

# Pleasanton Weekly

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## We're a top city again for liveability

Pleasanton has done it again. Following Money Magazine's inclusion of our town on its 2010 list of the "100 Best Places to Live," we're now included as a top city in California, this time in a ranking by the online review site AreaVibes.

The Website, brought to our attention by Pamela Ott, the city's economic development director who no doubt is sharing it with her hundreds of business contacts, claims it's indispensable to people relocating, planning a vacation or locals that simply want to know more about the area where they live.

In its most recent report issued this week, AreaVibes places Pleasanton as No. 18 on the list of the Top 100 Cities in California. Sorry. We're not No. 1, Palos Verdes Estates has that honor, but we're well ahead of our neighbors up and down the I-580/680 corridor with our closest competitor, in Marin County, being Tiburon, which is ranked No. 13. Not to be snooty, but trendy Danville scored seven points lower at No. 25. San Ramon came in at No. 62, Alamo at No. 66, and Livermore at No. 74. As great as a near-the-top standing is for Pleasanton, I must say I always have some suspicions over factors used in generating these results, especially after seeing Carmel in the No. 91 position and the Blackhawk-Camino-Tassjara area ranked next to last at No. 99. I remember the year Money Magazine ranked Pittsburgh, Pa., as America's most livable city. I lived there at the time and it was the topic of widespread disbelief in our neighborhood.

AreaVibes scores the "liveability" of more than 15,000 cities across America based on their overall score or "AreaVibe." To earn its place on the list, Pleasanton scored 82 out of 100 points, based on scores given in a number of categories including cost of living, crime rates, education, employment, health and safety, housing, weather, transportation, local businesses and user reviews.

Pleasanton, with our current population of 67,543, received high marks in most categories, notably for having a low crime index, high educational attainment, and a high employment rate. Also considered were the

city's high median household income of \$114,482 and the median value of homes. Even the temperate weather and air quality index earned top scores for Pleasanton.

In several of the specific categories ranked by AreaVibes, our city looks mighty inviting. Pleasanton's crime index, for example, is 41% less than the California average and 39% less than the national average. In education, we scored a "high educational attainment" with 47.3% of Pleasanton residents having earned a bachelor's degree, as compared to the national average of 22.8%. On the jobs front, the unemployment rate as of the end of August is far less — currently 5.4% in Pleasanton — than the national average of 9.1%.

Other factors considered by AreaVibes include income levels. Our income per capita is 74.8% greater than the California average and 97.9% greater than the national average. Statistics also show that Pleasanton's median household income is 78.7% greater than the California average and 109.7% greater than the national average. The median home value here is 89.6% greater than the California average and 305.3% greater than the national average. Additionally, the age of the housing inventory (the median year the house was built) is less in Pleasanton than in California or nationally. We're even ahead in the air quality index in AreaVibes' health and safety category. The index is a median value, which considers the most hazardous air pollutants. Pleasanton's air quality index is 42% less than the California average and 24.3% less than the national average.

The AreaVibes report also contains some other data that, while interesting, may not have impacted our ranking. These include that the male/female ratio is about even at 0.97:1. Figures show that 28.7% of the men in town are between 18 and 39 years old, compared to 28.8% of the women. A total of 65.8% of us are married and 54.9% of the population has children at home under 18 years of age.

One "reviewer" told AreaVibes that she and her brother spent a weekend here while completing a circuit of California cities. "The Pleasanton community is full of charm and beauty, and provides a good atmosphere for relaxing," she wrote. "The residents of Pleasanton are warm and inviting, and the weather is conducive to outdoor activities and shopping. I am already looking forward to my next vacation to Pleasanton." ■

## About the Cover

With fresh vegetables on the table and plants propagating in the shade, the Spooner family is taking advantage of the sun outside and inside their home. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann. Design by Lili Cao.

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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

## Should wealthy Americans pay higher taxes?



**Kimberly McIntyre**

Human resources manager

Yes. They will be wealthy regardless, so if they pay higher taxes it shouldn't affect them much.

**Ashley Gilliland**

Assistant manager

No, I don't think they should. Everyone should be treated equally. They should pay according to how much money they make, but I don't think they should have to pay more.



**Percy Villanueva**

Engineer

No, I don't think so. They are working hard for their money, and every person has the right to pay the same percentage.



**Cheryl Moeller**

Payroll administrator

No. Why should people that earn more and employ others be taxed at a higher rate? They are already paying employee taxes as well.



**Jordan Little**

Student/owner of Yards Apart Landscaping

I believe they should, because the trickle-down theory isn't working. The next step is to tax the wealthy at a higher rate, because the poor simply don't earn enough to make an impact.



—Compiled by Kerry and Jordan Nally

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

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## DIGEST

### Express lane anniversary

The I-680 Express Lane had its first anniversary Sept. 20; half a million drivers have paid a toll electronically for a faster trip over the Sunol Grade. Express Lane speeds are 9 or 10 mph faster than the speeds in the general purpose lanes during the morning commute.

The 14-mile stretch of I-680 from Pleasanton to Milpitas is the first Express Lane in Northern California. It operates from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and is free for cars with at least two occupants. Solo drivers need a FasTrak toll tag on their windshield.

The first year of its operation, the Express Lane generated revenue of \$858,328. The average number of trips is September has been 1,700 per day. The one-day peak usage was Feb. 8, at 2,324.

### Books, books, books

Friends of the Pleasanton Library is having its Fall Book Sale this weekend, a chance to improve your library, stock up on reading material, or find books to share with others. Most paperback books cost 50 cents with hardbacks going for \$1. All are in good condition. All proceeds benefit the library.

The sale opens this evening from 6-9 p.m. for members only; memberships are available at the door for \$10 per individual and \$15 per family. The sale continues from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, at the Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

### Sole patrol

Pleasanton elementary schools will join hundreds of schools throughout the nation the first week of October by participating in its 11th annual Walk to School Week. Valley View and Vintage Hills elementary schools will walk on Tuesday, Oct. 4; Alisal, Lydiksen and Mohr schools on Wednesday, Oct. 5; Donlon School on Thursday, Oct. 6; and Fairlands, Hearst and Walnut Grove elementary schools on Friday, Oct. 7.

The promotion is sponsored by the city of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District and the district's elementary schools. The event promotes pedestrian safety and parent involvement. It is being promoted as part of Rides to School, Pleasanton's School Traffic Calming Program. Morning celebrations with refreshments for students and parents are scheduled 30 minutes prior to the first bell at each school.

## Dublin Councilman to seek Tri-Valley congressional seat in Democratic primary

Alameda County prosecutor will challenge U.S. Rep. Pete Stark

By JEB BING

Eric Swalwell, an Alameda County deputy district attorney and Dublin City Councilman, announced his candidacy Wednesday for Congress in the newly created 15th congressional district.

Swalwell, 30, has filed paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission for the post and will seek the Democratic Party nomination in the California primary on June 5.

Longtime Congressman Pete Stark (D-Fremont), who currently represents the 9th Congressional District, earlier announced that he will seek re-election to the post in the 15th District Democratic primary.

The 15th is one of the new districts established in the statewide realignment of federal, regional and state voting districts based on the 2010 census.

Swalwell, a graduate of Dublin High School, has served as a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office since 2006, where he has prosecuted more than 1,000 cases and 32 jury trials, including murder, human-trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, burglary and fraud. In 2009, he received the Bay Area Mothers Against Drunk Driving Award for Community Service.

Also in 2006, he was appointed to Dublin's Heritage & Cultural Arts Commission, where he later served as chairman. For two years, starting in 2008, he served on the Dublin Planning Commission and, last year, he was elected to the

Dublin City Council. He holds a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, where he also received his law degree.

In an interview, Swalwell said his interest in politics took hold when he served on the City of College Park (Md.) City Council as its student representative. From 2001-02, he worked in Washington, D.C., for Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher when she was still representing the Tri-Valley, assisting with legislative research and constituent outreach and services.

As for challenging veteran Congressman Stark in next year's Democratic primary, Swalwell said he is not running "against" anyone.

"I am running for the people who want a new voice, new energy and new ideas in a new district," Swalwell said. "In these tough economic

See **COUNCILMAN** on Page 6



Eric Swalwell



JUPITERIMAGES

## Jewish High Holy Days begin Wednesday evening

Customs include remembering loved ones and seeking forgiveness

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Jewish High Holy Days are approaching with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, beginning the evening of Sept. 28, and Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, starting at sundown Oct. 7.

"All Jewish services begin in the evening and continue the following day," said Congregation Beth Emek's Rabbi David Katz.

Beth Emek offers a complete complement of holiday services, he noted.

"On Rosh Hashanah, we will cast bread crumbs into the arroyo behind the temple," Katz said. "It says in the Book of Micah you will cast your sins into the sea but we will cast them into the arroyo."

The celebration also includes the sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn.

"We read the story of Abraham who is about

to sacrifice his son Isaac, and the ram takes the place of his son," Katz explained. "The sound of the shofar serves as a wakeup call to rise up to become better, and to remember that story."

Congregation Beth Emek, which has its center for Jewish learning, prayer and community at 3400 Nevada Court in Pleasanton, is holding "Selichot: Spiritual Preparation for the High Holy Days" at 9 p.m. tomorrow, lasting until just after midnight.

"Selichot is a service to begin to frame the holiday in religious terms and to get oneself into the spirit of the holiday in order to seek forgiveness," Katz said. "You have the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to ask forgiveness of God."

As Yom Kippur approaches, members of the

See **HIGH HOLIDAYS** on Page 7

## Oak Grove developers sue Pleasanton again

New lawsuit claims breach of contract

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Lin family is suing Pleasanton — again — even as it appeals its last lawsuit against the city in a bid to build on land the family owns in southeast Pleasanton known as Oak Grove.

In February, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers dismissed a case against Pleasanton brought by mother and son Jennifer and Frederic Lin. That case challenged the validity of the development agreement, which included "poison pill" language — that is, when one of the two ordinances allowing the Oak Grove development was invalidated, the other would be as well.

The Lins had claimed their contract with Pleasanton was valid despite a referendum that threw out one of two ordinances passed by the city.

Pleasanton officials claimed — and were supported by Rogers — that any agreement between the city and the family was invalidated by referendum PP, in which voters opposed the development in 2010. The Lin family is appealing that ruling.

The family is now asking for damages from Pleasanton for breach of contract; it's filed a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court, although city officials have not yet been formally served with the paperwork.

The new lawsuit claims the city clerk violated election law by not including the full text of the development agreement between the Lins and the city on the ballot. The suit also claims, again, that the development agreement took effect and that the city was responsible to protect the Lin family under the wording in the agreement, despite the ruling earlier this year by Rogers.

Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto said the city will hold the position it's held all along.

"We still are in our current position that a contract was never entered into because of the (poison pill) language in the adopting ordinance," Seto said. "Because there was no contract ever, there are no damages." ■

## TAKE US ALONG



**Historic Stockholm:** Heidi Brewer took along the Weekly to the Skansen Open Air Museum where centuries-old homes and communities from historical Sweden are displayed. Heidi traveled to Sweden with Cultural Care Au Pair, a childcare exchange program.

## COUNCILMAN

Continued from Page 5

times, I think people want bold action and leadership, so that's why I am stepping up to the plate."

About 45% of the new 15th Congressional district is in the Tri-Valley. Another 40% is Hayward, Union City and a small

part of Fremont. The rest includes Castro Valley and other unincorporated parts of Alameda County.

"Compared to the current 11th Congressional District which Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) serves, the new district is much more contiguous with communities that have more in common," Swalwell said. ■

## Teen stabbing suspect to be tried as adult

Police continue to look for reason behind attack of two students

**DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

The 16-year-old Village High student arrested in the stabbing of two other teens last week will be tried as an adult, an Alameda County prosecutor has confirmed. The teen's name is being withheld by officials.

He was arrested Sept. 15 on two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and taken into custody after being identified in a lineup.

The victims, one 16 and the other 17, have not been identified but are students, one at Village High and the other at Amador Valley High. They were taken by ambulance to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, where they under-

went surgery. The knife used in the attack may have pierced the liver of one of the victims, it was reported.

Investigators are continuing to search for the motive in the stabbing, which occurred near the campus of Pleasanton's Village High School. The victims were found on the ground outside the school district's graphics art and utility yard in the 4700 block of First Street, near Abbie Street, while high school classes were still in session.

Police were dispatched at 2:15 p.m. and they found the two victims on the ground with stab wounds to their abdomens. Police said that the three, all males, knew each other and the fight was part of an ongoing

dispute, possibly over a girlfriend.

The injured teens and other witnesses in the area named the attacker, Police Sgt. Jim Knox said at the time. Authorities worked with school officials to track the suspect to the nearby Civic Square Apartments on Bernal Avenue.

