district and at board meetings but also for her frequent public appearances before community forums. Just last week she won loud applause from the Tri-Valley Realtors' Network and with good reason. She said what every Realtor likes to hear: Pleasanton schools are among the best in the state and her goal is to make them even better. In these depressed housing market times, when people move, they look for

communities such as ours that have ongoing business and retail development and, above all, top ranked schools for their children to attend. Ahmadi praised community support, especially the fund-raising efforts by organizations such as the Pleasanton Partners in Education (PPIE) Foundation and the Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE) organization. Without those contributions, reading and science specialists who Ahmadi considers essential for a high-achieving district might have been dismissed. But the district's economic woes are not over, which is why the district's budget is among her four main goals for her first year as superintendent. Right now the district is looking at cuts of about \$7 million in fiscal year 2011-12. A parcel tax, which failed to garner the necessary two-thirds plus one votes

last year, would help. An outside advisory group recommended asking voters again to approve a parcel tax, a proposal that will go to the board for a vote in January.

Ahmadi told Realtors that their strength in "selling" Pleasanton is that our nine elementary, three middle and two comprehensive high schools are about the same size, all are top performers in state and national test standards, and all offer the same curriculum. Valley View Elementary also offers dual immersion classes from kindergarten through fifth grade in Spanish, but those classes are open to students from throughout the district. Both Foothill and Amador Valley high schools have just under 2,500 students. Middle schools have about 1,000 students, and most elementary schools are in the 600-700 student population

range. Unlike in Fremont, where Ahmadi was assistant superintendent, potential buyers looking for homes in Pleasanton don't have to worry about where to buy or which school their children might attend. They're all about the same in size and quality. In Fremont, she noted, location does matter among its 42 schools, with housing prices higher near Mission High and selected elementary schools. Even moving near a school doesn't assure the student will go there. This year, Fremont had to move 800 students out of the schools they'd been assigned just two weeks after they had settled in because of overcrowding at what parents considered to be the better schools.

Ahmadi's talk no doubt persuaded one large Realtor's group to back a parcel tax if it goes to Pleasanton voters next year. ■

Pleasanton Weekly

PRESIDENT

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

PUBLISHER

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 111

Reporter

Glenn Wohltmann, Ext. 121

Contributors

Don Colman
Deborah Grossman
Jerri Pantages Long
Kerry Nally
Joe Ramirez

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

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HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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LETTERS

Motivations questioned

Dear Editor,

Former Tri-Valley Herald editor Tim Hunt should fully disclose his motivations for slamming Councilmember Cindy McGovern and me in his Oct. 24 column. The Pleasanton Gardens Senior Housing Task Force has advocated closing the privately owned facility and having the city build a replacement at taxpayers' expense. McGovern has raised important questions about razing the facility, but the task force would like the property "donated" to the city which could then sell it to help fund the new facility. Since proponents of this are primarily real estate interests and housing advocates, perhaps Hunt can explain what they have in mind for the property after the senior facility is gone? Perhaps Hunt should also disclose whether he works on behalf of developers lobbying councilmembers behind closed doors to support residential development?

Hunt also repeats the tired mantra that if you oppose the Chamber of Commerce you are anti-business. As a long time councilmember, it's my opinion that the Chamber leadership is more interested in political power than they are in sustainable economic development. We need an honest conversation about economic development during this time of recession. But I don't believe we will get it from the Chamber leadership or Tim Hunt.

Matt Sullivan, City Councilmember, Pleasanton

Grateful to supporters

Dear Editor,

Now that the 2010 campaign is over, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered their time, efforts, endorsements, contributions and

support to my campaign. A special thanks to Kathy Narum, who is an awesome campaign manager, and to my wife Sandi who is my greatest supporter and source of encouragement.

There were so many individuals who contributed in some way to my campaign that it is not possible to thank everyone personally, but I want you to know that I am eternally grateful.

I want to offer my very special thanks to the voters of this great city for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving you for four more years.

Jerry Thorne, Vice Mayor, Pleasanton

Now the fun begins

Dear Editor,

While I am very glad the campaign is over, I have to say that your support made it so much easier. Many of you donated, walked precincts, wrote letters to the editor, hosted events, sent emails to your friends and family, and of course took a lawn sign. I am truly blessed by such supportive friends.

And now the fun begins: Jeff Bowser and I will join the school board and be sworn in at the Dec. 14 meeting. I would be pleased to see you in the audience with my family for the swearing in, but I will completely understand if you just want to catch it on TV.

I am honored to represent you on the school board and am anxious to get started on the work we need to do together. Thank you again for all your help.

Joan Laursen

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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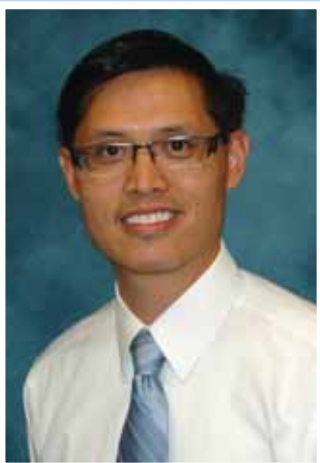
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Cooks get creative with holiday side dishes

Cranberries are showing up everywhere, from sauces to salads to chutney

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Turkey dinners still rule the roost on Thanksgiving, but cooks these days are having fun with side dishes, including cranberry sauce.

Cranberries with turkey are a longstanding tradition, whether unloading a can of the jellied red sauce onto an attractive dish or cooking fresh cranberries with a healthy dose of sugar for a savory but sweet accompaniment to the turkey.

Gene's Fine Foods has taken cranberry sauce to a new level by adding fresh blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and blackberries as well as zest of fresh oranges.

"Most people are so traditional," said Bobbi Lillak, who has worked in Gene's deli for 18 years, "but people come for our homemade cranberry sauce."

It sells for \$4.99 a pint throughout the holiday season. A sample might make a believer out of you.

Thanksgiving dinners can be preordered dish by dish at the Pleasanton supermarket, including



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Ric Vestal, a deli worker at Gene's Fine Foods, shows its popular cranberry sauce, which also has other fresh berries and zest of fresh oranges.

Diestel turkeys.

"Our turkey is pretty doggone popular," said Lillak, "and our side dishes — mashed potatoes, apple sausage stuffing, sweet potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower."

She also recommends their homemade spinach dip and artichoke soufflé.

"What's really nice is everything is fresh," she said.

Their gravy, she added, is made from turkey simmering all night long, with the aroma filling the store.

Cindy Roberts, who teaches "The Ultimate Thanksgiving" at adult schools in the Bay Area, combines traditional and contemporary ingredients in recipes that reflect her experiences studying cooking at home and at the Cordon Bleu in France.

"I want to teach home chefs to create extraordinary things at home," she said. "The class is inspired by the thought that this is one meal of the year when families come together and they're really expecting a home-cooked meal."

Her class and her family dinner



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'Tis the season

Holiday Dining & Events

Cindy Roberts' Cranberry Orange Chutney

- 24 oz. fresh cranberries
- 2 C. water
- 3 C. granulated sugar
- 1 large pippin or tart baking apple, chopped finely
- 1 navel orange
- 3 T. candied ginger, chopped finely
- 3 t. red pepper flakes
- 1/2 C. golden raisins

- 1) Prepare the orange: Zest the entire orange. Squeeze the juice from the orange with a juicer and set aside the juice and zest.
- 2) Heat the water and sugar together until the sugar

- is just dissolved.
- 3) Add cranberries, apples, orange zest and orange juice to the sugar water. Stir constantly to ensure fruit is continually covered with water. Cook at a high temperature until the berries pop.
 - 4) Reduce the heat to medium. Continue to cook until a foam appears, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes.
 - 5) Add the candied ginger and cook for another 5 minutes longer to soften the ginger and release the flavor.
 - 6) Add the red pepper flakes.
 - 7) Turn off the heat. Add the golden raisins. Sample the chutney and adjust sugar and peppers to taste.

