

# Pleasanton Weekly

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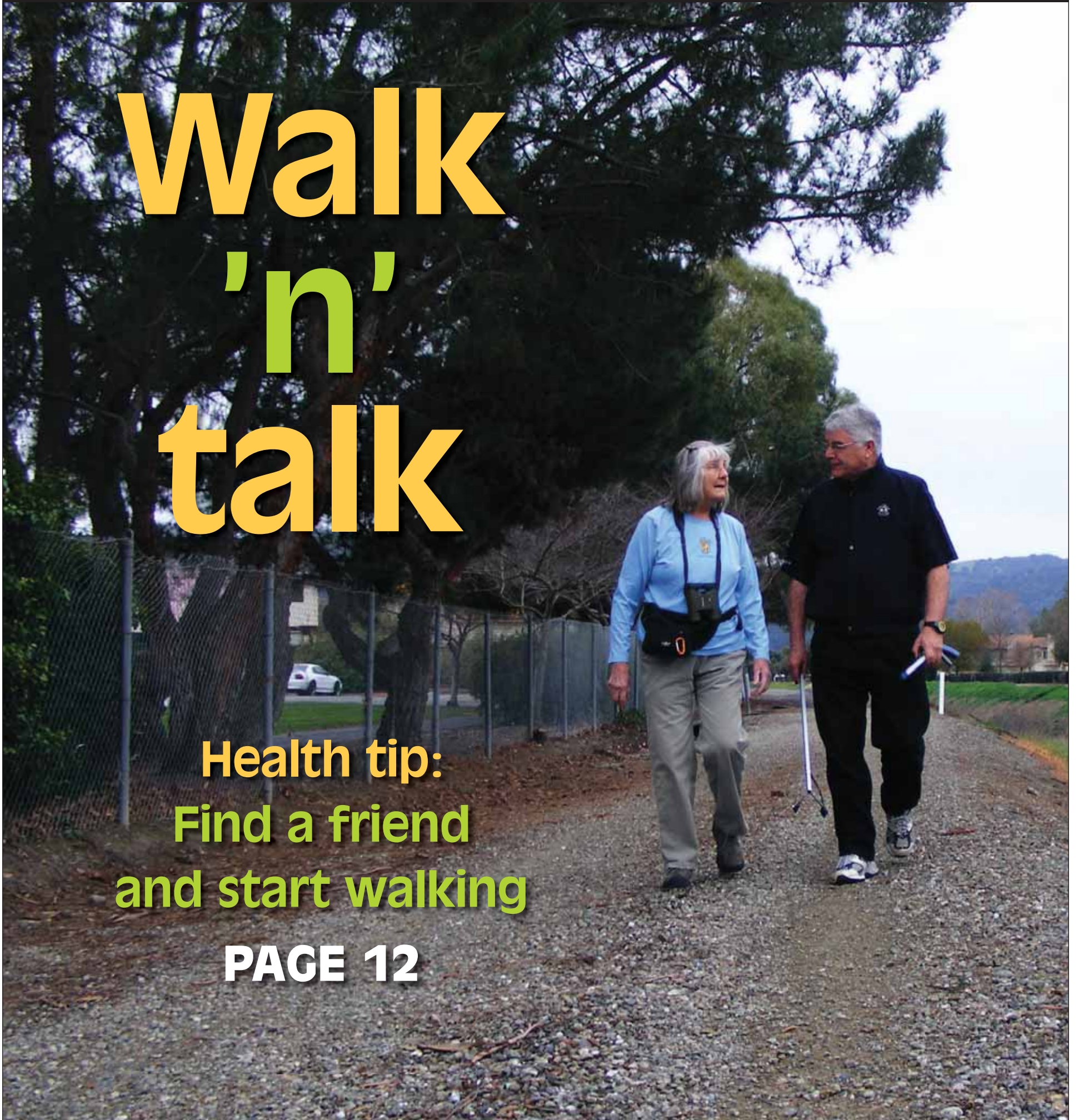
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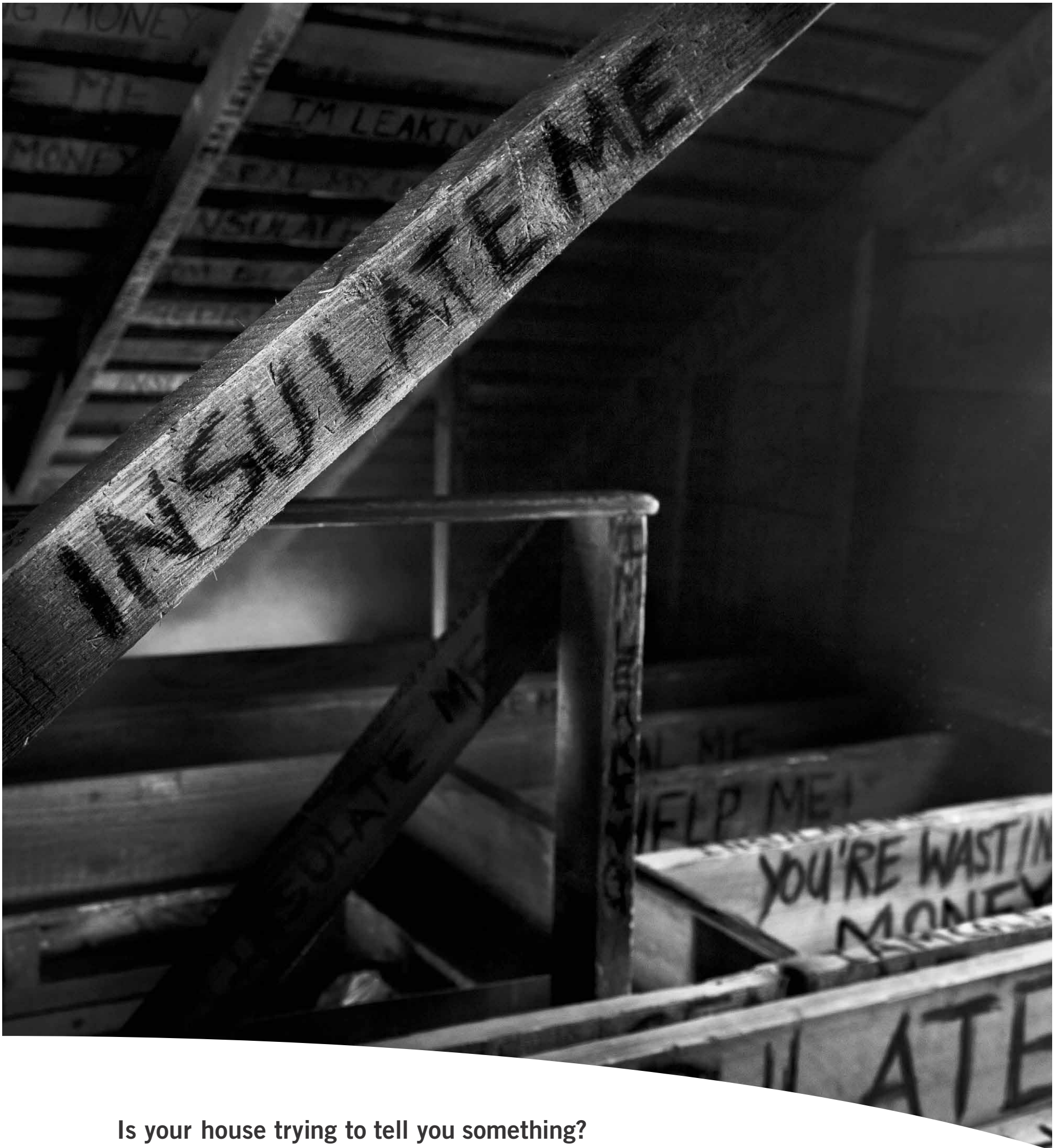
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## Walk 'n' talk

**Health tip:**  
**Find a friend  
and start walking**

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## Is your house trying to tell you something?

Most homes are haunted by poor insulation. But don't fear: Lowe's has products and services that can stop your home from leaking energy and money. Rebates and incentives are also available through **Energy Upgrade California**.

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## When Don Faught speaks, other Realtors listen

When Don Faught speaks, others listen, or at least other Realtors did last week when Faught talked about the changing work environment in real estate to a large audience at the Valley Real Estate Network meeting at Tommy T's. Faught, vice president of Alain Pinel Realtors and a mortgage broker, has been in the business for 24 years, the last eight here in Pleasanton. With new regulations, a tight mortgage money market and banked-owned (REO) and short sales now accounting for 40% of all home sales, the good old days of handshake deals and quick transactions by home buyers and sellers are over.



Don Faught

Because the real estate market is becoming increasingly complicated, Faught says Realtors are the best "go-to" people that home buyers and sellers should deal with. Not only do Realtors have the professional experience and ongoing and regularly updated training to steer transactions through the multitude of hurdles now in place, they're also the ones who can help those who might be in danger of losing their homes. Foreclosure lists are still growing as low-interest mortgages convert to higher rates that some homeowners can't afford. Foreclosures should be avoided at all costs, Faught says, and Realtors are in the best position to counsel those at risk on how best to handle their dilemma. After all, Realtors have a vested interest in maintaining home values in the communities they serve and in doing what they can to keep homeowners in their homes, even if it means no commission for their service. That can come later when the homeowner's back on his feet financially and decides to trade up to a more expensive property.

Short sales aren't much better and, as Faught points out, aren't "short." In fact, they can take months, even as long as a year as the owner pays what he can while a willing buyer waits out the process. With so many short sales in progress and many financial institutions unable to keep pace, the risk to the seller who thinks he

has a buyer is that the sale is scuttled when the buyer finds a better deal and leaves the table. A Realtor with experience in handling short sales can help press the bank for a speedier outcome, saving the seller from losing the property altogether as well as his credit rating.

Faught is treasurer of the prestigious California Association of Realtors and is a candidate for president-elect in that organization's elections in May. If he wins, and so far he has no opposition, he'll be CAR's president in 2013. As an officer, he makes frequent trips to Washington, D.C., to help the CAR and those at the National Association of Realtors (NAR) lobby for (or against) legislation that impacts home sales. Recently, he helped diffuse proposed federal legislation that would have required costly energy-saving, environmentally-friendly retrofits of homes at the point of sale and at considerable added costs to the sellers. In California, he's worked to curtail legislation proposed by the Gov. Jerry Brown administration that would have added \$12.5 million in "fees," including special fees on services such as termite and roof inspections, mortgage loan processing and more. So confident was the administration of imposing this fee structure before realizing a two-thirds majority vote in the Legislature wasn't there that the Statehouse is now scrambling on where else to find the \$12.5 million it has already programmed into its new budget proposal.

Another concern of Faught's is a plan being advanced by the Obama Administration to take away federal interest loan tax deductions. The cap for these deductions has been set at the \$2 million mark for years. Obama wants to lower that threshold to \$500,000 and for the taxpayer's primary home only. That lower cap, of course, would affect most homeowners in Pleasanton and in much of California and a few other states which have high housing costs. So far, Faught believes that proposal is on the back burner but it's there for all of us to watch. He also told Realtors that the Feds want to lower to \$625,000 from the current \$729,000 the amount of mortgages that qualify as conforming loans. Above that, loans would be considered "jumbo," subject to much higher interest rates.

With Faught working the halls of Congress and the Capitol in Sacramento, it's no wonder his remarks drew loud applause from other Realtors who, along with their clients, stand to benefit. ■

## About the Cover

Hike leader Dolores Bengtson and W. Ron Sutton, president of ACCUSPLIT, makers of pedometers and stopwatches, walk on the Arroyo Mocho Trail in Pleasanton. They are members of the Pleasanton chapter of World Walk to Wellness, which hosts walks and hikes each Saturday morning. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XII, Number 7

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Will you support a parcel tax to help the schools this time around?



**Kristy Palfalvi**

*Nursing student*

I would because the money would directly benefit our children. I am not a fan of more taxes, but in this time of crisis we need to make sure our children are taken care of while we sort out this mess. We moved to Pleasanton for the family-friendly environment and all the resources the schools provided. We have been very pleased so far.

**Judy Malmrose**

*Stay-at-home mom*

I'm not going to say yes or no, but my problem with the parcel tax is that there was a proposition on the ballot to develop land that would've given the schools a lot of money. It was voted down, but now many of the people who voted against it are in favor of a parcel tax. I wish that voters had recognized the opportunity we had during the last election.



**Harry Sheppard**

*Retired Superior Court judge*

Yes. Education is number one, and it increases property values. I don't have young children, but my property value will go up, so I do have a direct interest. I went to a lot of schools — general education, college and law school — and every one of them helped me. It's a benefit to not only the individual receiving a good education, but to the entire community.



**Marcia Powers**

*Long-distance hiker*

I would absolutely support a parcel tax again. When I was in sixth grade, my teacher told me that education is the future of America and that we must always support our schools with dollars. I was indoctrinated at an early age. My sons went through Pleasanton schools, and I think it's time to pay it back.



**Jerry Brewer**

*Engineer*

My wife and I recently bought our first house, and we chose Pleasanton specifically for the wonderful schools. I will support a parcel tax because I want our future children to have a great education.



—Compiled by Kerry Nally

**Have a Streetwise question?** E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### No. 100,000 on Express Lane

Lab equipment technician Larry Uruquat of Pleasanton took the 100,000th trip on the new I-680 Express Lane last month. Uruquat, a technician for Beckman Coulter, says he uses the lane two days a week en route to service calls in the Palo Alto area.

The southbound Express Lane opened Sept. 20 over the Sunol Grade from Pleasanton to Milpitas and its weekly average usage has increased since then by more than 20%. The lane reached a high of 2,024 users on Jan. 20.

The I-680 Express Lane operates Mondays to Fridays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. The lane is "open to all" at night and on weekends. California Highway Patrol officers provide enforcement using visual and electronic means via FasTrak tags.

### Laugh for a good cause

The third annual PAR 4 Kids' Sake Comedy Night will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 3, at Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse in Pleasanton, which again will give 100% of tickets sales to the cause. Pleasanton resident Regina Stoops will be the opening act, using her personal knowledge of raising an autistic child to keep the audience entertained.

Tickets are \$20 each; two for \$35; or a table of 10 for \$150. Call 461-0501 or go to [www.par4kidssake.org](http://www.par4kidssake.org).

PAR 4 Kids' Sake is dedicated to raising funds for research to help special needs kids, and to help them attend camp at the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo in Livermore. It also supports the School of Imagination in Dublin, and the SOI/Happy Talkers community outreach program. So far PAR 4 Kids' Sake has donated nearly \$1 million to these causes.

### Swimming, diving at Las Positas

Beginning this spring semester, Las Positas College will offer Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving intercollegiate teams.

"There is a lot of excitement about the season," said Head Coach Jason Craighead. "We are one of the few community colleges with new facilities."

The new Aquatic Center, which also is used by community organizations, features a pool house, 13-lane competition pool, and six-lane instructional pool.

"Three to five years from now, we will have an extremely competitive swim and dive program that will be in the top five or 10 in the state, Craighead added.

## Pleasanton school board approves more cuts

### Reading, remedial classes, teacher training on the chopping block

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school board asked staff, at its last meeting, to come up with other cuts as a way of saving reading programs and specialists, but on a split vote Tuesday, the board opted to cut reading along with the new cuts that were recommended.

That didn't sit well with the two dissenting voters, board Chairwoman Valerie Arkin and Clerk Jamie Hintzke.

"This is a social justice issue that we are cutting core education," Hintzke said. "It is a child's right to learn to read."

The new cuts total more than \$3.5 million, up from the original \$3.1 million originally suggested. Those additional cuts include a \$50,000 reduction to summer school remedial programs for grades 1-5; \$152,000 from teacher training and retention programs; and a \$100,000 decrease to adult education, for a total of \$302,000.

New cuts also include eliminating a health services liaison position, saving \$70,000, and

holding off on needed work on permanent portable trailers at the Kids Club before- and after-school program sites for an additional \$40,000.

In voting for the additional cuts, the three board members who carried the motion promised to do all they can to restore them in the future.

"I think we have an obligation to work our tails off not to let these cuts happen," said Chris Grant, who voted for the new reductions along with Joan Laursen and Jeff Bowser.

Other cost-cutting measures approved Tuesday include increasing class sizes, cutting specialists and support staff, and reducing the number of school counselors. The plan also includes cutting the work year for management and reducing funding for the Barton Reading Program. The district is also working to get \$150,000 in one-time funds from the Regional Occupation Program.

Because staff would be cut, the board approval was needed in time to prepare for layoff notices that must be sent out by mid-March, and the district's human resources department is putting together a list of names to get pink slips.

"Not a thing on this (list) is one we want to cut," Laursen said. "It is frankly terrifying to families who realize they may not have a job."

The approval for the cuts came despite an appeal from Christina Clark, a reading specialist at Valley View Elementary.

"Reading intervention does work. It does make a difference," Clark told the board, pointing out that 66% of students in intervention catch up with their peers, compared to just one student — 4% — who caught up without intervention.

"We need your leadership again to maintain reading programs," she said.

Former school board candidate Sandy Piderit agreed, saying cutting reading could impact every area of a student's schooling.

"If they aren't able to read fluently, they're not going to be able to take advantage of all the other opportunities," she said.

Carl Palowitch said all the cuts could have been avoided if the district had begun negotiations with unions last year.

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 9



GLENN WOHLTMANN

### No one injured in Del Prado home fire

A fire at a home in the Del Prado neighborhood Wednesday morning resulted in \$250,000 in damages.

"Forty percent received either smoke or direct fire damage," said Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Rodondi of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

The call to 7004 Corte Nina came in at

10:22 a.m., according to Rodondi.

"The first company arrived and found heavy smoke in the building," he said.

Most of the damage was contained to the attic and bedroom areas of the home.

Rodondi said 19 firefighters responded to the scene, and it took about 30 minutes to bring the fire under control. No one was injured. ■

## Foothill grad suffers severe accident when snowboarding

### Friends rally as Eric Cavalli remains in intensive care in Reno

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

A snowboard jump at Northstar-at-Tahoe on Feb. 13 landed Foothill High grad Eric Cavalli, 18, in Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, undergoing emergency surgery to repair a torn aorta.