Both victims were reported in stable condition, school officials reported after the attack. Police and counselors were at all Pleasanton schools the day after the stabbing but reported there were no problems.

The Police Department and the school district are looking into the attack and the reasons behind it. Anyone with information is asked to contact the police at 931-5100. ■

## Oracle customer fined \$20 million

TomorrowNow admits to copyright infringement, unauthorized access

TomorrowNow, a former subsidiary of SAP, has been ordered to pay a fine of \$20 million for unauthorized access to computer servers belonging to Oracle Corp. and for infringing Oracle copyrights; TomorrowNow was also sentenced to probation, U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag announced.

The company entered its guilty pleas to the unauthorized access and criminal copyright infringement charges through a corporate representative, immediately before sentencing in Oakland.

TomorrowNow was headquartered in Bryan, Texas. It provided third-party maintenance and support services to business, government and other organizations that used software licensed from Oracle or one of its subsidiaries, includ-

ing from PeopleSoft, JD Edwards, and Siebel Systems. That meant TomorrowNow directly competed not only with other third-party maintenance and support providers, but with Oracle itself, which also offered the same services.

From at least 2005 to 2007, TomorrowNow worked to convince Oracle customers, who had purchased licensed Oracle software, to terminate their use of Oracle's services for its software and switch to TomorrowNow.

TomorrowNow employees downloaded Oracle software and related documentation from Oracle itself, despite license agreements with that customer and terms of use specified on Oracle websites.

As a result, a number of Oracle customers moved to Tomor-

rowNow; the company admitted in a plea agreement that employees downloaded Oracle software and related documentation from Oracle's servers without authorization.

TomorrowNow also pleaded guilty to criminal copyright infringement charges because employees used Oracle copyrighted works that were downloaded or otherwise obtained by TomorrowNow employees. In the plea agreement, TomorrowNow also admitted that its employees made numerous illegal copies of Oracle copyrighted software applications on TomorrowNow's computer systems and installed copies of Oracle copyrighted software applications on TomorrowNow's computer systems.

—Glenn Wohltmann

## Wal-Mart objectors with no place to go

Gripes to council left at closed meeting room doors

**BY JEB BING**

Anti-Wal-Mart protesters were geared up Tuesday night to vent their objections to the discounter retailer from taking over the now-empty Nob Hill grocery store, but

there was no City Council to hear them out. The council chambers were dark with a note saying the next public meeting will be Oct. 4.

The protestors, a small group that often wears yellow anti-Wal-

Mart badges, show up after being alerted by photocopies of a faxed flier to keep objecting to the store. But the flier talks about a full-sized Wal-Mart moving in, not the smaller 30,000-square-foot neighborhood grocery store that Wal-Mart wants to open at the Nob Hill site.

In any case, it's unlikely the council can discuss the issue until Wal-Mart responds to city planners with more information. Sources say that won't happen by Oct. 4, maybe not even before the end of the year.

Councilman Jerry Thorne, who is campaigning for the mayor's post in next year's municipal election, told a meeting of the city's Economic Vitality Committee last week that he would support a "public meeting" to discuss the Wal-Mart plan for Nob Hill, if it ever submits any.

"Not so fast," replied Scott Raty, CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. "The same rules that apply to all businesses should also apply to whoever takes over that store." ■

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## Le's family plan memorial

Missing nurse's body found  
just south of Pleasanton

Family members of Michelle Le are planning a memorial service for her now that the missing nursing student's body was found on the Pleasanton-Sunol Road on Saturday morning.

"We are grieving and preparing a memorial service for her — a proper goodbye," the family said in a statement issued late Monday after the Alameda County coroner's bureau confirmed the body found is Le's.

They thanked the public "for your support prayers and thoughts" during the search for Le, 26, who disappeared on May 27 from the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Hayward.

"Our family has greatly appreciated, and would be at a loss, without the help of so many people and volunteers," the statement said.

Le left the medical center around 7 p.m. on May 27, telling a classmate she was going to go to her car during a break, Hayward police Lt. Roger Keener said.

When she never returned, her instructor went to the parking garage looking for her and called police to report her disappearance.

Le's car was found the next morning around 9 a.m. parked about

half a mile from the medical center, Keener said, and investigators found blood stains in the vehicle that were later determined to be Le's.

On Saturday, volunteers found a body in an unincorporated area between Pleasanton and Sunol where authorities believe Le had been, based on cell phone records.

The Alameda County coroner's bureau confirmed Monday evening that the body was that of Le, but said it has not yet determined the manner and cause of her death.

The suspect in Le's killing, Giselle Esteban, 27, was taken into custody on the morning of Sept. 7 in Union City, Keener said, and arrested on suspicion of murder.

Keener said footage from security cameras at the Kaiser Permanente parking structure showed that Esteban was present around the time of Le's disappearance. Also, he said, evidence found inside Le's car indicated that Esteban had been in the vehicle.

He said cell phone records show from wireless tower activations that Le and Esteban traveled along the same route, leaving the area just after Le vanished.

—Staff reports

## OF NOTE



### Bailey brothers are Eagle Scouts

Dan Bailey and Adam Bailey from Troop 948 have completed the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. Dan achieved his Eagle Scout rank on June 11, 2009, and Adam achieved his Eagle Scout Rank on July 6, 2011.

The two completed their Eagle Scout projects at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. in Pleasanton. Dan's project involved improving the landscape and entrance; and Adam's project is a memorial for veterans, located in front of the church. Both boys raised money to pay for their Eagle Projects. Adam raised funds by selling inscribed memorial bricks.

Dan and Adam are the sons of Jim and Carlene Bailey, Pleasanton. Jim also was a Boy Scout and an Eagle Scout. Dan and Adam's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held Aug. 27.



CELEBRATING

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## HIGH HOLIDAYS

Continued from Page 5

congregation can place names of relatives and friends who have died into the Yizkor Book, which will be handed out at the Yom Kippur service.

"Yizkor means remembering," Katz said. "It's to remember those who have entered the world to come."

Beth Emek will hold two Rosh Hashanah services Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m. and at 8 p.m., as well as morning services Thursday and Friday. Go to [www.bethemek.org](http://www.bethemek.org) for tickets to the services although no tickets are required Friday morning.

Another tradition in preparation for the Jewish New Year is baking the round challah bread. Chabad of the Tri Valley's Jewish Women's

Circle gathered mother and daughter teams Wednesday to bake the breads together.

"All year long challah is braided, but it is traditionally round for Rosh Hashanah," explained Fruma Resnick, the director of Chabad's Jewish Women's Circle. The roundness represents the cyclical nature of the year and is also the shape of a crown, for on Rosh Hashanah, God is accepted as king.

Everyone at the mother/daughter challah bake was encouraged to bake one extra loaf to share with someone else the joy and warmth of the New Year.

The Chabad is having its Rosh Hashanah celebration at the Pleasanton Masonic Center. It will celebrate Yom Kippur at Four Points by Sheraton. See more at [www.JewishTriValley.com](http://www.JewishTriValley.com). ■

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## Andronico's deals to keep some stores open

'Broken balance sheet too heavy a burden' — Bill Andronico

Andronico's Community Markets, one of the Bay Area's best known family-owned specialty supermarkets, has announced it is in discussions with a private investor group to preserve jobs for 400 employees and to ensure its historic markets continue to serve future generations of shoppers.

"We have struggled mightily to keep going, but the combination of the economic downturn and a broken balance sheet was too heavy a burden," said Bill Andronico, the market's CEO and a member of the third generation of the family that owns the business.

"The good news is that this deal preserves our markets and keeps our employees working," he added.

He said the business is in negotiations with Renovo Capital to obtain Debtor-in-Possession financing and sell the company to the investor group as part of its Chapter 11 filing in the Oakland division of

the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

The 82-year-old Andronico's markets have struggled in recent years after an aggressive expansion program in which it took on significant debt to develop stores in Danville, Walnut Creek and Emeryville in the late 1990s and early 2000s. These stores are now closed, but Andronico said he was unable to get its bank lenders to restructure their claims and the remaining stores were saddled with too heavy a debt to continue under family ownership.

Currently, Andronico's operates in seven locations: four stores in Berkeley and markets in San Francisco, Los Altos and San Anselmo.

Founded by Greek immigrant Frank Andronico in 1929, the family began with a vision of providing the best quality products with the excellent customer service of a neighborhood grocer.

In fact, Andronico even let his neighborhood customers name the store "Park and Shop" which remained as the name of the markets until 1986.

In 2010 Andronico's encountered a daunting retail environment, and replaced nearly all of its executive management team with a core group of experienced industry veterans from Whole Foods Market and Safeway. The new team began the work to stabilize the business but the lack of resources did not allow for a full recovery.

Andronico's has received numerous awards, including the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade's "Retailer of the Year," National Grocers' Association "Best of Show Finalist," and the San Francisco Chronicle's "Reader's Choice for Best Grocery Store."

Andronico's was founded in 1929 on Berkeley's Solano Avenue. ■

## 7-year-old knows all about profit, loss

Driveway business so far a success on Del Valle Parkway

By Krista McCoy

A 7 year old entrepreneur in Pleasanton, CA... who woulda thunk?

I had the privilege of meeting this young man for myself as I was driving down Del Valle Parkway in Pleasanton last Thursday afternoon and just had to stop. Who could pass up an adorable little boy sitting at a table selling ice cream, Skittles and licorice?

At first my daughter and I were just going to stop and help support his business, but then I got to talking to his mom and learned so much about this brilliant child.

Reilly Curry is a 7-year-old entrepreneur in the making, but it all started around the age of 3. His mother started taking him to a wood-shop class to interact with other children and Reilly decided he was going to make wood blocks and sell them for 50 cents.

His mother didn't think anything of it, and had no clue people would be interested in buying wood blocks from her 3-year old son, but to her surprise she was wrong. Apparently handmade blocks from a 3-year old were a hit!

Currently in the second grade, home-schooled by his mother, Reilly

wanted to take math to another level. He came to his mom with the idea of setting up a table outside of their house and selling goods to the high school students as they walk home from school. This is his Thursday math lesson.

His mother gave him a budget, took him to Costco and let him pick out some items to sell. He set up a business plan, figured out what products would gain the most profit and opened up his own little store. Reilly does the math on his own, figures out how much the total purchase costs each customer, and also figures out what change is due back to them. Can you say genius?

Reilly knows exactly how much profit he makes from each item he sells. He's learned that Skittles do not have as much of a profit as he'd like, so heads up... it may not be available to you next week. His mother does not give him any extra money to spend on his store so he uses the profit he makes to put back into his business.

By doing this weekly math activity, Reilly has learned how to add and subtract money, he's learned profit and loss, and also money management. He sets aside some



of his profit and buys his own electronics and toys, currently saving up to buy himself a new skateboard.

If you're in the area I highly suggest you stop by and meet this 7-year-old entrepreneur next Thursday afternoon around 3 p.m. You can't miss him as you're driving down Del Valle Parkway. ■

Krista McCoy is a Pleasanton Realtor associated with Realty World - Town & Country. She can be reached at [krista@kristamccoy.com](mailto:krista@kristamccoy.com).

## Bay Area comic group plans Pleasanton show

The third annual Tri-Valley Comic Book Show will be Oct. 8 in the Hall of Commerce at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

It is the only show in the East Bay promoting comics and related pop-culture items.

The one-day show will feature Bay Area comic artist James (Hawk5) Bryson, Mike Hampton of FAM Books, Captain A-hole, Gunja

Rabbit and the Hot Zombie Chicks.

Also at the show will be Nate Watson, who made his mark on the industry with his work on "Toy Story" for Boom Studio. He has also worked on Star Trek, Grimm's Fairy Tales and Tomb Raider, and is currently working as an animation designer for Lucas Animation.

The show will offer comic books, including golden age and modern,

toys, manga, anime, sports and non-sports cards, original comic art, T-shirts, Disneyana and other related collectible items.

The show will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with admission for adults at \$5 and for children under 12, \$2. Parking at the fairgrounds costs \$8.

For more information, go to [www.toyhavoc.com](http://www.toyhavoc.com). ■

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Sharing the costs of a beleaguered pension system

Members of the Pleasanton City Council spent a few more hours Tuesday night in closed session discussing a new contract with the local firefighters union that expires shortly. It was another step the council is taking to sit together to review wages and benefits for municipal employees at a time when pension sustainability is becoming a major financial concern for cities throughout California.

Pleasanton's unfunded pension liability ranges from \$290 million to \$121 million depending on who is analyzing the municipal budget, with Finance Director Emily Wagner saying that the liability actually has been reduced by cost-cutting measures and other adjustments. Either way, those are big numbers and the council, Wagner and City Manager Nelson Fialho are considering measures to reduce the liability and to work with employee groups to pick up more of the costs. In recent years, the city has paid all of the costs of health care and pension for employees. That's now changing.

