

Pleasanton Weekly

Clean getaway: Three masked men hold up Union Bank using semiautomatic handgun PAGE 7

Lights, camera, Christmas: Residents decorate to make Pleasanton glow with holiday happiness PAGE 17

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VOL. XI, NUMBER 49 • DECEMBER 17, 2010

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Couple of the Year

Harringtons recognized for their contributions of art in Pleasanton

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

4 win lacrosse scholarships, thanks to the Brady Bunch

Four local high school students have signed NCAA National letters of Intent to play men's lacrosse for Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colo., thanks to their outstanding varsity season earlier this year and the Brady Bunch.

No, not that Brady Bunch, but a group of high school lacrosse players in western states, including ours, who come together during the year to play lacrosse and raise money for 3-year-old Brady Wein. Brady is the son of Phoenix lacrosse coach Mike Wein and his wife Rachel, who was diagnosed at the age of 3 months with leukemia, a disease that attacks the blood cells and until recently was nearly always a fatal diagnosis.

Local players Mitch Flaherty of Amador Valley High School, Gabe Garcia and Shane O'Neil of Foothill and Eric McCosker of De La Salle heard of the effort and signed up to play, traveling mostly during the hot summer months to compete in Brady Bunch tournaments in different parts of the country.

Mike Wein, a Massachusetts native and avid Boston Pro Sports fan, moved to the Phoenix area 13 years ago. He has been a fixture on the national collegiate lacrosse recruiting scene for the better part of the last decade as part of Scott Hochstadt's West Coast Starz organization. When word got to Hochstadt about Brady's condition the call for help went right out. The medical treatment for Brady is not fully covered by Wein's insurance, and Rachel Wein has been unable to return to work since Brady was diagnosed as she has been by her son's side much of the time.

In answering the call, Flaherty, Garcia, O'Neill and McCosker, who already had their own lacrosse equipment, purchased Brady Bunch team uniforms and paid their own expenses to compete. Those meets added to their high school varsity experience with games gaining national attention under the Starz flag. Scouts came looking. While it's not unusual for Tri-Valley star high school football, baseball, basketball and soccer players to win scholarships and early admissions to major colleges, lacrosse has less recognition here in the West. It's still largely an East Coast sport

where Division 1 colleges can fill a stadium. No colleges west of the Mississippi are in Division 1, although more schools are working their way into Division 2 status, including Mesa State.

Players, including Flaherty, had offers from Division 1 schools, but preferred to be closer to home and in less expensive surroundings. Besides, Mesa State plays other Division 2 schools in the Bay Area, including Dominican University in San Rafael and Notre Dame College in Belmont, which means the four will be back for games several times during the season on Mesa State's ticket to see their families in the stands and probably with chances to take advantage of a few home-cooked meals.

Flaherty's dad Mark Flaherty moved to Pleasanton from the East Coast. Always an enthusiastic lacrosse spectator, he was glad to see Amador Valley launch its lacrosse girls and boys teams a few years ago. Most Tri-Valley high schools today field varsity lacrosse teams and local city lacrosse clubs are as competitive as youth soccer and football organizations. Flaherty's daughter, Lynnea, plays on Amador's girls freshman lacrosse team. With UC Berkeley recently canceling its girls lacrosse program, colleges such as Mesa State may see their teams attracting ever-better players.

Garcia, a star lacrosse player at Foothill, started playing the sport in fifth grade when lacrosse was still new in Pleasanton. He's played on club teams and all four years at Foothill, in addition to the more intense competition at Brady Bunch tournaments. O'Neil plays defense, also at Foothill. He finds lacrosse a fast-moving, highly competitive sport but more relaxed because, unlike football, there's no physical contact. He says players can enjoy the game without worrying about getting bashed on the field and sustaining possible injuries. As a sports medicine major at Mesa State, he may have a chance to work on some of those battered football players.

McCosker, 18, the De La Salle senior, knows the other three as opponents in frequent games his school has with Amador Valley and Foothill. They've become friends off the field as well and as teammates during Brady Bunch games. Even though they'll be on the same team at Mesa State, where McCosker plans to study construction management, he'll put his lacrosse skills to the test when De La Salle meets the two Pleasanton schools this spring in his final match as a high school senior. ■

About the Cover

Retired educators and philanthropists Nancy and Gary Harrington, who have contributed extensively to public art in Pleasanton, stand with the prestigious Mayor's Award for meritorious service that they won in October, next to the entrance to Harrington art gallery in the new Firehouse Arts Center. Bottom left: Spiral Motion is one of the donated art pieces. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT WIDMER WORLD PUBLIC CHRISTMAS DISPLAY, 3671 CHELSEA COURT

Do you have any family holiday traditions that you'll be following this Christmas?



Susan Widmer
Tax Consultant

Our biggest tradition is putting together Widmer World. We've been doing it for over 30 years and our entire family helps put it together. Every year we change it and add more. We even had a float in the Hometown Holiday parade this year. It's a lot of work, but so much fun. It's a way for our family to give back to other families and make their holiday memorable.

Eileen Quaintance
Mom

We make my great-grandmother's sugar cookie recipe. Every year since I was 10, my mother and I spent the entire week before Christmas baking cookies. We either wrapped them up and gave them away, or had a big party and invited everyone over to eat them. I've continued the tradition with my own boys, Austin and Landon. We also have a big Christmas dinner with my brother and his family.



Jessica Randall
Student

We go to Disneyland every year for Christmas. I've been doing it for most of my life and now my husband and I go together. We usually go on Christmas Eve and stay for two or three days. It's really fun, and very festive.

Laura Gomez
Student

My family and I make tamales every year. We always make them on Christmas Eve day, with red and green salsa, and we eat them that night. Then we listen to music and dance until midnight. That's when we open all of our Christmas presents. On Christmas Day we just relax and enjoy each other and our gifts.



Travis Marsh
Pastor, Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church

We always drive around and look at Christmas lights. My wife Adriane and I also take our boys, Andrew and Josh, to the city every year, and they each get to choose a Christmas ornament. Then we'll go out to dinner and watch a movie. My mom and aunt get a place in the city for a weekend every year, so we also visit and have family time with them.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Broadcast of holiday parade

Tri-Valley Community TV30 is broadcasting Pleasanton's Dec. 4 Hometown Holiday Celebration until Christmas Day, as well as the tree lightings from neighboring cities. The Pleasanton event included a parade down Main Street with floats, marching bands and community groups, followed by a tree lighting ceremony at the Museum On Main.

The Pleasanton celebration is being shown at 8 p.m. Saturday; 3:30 p.m. Sunday; 8:30 p.m. Tuesday; and 9 p.m. Friday. For all the schedules, visit the Tri-Valley TV web site at trivalleytv.org. DVDs of the events may be purchased for \$20 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

Red Cross looking for volunteers

The American Red Cross is holding a volunteer orientation from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 13 at its Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave., in JC Penney Plaza. It will include a tour of the Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, and potential volunteers will learn about ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors.