"It hadn't snowed up here for about three weeks so it was icy," said Seth Benson, one of Cavalli's best friends in high school, who attends University of Nevada in Reno. "His first run of the day he was doing some jumps. There was way too much speed. He hit extremely hard on the ice."

Jordan Little, a junior at Amador Valley High, was one of the three teens who accompanied Cavalli on the snowboarding trip. He and Chris Hewitt of Pleasanton picked up Cavalli and Ben Holmquist at UC Davis, where they are freshmen. Eric Cavalli



"We got there at 8-8:30

and were on the first run by 9:15," Little recalled.

The run had five jumps. They all completed four and Cavalli went ahead on the last jump, which was 40 feet long.

"Ben said, 'This one's kind of big. I don't know if we should do it,'" Little remembered. They snowboarded around it and saw that Cavalli had overshoot the landing ramp and was lying in the snow, injured. He'd landed on his side, headfirst. The end of his snowboard was snapped off.

"Chris is in EMT school. He sent me to get help and sent Ben up so no one else would do the jump," Little said.

Little notified someone around the bend who was grooming the snow, and by the time he returned to the spot, Cavalli was being loaded on a sled.

"Chris said eight ski patrol were there within a minute," Little said.

At the lodge, they'd already roped off a spot for the helicopter to land to transport Cavalli to the hospital.

See **ACCIDENT** on Page 6

# Defense begins in Castlewood killing case

Suspect begins casual affair days after double slaying

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

It may be the defense's turn to present evidence in the trial of Ernest Scherer III, but witnesses this week spent much more time answering questions from prosecutor Michael Nieto.

Scherer is on trial in the stabbing and bludgeoning deaths of his parents, Ernest Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth, at their Castlewood home in March 2008. The prosecution rested its case last week after Scherer's ex-wife spent nearly a week on the witness stand.

One of the witnesses called Tuesday testified she'd begun a casual relationship with Scherer just days after he allegedly killed his parents.

Arisa Kim of Los Angeles told the court they ran into each other at a trapeze class on March 10 and went out that night and the two following nights. Kim testified for the defense that Scherer, who attended trapeze class in a sleeveless shirt, had no visible cuts or bruises on his arms, and that while attending a comedy show, all the men were asked to "drop trou" and Scherer had no injuries to his legs.

Under cross examination by Nieto, Kim told of being taken to expensive restaurants frequented by Scherer and his wife, Robyn, who was staying with her parents at the time.

On the third date, after attending a hockey game, Kim told the jury she went to the Scherer's home in Brea, Calif., where Scherer showed her his son's bedroom.

She didn't know at the time that Scherer was married with a son and

testified that he explained the room by telling her he'd let an old friend move into part of the house after she had fallen on hard times.

Kim said she and Scherer spent part of the night together.

"We were sort of cuddling on the couch watching TV. There was some kissing," she testified.

She also told the court that he sounded "cool and calm" when he called her to tell her his parents' bodies had been found.

"He didn't sound happy (but) he sounded kind of calm," Kim testified. "I thought it was shock, but he sounded calm."

Kim testified she broke off the relationship after learning about the killings and giving Scherer several opportunities to tell her he was married.

Defense witness Kaveh Gooyandeh testified that a suspicious man came to his home in the Castlewood area on March 8, the day officials believe Ernest Scherer Jr. and his wife, Charlene Abendroth were killed. Gooyandeh told the court a small, thin, unkempt man came to his home that day, selling meat from a freezer mounted in the back of his truck. The man never identified himself, and Gooyandeh said he didn't take the direct way back to his truck and looked suspiciously at the home's open garage

door.

Gooyandeh's testimony may have been discounted by Nieto, who asked if the small man had particularly large feet, a reference to the bloody size 13 sneaker prints found at the scene.

Another witness, Hermann Welm of San Ramon, testified that he regularly played small-stakes poker with Ernest Scherer Jr. before he died, and that the elder Scherer often carried large sums of money and seemed to be proud of his son.

The prosecution played a small portion of a tape made when Welm showed up for a poker game at the Scherer home in Castlewood the day the bodies were discovered. On the tape, Welm said he was tearing up, and said the elder Scherer was "a controversial figure" and "He was hated by the school board."

Defense attorney Richard Foxall never followed up on those comments, and Welm went on to testify that he told investigators the Scherer home was hard to find and "it has to be somebody who knows where he lived."

Defense witness Stephen Shaffer testified that the elder Scherer foreclosed on his home in Santa Cruz after lending him more than \$100,000. But Shaffer — a former San Ramon resident — testified under cross examination that Ernest Scherer Jr. paid the stakes for him to enter a poker tournament.

Foxall has maintained that police focused their investigation on Scherer from the start and never looked at anyone else who could have had a motive for the killing. ■



Ernest Scherer III

## TAKE US ALONG



**Weekly joins the rally:** The Pleasanton PTA Council included the Weekly when rallying on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento last April with (front row, l-r) Jan Mitchell, Diane Van Wagner, Joan Laursen, Jaime Hintzke, Debbie Look; (back) Jodie Vashistha, Sandy Piderit and Kristen Dean.

## ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 5

In addition to the aorta tear and the broken collarbone, Cavalli suffered cracked vertebrae in his neck, two chipped vertebrae in his lower back, damage to his liver, spleen, lungs and kidney, and a blood clot in his forehead, said Benson. Cavalli underwent surgery Tuesday to repair his collarbone.

Family and friends continue to travel to the hospital as Cavalli recovers from his surgeries, and Benson said Wednesday that he's been responsive and communicating. His sister Mikaela immediately flew in from graduate school in Washington, D.C., to be with Eric and their parents, Mike and JoAnn Cavalli of Pleasanton.

An outpouring of best wishes and concern have been posted on a special Facebook page his friends started.

"I cannot thank you all enough

for your love, support and prayers for our son," JoAnn Cavalli posted on the site several days after the accident. "I'm sorry that it's taken so long for Mike and I to get to a computer to send out our thanks."

Friends at UC Davis have purchased 1,600 bracelets to sell for \$1 each to raise money to help defray medical expenses.

"His parents are appreciative of people messaging and texting him and for the wristbands," Benson said.

Mail can be sent to Cavalli via the following address:

Seth Benson, Attn: Eric Cavalli  
P.O. Box 8712  
Reno, NV 89507

The Eric Cavalli Recovery Trust Fund can accept donations at this address also or via PayPal by writing in [ericcavallirecoverytrust@gmail.com](mailto:ericcavallirecoverytrust@gmail.com). Check off Personal or Gift so that a percentage isn't taken by PayPal. ■

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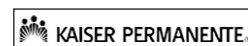
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## Borders files for bankruptcy

Closing Pleasanton, San Ramon bookstores

By JEB BING

Borders Group, the bookstore, announced last week that it will close its Pleasanton and San Ramon stores and many others across the country by April.

"Because of the ongoing impact of the difficult U.S. economy, coupled with the rapidly changing bookselling environment, we must restructure Borders and reposition our business for long-term success," Mary Davis, Borders Group Public Relations Manager, said. "We determined that the best path for Borders to have the ability to achieve this reorganization is through the Chapter 11 process, which we commenced Feb. 16."

The company said it plans to continue to maintain a strong national presence, calling its nationwide network of stores "foundational to the Borders brand."

The stores that are closing, which Borders said are "underperforming stores, include 36 in California. Besides the Pleasanton store in the



JEB BING

Border's Pleasanton store in the Metro 580 shopping center, near Sports Chalet and Kohl's, is one of more than 200 stores nationwide that the Borders Group is shutting down as part of its bankruptcy filing.

Metro 580 shopping center, where the Kohl's and Wal-Mart stores are located, and the San Ramon bookstore in Bishop Ranch, other East Bay stores being closed are in Fremont and Union City.

Overall, more Borders stores in California will be closed than in

any other state.

"It has become increasingly clear that in light of the environment of curtailed customer spending, our ongoing discussions with publishers and other vendor related parties, and the company's lack of liquidity, Borders Group does not have the capital resources it needs to be a viable competitor," Mikes Edwards, Borders Group president, said.

"This decisive action will give Borders the opportunity to achieve a proper infusion of capital in order to have the opportunity to have the time to reorganize in order to reposition itself to be a successful business for the long term," he added.

Sources said Borders was unable to compete with Amazon.com and e-readers.

Borders Group has retained DJM Realty to manage the disposition of its stores. For information on those closings, Borders suggested contacting Brook Horn at DJM for more information at (631) 752-1100. ■

## Body found near Valley and Case avenues

Police reveal autopsy results: no foul play

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton police have a tentative identity of a man whose body was found Monday down a railroad easement near Case and Valley avenues.

An autopsy Wednesday ruled there was no foul play, according to Pleasanton Sgt. Jim Knox, who added the identity was not yet being released because the family

had not been notified. The body was found about 7:20 a.m., lying near the easement south of Valley and east of Case, according to a police report, which said the man had no identification on him.

Police conjectured the man may have been walking toward a homeless encampment somewhere in the area while returning from Raley's on Sunol Boulevard.

The man was described as in his late 40s or early 50s, 6 foot to 6 foot 2 inches tall, weighing about 250 pounds, and mostly bald with thinning gray hair. He was wearing gray shorts, a blue long-sleeved sweatshirt and tennis shoes.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■

## Sandia offering summer program for students

Interns will work side-by-side with research scientists

Graduate students pursuing careers in energy, policy, science and environmental matters are being encouraged to submit applications for Technology and Policy Tools for Energy in an Uncertain World, a week-long summer institute at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore.

Twenty students will be selected to participate in the program, which will take place Aug. 7-12 and is open to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

Participating students will collaborate in small teams, working side-by-side with leading Sandia scientists and researchers at the lab's world-renowned Combustion Research Facility (CRF) and other cutting edge Sandia facilities.

"A summer institute for graduate students is one of many ideas we are pursuing to increase awareness and collaboration with our staff," said Bob Carling, director of Sandia's Transportation Energy Center.

Carling said Sandia/California has an ongoing interest in exposing a variety of outside scientists and engineers, including students, to the lab and its new open access.

Carling said he hopes the experi-

ence will help persuade participating students to consider Sandia as a future place of full-time employment.

"We also hope they will spread the word back at their home institutions of the importance of the work we do at Sandia and the high quality of our staff and facilities," he said.

Students will select from the following technical focus areas:

**Uncertainty Quantification in Predictive Simulation:** Focus on Chemical Systems. Participants will work on the development and testing of uncertainty quantification (UQ) methods for chemical systems of relevance in combustion. The work will involve algorithmic research on Bayesian inference and Polynomial Chaos UQ methods.

**Measurement Uncertainty with Imaging Detectors:** Focus on Optical Engine Diagnostics. Students will explore uncertainty in measurement of in-cylinder soot using 2-color optical pyrometry imaging in a heavy-duty optical engine. In addition, they will run the optical engine and intensified cameras and develop Matlab scripts

for soot temperature and volume fraction imaging.

**Measurement of Uncertainty in Biological systems:** Focus on Biomass-to-Biofuels processes. Students will explore variability and uncertainty in the various steps for biomass-to-biofuels conversion. Participants will develop biochemical assays and measure the conversion of biomass to fermentable sugars. They will then consider how the variability of sugar production impacts biofuels economics.

**Managing Uncertainty in Policy Decisions:** Focus on Electric Vehicle Adoption Drivers. Participants will develop computer models for consumer adoption of alternative-fuel vehicles. Students will then use these models to explore key technology and policy drivers of vehicle adoption and sensitivity of their results to underlying uncertainties.

Institute participants will be provided housing at a Livermore suites hotel located near Sandia. Transportation and meals will also be provided. Applications are due by March 15.

—Jeb Bing

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# West Dublin/Pleasanton station opens to much fanfare and talk

2 hours of speeches lead off a ribbon-cutting ceremony at \$106 million facility

By JEB BING

Trains are finally stopping today at the \$106-million West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station that was officially dedicated last Friday with a bevy of speeches and patriotic ceremonies inside the spacious second level waiting area.

The agency's 44th station opening was celebrated by military color guards, the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem sung by Katelyn West and bagpipe music by the Prince Charles Caledonian Band. Then came the speeches — 15 of them — by local, regional, transportation and BART representatives.

Service started last Saturday with the first crunch of passengers boarding trains Tuesday that are often filled by the time doors close at the East Dublin/Pleasanton station, which is located 1.6 miles east of the new facility. The new station includes a parking garage with 468 spaces on Stoneridge Mall Road on the Pleasanton side and another garage with 721 spaces on the Dublin side.

Commuters can walk from the garages directly to the second level of the station to process their tickets, and then down a flight of stairs to the I-580 freeway level to board trains.

John McPartland, vice president of the BART board of directors, said



JEB BING

Crowds fill the waiting area of the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station at dedication ceremonies Friday.

the new station is expected to serve 4,300 riders daily on weekdays, with the trip to BART's four downtown San Francisco stations costing \$5.50 one way.

Commuter counts in the coming weeks will determine how many of the 7,500 daily passengers who use the existing station will start using the new station instead where parking may be more abundant and more weather-friendly. As it is, parking at the Dublin/Pleasanton station

can be scarce early in the morning rush hour even with nearly 3,000 spaces on both sides of the freeway.

The East BART station was opened May 10, 1997 and quickly became a major transit hub for buses and cabs, serving the Tri-Valley. Cabs, Wheels and AC Transit buses and a number of shuttle buses to various Tri-Valley corporations and business parks congregate at the station, which is BART's end-of-the-line station. Transit service is available to San Joaquin County and cities as far east as Modesto, over 55 miles away.

Although some transit service is expected to serve the new West BART station, its location near more congested Stoneridge Mall Road and Dublin Boulevard may keep most of the services at the station farther east.

But with easier access from I-680, the new station and its garages may also attract new riders to BART from among commuters from San Ramon and Danville on the north and even from Fremont on the south as a quicker way of reaching Oakland, San Francisco and Peninsula destinations.

McPartland led the grand opening celebration Friday, a cold, rainy day with about 200 filling the unheated upper level assembly area. In the audience were BART representatives, employees, state and county leaders, council members from Dublin, Pleasanton and San Ramon, firefighters, police, school board members and scores of residents who said they've been waiting for this new station to open.

With skywalks connecting both sides of the freeway, pedestrians and bicyclists can now walk, jog and cycle between Pleasanton and Dublin without having to use the Foothill Road/San Ramon Boulevard overpass.

"This station's been nine years in the making and today's the day," McPartland said at the opening day ceremonies. "It's another step in BART's commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of a crowded freeway. It also represents the success of a public-private partnership in building a transit center."

Quentin Kopp, a retired San Mateo Superior Court judge who

worked tirelessly as a State Senator to campaign for the Bay Area Rapid Transit System and its service extensions, including to San Francisco International Airport, praised BART for adding the new West Dublin/Pleasanton station. He told those assembled Friday that it was to the credit of voters and taxpayers in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa counties who voted to fund a \$792 million bond issue that enabled BART to be established, with the first section of rail placed in 1973.

"Think about what the Bay Area would be like today if these voters had not agreed to pay for BART?" Kopp asked. "Forever the shame of San Mateo County for not going along."

Pete Snyder, the first mayor of Dublin and a former BART board member, recalled the early days of Dublin when part of the acreage on which the new West BART station and parking garages occupy was undeveloped, although eyed for retail and other businesses when BART acquired it in 1982.

He worked with BART, the city of Dublin and investment firms Jones Lang LaSalle and Cornerstone Real Estate Advisors to create the public-private partnership that enabled BART to pay for the new station.

"This was first major public-private partnership in transportation in this area," Snyder said.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty called the new BART station opening "a great day for the economic future of this area."

"When you see a station like this, you know BART is alive and well," he said. "Of course, I wish this celebration was at a new BART station in Livermore, but that will come."

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti said the station is a catalyst for his city's downtown development plan. Plans call for construction of a transit village on the Dublin side of the station that could include a 150-room hotel, a 210-unit apartment complex and retail/office space. He also talked about how the BART station fits into Dublin's effort to curb greenhouse gases.

"We are one of only a few cities in the Bay Area that has actually adopted a climate action plan," Sbranti said. "We're concerned about greenhouse gas emissions in the East Bay and one of the key elements in our plan talks about increasing BART's capacity here in the city of Dublin."

Pleasanton's Vice-Mayor Cheryl Cook-Kallio said the new station fits into her city's plan for more transit oriented developments (TODs) that can also help the environment. She said Pleasanton just approved an 850-unit TOD in the Hacienda Business Park and plans call for a 350-unit apartment complex adjacent to the new station.

The long morning celebration ended at noon with the ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the entry gates that took about two minutes. ■

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## PDA chooses Yarbrough for 2nd term as president

Haggerty swears in 14 business leaders for service organization in 2011

By JEB BING

Janet Yarbrough, a certified public accountant, has been chosen to lead the Pleasanton Downtown Association for a second year in a row.

Yarbrough was sworn in by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty along with 13 other business leaders at an installation dinner the organization hosted at the Firehouse Arts Center. Michael Hosterman, who has law offices in downtown Pleasanton, was named president-elect of the PDA.

Other officers chosen to serve in 2011 are Bernie Billen, Valley Community Bank, named treasurer, and Vera Revelli, owner of Civic Center Station, named secretary.

Chosen to serve on the PDA board of directors for the year are Dirk Christiansen, Studio 7 Fine Arts; Vic Malatesta, Vic's All Star Kitchen; Angel Moore, Alameda County Fairgrounds Association; Michael O'Callaghan, MCT Development & Construction; Vince



JEB BING

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty (center) joins newly chosen board of directors of the Pleasanton Downtown Association at the organization's installation dinner at Firehouse Arts Center.

Ortiz, Me & My Friends Deli Café; Mike Peel, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Real Estate; Melanie Sadek, Murphy's Paw; Gary Schwaegerle, Schwaegerle Realtors; Sandi Bohner, Little Valley Winery; and, Roy Dronkers, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Real Estate.

Before the installation dinner, the near-100 participants were

treated to a 30-minute concert by a group of current Amador students and alumni.