Recently, Fialho voluntarily agreed in a new contract to contribute 8% toward his pension. He also won an agreement from department managers to start contributing 4%. A new contract recently signed with the city employees union has them contributing 2% toward pension benefits, a rate that will go to 4% next July 1. Fialho, at the council's direction, has been negotiating a new contract with the police union that will be unveiled at the council's public meeting on Oct. 4. It is likely to contain the same provisions. At last Tuesday's meeting, labor consultants and the council weighed in on the firefighters union contract, which is nearing expiration. Those negotiations will be completed after the police union contract is signed. Last year, firefighters agreed to contribute 2% of their salaries for the first time; a larger percentage is no doubt on the negotiating table.

All California cities face a long-term challenge as pension costs continue to increase, threatening the delivery of basic public services, compromising general fund budgets, and indeed, posing a long-term fiscal challenge to the state itself. A former CalPERS pension system actuary has warned that by 2014 it will be common for local governments to budget 50% of a police officer's salary, 40% of a firefighter's salary and 25% of a miscellaneous employee's salary for their pensions, contributions that are fiscally unsustainable. Many cities already face 25% or more increases in pension contribution costs in the next three years and those rates are likely to remain high for a decade or more.

An analysis by the League of California Cities Employee Relations and Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee blames the causes of the problem on large losses in pension investments due to the recession, enhanced benefit formulas granted after 1999 by the governor and state Legislature, and the increasing lifespan of retired employees.

The Pleasanton council and the city manager, in formulating new labor contracts, have adopted the "principled approach" of the League of Cities. This states that the public retirement system should provide fair benefits for career employees. It means recognizing the value of attracting and retaining high-performing public employees to design and deliver vital public services to the community. It's a principled approach that recognizes that public pension costs going forward must be shared by employees and their employers, who, after all, are us, the taxpayers. ■



Visit Town Square at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) to comment on the editorial.

## LETTERS

### Give residents a say

Dear Editor,

I was at last week's Pleasanton City Council meeting in which numerous residents addressed the council about their concerns over plans to construct a Wal-Mart in the former Nob Hill shopping center.

I am pleased to learn that the council is willing to hold a "Community Input Session" on the Wal-Mart. However, I am concerned that they are going to do this after Wal-Mart has submitted its plans for approval. This should be done in advance, so it would give the residents a say as to if and how the store is ever built.

It does no one any good to have a community meeting if the decision has already been made. That's why we are encouraging the mayor and City Council to immediately adopt a law that allows for public input and discretionary reviews before any decisions are made about the density of the use. We hope the council heard our concerns and will take action.

Angela Willmes

### Democrats' plot

Dear Editor,

It came as little surprise to me when I read in Pleasanton Weekly that Urban Habitat is sponsoring a seminar on redistricting. Urban Habitat has a larger political agenda than affordable housing. If you wondered why they didn't sue Palo Alto or Piedmont — communities that are a lot more expensive than Pleasanton with less affordable housing — the answer is simple: Those communities already vote Democrat.

Urban Habitat, construction unions and low-income housing developers are all in cahoots with the Democrat party. In addition to having a purportedly unbiased redistricting commission that seems to favor Democrats, Urban Habitat's proactive gerrymandering strategy means sending more low-income or no-income folks to Pleasanton to change our demographics and ensure Democrats continue to dominate the political landscape. While members of our City Council can feign anger over the Urban Habitat lawsuit, it's obvious that many are part of this machine and ready to do their bidding — all while shrugging their shoulders and telling the

taxpaying citizens of Pleasanton that their hands are tied.

Frank Lynn

### Social Security facts

Dear Editor,

It was unsettling to see all the respondents to your latest Streetwise buy into the conservative disinformation machine's relentless distortions about the solvency of Social Security.

Unlike Medicaid, Social Security has no major long-term structural flaws. It's solvent and will be there for us, our children and grandchildren. Yes, there's a need for modest tinkering, such as the need to eventually raise the retirement age from 65 to 67, if both parties can muster the political will. But to suggest that the system is broken and will run out of money merely perpetuates the agenda that conservatives have had against the program since its passage in 1935.

In fact, without any changes, Social Security — a pay-as-you-go program — will be fully funded through 2037, and the trust fund holds a \$2.5 trillion surplus, funded by Treasury bonds, according to the Associated Press. If nothing changes in the next 26 years, Social Security would still collect enough in payroll taxes to pay out about 78 percent of benefits, according to the Social Security Administration.

People, please stop buying into such scare tactics. Facts should matter.

J.D. Lasica

### Wal-Mart impacts

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed by City Council and the mayor last week when they did not address the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that some of us asked for during the public comment period of their meeting last week. Instead the mayor spent five minutes criticizing the semantics of a flier distributed by our group.

If the city or Wal-Mart were more transparent from the beginning this would not have been an issue. We just want the council to adopt the CUP so we can study the impacts Wal-Mart may have. Wal-Mart has been hiding its plans for months so it's hard to imagine it will voluntarily study the impacts to traffic. If the mayor is thinking about running for Congress she better rethink her support of Wal-Mart now.

Frances Fatta

## Share your opinion with us

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words or guest opinion pieces up to 500 words to [Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com) or post it on Town Square at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com).



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### WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2011 has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held on October 12, 2011.

#### Energy & Environment Committee

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Climate Action Plan Update
- Permeable Concrete Presentation
- Update on city events / projects
- Committee status update – 2011 initiatives

#### Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force Recruitment

The City of Pleasanton invites applications for five at-large positions on an ad hoc Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force; other appointments to the task force include City Council, Planning Commission and Pleasanton Downtown Association representation. The Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force will develop a set of guidelines that addresses key elements in creating a positive and responsible environment for downtown vitality, including consistency in hours of operation for venues, allowance of indoor and outdoor music, and acceptable noise levels. The task force will convene in late October 2011 and complete its work by May 2012, with monthly meetings of the task force and additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Applications are available at the Office of the City Clerk, 123 Main Street, or on the City's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>. For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027. **Applications must be received no later than 4:00 pm, Friday, September 23, 2011. Postmarks are not accepted.**

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

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

# Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Stolen car runs out of gas; three jailed on theft, drug charges

Three people were arrested on auto theft and drug charges after a police officer spotted them pushing a car toward a gas station in the early morning hours of Sept. 13, police reports said.

Officer Tim Martens saw two men and a woman pushing a Volkswagen Jetta near the 1800 block of Hopyard Road at around 2:53 a.m., according to the reports, which said Martens ran the plate, which came back expired, although the car showed it was registered. Contacted by the officer, all three people said they were helping a friend but didn't know the owner's name.

Inside the car, Martens spotted a glass pipe used for smoking drugs, and a hypodermic needle on the car's dashboard along with a key broken off in the ignition; all three denied knowledge of the needle

and pipe, the reports said. All three also refused to answer questions about a bike and leaf blower also found inside the car, according to the reports, which said a purse also inside the car tested positive for methamphetamine.

Police contacted the owner of the Jetta in Concord, who told police he'd left it at a repair shop in Tracy.

The two men, Forrest Chancellor, 49, no known address; Jeffrey Viado, 36, of Tracy; and the woman, Iran Cortes, 29, of Stockton were booked into Santa Rita Jail on charges of auto theft, possession of methamphetamine, possession of a hypodermic needle and paraphernalia possession.

The stolen plate belonged to a business in Stockton. Both the business owner and the owner of the repair shop told police they'd been having theft problems.

The bicycle and leaf blower were held by police because neither had been reported stolen.

Details of the incident have been sent to the District Attorney's Office, which will sort out the charges.

## POLICE REPORT

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

### Sept. 12

#### Identity theft

■ 2:16 p.m. in the 1900 block of Fiorio Court

### Sept. 13

#### Theft

■ 2:53 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

■ 6:19 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; petty theft

■ 7:48 p.m. in the 3800 block of Kamp Drive; petty theft

#### Battery

■ 11:20 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

### Sept. 14

#### Petty theft

■ 9:19 a.m. in the 5000 block of Glenwood Court

■ 4:15 p.m. in the 2200 block of Kamp Court

■ 6:57 p.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Auto burglary

■ 12:33 p.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way

#### Vandalism

■ 7:23 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

■ 8:22 a.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 2:47 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

■ 10:56 p.m. at the intersection of Trevor Parkway and Stoneridge Drive; marijuana possession

### Sept. 15

#### Assault with a deadly weapon

■ 2:15 p.m. in the 4700 block of First Street

#### Petty theft

■ 9:18 a.m. in the 1100 block of Via di Salerno

■ 7:18 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Vandalism

■ 7:40 a.m. in the 3500 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 7:41 a.m. in the 500 block of Kottinger Drive

■ 7:41 a.m. in the 3000 block of Valley Avenue

#### Drug violations

■ 6:07 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; possession of marijuana for sale, possession of a controlled substance, marijuana possession

### Sept. 16

#### Robbery

■ 1:50 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Abbie Street

#### Theft

■ 3:28 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall road; petty theft

■ 10:30 p.m. in the 3300 block of Santa Rita Road; identity theft

#### False imprisonment

■ 11:54 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; false imprisonment, criminal threats

#### Vandalism

■ 1:49 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 12:20 a.m. in the 7000 block of Pleasanton Avenue; DUI

■ 2:11 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; possession of a controlled substance for sale

### Sept. 17

#### Theft

■ 1:39 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft, false imprisonment

### Sept. 18

#### Vandalism

■ 11:06 a.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

■ 1:26 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; underage driving while drinking, underage possession of alcohol

### Sept. 19

#### Theft

■ 2:25 p.m. in the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft, auto burglary

■ 2:56 p.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive; petty theft

■ 3:46 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

■ 6:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Auto burglary

■ 2:17 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

#### Vandalism

■ 10:13 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

### Sept. 20

#### Theft

■ 9:27 a.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road; theft, possession of a forged prescription

■ 10:30 a.m. in the 4700 block of Woodthrus Court; theft, identity theft

■ 1:16 p.m. in the 800 block of Crellin Court; petty theft

#### Vandalism

■ 8:46 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

■ 9:49 a.m. at Laurel Creek Way

■ 10:26 a.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

#### Alcohol violations

■ 12:53 a.m. near the intersection of Hopyard Road and I-580; public drunkenness

■ 9:42 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; DUI

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# Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

## OBITUARIES

### John Paul Harvey

John Paul Harvey died July 27 of prostate cancer at his home in Pleasanton at the age of 75.

He was born May 8, 1936, in Oakland and graduated from Castlemont High School in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army, then worked many years as a brakeman with Southern Pacific Railroad. He loved trains, golfing, listening to oldies and country music, California Lottery Scratchers and Fantasy 5, which he won a few times. He also enjoyed his grandchildren's sporting events.



Mr. Harvey was predeceased by his wife Sharron. He is survived by his children Eric (and his girlfriend Sandy), Cory, Mark and Melody; eight grandchildren; and family friend Michele.

### Kathleen O'Brien Morin

Kathleen (Kay) O'Brien Morin died Sept. 14 from heart complications.

She was born in Pawtucket, R.I., on Nov. 22, 1922, and graduated from Pawtucket West Senior High School in 1941. She worked as a telephone operator and was on duty at the switchboard when Pearl Harbor was attacked. She married Raymond Morin on Feb. 20, 1950, and moved to Memphis, Tenn.,



although she'd never been south of New York. She was a wonderful seamstress and enjoyed making clothes for herself, her daughter and nieces. She loved nature, plants and animals, as well as the ocean, and each summer yearned to return home to Rhode Island. In June 2009, she moved from Memphis to Pleasanton to be closer to her only child, and she lived at Parkview Assisted Living until February.

Ms. Morin is survived by daughter Pat Markle; son-in-law Chris Markle; and two grandchildren; sister Mary Brown of Warwick, R.I.; and brother Bernard O'Brien of Rehobeth, Mass. A funeral Mass is being celebrated at 1 p.m. tomorrow at the Chapel of St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, in Pleasanton. She will be buried in the family plot in Pawtucket, R.I. Donations may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE VALLEY — MUSIC, THEATER, ART, MOVIES AND MORE

## Remembering DEREK

Memorial funds going toward display case for visual arts at high school



Derek Allen graduated from Amador Valley High School in 2006.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Karen Haley Allen visits the ghost bike erected in memoriam of her son near the spot where he was struck and killed by a muni bus in San Francisco on Sixth Avenue between Geary Boulevard and Clement Street. Below: Pots that Derek created in his ceramics class at Amador Valley High grace his mother's mantelpiece.

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Derek Allen, 22, was going out for sushi on a bicycle in San Francisco a year ago when he was struck and killed by a muni bus. The irony, noted his mother, Karen Haley Allen, was the restaurant's name: Good Luck Dim Sum.