Store the chutney into a glass jar. This will last two weeks in the refrigerator or can be frozen for use at a later date. Serve at room temperature.

Oatmeal Cranberry White Chocolate Chunk Cookies

- 2/3 C. butter or margarine, softened
- 2/3 C. brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1-1/2 C. old-fashioned oats
- 1-1/2 C. flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 (6 oz.) package sweetened-dried cranberries
- 2/3 C. white chocolate chunks or chips

- 1) Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Using an electric mixer, beat butter or margarine and sugar together in a medium mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs; mix well.
- 2) Combine oats, flour, baking soda and salt in a separate mixing bowl. Add to butter mixture in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Stir in sweetened-dried cranberries and white chocolate chunks.
- 3) Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 2-1/2 dozen cookies.

are filled with unusual dishes such as shiitake mushroom gravy, cranberry orange chutney and mashed potatoes with chilies and jack cheese. Roberts' recipes come from a variety of sources, including family specialties and culinary magazines.

Cranberries can be frozen for up to two years, and the berries blend well in many different recipes. You can add a tablespoon or two of sweetened dried cranberries to your hot or cold cereal in the morning. You can use fresh or sweetened dried cranberries in main dishes like pork, chicken and beef. Or you can drop dried cranberries into a green salad for a festive holiday flare.

"The great thing about cranberries, too, is that they are high in antioxidants," says Tom Lochner, executive director of the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association. "The health benefits of the tart berries are great, and many people don't realize that cranberries are so good for them."

People can get creative with the berries, too. One idea is to rim a glass with sugar, pour in some cranberry juice and clear soda, and add a cherry on top for a great alcohol-free cocktail. Or, if you're in need of decorating ideas, fill a glass container with the bright red berries and a couple of green leaves or pine branches for a colorful and natural seasonal centerpiece.

The Thanksgiving buffet at the Farmer Restaurant in the Pleas-

anton Hotel on Main Street offers turkey and all the trimmings as well as honey-glazed ham and herb crusted prime rib au jus. Its banquet of side dishes includes classic

stuffing as well as imaginative offerings that include a rice dish made with pecans — and cranberries.

Kathy Cordova and ARA Content contributed to this story.



JEB BING

Flowers for Thanksgiving

Olivia Stafford, a senior at Amador Valley High School, offers multi-colored sunflowers for sale at Farmers Market. She works for Sunrise Nursery, which grows the flowers in Watsonville, along with other flowers, plants and decorations suitable for Thanksgiving and other holidays.



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A feather

Pleasanton wildlife
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By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Carlo Vecchiarelli was a youngster growing up in Pleasanton, Calif., near San Leandro when he became fascinated with the ducks and geese he saw in the wild.

"I have memories as a boy of seeing thousands and thousands of geese going by," he recalled. "My dad built a cabin on Grizzly Island in Suisun Marsh. We'd wait in line for the ferry at Suisun City and go across the slough onto the island. A lot of people were hunting ducks in those days."

The wildfowl we see flying overhead in Pleasanton are Canada geese, he explained; there are wood ducks in creeks along I-580 but they are in pairs, not flocks.

"We used to duck hunt in Pleasanton in the early '60s when there wasn't much here, lots of farms and wetlands," he said. "We used to shoot two or three and bring them home to grandma. She'd cook them up."

Vecchiarelli, 68, no longer hunts ducks but they are a large part of his life. His boyhood love of duck hunting led to an interest in the artistic duck stamps which must be purchased along with hunting licenses to benefit the preservation of habitats for waterfowl.

When Vecchiarelli was in college at UC Berkeley, his father, a dentist, showed him a duck stamp collection purchased by a colleague for \$1,400. When Carlo verified that the stamps were "garbage," his dad suggested he write a book on duck stamps. The result was "U.S. Duck Stamps," published in 1979 and updated in 1986.

"The intent of the book was to educate people on how to buy duck stamps," said Vecchiarelli. "It's a real science. A No. 2 stamp can be valued anywhere from \$50 to \$1,500."

The introduction explains why the duck stamp program was begun, in 1934: "In the early thirties, conservationists were alarmed by the decrease of the wild duck and geese populations due in part to drainage of millions of acres of waterfowl nesting, resting, and wintering habitat. Overshooting and long lasting drought compounded the problem."

To contribute to the cause of preservation, Vecchiarelli, a longtime Pleasanton resident, still buys a duck hunting license every year along with the federal stamp for \$17 and state stamp for another \$17, for a total of around \$75. They are sold by the U.S. Department of the Interior in sporting good shops and are about twice the size of regular commemorative postage stamps.

"The stamp money goes to protect habitat and ease restrictions on habitat to it can't be developed," Vecchiarelli said. "The license money goes to the general fund of Fish and Game."

"The stamps are also sold to the Audubon Society and all kinds of environmentalists buy it," he added.

Vecchiarelli is a wildlife biologist, and a life member of the California Waterfowl Association. He has been involved for more than 30 years in the art, sale and distribution of duck stamps and prints.

Vecchiarelli's knowledge of waterfowl and philately combined to give him the honor of being chosen as one of the five judges for the 2010 Federal Duck



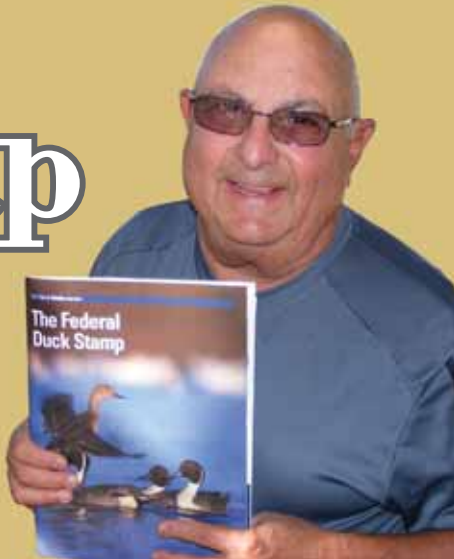
Calling all artists

Carlo Vecchiarelli, a judge in this year's 2010 Federal Duck Stamp Contest, would like to see local artists enter their portraits of ducks and geese in their natural habitat. He is offering his help to facilitate an entry to either the federal or the junior duck stamp competition if a group, high school or community college would like to hold a contest to find an entry. For more information, call Vecchiarelli at 872-4634.

Ducks stamps are sold to preserve natural habitat for waterfowl, and annual contests are held to find the best images. This year's winners of the Federal Duck Stamp Contest were (top) a pair of white-fronted geese by artist James Hautman, from Chaska, Minn.; second-place, a white-fronted goose by Hautman's brother Robert of Delano, Minn.; and third, a pair of brant ducks painted by Kip Richmond, of Apex, N.C. At right are the 2010-11 Junior Duck Stamp, which shows a hooded merganser with autumn foliage by 18-year-old Rui Huang from Columbus, Ohio; and last year's adult winner, an American wigeon, by Robert Bealle.

er in his cap

biologist judges art for ederal Duck Stamp Contest



Stamp Contest, held Oct. 15 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley. The judges included Mike Chrisman, a director for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; John Eadie, professor of waterfowl biology at UC Davis; landscape and wildlife artist Joe Garcia; and Jerry Serie, a wildlife biologist who worked on migratory bird conservation for 35 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We had to be really careful, to look at the design and say, 'Will this make a good stamp?'" said Vecchiarelli.