They included students Robby Sheppard on the saxophone, Kathy Yuh at the piano and Logan Kane playing the bass.

The alumni were Jeff Bordes on the trumpet and Scott Welsh at the drums. ■



### Are they rhyming?

Dave Wright (left), co-chairman of the upcoming Pleasanton Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival, talks with poets Lee Rossi and Robert Eastwood before Friday's Literary Evening at the Firehouse Arts Center. Reviews were favorable for the 16 featured poets, who offered accessible and understandable poems and spoken word pieces woven around "The Myth and Reality of the Hero and Anti-Hero."

## School board member's wife on union team

No conflict of interest seen

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

At first glance, it might seem like a conflict of interest that Pleasanton school board member Jeff Bowser and his wife are on opposite sides of the negotiations between the district and the teacher's union.

But neither Bowser nor the union sees it that way. Trevor Knaggs, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT), said Tuesday that Patty Bowser has been representing elementary

school teachers on the union for years. Patty Bowser teaches third grade at Hearst Elementary School and is a member of the elementary at-large committee.

"She would relay any concerns that the members have expressed to the executive board," Knaggs said. "I think Patty is above reproach."

Knaggs pointed out that "she's been involved in union work for a long time before her husband ran

for school board."

Jeff Bowser also discounted any conflict of interest.

"My wife has her own career and she's been selected as a leader," he said. "She's not part of the negotiating team. Neither am I."

The issue came to light as the district, with Bowser elected to the board just last year, begins its negotiations for revisions to the APT contract for the 2011-12 school year. ■

## City OKs 2-story addition to Val Vista home

Council votes 3-2 against protesting neighbors

By JEB BING

After a two-hour-long exchange of words, Rodney and Trina Lopez won the City Council's approval to add a second floor to their single story home in the Val Vista community, but they probably won't be inviting the neighbors over for coffee after it's done.

Nor will they be welcoming Council Members Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern, who sided with the neighbors in opposing the Lopez bid.

Still, the Lopez couple won the three votes they needed from Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Council Members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne to turn down an appeal of the city Planning Commission's earlier approval of the home addition. Besides a 1,038-square-foot second floor, the Lopezes also won approval to add 80 square feet to their first floor of their home at 6114 Homer Court.

Neighbors David and Stephanie

Persin, who live behind the Lopez home at 6209 Robin Court, said the second floor addition would be an eyesore in a neighborhood of single story homes and would destroy their viewscape and block sunlight into their home. Others on Robin Court and Homer Court agreed, saying they are concerned about the potential "shadow impact" of the proposed project.

Six other speakers who live farther away spoke in favor of the Lopez project. They said the city has allowed second floor additions to 15 other homes in Val Vista and that to deny the Lopez project would be a disincentive for other homeowners who want to stay in Val Vista but want to add more space.

Sullivan, in supporting the appeal, said the Lopez home occupies a 6,521-square-foot lot, similar to others in the neighborhood, with 1,489 square feet of floor space, almost about the same size as the others. But with the addi-

tions proposed, the Lopez home would have 2,607 square feet of floor space with a 40% floor-area-ratio (FAR), nearly twice the FAR of similar homes in the area.

"I just don't think that size of a home fits into this neighborhood," he said.

McGovern pointed out that the proposed Lopez home would have six bedrooms and four bathrooms, all on a 6,500 square foot lot.

"It would be humongous," she said. "It's just too big."

But city staff and the Planning Commission said the proposed addition meets all of the lot use and other requirements in the city code and should be allowed.

"There's no restriction against two-story homes (in Val Vista) and other two-story homes currently exist within the area," Brian Dolan, director of community development, stated in his report recommending approval of the Lopez petition. ■

## SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

"You have the ability to create a balanced budget now," he said, and quoted from the district's code of ethics: "My first commitment is to the well-being of our youth."

The board also heard from parents, teachers and students who all requested the restoration of seventh period, which was cut in negotiations with the teacher's union last year. Although there's no plan to cut the period this year, according to Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources, the district is only beginning its negotiations with the union.

The period is used largely for band practice, gym classes and to help students who need extra credit to graduate on time. Worried that it could be negotiated away, a group spearheaded by Marilyn Palowitch packed the board room. Palowitch, best known as an Amador Valley High School music booster, came up with a plan that could offer early and late extra periods without additional cost to the district.

Under the plan, high school classes would be staggered, with some teachers agreeing to come in and leave early while others come in and stay later. Because their hours would be the same, the plan would be cost-free.

"I don't think it's going to be a problem to find teachers to fill those slots before school or after school," said Mark Aubel, a music instructor at Amador Valley. He said the plan would let students take gym and band, which typically have larger class sizes, along with other courses that would be offered earlier or later.

"Wherever there's an empty desk, it just makes sense to fill it," Aubel told the board.

The parents, teachers and students who filled the room supported the no-cost idea; although many of them deferred their time to Palowitch, 13 spoke, including band directors for both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, a number of students, and parents.

Parents pointed out that more than just music comes from the music programs. While some noted that music knowledge increases a student's test scores and helps in math and reading, others pointed out that students are motivated to keep their grades up, a requirement to participate in music.

Wendy Wong, whose freshman son is a member of the marching band, said that Amador Valley Band Director Jon Grantham helps build leadership skills for his students as well as teaching music.

"People go through their lifetimes and never get this. They're getting it now," Wong said. "They will take this with them into the workplace."

One parent joked that those in the music program never get bullied because they have 200 band members watching their backs.

In other action at its meeting Tuesday, the school board voted to support putting the tax extension measure proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown on the June ballot. That was unanimously approved, although two speakers said they wouldn't support the proposed parcel tax if the board voted for the tax extension ballot.

Bowser said he supports putting the idea out for a vote, and not necessarily the extension itself.

The board also held a public comment period on items proposed for negotiation between district and the Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT). No one spoke.

Issues proposed for negotiations between the district and the California Service Employees Association (CSEA) were also "sunshined" by the board at the meeting. While the CSEA wants to renew its contract with no changes, the district want to bring pay, hours, health care, and leaves of absence to the bargaining table. A public hearing will be held on the proposed items set for negotiations in March.

The board will hold a special meeting on budget matters March 1, with its next regular meeting set for March 8. ■

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### At last, Pleasanton to complete Iron Horse Trail

Back in 1986 when the East Bay Regional Park District was dreaming big, it envisioned an Iron Horse Trail that reached from the Carquinez Strait in Martinez to the Livermore Valley. That pathway would follow the old Southern Pacific Rail Lines built in 1891 and abandoned in 1977. The old rail line was ideal for trail conversion: It was already a straight, gently graded path that linked several cities. But turning this vision into a reality has been 25 years in the making. Segments have been added slowly as funds became available and opportunities presented themselves.

Now, with all but a 1.6-mile segment of the trail completed to where it stops at Valley Avenue and Busch Road near Stanley Boulevard in Pleasanton, the final link is about to be added. Thanks to \$4 million in regional and federal grants, the city of Pleasanton and the Park District, which owns the railroad right of way, are poised to complete the project.

Tuesday, the City Council is expected to ratify the EBRPD Master Plan for the permanent alignment of the Iron Horse Trail through the Hacienda Business Park, closing the missing gap with a paved trail and protected street crossings that will give joggers, bicyclists and others a direct path to the BART station at Hacienda and then as far into Contra Costa County as they want to go. When completed in 2012, the Iron Horse Trail will link Pleasanton to the whole regional trail system.

Determining the route of this 1.6-mile trail extension took extensive work. The Park District's 150-page, bound "Iron Horse Trail Feasibility Study and Master Plan" contains dozens of pages of colored maps and photos. It is the work of Callander Associates, trail and greenway planners, and Fehr & Peers, a biotic resources group whose designers and engineers take the trail across five streets, two creeks, two parks and through a number of housing developments. Those living in the Sienna and Valencia housing developments in Hacienda, for instance, will soon find the unused land in their back yards to be a pathway for hundreds of walkers and hikers for the first time. The trail also will pass through the northern portion of Creekside Park and the northern edge of Springhouse Apartments. Utilizing the existing Santa Rita Road bridge, it will traverse the Arroyo Mocho canal, cross the busy Santa Rita Road/Stoneridge Drive intersection, and then connect to the existing section of the Iron Horse Trail that was dedicated three years ago.

An added bonus: the trail planners also chose to leave two rows of pepper trees alongside the Kaiser Permanente buildings with the trail running down the middle. That should make it one of the most picturesque, relaxing portions of the 28-mile trail system that Pleasanton is finally joining. ■



## LETTERS

### Agreement was reached

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see the Pleasanton Weekly's favorable analysis of the proposed city contract with its public employees, but I would like to make an additional point.

The wrangling over the PCEA contract at recent City Council meetings has caused the council to lose sight of the real issue in this dispute. The PCEA leadership met with appointed representatives of the city to negotiate a contract acceptable to both sides. Bargaining in good faith, an agreement was reached and ratified by the PCEA membership. The City Council, influenced by vocal members of the community, is about to renege on the agreement their representatives made with the PCEA.

Bargaining in good faith means that both sides intend to adhere to the agreement that has been reached. A contract is just that, a commitment made between both parties. The City Council claims to take its "Community of Character" motto seriously. Where is the "character" in a City Council that won't honor its side of the bargain?

The outspoken members of the community who have tried to undermine the City Council's commitment to the negotiated agreement are trying to obfuscate the issue, which is very simple. A contract has been reached, a binding agreement that both sides must recognize.

If some people are not happy with the contract, they can negotiate another agreement, when this contract ends. Individuals with their own agendas, without a dog in this fight, have no business trying to persuade the council to renege on the agreement reached by their own chosen representatives.

**Bruce Coyle**

### Bottom line is clear

Dear Editor,

I support the vote of the Pleasanton City Council leading to a re-evaluation of the City Employees' contract. These actions are never easy as they involve the lives of dedicated employees.

As a worker in the private sector who has endured a Chapter 11 situation, I understand first-hand the pain a contract adjustment can bring. Yet, the bottomline is clear: Employee contracts must be long-term financially sound to ensure security for current workers, future workers and the finances of Pleasanton. We need only look at surrounding neighborhoods to see the hardships that are produced if fiduciary responsibilities are ignored.

**John Baum**

### New station unique

Dear Editor,

I assume that you will write about the opening of the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station in the Pleasanton Weekly.

BART has been claiming in promotional material that West Dublin/Pleasanton is its first "infill" station (a station built between two existing stations). However, other BART literature says that Embarcadero station in San Francisco is the first "infill" station. When the Transbay Tube opened to passenger service in September 1974, Embarcadero station was just a "shell." It opened to passenger service on May 27, 1976.

There apparently is some sort of debate going on now between journalists and BART over which is the first "infill" station. The tax-sharing agreement between BART and the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin (and possibly the developer, too) is what is most unique about the West Dublin/Pleasanton station. BART considers this to be a model "public/private partnership."

**Jason Bezis**

### Happy Birthday, League of Women Voters

Dear Editor,

The League of Women Voters was founded on Feb. 14, 1920, by leaders in the women's suffrage movement. Members of the Livermore-Amador Valley League are busy all year distributing voters' affidavits, studying various issues, holding candidates' forums, and providing election literature such as "Easy Voter" and "Pros and Cons." The L-AV League is currently studying the issue of Health Care under the leadership of Charles Hartwig.

"For more than 90 years, the non-partisan League has stood for the civil exchange of different points of view," according to Chuck Hazen, administrator for the L-AV League. "Our work has helped to improve the functioning of government and bridge the gap between voters and elected officials."

The Livermore-Amador Valley League is one of more than 800 Leagues in all 50 states. Since 1920 our goal has been to educate and inform. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. For more information about the League, visit our website at <http://lav.ca.lwvnet.org>. The L-AV Spring Lunch and Program will be held at Girasole Grill at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 20.

An exhibit celebrating the Centennial of Woman Suffrage in California 1911-2011 will be at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley from May 14 to July 16. It will focus on the lives of women in the Amador Valley and Contra Costa County.

**Barbara Hempill, L-AV League of Women Voters**

### What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or put your opinion on Town Square at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com). Letters must be 250 words or less.

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# Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

## POLICE REPORT

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

Feb. 14

### Theft

- 8:25 a.m. in the 2600 block of Chocolate Street; grand theft
- 8:56 a.m. in the 4700 block of Woodthrush Court; petty theft
- 3:04 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 3:45 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft, petty theft

### Auto burglary

- 7 a.m. in the 1400 block of East Gate Way
- 7:35 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

### Threats

- 8:47 p.m. in the 500 block of Rose Avenue; threats, prank calls

### Public drunkenness

- 9:54 p.m. in the 6200 block of Robin Court

Feb. 15

### Theft

- 7:44 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 11:35 a.m. in the 6300 block of Inglewood Drive; petty theft
- 1:43 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, petty theft with prior convictions, parole violation

- 3:55 p.m. in the 1000 block of Gray Fox Circle; grand theft

- 4:33 p.m. in the 5600 block of San Jose Drive; identity theft, theft

### Burglary

- 4:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Trimmingham Drive

### Battery

- 9:17 p.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Circle

### Vandalism

- 11:27 a.m. in the 700 block of Montevino Drive
- 2:25 p.m. in the 3800 block of Muirwood Drive

### Threats

- 4:02 p.m. in the 3500 block of Valenza Way

Feb. 16

### Theft

- 5:04 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:37 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft

### Burglary

- 4:10 p.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way

### Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:42 a.m. in the 6200 block of Robin Court; public drunkenness
- 11:00 p.m. at the intersection of Willowren Way and Turnstone Drive; marijuana possession

Feb. 17

### Auto burglary

- 11:45 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; auto burglary, two counts of vandalism

### Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:36 p.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; paraphernalia possession
- 4:42 p.m. in the 500 block of St. John Street; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

Feb. 18

### Robbery

- 11:59 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

### Theft

- 10:28 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Newton Way; grand theft

### Prank calls

- 10:14 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

### Vandalism

- 7:58 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

### Loitering

- 7:42 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

### Auto burglary

- 1:02 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:33 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:43 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness
- 10:47 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; DUI, possession of a controlled substance, possession of a prescription in another person's name, hit and run
- 11:32 p.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; public drunkenness
- 11:52 p.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; public drunkenness

Feb. 19

### Theft

- 3:42 p.m. in the 800 block of Gray Fox Court; grand theft
- 4:23 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; theft
- 7:13 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; petty theft

### Battery

- 7:49 p.m. in the 1100 block of Kottinger Drive

### Public drunkenness

- 1:06 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue
- 2:52 a.m. in the 6000 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Feb. 20

### Theft

- 5:55 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft, auto burglary
- 10:12 p.m. in the 3600 block of Reflections Drive; grand theft

ler. A service was scheduled for 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz in Pleasanton.

## Timothy Louis Brian

Timothy Louis Brian, 57, died in his home in Pleasanton on Feb. 11 surrounded by his family after a short but fierce battle against cancer.

He was born Aug. 21, 1953, in Oakland and lived the majority of his life in the Bay Area. He graduated in 1988 from California State Hayward where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology and his teaching credential. He was a high school science teacher and later became a Nuclear Medical Technologist and ultimately started two businesses where his mission was to improve people's lives.

Mr. Brian was a talented athlete and a "sports nut." He loved baseball, golf, horseback riding, running, working out and football, and

he enjoyed sharing those activities with anyone who was willing to join him. He volunteered as a coach for boys baseball and soccer. But nothing made him happier than hanging out in the back yard with his family, listening to great music and enjoying great food. He was famous at the Pleasanton Police Department for the annual barbecue he hosted in their honor.

Last year he and his wife and best friend JoAnne celebrated 25 years of marriage and traveled to Florence, Italy, just prior to his diagnosis. He spent time with his son Jon camping, coaching, reading to him nightly, helping him with community service projects, vacationing with the cousins, or simply shooting hoops.

Mr. Brian was predeceased by his parents Bates and Marian Brian. He is survived by his wife JoAnne; son Jonathan; sister Kathy Caldwell; brother Nathan Brian (Adele); and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. His life will be celebrated at a memorial service at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 North Canyon Parkway in Livermore. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice in Dublin.



## Janis Fay Marlais

Pleasanton resident Janis Fay Marlais, 64, died Feb. 21 at ValleyCare Medical Center surrounded by her family.

She was born Oct. 15, 1946, in Oakland to Ernest and Evelyn Butler, and graduated from Castlemont High School. She was married to James Marlais in 1965 and had recently retired from her 12-year career as a commercial property manager. She was a dedicated member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and enjoyed serving in the auxiliaries of the church, as well as singing in the choir and volunteering at the Oakland California Temple.

Mrs. Marlais is survived by her husband James; children Eric, Marcus, Christopher and Amanda; seven grandchildren; sister Shirley Baumann; and brother Dean But-

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Jewelry, handgun stolen from homes

A theft at a home in the 5100 block of Independence Drive netted a \$1,750 topaz and gold ring, along with medical supplies for sleep apnea, according to a police report; the theft occurred at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

Jewelry and cash worth an estimated \$1,850 was stolen from a home in the 2400 block of Via de los Milagros, a police report said. The theft occurred between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Jan. 25 but was reported Feb. 22, according to the report, which said two gold rings worth \$1,400 were taken, along with a \$250 gold chain and \$300 in cash.

A residential burglary Feb. 16 netted a .357-caliber handgun, according to a police report. The pistol is valued at \$400, according to the report, which said access to the home in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way was gained through an unlocked bathroom window.

A \$2,500 trumpet was stolen from Amador Valley High School, according to a police report, which said the theft took place between 3 p.m. Feb. 11 and 7:30 a.m. Feb. 15.

An estimated 15,000 feet of copper wire valued at \$2,000 was taken from a city of Pleasanton property on Stoneridge Drive, according to a police report. The theft occurred between 3 p.m. Feb. 13 and 8 a.m. Feb. 14, the report said.