Haley Allen wrote a haiku for a poetry reading at Pleasanton's Century House last year:

Good Luck Dim Sum led  
My son to crash with muni.  
BOOM! Good night, Derek

"It was standing room only at his memorial last Oct. 16, held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church," recalled Haley Allen.

An opera singer performed "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and a Scottish bagpiper played "Amazing Grace." Friends put on a slide show and made three photo collages.

"It was very blended and in the spirit of him being a renaissance man," his mother said. "That evening friends brought over a skateboard. They'd all signed it, about 30 of them, and we had it cremated with my son."

Family and friends started a Memorial Fund to benefit the visual arts program at Amador Valley High School, where Derek graduated in 2006; the ceramics program especially meant a lot to him.

Now, almost a year after the Oct. 7 accident, \$3,180 has been donated, and at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30, a display case is being unveiled in the main school office building to show the students' creations.

"Almost 500 students a year take ceramics ... yet these students haven't had a dedicated space to display their artwork in the office," said Michael Doyle, head of the school's fine arts department. "This is a chance for the community to see these students' incredible artwork."

Haley Allen said a big thank you to all who contributed, adding, "Now I'm going to set a goal at \$6,000 to purchase a much-needed new kiln for Amador Valley."

The kiln will be a welcome addition, said ceramics teacher Neil Bello, explaining that his students have doubled since he taught Derek, whom he remembered for his positive, happy-go-lucky attitude.

"His spirit was infectious. He was a kindhearted, free-spirited journeyman," Bello said.

Derek was attending Diablo Valley College and living in Pleasanton when he visited friends in San Francisco and borrowed a bike to go pick up dinner. He was struck on Sixth Avenue between Geary Boulevard and Clement Street around 5 p.m.

A few weeks later a "ghost bike," an old bicycle painted white, was erected at the site in his honor. (Five have been placed in the city by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition since 2005.)

Haley Allen visited Derek's ghost bike but wanted to do something in memory of his passion for the arts.

"I wanted to honor what he sparked in others," she said.

Derek had three themes in his life, she noted: the outdoors, the arts and sports.

"His first word was 'outside,'" she recalled. He joined Scouts, went to Costa Rica with a Harvest Park Middle School group, and climbed Half Dome while still in middle school. His photos of Yosemite will be in the display case next week.

Derek also showed an early interest in the arts, taking to drawing and painting. At Amador Valley, his interest in the arts blossomed, Haley Allen said, as he took classes in drawing, painting, videography and ceramics.

"The arts were not only a passion for Derek but an outlet for him," Haley Allen said.

In sports, she said, Derek wasn't the star but he played them all: football, soccer, baseball, golf, skiing, ice skating, snowboarding, tennis, surfing in Hawaii.

"It was amazing," she said. "We had a golf holiday one year and he just picked it up."

She treasures 22 years of memories but two come to the forefront.

When he was 3 or 4 they were in a park, and he was in the sandbox playing with his Tonka truck as she watched with the mother of another toddler.

"The little girl started to cry. He drops his toy, walks over and hugs the little girl," Haley Allen recalled. "The mother looks at me, she's like, 'Wow.'"

Another time, when Derek was 5 years old, Haley Allen took him to McDonald's so he could buy a treat with his small weekly allowance.

"I'm holding the door, and he sees a homeless guy outside and he gives his allowance to the homeless guy," she remembered. "He said, 'Mom, he was hungry.'"

She heard many such stories of kindness and compassion at his funeral and, to this day, friends and acquaintances share more, she said. Ceramics teacher Bello remembered Derek as being kindhearted and compassionate — as well as philosophical.

"He liked to engage in deeper conversations," he said. "He was a deep thinker."

"Derek was one of the perceptive students," agreed Doyle. "He always saw the irony and contradictions of school life. His keen observations and humor showed in all of his artwork."

Haley Allen said she's found during the last year that grief is transformative and she must take the experience and use it for the greater good.

"I'm hoping to appeal to people who want to give back, who want to help the schools," she said.

Donations may be made to AVHS, Attention Derek Allen's Memorial Fund or online at <http://DerekAllenMemorialFund.blogspot.com>. ■



## SPOTLIGHT

## Senior drama troupe presents new comedy

Pleasanton Senior Players onstage at Firehouse next weekend

The Pleasanton Senior Players are back on center stage with their annual comedy production. The troupe is making its debut at the year-old Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton.

This year's production is "The Hallelujah Girls," the story of Sugar Lee, who decides it's never too late to start the business she's always wanted — a day spa. Throw in a stale marriage, disappointing children, an ex-



DINO VOURNAS

Sugar Lee Thompkins (Frances Jensen) and Bobby Dwayne Dillahung (Jeff Zolfarelli) in an off-again moment as they deal with a youthful romance gone wrong in the Pleasanton Senior Players show, "The Hallelujah Girls."

boyfriend, small town politics and a Civil-War era mystery, and enjoy the comedy.

The shows are at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 30; and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org), by phone at 931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. ■

## Fundraiser with background barking

Annual SPCA event is Oct. 2 at adoption center

The East Bay SPCA is hosting its annual "Growl, Meow and Wine" event from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at its Dublin Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive.

The afternoon will include wine, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, live music and more.

"This annual event celebrates our collective commitment to keeping

people and pets together," said the organizers.

The East Bay SPCA, which has facilities in Dublin and in Oakland, is an independent, privately funded organization; there is no umbrella SPCA. It opened in Oakland in 1874 and now serves Alameda and Contra Costa counties to find homes for cats and

dogs as well as providing affordable veterinary and spay/neuter services.

Tickets to "Growl, Meow and Wine" are \$45. Call (510) 563-4605, email [membership@eastbayspca.org](mailto:membership@eastbayspca.org) or visit [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org). The website also has photos and information about cats and dogs ready to be adopted. ■

## Out & About

—Concerts, Film & Live Music

**A STARRY NIGHT** Gala dinner, auction, prize drawing and dance from 5 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 24, at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave. to support Pleasanton North Rotary's varied charitable activities. Auction features executive desk of former Apple CEO John Sculley plus getaways to New Orleans, Lake Tahoe, Pebble Beach and Napa Valley. KTVU's Mark Ibanez to emcee. Music by Public Eye. Cost \$150. Call 426-8684 or visit [www.astarrynight.org](http://www.astarrynight.org).

**PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE MEMBER'S EXHIBIT** Firehouse Arts Center is hosting the annual Pleasanton Art League Member's Exhibit through Oct. 15, in the Harrington Gallery. The center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. and is open from noon-5 p.m., Wednesday-Friday and from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday. Call 931-4849 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**SAVOR THE SEASON** Alameda County Community Food Bank will host its annual Fall celebration of California from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. This outdoor event will be hosted by Dave Clark of KTVU Channel 2 Morning News and feature live music from the Silverwood Jazz Quartet. Cost is \$125 per person. Proceeds benefit the food bank. Call (510) 635-3663, ext. 328 or visit <https://npa.networkforgood.org/Donate>.

**'ROMEO ET JULIETTE'** Livermore Valley Opera will present "Romeo et Juliette" at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, Oct. 1; and at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets start at \$39. Call 373-6800 or visit [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).



**'THE LAST FIVE YEARS'** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting the contemporary song-cycle musical, "The Last Five Years," which chronicles the five-year life of a marriage, from meeting to break-up... or from break-up to meeting, depending on how you look at it. It is an intensely personal look at the relationship between a writer and an actress told from both points of view. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday from Sept. 19-Oct. 9 at Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, #309. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Call 462-2121 or visit [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org).

## 'Little Love' will help feed the hungry

Open Heart Kitchen fundraiser coming Oct. 2

Want to venture out all day on the San Francisco Bay aboard a 36-foot sailboat? Or perhaps a private "Pilates for Two" session in your home is your dream? Or a golf package at an upscale course?

Bid on these adventures at the silent auction at "Put a Little Love in your Life," a free-admission benefit for Open Heart Kitchen sponsored by Livermore's Blacksmith Square from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2. The fundraiser will have live music and offer local wine and food pairings, specialty beers, gourmet foods for sale and boutique shopping.

Open Heart Kitchen offers the only place in the Tri-Valley where those in need can find free, hot and nutritious meals. Clients include the homeless, the unemployed and underemployed, seniors and at-risk school children.

"Even though I have a job, I often run out of money for food for my three children," said a diner named Maria. "Open Heart Kitchen helps me stretch my food budget, and my kids get nutritious meals in a caring place."

Hot meals are served in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin five days a week. Also, bag lunches are packed on Fridays to send home for weekend meals for hungry chil-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A little girl enjoys her dessert at Open Heart Kitchen. The group served 217,000 meals in the Tri-Valley last year, an increase of 55% over the previous year.

dren in all three communities.

In 2010, Open Heart Kitchen cooked 217,000 meals and gave out 96,000 bag lunches, which was a 55% increase from 2009.



All menus are nutritious, approved by a dietician, and use fresh food when possible. Some of the produce is raised in the Garden of Grace, which is operated by community members for the Open Heart Kitchen.

Volunteers to cook and serve meals are always welcome as are donations. Find out more at [openheartkitchen.org](http://openheartkitchen.org), or call 580-1616. ■




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BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

# HOME & GARDEN GO SOLAR

Nature pays off for Pleasanton family as it shrinks its carbon footprint inside and out



**W**hat two people do in the privacy of their own home may be their own business, but in this case, Steve and Joie Spooner are comfortable telling the world.

The Pleasanton couple and their two sons have taken big strides to leave smaller carbon footprints, mounting solar panels on their roof and installing native plants in their front and back yards.

Clockwise from top left: Solar panels line half the roof of the Spooner's home in the Birdland neighborhood; native sunflowers, loved by bees, bloom on a September afternoon; a solar lamp helps light up the night in the Spooner's backyard; a sundial; the Spooner's backyard after the grass was removed around 2008.



Steve, whose pet project was installing solar panels, said his interest "was kind of my fallout from 9/11."

In 2003, he read an article about big oil and realized energy was only going to increase in price.

"I never previously had any interest at all, but it kind of piqued my interest and I decided to learn more about it," Steve said. "I read seven oil books in one year, basically. Originally I wanted to call PG&E and say, 'Take all the wires out.'"

He turned to the Internet to research products and prices and quickly realized that going cold turkey wouldn't be practical because getting off the power grid could present problems; for instance, how to store power. Finally landing on a prepackaged deal, he bought two \$13,000 sets of solar panels.

"It was kind of a 'do it yourself' kit. It's basically a 4.5 kilowatt plant," Steve explained. "It was combination of trying to lower our footprint and saving energy."

Rather than pay the \$10,000 or so it would cost to have the solar panels installed by a professional, Steve drafted his sons and even his wife to help set them up on the roof of their home in the Birdland neighborhood.

"I'm not a great height person, but I went up a couple of times," Joie said, adding that her sons Chris and Jason, who were 10 and 13 at the time, loved the opportunity to climb onto the roof.

"The city was really helpful," Steve said. "They loaned us a solar pathfinder, which is a device that will tell you where the trees are in the way."

He added that his home was among the first in Pleasanton to go solar and that the city inspector came out again on his day off because he'd never seen a homeowner do his own solar installation. The entire project took about two months of weekend-only work.

"I didn't really take any time off," Steve said. "I didn't have any outside help, aside from my family."

Installing the panels gave the Spooners a \$10,000 credit, money they used to make their home more energy efficient, installing a new heating system and adding insulation to floors, ducts and pipes. They also put a whole house fan in the attic, which draws cool morning air into their home and nearly eliminates the need for air conditioning.

"We're pretty conservative. Generally we're using 14 or 15 kilowatt hours a day. I generate about 32 kilowatt hours during the summer, 3 or 4 in winter," Steve said. "It's about break even — we generate as much energy as we use."

He's recently begun working out of his home and using computer servers that do require air conditioning, but the family is still seeing energy savings.

"Our energy bill for the year is minus \$100," he said. "It was minus \$400."

Although the Spooners are in the minus column, that doesn't mean they get paid by PG&E. In fact, they still have to pay \$6 a month for their meter, even though it often runs backward, feeding into the system rather than drawing on it.

The Spooners also took advantage of good interest rates. When they refinanced, they came out owing \$56 more a month, more than offsetting the lowering of their average bill, which was \$172 a month in 2004.

The excitement has died down from those first days when the Spooners checked their bill every week — Steve actually plotted a graph at one point — but the system has been trouble free.



"It's nice to be able to out to our back yard and get dinner."

Although Steve and their sons installed a raised planter and a raised vegetable bed for Joie in 1998, not long after they moved in, it wasn't until 2008 that they made big changes.

In the back yard, the family tore out its grassy lawn and replaced it with a butterfly garden that also draws bees and hummingbirds, along with a vegetable garden and lots of native plants.