The ducks must be anatomically correct and be situated in an appropriate habitat, according to the rules. Judges also consider whether the composition has enough color contrast to emphasize the detail and shading; if the central design stands out from the background; and, also importantly, whether the stamp would be eye-catching.

In addition, the design must be simple enough that it can be reduced to stamp size effectively.

"You don't want a duck that looks like a plastic doll," Vecchiarelli explained. "They can be very soft and beautiful."

Designs on both the federal and state duck stamps are chosen in highly competitive contests.

"They started the contest probably around the 26th stamp or so," Vecchiarelli said. "They picked people around the country to judge."

At first the judges were not necessarily well-versed in waterfowl, but then an artist painted a goose in the Bronx zoo that had clipped wings.

"All the environmentalists said, 'Oh, my god!'" recalled Vecchiarelli. "Now they get experts in stamps and ornithologists."

Pleasanton residents may remember Vecchiarelli and his wife Geri for their store on Main Street, Dolls and Ducks, which they ran for 20-plus years before it closed in 2003. Geri was the doll enthusiast while Carlo provided the duck stamps and prints, vintage and contemporary waterfowl art, and decoys, antique and hand-carved.

Carlo Vecchiarelli was also employed by the Chabot/Las Positas Community College District for 35 years, and retired in 2003 as Dean of the Math, Computer Science and Engineering Division in the Chabot/Las Positas Community College District. He remains on the College Board.

"I still do four or five duck shows a year," Vecchiarelli said. "There's a big show in Sacramento every year. People sell decoys and stamps, old shotguns."

The artist whose design is chosen receives not only the honor but also a financial windfall as the winning rendition is reproduced in limited edition prints and in sheets of stamps for collectors.

"They can earn as much as \$1 million," noted Vecchiarelli. "They make limited edition prints that sell for a lot of money. They put a little remarque on the bottom of the print to show it's the artist's real work. That can bring real big money."

Vecchiarelli also has judged state stamp contests, two in California and one in Nevada. He has judged competitions for decoys and waterfowl wine labels as well. He published two biology textbooks and co-

authored "Man and the Environment," 18 modules of films and workbooks used by colleges across the country in the late '60s, early '70s.

Duck stamp printing and collecting has slowed down, said Vecchiarelli, for two reasons.

"People who collected are older, and they've passed away," he said. "And not as many young people are hunting anymore."

The goods news is that although waterfowl populations were once threatened, they are returning, Vecchiarelli said.

"There are areas in the Central Valley that have thousands and thousands of ducks," he said. "They are tremendously smart. They eat around here and stay away from hunters."

"Migratory waterfowl can do bad," he also noted. "They can clean out croplands overnight. They are in competition with man, too. These things have to coexist with us."

Vecchiarelli and his father bought 400 acres in Gustine years ago, and today Carlo still has 125 acres, to which he's added an easement, which cannot be sold or developed upon. It costs him money as he manages the water flow for a proper habitat for waterfowl, but he says it's worth it to him.

"People say, 'Why did you put a federal easement on your property?'" he said. "I did it because 50 to 100 years from now I want to have migratory waterfowl. Otherwise we would have a concrete jungle. These birds have the right to exist in the environment they were born into."

He noted that in Italy, for example, wild game is only hunted on private clubs because it is scarce. Otherwise people can't enjoy seeing them in the wild.

In the United States, 6.5 million acres are under easement and in refuges, Vecchiarelli said, including two large refuges in the San Francisco Bay.

"A refuge is a large parcel of property that normally no one hunts on," he explained. "Sometimes because of the density of ducks, they will open a certain refuge to hunting but they are real careful in doing that."

The number of ducks allowed per hunting license each year is determined by surveys that count the current wildfowl population.

"If there's a dense population we get duck disease, and have massive die-offs," Vecchiarelli said. "The carcasses spread bacteria and have to be picked off and burned."

"Every environment has a carrying capacity, the number of organisms that that particular environment can hold without damage to the population or the environment," he continued.

"I don't shoot ducks any more because I don't eat them. I really don't like killing anything I'm not going to eat personally and I never had a real taste for wild game," he said. "A lot of people love it -- they'll eat 50-60 ducks a year."

But he still enjoys the wetlands and the camaraderie of friends.

"I go down there to Gustine and end up having a nice dinner and playing cards with the old guys in the bunk house, right on the marsh," he said.

His boyhood fascination has lasted a lifetime. ■

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, November 16, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approve Second Amendment to the Financing Administration Agreement with DSRSD
- Approve program to re-allocate the City's unused Regional Sewer capacity for the purpose of implementing an Economic Development Incentive Program for eligible businesses.
- Housing Element Task Force Work Plan status report

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:30 a.m.
Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Presentation on City of Pleasanton Climate Action Plan

Hacienda Task Force

Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road

- Presentation of draft Development Standards and Guidelines
- Conformation of areas of Task Force agreement and disagreement

Housing Commission

Thursday, November 18, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of the Annual Operating Budget for Ridge View Commons for 2011
- Recommendation Regarding Options for Implementing Smoke-Free Policies at the Kottinger Place and Ridge View Commons Senior Housing Developments
- Update Regarding Hacienda Task Force and Housing Element

ENERGY TIPS

Leaking ducts can reduce the efficiency of your heating system by up to 20%.

If you ever think about your heating ducts at all, it's probably because they're in the way when you stack things in the basement...or you keep banging your head on them. But ducts are a critical part of making your home energy efficient. If they're leaking air – which they almost always do – or if they're losing heat because they're uninsulated, they're contributing as much to global warming as they are to keeping you warm.

ENERGY FACTS:

- You can save up to 10% of your heating or cooling costs by insulating and tightening up ducts.
- Even if the air isn't actually escaping from an uninsulated duct, you lose a lot of heat through its thin metal walls.
- When the first air that comes out of the vent after you turn on the heater is chilly, and stays chilly for a long time, you know your ducts are uninsulated and you're wasting energy.

SIMPLE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY:

- **If your ducts aren't insulated:** Turn on your furnace and feel for air escaping around the duct joints. If you feel any (and you probably will), clean around the joint, then seal with mastic or approved tape.
- Insulate the ducts with 2-inch fiberglass (available at home improvement stores); seal the seams with tape or mastic sealant approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). If ducts are hard to get at, call a heating contractor.
- **If your ducts are already insulated:** It's harder to find out if your ducts leak. You can expose the joints (where the ducts bend, for instance) to check. Or leave it to an expert.
- Before you start any work, check to make sure the insulation isn't asbestos (looks like off-white, stiff, heavy cloth). If it is, stay away! If you're not sure, check with your local building department.

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

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

POLICE BULLETIN

Restaurant burglaries net wine, food, cash — and a safe

Two downtown eateries were hit the same night last week by burglars who made off with an 800-pound brass safe, cash and some pricey wine and steaks.

Pleasanton police reports said \$4,600 in cash, a brass safe valued at \$500, and steaks and tenderloins worth \$600 were stolen from Pastas Restaurant in the 400 block of Main Street overnight Nov. 3. That burglary took place between 11:30 p.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. Thursday.