Those interested in volunteering must sign up in advance for the orientation. Call (510) 594-5165.

Dream rewarded

Sarah Nicole Williams, 17, a senior at Amador Valley High School, won the Northern California Grand Prize for the 2010 Dreamers Challenge Scholarship sponsored by the California Museum, home of the California Hall of Fame, and Comcast. High school seniors throughout the state were asked to write an essay about how their dream would leave a lasting mark on the state, nation and the world at large.

Williams' winning piece detailed the successful implementation of a program to provide California's foster care children with a bit of Christmas comfort and was entitled, "A Blanket of Their Own." She was presented with her award Tuesday afternoon at a press conference with First Lady Maria Shriver before the 2010 California Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Sacramento.

Corrections

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

Services tomorrow for Amador grad Michel David

22-year-old was due to graduate this week from San Diego State University

Funeral services are scheduled tomorrow for Michel Rose David, 22, who died last Friday in San Diego.

She was the victim in an apparent murder-suicide involving Daniel Shoemake, 21. Both were classmates at San Diego State University and were graduates of Amador Valley High School.

Miss David was born in Oakland on Sept. 14, 1988. She was scheduled to graduate from San Diego State this week with a bachelor's degree in Journalism/Media Studies and a minor in International Relations. She was active in the university community as a "Lady Rho" in the Alpha Psi Rho mentorship program.

This past summer, she traveled to Costa Rica, where she volunteered at a sea turtle refuge and was

in a Spanish immersion program. She was looking forward to a trip to Ecuador with her mother next month to celebrate her graduation.

She is survived by her mother and stepfather, Lorie and Mando Alemania of Pleasanton, and her sisters Valeri Alemania of Pleasanton and Rachel David of New York City. She was preceded in death by her father, Glenn David. She is also survived by her grandmother, great-grandparents and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Miss David's life at a memorial and funeral tomorrow at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive in Pleasanton, with visitation starting at 2:30 p.m. and a memorial and Mass following. A reception will be held afterward in the parish hall at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. in Pleasanton. Burial will be private.

—Jeb Bing



GLENN WOHLTMANN

New school board members take oath of office

Jeff Bowser signs his oath of office after being sworn in Tuesday night, while Joan Laursen is sworn in by State Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-10th). Also at the meeting, the Pleasanton Unified School District Board elected a new president, Valerie Arkin, and new clerk, Jamie Hintzke. The two recently retired members, Pat Kernan and Jim Ott, participated in handing out awards to students and thanks to teachers.



JEB BING

Rotarians (from left) Chris Miller, Brad Hirst and Dick Stafford served as the welcoming hosts Sunday for the Rotary Club's annual holiday turkey dinner at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

Rotarians bring Christmas cheer to seniors

Capacity crowd fills Senior Center

By JEB BING

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton served a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings last Sunday to a capacity crowd of 325 at its annual holiday celebration for seniors.

Rotarians, some dressed in tuxedos and others dressed in waiter and kitchen garb, worked shifts starting at 7 a.m. and ending late

in the afternoon to greet, entertain and serve seniors, including some in their 90s and a number of them in wheelchairs.

Rotarians Sandra Lemmon and Don Lewis entertained the crowd with favorite Christmas melodies from the stage at the Pleasanton Senior Center, where the event was held. ■

School board workshop targets conflicts

Better communication is the goal

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton School Board could have a whole new way of doing business if plans from a four-hour workshop Saturday come to pass.

Current and incoming school board members, along with former member Pat Kernan, and the district's top administration took part in what Kernan said was the first local workshop of its type.

The bulk of the day was dedicated to governance — who is responsible for what — in the district.

School officials heard the results of a survey about how the board and administrators deal with each other, the public and other members of the staff. That anonymous survey showed some internal conflicts and lingering mistrust and hard feelings, which is what the gathering set out to address.

Luz Cázares, assistant superintendent of business services, said she could trace some of the comments to the individual.

"I think a lot of what we do works," she said. "I think some tweaking needs to be done."

Board member Jamie Hintzke said when she came on the board, no one explained the district's procedures.

"You never gave me a rule book, and how can I know what's

expected of me without a rule book," she commented.

Procedures may change for new board members Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen. Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said protocols exist to create a set of guidelines.

"We don't have to start from scratch," Ahmadi said.

Another issue was that the board is expected to address questions from the public, at times, without the opportunity to discuss them among themselves.

That, too, could be answered in the future. Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, suggested the board hold more discussion groups.

Those meetings would be informal, with board members sitting at tables instead of at their raised dais, separated from people.

"It really is a great idea," said board member Valerie Arkin.

Communication with the parents also came up as a topic. More than one school board member said they'd been asked to deal with an issue directly, and how they handled those requests differed slightly.

"Individuals on the board can't respond as the board," Facilitator Ed Porter told the group, explaining they don't know how the board as a whole would act.

See **CONFLICTS** on Page 7



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JEB BING

Big turnout for returning soldier

About 75 family, friends and other Pleasanton well-wishers welcomed home Army Specialist Liberato Vallavicencio on Saturday night.

Vallavicencio, who said his Army buddies had shortened his name to "V," said he was honored by the large welcome-home celebration, which came after he had completed his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. After a Christmas holiday break, he'll head to an Army base to complete his active duty early in 2011.

Among the many citations and special medals veterans organizations gave him was a special letter of commendation from the Pleasanton City Council, presented by Councilman Jerry Thorne.

Secret Service reports on Kennedy assassination

Talk will focus on lives of men who devoted themselves to protecting the president

By JEB BING

Former U.S. Secret Service agent Gerald Blaine will be at the Pleasanton Public Library on Sunday to talk about President John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, and his years as one of the agents responsible for protecting the president.

At the 2 p.m. discussion, which is free and open to the public, Blaine also will talk about his new book, "The Kennedy Detail," which is available at Towne Center Books in downtown Pleasanton and will be on sale at the library event. Towne Center Books is hosting the library event.

Blaine was in the Secret Service in Texas when Kennedy was shot. Drawing on the memories of his fellow agents, he captures the energetic, crowd-loving young president, who banned agents from his car and often plunged into raucous crowds with little warning.

Blaine describes the careful planning that went into JFK's Texas swing, the worries and concerns that agents, working long hours with little food or rest, had during the trip. And he describes the intensely private first lady making her first-ever political appearance with her husband, after losing a newborn baby just months before.

"Most of all," Judy Wheeler, co-owner of Towne Center Books said, "this is a look into the lives of men who devoted their entire beings to protecting the presidential family: the stress of the secrecy they kept, the emotional bonds that developed, the terrible impact on agents' psyches and families, and their astonishment at the country's obsession with far-fetched conspiracy theories and finger-pointing."



PHOTO COURTESY PLEASANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
President Kennedy waves to crowd during parade in Dallas Nov. 23, 1963.