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Update regarding American Disabilities Act detectable warning requirements for detection by pedestrians with visual impairments
- Status report concerning Urban Habitat v. City of Pleasanton Settlement Agreement

### Bicycle Pedestrian & Trails Committee

Monday, February 28, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Update of Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan and Transportation Expenditure Plan Development
- Review of Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan
- Trails Project Status Report

### Housing Task Force

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion of Housing Policies and Programs
- Update on preparations for Community Workshops

### Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 @ 4:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation to allocate Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSF) Funds for Fiscal Year 2011 (2011-12)

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.

Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Presentation from Non-Profit Agencies and Recommendation to allocate Community Grant Funds For Fiscal Year 2011/12

**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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)



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# Walk 'n' talk

## Health tip: Find a friend and start walking

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Artist Karen Fleschler is sometimes tempted to skip her 8 a.m. weekday walk and go directly to her studio to work. Or perhaps to linger longer in her morning routine. But she can't: Julie Mrzywka, her friend, neighbor and walking partner of 20 years, is waiting for her.

"Walking with somebody, I'm really held accountable," said Fleschler. "I know someone is waiting for me."

Mrzywka, who works as a food scientist, agrees.

"We're what keeps each other honest about walking," she said.

"When Karen and I first started, we would do more hiking," Mrzywka recalled. "We used to do the Pleasanton Ridge, Mission Peak, Las Trampas. But hiking is harder on the knees so we haven't done that in years."

They now head out from their Del Prado neighborhood in Pleasanton and walk along the Arroyo del Valle for a total of about three miles.

"We used to walk the Koll Center but it was freezing, and moss on the sidewalk was slippery," Fleschler said. "I really love walking the creek."

"The arroyo is nicer," Mrzywka agreed. "It's 'back to nature.'"

"But it wouldn't matter where we were walking because we're busy talking," she added with a laugh. "We talk about whatever's going on in our lives."



Mrzywka started walking with another neighbor 25 years ago, then Fleschler joined them. The other woman moved to Livermore, but the two kept on walking.

"I like walking with just one person. We're kind of the same pace — and we fit on the sidewalk," said Fleschler. "We used to walk in the rain but we don't do that any more."

"I've tried to walk by myself but there are more excuses not to walk," she added. "Plus I don't listen to music or anything when I walk so it's really nice talking to somebody."

Maria Carter, 63, likes her walking group of five. The women meet in their neighborhood in the late afternoon four times a week to walk three miles, then on Saturday mornings they take a longer walk.

"I like the fact that everyone is sharing ideas and current events," Carter said, noting that with five people, one of them always has information on any given subject. "I like the variety. It can be two or five."

The women, who met about 30 years ago in a neighborhood babysitting co-op, have been walking for 17 years, as their lives and work schedules change.

"We've seen each other through kids at college, weddings, deaths of parents, husbands losing jobs," Carter said. "We also share health tips."

W. Ron Sutton is determined to get Pleasanton residents walking to improve their health. He has created the World Walk to Wellness and believes he can get people around the globe walking, community by community.

Sutton's group has been sponsoring weekly walks at Pleasanton parks for the past two months.

"Everyone finds something new about every park," he remarked.

Tomorrow, veteran hiker Dolores Bengtson is leading a two-hour walk along Pleasanton trails, mostly wide gravel paths, to acquaint people with walking options in town. Bengtson, who is well known for her long career with the city's Parks and Community Services Department, has been leading walks for years.

"It's soothing to be outside walking," Bengtson said. She calculates that she had led 5,000 hikers on trails in

Augustin Bernal Park over the years and, she added, she hopes all these hikers will follow her example of carrying a bag to collect litter along the way.

"So often we see a can or a bottle," she said. "Don't think of it as someone else's litter. Don't be judgmental."

Tomorrow's walk will start at 9 a.m. from the south parking lot of the Tennis and Community Park, on Valley Avenue at Hopyard. Bengtson will lead the group across the pedestrian bridge to the north side of the Pleasanton Canal, then head west to Arroyo de la Laguna, south along the arroyo trail to Arroyo del Valle, east to Pleasanton Valley, then loop back to the tennis park.

"Come prepared to explore Pleasanton from a new angle, from the banks of our arroyos and canal," Bengtson said. "This walk on the well-maintained service roads along the arroyos will open up an entire new world to you."

"For sure I'll fill you in about 'Pleasanton and water!' and, with some luck, we'll see ducks, herons, and egrets," she continued. "Wear comfortable shoes. Bring along some water and dress in layers. If it looks like it might rain, bring a raincoat. For 'new walkers' — don't sweat it — the trail is flat, and we'll go at a comfortable pace. Most of all, be prepared to be amazed and surprised at how much you will enjoy the morning."

"If the rain is not falling sideways, I'll still be out, staying active, in the rain," Sutton added. "We can still walk 'n' talk and have fun. We can dry off later."

Future World Walk to Wellness group trail walks led by Bengtson are planned for March 19 at Callippe Preserve City Golf Course Trail and April 9 at the Marilyn Kane Trail, both Saturdays, and both beginning at 9 a.m. Walkers are encouraged to sign up by emailing [walks@WorldWalkToWellness.org](mailto:walks@WorldWalkToWellness.org) but advance registration is not required.

Sutton, president of ACCUSPLIT, makers of pedometers and stopwatches, is hoping to establish Walking to Wellness in every time zone around the world by Dec. 31 so that the year 2012 will be greeted with around-the-world walking. He emphasizes that not only will members have a fun way to exercise but it will help them connect with one another.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Hike leader Dolores Bengtson points out features on the trail map provided by the city at the entrance to the Arroyo Mochó trail near Sutter Gate Park. She will lead a two-hour trail walk tomorrow morning to familiarize residents with Pleasanton's extensive system of enjoyable walkways.



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Dolores Bengtson and W. Ron Sutton walk along Arroyo Mocho and discuss the World Walk to Wellness campaign to get everyone walking for better health.

These walkers also can make contributions to worthy causes at their events, and ACCUSPLIT matches individuals' donations of up to \$20. In Pleasanton the cause is Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, and, so far, World Walk to Wellness has raised \$6,000 for PPIE, including matching funds.

Bengtson and Sutton are hoping that once people discover walking, they won't be able to stop.

"People don't want to hear the word 'exercise,'" Sutton said. "The percentage of people who exercise hasn't changed since the '50s, and we've spend millions on research."

"The No. 1 excuse is they don't have time," he noted.

Sutton quoted Dr. James Hill from the University of Colorado, who started the America on the Move Foundation. Hill urged people to cut 100 calories per day out of their diet and to add 2,000 steps to maintain their weight, since the average American gains 2 pounds per year.

Sutton also would like to see people integrate walking into their daily lives. Wouldn't it be wonderful, he asked, if the new Safeway put its parking lot a block away from the store? Shouldn't companies give an employee of the month a special spot far away to make them walk more and improve their health?

Bengtson said she travels to many countries in Africa and is amazed by their walking culture.

"They are stunningly different, the way they walk," she said. "When we'd get back to where we were staying in the evening, they'd say, 'Let's go downtown,' and we'd walk three miles to downtown."

Although Bengtson enjoys walking trails, mountains and hillsides, both she and Sutton also advocate walking close to home.

"People too often think they need to go someplace; no, they don't," Bengtson said. "We need to tune into our own neighborhood. When people use their neighborhood, they take better care of it."

She noted that Pleasanton's arroyos have become cleaner and more pleasant during recent years when trails have been added alongside of them.

Sutton says he rises at 5:30 a.m. each morning to take a walk by himself.

"It's my thinking time," he said, adding that often ideas will come to him. "I bring along my electronic notebook."

Karen Fleschler noted that her brain, too, continues to work while she is walking.

"Sometimes I'm walking in the morning when in the middle of a painting and my brain is thinking about the painting," she said. "A lot of times sharing

it with Julie helps. We talk about it."

She's always enjoyed walking, she said, and in high school used to walk by herself from her home in Piedmont all the way to Lake Merritt.

"I didn't look at it as exercise, just something to do on a sunny Saturday afternoon," she recalled. "I would take a book and find a spot on the lake."

"Walking back home was all uphill and back then I didn't notice it," she added. "Now, forget it, I'd take the bus."

Unless she was walking — and talking — with a friend. ■



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# An Open Letter to Castlewood Country Club From Local and Bay Area Clergy



## On the One year Anniversary of the Lockout of 61 workers

**Rabbi Dan Goldblatt**  
Congregation Beth Chaim  
**Rev. Danny Hall**, Sr Pastor,  
Valley Community Church  
**Rev. Dan Schmitz**, Lead Pastor,  
New Hope Covenant Church  
**Rev. David P. Beard**, Sr. Pastor  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Brian Decklinger**, Discipleship  
Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Dr. Randy McGrady- Beach**,  
Presbyterian Pastor  
**Rev. John P. Bost**, Sr. Pastor  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Lori Eickmann**,  
Lutheran Interim Ministry  
**Rev. Marty Williams**,  
United Christian Church  
**Rev. Mary P. Conant**, Pastor  
Little Brown Church of Sunol  
**Rev. Padraig Greene**, PA,  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton  
**Rev. Ron Culmer** Rector,  
St. Clare's Episcopal Church  
**Social Justice Committee**,  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton  
**Sr. Adele Gerlach**, O.P.,  
**Sr. Claire Herlihy** O.P.,  
**Sr. Lorraine Amodeo**, O.P. and  
**Sr. Mary Neill**, O.P.,  
Dominican Sisters  
**Deacon Gary Wortham**,  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton  
**Deacon Richard Martin**,  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton  
**Gus Nystrom**, Chair,  
Pax Christi Northern California  
**Stephanie King**, Pastoral Care,  
St. Charles Borromeo  
**Dr. Alan Kelchner**, Sr. Pastor,  
Danville Congregational Church  
**Immigration Task Force**, a Committee  
of the Social Justice Council of  
Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church  
**Rev. Brian Joyce** Sr Pastor,  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
**Rev. David and Leslie Takahashi  
Morris**, Co-Ministers, Mt. Diablo Uni-  
tarian Universalist Church  
**Rev. Matt Prinz**, Pastor,  
Ygnacio Valley Presbyterian Church  
**Rev. Steve Harms**, Pastor,  
Peace Lutheran Church  
**Social Justice Committee** of Christ  
the King Catholic Parish  
**Social Justice Committee** of Inter-  
faith Council of Contra Costa  
**Social Justice Committee** of  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton

**Archbishop Aurea Lewis**, retired,  
Int'l African Methodist Church  
**Bishop Mark W. Holmerud**,  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA  
**Rabbi Jane Litman**, Exec. Dir.,  
Western Region, Jewish  
Reconstructionist Federation  
**Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow**, former  
Moderator, Presbyterian Church USA  
**Rev. Dr. Paula Pocięcha**, Cong. Care  
Ministry, Northern California-Nevada  
of the Christian Church (DOC)  
**Bella Comelo**, Chair, Asian Pacific  
American Labor Alliance  
**Brian Ballantine**, Seminarians for  
Worker Justice/Jesuit School of Theology  
**Br Jeff Shackleton, OFM, Br.  
Louis Houry, OFM, and Br. Mark  
Schroeder, OFM**, Franciscan Friars  
**Charlene Tschirhart**, Chair, Inter-  
faith Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
**Clergy and Laity United for Eco-  
nomic Justice, San Francisco**  
**Diana Wear**, Chair, East Bay Interfaith  
Committee for Worker Justice  
**Dr. Francine Racine**, Faculty, Jesuit  
School of Theology of Santa Clara  
**Dr. Gabriella Lettini**, Faculty,  
Starr King School of Theology  
**Dr. Marvis Peoples**, Pastor,  
Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church  
**East Bay Interfaith Committee  
for Worker Justice**  
**Fr. George Griener**, S.J.,  
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara  
**Fr. Donald MacKinnon**, CSSR,  
Pastor, Kmhü-Laotian Pastoral Ctr.  
**Fr. Robert McChesney, SJ**  
**Imam Khaled Hamoui**, Islamic  
Society of San Francisco  
**Josh Harper**, Council Chair,  
New Hope Covenant Church  
**Meg Bowerman**, Volunteer Coord.  
for JustFaith, Diocese of Oakland  
**Rabbi David Cooper**,  
Kehilla Community Synagogue  
**Rabbi Dr. Katherine Schild Zilber**,  
Progressive Jewish Alliance  
**Rev. Barbara F. Meyers**, Mission  
Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
**Rev. Brian Stein-Webber**, ED,  
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa  
**Rev. Allen Yan-Chamberlin**  
First United Methodist Church Fremont  
**Rev. Carol Been**, Lutheran Pastor  
Clergy and Laity United for Economic  
Justice, California  
**Rev. Chris Renz**, O.P.  
St. Albert Priory

### Call to Accountability From Religious Leaders

*"Do not take advantage of a  
hired person who is poor and  
needy..." Deuteronomy 24:14*

As clergy and religious leaders in the region we want to express our deep concern for the treatment of workers at the Castlewood Country Club.

- Far too many days have passed since dramatic action was taken by the Castlewood management to lock out their employees on February 25, 2010.
- Far too many days have passed with no productive contract negotiations.
- Far too many days have passed with no meaningful communication from the Castlewood management to the community at large.

We are deeply concerned for the welfare of the locked out Castlewood workers and their families. They have experienced extreme hardship and financial distress in the midst of this lock out situation. We reach out to the members of the Castlewood Country Club who would like to see an end to the lock out and who desire a compassionate resolution.

We call to accountability the Castlewood Country Club management to open their hearts and minds in human compassion to those who are suffering and in need of the basic necessities of life. We ask that the dignity of meaningful work be restored to the workers so that they might be able to provide for their families, adequate food, shelter, medical care and a sense of hope for the future.

We call to accountability the Castlewood Country Club management to end the lock-out of their workers and to resume meaningful negotiations in a spirit of reconciliation and compassion in order to seek a just resolution over the healthcare needs for their employees.

We pray for all the families affected by this conflict at Castlewood Country Club. We pray for the management and members of the Castlewood Country Club. We pray for those who are suffering, who are hungry and who live in want of their jobs. We pray for reconciliation and engagement in dialogue that would lead to a fair and just settlement. We pray for hearts of love and compassion that openness and harmony towards one another might be restored. May justice and love prevail!

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility...look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2: 3-4*

**Rev. Deborah Lee**, Dir. Interfaith  
Coalition for Immigrant Rights, CA  
**Rev. Dr. Israel Alvaran**, Dir.,  
CLUE San Francisco  
**Rev Jack Shriver**, SP, First Pres-  
byterian Church of Oakland  
**Rev. Jeff Johnson**, Pastor,  
University Lutheran Chapel  
**Rev. Jeff Spencer**, Pastor, Niles  
Congregational Church  
**Rev. Kurt Kuhwald**, Faculty, Starr  
King School for the Ministry  
**Rev. Ray Waespi**, Pastor,  
Good Shepherd Southeast-Asian Ministry  
**Rev. Rebecca Kuiken**, Dir., Inter-  
faith Council for Economic Justice  
**Roy Birchard**,  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
**Rev. Reginald Swilley**,  
Maranatha Christian Fellowship

**Rev. Sandhya Jha**, Pastor, First  
Christian Church of Oakland  
**Rev. Steven F. Kindle**,  
Pastor, First Christian Church of  
Fremont  
**Rev. Tim Huff**, Pastor,  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Vicki Gray**, Deacon,  
Christ the Lord Episcopal Church  
**Rev. Vincent Jang**,  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
**Rev. Warren Nielson**, Pastor,  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
**Rev. Will McGarvey**, Community  
Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg &  
San Francisco Presbytery  
**Servant B.K. Woodson**, Pastor,  
Bay Area Christian Connection  
**Sister Bernie Galvin**, CDP,  
Social Justice Activist Sisters

**Yu-Shuan and Javier  
Tarango-Sho**, Campus Ministry,  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship  
**Dennis Elchesen and Carolyn  
Owens**, St. Charles Borromeo  
**Diane Revnik and Pat Belding**,  
Catholic Community of Pleasanton  
**Jean Nickell, Maria Rieger, Joan  
Lautenberger, Robert de Vight,  
Robert Lane and Ruth Hiranom**, Mt.  
Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church  
**Mark Gotvald**, Advocacy Chair, and  
**Gwen Watson**, Social Justice Committee,  
Christ the King Parish

*Title and affiliation are listed for  
identification purposes only.*

For more info or questions contact  
Ted Gerlach tgerlach@comcast.net

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Milfleur has become a place that people came to feel the soft energy and find gifts for their friends and family. Along the way they pick up a few things for their own homes and for themselves. "This place makes me feel good...I needed a 'Milfleur' fix," are some of the comments our customers make.

We continue to create beautiful floral arrangements for their homes and businesses. We love to create something in a wreath or swag for your front door—we like to call it "a smile you put on your home." It just says "Hello" as you enter or pass by...

Approaching 10 years of being in the Old Kottinger Barn on Ray Street, we continue to entertain the occasional ghost that shows up, and we love sharing the stories with those who inquire.

Top quality silk flowers have become a rare find these days—I am always ferreting them out and there are signs that what's coming now will be great! I am excited to share them with you.

We're also pretty excited about our selection of new hats...and the new jewelry line that's "Oh so cute..." and reasonably priced!

We love this valley and appreciate all of your support — These are great people — and I am honored to be a part of such a great community!

"Many Blessings" Please visit us...

*Terr*

**925.600.0460**

200 Ray Street, Pleasanton • in the old Kottinger Barn

# Cardinal Jewelers

"A World of Fine Gems"  
ORIGINAL OWNERS est. 1977



Trust. Honesty. Integrity.  
Confidence. Expertise.

**IJO** MASTER  
JEWELER  
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE



**Cardinal Jewelers** has served Pleasanton for over thirty-four years. The owner, Jim Kuhn, has been involved in the jewelry profession for another nine years before that. He learned to cut and polish stones at an Air Base hobby shop in Pleiku, Vietnam in his off-hours. He later studied for and received his gemologist certificate.