"Besides all the edible stuff that tastes so good and gives you such a bounty, I've always liked succulents. Some of them, like sedum, the butterflies and the bees like them. Finches eat a lot of the seeds of the stuff I plant, like the agastach and the salvias," Joie said. "I have about 30 finches that come and eat the seeds."

Joie said she's less concerned with how her garden looks than what it does.

"For me, I don't care if it looks all perfect. I leave it for the birds because they come and eat all the seeds. I like to have fun. I don't want it to be perfect," she said.

A walk around the back yard also shows



But Steve pointed out there's a bigger price than the family's energy bill.

"There's this concept of return on energy investment," he said. "They say it takes six years to generate the amount of money that was put into making the panel."

The sun also powers a number of smaller lights that dot the back yard and offer light after dark, when Steve and Joie like to sit in a rocker under the stars. The family has replaced the grass in both its front and back lawns under the guidance of Joie, whose background is in horticulture.

"I used a lot of native and Mediterranean plants that are drought tolerant and I also enjoy edible landscaping," she said, adding,



plants Joie is propagating for others, including a number of botany groups around the area, like the Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club, the Native Plant Society and the Bancroft Garden, a succulent and Mediterranean garden in Walnut Creek. She's quick to point out that her gardens were among the first featured in the Bay-Friendly Garden Tour.

"In 2009, we ripped out our front lawn and put in the dry creek — probably about 70% of the plants came out," Joie explained.

They also installed permeable pavers that let water percolate into the ground instead of running into storms drains and ultimately the Bay.

See **SOLAR** on Page 16

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Steve Spooner installs solar panels in 2003; the front yard of the home with native plants replacing grass; fresh tomatoes ripen in Joie Spooner's garden.



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**SOLAR**

Continued from Page 15

Joie is also passionate about getting youngsters involved in gardening.

"I've been working in school gardens since my kids were in preschool. A lot of kids don't get that at home. I worked with the ecology club at Harvest Park last year. The kids are just amazed to see worms in the soil," she said. "These kids just go wild in the gardens — they're interested in everything."

Steve's energy crusade has rubbed off on his older son, Jason, who's now 18.

He worked this summer for Rising Sun Energy Center, which employs local young people between the ages of 15 and 22 to do green consultations.

"We would go and tell how energy efficient peoples' houses were and we made changes. We added water efficient aerators or CFL lights," Jason said. "Our organiza-



Chris Spooner, who was 10 when this picture was taken, helps install solar panels. Both he and his older brother Jason helped in the installation, which was all done by the Spooner family.

tion is spread across 12 cities. We save people millions of dollars every year on their utility bills."

Jason does his laundry early in the morning or late at night, when off-peak rates apply, and unplugs things that consume energy even when they're not actually on, pointing out that the cable box is a big draw.

"Vampire electricity — it's about 25% of your energy bill, actually, things that are plugged in but not in use," Jason said. "It's hard to remember everything, but I try to use power strips around so when I need it I can click it back on."

While other teens come home from school, turn on the TV, charge their cell phones and fire up their laptops, conservation is a fact of life for Jason.

"I was raised the green lifestyle, growing our own food, making our own electricity," he said. ■

# ON THE TOWN



## AMERICAN

### Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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and 2011. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit [www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).

## BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection

screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

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## Auditions

**AUDITIONS FOR 'ANNIE'** Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is holding auditions for "Annie" with director John Maio. Non-AEA, multi-ethnic casting. Minimum of 15 men, ages 16-60; 15 women, 16-60; and 10 girls, ages 6 to 14. Non-traditional casting encouraged. No pay, non-equity. No appointments necessary. Audition at 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, and at 7 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, at TVRT Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, #303. Call 462-2121 or visit [www.trivalleyrep.org](http://www.trivalleyrep.org).

## Classes

**FREE NUTRITIONAL SEMINAR** Dr. Traci Saba will educate you on the importance of nutrition for your body. Free classes are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Oct. 6, 13 and 20 at Zen Pilates and Fitness, 3059 Hopyard Rd. Call 600-7800 to register. Class limited to 15. Visit [www.zenpilatesandfitness.com](http://www.zenpilatesandfitness.com).

**HOME-MADE PAPER** Make paper without cutting down trees from noon-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at Alviso Adobe Community Park,

3465 Old Foothill Road. Cost is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

**PLEASANTON ROCKS!** Come see, feel, taste, smell and even hear the minerals which make up our world and the cultures in which we live from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 24, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

## Concerts

**BLUES HARMONICA BLOWOUT** With an exciting new style of West Coast blues, Rod Piazza, Lazy Lester and Little Charlie will join harmonica player/vocalist Mark Hummel. The concert is from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$18-\$28 for adults, \$12 for children, and \$24 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**FIERY PIANIST MICHAEL KAESHAMMER** Michael Kaeshammer will perform from 8-10 p.m.,

Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Kaeshammer is known for energetic and joyful piano performances that draw the audience into the experience. Tickets \$15-\$25 for adults, \$12 for children, and \$20 for seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

## Events

**ANNUAL PICNIC FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS** Join the Widows and Widowers of Northern California for their annual picnic at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Back Forty Texas BBQ, 3649 Chelsea Ct. All are welcome. Cost \$12 for members and \$19 for guests, checks payable to WMWNC. RSVP to Ruby by Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 462-9636.

**BREW CRAWL** It's trick-or-treat for adults! Downtown merchants, restaurants and local breweries will come together from 5-8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 29, for a first-of-its-kind event in Pleasanton, hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and sponsored by Handles Gastropub and the

Pleasanton Main Street Brewery. Patrons can shop along Main St., sample local craft beers and food pairings. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes. Tickets go on sale Oct. 3 at Handles on Main, Main Street Brewery and Redcoats Pub for \$25. Tickets day of event are \$30. Call 484-2199 or visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

**CRAFT FAIR AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Hart Middle School is hosting its second annual Craft Fair and Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 30. If you are a crafts person who would like to sell your items at their fair, contact them at 425-0882 or email [Yolandahms@gmail.com](mailto:Yolandahms@gmail.com). Cost is \$25 for a 6-foot table.

**GEM FAIRE** Take advantage of the lowest prices in the market for the finest quality of jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals and much more. The Gem Fair is from noon-6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Admission \$7 weekend pass. Call 503-252-8300 or visit [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**JEANS & JEWELS** The Tri-Valley Conservancy invites you to throw on your jeans and jewels and join them from 6-10 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave. Enjoy a gourmet dinner, silent and live auction and dancing for \$95 per person. Call 449-8706 or visit [www.trivalleyconservancy.org](http://www.trivalleyconservancy.org).

**TRI-VALLEY COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR** High school students and parents, be sure to check out the Tri-Valley College and Career Fair from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 29, at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Nearly 100 colleges will be in attendance, along with representatives from UCs, CSUs, private, community colleges, career technical, and military schools. The fair will be held in the gyms. Call 719-3394 or email [foothilldeca@gmail.com](mailto:foothilldeca@gmail.com).

**WIDOWS BRUNCH/LUNCH** The Widow and Widowers of Northern California would like to invite you to join them for brunch or lunch at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 25, at Pasta's Trattoria, 405 Main St. Cost your menu choice and beverage.



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## Seafood Festival




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 <p><b>FRESH LONGAN</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">1<sup>89</sup></span> lb</p>	 <p><b>HAWAII PAPAYA</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">15<sup>99</sup></span> box</p>	
 <p><b>YELLOW SHINSEIKI PEAR</b> <span style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">14<sup>99</sup></span> box</p>	<p><b>VISIT US!</b></p> <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small;"> <p><b>PLEASANTON STORE</b> 4299 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588 Tel: 925.463.8899</p> <p><b>DUBLIN STORE</b> 7333 Regional St., Dublin, CA 94568 Tel: 925.833.3999</p> </div>	
<p><b>WE FEATURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*FREE fry fish service</li> <li>*Dim sum &amp; hot deli</li> <li>*Spacious aisles</li> <li>*Great varieties of groceries</li> <li>*Live seafood</li> <li>*Fresh meat &amp; produce</li> </ul>		
<p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">NEW STORES IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">FREMONT (MISSION) CONCORD · CUPERTINO · DALY CITY · DUBLIN · FOSTER CITY · FREMONT · SAN JOSE SACRAMENTO · MILPITAS · MOUNTAIN VIEW · NEWARK · PLEASANTON · RICHMOND</p>		

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1-800-924-6430



Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.

age. RSVP to Marsha by Thursday, Sept. 22, at 830-8483.

**WIDOWS/WIDOWERS LUNCHEON**

The Widows and Widowers of Northern California would like you to join them for lunch at 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at Poppy Ridge Golf Course Restaurant, 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Cost your menu choice and beverage. RSVP to Ruby by Sunday, Sept. 25, at 462-9636.

**Film**

**'FAHRENHEIT 451'** Dublin Library will show the classic movie, "Fahrenheit 451," at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. The 1966 film was based on Ray Bradbury's short science fiction novel originally published in 1951, about a society where the controlling elite distracts the masses through mindless televised entertainment and burns books lest the public develop the ability to think critically. Call 803-7252 or visit [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org).

**Fundraisers**

**AMADOR VALLEY HIGH'S THIRD ANNUAL SPORTS SALE** Join Amador Friends of Music for its third annual Sports Sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The sale will be held in the main parking lot. Check out the bargains for hundreds of sporting goods and support the award-winning Amador Valley High School Marching Band and Color Guard. Call 699-7921 or email [ellen@bumblebeemarketing.net](mailto:ellen@bumblebeemarketing.net).

**FRIENDS OF THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK SALE** Friends of the Pleasanton Library will host its fall Book Sale from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 23 (for members only); 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24; and 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25; at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Sale features 35,000 sorted books. Membership is needed for Friday and people can buy them at the door. Most paperbacks are fifty cents and most hardbacks are one dollar. Call 918-1195.

**GROWL, MEOW, AND WINE** Enjoy an afternoon of wine, appetizers, live music, and an amazing silent auction from 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 2, at East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. This annual event celebrates the collective commitment to keeping people and pets together. Cost \$45. Call 510-563-4605 or visit [www.eastbay-sPCA.org](http://www.eastbay-sPCA.org). All are welcome.

**R.E.A.C.H. GOLF TOURNAMENT** R.E.A.C.H. (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) for special adults of the Tri-Valley will be holding its fifth annual Golf Tournament at 10 a.m., Monday, Oct. 3, at Sunol Valley Golf Club, 6900 Mission Rd., Sunol. Golf fees \$150 for an individual or \$600 for a foursome, includes lunch and dinner with silent and live auction. Dinner banquet only, \$45. Sponsorship opportunities available. Visit [www.trivalleyreach.org](http://www.trivalleyreach.org).

**THIRD ANNUAL BROTHELS, BAR ROOMS & BANDITS** Step back in time to the wild West at the Museum On Main's third annual

fundraiser from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The event features a return to Pleasanton of the 1890s when it was one of the most desperate towns in the West. Tickets are \$40 and includes a barbecue dinner, gambling chips and the best entertainment in the West. Over 21 only. For tickets, call the Museum On Main at 462-2766 or go to the Museum 603 Main St.

**TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE 'THAT'S AMORE'** This year's fundraiser theme is "It's Raining Cats and Dogs" as TVAR hopes to find homes for the many deserving animals needing forever homes. The fundraiser is from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Enjoy dinner, cocktails and a live auction. Tickets are \$75. Call 220-7760. Pleasanton. 925-

**WE MARCH FOR JOPLIN** Join the Amador Valley High School Band and raise money for Joplin High School in Missouri by sponsoring a Marching Don. Joplin was devastated by a tornado in May and all proceeds will go toward helping Joplin students pay for new uniforms and instrument rental fees. The March is from noon-6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Call 699-7921 or visit [www.amadormusic.org](http://www.amadormusic.org).

**YMCA RUMMAGE SALE** The Tri-Valley YMCA's Youth and Government delegates are having a rummage sale to raise money for their program and would like gently used (or even new) household items, clothing, games, toys, etc. Donations can be dropped off from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Tri-Valley Y, 6693 Sierra Lane, Suite F, Dublin. The rummage sale is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Y. For more information, call Katie at 263-4444.

**Health**

**FREE HEALTH ADVISORY CLINIC** HCCC Human Services believes that service to mankind is service to God and its aim is to reach out to the community and touch people's lives through health, food and education. The clinic is open from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays through Dec. 31 at Shiva Vishnu Temple Office, 1223 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore. Call 371-5640. Registration not required, just walk in.

**Holiday**

**HALLOWEEN IS HERE** Visit the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop for your Halloween decor and costumes. It has everything from napkins to masks at low prices, cute or scary, to get you in the Halloween party mood. Visit the Main shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, or Home Decor Store. Call 462-7374.

