

Pleasanton Weekly

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'Madama Butterfly': Opera aims for authenticity in latest production PAGE 11

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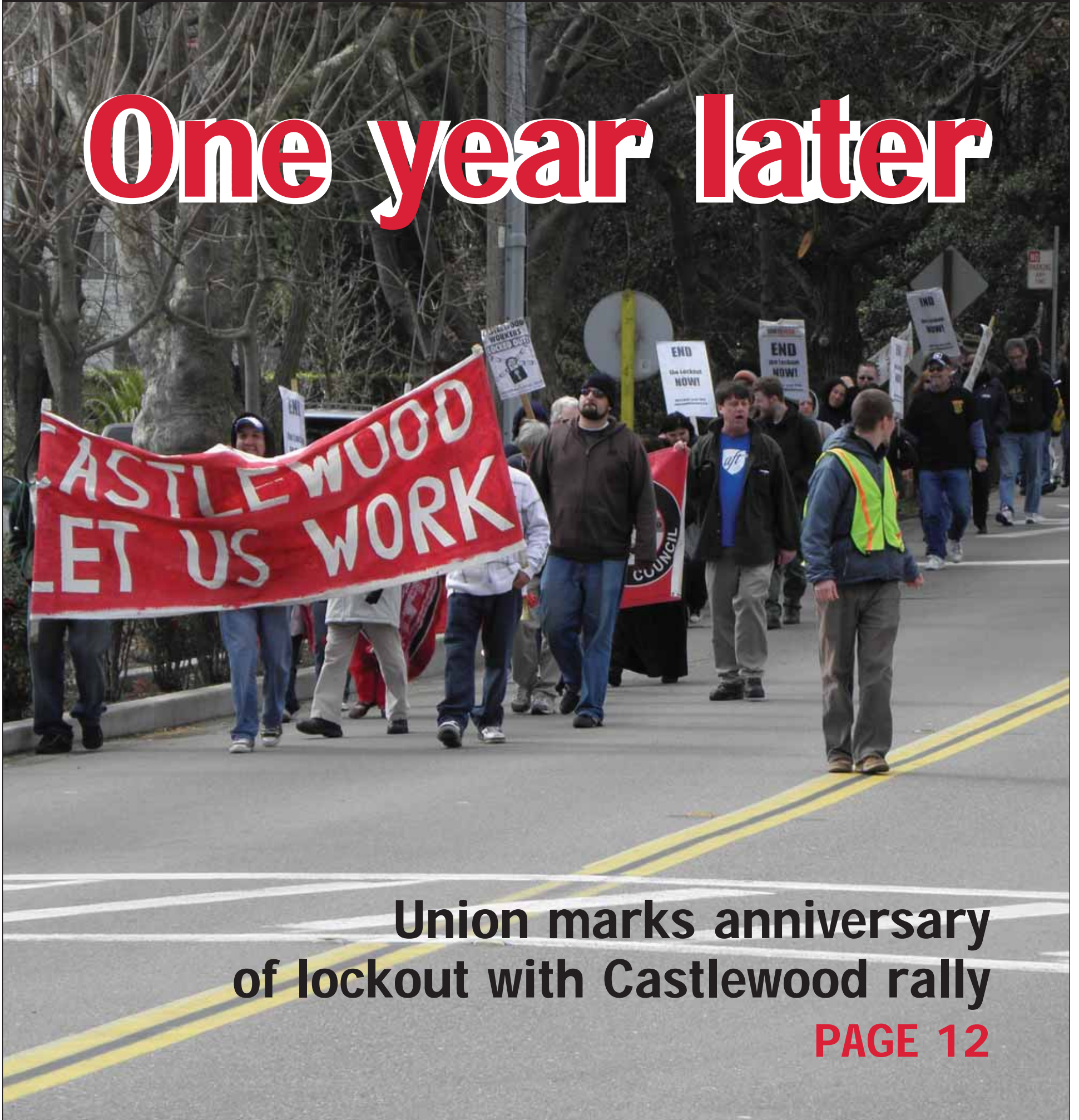
FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER PRESENTS
MARCH - APRIL 2011

INSIDE

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One year later



Union marks anniversary
of lockout with Castlewood rally

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Dublin, Pleasanton bonding in community of character efforts

With Pleasanton and Dublin mutually bound in congressional, regional transportation and local sports, civic and municipal issues, it's good that the two communities are also together when it comes to character traits. Since 2005, Pleasanton has embraced its Community of Character coalition with a mission of creating a culture built on values, goodwill and community-accepted traits of honesty, self respect, compassion, self-discipline and responsibility. Now Dublin has its "Integrity in Action," a character-based awareness campaign that was launched last Monday by city, school, business and student leaders. Former Mayor Janet Lockhart serves as president of the new organization, which now has a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Lockhart is also executive director of the Dublin Partners in Education organization, which is also supporting the new Integrity in Action campaign.

The Monday launch included a reception for about 50 community leaders at Dublin High School, where Lockhart, Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, City Manager Joni Pattillo, School Superintendent Stephen Hanke and Greg Clark, former tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, talked about the new Dublin Integrity campaign. The campaign is being built around the letter "I" as the first letter in Integrity and also as a lead-in to the 10 traits the community character program emphasizes: "I am Respectful, Responsible, Caring, Giving, Trustworthy, Cooperative, Honest, have a Positive Attitude, have Self-Discipline, and do my Best."

The effort is called Integrity in Action after hundreds of Dublin residents, asked in a survey to name traits most important to them, came back with "integrity" as the No. 1 character trait they felt was vital. Building on integrity and the 10 other traits named essential in a character-building campaign, Lockhart and her Integrity in Action team has identified a number of positive outcomes they're expecting in Dublin as the campaign moves forward. These include:

- Improved grades, effort and academic achievement.
- Less verbal and physical confrontations.
- Increased awareness of positive character traits.
- Improved language and attire on school campuses, on city streets



JEB BING

Greg Clark, former tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, talks about character traits at Dublin's launch of its Integrity in Action campaign Monday.

and in retail stores.

- Reduced cheating and other forms of theft.
- More sharing and less selfishness.
- Improved self-esteem throughout the community.
- Less absences and tardies at school and at the workplace.
- Reduced "road rage," less accidents.
- More positive media reports about Dublin.
- More recognition of individuals and groups that make a positive difference in the community.
- Increased volunteerism by everyone who lives in Dublin.

Lockhart is working with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the business community to roll out the Integrity program in stores, posting the Integrity in Action banners at these businesses and also by recognizing owners and managers who buy in to the program. She wants to give everyone a chance to participate so that Dublin becomes recognized for living up to its character traits. Dublin teachers have promised their support of Integrity in Action, whose traits have long been part of their classroom criteria. The Dublin Senior Center is promoting the new program along with the City Council, which gave the new organization its formal recognition last Tuesday.

Integrity in Action also will sponsor "Student of the Month" awards programs in Dublin schools, "Young Citizen of the Year" and "Organization of the Year" awards programs, and "Employee of the Month" recognition programs for the business community. Closely aligned with the efforts of Pleasanton's Community of Character program, which will host its Character Collaborative celebration May 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, Dublin's Integrity in Action organization marks another step forward in fostering strong relations between our two cities. ■

Correction: In last week's column, I identified Don Faught, vice president of Alain Pinel Realty, as a mortgage broker. He is the managing broker at the real estate firm.

About the Cover

Castlewood Country Club workers, union leaders from across the Bay and local officials brave the cold Saturday for a rally and march to mark the one-year anniversary of the lockout of employees. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann. Design by Kristin Herman.

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Pleasanton

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What would you suggest to Gov. Brown as one step he might take to reduce California's budget?



Anne Moselle

Nutrition coordinator, LifeStyleRX

I think that if there is more accountability for people to take care of their health through healthy eating, exercise, quitting smoking, and stress management, then it could have a huge impact on decreasing health care costs in the state of California.

Sean Fernandez

Retail

I don't think education should be cut at all. I'm not sure that just one thing will help, but I do believe a good start could come from higher taxes on medicinal marijuana.



Dan Weiss

Sales

Stop sending water to the minnows in the ocean. Congress stopped giving most of the Central Valley water, which destroyed half the economy. We also need to team up with Mexico on allowing their citizens to work here legally. Fixing the water and immigration problems will go a long way in solving our budget concerns.

Braden Leong

Tea mixologist

We are investing too much money in prisons, and we need to invest in our children instead. Cut spending on inmates, increase spending in education, and start thinking long-term. We're falling behind as a nation.



Diane Deming

Retired

Put people back to work, which will really help the state's economy. I'm a big advocate of buying Made in the USA products as well.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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Newsfront

DIGEST

Fire Station No. 10 reopens

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPPFD) is reopening Station No. 10 at 330 Airway Blvd. in Livermore, after it was closed July 1 due to budget reductions in the city of Livermore.

"The temporary closure was designed to control costs, while providing city and Fire Department officials an opportunity to evaluate the most effective service model with available funding," said Fire Chief Jim Miguel.

The station will be reopened by redistributing the current 10 personnel in Livermore. Prior to last July, Livermore had 18 personnel.

Plant a tree next week

California's Arbor Day is a week this year, March 7-14. National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April but several states, including California, observe the holiday at a time best suited for planting trees, the traditional way to celebrate.

It's important to plant the right tree in the right place and choose the type of tree according to its desired function, advises the Arbor Day Foundation. Main functions are shade, beauty, as windbreaks or to delineate boundaries. To find out which trees grow best in this area, go to www.arborday.org/treeinfo or contact a local nursery.

Housing Element workshops

The city of Pleasanton will host three community workshops in March to report progress on the Housing Element Update and to receive public input regarding sites being considered for rezoning to accommodate new housing.

The first meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at Fairlands Elementary School, 4151 W. Las Positas Blvd. The second meeting is at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 12, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The third meeting is at 7 p.m., Monday, March 14, at Lydiksen Elementary School, 7700 Highland Oaks Drive.

All three meetings will have the same agenda. For more details, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us and click on "Housing Element Task Force," or call Planning Manager Janice Stern at 931-5606.

Corrections

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

Council OKs Iron Horse Trail, more housing in Hacienda

Bright yellow sidewalk ramps will meet ADA requirements

By JEB BING

From deciding to keep the bright yellow colors on sidewalk ramps for the handicapped to giving final approval to land use changes for an 850-unit housing project, the Pleasanton City Council dealt with a number of disparate issues Tuesday night.

There was even some drama in an otherwise routine two-hour meeting as Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan sparred over a request by anti-war veteran Fred Norman to address the council a second time in his long-standing bid to have council members tell the public whether they support U.S. military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, oppose them or are indifferent.

Hosterman said one time to the rostrum in the public comment section of the council's agenda was enough; Sullivan said it was his right as a councilman to invite Norman back a second time. Norman got his wish, returned to again ask that the council take a stand, but council members again showed that a majority of them did not want to engage in a discussion on the country's military agenda.

Most significant in Tuesday night's meeting was the council's action to ratify plans by the

East Bay Regional Park District to close a 1.6 mile missing gap of the Iron Horse Trail in Pleasanton to give joggers, bicyclists and others a direct path to the BART station at Hacienda from where the trail ends at Valley Avenue and Busch Road. Once completed in 2012, the trail will link Pleasanton to the whole regional trail system, extending far into Contra Costa County.