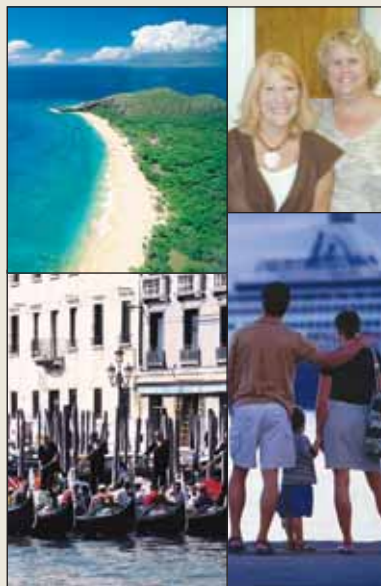
In 1977, Jim opened **Cardinal Jewelers** with the desire to be a small town jeweler. Over the years, Pleasanton has grown up, but Jim and his assistant Cheri Funk have kept the small town friendliness and service.

**Cardinal Jewelers** is not an ordinary jewelry store. They specialize in the unique and unusual gems and gemstones that you can't find at your typical jewelry store. Come in and see for yourself.

**925.416.1111**

3003-B Hopyard Road, Pleasanton

[www.CardinalJewelers.com](http://www.CardinalJewelers.com)



Co-owners Teri Sherman and Nancy Grant, each armed with 30 years of experience in the travel industry, opened **Pleasanton Travel** in October 2009. Winner of the Bay Area Best Travel Agency, Tri-Valley Herald 2003, and awarded Nexion Travel's Circle of Excellence in 2007, our agency treats every vacation we book like it's our own. It is our privilege to make your vacation dreams a reality. We specialize in leisure travel, and we also arrange and escort tours to exciting destinations around the world.

We belong to several professional travel industry organizations, as well as the Pleasanton Downtown Association and Chamber of Commerce.



We work **HARD** to make travel **EASY** for you!

Come visit us in the Hopyard Village and let us create your perfect custom vacation!



**925.462.8484**

3037 Hopyard Road Suite P • Pleasanton  
(in the Hopyard Village above Alexandria's Flowers)

[www.PleasantonTravel.com](http://www.PleasantonTravel.com)



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Kenneth and Jacque are licensed hearing aid dispensers and our goal is to provide advanced, experienced care you can trust with complete audiology hearing care services and the newest and most advanced state of the art hearing instruments.

Our hearing devices include the **InSound Lyric®**, an extended use hearing device that can stay in the ear for up to four months.

Our practice is devoted to giving you back the sweet sounds of life in a comfortable, professional and state of the art office.

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Livermore  
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1524 Holmes, Ste. D



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**[www.borgfence.com](http://www.borgfence.com)**

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### Janja Colic

*Director from Kidango Bernal Center*



### Serving Tri-Valley Families with children ages 2-5

The Kidango Bernal Center provides part-day and full-day preschool programs to children ages 2-5 years old. While Kidango is new to the City of Pleasanton, we have 30 years of experience in the child development field. Our preschool programs promote social-emotional growth, cognitive development and hands-on learning so children are well-prepared for Kindergarten and future life success. The Bernal Center is licensed by Community Care Licensing and has stimulating, attractive, and functional learning spaces. Additionally, the curriculum is designed to fit each child's specific needs and interests.

At the Kidango Bernal Center, your child will experience a quality early education program through interactions with peers and Kidango's credentialed and professional teaching staff. Janja Colic, Center Director, leads the Center's educational team. Janja brings with her 30 years of experience in the field of early education, is CPR and First Aid Certified, and is highly regarded by children, parents, and colleagues alike. Janja believes that "It is important to forge strong and open relationships with parents, so that we can all work together to ensure that their children are happy and well prepared for Kindergarten and beyond."

The Kidango staff looks forward to meeting you and your family and hopes to become your trusted preschool and child care provider. Call (925)846-8043 to schedule a tour today!

### Kidango Bernal Center

4667 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

Operating Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7a.m. - 6p.m.

925. 846.8043 ■ [www.kidango.org](http://www.kidango.org)

**Serving Tri-Valley Families with children ages 2-5 years old!**



## AMTS Tax Services

**Robert Strawn**, the owner of **AMTS Tax Services** has been in the finance and tax fields for more than 35 years. He has worked for Fortune 500 companies, small companies, a large medical center, and the government. His roles have included accountant, tax auditor, assistant Treasurer, tax manager, Chief Financial Officer and tax consultant.

At **AMTS Tax Services** we provide a complete suite of services to help families and businesses deal with their tax and business matters. We can prepare and e-file your personal income tax returns, estimates, and extensions.

For businesses we provide payroll services, income and sales tax preparation services, bookkeeping/accounting, and income and sales tax audit representation. We are prepared to handle your sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation.

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Pleasanton, CA 94566

[amtstax@att.net](mailto:amtstax@att.net)

# Touch of Elegance Hair Salon

Where everyday is a good hair day!



**Touch of Elegance Hair Salon** has been a vital part of the success of Pleasanton's Downtown for over 30 years. We recently completed a major remodel, so, if you haven't visited lately, we've missed you.....and you've missed.....a lot!

**Touch of Elegance Hair Salon** has always attracted the most talented stylists, and this tradition continues today. We regularly attend informational and hands on education in an effort to stay in touch with the latest trends in cutting, styling, chemical services, and 'Salon Exclusive' hair care products.

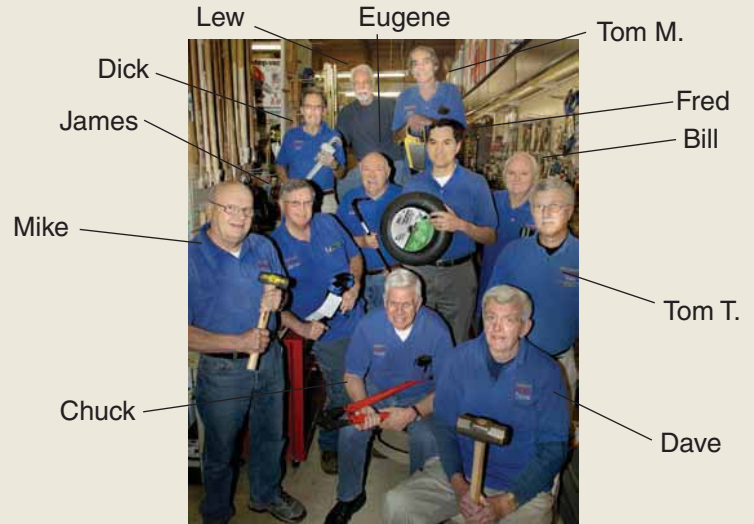
14+ stylists and a full-time nail tech (call: 212-1289) ensures you will find one to fit your particular needs & your busy schedule. Call today & let one of our stylists make your day...a good hair day!!

**925.846.3777**

148 Ray Street, Pleasanton  
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Walk-ins Welcome/Appointments Appreciated

**Rental Station available for qualified stylist. Call for details: 925.580.9849**

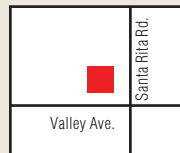


**Workbench True Value** Hardware was started in 1969 by John Nichandros. We carry complete plumbing, electrical, paint and garden supplies. Also lots of hard to find items needed for home repairs in the Pleasanton area. In addition we sharpen scissors and knives, repair screens, rekey locks, thread pipe and do computer color matching on paint. Every month we offer over 200 items on special. Come in and see the variety of merchandise we carry. It has been said that if we don't have it, you don't need it!

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- A unique and comprehensive understanding of the Real Estate market
- Professional negotiating, marketing, networking and communication
- Combined 50+ years of Pleasanton Real Estate experience
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- Leverage of Local, National & International alliances

Our unique team concept gives you access to four qualified agents, with over 30 years combined experience. Our advanced networking efforts, dominant Internet presence, leverage of local, national and international alliances, as well as our ever evolving professional marketing strategies, make us the right team for you. We can help with first-time through luxury home buyers and sellers in Pleasanton, the Tri-Valley and up through the 680 corridor.

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DRE License #01735040

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459 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton, CA 94566



## Why work with Darlene Crane?

There are several reasons. First, she has been a Top Mortgage Loan Professional in the industry for over 30 years. In addition, her affiliation with RPM Mortgage stands out as Pleasanton's mortgage leader because we're Mortgage Bankers, not brokers. This means with Darlene, you're working with the bank so you'll experience streamlined processing and the fastest turnaround time possible and in addition to that, warm personalized service with the loan products that best meet your needs, i.e. Conforming, Jumbo, FHA and VA loans. Darlene's experience and knowledge extends beyond the common loan. She has been chosen as a Preferred Loan Agent to Multiple Builders and Developers in the New and Custom Tract Communities as recent as 2011 and over the past 25 years. Darlene is conveniently located in the heart of downtown Pleasanton, and is proud to serve this wonderful city and state. Darlene provides a warm and professional environment to all her clients and associates, so you experience a positive experience throughout the loan process. Speed, knowledge, and friendly service — all with her team that strives to exceed your expectations, to be worthy of your trust, and to earn your repeat and referral business.

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# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.hopyard.com).

### Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub since 1995. Try one of our 6 House Beers brewed FRESH weekly. Full bar and daily happy hour! Watch all sports with

friends on our multiple screens. We feature a full menu including lunch and dinner specials. To-go orders are welcome. Facilities available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday. Visit [www.mainstreet-brewery.com](http://www.mainstreet-brewery.com) for activities and special events.

## ITALIAN

### Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Reserve our banquet facilities for large parties, up to 70 guests.

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"Most Romantic Restaurant"

- Banquets • Full Bar
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New Happy Hours  
4:00pm - 6:00pm

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Help Celebrate our 15th Anniversary!  
Beads, Beers, and more!  
Music by Zydeco Flames 7-10pm

**Live Music Every Friday & Saturday**

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Tribute to 80's hair rock

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World music, high energy folk rock



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Hours: Mon - Sat 11:00 am - 11:00 pm  
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Happy Hour (50% off): 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Monday and Tuesday Only!

We change flavors every week!

With purchase of 2 \$8 or more  
FREE yogurt up to \$5  
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Buy 2 Get 1  
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Italian Cuisine

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Dishes only use the  
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Saturday & Sunday  
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Purchase one meal at regular price,  
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Cannot be combined with any other  
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**30 BEERS ON TAP**

Try our new menu items designed by Bruce Paton, "The Beer Chef"

Springtime is coming! Enjoy our improved outdoor dining area!

St. Patrick's Day is Thursday, March 17

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**PLEASANTON**  
**(925) 426-9600**  
3015-H Hopyard Road  
[www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com)

## Author Visits

**NANCY KRULIK** Author of the Katie Kazoo, George Brown Class Clown, and How I Survived Middle School series will be speaking at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Pleasanton

Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The event is free, and books are available.

## Classes

**HIDDEN WORLDS** Visit the naturalist as he travels into little-seen worlds,

the macroscopic and microscopic universes. The class is from 2-3 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, located between Foothill Road and Old Foothill Road. After this program, your world may never look the same again. Cost \$8 for residents; \$11 for non-residents. Call 931-3483. Pleasanton.

from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, March 3, at the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club, 4000 Dagnino Rd., Livermore. This has been a hot topic for the East Bay anglers and in particular the Tri-Valley. In addition, Dr. Donald Gardner will do a short presentation of his recent trip to Alaska. Call 383-7153 or email [m.plotkin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.plotkin@sbcglobal.net).

## Concerts

**'FROM FOLK TUNES TO MASTER WORKS'** Pleasanton Chamber Players will present "From Folk Tunes to Master Works" at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 6, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$16, \$20 and \$24 for adults; \$20 for seniors; and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Events

**AAUW HOSTS ASANTE FOUNDATION** Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch AAUW will host Asante Africa Foundation speakers, Erma Grasz, Founder; and Dennis Lyamuya, Partner; at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. They will present a video of East African cultures and classroom experiences of children benefited by the Asante Foundation. This event is free and is open to the public. Call Dot at 455-8246.

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE** Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m.,

# HANDCRAFTED FRESH ITALIAN



**2010 Winner Fall Fest "Sweet & Savory" Competition**

- First Place... "Savory"
- Second Place... "Sweet"

**Winner of Bon Appétit Best Dessert in October**

**Sentite L'amore!**

- House-made Pastas
- Unique Daily Specials
- Local and Classic Italian Wine List

**BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE**

- Choice of One of our Pannini Lunch Sandwiches
- Sfizi - Italian fun food...small bites of our delicious appetizers for a great lunch

Exp. 3-31-11. Must mention this ad.

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680 Main Street • Downtown Pleasanton  
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**LAUGH WITH ANNA** Laughter yoga is the easiest and gentlest form of aerobic exercise. It reduces stress and helps lower blood pressure. Laughter promotes deep breathing, filling your lungs with fresh oxygen. The class is from 2-3 p.m. Fridays from now through March 11 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Wheelchairs welcome. Cost \$2. Instructor Anna Wakefield. Call 556-4511 or visit [www.dublinse-niorcenter.com](http://www.dublinse-niorcenter.com).

## Clubs

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** LAVGC will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 10, at Alisal Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 1454 Santa Rita Rd., to hear Jeff Rosendale, owner of a nursery in Watsonville and past president of UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Associates, speak about plants for a drought tolerant garden. Visitors welcome. Visit [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org).

**TRI-VALLEY FLY FISHERS** Guest speakers Vaughn Willett and Mike Hawley will present "How to Fly Fish at Lake Del Valle: at the next meeting of the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers,

# Tri-Valley Laser Clinic

Dr. Scott F. Hamlin • 1439 Cedarwood Lane, Suite C, Pleasanton, CA • (925) 594-3074

non-invasive LipoLaser technology

**REDUCE FAT & CELLULITE • SCULPT YOUR BODY**

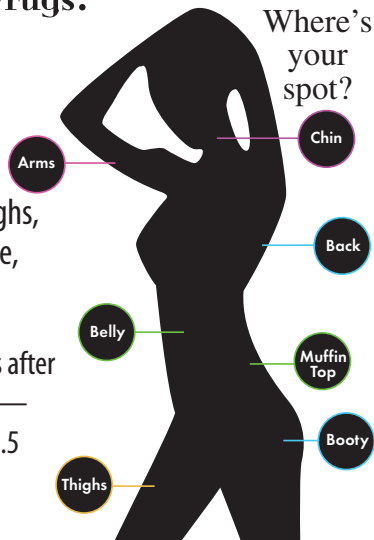
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**REFINE • RESHAPE • REVIVE**  
"The results of liposuction without the need for surgery"

Treatment areas include stomach, face, hips, thighs, back fat, chicken wings, double chins, baby bulge, male breasts and cellulite.

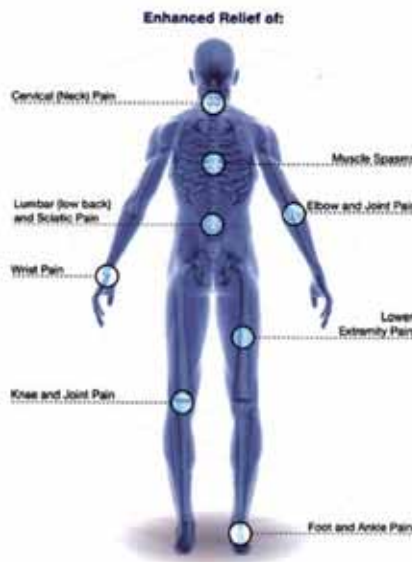


Phenomenal results after just one treatment — inch loss between 0.5 inches and 3 inches



deep-tissue laser therapy

**PAIN & INFLAMMATION REDUCTION**



- No Drugs or Surgery
- Achieve Faster Results
- No Known Side Effects

**Ideal for:**

Musculoskeletal Pain, Soft Tissue Injuries, Migraine Headaches, Back Pain, Spinal Conditions, Myofascial Trigger Points, Epicondylitis (Tennis Elbow), Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Neuropathic Pain, Bell's Palsy, Plantar Fasciitis, Sports Injuries and more!

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Laser  
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**LipoLaser Fat Reduction**  
PURCHASE 9-TREATMENT PACKAGE & GET THE TENTH TREATMENT FREE. WITH THIS COUPON

Tri Valley  
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**Pain Reduction & Elimination**  
ONE FREE TREATMENT  
WITH THIS COUPON

Wednesday, March 9, at Museum On Main, 603 Main St., to reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor our veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathe Norman at 462-7495 or email Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com.

**NUTRITION CLASS** Learn about diet, nutrition and weight loss and how to build a balanced diet and time your meals for optimal nutrition, from 5-5:45 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, at Zen Pilates and Fitness, 3059 Hopyard Rd. Call Traci Saba at 600-7800 to reserve your free spot. Contact Frances Hewitt at 487-4748 with questions.

**OPERALIVE** Livermore Valley Opera's community outreach program will present a free program featuring principal singers and members of the opera orchestra performing excerpts from its upcoming production of "Madama Butterfly." The event is from 2-3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Visit [www.livermorevalleyopera.com](http://www.livermorevalleyopera.com).

## Exhibits

**'MARKS OF NATURE: VISUAL NOTES ON THE PHYSICAL WORLD'** The new exhibit at the Firehouse Arts Center features works of four artists in diverse media that explore interpretations of the pleasant, abstract qualities of images in nature. The exhibit hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, from March 9 through April 2 at the Firehouse Arts Center, Harrington Gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave. The exhibit includes works by Rebecca J. Alex, JoAnn Biagini, Sheila Metcalf Tobin and Ellen Sachtschale. A donation of \$2 is suggested. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Film

**'GASLAND'** The TriValley Democratic Club is showing the Academy Award nominee, "Gasland," which addresses the problems of natural gas extraction and the catastrophic damage it is doing to the environment and to the properties of Americans who were hook-winked into allowing this to happen on their land. First, there is a meet-and-greet potluck at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Discussion follows the film. Suggested donation, \$3. Call 462-3459.

## Fundraisers

**FRIENDS OF THE DUBLIN LIBRARY BOOK SALE** Friends of the Dublin Library will host a book sale from 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 4 for members only; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, March 5; 1-5 p.m., Sunday, March 6; and from noon-3 p.m., Monday, March 7, with the Bag Day sale which you fill a paper bag for \$4. Proceeds benefit the library, which is located at 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call 828-1315.