**ROSH HASHANAH** Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will host a kid-friendly non-religious Jewish New Year ceremony of music and readings at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Road, Livermore. Cost is \$10 for non-members adults. The group will also collect canned and

boxed food for food bank. TVCJ welcomes non-traditional and inter-married households. Call 485-1049.

**Lectures/ Workshops**

**'STEPPING STONES ON YOUR GRIEF JOURNEY'** Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. There are stepping-stones that are part of each grief journey and you will explore them in this eight-week series of workshops. The class is at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays now through Oct. 27 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Preregistration is requested. Space is limited. A one-time \$15 donation is requested. For more information, call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

**NATURE TALKS WITH THE NATURALIST** Nature talks explores a variety of nature related topics as well as how people impact nature. Come for a slide show/video presentation and Q&A session from 4-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Children under 7 must be accompanied. Bring a picnic dinner. This event is free, but pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

**Miscellaneous**

**'LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY'** Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations, in a program co-sponsored by the Alameda County Bar Association. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names will be selected at 5:50 p.m. and people must be present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

**ADOPT A NEW BEST FRIEND** Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) offers wonderful animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., dogs and cats are available. For dates, times and other information, call TVAR at 803-7043 or visit [www.tvvar.org](http://www.tvvar.org).

**FOOTHILL HS BOOSTER MEAT SALE** The Athletic Booster Club's annual Fall Meat Sale will take place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 1-2, at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Choose from premium quality USDA choice meats and FDA seafood-all at warehouse prices. Sale is in the Foothill parking lot.

**On Stage**

**THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE** Tells the story of young Millie Dillmount, who has just moved to New York City in search of a new life for herself. The performances at 8 p.m. are Oct. 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22, 2 p.m. on Oct. 9, 16, and 23 at the Firehouse Theater, 4444 Railroad Ave. It's a New York full of intrigue and jazz - a time when women were entering the workforce and the rules of love and social

behavior were changing forever. Tickets are \$18-\$33 for adults and \$17-\$29 for children and seniors. Call 931-4848 or visit [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**Spiritual**

**MOMS FALL WORKSHOP** Mothers will explore themes such as self-esteem, friendships, stress and everyday spirituality at a seven-week workshop. Take some time for yourself and meet other moms with similar interests. The workshop is from 7-9 p.m., Thursdays, Oct. 6-Nov. 17, at MOMS Fall Workshop, 4401 Stoneridge Dr. Cost \$20. All denominations are welcome. Call 577-5067 or visit [www.ccopmoms.org](http://www.ccopmoms.org).

**Support Groups**

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

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

**CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP**

Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Call 200-1943 or visit [www.clutterless.org](http://www.clutterless.org).

**PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP**

This group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at [www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org](http://www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org).

**Volunteering**

**LIONESSE SEEK NEW MEMBERS** The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. The Lioness are a service club that helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543. 6:30 p.m. Free- \$2 to \$5 donation requested 925-443-4543.

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To enter go to [www.shoppleasanton.com](http://www.shoppleasanton.com) and click the button at the top of the page. Enter your name and email. The contest ends September 26th and the winner's picture will be in the October 7th issue of the Pleasanton Weekly. Winner will be selected at random and contacted via email. Good Luck!

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Pleasanton Weekly

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## 115 Announcements

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CLUTTERLess (CL) Self Help Group  
LIONESS Club welcomes New member  
SHARPEN UP AT THE FARMERS' MRKT

## 120 Auctions

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**Attention Auctioneers**  
California State Auctioneers Association 43rd Annual Convention, October 20-23, San Diego. Auction professionals and companies are invited to join us [www.CAAuctioneers.org](http://www.CAAuctioneers.org) Call 626-594-IM-BID (626-594-6243). (Cal-SCAN)

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## 140 Lost & Found

Lost Kitty

## 201 Autos/Trucks/Parts

3 Ford Wheelcovers Full Size 15 inch - \$12 each  
Disc BRAKE PADS 75 -79 Toyota Corolla - \$12 set  
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## 202 Vehicles Wanted

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**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, 7908 Kentwood Way, 9/24/11

**Pleasanton: 5730, 5718 Courte Libre, 9/24, 7:30-10:30**  
Items include, kids toys and clothing, adult clothing, small microwave, toaster oven, Bow Flex Pro, Yakima car rack and much more.

## 230 Freebies

FREE FIREWOOD - FREE

## 235 Wanted to Buy

**Superhero Comic Books**  
Pre-1975 and non sports cards, toys, original art, movie posters and lobbies. Collector/Investor, CASH. Mike: 800-723-5572/mikecarbo@gmail.com (Cal-SCAN)

## 245 Miscellaneous

**DirectTV Fall Special!**  
Free HD, 3 mos FREE HBO, Showtime, Starz, Cinemax! NFL Sunday Ticket Free - Choice Ultimate/Premier Pkgs from \$29.99/mo. Till 9/30! 1-866-419-5666. (Cal-SCAN)

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must sell 20 acres w/ Utilities Was \$49,900. Now \$19,900 170 Acres -Borders BLM Was \$299,900 Now \$89,900 More property under \$1,000/acre Close to Roundup, Billings and Lewiston. The best elk and deer country! Call 888-361-3006. (Cal-SCAN)

TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO FOGSTER.COM

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Beautiful Coral



Coral Belle is a beautiful Calico cat about 1 year old who still loves to play, maybe because she was never able to be a kitten. She is sweet, loving and quiet - until mealtime when she really talks.

Once she warms up to you, she purrs and loves to sit in your lap. She was a young mother, and is now spayed and ready for her forever home. Go online to [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) to see the adoptable dogs and cats at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton, open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

# Sports



RENE SIEGEL

## Score 1 for the Orange

Mary Gruen of Pleasanton Rage Orange U18/19 scores at Saturday's game against the Walnut Creek Phoenix in Walnut Creek. Rage won, 5-0, after a hat trick by Gruen highlighted a 5-goal second half as the Rage earned a 3-0-0 league record.

Goalie Carly Boehmer kept the Phoenix from rising with several diving saves in the first half, including a combination punch/kick-save worthy of ESPN highlights. A few minutes into the second half, Gruen took a deflection off a defender and put a one-time left footer into the corner of the net. Less than three minutes later, passes by Madison Nethery and Autumn Whitney set up Gruen for a sharp angled shot that found the side net.

Olivia Zhu then took a ball that the goalie couldn't clear and drove it home to put the game out of reach 10 minutes later. This was followed by Gruen's third goal of the game, cross-bar ricochet, and Nayo Clinchard's sliding chip shot to achieve the final 5-nil score.



RENE SIEGEL

## Rage stampedes Mustangs

Kara Matsune of Pleasanton Rage U19D3 Orange dribbles the ball downfield facing the Mustang Flash on a warm Sunday afternoon at Val Vista.

Rage won, 4-0, after it converted on three long-range shots from outside the area to bomb the Mustang Flash 4-nil on a warm Sunday at Val Vista. Madison Nethery launched a 25-yard shot over the goalie's outstretched arms off a crisp cross from Olivia Zhu. That was followed by defender Kelsey Milligan's long range shot from even further out. Olivia Zhu also converted from a tricky angle at distance, this time on a feed by Taylor Lee. Madison finished the scoring with a thundering shot from close range off a pass from Haley Boehmer.

The Rage is 4-0-0 with no goals allowed this season.

—Mat Gruen

## PREP LINE-UP

### Sept. 24

- Boys Water polo - TBA, AVHS, Irvington Tour, away

### Sept. 27

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Heritage, away
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., Foothill vs. Carondelet, home
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Livermore, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, home

### Sept. 29

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, away
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, away
- Girls Water polo: 4:45 p.m., Foothill vs. Livermore, away
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., Foothill vs. AVHS, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Monte Vista, away
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. California, home

### Sept. 30

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away
- Football: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, away
- Boys Water polo - TBA, AVHS Woodcreek Tour, away

### Oct. 1

- Cross country - S. Bauhs Invite, at Shadow Cliffs

### Oct. 4

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m. AVHS vs. Drake, home
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. Drake, home
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. Carondelet, home
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., Foothill vs. Granada, away
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, away

### Oct. 5

- Cross country - Center Meet #1, at Robertson Park

### Oct. 6

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m. AVHS vs. California, away
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., AVHS vs. California, away
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., Foothill vs. San Ramon Valley, home
- Girls Tennis: 4 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away
- Girls Volleyball: 6:30 p.m., Foothill vs. Carondelet, home
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home

### Oct. 7

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. De La Salle, home
- Football: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home

## Come for the Carbs Get set for the Run!



*Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9*

2 great events that benefit the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation



**October 8, 2011**

**Toyota Warehouse Facility**

2451 Bishop Drive • San Ramon • 5 pm to 10 pm

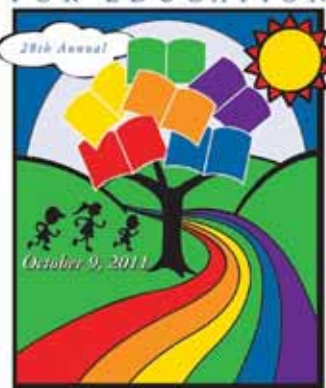
Features exciting music performances by district students, expanded kids play area and activities, live and silent auctions, raffle prizes and all-you-can eat pasta and desserts.

To purchase tickets and for more information:

[www.primosrun.com/carboLoad](http://www.primosrun.com/carboLoad)



Chevron presents the...  
**2011 PRIMO'S RUN FOR EDUCATION**



5K & 1/2 Marathon • San Ramon/Danville  
Benefits the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation

**October 9, 2011**

**1/2 Marathon, 5K Race, 5K Fun Run/Walk**

1/2M at Primo's Pizza in Danville

- starts at 7:15 am

5K at Iron Horse Middle School, San Ramon

- 5K timed race starts at 8:15 am
- 5K fun run/walk starts at 8:30 am

Primo's Run for Education has been a tradition in the San Ramon Valley for 28 years. SRVEF supports district-wide projects and provides monetary grants to teachers and schools within SRVUSD. Since 1982, SRVEF has given more than \$2.7 million to our schools.

To register and for more information:

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

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**Local team 2nd in All-Star tourney**

Team Rawlings of California baseball team came in second place in the Cooperstown, N.Y., All Star tournament Aug. 13-19, with players from Pleasanton, Danville and Concord. Team Rawlings won 8 games and lost 1, while outscoring their opponents, 79-24. Five Rawlings players hit 17 home runs: Robert Towne, James Cowick, Dante Albanese, Bradley Norton and Joshua Ott. The team was coached by Ken Altomare, Paul "Bucket" Benzer and Brett Benzer.

Team members are (front row, l-r) Brandon Zerio, Trevor Ibanez, TJ Myers, Brad Altomare, Cole Torquemada, (back) Brett Benzer, Joshua Ott, Robert Towne, James Cowick, Chase Godi, Dante Albanese, Bradley Norton, Bruce Torquemada and Ken Altomare.

**SPORTS DIGEST****Amador, Foothill  
split in home football  
games**

The Amador Valley Dons Varsity Football beat the Washington High Huskies at home, 28-0, last Friday night, in a non-conference game.

Foothill Falcons varsity football hosted James Logan High at home Friday night but lost, 13-9.

**Tri-Valley Sports Final**

TV30 is back for its seventh season covering team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. Join Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevich for up-to-the-minute reporting on football, volleyball and water polo on Channel 30.

For more information visit [www.trivalleytv.org](http://www.trivalleytv.org).

**Lacrosse registration  
for spring 2012 season**

Pleasanton Lacrosse Club has announced that its registration is open for the spring 2012 season

for new and returning players ages U9, U11, U13, U15 and HSJV. Register before Oct. 1 and save. Tryouts for team placements will be held in early December.

The club is holding its New Player Fall Festival at Hart Middle School on Nov. 6, for players in grades 1-11 who are new to the sport to try it out. Coaches and local players will be on hand to teach new players the fundamentals — passing, catching, cradling, shooting, ground balls and face-offs.

The cost is \$40, which includes a lacrosse stick and ball to take home, and new players who sign up will receive a discount for 2012 spring registration.

Call (408) 203-6397 or visit [www.pleasantonlacrosse.com](http://www.pleasantonlacrosse.com).

**Sports equipment  
for sale**

Amador Friends of Music is holding its third annual Sports Sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The sale will be held in the main parking lot.

Check out the bargains for hundreds of sporting goods and support the Marching Band and Color Guard.

Send team results and photos to [sports@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:sports@PleasantonWeekly.com) as well as news about tryouts, upcoming tournaments and more.

## More resources needed to improve short sales market

Realtor group asks federal agencies for advisory board to help

By **JEB BING**

Improving access to affordable mortgage financing for qualified home buyers and investors and committing additional resources to loan modifications and short sales will help to improve the market for real estate owned (REO) properties held by government agencies, according to the National Association of Realtors.