The trail extension will be fully funded by the Park District thanks to \$4 million in regional and federal grants.

The council also gave final approval to land use changes in the Hacienda Business Park that will allow for construction of a high density, 840-unit housing project with half the units to serve those with low to moderate incomes. A complex of two- and three-story buildings is planned on the 32-acre site, which is owned by W.P. Carey, Roche and BRE. The three sites are located along Hacienda, Gibraltar and Owens drives close to the Pleasanton BART station with nearby access to I-580.

The council's rezoning of the properties came in response to a ruling by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch last August in favor of suits brought by Urban Habitat and then state Attorney General Jerry Brown. Roesch declared

the city's 29,000-unit housing cap approved by voters in 1996 in violation of state mandates for affordable and market rate housing requirements imposed by the Bay Area Association of Governments. In addition to scuttling the cap, he ordered Pleasanton to come up with a plan to meet its current housing numbers requirements by March 1, and to add another 1,400 units by 2014.

Along with Tuesday night's action, which met the court-ordered March 1 housing numbers deadline, the council also authorized a second payment of \$900,000 to Urban Habitat to cover its legal fees in the litigation. With the payment, Pleasanton's obligation to pay \$1.8 million to Urban Habitat has now been completed.

Much of the council discussion focused on the bright yellow color of the truncated-domed curb ramps being installed throughout the city as part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Daniel Smith, director of Operations Services for Pleasanton, said his department has installed 600 of the ramps so far, with another 3,800 to be placed to meet the ADA requirements. The ramps cost \$600 each to purchase and install.

See **COUNCIL** on Page 8



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

New plans for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreational Area call for the waterslides to be phased out but some residents hope they will stay. If they are safe and meet the needs of the community and the concessionaire they could stay, said the Park District board president.

Residents weigh in on plans for Shadow Cliffs

Keeping waterslides depends on their viability

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Residents presented their opinions, often passionately, on plans for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreational Area at a public meeting Feb. 23 at Pleasanton's Veterans Memorial Building.

"It's so wonderful to have a place like Shadow Cliffs, and it's really a shame not to have a regular interpretive center with a naturalist," said resident Nancy Harrington, a former teacher. "The signs are great but I think we need an interpretive center used by school children. We're missing a great opportunity."

Several others voiced this opinion, extolling the former quarry site as a wildlife habitat and an opportunity for people to learn firsthand about nature.

But several people said the main issue is the waterslides, which, according to the plan, will eventually be closed.

"Pleasanton has lots of opportunities for

young children but when they are 12, there is nothing," Inge Jechart said. "A lot of kids in this town do drugs. That is a prime example of why we need the waterslides and shouldn't get rid of them."

The proposed plans call for the following:

- Improve the overall trail system;
- Develop multi-use recreational trails to allow access into areas in western Shadow Cliffs;
- Phase out the existing Rapids Waterslide;
- Install picnic sites where appropriate on the former California Splash site; and
- Install shade shelters for family picnicking within the waterfront area.

Complete plans are available at the Pleasanton library and at www.ebtparks.org.

"This is a vision for the future, a long-term plan for Shadow Cliffs," said Brian Wiese, Chief of Planning and Stewardship for the dis-

See **SHADOW CLIFFS** on Page 8

Layoff notices headed to PUSD employees

Board members hope to salvage some of the jobs

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school board voted Tuesday night to send layoff notices to more than 62 employees, although board members hold out hope that at least some of the jobs can be restored.

Although the pink slips will go to FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) employees, some part-time positions will likely be eliminated as well, meaning that more than 62 workers will receive the notices.

A list of those to be hit by the cuts is not yet available since the workers have yet to receive word themselves.

No one on the board is happy with the cuts and all said they hope that with private fundraising, like last year's CORE (Community Outreach for Education) campaign, the potential for a parcel tax, and the hope that a state tax extension will pass, some of the jobs can be restored.

"We're looking at budget cuts because these are the facts. This is what we've been dealt," said Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

The district is making the cuts — even though some of the jobs may come back — because state law requires layoff notices to be in the hands of certificated employees by March 15; additional layoffs could come for classified employees too, but the deadline for those cuts is later in the year.

"We can always be adding FTEs at a later date," said Board President Valerie Arkin, something echoed by all the other board members.

Recent board meetings have seen appeals by employees and parents with children in areas slated for cuts, and Tuesday night was no exception. After the board opted to cut 6.4 FTE physical education specialists at elementary schools, parents asked again that restoring those jobs be put at the top of the list.

Among those speaking Tuesday was Kelly
See **SCHOOLS** on Page 8

TAKE US ALONG



Before the quake: Alan and Denise Nielsen visit Christchurch, New Zealand, at the end of October. "We are totally devastated by the pictures we are seeing on the news," wrote Denise. "That square in front of the church is always packed with locals as well as tourists."

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The Pleasanton Weekly will host **free** seminars for business owners and managers who want to learn more about social media, e-marketing and e-commerce and tools to make it easier and less time-consuming and won't break the bank.

The one-hour seminars will be held on Thursday, March 24th at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the conference room of the Hyatt Summerfield Suites 4545 Chabot Dr., Pleasanton.

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Prosecution begins to cross examine accused Castlewood killer

Ernest Scherer III says he was home asleep during time of double murder

BY GLENN WOHLTSMANN

Prosecutor Michael Nieto began his cross-examination of Ernest Scherer III, who is accused of murdering his parents at their Pleasanton home in March 2008, by creating a chart of people that Scherer admits he lied to and listing the specific lies he told.

Scherer testified this week that he was hung over from a long night of drinking and was asleep alone on the couch in his Brea, Calif., home while his parents were killed in Pleasanton.

Scherer, 32, 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. He spent most of this week on the witness stand testifying about his actions leading up to and following the double slaying.

He categorically denied buying Nike Impact Tomahawk sneakers, a baseball bat or soccer gloves in Primm, Nev. He was asked about each individually by defense attorney Richard Foxall and replied, "No" to each question.

Scherer also testified he doesn't shop at outlet stores such as the one in Primm where investigators turned up a receipt for a cash purchase of the three items around the time Scherer bought gas and a fast food meal in the small Nevada town. While the sneakers, bat and gloves have never been recovered, police did find a sticker at the home from a

baseball bat like the ones bought with cash in Primm.

He said he had consumed large amounts of alcohol in Las Vegas the night before he headed home and fell asleep on his couch, and couldn't recall much of the journey home, the route he took or the movie that was on television that night, although he did remember it was still light out when he got home.

Scherer's recollection of the day the double murder occurred seemed sketchy compared to his memory of the next day, when he arrived at his grandfather's home for breakfast before they headed out to play in a bridge tournament.

The final question by Foxall, who first put Scherer on the witness stand last week, was whether Scherer killed his parents. Scherer replied, "I absolutely did not."

In 90 minutes of cross-examination late Tuesday, Nieto forced Scherer to say that he lied often in instances in which he had extramarital affairs or had to borrow money.

Scherer also said that, as a professional poker player, being deceptive is part of the job description.

He also testified this week that he

was stunned when his wife, Robyn, told him that she had seen a surveillance video of a car similar to his at his parents' Pleasanton home the night they were murdered three years ago.

"I was beyond surprised," Scherer said.

When Foxall asked him why, Scherer said, "I wasn't there on March 7, 2008," which is the night that prosecutor Nieto says that Scherer killed his parents.

Under questioning from Foxall, Scherer also denied many of the prosecution claims about his behavior following the slayings. He testified, for example, that his wife suggested that she delete text messages sent to him, and not that he suggested that to her, as she testified earlier.

Those text messages were sent during an hours-long period around the time of the killings; Scherer has claimed his phone's battery was dead so he didn't receive the messages, and he didn't realize that until the next morning.

Scherer also said that he and Robyn went online to look at places they could go without a passport.

He also denied testimony from his aunt, Carolyn Oesterle, about fist-pumping that she claimed she saw during a walk when she told him he couldn't have committed the crime.

"I've never been for a walk around the block with my aunt in my entire life," he testified. ■



Ernest Scherer III

Mom pleads no contest to charges of having sex with boys

All but four felony charges dismissed

The Livermore woman originally charged with 67 counts of having sex with two underage boys has reached a plea deal that dismissed all but four of the charges.

Christine Shreeve Hubbs, 42,

pleaded no contest Feb. 24 to four felony charges: unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor more than three years younger, lewd acts with a child under 14, oral copulation with a minor, and oral copulation with a

minor more than 10 years younger, according to Alameda County Court spokeswoman Teresa Drenick.

Hubbs will serve three years on the first count, and eight months each on the remaining three, Drenick said in an email. In addition, Hubbs will have to register as a sex offender — a lifetime requirement, according to Drenick — and will have to pay restitution, fines and court costs.

In addition to dropping the felony charges, all misdemeanor counts against Hubbs were dismissed, Drenick said.

Hubbs, who has a husband and three children, was arrested on Aug. 5, a little more than a week after the mother of one of the victims reported possible illicit activity between her son and Hubbs.

Both boys were 14 years old when Hubbs began having sexual relationships with them, according to Livermore police.

Her official sentencing is set for March 25.

—Glenn Wohltmann

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Police name 2010 Employees of the Year

Officer's keen observation led to arrest of sexual predator

Officer Matthew Kroutil has been selected as the Pleasanton Police Department's Officer of the Year along with Records Clerk Vanessa Schlehuber who was named professional staff Employee of the Year.

Kroutil, who is described as a dedicated professional with an intrinsic motivation to do quality police work, won the honor for his proactive contributions in keeping Pleasanton safe.

In recognizing Kroutil, police noted that his hard work and tenacity were further demonstrated in July during one of the several hundred traffic stops he made during the year. While on patrol, Kroutil stopped a vehicle for having a cracked windshield, and during the stop asked the 35-year-old male driver from Nebraska about the juvenile female passenger with him in the vehicle. Kroutil's investigative instincts and intuitive skills led him to believe something was unusual about their relationship.

Although they tried to mitigate his doubts, Kroutil continued to ask probing questions and investigate for the truth. Because of his determination, he unraveled a significant crime against a child and arrested a sexual predator who had traveled across state lines after meeting the juvenile on the In-



Matthew Kroutil

ternet. That man was later determined to be a wanted fugitive, and because of this arrest, additional victims were discovered.

Records Clerk Vanessa Schlehuber, who was honored as the professional Employee of the Year, is consistently optimistic, upbeat and enthusiastic about her career and the department, police said. She provides strong customer service, and co-workers seek out her assistance and expertise.

Schlehuber assists with processing juvenile arrests and is a facilitator to train employees, police said. Her background and experience with its permitting process has helped those new to the role.

In a statement honoring Schlehuber, the department said:



Vanessa Schlehuber

"In addition to her many contributions as a paid employee, Ms. Schlehuber gives generously of her own time and volunteers and serves as president of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association Charitable Foundation.

"Over the past several years, she's provided countless hours of personal time planning and organizing the 'Giving Tree Program' for during the holiday season. She meticulously solicits and reviews applications, organizes press releases and communications with citizens to ensure a successful outcome for the families in need."