## Health

**ART FOR THE HEART** ValleyCare is sponsoring a free art therapy pro-

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



gram for cancer patients and their loved ones. A local artist from Lilly Oncology will lead participants in an art lesson from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 240. Supplies and lunch will be provided. Call to register, 734-3319.

**LEARN AT LUNCH PROGRAM** "Surviving Cancer: Guidelines for Care" will be the program from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Speaker Dr. Rishi Sawhney will discuss chemo brain, neuropathy and monitoring health after treatments has been complete. RSVP by Feb. 28 to 734-3319. Lunch donated by Safeway Foundation grant. No charge.

## Kids & Teens

**FAMILY GAME DAY AT THE LIBRARY!** Enjoy an afternoon of fun play a variety of board and card games from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 12 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Drop in anytime for some fun & games at the library. In addition, at 3 p.m. we will add Nintendo Wii on the big projection screen! For ages 5 and up; children under 8 must be accompanied by a high school teen or adult the entire time. The event is free. Call 931-3400 ext 8 or visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**ESCAPE FROM SOBIBOR** Philip Bialowitz, one of the eight remaining survivors of Sobibor, will tell his riveting tale of the largest escape from a Nazi Death Camp, from 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Rd. This may be an opportune event to share with teenage children. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. Call 846-0700 or visit [www.JewishTriValley.com](http://www.JewishTriValley.com).

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS** Las Positas College Student Health and Wellness Center will present "Sex

Signals," award-winning sexual assault awareness and prevention program, at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 9, at the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. The event is free and open to the public; parking is \$2. "Sex Signals" is a 90-minute touring performance that incorporates improvisational comedy, education and audience interaction to provide a provocative look at dating, sex and the core issue of consent, as well as bystander intervention strategies. Call 424-1830 or visit [www.laspositascollege.edu/healthcenter](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/healthcenter).

**TEMPLE GRANDIN TO SPEAK** Temple Grandin, portrayed in an award-winning HBO movie and regarded as the world's most accomplished and best-known adult with autism, will speak at 7 p.m., Monday, March 7, at Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets are \$5, available at the campus bookstore; parking is \$2. Call 424-1554 or visit [www.laspositascollege.edu](http://www.laspositascollege.edu).

## Live Music

**'YEAR OF THE CAT'** Folk-rock-pop artist Al Stewart, best known for his platinum recordings "Year of the Cat" and "Time Passages," will perform at 8 p.m., Friday, March 11, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$27-\$37 for adults, \$12 for children and \$30 for seniors. Stewart's performance is highlighted by his signature musical tours of history, filled with a rich cast of characters and events. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**JAZZ DUO TUCK & PATTI** Guitarist Tuck Andress and vocalist Patti Cathcart met at an audition in 1980 and have been making "music magic" ever since. The duo's friendship and collaboration grew into marriage in 1981. Their recording career took off when Windham Hill Jazz signed them for "Tears of Joy." They will perform at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$25-\$35 for adults, \$12 for children and \$27 for seniors.

## Italy in art

Artist Charlotte Severin's paintings of Cinque Terre will be on display March 1-31 along with the works of others who traveled on an artists' trip last year. The exhibit, "Tuscany and the Cinque Terre," will be at the Livermore Civic Center Library Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. An opening reception will take place from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, March 5. Other participating artists and photographers are Ann and Hugh Bevan-Thomas, June Ferreri and Justin Trent, Martin Spellman, Margo and Arne Kirkewoog, and Bonnie Bartlett.

The group traveled to Florence on Aug. 23, then to the Hill Towns of Tuscany, and ended with five days in Vernazza in the Cinque Terre, returning home Sept. 9.

Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**THE TUBES** The Tubes will be performing at 8 p.m., Friday, March 4, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Its debut album in 1975 included the hit single "White Punks on Dope," a tribute to rich fans in San Francisco. The Tubes most recent album, "Mondo Birthmark," was released in 2009 and contains previously unreleased rare photos and interviews of the group. Tickets are \$30-\$40. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Miscellaneous

**RECRUITMENT GRANT AVAILABLE \$500** The local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international honor society for women educators, is offering a \$500 grant to a woman student pursuing a career in education. To be eligible, she must be a graduate of a high school in Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin; a full-time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2011; and have a good GPA. Deadline for application is March 19. For more information and an application, form send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Susan Canfield, 262 Trevarno Rd., Livermore 94551.

## Seniors

**SENSORY GARDEN TOUR** The Sensory Garden is adjacent to the Senior Center and contains plants selected for fragrance, tactile and auditory features and or attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds. The garden consists of raised and ground level beds well designed for the enjoyment by all. Learn more on the tour from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 8, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit [www.pleasanton-seniorcenter.org](http://www.pleasanton-seniorcenter.org).

**ZUMBA GOLD** Take part in a gentle exercise dance program with a Latin flair and other international rhythms. Zumba Gold includes a mixture of salsa, meringue, calypso and belly dance. Class is from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Fridays, now through March 25 at the Dublin

Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. No partners necessary. Work out at your own pace. A minimum of 10 students is required. RSVP to 556-4511 or visit [www.dublinseniorcenter.com](http://www.dublinseniorcenter.com). Cost \$9 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Adults only.

## Spiritual

**AKASHIC RECORDS BOOK STUDY GROUP** The Akashic Records contain the energetic record of every soul and its journey throughout time. The study group will cover the first four chapters of the book, "How to Read the Akashic Records" by Linda Howe, in two meetings from 2-4:30 p.m., Sundays, March 6 and March 20, in private homes. Call to get the location and for any other information 202-1752 or visit [www.mariconiglione.com](http://www.mariconiglione.com).

**LENTEN WORKSHOP** Christian mothers will explore themes such as self-esteem, friendships, stress and everyday spirituality at a seven-week workshop, from 6:45-8:45 p.m., Thursdays, March 3 through April 14, at MOMS Lenten Workshop, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Take some time for yourself and meet other moms with similar interests. All denominations are welcome. Cost \$20. Email [kim-rice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kim-rice@sbcglobal.net).

## Sports

**MORNING GROUP RIDE - CYCLING** A group ride starts at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday from Cycle Pros Bike Shop, 728 Main St., meeting in the parking lot. The ride breaks into groups based on skill and distance. The regular ride usually covers 25-40 miles at speeds of 14-18 mph. The long ride covers 35-60 miles at a brisker pace. Routes vary each week. On Sundays mornings, there is a group ride for everyone, same time, same place, broken down into levels based on ability and distance. Call 400-4336 or visit [www.thecyclepros.com](http://www.thecyclepros.com).

**SIGN-UP FOR TENNIS LESSONS** Lifetime Tennis has opened its registration for the spring session for youth and adults. To sign-up, visit [www.lifetimetennis.com](http://www.lifetimetennis.com) or visit in person at 5801 Valley Ave. (corner of Valley and Hopyard). Sessions begin the week of March 27. Call 931-3449.

## Support Groups

**PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP** Its mission is to provide support and comfort to the families of Pleasanton residents whose loved ones are deployed in combat zones. This group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of care items for deployed members of the armed forces; the next pack out is for Easter and takes place March 26. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where these personnel have streamers displayed with their name, rank and branch of service. Contact Chairwoman Pat Frizzell at [PleasantonMilitaryFamilies@gmail.com](mailto:PleasantonMilitaryFamilies@gmail.com) or Chris Miller at [millercj3@gmail.com](mailto:millercj3@gmail.com).

## confessions of a wedding

# DJ

Some simple advice for a complicated day

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN (AKA DJ GLENN)**

By day, I'm a mild-mannered reporter for a pretty good weekly newspaper. But on weekends, I change into my costume, and while I don't have "powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men," I do have skills.

I'm a wedding DJ/emcee, and for more than 20 years I've been helping brides and grooms making their day their own.

Every time I think I've seen it all, I see something new. Like the time I was playing "Take Me To The River" and the entire bridal party jumped into the river just outside the reception hall. Or the Disney-themed wedding: The wedding song was "A Whole New World," (which, I suppose, beats "Beauty And The Beast"), where the bride wanted as much romantic Disney music as I could play — and still keep people dancing.

I've had a bridesmaid and groomsman disappear between the wedding and reception hall for a private celebration of their own. I've had a limo break down en route to the reception and out of cell phone range — fortunately, a woman in the nearest house had a cherry-red mid-'60s Olds 88 and volunteered to take the bride and groom to the reception herself, leaving the limo driver to wait the two hours it took to get a replacement.

I've had couples who've spent three hours behind closed doors during their reception putting together favors or who have spent their entire reception going from table to table talking to their guests, and at one event I was handed a hand-written list of introductions at the moment I was supposed to start them. I've had brides nearly faint, bridesmaids who did, officiants who didn't show up (I'm now qualified to perform weddings myself, thanks to an online certification), extremely intoxicated guests/brides/grooms/etc., feuding parents, a photographer who went missing mid-reception, and once, a frantic call from a bride and groom three days before their wedding because the other DJ they'd hired had gone missing.

Given all that, here's the single-most important piece of information I give my bride and grooms: No matter how carefully you plan, something is going to go wrong. It may be something big or it may be something small, but something will go wrong. The only difference between it being something you laugh about and something that ruins your day is your attitude, so make a commitment to have fun, no matter what.

Also, remember: It's your day. Everyone will tell you about traditions, or that this is how it's done — or worse yet, — this is how "we" do it. As far as I'm concerned, if my couples want to get married, then change into shorts and T-shirts and dance the rest of the day, then that's what they should be able to do. My advice is to do what you want and not listen to the hall, the photographer or even your parents.

There are two things more than any others that can help brides and grooms enjoy their day. The first thing is to get enough sleep, which can be difficult to pull off the night before your wedding, especially when you're surrounded by out-of-towners who've come in to party. Remember, you're getting married in just a few hours, and while your guests can sleep in, you probably won't have that option. The other is to eat that day. Adrenaline, which you'll likely be running on all day, only lasts so long. My experience is that grooms skimp on sleep, while brides forget to eat.

One more thing: Don't be afraid to delegate. Give your best man or maid of honor a checklist and have them load important stuff into their cars the night before.

A study about 10 years ago in "Modern Bride" magazine said all couples really want from their DJ is for him to:

- A. Show up; and
- B. Not be a jerk.

That's a pretty low bar, but consider the fact that, for some, the motivating factor that led them to get into the business is the idea that they can get paid and also get all the free drinks they want. Anyone can go out, spend a grand on equipment, subscribe to Columbia House, and call himself a DJ.

One look at Craigslist on any given day will show at

least a dozen DJs who are willing to play for a wedding for next to nothing. Many of them are good, but how can you tell? Most of them can even provide references, but again, how can you tell if he's good or just had a good night? As my friends in the South are fond of saying, even a blind pig gets an acorn from time to time. Ask for references from their last three events and call them.

A more recent article pointed out that the DJ has 95 percent of the responsibility for the success of a wedding. No one leaves an event and says "Man, that was a great fruit platter," but nearly everyone will comment on the DJ.

So, with that in mind, here are some questions you should ask when talking to a prospective DJ:

■ How much experience do you have with weddings?  
Weddings are a specialized area of DJing. They require not only skill at playing the right music at the right time but also working with the couple before and during the event, managing the timeline (so that things happen when they're supposed to happen), and working with other professionals (making sure, for example, the champagne is poured before the toast, or checking to see the photographer is in the room and ready to take pictures of the cake cutting).

■ If we book you, will you be the DJ at my event?  
This trend has been growing as DJ companies get bigger and as the Internet has grown. It's unfortunate that many companies send out DJs sight (and skills) unseen.

Will you play music we provide?  
This is a complicated question, especially in light of illegal music downloading. Any DJ should be able to play what you provide, as long as it's in the right format. A good DJ will already have the song you're looking for or buy it for you. Some will even let you plug your iPod right into their system; I personally discourage that, because I can control things better with CDs or through my laptop.

■ What about requests?  
Your DJ should sit down with you ahead of time and plan out all your requests as well as discussing a do-not-play list. Do you love the Chicken Dance or hate it? What about guest requests?

■ Do you have a system for our cocktail hour or for our ceremony — or both?  
This is common, especially when ceremonies aren't in a traditional church setting. Often, a DJ will need to provide music for the ceremony, music for cocktail hour and music for the reception, all in different locations.

■ What about back-up equipment?  
I still believe in the Boy Scout slogan, "Be prepared." In addition to back-up equipment, I also carry a DJ emergency kit including, among other things, an extra bouquet to throw, an extra garter, aspirin, Tylenol, Midol and Imodium, just in case.

■ Do you have a cordless microphone?  
Every DJ needs both a cordless and corded mic. I generally provide one for the officiant if I'm doing a ceremony as well as one for the toasts.

■ What will you wear to our wedding?  
A DJ needs to wear a tux. Period.

■ Do we need to provide a meal?  
Another tough question; some DJs even have a meal written into their contracts, but at \$50 and up per plate for the photographer (and possibly his assistants), a videographer and a DJ, that can add up. Remember, all those professionals may have to go as long as 12 hours between meals. In general, they can get away with eating at a buffet where there's often food left over, but it's worth checking with your hall or caterer to see if they offer meals to the professionals for free or at a reduced rate.

■ What about gratuities?  
Every DJ loves a tip. It's a sign that he's done something right. The rule of thumb is if someone works for himself, no tipping is required, and while it's not required for someone working for a company, consider if he's done an above-average job and compensate him appropriately.

I said when I started DJing that I'd do it as long as it's fun, and I'm happy to say that I still love the whole idea of marriage, and the love I see at every event. ■



# Africa's imprint on America's cuisine

Celebrate Black History month with 'Nawlins Gumbo — and a little history

By JACQUI LOVE MARSHALL

I used to question the value of Black History Month yet, over the years, I have seen how the 28 days of cultural celebration each year have profiled people and events. So, consider this article my donation to Black History Month.

As slaves, Africans introduced certain food items to the U.S. and adapted others to their cultural tastes. Historic ship logs show that slave traders, in a self-interested effort to yield the highest prices for their slaves, brought indigenous foods from Africa to ensure the slaves ate well.

One staple food for various African groups was the yam, sweeter with a different skin than the sweet potato found here. In African culture, the yam has been growing in Africa for about 8,000 years. Throughout Africa, the porridge made from yams and grains and eaten with sauce or meat is a common meal.

Peanuts came to the Americas through Portuguese slave traders, and slaves quickly adopted the peanut to their culinary needs, eating them raw, boiled, roasted, as a flavorful ingredient in soups and stews and as oil for frying. Recipes using peanuts began showing up in early American cookbooks, and peanuts became popular as snacks among working class Americans



who ate them in the cheap theater seats known as the "peanut gallery."

In the 1600s, Arab traders introduced bananas to Africa and they quickly became an important crop and food item. In fact, the name "banana" was generated in West Africa and, as with peanuts, Portuguese slave traders brought the fruit to America along with their slaves.

Okra, native to Africa, is the most typical African food of all American foods. While okra was originally brought here as food for slaves, it has become closely associated with Southern cuisine, especially the Creole cuisine of Louisiana. Okra stews, later called gumbos, were creative blends of okra, meats, fish, vegetables, rice. In fact, "gumbo" comes from the word for okra in Ghana's Twi language.

The watermelon originated in Africa over 5,000 years ago but the fruit arrived in America via the Spaniards and was grown in New England by the early 1600s. Africans grew it and made it popular throughout the Southern U.S. Because of slavery, the watermelon leaves an unpleasant taste in the mouths of some, yet its origins are positively African ... and it has become an American iconic food.

Rice has been cultivated in West Africa since 1500 B.C. In the lowlands of Senegal and Gambia, rice was grown in a wetlands system similar to the paddy system of Asia. Initially grown as food for slaves, South

Carolina plantation owners produced and exported rice throughout North America. Africans brought both the rice growing expertise and slave labor that fueled the export business and the creation of wealth among rice.

As Africans from many different tribes arrived here in America, they were exposed to the foods and culinary traditions of other tribes. Rice eaters met yam eaters, meat eaters met fish eaters; hence, many foods and recipes were shared among tribes. On some plantations, slaves were allowed to grow familiar foods: okra, yams, watermelon, rice, bananas, peanuts, etc., but they did not always have control over their own crops or meals. Instead, they adapted to their surroundings by altering how they cooked the foods they were given.

Moreover, slaves began substituting American ingredients for items no longer available to them, thus creating whole new cuisines. In fact, what we call "Southern cuisine" was primarily created by those who did most of the cooking: black slave cooks who labored in the kitchens of Southern aristocracy, putting their own personal cooking style into the foods that were eaten in those households. Watermelon, fried chicken, flaming bananas foster, peanut butter sandwiches, rice and beans, sweet potato pie ... all American foods ... foods all influenced by African Americans.

—Jacqui Love Marshall lives in San Ramon with her pug, Nina Simone, and volumes of cookbooks and recipes.

## 'Nawlins Gumbo (serves 16 or 2 meals for 8)

1 cup vegetable oil  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
6 large onions, chopped (about 12 cups)  
6 red bell peppers, seeded, chopped (about 7 cups)  
8 celery stalks, chopped (about 3 cups)  
16 garlic cloves, chopped  
1 tsp cayenne pepper  
1 cup dry white wine  
1/2 cup chopped fresh thyme  
6 bay leaves  
2 - 28-oz cans diced tomatoes with juice  
4 - 8-oz bottles clam juice  
4 cups low-salt chicken broth  
4 pounds andouille sausage, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick slices  
3 pounds skinless boneless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch cubes  
2 - 16-oz packages sliced frozen okra  
4 pounds peeled deveined medium shrimp  
Salt and pepper  
Minced fresh Italian parsley  
Steamed rice

1. Heat oil in a large, heavy pot over medium-high heat until very hot and almost smoking. Add flour and stir constantly until the mixture is dark reddish brown, about 5 minutes (this is the critical "roux").
2. Add chopped onions, chopped bell peppers, and chopped celery and cook until onions are soft and brown, stirring frequently, about 20 minutes. Add garlic and cayenne and stir 2 minutes.
3. Add wine, thyme and bay leaves; bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Add tomatoes with juice, clam juice, broth, sausage, and chicken; simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 15 minutes.
4. Add okra and simmer until tender, about 10 minutes. Cool slightly; chill uncovered until cold, then cover and keep chilled. This gumbo base can be made two days ahead.
5. Bring base to simmer before continuing. Add shrimp to pot and cook shrimp until just opaque in center, stirring often, about five minutes. Season gumbo to taste with salt and pepper.
6. Garnish with minced parsley and serve with steamed rice alongside.