That same night — between 2:25 a.m. and 2:53 a.m. — according to a police report, Oasis Grill and Wine

lounge in the 700 block of Main Street was also burglarized. In that theft, \$242 in cash was taken, along with a bottle of Cakebread Cabernet valued at \$798 and six bottles of Silver Oak Cabernet worth \$708, along with Red Bull energy drinks and grapefruit juice.

Pry tools were used in both incidents, the reports said.

Jewelry worth \$1,000 was stolen from a home in the 5600 block of Paseo Navarro on Nov. 5, according to a police report, which said access was gained through an open window. That incident occurred between 12:45 p.m. and 1:45 p.m.

In an unrelated incident, Garrett Forbes Boam of Danville was arrested after a traffic stop in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road at 11:15 p.m. Nov. 4 that led to charges of probation violation, possession of stolen property, and possession of burglary tools, the police report said.

POLICE REPORT

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

Nov. 1**Theft**

- 3:03 p.m. in the 7800 block of Olive Court; bicycle theft
- 5:36 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 7:08 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; theft

Burglary

- 12:29 p.m. in the 600 block of Windmill Lane; residential burglary
- 1:01 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive; burglary
- 3:14 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; commercial burglary
- 3:54 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive; burglary

Assault and battery

- 3:22 p.m. in the 1600 block of Holly Circle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:22 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession
- 11:29 p.m. at the intersection of Olson Court and Laurel Creek Drive; marijuana possession

Nov. 2**Theft**

- 11:06 a.m. in the 5700 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; fraud
- 12:22 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; fraud
- 3:02 p.m. in the 1400 block of Whispering Oaks Way; fraud
- 4:41 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; fraud
- 7:45 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Burglary

- 7:28 p.m. in the 9300 block of Benzion Drive; residential burglary

DUI

- 1:29 a.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Nov. 3**Fraud**

- 3 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Automotive burglary

- 11:27 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sonoma Drive

Assault and battery

- 9:41 a.m. in the 7600 block of Olive Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:09 a.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive; paraphernalia possession
- 10:02 p.m. at the intersection of Hacienda Drive and Owens Drive; methamphetamine possession

Nov. 4**Burglary**

- 7:45 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; commercial burglary
- 10 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street; commercial burglary
- 7:44 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; automotive burglary

Threats

- 6:28 p.m. in the 5000 block of Crestwood Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:01 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 9:34 p.m. in the 410 block of Vineyard Avenue; marijuana possession

Nov. 5**Theft**

- 2:25 p.m. in the 400 block of Boulder Court; fraud
- 6:13 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Burglary

- 3:44 a.m. in the first block of California Avenue; commercial burglary
- 1:01 p.m. in the 2100 block of Pomezia Court; automotive burglary
- 2:13 p.m. in the 5600 block of Paseo Navarro; residential burglary

Assault and battery

- 6:07 p.m. in the 300 block of Main

Street

- 7:09 p.m. in the 4700 block of Saginaw Circle

Vandalism

- 12:28 p.m. in the 1600 block of Calle Santiago

Driving with marijuana

- 6:59 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Christina Court

Nov. 6**Theft**

- 2:49 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Automotive burglary

- 3:36 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

DUI

- 12:41 a.m. at the intersection of Stonecliff Vista Lane and East Creek Court
- 1:20 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Johnson Drive
- 1:49 a.m. at the intersection of Del Valle Parkway and Hometown way
- 2:22 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road

Nov. 7**Theft**

- 11:05 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; possession of stolen property
- 1:58 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, lock picking
- 4:41 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft
- 11:38 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; theft

Burglary

- 3:57 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Road; automotive burglary
- 12:32 p.m. in the 3200 block of Hopyard Road; burglary

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:49 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; DUI
- 1:27 a.m. at the intersection of Maywood Drive and Springdale Avenue; public drunkenness

OBITUARIES

Marie C. O'Regan

Marie O'Regan died in her home at Parkview Assisted Living on Nov. 5 at the age of 84 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

She was born Dec. 28, 1925, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, to Leo and Mary Harrington. She married Timothy O'Regan in 1952

and moved to Washington, and eventually to San Ramon where she and Tim raised three children. She worked as a paraprofessional teacher's aide at

Country Club Elementary for several years, retiring at age 73. She enjoyed knitting, crossword puzzles, writing and was a voracious



reader. She moved to Pleasanton in 2007.

Mrs. O'Regan was predeceased by her husband Tim in 1995. She is survived by her children Doyle of Oakland, Brian of Chicago, Ill., and Tara Sheehan (Jack) of Pleasanton; her grandchild Molly Sheehan; and many friends and family.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 10 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, and burial followed at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore.

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. Daily happy hour! Watch sports on multiple screens. Dine affordably with daily lunch and dinner specials. To-go orders welcome. Facilities available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday. Visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and special events.

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Author Visits

PSYCHIC IRMA SLAGE Irma Slage will host a book signing of her new book, "Psychic Encounters - A Guide to Having your own Spirit Contact," from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St. The night will include wine tasting with free psychic questions answered. Call 862-9006.

Class Reunions

AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2000 Reconnect and share some memories at Amador Valley High School's Class of

2000 10 Year Reunion at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26, at Taverna Aventine, 582 Washington St., San Francisco. Tickets are \$66 and must be purchased by Nov. 17 (no tickets will be sold at the door). Purchase online at www.amadorvalley2000reunion.eventbrite.com. If staying overnight, 30 hotel rooms at LeMeridien have been blocked at a rate of \$119 per night; call (415) 296-2900. For questions, contact Candice MacDonald at 989-6558 or e-mail cmacdonald5@gmail.com.

Clubs

AAUW DINNER AND THEATER Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch AAUW will dine at 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at Armadillo Willy's BBQ, 4480 Tassajara Rd., Dublin, and attend the 8 p.m. performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the new Las Positas College Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Cost \$8 for seniors, \$12 for adults. Call 484-3321 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com.

Concerts

MULTI-FACETED SCHUMANN FESTIVAL Enjoy five events at the Multi-Faceted Schumann Festival from 2-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The day will include a lecture and four musical performances, which will celebrate the romantic compositions of Robert Schumann. The lecture is free; festival cost is \$20-\$32 or \$12 per event. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Events

END OF HARVEST CELEBRATION Vineyard walks, tours, special tasting and special events will take place from noon-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, and Sunday, Nov. 14, at Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery, 3053 Marina Ave., Livermore. Special guest Tom Wilmer, author of "Wine seeker's Guide to the Livermore Valley," will be on hand discussing his book and autographing it. Sunday special, Reidel wine glassware class. Cost \$5. Call 443-1998 or visit www.rmwinery.com.

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE'S EXPANDED ADOPTION HOURS In an effort to increase cat and kitten adoptions, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will expand its adoption hours from 3-8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12; 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13; and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14, at PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin. Call 519-9898 or visit www.tvr.org.

Film

'BETWEEN THE FOLDS' The Pleasanton Library is hosting a series of free documentary films at the new Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Each film will start at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15 p.m. "Between the Folds" by Robert J. Lang will be shown Nov. 18, the stories of 10 fine artists, theoretical mathematicians and intrepid scientists who have abandoned conventional jobs and

scoffed at hard-earned graduate degrees - all to forge lives as modern-day paper folders. Dr. Lang, an Alamo physicist/artist, will introduce the film. Call 931-3405.