Schlehuber has been with the Pleasanton Police Department since July 2005 and is married to Kurt Schlehuber, a sergeant with the department. ■

Judge dismisses Lin family lawsuit against Pleasanton

Could be appealed; similar case awarded \$30 million to developer

By Glenn Wohltmann

Pleasanton has won its legal battle with landowners Jennifer and Fredric Lin, who sued the city for the right to build 51 houses on 600 acres they own in the southeast hills.

The Lin family's lawsuit against the city of Pleasanton was dismissed last week by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers.

Gonzalez Rogers cited "poison pill" language and said both the ordinances involved were voided when one of them was overturned in last year's referendum.

"The unambiguous language of Ordinance No. 1962 contemplates that should Ordinance No. 1961 be repealed by referendum, Ordinance No. 1962 shall have no force and effect," Gonzalez Rogers said in her decision.

"The only reasonable interpretation of this language is that it constitutes a conditional acceptance, approving the development agreement only so long as the condition of Ordinance No. 1961's repeal by referendum did not come to pass. Once the referendum occurred, the condition

came to pass, and no contractual duty was created, or alternatively, at best, was discharged."

Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto said the city is pleased with the decision. She added that while the Lins may not pursue the case at the trial court level, the family may appeal the decision.

"While this completes the action on this breach of contract matter at the trial court level, it does not preclude the Lins from pursuing other new claims based on other legal allegations," Seto added.

In her ruling, Gonzalez Rogers cited a case involving Mammoth Lakes Land Acquisition LLC v. Town of Mammoth Lakes; however, the ruling in that case, which involved a similar poison pill issue, preceded a jury trial that awarded \$30 million to the developer.

The Lin's attorney, Andrew Sabey, said in court that he thought Gonzalez Rogers' decision could be overturned on appeal. Sabey was unable to be reached for comment on the decision and whether he would appeal. ■

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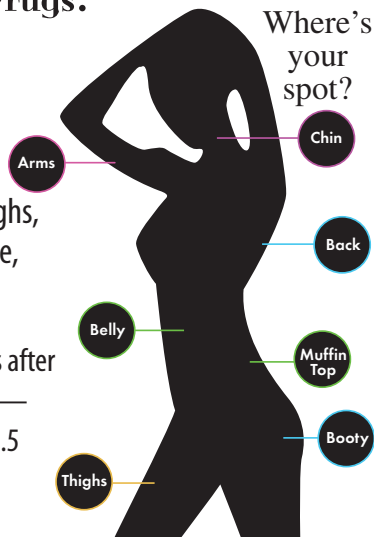
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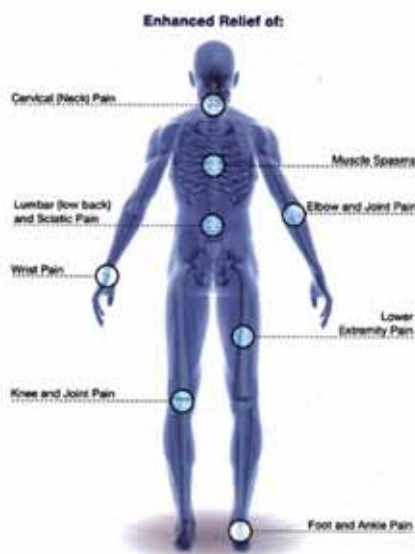


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SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

French, a graduate of district schools who now has two children at Alisal Elementary. She said P.E. teachers bring a positive morale to the school.

"They're not just playing kickball out there," French told the board. "They are doing a really, really fantastic job of teaching our children."

P.E. specialists and the weekly classroom time they provide will not be eliminated, but the sessions will be cut in half, to once a week.

"There will still be some time provided each week for P.E., music and science specialists," said Cindy Galbo, assistant superintendent of educational services. However, since the state requires a certain number of P.E. hours in elementary school, teachers will have to pick up the slack. She said teachers and principals will have to work together to decide when and how much P.E. will be done every week, and some training will have

to be done to ensure teachers can do the job.

The cuts will mean a shortened day once a week for students, to make up for time teachers had for lesson planning — time they'll now have to fill with P.E.

While elementary P.E. programs are the hardest hit, the cuts will impact every school in the district. English will see 6.2 FTEs cut, math will see a cut of 4.6 FTEs, reading specialists will be cut by 4.5 FTEs, and counselors will see a cut of 2.5 FTEs, to name those with the largest cuts.

"Some would say that we're laying off people to scare the public," said Board Member Jeff Bowser. "That's not the case."

He said the board has tried to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible, but "we're down to the bone."

"Which arm do I cut off? Which finger do I cut off?" he asked. "We are affecting the lives of 61 people who are facing unemployment."

The discussion about cutting P.E.

specialists led to an angry exchange between one speaker, Dan Maslana, and Trevor Knaggs, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT). Maslana said the P.E. cuts weren't announced early enough and that people should have been given more time to speak out. He also said teachers should have been polled to see what they thought should be cut.

Knaggs said the idea of a poll violated the fundamental principles of unionism.

"You cannot ask people to vote their colleagues off the island," Knaggs said, clearly upset about the idea, although Maslana claimed that's been standard practice in past years.

The board also held a public hearing about "sunshining" negotiations between the district and the California School Employees Association (CSEA). The CSEA proposes maintaining its current contract as is while the district is looking to discuss wages, hours, leaves of absence and health benefits. No one spoke at the public hearing. ■

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

"The only complaints we've had so far are from those who think the color is too bright," Smith said.

"But it's the contrast that's important to those with visual disabilities and yellow is the last color you recognize if your eyesight deteriorates."

He won the council's approval

to continue installing the yellow ramps although some on the council urged him to consider a brick red or other less flashy color when ramps are installed on downtown streets. ■

SHADOW CLIFFS

Continued from Page 5

tract. "The Park District doesn't have funds right now to do this plan. We make plans to do allocating for the future and to get grants. There is a 15-20-year horizon at least."

Jerri Long pointed out the desirability of having a large pavilion to reserve that is away from the water for people to use year round.

"We're trying to disperse things," Wiese said. "A pavilion would be a good place to gather and have interpretive walks."

Plans also include adding informative markers to the trails.

Wiese reported that the district engaged a hydrology consultant to explore restoring the Remillard Marsh and found that the water level is expected to go down as nearby quarry operations cease in the near future.

"The plan recommends working with Zone 7 and other agencies to identify another water source or the water level will drop 5 feet," Wiese said. "It's an important habitat. The district feels it should be maintained and protected. We want the flood plain to re-establish itself."

Arroyo del Valle runs through the site, next to the marsh but higher, so its water will feed the marsh, he added.

"I do support native plant introduction but not to pump in water and develop an artificial marsh," said Dolores Bengtson of Friends of Shadow Cliffs. "I do support trails and support installation of shade shelters. But I'd like to see the wording changed to 'all-weather shelters.'"

Becky Dennis suggested creating a vernal pool that thrives in the winter and may dry up in the summer. "I question the plans for the



The Park District presents this sample of a picnic pavilion that could be reserved.

marsh," she said.

"I think what you're talking about is what we're proposing," Wiese responded. "It's called 'Remillard Marsh' so we call it a marsh."

Patricia Knutson, who worked for the waterslides developer and whose father was foreman at the de Silva quarry which is now part of the park, fought back tears as she spoke in favor of the waterslides, saying, "This is like a family thing for me."

She said the concessionaire wants to improve the waterslides but it is difficult since the lease is year to year since the 20-year operating agreement expired in 2006.

"Last year was a down year but we did make money off the concession even with the crummy weather," she added.

"The plan doesn't faze them out tomorrow or anytime soon," Wiese said. The slides are not used enough to be commercially feasible, he noted, and they are run down.

District Board President Beverly Lane said after the meeting that the waterslides could stay open.

"It depends on whether they're safe and still meeting community needs and the needs of the concessionaire," she said. "I know people are devoted to it."

Shadow Cliffs is one of the most popular parks among the 65 in the Park District, the district report-

ed, especially during hot summer months. Plans also include limiting swimmers during the summer months when the beaches become dangerously crowded.

The Park District acquired the land, on Stanley Boulevard east of Valley Avenue, in 1968, after Kaiser Industries ceased its sand and gravel quarry operations, which began in the late 19th century. The recreation area was open to the public in 1971, with an 89-acre lake for swimming and fishing.

The four-flume waterslides were constructed in the early 1980s. When the 10.8-acre de Silva parcel was added to the park in 1989, plans were made to expand the California Splash waterslides. In 2008, the waterslides expansion project was abandoned, which led to the Park District reviewing the site and beginning to formulate a new land use plan.

The Park District's 45-day public comment period is open until March 21. Mail comments to EBRPD, Planning & Stewardship Department (attention: Shadow Cliffs), 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605; or email to plan_shadowcliffs@ebparks.org.

The public hearing to consider adopting the Final Land Use Plan Amendment is scheduled for April 19 in Oakland. ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

More state-mandated housing coming to Pleasanton

It's an awkward title but Pleasanton's Housing Element Task Force has its work cut out for it: deciding which and how many of 17 sites it has targeted in various parts of the city that could be considered for high-density, low-to-market-rate housing. State law requires that cities that are behind on their jobs-to-housing ratio make land available to provide their regional fair share for residential development. For now, Pleasanton's share nearly 3,300 more homes in a city that already has approximately 27,500.

Since 1996, Pleasanton's 29,000-unit housing cap approved by voters in 1996 protected the city from what its proponents feared would be runaway growth. But that cap is now history. An Alameda County Superior Court judge last year agreed with the Urban Habitat affordable housing coalition and the state Attorney General's office (which was then headed by now-Gov. Jerry Brown) who sued the city of Pleasanton, successfully arguing that the housing cap prevented the city from meeting its state housing requirements. That means Pleasanton must add 3,277 more units to its housing inventory by 2014 with the court ordering that enough land be made available for that number of additional housing units by this coming August. To comply, the City Council formed the 11-member Housing Element Task Force to adequately plan to meet Pleasanton's regional requirement.

To be sure, Pleasanton has made some headway already. Last Tuesday, the City Council gave its final approval to land use changes on a 32-acre site in the Hacienda Business Park that will accommodate 850 apartments and town homes in two- and three-story structures. Earlier, it approved a 350-unit complex planned by developer Windstar near the new West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. Still, more needs to be done, which is why the housing task force will hold three community workshops starting Tuesday to report on its progress to date and provide opportunities for the public to comment on the 17 other sites it is considering for high density housing.

The sites identified are in the vicinity of both BART stations, the one adjacent to the Hacienda Business Park and the new one; near the Sheraton Hotel on Stoneridge Mall Road; the parking lots at Stoneridge Shopping Center; the Kaiser Permanente medical clinic off Stoneridge Drive; Pleasanton Gateway, behind where Safeway is now building its new Lifestyle supermarket at Valley and Bernal avenues; vacant land around CarrAmerica's office complex; Kiewit's abandoned site on Valley Avenue, across from Boulder Street; the Valley Trails church site; Vintage Hills Shopping Center; the current location at Axis Community Health on Railroad Avenue, when Axis relocates its facility; the Auf de Maur/Richenback acreage at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard, where Home Depot once planned to build a new store; Rosewood Auto Sales; Irby-Kaplan-Zia; the Nearon site; Goodnight Inn; and the CM Capital Properties site on West Las Positas Boulevard.