Blaine was assigned in November 1960 to the Kennedy detail and, for the next three years, traveled with President Kennedy all over the world.

"At the time of the assassination," Blaine writes, "while riding in an open convertible in a motorcade through Dallas, Secret Service Agent Clint Hill was just 10 feet from the president, desperately trying to hurl his body in front of the gunfire, when the president's head exploded before his eyes."

"For nearly 50 years, the close-knit group of men who protected JFK has refused to talk about that tragic day — until now," Wheeler said.

Blaine also writes about how the assassination threw the country and the White House into sudden turmoil and despair.

"Abruptly, the Kennedy Detail became the Johnson Detail," Blaine writes. "There was no time to grieve; no time to deal with feelings of anger, frustration and guilt."

On July 4, 1964, Jerry Blaine resigned from the Secret Service to join the private sector. His son Scott lives in Pleasanton. ■

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'Takeover' robbery Tuesday in Pleasanton

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Armed men held up a Pleasanton bank Tuesday, with one jumping over the counter and emptying teller drawers.

Pleasanton police and the FBI are investigating what Lt. Mark Senkle called a "takeover robbery" at Union Bank at the Crossroads Shopping Center in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road just after noon. Usually bank robbers approach a teller quietly rather than commanding everyone's attention, he said.

Three men were involved in today's robbery; while one waited in

a car outside, two — at least one of them armed with a semiautomatic handgun — entered the bank, Senkle reported. One of the men vaulted the counter and emptied teller drawers and the pair was out in minutes.

The car involved, a Subaru Legacy, "was taken in a carjacking in Emeryville," Senkle said. He said that car was dumped in a neighborhood "not too far from where the robbery took place."

Police are examining the car for evidence.

A bystander was slightly injured in the holdup.

"A customer was pushed and fell down," Senkle said, adding that the man was not seriously injured.

Descriptions of the men vary because all three had their faces covered. Police are reviewing video camera footage of the robbery, but Senkle described all three as small in stature.

An undisclosed amount of money was taken. The FBI is involved because the robbery may be part of a string of holdups.

Senkle said Pleasanton gets several bank robberies a year, but rarely any of a potentially violent nature. ■

CONFLICTS

Continued from Page 5

The remainder of the day focused on conflicts of interest, which gained a new measure of attention with the election of Bowser, whose wife is a teacher.

Attorney Robert Kingsley talked to the team about what is a conflict and what should be done if one is discovered.

"The question you have to ask is, 'Where is the line and which side of the line am I on?'" Kingsley told the group.

And while Bowser's potential conflict of interest was the main reason for Kingsley to be brought in, it became obvious that there were many potential conflicts of interests the district could see on any given day, from counselors who offered their services to students on

the weekend for a fee to teachers who take part-time jobs as tutors.

In Bowser's case, the rule is relatively straightforward: He has to abstain from voting on any issue that could directly impact his wife, but he can be involved in collective bargaining in which his wife could benefit as long as she doesn't receive any special compensation.

In general, Kingsley's advice was "disclose, disclose, disclose." ■

TAKE US ALONG



Theater fun: The students from Leanne Bean's drama class at Harvest Park Middle School took along their Weekly when they attended the opening of "Shrek the Musical" at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco.

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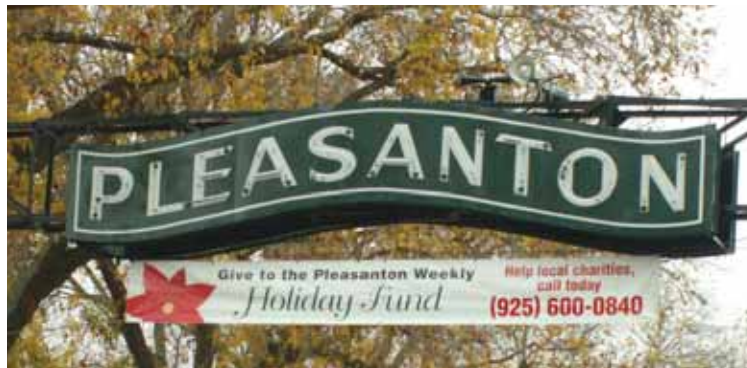
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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



Give to the Holiday Fund

The sign under the Pleasanton Arch on Main Street says it all: "Give to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund." We hope you read it and send in your contribution. Despite news reports of robust sales and the crowds we're seeing at stores and restaurants this Christmas shopping season, the nonprofits that serve the needy in the Tri-Valley are reporting a far different story. More individuals and families than ever in recent memory are standing in lines -- for unemployment checks, for public medical care, for hot meals. These are people faced with over-extended home mortgages who are struggling to stay in their homes. Others work for companies that have significantly increased employee contributions to meet the rising costs of group health care. Some work for companies that have dropped health care coverage altogether. Many families that rely on two incomes now have one spouse without a job, and they need help.

Given the national downturn in charitable giving, we're pleased that donations to this year's Holiday Fund now total \$56,030. With just a few weeks to go, that leaves just \$43,970 if we are to achieve our goal of \$100,000, with \$20,000 going to each of the five nonprofits that are this year's beneficiaries: Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Valley Humane Society and the Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center at ValleyCare Health Systems.

There's an added advantage to making your contributions through the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. For every \$1 contributed, the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will add another dollar. That's a 2-for-1 gift, doubling your contribution for these important Tri-Valley organizations. Also, unlike many other fundraising drives, the Holiday Fund takes no administrative fees or other expenses out of these contributions. The Pleasanton Weekly donates all the support services so all money raised can support these local nonprofit groups. All funds are held in trust by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

To contribute, fill out the donor's coupon on page 11 of today's Pleasanton Weekly and send your donation to: the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94566. You can also drop off your check at our office. We're open 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd enjoy seeing you.

Pleasanton loses out

We remember riding with Congressman Jerry McNerney a year or so ago on the prototype "Rapid," a new express bus that the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) was adding to its more conventional Wheels bus service. A key selling point for Pleasanton, which helps fund the service, was that the Rapid would zip passengers more quickly from BART stations and the Labs to a covered passenger stop at Old Stanley Boulevard and Main Street.

It turns out that this costly new service will begin Jan. 24, but without the Pleasanton stop. Residents along Old Stanley objected to more noise and traffic on "their" street and city officials quietly told LAVTA to move the route somewhere else. LAVTA did, placing the speedier service on Dublin Boulevard and into Livermore with Stoneridge Shopping Center next to Penney's as the only Pleasanton service.

Now this same group wants to block a developer from tearing down a 1920s house and two old trees for many of the same reasons, claiming the 14-unit, high density housing plan would destroy the "heritage" of the neighborhood, not to mention adding a few more cars on Old Stanley. Take a drive on this major link between downtown Pleasanton and Stanley Boulevard and see if you think the street needs this special protection. ■



Visit Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com to comment on the editorial.

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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Burglary cleans out apartment

Property valued at nearly \$9,000 was stolen from an apartment in Pleasanton on Dec. 9.