'EARTHINGS' "Earthlings," a film about the suffering of animals for food, fashion, pets, entertainment, and medical research, will be aired from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. The event is open to the public with a meet-and-greet potluck beginning at 6:30 p.m.; short discussion follows the film. Suggested donation is \$3. The hall is wheelchair accessible. Call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

ANIMAL LOVER'S BOUTIQUE HOLIDAY SALE Unique animal-themed gifts for people and pets will be featured at this 11th annual event, which benefits Jackie Barnett's Just Like New Fund, a program of Valley Humane Society, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Rd. Items include home decor, garden art, fashion accessories, dish ware, pet toys, holiday ornaments and much more. Call 872-7668 or visit www.valley-humane.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE 2010 ValleyCare Health System will host Christmas Tree Lane 2010 from Nov. 18-20, at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. The event includes a Family Stroll, Christmas teas, a holiday dinner and a gourmet luncheon. Costs vary for each activity. This event is a fundraiser for the hospital's Breast Cancer Patient Navigator Program; FitKidsRx and Emergency Room Expansion. To buy tickets, call 373-4560 or e-mail sdespota@valleycare.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.standrews-societyofoakland.org.

Kids & Teens

'POETRY AROUND THE WORLD' Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman will host the second annual "Poetry Around the World," a free writing and art workshop for children from 2-4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 22, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The workshop will combine writing, geography, world literature and fun activities to inspire children's creativity. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

HOMEWORK IN THE HALL Valley Community Church will open up 'The Hall' from 3-5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Nov. 9 through Dec. 17, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. The help is for high school



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Lectures/ Workshops

FIND MEANING THROUGH LOSS AND CHANGE An interactive workshop will engage participants in a discussion about the challenges of loss and how experiencing loss can offer many perspectives on life, from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Models of the grieving process will be discussed. Instructor: Michael Stephen. Cost: \$1.25 activity fee. Call 556-4511 or visit www.dublin.ca.gov.

RESUME & COVER LETTER WRITING Are you currently looking for a job? Attend this free event presented by a professional job counselor to learn how to write a resume and cover letter that will get you serious job offers, from 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call 803-7286 or visit www.aclibrary.org.

ROUNDTABLE EVENT ON ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS Join the SVA roundtable discussion on improving your accounting close from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 15, at La Vite Restaurant, 3037-G Hopyard Rd. See the Accelerated Financial Reporting Management (AFRM) solution in action. There is no charge for this lecture. Visit www.svacpa.com.

Live Music

'CAN'T HELP SINGING' Broadway Chorus, a Tri-Valley community chorus, presents "Can't Help

Singing" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13, at Livermore High School, 600 Maple St. This is Broadway Chorus' 20th anniversary of providing superior vocal programs in the Tri-Valley area. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$17 for seniors; and \$10 for juniors. Call 462-2121 or visit www.broadwaychorus.org.

CELTIC MUSIC Celtic music troupe Craicmore will bring its rhythmic contemporary and traditional sounds at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets for the matinee are \$10-\$18 for adults and \$6-\$12 for children and seniors; evening tickets are \$14-\$24 for adults and \$12-\$20 for children and seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY MARCHING BAND Amador Friends of Music and the Foothill Band Boosters invite music lovers to enjoy a free field show performance from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18, at Foothill High School, 7375 Foothill Rd. Amador Valley High School Marching Dons and the Foothill High School Marching Band will both be performing. Call 699-7921 or visit www.amadormusic.org.

On Stage

SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR: 'THE TEMPEST' Spend an afternoon on an enchanted isle in the company of lovers, sprites and magicians at 2 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 14, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. "The Tempest" has been regarded as the pinnacle of Shakespeare's dramatic output. Believed to be his final and most autobiographical play, it utilizes the wisdom and understanding gained from his career as a highly regarded dramatist. Call 931-3405.

Spiritual

POETRY AND PRAYER Poetry and Prayer: A Panel Discussion on Poetry as a Language of Faith will take place from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman will host a panel discussion with several Tri-Valley clergy from various faiths about the role that poetry plays in their religious traditions. Cost: \$5 for adults; free for students.

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



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Lioness Club seeks New members

145 Non-Profits

Needs

DONATE YOUR CAR!
Breast Cancer Research foundation! Most Highly rated breast cancer charity in America! Tax Deductible/Fast Free Pick Up. 1-800-379-5124 www.cardonationsforbreastcancer.org (AAN CAN)



201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

Cadillac 2007 CTS - \$1,300.00

MGB 1970 GT - \$5500

Pontiac 1997 GTP - \$3500

202 Vehicles Wanted

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

Donate Your Car

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

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 2237 Kamp Court, Nov. 13, 9-4
Huge Garage/Moving Sale. All items in excellent condition. Furniture: Queen size bed, Queen size Futon, coffee table, TV cabinets, TVs, children's furniture, bookcases, pool table and lots of household and kitchen accessories.

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave, Current

Pleasanton, 516 Dolores Place, November 13, 7-2

Great household items, sporting equipment, teen clothing. Big items: baby grand piano, 2000 Ford Explorer, redwood play structure with fort and roof—super sturdy. Come see!

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Royal Doulton figurine - \$25

220 Computers/Electronics

New Computer Guaranteed and FREE LCD TV with paid purchase!!! No credit check Up to \$3000 credit limit! Smallest weekly payments available! Call Now 888-479-3495 (AAN CAN)

Power acoustic dual subs - \$150.00

240 Furnishings/Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

Entertainment Cabinet - \$25.00

Mahogany Twin Bed set & Night Ta - \$1,200

245 Miscellaneous

Sawmills

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

2011 Entertainment Coupon Books - \$30

Non-stick stove top grill - \$20

RED WORMS FOR COMPOSTING - \$25

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

GIANTS GEAR - \$25-40

Strategy Board Game - \$35.00



330 Child Care Offered

Live in AuPair Childcare

345 Tutoring/Lessons

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355 Items for Sale

Crib Set All Included



435 Integrative Medicine

Herbal Medicine, Fact or Fiction

450 Personal Growth YEAR END LETTING GO CEREMONY

460 Pilates

Pilates Training



550 Business Opportunities

Business for Sale Established for 3 years. Will Train. Nets 100k. Can operate from anywhere. \$4,400 down. Call Jerry 1-800-418-8250. (Cal-SCAN)

560 Employment Information

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

Company Drivers
Solos and Hazmat Teams * GREAT PAY * GREAT MILES * CDL-A Required. We also have dedicated and regional positions available. Call 866-789-8947. Swift. (Cal-SCAN)

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Work from anywhere 24/7. Up to \$1,500 Part Time to \$7,500/mo. Full Time. Training provided. www.KTPGlobal.com or call 1-888-304-2847. (Cal-SCAN)

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NOTICE TO READERS >It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board

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Pleasanton, Studio - \$595/month

Pleasanton, Studio
Studio for rent with big walk-in closet, full bathroom, tv & cable, wireless router, microwave, fridge, includes utilities. Private access from street. Nice neighborhood by sports park. Call 925-417-1018

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PET OF THE WEEK

You're in luck! Affectionate cat looking for a home



MELISSA BONNEL

Oceania is an affectionate cat who would love to join your family for the holiday season. She loves greeting new people and has an adorable cowlick on the back of her neck that sets her apart from the crowd. Oceania does not even realize how adorable she is the way she cocks her head and licks your hand as you pet her. You would be very lucky to have such a great cat in your home. If you are interested in head butts and purrs, come on down to Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton, open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 7
Lowest sale reported: \$289,000
Highest sale reported: \$868,000
Average sales reported: \$511,571

Livermore

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$178,000
Highest sale reported: \$687,500
Average sales reported: \$381,375

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 6
Lowest sale reported: \$560,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,410,000
Average sales reported: \$833,667