The meetings are at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, in the multipurpose room of Fairlands Elementary School, 4151 W. Las Positas Blvd.; at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, March 12, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.; and at 7 p.m., Monday, March 14, in Lydiksen Elementary School's multipurpose room, 7700 Highland Oaks Drive. All three meetings will have the same agenda and information. ■



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

LETTERS

'Me, myself and I' society

Dear Editor,

Regarding the Castlewood Country Club/union dispute, we would like to add our opinion (not that it's anyone's business except Castlewood and the union), but since everyone is making it their business, here's our take on it.

A question for the hundred or so religious leaders and activists who through what means paid for a full page ad in the Weekly: Does the Board of Directors of Castlewood Country Club stick its nose into the operation of your churches and other religious businesses?

A question for the union leaders: Since the state has no money, the cities have no money, the citizens are losing their jobs and homes due to no money, the businesses have no money, where are you going with this?

Too many people in this country are on the greed train to nowhere. We have a "Me, myself and I" society today. Me! Me! Me! without any concern for the consequences of what this mindset is doing to other people involved, to other cities, to the country.

This selfish mindset is destroying the ability of our middle class to find jobs, keep homes, and send their children to college. Castlewood Country Club is a private business, free to hire anyone whether union or not. This is the United States of America ... not the united states of organized unions.

Wake up, people, and look at the bigger picture. Everyone is being forced to make sacrifices today due to poor choices of our federal government and the insistent crying of unions because they have bled the turnip dry but still want more.

Mr. & Mrs. Rennie Couper

Story brought walkers

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Feb. 25 cover story on our "Walk-n-Talk" pro-

gram of Saturday morning group walks. We were delighted to have 46 enthusiastic walkers join in the first trail walk, led by Dolores Bengtson on Feb. 26. For many, it was our first exploration of the trail system along the canal and arroyo — a very scenic view of our community. Dolores has a wealth of information to share about how the trail system came into being as well as about local flora and fauna.

Our next trail hike will start at 9 a.m., Saturday, March 19, at Calippe Preserve Golf Course Trail, 8500 Clubhouse Drive. Dolores also will lead the way on this hike, which includes a bit of incline. No advance registration is necessary — just show up, ready to walk'n'talk, getting your weekend off to a healthy start.

Less strenuous walks are held on the Saturdays between trail hikes, at our local public parks. We will be doing loop walks at Neilsen Neighborhood Park on March 5. This park is off Stoneridge Drive, just past St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. All walks begin at 9 a.m. Contact Walks@WorldWalk-ToWellness.org to sign up for e-mail notification of future walks and trail hikes.

As always, the World Walk to Wellness events are free. However, we were gratified that generous walkers voluntarily donated \$55 for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation last Saturday.

Thank you for helping us let the community know about this weekly choice of a healthy lifestyle.

W. Ron Sutton (AKA "Mr. Pedometer"), Founder of World Walk to Wellness

What's your opinion?

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



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POLICE BULLETIN

Park check yields two arrests

A police check of a car parked after hours in Kottinger Village Park led to the arrest of two people on drug and theft charges.

Officer Jarrod Yee stopped at the park around 11:12 p.m. Feb. 26, according to a police report, which said a search of the car turned up a stolen credit card, and one of the occupants smelled of alcohol.

James Rene Negron, 27, and Shelby Marie Thompson, 20, were charged with possession of stolen property and public drunkenness. The report said methamphetamine was found on Thompson at Santa Rita Jail, and she was also charged with possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance and transporting a substance into the jail.

In two separate incidents, high-priced auto rims were stolen, according to police reports.

Rims worth an estimated \$40,000 were stolen from a vehicle in the 3600 block of Old Santa Rita Road between 5 p.m. Feb. 25 and 8:14 a.m. Feb. 27. In another incident, four sets of Mercedes rims worth an estimated \$40,000 apiece were taken from a vehicle in the 5800 block of Owens Drive between 9:30 p.m. Feb. 26 and 11 a.m. Feb. 27.

A laptop computer worth \$1,800 and a video gaming system were stolen from a home in the 900 block of Kolln Street between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., according to a police report, which said access was gained through an unlocked rear door.

A laptop worth \$400, a \$120 video game system, a \$40 video game and a \$40 hip pack were stolen from a home in the 3100 block of Half Dome Drive on Feb. 22 between 9:45 a.m. and noon, a police report said. The front door of the home had been left unlocked.

POLICE REPORT

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

Feb. 23

Theft

- 12:44 p.m. in the 4100 block of Morganfield Court; petty theft
- 4:36 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:12 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 6:32 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft, vandalism
- 7:27 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; auto theft

Auto burglary

- 9:29 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:06 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Case Avenue; public drunkenness
- 9:37 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Bernal Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI

Feb. 24

Theft

- 6:53 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; grand theft
- 7:24 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:27 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft
- 3:00 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

- 7:14 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Battery

- 9:12 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

Vandalism

- 7:34 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Blackbird Drive
- 9:25 a.m. in the 500 block of Kottinger Drive

Feb. 25

Theft

- 9:09 a.m. in the 1900 block of Paseo del Cajon; petty theft
- 10:29 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft, public drunkenness

Threats

- 6:59 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive

Feb. 26

Theft

- 11:12 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Regalia Court; possession of stolen property, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, transporting a controlled substance into a jail, public drunkenness

Burglary

- 11:43 a.m. in the 2100 block of Laguna Creek Lane
- 12:45 p.m. in the 2800 block of Jones Gate Court

Assault

- 11:29 p.m. in the 300 block of St. May Street

Battery

- 12:58 a.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road
- 7:36 p.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:19 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Trails Drive; DUI
- 3:02 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; driving with marijuana
- 5:48 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness

Weapons charge

- 10:12 p.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton Avenue and Bernal Avenue; possession of an illegal weapon

Feb. 27

Theft

- 5:27 a.m. in the 1200 block of Bordeaux Street; petty theft
- 2:28 p.m. in the 3000 block of Yuma Way; auto theft
- 2:53 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; petty theft

Auto burglary

- 8:07 a.m. in the 3600 block of Old Santa Rita Road
- 9:23 a.m. in the 3200 block of Monmouth Court
- 11:01 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Court
- 1:59 a.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 7:07 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion of Historic Preservation Policies and Regulations in the Downtown Specific Plan Area
- Discussion and Recommendations for City Council Priorities

Library Commission

Thursday, March 10, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Commission outreach
- Retreat planning
- City Council Priorities

Housing Element Workshops

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Fairlands Elementary School MP Room, 4151 W. Las Positas Blvd

Saturday, March 12, 2011 @ 9:30 a.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd

- Community input on sites to rezone for future housing

Parks & Recreation Commission

- The March 10, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission has been rescheduled to March 16, 2011, at 7:00 pm at the Pleasanton Senior Center classroom, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Civic Arts Commission

- The March 7, 2011 meeting of the Civic Arts Commission has been rescheduled to March 14, 2011, at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

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

OBITUARIES

Arthur Charles Williams Sr.

Longtime Pleasanton resident Charles Williams Sr., 82, died peacefully in his home Feb. 24 under the care of his immediate family.

He was born March 3, 1928, and raised in Detroit, Mich., the younger of two children of European immigrants, Arthur Williams (English) and Mary Theresia DeBuscher (Belgian), and was a diehard fan of the Wolverines, Tigers, Lions and Red Wings. He joined the U.S. Navy in March 1945 at the age of 17 and served aboard the USS Hubbard and USS Hector during World War II and the Korean War. He met the love of his life Laura Marie Casale in 1951 while stationed in Long Beach, got married, and they embarked on a 15-year journey as a traveling Navy family living in Long Beach; San Diego; Great Lakes, Ill.; Buena Park, Calif.; Blackfoot, Idaho; Virginia Beach, Va.; Dublin; and finally Pleasanton, raising their six children. In 1966, after 22 years of Navy service, Master Chief Petty Officer Williams retired and was



awarded the Secretary of the Navy Commendation for Achievement Award for his outstanding work aboard the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise. His second career was in the HVAC industry and included working for Linford in Oakland, Spartan and Associates in San Ramon, and Longs Drugs in Walnut Creek, retiring in 1997.

In Pleasanton, Mr. Williams played an active role supporting the Pleasanton Little League, and was a member of the Foothill High School Athletic Boosters. His retirement years were filled with trips to Lake Tahoe, grandchildren's sports, family events and gardening. He was a member of the HOGS (Highland Oaks Geezers) and took pride in the awards he won for his Christmas decorations.

He was predeceased by Laura, his wife of 55 years, his parents and sibling. He is survived by his daughter Michele Toliver of Pleasanton; son Art Williams Jr. (Lisa) of San Jose; son Scott Williams (Amy) of Ocean-side; son Tim Williams (Colleen) of San Francisco; son John Williams of Colorado Springs; daughter Annette Garrity (Bill) of Dublin; daughter-in-law Linda Williams; 17 grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at noon, Friday, March 11, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. A Military Honor Guard will follow immediately after Mass, then a memorial

reception in the church hall. Donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans (dav.org).

Edward John Prinz

Pleasanton resident Edward John Prinz died Feb. 13 at the age of 71.

He was born July 26, 1939, in Illinois and graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., in 1961. He came to California in 1964 and received his master's degree from University of San Francisco in 1972. He began teaching in 1963 and retired in 2001 and always said that each day teaching brought him joy and he was lucky to have found his profession early in life. He taught elementary school for many years in the Pleasanton Unified School District. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and Amador Valley Lions Club, and enjoyed cooking, music, attending plays and reading.

Mr. Prinz was predeceased by his son Brian Andrew and his brother Andrew Karl. He is survived by his children Mira Prinz Arey and Jeff Prinz; sister-in-law Carol Prinz; and many cousins, nephews and nieces. A memorial service was held Feb. 20 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton. Donations may be made to a favorite charity.



Opera aims for authenticity

Traditional 'Madama Butterfly' will depict cultures of early 20th century

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Chorus members from the Livermore Opera Company's upcoming "Madama Butterfly" gathered in the rehearsal room last week for a lesson in Japanese culture.

Hitoko Hagiwara, who teaches the Japanese tea ceremony at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival, instructed them on the ritual as a lesson on the Japanese society they are to portray in the upcoming opera. Hagiwara also coached them in physical movement.

"She conducted the complex ceremony gracefully, clad in a Japanese kimono," said Sara Nealy, executive director of Livermore Valley Opera. "The choristers enjoyed the experience and were seen leaving the rehearsal hall holding their hands and giggling in the demure fashion of a geisha."

"The director, Brian Luedloff, feels strongly about being realistic," Nealy explained.

"We consider all visual elements, from the scenic design to authenticity of costumes," Luedloff said. "Our performers will wear kimonos as they should be worn, one side folding over the other to create smooth line in movement. Color and patterns become very important, particularly for the geisha, whose kimonos represent status and hierarchy, and our kimonos will reflect that authenticity."

Luedloff is just as particular about everyone's movement.