Among the items taken were a \$2,000 computer and \$1,000 monitor belonging to the resident's employer, according to a police report. Two televisions, a 42-inch flatscreen valued at \$1,400 and a 32-inch flatscreen valued at \$580, were among the items stolen.

Also stolen were a laptop computer, jewelry, a speaker system, a videogame system, DVDs and video games. Four wrapped Christmas gifts were also taken, according to the report, which said a bathroom window was smashed to provide access. The theft, in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive, took place between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The report said there are no suspects.

A vehicle at the same apartment complex was also burglarized in an incident that took place prior to the apartment burglary. In that case, an \$800 DVD player was taken, along with DVDs, sunglasses, an iPod and speakers, according to a police report. The total of

items stolen came to \$1,200, according to the report, which said that incident took place between 9 p.m. Dec. 5 and 9 a.m. Dec. 8.

In a separate incident, the Four Points Sheraton in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road reported that someone racked up more than \$6,100 in room charges between 8 a.m. Oct. 14 and 10:29 a.m. Dec. 9 and left without paying. Police have fingerprinted the room in the hopes of turning up a suspect.

Thieves hit two Pleasanton stores

Nordstrom and Wal-Mart were targets of thieves in incidents on Dec. 8 and Dec. 6, respectively.

An unattended wallet with \$1,537 in cash, a \$100 gold wedding ring, credit cards and identification documents were stolen at Nordstrom in the Stoneridge Shopping Center between 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 8, according to the police report, which said a separate empty wallet was stolen from the store at the same time.

A 46-inch flatscreen TV worth \$848 and a 32-inch flatscreen worth \$348 were stolen from Wal-Mart between 2:55 and 3:15 a.m. Dec. 6, according to a report, which said a \$448 computer and video games worth \$199 were also stolen. Police are using a security video in their efforts to catch the thief.

OBITUARIES

Daniel James Shoemake

A vigil for Daniel Shoemake will be held at the Graham-Hitch Mortuary at 4167 First St. in Pleasanton at 6:30 p.m. tonight, followed at 10 a.m.



tomorrow by a funeral service in Pleasanton's St. Augustine Catholic Church. Mr. Shoemake graduated from Amador Valley High in 2007, attended San Diego State University, and was at the top of his class in the school's ROTC program. He was anticipating a commission as an Army officer in 2011.

On Thanksgiving Day, when Mr. Shoemake was back in Pleasanton visiting his family, they hiked to the top of Del Valle Ridge on the last holiday weekend they were all together.

Mr. Shoemake is survived by his parents Jean and Rex Shoemake, his brother Brett, and his sister Annie. He also leaves his grandparents JoAnne and James Shoemake and uncles, aunts and cousins.

Iola (Vi) Seagraves-Volking

Iola (Vi) Seagraves-Volking died Dec. 9 at the age of 93 in her Pleasanton home with her family by her side.

She was born Sept. 4, 1917, and grew up on her family farm in Madera. She and her husband

Frederick Volking Sr. raised their three children in Alameda and enjoyed an adventurous life together of travel, flying airplanes and riding motorcycles. After her husband died in 1979, she moved to Pleasanton to be close to her children and grandchildren, and she continued her hobbies of ceramics, doll making, ballroom dancing and gardening. She also joined a walking group and took a daily walk at the Pleasanton Sports Park with others who became a special part of her life. In 1989, she married childhood friend Arnold Seagraves. They were married for 19 years until he died in 2008.



Ms. Seagraves-Volking was also predeceased by her son Thomas Volking. She is survived by her brother Andy Coltra, her daughter Marleen Armstrong, her son Fred Volking Jr. and his wife Sara; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held Wednesday at Graham Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton, with a private family burial Thursday at Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin 94568.

POLICE REPORT

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

Dec. 5

Theft

- 10:19 a.m. in the 3100 block of Busch Road; auto theft
- 2:10 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia

- 5:04 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, petty theft
- 5:24 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:51 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Burglary

- 6:24 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:14 p.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Battery

- 6:43 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:24 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 4:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, possession of marijuana with intent to sell

Dec. 6

Theft

- 10 a.m. in the 800 block of St. John Court; grand theft
- 12:16 p.m. in the 4100 block of Alvarado Street; petty theft
- 2:31 in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- 7:16 p.m. in the 8100 block of Moller Ranch Road; identity theft

Burglary

- 8:58 a.m. in the 1100 block of Concord Street
- 10:39 a.m. in the 2400 block of Via de Los Milagros

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:42 a.m. in the 900 block of Roselma Place; public drunkenness
- 1:54 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Trails Drive and Mesa Verde Court; public drunkenness

Dec. 7

Theft

- 10:01 a.m. in the 2600 block of Gapwall Court; petty theft
- 11:22 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Lock picking

- 2:14 a.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Via Espada

Vandalism

- 6:24 p.m. in the 400 block of Abbie Street

Dec. 8

Theft

- 10:30 a.m. in the 3600 block of Bernal Avenue; identity theft
- 2:41 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 3:03 p.m. in the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive; identity theft

Automotive burglary

- 9:21 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- 10:44 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:13 a.m. near the intersection of Bernal Avenue and I-680; DUI
- 2:07 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; public drunkenness
- 2:23 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Coronado Lane; DUI
- 5:05 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Touriga Drive; DUI

Dec. 9

Auto theft

- 1:36 a.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:09 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

Dec. 10

Automotive burglary

- 5:41 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 8:40 a.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Dec. 11

Theft

- 1:07 a.m. in the 6400 block of Randall Court; fraud
- 3:55 p.m. in the 2800 block of Victoria Ridge Court; petty theft, possession of stolen property

- 5:04 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol charges

- 12:35 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
- 3:04 p.m. in the 4700 block of Owens Drive; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance
- 10:47 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the eighth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 206, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its website: www.tvcfoundation.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2010, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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Couple of the Year

Harringtons recognized for their contributions of art in Pleasanton

By JEB BING

Nancy and Gary Harrington have been named "Couple of the Year" in the Pleasanton Weekly's annual recognition of community leaders, and with good reason.

Retired educators with lifelong passions for the arts, the Harringtons are now in the forefront of advocates and contributors for public art in Pleasanton, where they've lived since 1972. They purchased and gave to the city the lifelike bronze sculpture of "Poppies," the tired-looking veteran who sits in front of the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. Most recently, they added Monet with brush in hand, another bronze statue facing an easel just outside the new Firehouse Arts Center.

As popular and realistic as "Poppies" is, it's the Harringtons' interest in contributing to the Arts Center that put them together with Andy Jorgensen, Pleasanton's Civic Arts manager, who has worked with them to identify projects that needed their help. When he suggested contributing a marquee in front of the Arts Center, they said why not two — one in front and another facing Lions Wayside Park in the back. The marquees, designed by British artist Martin Donlan, provide unique and colorful identities to the Arts Center, which opened in September.