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 13
Lowest sale reported: \$160,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,219,000
Average sales reported: \$533,846

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2010

Dublin

11482 Bay Laurel Street Heigel, Douglas & Karen to M. Yoon for \$780,000
7677 Brighton Drive Campbell, Cal to Fischer, Steven for \$385,000
3465 Dublin Boulevard #311 Toll Dublin Limited to Hewes, Dylan for \$358,000
3245 Dublin Boulevard #404 T. & M. Murphy to Chiu, Eli for \$315,000
4734 Newhaven Street Iroonnet America to M. & H. Sarwary for \$586,000
3321 Oak Bluff Lane Fan, Lawrence & Alice to Cai, Qian for \$868,000

6901 Stagecoach Road #F C. Pipes to A. Ventura for \$289,000

Pleasanton

5744 Hanifen Way Stanbery Trust to D. & O. Melaugh for \$1,410,000
1582 Harvest Road Premier Choice Properties to W. & J. McHargue for \$705,000
4988 Mohr Avenue Gilbert Trust to K. Mellor for \$670,000
487 Montori Court Sieh Trust to Z. & Y. Li for \$970,000
4021 Sherry Court N. & P. Quinn to Heinitz, Eric for \$687,000
349 Trenton Circle H. & E. Po to E. Po for \$560,000

Source: California REsource

The Fabulous Properties Team
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The #1 Resale Team in Pleasanton and Ruby Hill
www.FabulousProperties.net • www.RubyHill.net

3604 Valenza Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Beautiful and immaculate 3,851 sq. ft. home with 5 BR, 3 BA, located on a large corner lot. High end features include gourmet kitchen. **Offered at \$1,225,000**

3637 Pontina Court, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



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. **Offered at \$1,699,000**

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The Mia & Beverly Team

3743 FERNCREFT WY - DUBLIN - \$969,000
 Amazing home with close to \$400k in upgrades! Gorgeous hardwood floors, designer two-tone paint, wood finishes throughout, 1 bed and bath downstairs. Highly upgraded kitchen. Great master bedroom with upgraded bath. Separate casita used as office incredible resort-like backyard! Too good to be true!!



Cindy Gee

3051 RIDGEFIELD CT - DUBLIN - \$889,900
 HIGHLY UPGRADED!!!! Private end of the cul-de-sac, granite, gorgeous hardwood floors, stainless appliances, large custom landscaped private backyard! Surround sound, custom built-in entertainment center, 2 cozy fireplaces, custom paint, window treatments, private retreat off lg laster suite, must see!



The Mia & Beverly Team

5116 S FORESTDALE CIR - DUBLIN - \$749,000
 Beautiful Dublin Ranch home with city views! Great upgrades include granite countertops, crown molding throughout and upgraded flooring. Formal living and dining rooms, full bedroom and bath downstairs. Wonderful professionally landscaped yard with views and lovely patio.



Claudia Colwell

7370 HILLSDALE DR - PLEASANTON - \$745,000
 Recently updated single story in great neighborhood. Features open floorplan: kitchen with granite cntrs., walk in pantry and dual ovens. Baths totally remodeled w/top of the line features, including granite, limestone and marble. Master with built ins, wainscoting and crown molding. Backs to park.



Jan Pegler

11926 W. VOMAC - DUBLIN - \$659,000
 Handsome 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home with upgraded kitchen, granite, garden window. Hardwood and parquet wood floors abundant, plantation shutters throughout. Open, spacious feeling and neutral 2300+ square feet with high & vaulted ceilings, French doors from dining room.



Chris Kamali

6887 HERRIN CT - PLEASANTON - \$529,000
 Bank owned - not a short sale! Remodeled Pleasanton home with updated kitchen and baths! Tile counters, laminate HW floors, fireplace in family room, end of court location! It's a great time to buy!



Mike D'Onofrio

1536 MURDELL LN - LIVERMORE - \$469,990
 Don't judge a book by its cover..impressive, spacious and beautiful updated home. Desirable south side location and schools. Huge family room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen with island! Large bedrooms! Side yard access! Private wooded yard. MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE!



Norm Nelson

4201 SHELDON CIR. - PLEASANTON - \$389,000
 Sharp 3 br. townhome with a beautiful remodeled kitchen with granite, new counters and more! Master on the first floor with two large bedrooms upstairs, rich carpeting and private patio for entertaining. Great location in complex.

PRICE REDUCTION

101 Goldstone Common • Livermore

This former Model Home is loaded with custom upgrades, Granite Slab Counters, Surround Sound, Brazilian Cherry wood floors. 3 bedrooms 2.5 baths, approx. 2105 sq. ft.

Offered at \$599,000



925.989.6500

If you are thinking of selling or buying a home, call me for information on current market conditions and options available to you.

Delores Gragg



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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Castro Valley

3 BEDROOMS

34442 Palomares Road \$763,000
Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS

7754 Landale Avenue \$425,000
Sat 12-4 Keller Williams 989-0290

11926 W. Vomag Road \$659,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Better Homes & Gardens 519-1455

4 BEDROOMS

3051 Ridgefield Court \$889,000
Sun 1-4 Better Homes & Gardens 963-1984

Fremont

3 BEDROOMS

4778 Phebe Avenue \$525,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5815 Commerce Drive \$615,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

4365 Jessica Circle \$595,000
Sat 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS

5402 Shattuck Avenue \$789,900
Sun 1-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS

736 Sunset Drive \$425,000
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

530 Dolores Place \$1,099,000
Sun 1-4 Tom Ivarson 200-3600

4386 Krause Street \$588,000
Sun Coldwell Banker 847-2200

2853 Iberis Court \$627,800
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5787

4 BEDROOMS

3766 Smallwood Court \$2,395,000
Sun 1-4 Tom Fox 872-1275

4571 Mohr Avenue \$689,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5787

7758 Forsythia Court \$724,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2544

5 BEDROOMS

3422 Torlano Place \$1,749,000
Sun 1-4 Uwe Maerz 360-8758

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

2532 Shadow Mountain \$579,999
Sat 2-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

7722 Stoneleaf Road \$598,888
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

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Fabulous 360° Views from atop Kottinger Ranch Pleasanton



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3766 Smallwood Court

- Four Bedrooms • Three Full Baths and Two Half Baths
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- Five Fireplaces • Surround Sound System • Alarm System
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Offered at
\$2,395,000



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Open Sun 1-4

2853 IBERIS COURT, PLEASANTON

Offered at \$627,800
Stoneridge Place beauty! Immaculate light and bright popular Capitola Model. 3 beds/2.5 baths, wood floors, many upgrades, must see!



Open Sun 1-4

4571 MOHR AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Offered at \$689,000
Gorgeously COMPLETELY remodeled single story 3/4 beds/2 baths & space for office, wood floors. Must see!



3031 BOARDWALK ST, PLEASANTON

Offered at \$747,000
Lovely 3 beds/2 baths, one of largest lots in neighborhood! Room to add on, gorgeous mahogany wood floors. Park-like lush backyard. Beautiful home with large yard including a newer pool & spa. Big price reduction!



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925.577.5787

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9663 CROSBY DR, PLEASANTON
THE PRESERVE \$1,898,000



5 Bd 4(2) BA • 5,200+/- SQ.FT., 0.62+/- ACRES
THIS STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL TOTALLY CUSTOM HOME IS LOCATED IN THE DESIRABLE WEST SIDE OF PLEASANTON. THE FINEST MATERIALS & WORKMANSHIP THRUOUT, BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF THE HILLS AND VISTAS, BACKS TO OPEN SPACE. EXCELLENT, WELL PLANNED FLOORPLAN.