"The clothing and footwear of that time period necessitates a specific kind of movement, with limitations in the size of a step a woman might be able to take, and a sense of balance depending on the thickness and weight of a slipper," he said.

The tragic story of a geisha girl who gives her love to an American lieutenant who abandons her, "Madama Butterfly" takes place in the early 1900s, a time of tradition and honor,

innocence and devotion.

"We want to understand Japanese culture in the early 20th century. We want to understand American culture in the early 20th century," said Luedloff in a video interview at www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Sopranos Carrie Hennessey and Melody Tachibana King alternate in the demanding lead role of the young Cio-Cio San (Butterfly). She is a young Japanese girl but her singing is very mature, explained Luedloff, plus she is on stage for almost the entire performance.

"While she's onstage she's singing, often over very large orchestrations, and singing music of great emotional depth," Luedloff said, "saying goodbye to her child, explaining to her child how they have to go begging and they're homeless now that his father has abandoned them."

"In opera, it's what we call a 'big sing,'" he added.

Luedloff has worked on several other performances of "Madama Butterfly," he said, and he has learned something from each production. He noted that Puccini's orchestration in the opera, which premiered in 1904, was forward-thinking.

"Madama Butterfly" comes along about midway in Puccini's compositional career," said Luedloff. "It's marvelous music. It's very theatrical music. The depth of emotion that's written into the harmonic structure, the soaring melodies, the wonderful music that Puccini writes, evocative of the drama and the emotional quality, is exactly what's needed."

Music director is Alexander Katzman.

"This will be my first production with the Livermore Valley Opera, and I'm delighted to work with Maestro Katzman and the wonderful creative team that's been assembled," Luedloff said. "Our creative team is putting together a very exciting and compelling production for you." ■



Hitoko Hagiwara of Danville serves tea Japanese-style to the chorus members of the upcoming Livermore Valley Opera production of "Madama Butterfly" as part of its efforts to present a realistic portrayal of Japanese culture. She also coached the cast in proper, demure movements.

WILLIAM RABE



Carrie Hennessey, one of the sopranos who will sing the title role of "Madama Butterfly," talks to guests at the Pleasanton library after her performance to preview the opera.

MARGARET CRUSER

A JAPANESE TRAGEDY



What: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly"

Pre-opera talks take place one hour prior to curtain. Artists' reception in lobby immediately following each performance.

Who: Livermore Valley Opera

When: March 12-13, 19-20

Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

Cost: Adults \$29-\$64.

Students 18 and younger, \$10.

Tickets: www.livermorevalleyopera.com; call 373-6800.

Other: \$75 Opening Night Gala, March 12, includes dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, dessert reception in the Bankhead Theater. Ice Cream and Opera — Children's Opera Learning Adventure, March 13 and 20

Union marks lockout anniversary with Castlewood rally

Elected officials, clergy join union locals at protest

GLENN WOHLTMANN

Cars lined both sides of the street for nearly a half mile as close to 200 people turned out Saturday to mark the one-year anniversary of the lockout of Castlewood workers.

Bartenders, kitchen helpers, waiters and other hourly full-time and part-time employees, about 60 in all, were locked out of the country club on Feb. 25, 2010, in a dispute over health care costs.

Union members and others, including local officials, union leaders, members of a number of locals and even some ordinary people, came out on the cold winter morning for a march and rally near the club.

"One day longer, one day stronger," the crowd chanted, accompanied by a brass band, drums and union organizers with megaphones as it marched along the golf course on Castlewood Drive and Foothill Road while a handful of golfers played in the background, paying little attention.

For years, management and the union agreed on contracts that ranged from one to three years in length. The last three-year contract expired in July 2008 just as the recession began to hit hard; at Castlewood, some members left for financial reasons and the country club faced a budget deficit. Instead of initiating a new contract proposal 60 days in advance as was the usual case, the union never submitted one. Castlewood extended its contract for another year, waiting until August 2009 to start negotiations.

Originally, management offered a contract that would have to shift workers from a union-sponsored plan to one controlled by Castlewood. Monthly fees would jump from zero to \$366.93 a month for single policies and to \$739.08 for families. After months of talks, management offered to bring the workers back — as long as the club managers could fire or lay people off without taking seniority into consideration.

"We continue to meet with the union on a regular basis. Both sides are showing some movement and we're optimistic about the future," club Manager Jerry Olson said. He had no comment about Saturday's rally.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty has supported the union, UniteHere Local 2850, from the beginning of the dispute between workers and management. Haggerty began his speech Saturday with another chant: "No justice, no peace."

"I'm cold, but I'm here. Ladies and gentlemen, this is one of the most unfair things I've ever seen. I'm disappointed and I'm saddened that this has happened in my district, people that I represent up in the hills that will not come down and support the workers that have been locked out," Haggerty told the enthusiastic listeners. "These workers ... have given their lives to serving the people of Castlewood, the many banquets which they have profited off of. They've made profits off these people and they want to take away their healthcare?"

Haggerty, who said, "Management at Castlewood must go," ended his speech abruptly, apparently choked up with emotion. He was followed by Hayward City Councilman Bill Quirk, who joked, "Nothing like a picket line in the morning. It's better than two cups of coffee."

Quirk, a 30-year union member himself, pointed out union members from the area.

"We've all got to stick together and we're going to win," he told the crowd.

Josie Camacho, head of the Alameda Labor Council, received cheers when she brought up Wisconsin's move to end collective bargaining with workers and anti-union sentiments across the country.

"Nowhere is that fight stronger than here with the Castlewood workers, where you've stuck together for one year," Camacho said. "Your fight is the most righteous one between the haves and the have-nots, between those who are wealthy and those who work, between the



greedy and the humble. It takes a special person — here, the Castlewood workers — for you to have the courage, the integrity and the perseverance for you to continue the fight for you and your families."

Collective bargaining across the country has become an issue; along with Wisconsin, Ohio and Indiana state legislatures have bills on the floor that could limit or eliminate union workers' rights. State Assemblyman Bob Wiekowski (D-Fremont) focused on that during his remarks.

"I was here a year ago when I got the call about the lockout," Wiekowski said. "There are meetings like this in Wisconsin, Ohio and in other parts of the United States that are saying, 'We are not going to let people take away our collective bargaining rights. We are not going to let people lock us out.' We're not slaves. I'm saddened that I'm still here. ... This should not be happening in Alameda County."

Wiekowski promised to use his influence as assemblyman to persuade groups planning tournaments at Castlewood to look for other venues until the lockout is over.

"We will not tolerate management that simply thinks they can close their doors and turn their backs on workers who have been here for 10, 15, 18, 25 years and say, 'We don't want to deal with you anymore,'" he said. "We want to send a message throughout the United States that lockouts are not tolerated in Alameda County or anywhere in California or anywhere in the United States of America."

Pleasanton has recently reopened contract negotiations with members of the Pleasanton City Employees Association/AFSCME (American

Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees). Alda Nash, a police dispatcher with the city, came out to offer support.

"Just know that we're struggling with our own. We got a tentative agreement that wasn't voted on their word," Nash said. "We stand united. Pleasanton city employees will support you in any way we can."

In the year since the lockout began, many of the workers have found other full- or part-time jobs. Many, however, are still unemployed and are hopeful the dispute can end soon.

Cook Alfredo Valadez said he's struggled financially since the lockout. "We've been through a lot of trouble, paying rent but we've received a lot of support from the community," Valadez said, adding that he needs the support because of his wife. "She's got a medical condition and she's fighting because I cannot pay what the club's asking for."

Server Peggy Duthie, 82, a 25-year veteran of the industry, said the lockout is "just sad," adding that this is the longest period of unemployment in her entire life.

"I'm trying to teach the young people that the industry is made strong because the working people have persisted on a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. It's not just that," Duthie said. "The employers don't really care about making them look good."



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Above: County Supervisor Scott Haggerty becomes emotional while reiterating his support of the locked out Castlewood Country Club workers. "This is one of the most unfair things I've ever seen," he told the crowd.

Left: The Brass Liberation Orchestra, a Bay Area band that supports political causes with an emphasis on peace, and racial and social justice, plays at Saturday's rally to note the one-year anniversary of the country club's lockout of workers.



Castlewood lockout

■ **July 2008:** Contract between Castlewood Country Club and UniteHere Local 2850 union members expires. Unlike previous years, no contract is proposed by the union 60 days in advance, and Castlewood extends its contract for another year.

■ **August 2009:** Contract talks begin, with the country club proposing continued coverage of health care costs for individual policies but sharp increases for dependent coverage.

■ **December 2009:** Management calls its offer final.

■ **February 2010:** Amid a stalemate, Castlewood management locks out about 60 full- and part-time workers.

■ **March 2010:** Picketing begins; some club members are upset with name calling by union members.

■ **April 2010:** Castlewood workers vote to remain members of UniteHere and reject management's final offer; Pleasanton City Council endorses resolution calling on the management at Castlewood Country Club to re-open negotiations. During contract talks late in the month, management adds four conditions, including a proposal to the company to sub-contract union jobs through outside companies.

■ **May 2010:** Alameda Superior Court Judge Winifred Smith blocks a request to have the strikers kicked off the property, after the club's attorney asked for a temporary restraining order on the grounds that golfers at the club need silence. Union members stage hunger strike.

■ **June 2010:** Workers mark 100 days of lockout with protest; several golf tournaments cancel events.

■ **August 2010:** National Labor Relations Board General Counsel issues complaint against Castlewood Country Club for "interfering with, restraining, and coercing employees" and "failing and refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith." Club adds new conditions to its contract, including allowing club managers to fire or lay people off without taking seniority into consideration.

■ **November 2010:** Union workers and some local officials hold a parade through Pleasanton.

■ **February 2011:** Bay Area clergy place full-page ads in several local newspapers urging end to lockout; Union holds one-year anniversary protest at country club.

Francisca Carranza was a maintenance worker at Castlewood for six years.

"We have been bending backwards to try to meet them at some point. We found out it's not about money," Carranza said.

The union has proposed a contract that would raise health care to \$225 a month, restrict health benefits to full-time employees, and accept a wage freeze in the first year and very low raises in later years, which the union said would more than offset any costs to Castlewood.

The union has also won some small victories with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) — allowing, for example, the workers to picket at the club. Union organizer Sarah Norr said the union is awaiting a decision in a pending case before the NLRB, which could result in Castlewood being ordered to end the lockout or pay the workers back pay. The union has offered to go to mediation, but Norr said the club has refused.

Norr also pointed to \$300,000 spent on legal fees by the country club and the loss of at least 10 golf tournaments along with "any number of parties" as reasons the lockout is costing Castlewood Country Club more than a contract with workers would.

"Financially, they (the country club) just can't sustain this fight, and they seem to be hoping that the workers will just give up and go away," Norr said. ■

employees) Local 955, and AFSCME member,

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f the workers have got- r, still want to work for d in their favor.

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Castlewood worker, said e first time she's drawn

this country has been stuck together and in- and people have forgot- alize that the employees

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



COURTESY CITY OF PLEASANTON

Young @ art

Young artists (l-r) Ellie Grant, Tess Shotland, LyLy Colebourn, Claire Mc-Nerney and Aoife Kennedy show off creations they made at the new visual arts program at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton for children, Young @ Art.