## POETIC PLEASANTON



By DEBORAH GROSSMAN

### Poetry, Prose & the Arts Festival

Pleasanton broke new literary ground and hosted the first Poetry, Prose & the Arts Festival in 2001. For the 10th annual Festival on the weekend of March 26-27, an extraordinary team of literary and artistic talent will produce another special event. Al Young is the keynote speaker and a workshop presenter. An eloquent and gifted teacher, the California Poet Laureate emeritus has published over 22 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction and has taught and lectured around the globe.

The Festival offers poetry, prose and screenwriting workshops for adults, teens and youths. Topics include "The Secret to Writing a Successful Memoir" with author and former San Francisco Chronicle columnist Adair Lara, "Plotting Your Novel" with author Kathryn Reiss, and "How to Make your Poetry Publishable" with nationally known author David Alpaugh. Youth and teen programs include "Dramatic Writing for Teens" with Lisa Gentile, and "Magic Spells" for youths 5 to 11 with Alison Luteran.

As a bonus, there is a free fine arts exhibit and luncheon Literary Row to meet regional authors. Registration deadline is March 15. For information, see [http://pleasantonarts.org/ppa\\_overview.html](http://pleasantonarts.org/ppa_overview.html) or contact Dave Wright at 484-0614 or [dawright@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dawright@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you to all who supported and at-

tended the Literary Evening at the Firehouse on the Myth and Reality of the Hero and Anti-Hero on Feb. 18. The audience was riveted by the original works of 16 writers who read about folk heroes, Greek gods, real and imagined champions and anti-heroes, and don't forget those classically tragic types.

The readers included the three Pleasanton Teen Poets Laureate. Vivian Tsai of Foothill High School read her beautiful and award-winning poem, "I heard History from That Man's Scar." Here is another of Tsai's poems:

#### To Mother

By VIVIAN TSAI

The other day when we watched that movie in which a faithful daughter wailed at the funeral of her father,  
I never expected to see you crying  
so hopelessly like a child,  
losing direction on a lonely playground.

Within that darkness,  
you sent your mother off  
in the same manner as the faithful daughter.  
You too, wailed and begged and wept and  
bawled as your mother left you.

It was the first time, Mom,  
that I saw you cry,  
that I understood  
within that unspeakable depth,  
you keep with you a silent scar,  
which you never dared to talk about.

Then when the movie ended,  
you wiped off your tears and told me it's time  
to rest,  
I went back to my room,  
and wonder if I would too,  
since I grew up to be so like you,  
save that same scar when you leave me  
alone in this world.

## Tabloid tale takes to the stage in 'Bat Boy'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Bats normally don't inspire love or affection.

But somehow the star of "Bat Boy, the Musical," playing now at Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's black box venue in Pleasanton, manages to be lovable, fascinating and funny. Very funny.

The production spins from a 1992 tabloid story about a half-boy, half-bat, who's allegedly been discovered. In the late '90s, the Actors Gang in Los Angeles presented this exciting take on the weird story and since then it has gained a cult following.

In the musical, when the Bat Boy (Alex Rodriguez) is found in a cave by three teenagers and attacks one of them, he's creepy and scary. The teens manage to bring the Bat Boy home to Hope Falls, W.Va., and the nervous town folks deliver him to veterinarian Dr. Parker (Paul Plain) to be euthanized.

But the doc is out duck hunting. His wife Meredith (Patty Penrod) takes in the Bat Boy, names him Edgar and, over a period of time, civilizes him, with help from her daughter Shelley (Meghan Ihle). Edgar even earns his high school equivalency diploma.

At that point, Edgar is lovable — dressing like a dandy, taking pride in learning new words, and quoting the Bible to make a point. But meanwhile cattle are mysteriously dying, threatening the town's economy, and all eyes turn in suspicion to the Bat Boy. And he's being kept alive with meals of blood provided by Dr. Parker.



This latest TVRT satire is a festival of emotions — fear, horror, delight — all accompanied by a fine chorus of singing and dancing. Act II opens with a rousing revival meeting headed by the visiting faith healer Rev. Hightower, where Edgar begs for acceptance — and almost succeeds.

"He is a boy with a big need as all of us are. Where do we find our place?" explains director Paul Plain in the program notes. "The musical is goofy, it's quirky, it's weird, but it is also tragically truthful."

The plot twists and turns with outrageous characters, many in drag and some taking on two roles. The audience howled in parts, and the actors seemed to enjoy the production as much as those who had paid to watch. It's a spoof with truths and what better way to have them presented?

The bizarre tale does require a little adjustment.

As Plain says: "Open your mind and your heart and hold on to your seat."

Note: It's for adults, not recommended for younger audiences. ■

#### An amazing tale

**What:** "Bat Boy — The Musical"  
**Who:** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre  
**When:** 8 p.m. Fridays/Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays; Feb. 25-March 13  
**Where:** TVRT Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton  
**Cost:** \$25 for adults; \$22, seniors; \$20, students; substantial discount for groups purchasing 20 or more tickets.  
**Tickets:** Go to [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org); call 462-2121; or go to theater ticket office, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., on Wednesdays or Fridays

# Marketplace

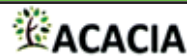
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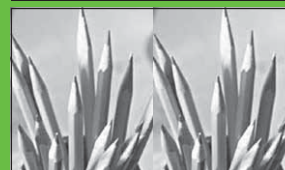
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We Need Roller Hockey Players!

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Teens For Jeans 2011

### 150 Volunteers

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\$28,900 Low11,460Miles=2010Model.  
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### 210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave, Current

### 215 Collectibles & Antiques

Pelikan 800 Rollerball Pen - \$185

Royal Doulton figurine - \$25

### 235 Wanted to Buy

**Diabetic Test Strips**  
Wanted. Cash paid. Unopened, unexpired boxes only. All brands considered. Help others, don't throw boxes away. For more information, Call 888-491-1168. (Cal-SCAN)

### 240 Furnishings/Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10

Entertainment Cabinet - 20

Wallhugger Recliner-NEW! - \$275.00

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Mouthwatering gourmet strawberry gifts fresh for all occasions! 100% satisfaction guaranteed. Delivered nationwide. SAVE 20% on Dipped Berries! Visit www.berries.com/berries or Call 1-888-903-2988.

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Wisdom Works



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# Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

## New home sales in Bay Area drop to lowest level in 20 years

Median price for all sales also down from year ago

By JEB BING

Bay Area home sales have dropped since December, but sales are still higher in early 2011 than they were during the same period in 2010, a real estate information service said.

It's normal for sales to be slow this time of year, meaning January and February are not necessarily predictive of upcoming trends, according to a report by real estate monitoring service DataQuick.

Overall home sales rose slightly in early 2011 compared with the same time last year, with 4,966 sold in the Bay Area, DataQuick said.

Within the Bay Area, Napa County had the highest increase, rising 35.6% from last year. Solano County saw the biggest decrease with a drop of 3% from last year, according to DataQuick.

New-home sales dropped to their lowest in more than 20 years with 253 sales, DataQuick officials said.

"Builders just can't build homes that can compete in price with the bargains out there, especially foreclosure resales," DataQuick president John Walsh said in a statement.

The median price for new and resale

houses and condos in the Bay Area dropped to \$338,000 in January 2011, compared to \$350,000 in January 2010, DataQuick reported.

Sales of higher-cost homes appear to still be suffering from the credit crisis, which made adjustable-rate mortgages and "jumbo" loans more difficult to obtain, the report said.

Jumbo loans, which accounted for nearly 60% of the Bay Area purchase loan market before the credit crunch more than three years ago, accounted for only 27.1% of January's purchasing lending, the report said.

Government-insured Federal Housing Administration loans made up 25% of all home purchase mortgages in January.

Monthly mortgage payments are down from last month and last year, according to DataQuick.

The typical mortgage for January was \$1,412, compared to \$1,558 in December and \$1,525 in January 2010.

Foreclosure activity remains high but is below peak levels reached over the last two years, the report said. ■

## Real estate group wants secondary mortgage market changes

Some government presence needed to 'ensure continued flow of capital,' NAR says

The National Association of Realtors has endorsed the Obama Administration's call for an orderly transition from the current form of the secondary mortgage market to a new structure that would enable Americans to achieve affordable, sustainable mortgages.

"NAR believes that we cannot have a restoration of the former secondary mortgage market with entities that took private profits while pushing losses onto the taxpayer," said NAR President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I. "The new system must involve some government presence, outside of FHA, USDA, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to ensure a continued flow of capital to housing markets during economic downturns when large lenders flee the housing market."

"As the leading advocate for home ownership, NAR recognizes that the existing system failed and that changes are needed to protect taxpayers from an open-ended bailout," Phipps added. "We believe there must be a certain level of government participation to provide middle-class families access to affordable mortgages at all times and in all markets."

A system that is dominated by a few large banks that are "too-big-to-fail" would inevitably involve huge taxpayer risk of another bailout, according to Phipps.

"An efficient and adequately regulated secondary mortgage market must make available to consumers simple yet safe, reliable mortgage products like the 15- and 30-year fixed-rate mortgages," he said.

The NAR president said he believes that the size of the government's participation in

housing finance should decrease if the market is to function properly, but noted that when private capital fled the marketplace during the recent financial crisis, government backing of residential mortgages was critical in sustaining the housing market.

"Without government support, the financial crisis could have been far worse," Phipps said.

NAR's economists estimated that a retreat of capital from the housing market would negatively impact the economy because for every 1,000 home sales, 500 jobs are created in the country.

NAR representatives are encouraging private sector participation in less traditional mortgages in innovative ways, such as through covered bonds. NAR, however, is opposing raising fees for current well-qualified consumers to cover losses stemming from mistakes made in the private business decisions of the former Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"Reducing the government's involvement in the mortgage finance market is necessary for a healthy market but should not be done at the expense of the economy or homebuyers," said Phipps. "Any proposal for increasing fees and borrowing costs beyond actuarially sound levels will only make it harder for working, middle-class individuals to achieve home ownership, and only the wealthy will be able to achieve the American dream."

"We welcome the administration's desire to engage stakeholders in the final plan and we want to serve on any advisory panel that will study the consolidation of federal incentives for housing."

—Jeb Bing

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**Cindy Gee**

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**Sue Fredrickson**

**3377 Sandstone Court – Pleasanton**  
Gorgeous luxury home with over \$150K in upgrades! Expanded spa-style master bath, incredible backyard with putting green, built-in fireplace and grill, lighted arbor, fruit trees and more! Top rated schools! A must see!  
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**Gina Piper**

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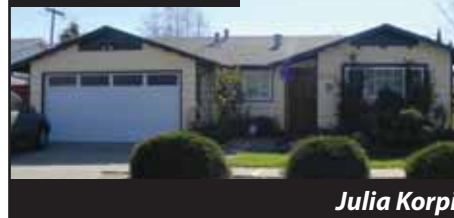
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**OPEN SUN 12-5**

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**OPEN SUN 12-5**

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**359 AMADOR CT, PLEASANTON - NO "HOME WORK" HERE!**  
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**4732 WOODROSE CIRCLE, DUBLIN - JUST AMAZING!**  
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<p><b>1867 SANNITA CT</b> RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$2,749,000</p> <p><b>5 Bd 5 (2) Ba • 7,340+/- sq.ft., 0.58+/- Acres</b> Cul-de-sac w/ unobstructed views. Impressive dual entry staircase, Oversized &amp; temp. controlled walk-in wine cellar, wet bar, large Koi pond, built in BBQ. <b>Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</b></p>	<p><b>1225 LOZANO CT</b> RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$4,299,000</p> <p><b>6 Bd 7(2) Ba • 8,877+/- sq.ft., 0.65+/- Acres</b> Stunning Ruby Hill Estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees and lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards. <b>Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</b></p>	<p><b>1586 LOGANBERRY WAY</b> PLEASANTON VALLEY, PLEASANTON UPDATED \$889,000</p> <p><b>5 Bd + Bonus Room • 2587+/- sq.ft.</b> Pleasanton Valley! Remodeled Kitchen, hardwood floors, New carpet, paint, roof, windows. <b>Weiner &amp; McDowell Group 925.251.2585</b></p>	<p><b>6645 AMBER LN</b> CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON ½ ACRE LOT &amp; POOL \$1,398,000</p> <p><b>5 Bd 3 Ba • 3,475+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Acres</b> Beautifully upgraded custom home features 5 spacious bd, improved ½ acre lot. Pool, spa, waterfall, slide, sport court and more. <b>Weiner &amp; McDowell Group 925.251.2585</b></p>	<p><b>6605 AMBER LANE</b> CARRIAGE GARDEN, PLEASANTON SINGLE LEVEL \$1,348,000</p> <p><b>3,675+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Flat Acres • Pool</b> Fabulous single level custom home, 4,000 sq.ft. on flat 1/2 acre private, wooded lot. Pool, spa, cabana. Call us for private showing. <b>Weiner &amp; McDowell Group 925.251.2585</b></p>				
<p><b>3422 TORLANO PL</b> RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON FORMAL FRENCH \$1,749,950</p> <p><b>5 Bd 3.5 Ba • 4,500+/- sq.ft., 0.56+/- Acres</b> Formidable, elegant Formal French custom home w/ private location, backing up to open space. Custom built by Jerry Soba Construction. <b>Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</b></p>	<p><b>219 E. ANGELA</b> DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON TUDOR STYLE CALL FOR PRICE</p> <p><b>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,278+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres</b> Classic Tudor architecture w/ incredible charm &amp; character, 3 bd, 2 ba plus a full bed &amp; bath in separate upstairs apartment. <b>Weiner &amp; McDowell Group 925.251.2585</b></p>	<p><b>1976 ARMONDO COURT</b> RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON ITALIAN VILLA \$3,649,000</p> <p><b>6 Bd 6.5 Ba • 9,821+/- sq.ft., 0.55+/- Acres</b> Located on a quiet cul-de-sac w/ tremendous views, private patios and balconies. This home is all about architectural details and refined craftsmanship. <b>Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</b></p>	<p><b>11 LOWER GOLF RD</b> CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON OPEN SAT &amp; SUN 1-4 \$1,250,000</p> <p><b>3 Bd 3 Ba • 2,392+/- sq.ft., 0.33+/- Acres</b> On the 8th fairway of the Castlwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors. <b>Steve &amp; Lorraine Mattos 925.980.8844</b></p>	<p><b>6125 VIA DE LOS CERROS</b> PLEASANTON WALK TO PARK \$727,000</p> <p><b>4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,300+/- sq.ft., 0.09+/- Acres</b> Upgraded kitchen, granite tile counters w/ back splash, vaulted ceilings, light and bright throughout, close to shopping, freeway access. <b>Lisa Doyle 925.855.4000</b></p>				
<p><b>1819 MADDALENA CT</b> RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON NEW PRICE \$1,298,000</p> <p><b>Land and Lot • Acres Apx: 1.27</b> Located on the West side featuring an over-sized flat building pad w/ Mt. Diablo, vineyard, &amp; golf course views. Cul-de-sac, private neighbors. <b>Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758</b></p>	<p><b>760 WALL ST</b> LIVERMORE MOVE IN READY \$415,000</p> <p><b>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,136+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres</b> Features Open Spacious Kitchen with Maple Cabinets, Master Suite w/ Walk-In Closet, Carpet &amp; Wood Laminate Flooring and much more! <b>Sara Lovett 925.583.2177</b></p>	<p><b>7123 CEDAR MOUNTAIN</b> LIVERMORE TUSCAN ESTATE \$4,298,000</p> <p><b>4 Bd 5.5 Ba • 8,950+/- sq.ft., 16.86+/- Acres</b> 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! <b>Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454</b></p>	<p><b>5578 BECK LANE</b> LINDENWOOD, LIVERMORE SINGLE STORY \$759,500</p> <p><b>4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,776+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres</b> Cul-de-sac w/ views of Community Park &amp; hills. Tastefully decorated w/ upgrades: granite countertops; hickory flooring, 2 fireplaces &amp; more! <b>Tom E. Chance 925.487.6360</b></p>	<p><b>1453 REGINALD CT</b> LIVERMORE CUSTOM HOME \$1,000,000</p> <p><b>4 Bd 4.5 Ba • 4,523+/- sq.ft., 0.49+/- Acres</b> South Livermore Custom Designed Home that is an Absolute Beauty! 4 Bd+Office+Bonus Rm. Water Fall Pool, Huge Backyard and much more! <b>Corey Green 925.899.6011</b></p>				
<p><b>6107 LEDGEWOOD TER</b> SHEA BUILT DUBLIN PANORAMIC VIEW \$947,450</p> <p><b>5 Bd 4 Ba • 3,843+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres</b> Panoramic views of Mt Diablo, Dublin hills and the Tri Valley. Walk to top rated schools, the golf course and the neighborhood swim club <b>The Engels 925.251.2510</b></p>	<p><b>5146 S FORESTDALE CIR</b> DUBLIN NO REAR NEIGHBORS \$789,900</p> <p><b>5 Bd 3 Ba • 2,661+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres</b> Upgrades throughout, 5th room currently used as office, plus it has an open loft/bonus room, over \$120k in upgrades, mountain views. <b>Lisa Doyle 925.855.4000</b></p>	<p><b>24977 PALOMARES RD</b> 38+/- ACRES, CASTRO VALLEY OPEN SUN 1-3 \$2,499,000</p> <p><b>5 Bd 4.5 Ba • 6,696+/- sq.ft., 38+/- Acres</b> Fabulous Custom Home. High ceilings, skylights, panoramic windows. With a 40 horse facility; could be used for many different uses. <b>Kristy and Company 925.251.2536</b></p>	<p><b>1711 COTTSWALD ST</b> MONTEROSSO, DANVILLE NEW PRICE \$865,000</p> <p><b>4 Bd 3.5 Ba • 2,810+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres</b> Distressed hardwd flrs, plant shutters, cheery wood cabinets, granite kit, SS appl, tile flrs &amp; Tivoli sq. Amazing parklike yd w/lg patio. Walk to schools! <b>The Deans of Real Estate 925.200.4130</b></p>	<p><b>1007 MOCHO ST</b> LIVERMORE CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN \$390,000</p> <p><b>3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,484+/- sq.ft., 0.16+/- Acres</b> Huge price reduction! Nicely remodeled home close to downtown! Extensive tile work thruout, slab granite in remodeled kitchen &amp; much more! <b>Diane Sass 925.699.9508</b></p>				
<p><b>Blackhawk East</b> 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300</p>	<p><b>Blackhawk West</b> 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000</p>	<p><b>Danville</b> 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000</p>	<p><b>Lafayette</b> 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330</p>	<p><b>Livermore</b> 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100</p>	<p><b>Montclair/Piedmont</b> 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800</p>	<p><b>Pleasanton</b> 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500</p>	<p><b>Orinda</b> 89 Davis Rd., Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000</p>	<p><b>Walnut Creek</b> 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500</p>



**W** **M** **weiner & McDowell**  
THE CONCIERGE REAL ESTATE GROUP



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**PETER McDOWELL**  
925.209.0343  
PMcDowell@rockcliff.com



**EXCELLENT VALUE 6605 AMBER LANE**  
CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON



**4 Bd 3.5 Ba • 3,675+/- SQ.FT., 0.47 ACRE LOT \$1,348,000**  
CARRIAGE GARDENS SINGLE LEVEL HOME, ONE OF BEST LOCATIONS IN PLEASANTON! GREAT FLOORPLAN WITH OVERSIZED ROOMS, 3 FIREPLACES, MASTER W/RETREAT. HUGE PRIVATE FLAT LOT, WITH SALT, SOLAR POOL, SPA, CABANA W/BATH, TREE HOUSE. FUN!