Still to come is a glass bell that is being

designed and created by artist Jack Storms, which will be placed in the main lobby of the center. Also, in tribute to their philanthropy, the Harrington Art Gallery off the center's main lobby was named for them.

The Harringtons are neither wealthy nor artists although their years as teachers, school administrators and successful investors has given each of them sustainable incomes in retirement that allow the couple to pursue their interest in art — and in Pleasanton.

"We love this city," Nancy Harrington said. "It's a beautiful place with a gorgeous downtown, and we want to do our part in seeing it thrive."

From Poppies to Monet to the Firehouse Arts Center, the Harringtons just announced plans for H.A.P.P.Y. (for Harrington Art Partnership Piece for You), a public art partnership that's intended to bring more contributions and more public art. The Harringtons will match every donation of at least \$3,500 up to \$40,000 a year with donors given the chance to select art from a brochure they are preparing.

Although they'll support public art throughout the city, their focus now is on the downtown area where it will attract visitors from throughout the Bay Area and beyond. They envision an "Art Walk" that would extend from the Firehouse Arts Center to the Pleasanton Senior Center, linking to public art already there and including art in Centennial Park near the downtown.

Several new art pieces are already planned: "Just for Fun" and "Two Dancers," which will be completed and installed at the Arts Center in March. Measuring 9 feet in height, the dancers are made of stainless steel and Cortens metal, which has a rust-like appearance similar to the deer art pieces at the corner of First Street and Bernal Avenue.

"We found the 'Two Dancers' at the Big Sur and knew it was the Arts Center," Gary Harrington represents performers on the Firehouse performance of unique art work that's been done before.

The Harringtons travel to three different sculpture shows before.

"Artists there sculpted out of cobalt, a hard metal that is mined there," said. "It's fascinating to see in these local art centers worldwide attention. You see that work in Pleasanton."

Another favorite stop is located in Arizona's Republic north of Flagstaff. There are about three times as many galleries in Sedona.

Although not an artist, said he has "vision skills" from his mathematical training. He sees how "something new" is used in designing his explaining in detailed plant and how to place it. "It says always baffles me that what he wants is possible."

The Harringtons, since their attention on public art, those skills in identifying what would work well here.

Recently, they went to the "Festival of the Arts" and found three sculptures. They found the artist, who has his studio, where they saw a piece.

"We knew that if we had (Jorgensen) approval for artwork for the Firehouse Arts Center sculpture to others who were talking about buying it," Nancy said. "So we bundled it up, put it in our vehicle, and drove it to Nancy and Gary's office, where it was placed."



JEB BING

Bronze sculpture of Claude Monet, positioned just outside the Firehouse Arts Center, is a gift of Nancy and Gary Harrington, chosen because it shows Monet at work. Students see Monet's work but the Harringtons bought this piece so that students could see the artist himself.

"Poppies," a bronze statue of a man with a beard and a hat, is a gift of Nancy and Gary Harrington, chosen because it shows Monet at work. Students see Monet's work but the Harringtons bought this piece so that students could see the artist himself.



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Year

Dancers' in a studio in was just the piece for y Harrington said. "It who will be appearing forming arts stage and also at the center."

travel extensively and to Zimbabwe to view res that they've seen

their work by hand, lustrous, silver-gray ere," Gary Harrington to watch them work ers that are attracting "We want to see some ton."

opping place is Sedona, ed Rock country just Harringtons take trips s a year, searching the na for art work.

artist, Gary Harrington ills" that make use of ning to look out and ight just fit." He has is home landscaping, l terms just what to ce plants, a vision he ndscapers who agree perfect for the site.

nce focusing their at- in Pleasanton, utilize fying art they think

to Laguna Beach for Masters," where they es on display. They invited them back to saw "a really fantastic

e waited to get Andy's for another piece of use that we'd lose this o were already think- Nancy Harrington said.

put it in the back of right back to Pleasan- where he agreed to add



JEB BING

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman congratulates Nancy and Gary Harrington after giving them the Mayor's Award in October.

it to the collection."

That guesswork — and the chance something they like can't be acquired on a timely basis — has now ended with the City Council's approval last week that in effect makes the Harringtons "resident experts" in handling public art here. With their brochure of available artwork to be published early next year, others who also want to contribute toward the public art program can see the artwork available. Because of the Harringtons travels, the brochure will be updated regularly. Also, those with art contributions in mind can suggest their "visions" to the Harringtons, who will look for that type of stationary art in their travels.

It's really only since their contribution of "Poppies" and involvement in the Firehouse Arts Center planning that the Harringtons have become well known in Pleasanton. Early on, they were teachers and school administrators.

Nancy Harrington grew up near Portland, the daughter of a Swedish immigrant father

and businessman who reluctantly agreed to pay for her college education but then expected her to find a job. She did, teaching first in public schools near Portland and for 37 years after that, retiring in 2003 as the principal of Durham Elementary School in Fremont.

Gary Harrington grew up in Los Angeles, earning a master's degree from UC Riverside and then joining Metropolitan Life as a manager. He met Nancy after being transferred to Portland, and the two moved to the Bay Area when he was transferred here. They first moved to San Leandro and then to Pleasanton.

"We came over here and saw the green hills and downtown and said this is where we want to settle, and we did," he said.

Quitting his job at Metropolitan, Gary Harrington taught in Livermore public schools for 11 years and then for 14 years at San Leandro High School before he retired.

World travelers from the start, both enjoyed art and spent what time they could visiting art galleries, even stopping to watch street artists at their easels. When they found the bronze sculpture of Claude Monet at work, they jumped at the chance to buy it, bringing it home to Pleasanton almost three years before the Firehouse Arts Center was built.

"We knew this was something special that children would enjoy, too," Gary Harrington said. "Many people have admired Monet's work, but here was a chance to see a sculpture of him at his easel. Now that we've found a place for him outside the Firehouse Arts Center, the whole community can see this great artist at work."

"These are the kinds of public art we hope to continue offering in Pleasanton both through our own contributions and now through H.A.P.P.Y., which has the city's endorsement."

As Pleasanton Weekly's "Couple of the Year" for 2010, the Harringtons join others who have shared this recognition. They include: Bob Athenour as Man of the Year in 2001; Cindy McGovern, 2002; Charlotte Severin, 2003; Deborah Acosta McKeenan, 2004; Juanita Haugen, 2005; Tim Neal, 2006; Jill Buck, 2007; Bob Moorefield, 2008, and Chris Miller, 2009. ■



JEB BING

ue of an old soldier with e of the Veterans Memo- eet, was one of the first y and Gary Harrington.



NANCY AND GARY HARRINGTON

"Two Dancers," now being completed, is a donation by the Bielke-Loll family through the Nancy and Gary Harrington. H.A.P.P.Y. public works program.

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ALL STAR SHOW Comedians from top local headliners to up-and-coming stars and some with national TV credits will appear from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18, at Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Tickets \$10 plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjocomedy.com.