In a letter sent to several federal agencies, the NAR responded to the agencies' recent request for input and offered its recommendations for selling REO properties held by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration.

In its letter, NAR urged the agencies to create an advisory board as they explore new options for selling foreclosed properties to ensure that efficiently disposing of agency REO properties will minimize taxpayer losses and reduce the negative effects that distressed properties have on local real estate markets.

"As the leading advocate for housing issues, Realtors know that foreclosures affect families, communities, the housing market and our nation's economy," said NAR President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I.

"We believe the government has an opportunity to minimize the impact of distressed properties on local markets by expanding

financing opportunities, bolstering loan modifications and short sales efforts, and enhancing the efficient disposition of REO properties," he said. "This will help stabilize home prices and neighborhoods and help support the broader economic recovery."

Phipps said that the lack of available and affordable mortgage financing is hurting REO sales and the entire housing market. He urged increased consumer and investor lending.

While NAR supports strong underwriting standards, the lack of private capital in the mortgage market, unduly tight underwriting standards, and increasing fees have discouraged many potential home buyers from applying for mortgages, Phipps explained. He added that NAR believes ensuring mortgage availability for qualified home buyers and investors will help absorb the excess REO inventory.

To prevent further REO inventory increases, NAR also recommended that the agencies take more aggressive steps to modify loans and, when a family is absolutely unable keep its home, to quickly approve reasonable short sale offers that allow families to avoid foreclosure.

Phipps said that while federal programs have been put into place to help keep families in their homes, many of these have fallen short of expectations, and advocated that

those resources be applied toward modifying loans and expediting short sales, which are typically less costly than foreclosure.

"Loan modifications keep families in their home and reduce defaults, while short sales keep homes occupied, helping stabilize neighborhoods and home values," Phipps said. "Expanding resources and ensuring the use of already allocated funds for pre-foreclosure efforts is the best opportunity to reduce taxpayer costs and creates more positive outcomes for homeowners and their communities."

NAR's letter also outlined concerns about proposals to pool large volumes of REO properties for bulk sales. While these types of transactions may help quickly alleviate high REO inventories, taxpayers would be required to accept larger losses than are necessary.

Phipps said that efforts should be made to incentivize individual versus bulk sales, except in small geographic areas that meet certain criteria, since selling in bulk to large national investors puts a large section of the housing market into the hands of fewer market participants and puts individual home buyers and sellers at a disadvantage.

He also said the success of any bulk sale programs should be determined by the stabilizing effect the program has on a locale

and whether it maximizes value to taxpayers. Maximizing the recovery on the agencies' assets will depend on how property valuations are determined and that those valuations are accurate, appropriate, and reflective of market conditions, such as the valuations available through the Realtor Property Resource, an NAR subsidiary.

NAR is also concerned about proposals that include lease-to-own elements. Phipps said that agency policies should first be focused on keeping families in their homes through loan modifications or short sales if that's a better option, and that the agencies should not expedite foreclosures so that those properties could be included in a lease-to-own program. He added that any lease-to-own programs should not be administered by the government, but instead should include the participation of local investors or nonprofits that can manage the specialized needs and challenges of the local market.

"Realtors welcome the agencies' desire to receive input and ideas to help address their REO inventory. We look forward to serving on any advisory board and working together with agency staff, real estate professionals, property managers, and others with extensive real estate industry experience to develop sound strategies and solutions to ongoing REO issues," said Phipps. ■

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**Blackhawk**

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**5 BEDROOMS**

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 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

**Danville**

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**3408 Silver Maple Dr \$999,800**  
 Sun 1:30-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

**5 BEDROOMS**

**430 Antelope Ridge Way \$810,000**  
 Sat 12-2 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

**6 BEDROOMS**

**1900 Casablanca St \$999,000**  
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 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

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**4 BEDROOMS**

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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

**7970 Vomac Rd \$535,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**Livermore**

**3 BEDROOMS**  
**6774 Tiffany Cmn \$384,500**  
 Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**Pleasanton**

**2 BEDROOMS**  
**3405 Norton Way \$209,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**5982 Corte Arboles \$470,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**3 BEDROOMS**

**4956 Blackbird Way \$699,999**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Michael Tessaro 519-9099

**219 Birch Creek Dr \$539,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Bhg Tri-valley Realty 463-9500

**1485 Tringham Dr \$510,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**995 Kottinger Dr \$598,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

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**2332 Via Espada \$939,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 202-6298

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 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**1528 Honeysuckle Court \$2,850,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

**2529 Tanager Dr \$550,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**3038 Bersano Ct \$1,399,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**6950 Via Quito \$639,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

**8102 War Glory Place \$1,599,000**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

**7762 Fairbrook Court \$682,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

**6023 Sterling Green Circle \$918,000**  
 Sat 1-4/Sun 2-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**5 BEDROOMS**

**2755 Huff Dr \$899,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

**603 Blossom Court \$1,425,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**7235 Valley Trails Dr \$725,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**3710 Riesling Ct. \$750,000**  
 Sat 2-5/Sun 1:30-4:30 Moxley Team 600-0990

**San Ramon**

**4 BEDROOMS**  
**104 Black Calla Ct \$999,000**  
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

**7467 Sedgefield Ave. \$600,000**  
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

**5 BEDROOMS**

**307 Pearlgrass Ln \$725,000**  
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

**HOME SALES**

This week's data represents homes sold during August 2011

**Dublin**

**5448 Bellevue Circle** S. & A. Mittan to D. & P. Chakraborty for \$685,500

**3777 Hobstone Place** J. & M. Fulwiler to P. & E. Miller for \$899,000

**4645 Rimini Court #66** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to M. Kennard for \$612,000

**Livermore**

**1657 3rd Street** Selene Rmof Reo Acquisition to Thompson Trust for \$395,000

**3114 Arbor Avenue** R. & P. Depasquale to S. & M. Khairallah for \$450,000

**1414 Aspen Court** J. & P. Kamperschroer to A. & I. Constantinescu for \$490,000

**457 Coleen Street** Tri-Valley Golden Investments to C. Arthurs for \$405,000

**996 Del Norte Drive** V. Garcia-Najar to K. Powers for \$165,500

**1592 Mallard Street** C. Hillseth to J. & K. Price for \$480,000

**2254 Norwood Road** Gill Trust to J. & J. Kaufman for \$540,000

**3807 Santa Clara Way** Koopmann Trust to Tadevich Trust for \$330,000

**1379 Winding Stream Drive** Tri-Valley Golden Investments to A. & J. Prasad for \$405,000

**Pleasanton**

**2505 Arlotta Place** Lee Trust to J. Grimaldi for \$1,230,000

**8087 Arroyo Drive #3** R. Scurria to B. Narendran for \$175,000

**7757 Country Lane** Juchau Trust to J. Chen for \$988,000

**7960 Driftwood Way** A. Williams to J. & C. Micco for \$665,000

**4847 Knox Gate Court** R. & S. Weaver to E. & D. Svetcov for \$705,000

**3472 Smoketree Commons** California Housing Finance to K. Hansen for \$205,000

Source: California REsource

Find more open home listings at [PleasantonWeekly.com/Real\\_Estate](http://PleasantonWeekly.com/Real_Estate)

For marketing opportunities contact **Andrea Heggelund** at (925) 600-0840 x110 or e-mail [aheggelund@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:aheggelund@pleasantonweekly.com).



OPEN SUNDAY 1:00 - 4:00

**1528 Honeysuckle Ct, Pleasanton**  
 Fantastic custom home high on hill with panoramic views of the valley over 6300 sqft. of luxirous living all on 1.25 of an arce great floorplan for entertaining, with large family, 4 fireplaces, game room, excercise & sewing rm. 4 BD & 4.5 BA. Kitchen with granite, butler pantry, views from all rooms Master suite with large sitting area overlooking views of pool, Mt Diablo & the valley. 8 car garage, putting green, gazebo & much more!  
**Offered at \$2,850,000**



OPEN SAT/SUN 1:00 - 4:00

**6950 Via Quito, Pleasanton**  
 Lovely 4 BR & 2 BA open floorplan, large family, kitchen with hardwood floors, corian counter tops, newer appliances. Large lot with spa. Cabana club with pool.  
**Offered at \$639,000**



**Coming Soon!**  
 Ponderosa with 4 beds & 3 full baths, over 2200 sq ft., court location. **Offered at \$759,950**



**Beginners Luck!**  
**Brentwood**  
 3 beds & 2.5 baths, 1400 sqft, 7yrs old.  
**Offered at \$169,000**



**San Ramon**  
 Lovely 4 beds & 2 baths on a quiet ct, family rm is in great condition. Lovely pool.  
**Offered at \$549,900**



**Over the hill values!**  
 Mountain House 4 beds & 3 full baths + loft area, 2950 sqft, 3yrs. new. **Offered at \$425,000**



**Stretch your dollars!**  
 Look what you can buy just a hop over the hill. 4 beds & 2.5 baths 2521 sqft. **Offered at \$285,000**



**Rich Novotny**  
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**Leo Apostol**  
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 DRE#00455262

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(925) 339-8090  
 DRE#01706653

**PRUDENTIAL CALIFORNIA REALTY**  
 4725 FIRST STREET #150, PLEASANTON



Open Sunday 1:30-4:30



**999 East Mockingbird, Pleasanton**

\$1,299,000

Country living, city close! Single story home on just shy of an acre. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, pool, gourmet kitchen, open floorplan, 2 stall barn, lighted arena, game room with wine fridge and wet bar. Huge 3 car garage with tons of storage. Horses possible. Close to Callippe Preserve, with golf and hiking and equestrian trails. Easy access to 680 freeway. Excellent Pleasanton schools. Call Sylvia for information 925.413.1912



**Sylvia Desin**

Direct: 925.621.4070

Cell: 925.413.1912

sdesin@apr.com



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DRE#01349446



**Tim McGuire**

925-462-SOLD

**WWW.TIMMCGUIRE.NET**



*Beyond Full Service—A Concierge Approach to Real Estate*



**1485 Trimmingham Drive, Pleasanton, Danbury Park**  
2bd/3ba, with office/potential 3rd bedroom downstairs, beautifully updated kitchen and baths, vaulted ceiling, custom fireplace, walking distance to Shopping, Schools and Parks. Offered at \$510,000



**244 Carnation Court, Pleasanton, Heritage Gardens**  
3bd/2ba single story on a private lane, 1,412+/-sq.ft, tile kitchen, SS appliances, newer carpets, vaulted ceilings, spacious backyard, and short walk to Schools and Downtown. Offered at \$529,000



**5230 Hummingbird Road, Pleasanton, Birdland**  
4bd/2ba "Holiday" model, 2,167+/-sq.ft, newer roof, windows, Pergo floors, garage door, HVAC system, crown molding and inside laundry. Offered at \$695,000



**3596 Chippendale Court, Pleasanton, Pleasanton Meadows**  
3bd/2ba, 2,600+/-sq.ft, on a 12,947+/-sq. ft lot, freshly painted inside and out, side yard access. Offered at \$735,000



**2238 Greenwood Road, Pleasanton, Birdland**  
Gorgeous "Gateway" model 4bd/2.5ba, 2,112+/-sq.ft, remodeled kitchen and baths, Pella windows/sliders, private and lush backyard with deck and arbor. Offered at \$775,000



**7092 Via Quito, Pleasanton, Del Prado**  
4bd/2ba, 1,489+/-sq.ft, completely remodeled with Anderson windows, custom kitchen and baths plus beautiful backyard with hot tub and deck. Offered at \$639,000



**4649 Klamath Court, Pleasanton, The Gates**  
Charming single story, 3bd/2ba home with new roof, carpets, baseboards, paint, windows, garage door, plus large landscaped backyard and RV parking. Sold for \$475,000

**COMING SOON!**

Expanded Miramar model, 6bd/2.5ba in Birdland, remodeled throughout, large lot, pool/hot tub.  
**Call for Details.**



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**SALES AT A GLANCE**

**Dublin**

**Total sales reported:** 3  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$612,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$899,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$732,167

**Livermore**

**Total sales reported:** 9  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$165,500  
**Highest sale reported:** \$540,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$406,722

**Pleasanton**

**Total sales reported:** 6  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$175,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$1,230,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$661,333

**San Ramon**

**Total sales reported:** 37  
**Lowest sale reported:** \$160,000  
**Highest sale reported:** \$995,000  
**Average sales reported:** \$585,608

Source: California REsource

**Home sales show increase from last month and last year**

August median price the highest since December 2010

By JEB BING

California home sales posted an increase from both the previous month and previous year in August, while the median home price rose to its highest level this year, according to data from the California Association of Realtors.