**CENTRAL LOCATION 1586 LOGANBERRY WAY**  
PLEASANTON VALLEY, PLEASANTON



**2,587+/- SQ.FT., 5 BED PLUS RETREAT/OFFICE \$889,000**  
LIVE IN ONE OF PLEASANTON'S MOST CHARMING NEIGHBORHOODS. THIS WONDERFUL FLOOR PLAN FEATURES; REMODELED KITCHEN, HARDWOOD FLOORS, NEW CARPET, PAINT, ROOF, WINDOWS. SPACIOUS FLOORPLAN WITH 4 LARGE BEDROOMS PLUS HUGE BONUS ROOM WITH FIREPLACE.

**TUDOR STYLE 219 E ANGELA STREET**  
DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON



**4 Bd 2 Ba • 2,278+/- SQ.FT., 4,550+/- SQ.FT. LOT \$1,099,000**  
INCREDIBLE CHARM AND CHARACTER, CLASSIC TUDOR ARCHITECTURE, AND JUST 2 BLOCKS FROM DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON! 1878 SQ.FT. IN MAIN HOUSE PLUS APPROX. 300 SQ.FT. CARRIAGE HOUSE. GOURMET KITCHEN, VIKING RANGE, GRANITE, CHERRY, HARDWOOD FLOORS, SOLID WOOD ARCHED DOORS, BEAUTIFUL PRIVATE YARD WITH BRICK PATIO.

**9663 CROSBY DR, PLEASANTON**  
PENDING REPRESENTED BUYER/SELLER



**1587 E GATE WAY, PLEASANTON**  
SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER & BUYER



**7914 PARAGON CIR, PLEASANTON**  
SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER



**CLIENT TESTIMONIAL**

"MY FAMILY AND I RECENTLY RELOCATED FROM THE UK TO THE EAST BAY AREA AND ENGAGED PHYLLIS AND PETER TO ASSIST US WITH FINDING A HOME. THE OUTCOME WAS COMPLETELY SUCCESSFUL. PUT QUITE SIMPLY, WE WOULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED THIS WITHOUT THEIR HELP. THEY BOTH POSSESS A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE LOCAL AREA AS WELL AS BEING HIGHLY EXPERT IN THE HOME SALE AND PURCHASE PROCESS. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROCESS WE FOUND THEM TO BE PROFESSIONAL, FRIENDLY AND RESPONSIVE! WE CAN NOT RECOMMEND THEM HIGHLY ENOUGH." -Buyer's

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**COLDWELL BANKER**  
*presents*

californiamoves.com



**PLEASANTON**  
**3116 DEVEREUX COURT**  
BEAUTIFULLY EXPANDED **\$1,349,000**  
5 BR 3.5 BA 1 bdrm is bonus rm w/clset,kit w/ granite/custom bckspsh,hrdwd flrs,lrg yrd w/BBQ/hot tub 510-421-2836



**PLEASANTON**  
**2264 SEGUNDO CT**  
SPACIOUS FLOORPLAN!! **\$175,000**  
2 BR 1 BA Large Great rm,dual pane windows,beautiful views,carport,private garden,RV storage 925-872-3541



**FREMONT**  
**4949 ELLIOT CT**  
CHARMING GLENMOOR **\$598,888**  
1409 sqft,w/fireplace,2 car garage,dual-pane windows,stunning garden oasis.



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

**FREMONT**

**4249 NERISSA CIR**  
GREAT FLOOR PLAN **\$475,000**  
1 Stry/Vaulted Ceilings, Bck Yrd/no rear neighbors, Updtd Bths,cls to Shppng, Dining, Schl/Prk  
Open SAT/SUN 11 - 5 **5815 COMMERCE**  
ELOQUENT STUCCO CONTEMPO **\$615,000**  
3 BR 2.5 BA Sense the superb possibilities of this tile-roofed 3BR/2+BA residence. Cozy fireplace. 510-910-4691

**LIVERMORE**

Open OPEN SAT 1-4 **736 SUNSET DR**  
LIGHT & OPEN **\$375,000**  
3 BR 2 BA extended master/liv rm,updated bath,dual pane windows,frplc in fam rm,tile flrs,huge pool 925-367-7414  
**21800 MINES RD**  
INVITING & EXCITING **\$299,900**  
2 BR 2 BA A great move-up in secluded serenity. Relax and enjoy life in this 2BR/2BA Cabin. 925-784-6815

**NEWARK**

**6219 QUICKSILVER AVE**  
ABSOLUTELY CHARMING!! **\$469,888**  
Remodeled kitchen, dual-pane windows, laminate flooring, remodeled baths.Private backyard.

**PLEASANTON**

**1541 WHISPERING OAK WAY**  
WALNUT HILLS HOME **\$989,888**  
4 BR 3.5 BA Tile Flrs,Slab Granite,Lg Bdrms/Mast w/Retreat,750+ sf Carriage House/Studio w/Kit/Full Ba 925-200-3600

Open OPEN SUN 1-4 **4386 KRAUSE STREET**  
BEAUTIFUL! **\$655,000**  
3 BR 2.5 BA many upgrades! Dual pane windows, private backyard with patio and fountain 925-367-7414

**5711 BELLEZA DR**

BACKDROP FOR HARMONY **\$359,000**  
2 BR 2 BA Cheerfully welcoming 2BR/2BA stucco Con-tempo. Tile roof. Anticipate the best! 510-299-6844

**3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54**

SELLER WILL FINANCE! **\$5,000**  
1 BR 1 BA covered driveway,great loc in prk, comm center has pool, spa, libraryMo space rent, \$875 925.847.2200

**SAN RAMON**

Open SUN 1 - 4 **235 COPPER RIDGE**  
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED!! **\$310,000**  
2 BR 2 BA lovely moldings, hrdwd flrs, beautiful stained cement counters, one of a kind find! 925.847.2200

**2532 SHADOW MOUNTAIN CT.**

BEAUTIFUL AND QUIET!! **\$548,000**  
Whole house remodeled in last 6/7 years including kit, bth bths, wd flrs thruout, nice master

**HAYWARD**

**3061 OAKES DRIVE**  
WOODLAND ESTATES **\$448,000**  
On large private lot, dual paned windows, hardwood, updated kitchen/baths, community pool

**DANVILLE**

**6975 JOHNSTON ROAD**  
PRICE REDUCED! **\$1,697,000**  
4 BR 3 BA 19+ acres,living w/stone/travertine frplc,9 stall barn covered indoor arena & MUCH more! 925-580-9050



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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## Julia Murtagh

Direct: 925.997.2411  
jmurtagh@apr.com  
www.JuliaMurtagh.com  
DRE #01751854

# Our Spring Market has Sprung!!!

Whether you are a Buyer or Seller,  
it is time to make your move.

*"Bringing Integrity to Your Front Door"*



### THE LARGEST MODEL IN "WINDSOR"



#### 2474 Tapestry Way

4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 2,033 sq. ft.  
Offered at \$699,000

#### Buyer Needs:

- Executive family, 3,000 sq.ft. , 4 bedrooms, \$900-1.2k
- Smaller detached home, around \$500K, Pleasanton or Danville
- Rental in Pleasanton needed for a family, will pay up to \$3,500 a month

Today 30% of home sellers are facing distressed sale situations. Here are the top 5 options for those sellers:

- Short sale the home
- Reinstatement
- Forbearance or repayment plan
- Mortgage modifications
- Rent the property

If you would like to know more about your options please call me or visit my website:

[www.JuliaHelpsDistressedSellers.com](http://www.JuliaHelpsDistressedSellers.com)

#### Client Testimonial for a Recent Short Sale Listing

*Julia navigated the complexities of a short sale and successfully sold our home in an incredibly short time period. Her in-depth knowledge of the neighborhoods shows. She priced the house right to get multiple bids and worked with the bank to expedite the short sale, with backup offers in hand.*

—Sabrina Wong

### RECENTLY PENDING AND SOLD



**CURRENTLY PENDING**  
**5611 Highland Drive, Danville**  
6,112 sq ft. stunning country estate with 6 BR, 5 BA, plus a 2 BR guest house on five acres of luxury living. Listed at \$2,150,000



**CURRENTLY PENDING**  
**5179 Muirwood Dr, Pleasanton**  
West side home, has 5 BR and 3 BA, with just under 3,000 sq. ft. of living space. Gorgeous updated home. Listed at \$950,000



**CURRENTLY PENDING**  
**3524 Milleford Dr, Pleasanton**  
Laguna Oaks single story home with 4 BR, 3.5 BA has 3,182 sq. ft. of living space. Beautiful floorplan. Listed at \$1,295,000



**RECENTLY SOLD BY JULIA**  
**2350 Meadowlark Dr, Pleasanton**  
Short Sale — Wonderful 4 BR, 3 BA, 1,933 sq ft. home. Julia represented Seller & Buyer. Sold for \$705,000 with multiple offers.



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

## The latest from The 680 Blog

### Q & A: My home is priced high. Why don't buyers make me an offer?

*My home is currently listed for sale for around \$1,400,000. It has been on the market for 168 days. At this point we have only had one offer, a verbal offer at \$1,100,000, which I of course turned down. We are not getting many showings, and no one is making an offer. I am told my price is high, but I am reluctant to lower the price because the buyers will just make lower offers, and I don't want to lose money. I know my price is a little high, but why won't buyers just make an offer? Jerry from San Ramon*

Jerry, that is a great question, and one I get asked all the time. So why don't buyers make offers on homes that are priced high? In my opinion there are several possible reasons. They include:

- Buyers don't want to deal with an unrealistic or stubborn seller. The fact is, most people are uncomfortable with negotiation, especially when one party is perceived to be unreasonable. It is easier to move on and find sellers who are more motivated, and where there is a higher probability of coming to terms
- Buyers have an incentive to wait. When a home is overpriced, most buyers

assume there is no penalty for waiting. They generally feel that more time on market might serve to soften up a stubborn seller. If the home is overpriced, it is not likely to sell any time soon, so buyers have nothing to lose by waiting, and might even find homes they like better as they hit the market.

- Buyers don't want to insult the seller. If the buyer perceives the value to be substantially below the asking price, they are sometimes reluctant to insult the seller with an offer that is well below their asking price. Better to wait a while and see if the seller gets more realistic.

My best advice is to talk to your agent, get an updated market evaluation that realistically indicates the value of your property. Then you have a decision to >>Go to [www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.



### Doug Buenz

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680Homes.com

CA DRE# 00843458

High Performance Real Estate



Go to [680Homes.com](http://680Homes.com) for more information on these homes and other properties.



COMING SOON!

Luxurious 4 BR, 3 BTH home with 3 car garage, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & stone floors, and resort like yard with pool, outdoor kit, and firepit!  
**\$929,000**



COMING SOON!

Like a custom home! 4 BR, 3 BTH home with wood floors, remodeled kitchen, custom moldings & trim, and huge end of cul-de-sac yard with pool next to greenbelt!  
**\$799,000**



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!  
**\$1,450,000**



PENDING SALE!

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!  
**\$1,299,000**



PENDING SALE!

Better than New! Fabulous remodeled 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH charmer with hardwood floors, gourmet granite & stainless kitchen, new roof, sparkling pool, and large private 10k lot!  
5266 Muirwood Drive  
**\$799,000**



PENDING SALE!

Prime Laguna Oaks luxury home with 5 BR plus office, 3 1/2 BTHS, 4 car garage, granite kitchen, 3 fireplaces, and .30 Acre flat cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool, spa, and outdoor kitchen!  
2818 Tudor Court  
**\$1,439,000**



apr.com | PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



# BLAISE LOFLAND



**925.846.6500**  
 www.blaiselofland.com  
 blaise@blaiselofland.com  
 DRE# 00882113  
 apr.com

## PONDEROSA

JUST LISTED — OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



**6914 CORTE MADRID, PLEASANTON**  
 Beautiful single level, extensively remodeled home in Ponderosa. Three bedroom, two completely remodeled bathrooms. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertop, expansive center island/breakfast bar and stainless appliances. Hardwood flooring, crown molding and upgraded fixtures. 1,612 square feet. Newer roof. Professional landscaping with brick trimmed aggregate patio and lawn area. Across from Del Prado Park. Close to Pleasanton's Sports Park and minutes from downtown. Award winning schools. **OFFERED AT \$649,500**

## RUBY HILL

OPEN SUNDAY 1-5



**4355 CAMPINIA PLACE, PLEASANTON**  
 Gorgeous upgraded single level home on .60 acre premium lot. Located in the desirable Ruby Hill private gated community. Four bedrooms, plus private office, three bathrooms, custom gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Extensive crown molding & built-ins, Brazilian cherry flooring, expansive master suite. Professional landscaping includes: built-in BBQ, viewing/sitting area, views of surrounding hills & vineyards, covered patio and extensive lawn area. 3-car garage. Ruby Hill community amenities: \*clubhouse, golf course, swimming pool, \*tennis courts, large park and greenbelts (\*discounted memberships now available). Close to several wineries. **OFFERED AT \$1,479,000**

## GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES LOT



**8019 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY, PLEASANTON**  
 Beautiful large premium 1.08 acre lot in desirable Golden Eagle Estates gated community. Panoramic views! One of a couple of remaining lots. Build your own dream home or plans are approved and ready to start for a 6,300 sq ft. 5 bedroom, 6 bathroom 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. Community amenities include: pool, tennis courts and access to Augustin Bernal Park. Located adjacent to Castlewood Country Club. Five minutes from charming downtown Pleasanton. **OFFERED AT \$1,000,000**

## KOTTINGER RANCH

SOLD



**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! **SOLD FOR \$1,163,500**

## DANVILLE RANCHER

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER



**752 TURRINI DRIVE, DANVILLE**  
 Large beautifully updated ranch style home on over 1/3 acre premium lot in Danville! Three bedrooms, private office (4th), three bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops and stainless appliances. Large master suite and bath, professionally landscaped with outdoor kitchen, in-ground pool, boat/RV parking, and side yard access. **SOLD FOR \$900,600**

## GREY EAGLE ESTATES

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER



**27 GREY EAGLE ESTATE, PLEASANTON**  
 Secluded 5,904 sq ft. custom home on premium 5.3 acre estate in desirable, gated Grey Eagle Estates. Panoramic Views of the valley and Mt. Diablo. Five bedrooms, plus bonus room, office, 2nd office/hobby room, 3.5 bathrooms. Four car garage. Beautiful grounds include private vineyard, in-ground pool and spa. **SOLD FOR \$1,900,000**

## PLEASANTON SEMI-CUSTOM

SOLD



**4150 CREEKWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON**  
 Don't miss this private, Pleasanton home on premium 1/2 acre lot. Large multi media/game room, upgraded kitchen and bathrooms with granite. Five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, hardwood floors, two fireplaces, three car garage, 4,002 square feet. Large secluded park-like rear yard includes expansive Trex deck, in-ground pool, Hot Springs grande covered spa, waterfall/pond, playhouse, zip line, large lawn area, mature redwood trees and large cemented side yard area. Walk to great schools & neighborhood parks. **SOLD FOR \$1,120,000**

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

## 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**

## VINSANTO

SOLD



**2845 VINE COURT, PLEASANTON**  
 Beautiful highly upgraded home in excellent condition. Panoramic views of vineyards and surrounding hills. Five bedrooms (4th is private office, 5th in guest house/casita), four bathrooms (4th in casita). Approximately 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**

## 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 3,889 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets, granite slab countertops and stainless steel appliances. Highly upgraded spacious master suite with granite. Beautiful grounds include large private patio, spacious lawn area, garden/play set area, and atrium/side patio. Views of surrounding hills. Minutes to quality golf courses and Livermore Valley wineries. **SOLD FOR \$950,000**



# New West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station NOW OPEN



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The new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station is located in the median of I-580, between Golden Gate Drive off Dublin Boulevard (in Dublin) and Stoneridge Mall Road (in Pleasanton).

Check out BART's newest station and take a ride this weekend.

- Plenty of free weekend parking.
- Avoid expensive city parking.
- Speed past unpredictable bridge and freeway traffic.

For trip plans, schedules and additional information visit [bart.gov](http://bart.gov).

BART... and you're there.