THE 4TH ANNUAL FESTIVUS JUBILEE Celebrate "Festivus" as declared by Frank Costanza from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 23, at Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Livermore. The "Festivus Jubilee" will feature four or five of the best comedians in the bay area for a packed 90-minute show. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjocomedy.com.

Exhibits

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



SUE EVANS

Calendar of the Tri-Valley: Photographer Sue Evans has published a desktop 2011 calendar with scenes highlighting the natural beauty of the Tri-Valley, such as the wine country during September. The calendar, which is in a clear acrylic case that opens and serves as the stand, sells for \$9.75 with part of the proceeds going toward Open Heart Kitchen. It is available at the Berry Patch in downtown Pleasanton.

music brings the power and mystery of the season and includes rich interpretations of traditional holiday music as well as the world premiere of Jan Sandstrom's "And the Word Became Flesh." The performance is from 7:30-10 p.m. Dec. 23 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets range \$12 to \$62. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

Spiritual

THE MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET The children of Centerpointe Church will present their Christmas musical twice during the holiday season. Performances start at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, and Friday, Dec. 24, at Centerpointe Worship Center, 3410 Cornerstone Ct. The musical asks the question, "What would happen if you received a wrapped present with no gift inside?" saying that is equivalent to celebrating the Christmas season without Jesus. Call 846-4436 or visit www.centerpointechurch.info.

On Stage

'PRINCESS AND THE PEA' Conniving henchman, Ratatouille, and Princess Victoria, dressed as a boy, have their own plans to take the throne from the vain, deceptive Queen Grossioso in "Princess and the Pea." See it at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 10-11 and 17-18; and at 2 p.m., Dec 12, 18-19, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. A special Firehouse Kids performance will be held at 11 a.m., Dec. 11. Tickets are \$10-\$18 for adults and \$6-12 for seniors and children. Purchase online at www.firehouse-arts.org or call 931-4848.

Sports

AMADOR VALLEY GIRLS BASKETBALL 2ND ANNUAL ALUMNI GAME Support the Amador Valley Girls Basketball Program and watch some of the best players Amador has seen at the second annual Alumni Game, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 22, at 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Cost \$4.

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Lights, camera, Christmas

*Pleasanton is aglow
with holiday happiness*

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI
PHOTOS BY CAMMIE CLARK

Decking the halls is alive and well in Pleasanton. Even the grumpiest Scrooge must smile driving through town these days — from the charming downtown fare to the neighborhoods, not to mention the mall with its Santa centerpiece.

Bob's World has been presented by "Santa Bob" Stanley at his home at 2612 Calle Reynoso for more than 20 years. He works for five weeks of the year installing old favorites and new inspirations to offer a display that is complete with music.

Stanley says he keeps going because of the feedback he receives from charmed visitors.

"They say, 'I never thought you could outdo last year, but you did!'" Stanley said one holiday season. "It just keeps growing. Each year I try to make it different. It just keeps growing."

Stanley credits the website LightsoftheValley.com for much of the increased traffic. Alex Dourov, a Livermore resident, started the website in 1999 as a go-to guide of the best decorated homes in the Tri-Valley. It now includes much of the Bay Area and Northern California but its entries for Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley remain a valuable resource.

Dourov spends a lot of time on the website — along with volunteer elves — and his motivation echoes that of Santa Bob.

"It's about making people smile," Dourov said. "Not only the children, but also the adults."

Malcolm and Sandee McNeil have been decorating their home at 1279 Hearst Drive for more than 30 years, both inside and out. Each year they hold a party for the neighbors so everyone can enjoy their inside decorations, which include a display of festive nutcrackers, Christmas trees and Santas.

Also attracting throngs this year is the Widmer home at 3671 Chelsea Court. Susan Widmer says her family has been putting together the display for more than 30 years and the homemade displays now cover their entire 1-acre lot.

"It's a way for our family to give back to other families and make their holiday memorable," Widmer said. ■

Light up your life

Following are addresses of special holiday displays in Pleasanton. They will also be at www.Pleasanton-Weekly.com, and we welcome your additions to the list online.

- 📍 1279 Hearst Drive
- 📍 2283 Sea Eagle Court
- 📍 2612 Calle Reynoso
- 📍 2773 Corte San Blas
- 📍 2793 Calle Alegre
- 📍 3671 Chelsea Court
- 📍 3679 Hawaii Court S
- 📍 4148 Walnut Drive
- 📍 5926 Via Del Cielo
- 📍 6855 Singletree Court
- 📍 802 Gray Fox Circle



For more than 20 years "Santa Bob" Stanley has transformed all of the land around his house on Calle Reynoso into "Bob's World," a fantasy wonderland to make the holidays special for families. This year (top) his garage features trains and whimsical characters, while his back yard is the North Pole. On Hearst Drive, Malcolm and Sandee McNeil decorate inside and out, with their nutcracker collection nestled next to the curving staircase and a candy cane theme this year in the front yard.

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Realtors strive to streamline short sales process

Affordable modification program helps homeowners avoid foreclosure

By JEB BING

A new Home Affordable Foreclosure Alternatives Program (HAFA) may help homeowners who are unable to keep their home avoid foreclosure by streamlining the short sales process and providing incentives to lenders that complete short sales.

The program was outlined at a recent National Association of Realtors conference where the NAR reported that 12% of all recent home buyers purchased their home through a short sale.

"Realtors from across the country are telling us that the current short sales process is time-consuming and cumbersome, discouraging buyers who would otherwise want to purchase a home in a short sale," said NAR President Vicki Cox Golder, owner of Vicki L. Cox & Associates in Tucson, Ariz. "As the leading advocate for home ownership and housing issues, NAR has been urging lenders and service providers to approve reasonable short sale offers that allow home owners to avoid foreclosure when a family is absolutely unable keep their home."

HAFA includes uniform procedures, standards forms and deadlines, but its success depends on effective service provider implementation and the cooperation of investors and subordinate lien holders, Golder said. Lenders have been criticized for cumbersome and confusing short sale processes.

JK Huey, senior vice president, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage REO and Short Sale, addressed some primary concerns and myths surrounding these transactions.

"There are a number of decision-makers involved in a short sale, and the more parties involved, the more complex the process becomes," said Huey. "It's important to keep in mind that this is not a typical buy-sell transaction. Our Realtor partners' expertise helps us deliver timely solutions to assist customers, minimize losses to investors, and help to rebuild and stabilize our communities."

To address concerns related to the short sales process, Wells Fargo has increased staff resources by 57% over the past 12 months, implemented proactive marketing efforts to provide information and education on short sale workout alternatives to its customers, and worked with legislators and government agencies to help streamline processes.

Laurie Maggiano, director of policy for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Homeownership Preservation, explained how homeowners in need benefit from HAFA. HAFA provides \$3,000 relocation assistance to homeowners after a successful closing and requires that the homeowner be fully released from future liability for the primary mortgage and also any subordinate liens.