The Saturday series of classes was developed by Julie Finegan, visual arts coordinator for the city of Pleasanton, and Debbie Wardrope, who teaches children's art classes, so children can see and learn about art by viewing shows at the Arts Center and then visiting the studio to make art.

"I've wanted to work with kids again for awhile," said Finegan. "I love talking to the children about the works in the exhibits and giving them the opportunity to see art in a gallery setting. It's also fun to see them get excited about the art projects we do."

The classes are offered every other month, with the next class at 10 a.m. March 19. Cost is \$12 for residents; \$15, non-residents. Register at www.firehousearts.org/programs or by calling 931-5340.

Classes

GNON (GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING) GNON and the Pleasanton Unified School District's Speaker Series Program 2011 is presenting the topic, "Traveling on a Budget," from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, March 10, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Cost \$15 for GNON members and \$25 for non-members. Call 487-4748. Register for the class today at www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

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.

PARENTS' WORKSHOP A free workshop, "Speech and Language Development in Young Children," will be given for parents of toddlers through early elementary age children from 6:30-7:15 p.m., Monday, March 7, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Speech-language pathologists will outline developmental milestones and practical actions for parents, with Q&A after. Childcare will be provided. Visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library.

Clubs

JUNIOR FARMERS The naturalist could use a helping hand so get your farm clothes on and pull up

your boots cause you are gonna do some work. The group will meet from 11 a.m.-noon every Saturday, March 5 through May 28 at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Learn what life was like on the farm as you help with the chores. Call 931-3483.

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.

NARFE LUNCHEON Potential and active members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees are invited to attend the monthly luncheon and meeting of the Livermore Chapter 397 at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 10, at Emil Villa's Restaurant, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Cassandra Frazier of the Rosewood Gardens in Livermore will speak on "Signs of Dementia." Call 426-7800.

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.

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE 9/11 REMEMBRANCE Valley Concert Chorale, in collaboration with Ohlone Chamber Singers and San Francisco Concert Chorale will present "In Remembrance of 9/11," a unique and memorable choral experience, at 8 p.m., Friday, March 18, at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Tickets are \$20 if purchased in advance, \$25 at the door. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID, children under 14 are free. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Events

'BROTHELS, BANDITS AND BARS' Longtime local residents Gene Pons and Phil Harry will review the

rip-roaring history of Pleasanton, from 2-3 p.m., Sunday, March 6, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Pleasanton in the 1850s was called "The Most Desperate Town in the West," and Main Street was home to brothels, gambling halls and bandits. Free admission. Call 931-3405.

10TH ANNUAL POETRY PROSE & ARTS FESTIVAL Here's a chance to mingle with published authors, screen writers and poets, and learn from the best, beginning at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 26, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. There are workshops for all ages and \$1,200 in prizes for contests in poetry and prose. The festival is sponsored by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and the city of Pleasanton. Cost, depending on how many events are attended, ranges from \$15-\$185. Register by March 15. Visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

ARTIST HINES The Artist Hines will display his unique collection of beautiful and vibrant abstract and figurative paintings from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at Studio Seven Arts, 400 Main St. Born in New York and now residing in the Bay Area, Hines is a master painter. Techniques will be presented and discussed by Hines, and children are welcome to paint on the floor. Call 846-4322 or visit www.studiosevenarts.com.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE Pleasantonians 4 Peace is sponsoring a candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m., 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 Cathie Norman at 462-7495 or email Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com.

PERSIAN NEW YEAR Iranian American Youth Tri-Valley will be celebrating the Persian New Year (Nowruz) from 3:30-6 p.m., Sunday, March 13, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Free admission, open to the public. Cultural programs, dance, music and arts. Tea and sweets will be served. Call 998-1866.

SPRING BOOK SALE This huge sale includes thousands of hardback and paperback books, DVDs, CDs, videos and other items. Proceeds support

the library and its programs. The sale is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 25; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 26; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, March 27, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Friday night requires membership in Friends of the Library \$10. Visit www.friendsofhepleasantonlibrary.org. No scanners or strollers are allowed in the sales room.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION Where else but Dublin would you want to celebrate St Patrick's Day? Bring the family for a fun, memorable and authentic Irish experience, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13, at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza,

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Dublin. Events include Pancake Breakfast, Dublin Lions Club Parade, 5K Fun Run and the city's 28th annual Festival. Call 556-4500 or visit www.DUBLINSTPATS.com.

VENDOR BOUTIQUE AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST A Vendor Craft Boutique and Pancake Breakfast will be held from 8-11 a.m., Sunday, March 13, at Thomas Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Rd. The band will have a concert at 10 a.m. Cost \$5 for adult and \$3 for kids 6 and under. Interested craft vendors should call 484-2513.

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 Sachtshale. A donation of \$2 is suggested. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Film

'DEMOGRAPHIC WINTER' The documentary film "Demographic Winter: The Decline of the Human Family"



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will be shown at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 15, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. No charge. See trailer at www.demographicwinter.com. Call 461-2650.

'GASLAND' Everyone is invited to come and view 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 hoodwinked 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 program 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

M.O.M.'S READING TIME Preschoolers and their parents are invited to meet from 10-11 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Let Museum On Main introduce your preschooler to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in our community. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

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.

LLNL CLEANUP EFFORTS Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory advisory community working group will discuss cleanup efforts, from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at Press Room, Trailer 6475. The room is located off Greenville Rd. in Livermore at the east entrance to LLNL and directional signage will be posted. Meetings are hosted by U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration and the Lab to discuss ongoing cleanup of historic groundwater contamination at the site. The public is invited to attend and participate in the discussion. Visit www.envirinfo.llnl.gov/.

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.

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.

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. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

TOM RIGNEY AND FLAMBEAU Flambeau, which specializes in blazing Cajun and zydeco two-steps, low-down blues, funky New Orleans grooves, and heartbreaking beautiful ballads and waltzes, will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The concert is free, presented by the Pleasanton Library, and doors open at 1:15 p.m. Open seating, no reservations. Call 931-3400.

On Stage

'BAT BOY' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents the musical performance of "Bat Boy" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 18-March 13 at its Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Ln. #309.

Tickets are \$20-\$25, with a discount for groups of 20 or more. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

'TROUBLE BUBBLES AT THE HOT SPRINGS' Sunol Repertory Theatre celebrates its 30th year of melodrama with "Trouble Bubbles at the Hot Springs" or "Hold Your Nose as You Walk By," a family event to hoot, holler and hiss. Performances are at 8 p.m. March 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 and April 1 and 2 at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. The theater group has raised over \$110,000 for Sunol Glen School. Tickets are \$15, sold at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St. Pleasanton. Visit www.sunol.net/srt.

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.

Spiritual

MEDITATION MARATHON Free meditation and yoga marathon from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, March 5, at Art of Living Center for Yoga and Meditation, 6690 Amador Plaza Rd., #215, Dublin. Learn to meditate and relax. Register to participate at www.artofliving.org/sanramon.

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.mariconigli.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.

Volunteering

RELAY FOR LIFE The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Pleasanton is holding a committee meeting at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 8, at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. The meeting is open to all individuals interested in volunteering for the event, to be held July 23 at Pleasanton Middle School. Call 833-2699 or visit www.relayforlife.org/relay/.

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Marketplace

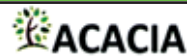
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115 Announcements

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (Void in Illinois) (AAN CAN)

Bartender For Hire
Danville Community Band Concert
Jewelry Stamping Parties
Overwhelmed by CLUTTER? Mondays SHARPEN UP AT THE FARMERS MARKET
Stress and Pain Mgmt, BLR, MFT

130 Classes & Instruction

Attend College Online from Home. *Medical, *Business, *Paralegal, *Criminal Justice. Job placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV certified. Call 888-210-5162 www.Centura.us.com (Cal-SCAN)

High School Diploma! Graduate in 4 weeks! FREE Brochure. Call Now! 1-866-562-3650 ext. 60 www.SouthEasternHS.com (Cal-SCAN)

135 Group Activities

ClutterLess[CL] meets Mondays
Lioness Club seeks New members
We Need Roller Hockey Players!

150 Volunteers

Railroad Volunteer Opportunities



201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

ANY Any Snow Chains/Cables - \$220 obo

Ford 2001 Expedition EB/4WD Loaded, 92K, Call 925-202-7101

202 Vehicles Wanted

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

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

Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Ave, Current
Pleasanton, 4734 Mchenry Gate Way, Saturday March 5th 8AM to 1PM
Moving Sale! Lot's of household items, furniture, garden furniture! and more....

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Pelikan 800 Rollerball Pen - \$185
Royal Doulton figurine - \$25

220 Computers/Electronics

Kush Electronics - 5000

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
BLACK LEATHER CHAIRS - \$ 20 - \$35
Brushed Nickel Chandelier - \$50
Entertainment Cabinet - 20
Wallhugger Recliner-NEW! - \$275.00

245 Miscellaneous

Shari's Berries 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. (Cal-SCAN)

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Time/Design System, Ai box w/ misc - \$50 obo

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425 Health Services

Type 2 Diabetes Drug If you used Type 2 diabetes drug Avandia between 1999- present and suffered a stroke, heart attack or congestive heart failure you may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727. (Cal-SCAN)

450 Personal Growth



500 Help Wanted

Shipper/Packager Shipper/Packager needed for small office in Pleasanton. Approximately 15 - 20 hours per week. \$16.00/hr. Some heavy lifting required. Ideal for retiree. Bring resume to 5673 W. Las Positas #214, Pleasanton, at Stoneridge, between 9:30 and 10:30 AM. Wed. 3/2, Th 3/3, Fri. 3/4, or Mon. 3/7. Please do not come by any other time.

550 Business Opportunities

All Cash Vending Route Be Your Own Boss! 25 Machines + Candy All for \$9995. Vend3, 880 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, NY. 1-877-915-8222. Major CC accepted! (Cal-SCAN)

560 Employment Information

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

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645 Office/Home Business Services

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751 General Contracting

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

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771 Painting/Wallpaper

PET OF THE WEEK

Hiya!

Kallie, a 3-year-old Torbie, is the queen of all she surveys. But don't worry, she rules with a velvet paw. Quite the diplomat, she won't hesitate to investigate everything going on in her realm, and enjoys meeting new people and seeing new places. She can be a little bossy, but like any good ruler, she has a good heart.



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Saturday 1-4pm
Sunday 1-4pm



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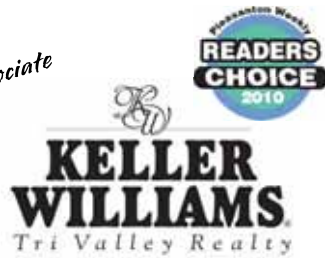
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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

House appeal: Selling your home to first-time buyers

Survey shows what kind of starter home they're looking for

By RICK TURLEY

Remember the saying "know your audience"?

That advice couldn't be more relevant when it comes to selling your home. From the moment the for-sale sign is posted in your front yard, dozens, possibly even hundreds of potential buyers will visit for a tour. So who are they and, most importantly, what do they want? The answers may surprise you.