6645 AMBER LN, PLEASANTON
CARRIAGE GARDENS \$1,398,000



5 Bd 3 BA • 3,475+/- SQ.FT., 0.49+/- ACRES
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED CARRIAGE GARDENS HOME. FULL BED & BATH DOWNSTAIRS. UPDATED KITCHEN, MEDIA ROOM, HUGE BONUS ROOM IMPROVED LOT W/ GORGEOUS POOL AND FULL SPORTS COURT. PERFECT FOR HANGING OUT OR ENTERTAINING!

DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON
CALL FOR PRICE



3 Bd 2 BA • 1,878+/- SQ.FT., 4,550+/- SQ.FT. LOT
INCREDIBLE CHARM AND CRAFTSMANSHIP, JUST TWO BLOCKS FROM DOWNTOWN. INCLUDES GARAGE APARTMENT (SQ.FT. NOT INCLUDED) VICTORIAN STYLE CHARM.

2801 GRAY FOX CT, PLEASANTON
SOLD FOR \$1,850,000



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GORGEOUS FOX BOROUGH EST MEDITERRANEAN VILLA W/ PANORAMIC VIEWS, 1.91 ACRES. CUSTOM BUILT SINGLE LEVEL HOME WITH QUALITY AND CHARACTER. RESORT-LIKE BACKYARD W/POOL

6636 AMBER LN, PLEASANTON
SOLD ABOVE LIST \$1,502,000



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RARELY AVAILABLE CUSTOM HOME IN CARRIAGE GARDENS. BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED AND BUILT. PLUS LIBRARY, PLUS BONUS, AND AN AMAZING LOT WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS, POOL AND MORE!

3737 NICHOLE AVE, PLEASANTON
SOLD AT LIST \$1,495,000



SELLER REPRESENTED BY PHYLLIS AND PETER
EXQUISITE CHAIN OF LAKES CUSTOMIZED HOME; OVER \$400K SPENT IN THE PAST 5 YEARS ON UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS. FINEST FINISHES AND AMENITIES THRUOUT. GORGEOUS FLAT LOT WITH POOL.

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3422 TORLANO PLACE, RUBY HILL \$1,749,950

1819 MADDALENA COURT, RUBY HILL \$1,400,000

1625 VIA DI SALERNO, RUBY HILL \$690,000

1278 LOZANO COURT, RUBY HILL CALL FOR PRICE

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Just Listed

5 Bd 3.5 BA • 4,500+/- SQ.FT., 0.56+/- ACRES
Formidable, elegant w/ private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction. 3422TORLANO.COM



Mt Diablo Views

LOT ACRES APX: 1.27
Located on the West side featuring an over-sized flat building pad w/ Mt. Diablo, vineyard, & golf course views. Cul-de-sac.



Golf Course Lot

LOT ACRES APX: 0.50
Flat premium lot on the 16th fairway, fully approved plans for a 7,300sf+ home. One of the last two golf course lots in RH!



Just Sold

BUYER AND SELLER REPRESENTED BY UWE
Participate in the customization and completion of a Formal French masterpiece. 1.05 acre premium lot, cul-de-sac.

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OPEN SUN 1-4



530 DOLORES PLACE, PLEASANTON

- Fabulously Remodeled "Pleasanton Hills" Home
- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, Over 3000 sq ft
- Sparkling Pool and Spa w/ Waterfalls, Private Rear Yard
- Ultimate Gourmet Kitchen featured in California Home & Design and Haute Living

Offered at \$1,099,000



211 RACHAEL PLACE, PLEASANTON

- Beautiful "Country Roads" Townhome
- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 2 Car Attached Garage
- Cherry Cabinetry, Granite Counters, Hardwood Flooring
- Walk to Charming Downtown

Offered at \$410,000

COMING SOON



2957 W CASTLE PINES TERR, DUBLIN

- Desirable "Dublin Ranch"
- Awesome Newer 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 3600+ sq ft Home
- Highly Upgraded w/ Maple Cabinets, Granite, Stainless Appliances
- Close to Schools, Shopping & Dublin Ranch Golf Course

COMING SOON



5835 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE, DUBLIN

- "Dublin Ranch" Golf Course Home
- Beautiful 6 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath, 4800+ sq ft Home
- Highly Upgraded w/ Cherry Cabinets, Granite, Stainless Appliances
- Large Lot and Backing to the Golf Course



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\$425,000
3 BR 2 BA extended master/liv rm, updated bath, dual pane windows, frplc in fam rm, tile flrs, huge pl 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SUN 1 - 4
BEAUTIFUL!
4386 KRAUSE STREET
\$588,000
3 BR 2.5 BA many upgrades! Dual pane windows, private backyard with patio and fountain 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4
TOWNHOUSE IN GALE RANCH
7722 STONELEAF RD
\$598,888
3 BR 2.5 BA 2,228 sf, upgraded kitchen w/granite & SS appli, master w/walk-ins & views, hardwood floors 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
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CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES PRICES START IN HIGH \$200s
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6975 JOHNSTON ROAD
PRICE REDUCED!
\$1,697,000
4 BR 3 BA 19+ acres, living w/stone/travertine frplc, 9 stall barn covered indoor arena & MUCH more! 925.847.2200

FREMONT/ARDENWOOD

Open SUN 1 - 5
GREAT LOCATION
5402 SHATTUCK AVE
\$789,900

5 BR 3 BA One of Ardenwood's Largest Models, 2263 SF, Full Bed/Bath Down, Walk To Popular Forest Park 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5
GREAT HOME!
5815 COMMERCE DR
\$615,000

3 BR 2.5 BA 1593 SF, brand new kit, new paint/carpet, tile flr downstairs, executive living in Ardenwood 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

Open SAT 11 - 5
SPACIOUS ARDENWOOD HOME
\$595,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Affordable Price, 1712 SF, Vaulted Ceilings, Inside Laundry, Dual Pane Windows 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5
TOTALLY REMODELED
\$525,000
4778 PHEBE AVE

3 BR 2 BA 1312 SF, Great Family Home In Great Neighborhood OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

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

SAN RAMON

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. Romar Properties.net 925-784-3068

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

804 ALMADEN CT GREAT LOCATION

\$385,000
3 BR 2.5 BA, spacious interior, w/lots of light, upgraded kitchen, w/granite counters & hardwood floors. 925.847.2200

1255 SPRING VALLEY CMN SHARP & CLEAN!

\$195,000
3 BR 2.5 BA laminated flrs, neutral paint, many upgrades, inside laundry, dual pane windows, A/C,

great loc 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54
SELLER WILL FINANCE!
\$16,000

1 BR 1 BA covered driveway, great loc in prk, comm center has pool, spa, library, Mo space rent \$875 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

Open SAT 2-5
BEAUTIFUL AND QUIET!
2532 SHADOW MOUNTAIN COURT
\$579,999

3 BR 2 BA whole house remodeled in last 6/7 years including kit, bth bths, wd flrs thruout, nice master 925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update – On the Rebound

The real estate market in Pleasanton reversed the trend of the past few months, with the inventory of single family detached homes declining in October and pending sales increasing. The change was largely driven by homes priced under \$1 million, which made up 63% of the inventory and 75% of pending sales in October. The other market segments pretty much followed suit. While a decrease in inventory is not uncommon as we enter the fall, the increase in pending sales certainly was welcome news.