"HAFA offers additional foreclosure avoidance options when other home retention options have been exhausted," said Maggiano. "Being proactive can only positively impact the home owner's ability to buy a home in the future. For example, Fannie Mae will allow a home owner to be considered for a home loan within two years of a short sale, whereas a homeowner who goes through a foreclosure will need to wait seven." ■

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: \$300,000

Highest sale reported: \$970,000
Average sales reported: \$559,540

Livermore

Total sales reported: 35
Lowest sale reported: \$103,000

Highest sale reported: \$1,100,000

Average sales reported: \$386,414

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$150,000

Highest sale reported: \$3,900,000

Average sales reported: \$808,500

Source: California REsource

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Livermore

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Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

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4386 Krause Street **\$588,000**
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4 BEDROOMS

3524 Milleford **\$1,295,000**
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WELL IS IN, perked for septic, paved driveway to parcel, NOT raw land,many imprvemnts are in! 925.580.9050

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Andrea Rozran

2440 CALDERON CT – LIVERMORE – \$997,000
Beautiful custom gated home with extensive views on a large lot at top of court. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths in home plus 1/2 bath in finished garage. Includes large room w/ views above garage. Tall ceiling in garage can accommodate RV & there is an additional concrete pad behind garage for RV or boat.



Claudia Colwell

7370 HILLSDALE DR – PLEASANTON – \$745,000
Recently updated single story in great neighborhood. Features open floorplan, kitchen with granite counters, 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.



Chris Kamali & Gina Piper

6887 HERRIN CT – PLEASANTON – \$502,900
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 a court location! It's a great time to buy!



Rosie Yandell

458 VINEYARD PL – PLEASANTON – \$499,000
Terrific single story with neutral decor, beautifully updated kitchen and baths and a wonderful backyard. Formal living room and separate family room make this a great floorplan. This is not a short sale or REO. Quick close possible.



Gina Piper

5748 BELLEZA DR – PLEASANTON – \$399,950
Beautifully upgraded unit with remodeled gourmet kitchen w/ granite & SS appliances, new UV coated dual pane windows, custom remote controlled blinds. Spacious living room with gas log fireplace and ceiling fan. Upgraded hall bath. Great location, light and bright end unit.



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.



Sandy Parkins

3145 ZUNI WAY – PLEASANTON – \$234,900
Nicely updated townhome in Las Positas Gardens near downtown Pleasanton. Perfect for first time buyer or downsizing. Updated kitchen with granite counters & tile floors. All kitchen appliances & washer & dryer stay. Dual pane windows. Attached 2 car carport. A must see!



The Mia Teetsel Team

3290 MAGUIRE WAY #108 – DUBLIN – \$225,000
Meticulously kept single story beauty in The Terraces at Dublin Ranch. Nicely upgraded and beautifully decorated. Great location, faces park, very quiet. Secure building with gated entrance, large pool, clubhouse, and gym.



Dublin 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in family oriented neighborhood. The home has a bright bonus room and there is a breakfast bar in the kitchen. Large private backyard with rose bushes and fruit trees, and nearby are lighted tennis courts and a park for those who love the outdoors! **\$399,000**



Dublin Gorgeous, highly upgraded 2 BR/2 BA condo at The Terraces. This beautifully maintained home boasts a granite kitchen with stainless appliances and Berber carpet. It is a ground floor unit and situated across from the swimming pool. Resort style living with clubhouse for entertaining. Convenient to shopping, restaurants and BART! **\$265,000**



Fremont Cute 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath townhouse located in the heart of Fremont. The property is beautifully updated with laminate and hardwood flooring, upgraded bathrooms and stainless steel appliances in the kitchen. Close to great schools, shopping and BART. Great investment opportunity! **\$170,000**



Livermore This charming ranch style home is nestled in the beautiful wine country of Livermore. It has 4 BR/2 BA and 2,024 sq. ft. of living space. The kitchen and baths have many recent upgrades, and the home also has a newer roof, dual pane windows and solar in-ground pool! **\$535,000**



Pleasanton Relax and take a stroll to downtown Pleasanton from this lovely 3 BR/2 BA home. Built in 1999, the home offers an open floor plan, spacious living/dining rooms, and a cozy family room. There is a large master bedroom w/ an updated master bath. The kitchen has also been updated with stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and tile flooring! **\$587,888**



Livermore Did someone say comfy? This 3 BR/2 BA home is gracious and fully appointed with everything a family needs for comfortable living. Including an open floor plan with a kitchen/family room combo. There is a lovely backyard with fruit trees and large side yard! **\$410,000**