According to the National Association of Realtors, first-time home buyers accounted for half of the market in 2010. Attracted to the market by an abundance of low-priced homes and low interest rates, this group of buyers is larger than any time in recent memory.

So in an effort to gain some insight, Coldwell Banker Real Estate recently surveyed 300 consumers who purchased their first home during the last year. They were asked about their experiences and perceptions of the home buying process and what they wanted in their first home. The results showed that the days of first-timers settling for a fixer-upper are over. They are looking for a new kind of starter home.

Several consumers experienced unexpected benefits after buying their first home:

- 67 percent said the market gave them the chance to buy a home sooner than expected;
- Half said they found a home in a more desirable neighborhood;
- 61 percent were able to get the home at a better price;
- 40 percent got more space;
- 43 percent locked in a lower interest rate.

When it came to what kind of home they were looking for, of those surveyed, 87 percent said finding a move-in ready home is important to them. In addition, the old adage "location, location, location" still holds true: 78 percent said the home had to be in an area convenient to shops and services; Three-quarters of buyers said it was important to be close to their place of work; Nearly two-thirds said it was important to be near "highly-rated" schools.

On top of that, our agents have reported that on average, first-time homebuyers now look at more than 11 homes before making decisions, a number that's higher than in the past. They can be choosy about what appeals to them and recognize the benefits of a wide selection of homes. But sellers looking to attract this coveted demographic don't need to do a complete design overhaul. Preparing to

show your home to first-time buyers is easier than you might think.

Stage rooms with one purpose. Extra rooms that have a mishmash of uses can confuse and even deter first-time homebuyers, so staging rooms with one purpose is vital. Keep in mind that these buyers are generally young couples without children, and rooms should be presented as areas equipped to meet their needs. So turn those playrooms and storage dens into a home office or the kids' bedroom into a guest bedroom.

Tackle the easy "do-it-yourself" projects. Keeping in mind that first-time buyers consider move-in conditions to be very important, ensure your home is in tip top shape by replacing outdated kitchen and bathroom fixtures, applying a fresh coat of paint to a worn wall and refinishing the kitchen cabinets. The less work they have to do when they move in, the faster they may be willing to make an offer.

Clear the room of family portraits. First-time homebuyers are looking for a home they can picture their family living in, not yours. Take down family portraits, personal collections and knickknacks. Removing these items will also eliminate clutter and ensure that people are looking at the house for sale, not at the photos from your last family vacation.

Focus on the living areas. A living room is an area in which potential first-time buyers should be able to envision themselves entertaining friends or gathering with their family. With that in mind, consider making the area appear as large and functional as possible by removing any unnecessary furniture and decorations.

Don't forget to spruce up the yard. First impressions often play a role in a consumer's decision making process. Make sure the home's exterior is inviting by trimming the bushes, mowing the lawn and painting faded window trim. Couples looking for their first home often have less yard work under their belts and will appreciate the seller's attention to detail.

The market has changed over the past several years and so have buyers. But by knowing your audience and what they're looking for, you may have a leg up. Go through your home with a fresh pair of eyes and ask yourself, "Would I want this to be my first home?" Chances are, the next person through your door will be asking themselves the same question and with a few simple changes or improvements, their answer could be, "yes!"

Editor's note: A real estate veteran with more than two decades of experience, Rick Turley is the president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the San Francisco Bay Area, incorporating offices in Pleasanton and 48 other communities.

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$330,000
Highest sale reported: \$860,000
Average sales reported: \$487,417

Highest sale reported: \$690,000
Average sales reported: \$379,244

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$225,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,485,000
Average sales reported: \$642,727

Livermore

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: \$190,000

Source: California REsource

MAJOR REDUCTION

New Price:
\$498,950



101 Goldstone Common • Livermore

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

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

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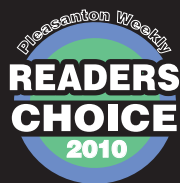
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1677 Cascina Court, Livermore
 4 BR + library & loft, 3 BA, 3328 sq. ft.. Call Gene for showing at 510.390.0325. **Offered at \$865,000**
3063 Rodeo Lane, Livermore — Open Sat/Sun 1-4
 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 4190 sq. ft. **Offered at \$869,900**



Pending

Pat Burns
 REALTOR®
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1012 Bartlett Place, Pleasanton
 Beautiful Shea built home in desirable Ventana Hills. Lovely landscaping surrounds this home situated on a corner lot, close to Mission Hills Park. 4 BR + Bonus Room & 3 BA, 3,179 sq. ft. of living space on a 9,500 sq. ft. lot. Call for private showing. **Offered at \$1,025,000**



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Sale Pending

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3231 Vineyard Avenue #53, Pleasanton
 3 BD, 2BA, 1404 sq.ft. Beautiful manufactured home in scenic and tranquil senior park (55+). The home for sale has never been lived in. The large kitchen features a gas range, walk-in pantry and solid surface work island. Financing Available. **Asking \$169,500**



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SOLD! Represented buyer

Dennis Gerlt
 Broker Associate
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2792 Spotorno Court, Pleasanton
 Well maintained Ruby Hill beauty with quality and style tucked away on a court location. The home features a remodeled kitchen and family room, boasts 4600 square feet of living space including a large second level bonus room, and has a huge backyard. A must see!



Open Sun 1-4

Gail Boal
 REALTOR®
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www.gailboal.com
 DRE # 01276455

2853 Iberis Court, Pleasanton
 3 bed, 2.5 bath. Open Sun 1-4. **\$620,000**
3803 Newton Place, Pleasanton
PRICE REDUCTION! Beautiful single story. **\$558,000**



AMAZING NEW HOMES

MONTAGE – CLASSIC SERIES \$235,000

The Monterey – Homesite 388



1,565 square feet
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms

Beautifully designed quality built home with fireplace, stainless steel appliance package, granite slab countertops in kitchen, beech cabinetry with saddle finish, pre-wiring in great-room, upgraded flooring and window treatments throughout. MLS # 10052615.

1625 Sereno Dr.
Manteca, CA 95337
(209) 825-9548

VILLAGIO \$259,000

The Biagio – Homesite 21



2,275 square feet
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms

Stunning home with open floorplan features espresso stained beech wood cabinetry, granite slab countertops in kitchen, stainless steel appliances, two-tone interior paint and upgraded flooring throughout. MLS # 10083839.

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OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Castro Valley

5 BEDROOMS
24977 Palomares Road \$2,499,000
Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS
8268 VOMAC \$429,000
Sun 1-4 Carolynn Machi 208-4853

Fremont

3 BEDROOMS
5815 Commerce \$615,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 510-910-4691

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS
273 Abalone Place \$789,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111
1677 Cascina Court \$865,000
Sun 1-4 Gene Williams 510-390-0325

5 BEDROOMS
3063 Rodeo Lane \$869,900
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 918-2045

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
4190 Peregrine Way \$460,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3 BEDROOMS
11 Lower Golf Road \$1,250,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 980-8844
1724 Zenato Place \$1,725,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tom Fox 872-1275
2471 Bay Meadows Circle \$488,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 925-998-1798
4386 Krause Street \$545,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
1409 Elliot Circle \$565,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6898
2812 Garden Creek Circle \$599,500
Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

2853 Iberis Court \$620,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 577-5787

4 BEDROOMS
4355 Campinia Place \$1,479,000
Sun 1-5 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

7909 Doral Court \$1,450,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

1034 Via Di Salerno \$1,485,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri Valley 980-0273

3372 Sagewood Court \$1,610,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

3123 Montpelier Court \$635,000
Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

5287 Crestline Way \$724,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 998-9692

7831 Paseo Santa Cruz \$759,950
Sun 1-3 Keller Williams 463-0436

5266 Muirwood Drive \$799,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5 BEDROOMS
4340 Campinia Place \$1,315,000
Sun 1-4 Debby Johnson Abarta 989-6844

3104 Devereux Court \$1,349,000
Sun 1-4 Cindy Gee 963-1984

3741 Newton Way \$1,400,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 858-1984

727 Vineyard Terrace \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

6 BEDROOMS
35 Golf Road \$1,749,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2220

San Ramon

2 BEDROOMS
235 Copper Ridge \$310,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 699-1190
407 Pine Ridge Road \$375,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 487-2956

Sunol

4 BEDROOMS
9877 Foothill Road \$1,890,000
Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

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FREMONT
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



SAN RAMON
7912 PERSICA CT \$510,000
GREAT HOME!
3 BR 2.5 BA on court location w/lrg yard,tile flrs,granite kitchen,wd flooring upstairs, long drive-way 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **407 PINE RIDGE DR**
BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOME \$375,000
2 BR 2.5 BA This home features bright & open living space,hrdwd flrs throughout 1st floor,granite slab 925-487-2956



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

DANVILLE

6975 JOHNSTON RD.
AN ELEGANT DEMEANOR \$1,697,000
4 BR 3 BA Artfully individual richly appointed hm. Generous floorplan. 2 fireplaces. Family room. 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

3499 RIMINI LANE
GREAT HOME! \$710,000
3 BR 2.5 BA 3bd+loft,4 years new,granite counters in kitchen,lots of upgrades!Community pool/club-house 925.847.2200

FREMONT

4949 ELLIOT COURT
CHARMING GLENMOOR \$598,888
3 BR 2 BA 1409 sqft,w/fireplace,2 car garage,dual-pane windows,stunning garden oasis. 925.847.2200

117 LICHEN CT
CHARMING COURT LOCATION \$448,888
3 BR 2 BA Hardwood flrs,new carpet,dual pane windows,Updated Kitchen w/granite,3bd & 2 bth,1414sqft. 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

3061 OAKES DRIVE
WOODLAND ESTATES \$448,000
3 BR 2 BA on large private lot, dual paned windows, hardwood, updated kitchen/baths, community pool 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4 **1457 MACATERA AVE**
MANUFACTURED HOME! \$184,500
3 BR 2 BA Newer manufactured home.Kitchen with island,upgraded cabinets,flooring.Too many extras. 510.851.3551

LIVERMORE

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. 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 4 **4386 KRAUSE STREET**
BEAUTIFUL! \$545,000
3 BR 2.5 BA many upgrades! Dual pane windows, private backyard with patio and fountain 925.847.2200

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

SAN LEANDRO

2819 MARINEVIEW DRIVE
BEST OF BAYOVISTA \$850,000
4 BR 3 BA Panoramic views,remodeled kitchen/baths, granite counters, in ground pool. Sharp! 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

2532 SHADOW MOUNTAIN COURT
BEAUTIFUL AND QUIET! \$548,000
3 BR 2 BA whole house remodeled in last 6/7 years including kit,bth bths,wd flrs thruout,nice master 510-909-4519

Open SUN 1 - 4 **235 COPPER RIDGE**
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED! \$310,000
2 BR 2 BA 2 BR 2BA lovely moldings,hrdwd flrs, beautiful stained cement counters,one of a kind find! 925-699-1190

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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1867 SANNITA CT
RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
ITALIAN VILLA \$2,749,000



5 Bd 5 (2) Ba • 7,340+/- sq.ft., 0.58+/- Acres
Cul-de-sac w/ unobstructed views. Impressive dual entry staircase, Oversized & temp. controlled walk-in wine cellar, wet bar, large Koi pond, built in BBQ.
Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758