Overall, inventory fell 25 homes to 193 at the end of October from 193 in September, a 12% decline. Pending sales, meanwhile rebounded nicely to 61 at the end of October from 44 at the end of September, a 39% gain. 61 pending sales is the same number we had in August. Inventory relative to pending sales fell from 5.0 months at the end of September to 3.2 months at the end of October.

As I mentioned, homes priced under \$1 million led the way in October. There were 121 single family detached homes for sale in this segment at the end of October, a 14% decline from the 140 available

homes at the end of September. Pending sales increased 39%, from 33 at month-end September to 46 at month-end October. Inventory relative to pending sales fell from 4.2 months at the end of September to 2.6 months at the end of October.

In the market for homes priced between \$1 million and \$2 million, inventory did not fall as significantly as in the other market segments. The inventory of these homes stood at 56 at the end of October, just one less than what we had at the end of September. Pending sales in this segment rose sharply, from seven at the end of September to 11 at the end of October, a 43% increase. Inventory relative to pending sales, therefore, >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

Office
925.251.1111
Direct
925.463.2000
680Homes.com

CA DRE# 00843458

High Performance Real Estate



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

april.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500
www.blaiselofland.com
blaise@blaiselofland.com
DRE# 00882113
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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 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Custom tile and hardwood flooring, plantation shutters. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2001. Located on quiet street with no through traffic. Close to downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
OFFERED AT \$1,529,000

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

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

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 sq. ft. 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

LOS OLIVOS



2951 PICHOLINE COURT, LIVERMORE
Beautiful, highly upgraded Los Olivos home on professionally landscaped private .25 acre lot. Don't miss it! Five bedroom (bonus room 5th), 3.5 bathrooms, plus detached studio/guest quarters (1 bed/1 bath). Approximately 3889 sq. ft. 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



2845 VINE COURT, LIVERMORE
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



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Livermore
1983 Second Street
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

3422 TORLANO PL, RUBY HILL
Open House Sun 1-4 \$1,749,950



5 Bd 3.5 Ba • 4,500+/- sq.ft., 0.56+/- Acres
Formidable, elegant Formal French custom home w/ private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction.
Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758

1819 MADDALENA CT, RUBY HILL
Exquisite, Prime Lot \$1,400,000



Lot Acres Apx: 1.27
Located on the West side featuring an over-sized flat building pad w/ Mt. Diablo, vineyard, & golf course views. Cul-de-sac, private neighbors.
Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758

1225 LOZANO CT, RUBY HILL
Classic Italian Villa CALL FOR PRICE.



6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres
Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards.
Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758

VIA DI SALERNO, RUBY HILL
Premium Golf Course Lot \$690,000



New Price! Lot Acres Apx: 0.50
Flat premium lot on the 16th fairway w/ fully approved plans for a 7,300sf+ custom home. Great opp. for one of the last two golf course lots in RH!
Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758

6645 AMBER LN, PLEASANTON
Carriage Gardens \$1,398,000



5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres
Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved 1/2 acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more.
Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585

7758 FORSYTHIA CT, PLEASANTON
Swimming Pool \$735,000



4 Bd 2 Ba • 2,004+/- sq.ft., 0.25+/- Acres
One of the nicest courts in P town. Home is move in ready. Nice Inground Pool. Hdw flrs, Fire place pit. 2 blocks from Foot Hill HS.
Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.251.2544

5063 MONACO DR, PLEASANTON
New Price! \$945,000



5 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,079+/- sq.ft., 0.18+/- Acres
Semi-custom Pleasanton Hills home w/Mt Diablo View! 5 bedrooms plus theatre room w/fireplace plus den! Theatre, remodeled kit w/pine cabinets.
Diane Sass 925.583.2168

3905 FAIRLANDS DR, PLEASANTON
New Price! \$599,000



4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,140+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres
Very nice home in lovely neighborhood. Hardwood floors, bonus room, large yard perfect for entertaining, great schools & much more!
Lisa Doyle 925.855.4046

RACCOON HOLLOW CT, PLEASANTON
Custom Home \$1,398,000



6 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,366+/- sq.ft., 0.80+/- Acres
Private park-like setting w/ valley views. Open layout w/ grand entry & luxurious master suite. Crown molding & custom designer features.
Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454

850 CONCORD ST, PLEASANTON
Vintage Hills \$750,000



4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,052+/- sq.ft., 0.23+/- Acres
CUSTOM home. Pool w/ newly resurfaced pool. Granite kit, dual pane windows. Detached garage w/ lots of parking, beautiful grounds.
The Bowers Team 925.785.3795

6224 GUYSON CT, PLEASANTON
Val Vista \$559,000



4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,489+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Remodeled rancher, court. All new kitchen granite counters. Extensive new lighting, flooring & moldings. Close to schools, shopping and freeway
Glen Landrum 925.837.7110

2670 TREVOR, PLEASANTON
Fabulous Opportunity \$625,000



3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 3,079+/- sq.ft., 0.18+/- Acres
Featuring open floorplan. 1,614 sq.ft w/ attached 2 car garage. Laundry room upstairs with a corner lot location. Light and airy feel throughout!
Julia Kim 925.648.5405

9877 FOOTHILL RD, SUNOL
Custom Home 16+/- Acres \$1,890,000



4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 16+/- Acres
Exceptional Pleasanton Ridge Access. Newly Built "2009" Custom Home. Pleasanton Ridge Water. Panoramic Views. Single Story Dream Home.
Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

7294 KOLB PL, DUBLIN
West Dublin Beauty \$629,000



4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,026+/- sq.ft., 0.16+/- Acres
Updated and Expanded Briarhill Beauty Beautiful West Dublin home! Located on a cul-de-sac, this home has it all.
Susette Clark-Walker 925.251.2547

3707 PENWOOD LN, DUBLIN
Cul Da Sac \$869,900



5 Bd 4.5 Ba • 4,086+/- sq.ft., 20+/- Acres
Upgraded w/ hardwood, tile, shutters, crown moulding & custom built-ins. Bed & Bath down-stairs. Gourmet kitchen w/ slab granite.
Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653

1257 GONZAGA CT, LIVERMORE
Charming Home \$425,000



4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,606+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Updated kit. cabinets, recessed lighting, crown moulding, newer roof, dual pane windows, 6 panel doors, hardwood floors & tile.
Bill and Vickie Keller 925.200.6764

CEDAR MOUNTAIN, LIVERMORE
Tuscan Estate CALL FOR PRICE.



4 Bd 5.5 Ba • 8,950+/- sq.ft., 16.86+/- Acres
Walls of glass, salt water aquarium, wine tasting room. Incredible setting. apartment perfect for in-law or au-pair. 9 car garage. Views and more!
Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454

3854 PESTANA WAY, LIVERMORE
Jensen Community \$379,900



3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,884+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Spacious Jensen Home that has been well maintained by original owner. Added Bonus Room & indoor laundry w/ permits.
Tom Chance 925.487.6360

303 MIRAMONTE LN, LIVERMORE
Amber Ridge \$648,000



4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,861+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres
Beautiful Home, flowing floor plan includes; vaulted ceilings, w/ huge master. Beautiful backyard perfect for entertaining. Walk to park.
Corey Green 925.899.6011

689 LOS ALAMOS AVE, LIVERMORE
Sunset West \$399,950



5 Bd 1.5 Ba • 1,120+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Plenty of updates. Refinished hwdwd floors, large bonus rooms w/o permits, private backyard w/ possible SYA, covered patio, newer roof & more.
Tom Chance 925.487.6360

Blackhawk East
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West
3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette
3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.385.2330

Montclair/Piedmont
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Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.4800

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

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