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<p>3422 TORLANO PLACE OPEN SUN 1-4 \$1,749,950 RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON</p> <p>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</p>	<p>1225 LOZANO COURT ITALIAN VILLA \$4,500,000 RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON</p> <p>6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. Uwe Maercz 925.360.8758</p>	<p>11 LOWER GOLF ROAD OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,385,000 CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON</p> <p>3 Bd 3 Ba • 2,392+/- sq.ft., 0.33+/- Acres On the 8th fairway of the Castlwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.980.8844</p>	<p>3524 MILLEFORD OPEN SUN 1-4 \$1,295,000 LAGUNA OAKS, PLEASANTON</p> <p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,182+/- sq.ft., 0.34+/- Acres Laguna Oaks single story! New paint outside, beautiful floorplan, ktchn re-done, high ceilings, new frnt Indscpng, perfect for entertaining! M. Lucin & J. Bundy 925.487.5157</p>	<p>6645 AMBER LANE Pool! \$1,398,000 CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON</p> <p>5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved 1/2 acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>
<p>2660 CAMINO SEGURA 5 BEDROOM \$699,000 PLEASANTON</p> <p>3 Bd 3 Ba • 2,801+/- sq.ft., 0.16+/- Acres Originally designed as 5-bedroom home. Formal dining can be converted to office or extra bedroom. Full bath on first floor. Great opportunity. Albert Bernardo 925.997.0123</p>	<p>9663 CROSBY DRIVE GORGEOUS \$1,898,000 THE PRESERVE, PLEASANTON</p> <p>5 Bd 4(2) Ba • 5,200+/- sq.ft., 0.62+/- Acres This stunningly beautiful home is located in the desirable West side. The finest materials & workmanship thruout, views of the hills & vistas. Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585</p>	<p>5211 CAPARELLI CT BANK OWNED \$629,900 AVILA, PLEASANTON</p> <p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,929+/- sq.ft., 0.09+/- Acres Spacious floor plan w/natural lighting, Gourmet kitchen w/Tile Counter Tops, private backyard patio. Close to great schools, shopping and freeways. Joe Ledesma 925.251.2599</p>	<p>3905 FAIRLANDS DR BANK OWNED \$629,900 PLEASANTON</p> <p>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</p>	<p>2818 GARDEN CREEK BANK OWNED \$622,800 STONERIDGE PL, PLEASANTON</p> <p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,292+/- sq.ft., 0.09+/- Acres Stoneridge Place - Brand NEW appliances in kitchen. Open floor plan w/ formal living, dining & family rooms. Plenty of natural sunlight. Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653</p>
<p>7123 CEDAR MOUNTAIN TUSCAN ESTATE CALL FOR PRICE LIVERMORE</p> <p>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</p>	<p>636 SYCAMORE COURT RV ACCESS \$650,000 AMBER RIDGE, LIVERMORE</p> <p>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,553+/- sq.ft., 0.21+/- Acres Popular Sagewood Flr Plan. Extremely well kept home, hrdwood flrs, granite counters, beautiful landscaping, huge sideyard access & much more! Corey Green 925.899.6011</p>	<p>000 HANSEN RD LAND ONLY \$790,000 WINE COUNTRY, LIVERMORE</p> <p>Lot Acres Apx: 3.23 Wine country unique opportunity for retail. Commercial site designated as "Wine Country Retail" in the South Livermore Valley Specific Plan. Tom Bramell 925.583.2180</p>	<p>553 HELIGAN LANE NEW PRICE! \$374,000 LIVERMORE</p> <p>2 Bd 2 Ba • 1,718+/- sq.ft. Upgraded cabinets, granite countertops. Huge master with walk in closet. Living room with gas fireplace. Great location! Attached 2 car garage. Bill and Vickie Keller 925.200.6764</p>	<p>979 HOLLICE LANE CORPORATE OWNED \$439,900 LIVERMORE</p> <p>3 Bd 2.5 Ba • 1,723+/- sq.ft., 0.13+/- Acres Open eat in kitchen. Master w/dual sinks & large soaking tub. Stunning hardwood flring, vaulted ceilings & wood burning fp. Lovely covered patio. Stephanie Fordham 925.788.4443</p>
<p>5146 S FORESTDALE CIR NO REAR NEIGHBORS \$789,900 DUBLIN</p> <p>5 Bd 3 Ba • 2,661+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres Upgrades throughout, 5th room currently used as office, plus it has an open loft/bonus room, over \$120k in upgrades, mountain views. Lisa Doyle 925.855.4000</p>	<p>6965 PENN DRIVE SINGLE STORY \$499,000 DUBLIN</p> <p>4 Bd 2 Ba • 1,638+/- sq.ft., 0.12+/- Acres Charming, remodeled, open floor plan. Updated Kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances & slate floors. Private rear yard w/ patio area some grass for play. Dave Bauer 925.855.4040</p>	<p>42036 MEREDITH DR ORIGINAL OWNER \$759,000 MISSION SAN JOSE, FREMONT</p> <p>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,384+/- sq.ft., 0.18+/- Acres Comfortable and charming! Kitchen & flooring updated, baths updated, newer expanded driveway, new back yard landscaping, views! Diane Sass 925.583.2168</p>	<p>303 MIRAMONTE LN NEW PRICE! \$629,000 AMBER RIDGE, LIVERMORE</p> <p>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</p>	<p>9877 FOOTHILL ROAD 16+/- ACRES \$1,890,000 SUNOL</p> <p>4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 16+/- Acres Exceptional Pleasanton Ridge Access. Newly Built "2009" Custom Home. Pleasanton Ridge Water. Panoramic Views. Single Story Dream Home. Kristy and Company 925.251.2536</p>

Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Montclair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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26 Properties SOLD in 2010.

Represented the Seller:

- 5772 Belleza Drive, Pleasanton
- 3051 Risdon Drive, Union City
- 1328 Oak Vista Way, Pleasanton
- 5433 Old School Road, Pleasanton
- 7313 Bower Lane, Dublin
- 1008 Sycamore Creek Way, Pleasanton
- 600 E. Weddell Drive, Sunnyvale
- 1510 Poppybank Court, Pleasanton
- 3323 Prairie Drive, Pleasanton
- 5775 Athenour Court, Pleasanton
- 7230 Foothill Road, Pleasanton
- 5555 Southbrook Drive, Clayton

Represented the Buyer:

- 22 Rittenhouse Avenue, Atherton
- 309 Old Oak Road, Livermore
- 509 Summer Valley Court, San Ramon
- 1328 Oak Vista Way, Pleasanton
- 5433 Old School Road, Pleasanton
- 6975 Mansfield Avenue, Dublin
- 1008 Sycamore Creek Way, Pleasanton
- 1881 Santa Ana Court, Hollister
- 1908 W. Lagoon Road, Pleasanton
- 4226 Echo Court, Pleasanton
- 5724 Highbluff Terrace, Pleasanton
- 4336 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton
- 890 Ben Ingram, Tracy
- 212 Haven Court, Vallejo



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



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GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES LOT

COMING SOON



8019 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY, PLEASANTON

Beautiful large premium 1.08 acre lot in desirable Golden Eagle Estates gated community. Panoramic views! Build your own dream home or plans are approved for a 6300 sq ft. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms home with 4 car garage. Plans available for custom rock sculpted pool with waterslide and waterfall, pool cabana and custom outdoor kitchen with pizza oven, outdoor shower. **OFFERED AT \$1,000,000**

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**

PLEASANTON SEMI-CUSTOM

PENDING



4150 CREEKWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON

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

NEW CUSTOM SINGLE LEVEL

SOLD



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, 4762 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. **SOLD FOR \$1,625,000**

LOS OLIVOS

SOLD



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. **SOLD FOR \$950,000**

VINSANTO

SOLD



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 3,553. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertop & backsplash, two fireplaces, plantation shutters throughout, three car garage. Private gate & rear grounds include separate guest house/casita, expansive exposed aggregate patio, lawn area, fruit trees and vineyards. No backyard neighbors. Close to wineries & golf courses. **SOLD FOR \$809,000**

ORIGINAL COUNTRY FAIR

SOLD



2468 VIA DE LOS MILAGROS, PLEASANTON

Desirable "Original Country Fair". Excellent location. Convenient to everything. Walk to all levels of schools & parks. Customized highly upgraded home with five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, bonus/game room, 3,787 square feet. Three car garage, remodeled kitchen with granite and custom backsplash, custom cabinets & built-ins, plantation shutters throughout, newer high quality roof, two wood burning fireplaces. Very private beautiful grounds include in-ground black bottom solar heated pool & spa, exposed aggregate patio with flagstone, beautiful landscaping on .27 acre lot. **SOLD FOR \$1,318,500**

COUNTRY FAIR

SOLD



2649 CALLE ALEGRE, PLEASANTON

Original Ponderosa's Country Fair. Location, location, location. Convenient to everything. Great schools. Don't miss this Pleasanton home in sought after Original Country Fair. Four bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2,651 square feet. Two wood burning fireplaces. Beautiful private rear grounds include in-ground pebble tech pool, built-in outdoor kitchen/BBQ, expansive stone patio, sauna, basketball/sports court and waterfall on .26 acre lot. **SOLD FOR \$970,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street

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Holidays*

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