1225 LOZANO CT
RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
ITALIAN VILLA \$4,299,000



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

1586 LOGANBERRY WAY
PLEASANTON VALLEY, PLEASANTON
UPDATED \$889,000



5 Bd + Bonus Room • 2587+/- sq.ft.
Pleasanton Valley! Remodeled Kitchen, hardwood floors, New carpet, paint, roof, windows.
Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585

6645 AMBER LN
CARRIAGE GARDENS, PLEASANTON
1/2 ACRE LOT & POOL \$1,398,000



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

6605 AMBER LANE
CARRIAGE GARDEN, PLEASANTON
SINGLE LEVEL \$1,348,000



3,675+/- sq.ft., 0.50+/- Flat Acres • Pool
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.
Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585

3422 TORLANO PL
RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
FORMAL FRENCH \$1,749,950



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

219 E. ANGELA
DOWNTOWN, PLEASANTON
TUDOR STYLE CALL FOR PRICE



4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,278+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres
Classic Tudor architecture w/ incredible charm & character, 3 bd, 2 ba plus a full bed & bath in separate upstairs apartment.
Weiner & McDowell Group 925.251.2585

1976 ARMONDO COURT
RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
ITALIAN VILLA \$3,649,000



6 Bd 6.5 Ba • 9,821+/- sq.ft., 0.55+/- Acres
Located on a quiet cul-de-sac w/ tremendous views, private patios and balconies. This home is all about architectural details and refined craftsmanship.
Uwe Maerz 925.360.8758

11 LOWER GOLF RD
CASTLEWOOD, PLEASANTON
OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 \$1,250,000



3 Bd 3 Ba • 2,392+/- sq.ft., 0.33+/- Acres
On the 8th fairway of the Castlwood Country Club. Single story w/ separate family room, formal dining. Beautiful plank hardwood floors.
Steve & Lorraine Mattos 925.980.8844

1819 MADDALENA CT
RUBY HILL, PLEASANTON
NEW PRICE \$1,298,000



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

4977 DANA CT
WINDMILL SPRINGS, LIVERMORE
UPDATED \$549,950



4 Bd 2.5 Ba • 2,098+/- sq.ft., 0.23+/- Acres
Former Model Home w/ Many Upgraded Features. End of the Court Location with a Very Large Lot. Nicely Remodeled Kitchen w/ Granite Counters.
Michael Swift 925.251.2587

760 WALL ST
LIVERMORE
MOVE IN READY \$415,000



3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,136+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Features Open Spacious Kitchen with Maple Cabinets, Master Suite w/ Walk-In Closet, Carpet & Wood Laminate Flooring and much more!
Sara Lovett 925.583.2194

7123 CEDAR MOUNTAIN
LIVERMORE
NEW PRICE \$3,988,000



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

5578 BECK LANE
LINDENWOOD, LIVERMORE
SINGLE STORY \$759,500



4 Bd 3 Ba • 2,776+/- sq.ft., 0.19+/- Acres
Cul-de-sac w/ views of Community Park & hills. Tastefully decorated w/ upgrades: granite countertops; hickory flooring, 2 fireplaces & more!
Tom E. Chance 925.487.6360

1453 REGINALD CT
LIVERMORE
CUSTOM HOME \$1,000,000



4 Bd 4.5 Ba • 4,523+/- sq.ft., 0.49+/- Acres
South Livermore Custom Designed Home that is an Absolute Beauty! 4 Bd+Office+Bonus Rm. Water Fall Pool, Huge Backyard and much more!
Corey Green 925.899.6011

6107 LEDGEWOOD TER
SHEA BUILT DUBLIN
PANORAMIC VIEW \$947,450



5 Bd 4 Ba • 3,843+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Panoramic views of Mt Diablo, Dublin hills and the Tri Valley. Walk to top rated schools, the golf course and the neighborhood swim club
The Engels 925.251.2510

5146 S FORESTDALE CIR
DUBLIN
NEW PRICE \$769,000



5 Bd 3 Ba • 2,661+/- sq.ft., 0.10+/- Acres
Upgrades throughout, 5th room currently used as office, plus it has an open loft/bonus room, over \$120k in upgrades, mountain views.
Lisa Doyle 925.855.4000

24977 PALOMARES RD
38+/- ACRES, CASTRO VALLEY
OPEN SUN 1-3 \$2,499,000



5 Bd 4.5 Ba • 6,696+/- sq.ft., 38+/- Acres
Fabulous Custom Home. High ceilings, skylights, panoramic windows. With a 40 horse facility; could be used for many different uses.
Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

1228 HIBISCUS WAY
SPRINGTOWN, LIVERMORE
OPEN SUN 1-4 CALL FOR PRICE



3 Bd 2 Ba • 1,584+/- sq.ft., 0.14+/- Acres
Fantastic home in Springtown Newer roof and windows, laminate flooring Tastfully done must see!
Michael J. Duffy 925.251.2523

9877 FOOTHILL RD
SUNOL
OPEN SUN 1-3 \$1,890,000



4 Bd 3 Ba • 3,027+/- sq.ft., 16.01+/- Acres
Magnificent Location, "The Sky's the Limit". Direct access to Pleasanton Ridge Park. Only 2 years old. Castle Brook barn & 2,000 Sq ft shop/garage.
Kristy and Company 925.251.2536

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

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Two NEW Opportunities!



Views, Views and More Views!!
 This is a great opportunity for a LARGE home (2438 sq. ft.) on a HUGE lot (10,400 sq. ft.) with views of the Tri Valley and Pleasanton Ridge from almost every room in the house. Add in hardwood floors, skylights, a large Great Room for entertaining and a fenced in pool area AND a location close to Downtown Pleasanton and you have a great package! New to the market and priced well at \$879,500! You gotta see this one!!!

Beautiful Westside Home!!

Gorgeous Tri-Level home that is loaded with upgrades! Three bedrooms, two and a half baths, 1747 sq. ft. with a remodeled kitchen featuring stainless steel appliances and granite plus upgraded bathrooms and all the extras that make this home "special". Large rear deck that is perfect for entertaining plus a large, multi-level rear yard that has a great play area. This home features a west-side location, with views of the ridge, and is close to schools, shopping and transportation. This beautiful home is priced at \$659,000



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FOREVER MOHR ESTATES



COMING SOON

4 BD 2.5 BA **Single Story**. Pool/spa, side yard access and a detached casita with full bath AND a full wine cellar under the casita. Private 1/2 acre lot, three car garage. Call for more information.

3265 NORTHAMPTON CT. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS



5 BD 3 BA 2,441sf. on a 6,937sf. lot.
 Great location with side yard access.
 Bedroom and full bath on main level.
 Open floor plan.
 \$690,000

4082 NEVIS ST. PLEASANTON
 JENSEN/AMADOR NEIGHBORHOOD



SOLD —
 RECEIVED 5 OFFERS

3 BD 2 BA 1,460sf. on a HUGE 10,537sf. lot.
 Largest lot in the neighborhood! Refinished
 hardwood flooring throughout, dual pane
 windows. Living room, family room
 and dining room.
 SOLD FOR \$578,000

3123 MONTPELIER CT. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN PLEASANTON MEADOWS



OPEN SUN 1-4

4 BD 2 BA 1,701sf. single level home.
 Near greenbelt. Dual panel windows.
 Living room, family room and dining room.
 \$635,000
 JUST LISTED

4190 PEREGRINE WY. PLEASANTON
 LOCATED IN HERITAGE VALLEY



OPEN SUN 1-4

2 BD 2 BA 1,280sf. on a 3,486sf. lot.
 SINGLE LEVEL, updated flooring
 and bathrooms. Private backyard.
 \$460,000
 JUST LISTED

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STONERIDGE PARK

JUST LISTED - OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



2812 GARDEN CREEK CIR, PLEASANTON
Beautiful Pleasanton single level close to great neighborhood parks & award winning schools. Open floor plan with three bedrooms, two updated bathrooms, 1,720 square feet. Excellent condition remodeled master bathroom, spacious family room/kitchen area. Hardwood flooring, updated fixtures, vaulted ceilings, completely finished garage. Large private rear yard with mature trees and landscaping. 6,264 square foot lot. Convenient to downtown. **OFFERED AT \$599,500**

PONDEROSA



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

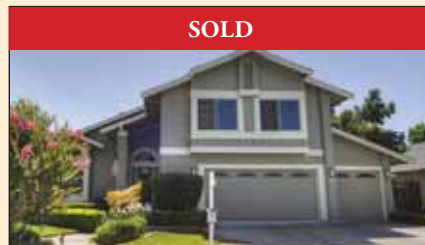
SOLD



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

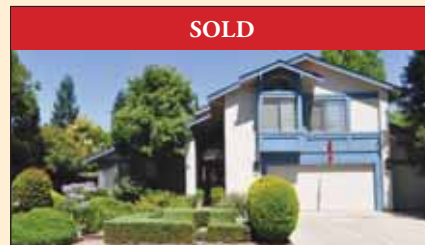
SOLD



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





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REALTORS

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

DANIEL ALPHER SAT&SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,610,000
Classic elegant 4bd/4.5ba home, 4391+/-sf. Gourmet kitchen, entertainers delight with equipped outdoor kitchen and bar on 12,458+/-sf lot, views. 3372 Sagewood Ct

LINDA TRAURIG SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,499,000
5bd/4ba on .50+/-acre lot. South side of Pleasanton. Gorgeous carriage house with full kitchen,bath and laundry. Must see! 727 Vineyard Terrace

DOUG BUENZ SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,450,000
Gorgeous 4bd+office/den. Over \$400K in recent improvements & designer upgrades! Situated on private .42+/-acre creekside cul-de-sac lot. 7909 Doral Ct

ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$854,000
This 5bd/3ba home offers hardwood floors, granite countertops, new carpet and much more, close to sports park, award winning schools. 5023 Blackbird Way

DAN GAMACHE, JR. BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$819,950
Semi custom 4bd,2.5ba, beautiful new Brazilian hardwood floors. Large kitchen overlooking 10K +/-sf lot. This home has it all! Must see! 3625 Bernal Ave

DOUG BUENZ SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$799,000
Gorgeous Stoneridge home on premium 10,000+/- sf lot. Sparkling pool, new roof, windows, carpet, painting, landscaping, furniture & AC. 5266 Muirwood Dr

DOUG BUENZ SUN 1:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$789,000
Upgraded South Livermore home on premium .22 acre cul-de-sac lot close to everything! 273 Abalone Pl

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



DANVILLE \$739,950
Beautiful home features 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 updated baths, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood flooring. 328 Fontaine Dr

STEVE ELDRIDGE BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$417,500
Pristine sun-filled home in desirable location! Move-in condition. High ceilings, spacious granite kitchen with island, abundance of cabinets. 6421 Almaden Wy

MAUREEN NOKES BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$499,950
Stoneridge - "Premier Townhome Dev" at the base of the Westside Hills with miles of greenbelts, walkways, trees, pools, tennis courts & clubhouse. 7509 Rosedale Ct



How Deep Do Those Roots Go?

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

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Don Faught

Vice President
Managing Broker
Pleasanton and Livermore
dfaught@apr.com