Closed escrow sales of existing, single-family detached homes in California rose to a seasonally adjusted 497,390 units in August, up 8.6% from a revised 457,930 in July, according to information collected by CAR from more than 90 local Realtor associations and MLSs statewide.

August home sales were up 10.2% from the revised 451,520 units sold during the same period a year ago. The statewide sales figure represents what would be the total number of homes sold during 2011 if sales maintained the August pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for seasonal factors that typically influence home sales.

"August's median price marked the highest since December 2010, signifying that prices may be stabilizing in some market segments, as investors and first-time buyers continue to see value and opportunity in the market," said CAR President Beth L. Peerce.

The August statewide median price of an existing, single-family detached home sold in California was \$297,060, up 1% from a revised \$294,050 in July, but down 7.4%

from the \$320,860 median price recorded for August 2010.

"While the increase in August sales is encouraging, these sales are based on closings that occurred before the debt ceiling debate in early August and subsequent heightened concern about the future direction of the economy," said CAR Vice President and Chief Economist Leslie Appleton-Young.

"How these events and the impending reduction in the conforming loan limits will impact home sales and prices in the coming months remains to be seen," he added.

Other aspects of CAR's resale housing report for August 2011 include:

- The Unsold Inventory Index for existing, single-family detached homes was 5 months in August, down from 5.5 months in July and down from a revised 5.8 months in August 2010. The index indicates the number of months needed to deplete the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate.

- Thirty-year fixed-mortgage interest rates averaged 4.27% during August 2011, down from 4.43% in August 2010, according to Freddie Mac. Adjustable-mortgage interest rates averaged 2.93% in July 2011, compared with 3.53% in August 2010.

The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home was 52.7 days in August 2011, compared with 45.5 days for the same period a year ago. ■

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**ESTATES OF MOHR PARK**



**2248 KAMP COURT, PLEASANTON**

Premium private large (12,691 sq ft) lot in excellent court location with in-ground pool & spa! Highly upgraded five bedrooms, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,369 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom cabinets & stainless steel appliances. Remodeled master bathroom with new granite & tile. Three car garage. Professionally landscaped private rear grounds with in-ground pool, spacious deck and large lawn area. Just a few minutes to downtown. Just around the corner from Nielsen Park. Award winning schools!  
**OFFERED AT \$1,195,000**

**KOTTINGER RANCH**

**SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER**



**1348 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON**

Excellent location!!! Panoramic views of surrounding hills. Backs to open space, no rear neighbors. Great condition, move in ready! Five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3300 square feet. Recently updated gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops! Spacious master suite with fireplace & large bathroom. Open living room, family room and formal dining room. French doors, hardwood flooring. Three car garage. Beautiful, professionally landscaped grounds include, in-ground pool, spacious deck, gazebo, large lawn areas and 135 wine producing grape vines, private vineyard! Community amenities include tennis courts & pool! Walking distance to Main Street and downtown! Award winning Pleasanton schools!!  
**SOLD FOR \$1,400,000**

**CANYON OAKS**



**5809 STONECLIFF VISTA LN, PLEASANTON**

Never beautiful home built in 2004. Great location, backs to open space with views of Mount Diablo, Pleasanton Ridge & surrounding open space! Three bedrooms plus loft/office, two & a half bathrooms, 2401 square feet. Custom tile flooring. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless appliances. Spacious master suite. Oversized two car garage. Beautiful landscaping. Walk to new sports park & award winning Hearst Elementary, Pleasanton Middle School, Oak Hill Shopping Center & Main Street! Convenient to Callippe Golf Course & Castlewood Country Club.  
**OFFERED AT \$839,500**

**FOOTHILL KNOLLS**

**SOLD**



**7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON**

Beautiful single story on private premium .35 acre lot. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, approximately 2,150 sf. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash, custom cabinetry and high end European appliances. Hardwood flooring, French doors, vaulted ceilings, newer windows, newer tile roof. Master suite includes custom built-in closet/dresser area, French doors to rear grounds, private bathroom with dual sinks. Very private professionally landscaped rear grounds, with no rear neighbors. Recently re-plastered and tiled pool/spa with new equipment. Built-in kitchen/BBQ island with refrigerator. Mature trees, patios and lawn areas.  
**OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$949,000**

**OAK MANOR**



**819 OAK MANOR COURT, PLEASANTON**

As soon as you enter you will be impressed with the unique elegance. Gorgeous custom home on private .62 acre lot. Approximately 4,541 square feet, four bedrooms (two master suites) plus office/wine room and bonus loft area and 5.5 bathrooms. Quality, high end equipment and finishes throughout. Gourmet kitchen with granite slab counters and stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors. Oversized four car garage. Beautifully landscaped Tahoe-like grounds with mature trees. Two minutes to Castlewood Country Club. **OFFERED AT \$1,565,000**

**LAGUNA OAKS**

**SOLD**



**2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON**

Best location in Laguna Oaks! Desirable Newport model on premium .40 acre lot. Quiet premium court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, plus formal office. Private guest/in law/au pair quarters (4th). Three and a half bathrooms. Approximately 3,830 square feet. Large gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, custom backsplash, tile flooring and large eating area. Spacious master suite with views of Pleasanton Ridge, and large walk in closet. Beautifully landscaped rear yard with ultimate privacy. Expansive lawn areas (pool site). A short walk to the community pool, park, and tennis courts.  
**SOLD FOR \$1,300,000**

**DOWNTOWN**



**335 DEL SOL AVENUE, PLEASANTON**

Location, location, location. Desirable downtown quiet court location! Beautiful upgraded home, 5 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with 2350 square feet. Remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash and stainless appliances. Newer upgraded hardwood flooring, plantation shutters, dual pane windows, newer brushed nickel hardware and fixtures. Lots of upgrades including 30 year roof. Elevated lot with private secluded tranquil grounds includes TimberTech deck, mature trees. Walk around the corner at Neal and in one minute you are at the Farmers Market and can also enjoy all the other downtown amenities! Award winning schools!  
**OFFERED AT \$849,000**

**VINTAGE HILLS**

**SOLD**



**3593 ARBOR COURT, PLEASANTON**

Beautiful single level in quiet court location. Excellent condition. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, 1766 square feet. Remodeled gourmet kitchen with new cabinetry and stainless appliances. Wood flooring, fully casement windows, new light fixtures, new hardware, upgraded bathrooms. Private premium .26 acre lot with large park-like rear grounds. Pebble tech free form pool, brick patio, covered patio area, wood deck and spacious lawn area. Walk to great neighborhood Parks. Convenient to downtown. Award winning Pleasanton schools.  
**SOLD FOR \$740,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street





## Julia Murtagh

925.997.2411

jmurtagh@apr.com

JuliaMurtagh.com

DRE #01751854

### Client Testimonial for a Recent Short Sale Listing

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

—Sabrina Wong

**Rental Available  
on West Side  
of Pleasanton**

**Please call Julia for  
more information**

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## FEATURE



### 6023 STERLING GREEN CIRCLE

**Open Sat 1:00-4pm & Sunday 2:00-4:30pm**

Beautiful Home in the "Canyon Oaks" neighborhood of South Pleasanton. This 4 bed/2.5 bath home, is just under 2900 sq ft. Built by KB homes in 2003, on a secluded and premium lot, this home has many wonderful upgrades. Enjoy the over-sized backyard, with professional landscaping, custom arbor and views of the Pleasanton Ridge.

- Walking distance to Hearst Elementary & Pleasanton Middle School
- Close to Downtown, Shops, The Bernal Sports Fields and Freeway
- Vaulted Ceilings with Formal Dining and Living Room
- Built with Energy Conservation Features
- Plantation Shutters, Upgraded Lighting Throughout Home
- Upgraded Kitchen with Zodiac Counter Tops and High End Stainless Steel Appliances
- Crown Moldings and Custom Paint

**LISTED AT \$918,000**

## AVAILABLE



**NOT ON MLS — EAST PLEASANTON**  
Wonderful 4 bedroom / 2.5 bathroom home. Built in 2000, located in Mohr Elementary School District. Call Julia for more details.  
**PRICED IN LOW 600'S**



**6432 INGLEWOOD DR, PLEASANTON**  
Great home in Val Vista, 3 beds / 2 baths, 1555 sq ft. Super cute home with upgraded gourmet kitchen, huge park like backyard, great curb appeal, walk to schools, shops and great freeway access  
**LISTED AT \$565,000**



**7538 STONEDALE DRIVE, PLEASANTON**  
Stoneridge Townhomes largest model, 2287 sq ft. 4 bed / 2.5 bath stunning upgraded kitchen & hardwood, great location. Charming rear yard with flagstone patio & steps to one of three pools.  
**LISTED AT \$529,000**

## PENDING



**4615 Rimini Court, Dublin**  
Sorrento at Dublin Ranch built in 2007. \$50k in upgrades, 2160 sq.ft. Short sale. \$520,000



**4375 Muirwood Drive, Pleasanton**  
Updated 3 BR / 2 BA home on west side, 1880 sq ft. with a custom kitchen. \$575,000



**4436 Desertwood Place, Pleasanton**  
Charming 4 BR / 2 BA in Highland Oaks, 1606 sq ft., with a resort-style backyard. \$698,880

## RECENTLY SOLD



**695 Windmill Dr, Pleasanton**  
"Olde Town" 4 BR / 2.5 BA home in a wonderful court location. \$912,500



**8172 Moller Ranch Dr, Pleasanton**  
Gorgeous 4 BR home, stunning hardwood floors, upgrades throughout. \$781,000



**5071 Monaco Dr, Pleasanton**  
4 BR / 3 BA home features granite kitchen, crown molding and views. \$990,000

## FOR DISTRESSED SELLERS

Today, nearly 1 out of every 4 homeowners in America is behind on mortgage payments. These are tough and frustrating times. Now more than ever, it's important to identify your options. Foreclosure can be avoided, your credit can be saved, and your financial future can be salvaged. Please review my dedicated website for more information.

**JuliaHelpsDistressedSellers.com**



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<p><b>1695 GERMANO WAY</b>   RUBY HILL</p>	<p><b>4161 SHARAB COURT</b>   KOTTINGER RANCH</p>	<p><b>3545 MERCATO COURT</b>   RUBY HILL</p>	<p><b>3152 PASEO GRANADA</b>   PONDEROSA</p>	<p><b>1892 VIA DI SALERNO</b>   RUBY HILL</p>
<p><b>BED 4   BA 2   7,330+/- Sq.Ft.   0.65+/- ACRES</b> Elaborate Italian Villa with +/-7,330 sf, 5 bedrooms, 6/1 bathrooms, stunning tile work and built less than four years ago. This home offers an impressive entry foyer, stately office, movie theatre, expansive kitchen, walk-in wine cellar and more.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 3   2,500+/- Sq.Ft.   0.20+/- ACRES</b> A great Buy in Green Belt area. Walk to all schools, parks &amp; Town. Large home with many upgrades. Large yard with sports area, large pool, water fall, side access for boat or trailer. Kottinger Ranch Community.</p>	<p><b>BED 5   BA 4(2)   5,555+/- Sq.Ft.   0.56+/- ACRES</b> Includes: office + unfinished bonus room. Huge accessible attic &amp; 1,600 sq ft unfinished basement plumbed for bath. Gourmet eat-in kit w/attached sunroom adjacent to family room. Master w/fp, balcony, &amp; double bath-huge glass block shower.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 3   3,066+/- Sq.Ft.   0.17+/- ACRES</b> Profess Remodel! Chef's Kit w/ S/S top of line equip, Granite Counters, Cust Mill-work thru out, Cust 2 station office w/ cherry cabs, Baths w/ cherrywd, granite, tumbled marble, Newer windows, Plantation shutters, Bonus room w/ built-ins, fireplace.</p>	<p><b>BED 5   BA 3.5   4,200+/- Sq.Ft.   0.71+/- ACRES</b> Beautiful Italian style home featuring +/-4,189sf, 5 bedrooms, 3/1 bathrooms, with gorgeous Brazilian Cherry floors and elaborate crown moldings. Enjoy the spacious +/-31,268 sf lot (+/-0.71 acres) with pool and privacy in the back!</p>
<p><b>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM</b>   925.251.2568</p>	<p><b>STEVE &amp; LORRAINE MATTOS</b>   925.426.7978</p>	<p><b>DIANE SASS</b>   925.583.2168</p>	<p><b>THE ENGEL TEAM</b>   925.580.5107</p>	<p><b>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM</b>   925.251.2568</p>
<p><b>3720 WEST RUBY HILL</b>   RUBY HILL</p>	<p><b>8012 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY</b>   GOLDEN EAGLE</p>	<p><b>7930 RACCOON HALLOW Ct</b>   PLEASANTON</p>	<p><b>7952 SPYGLASS COURT</b>   GOLDEN EAGLE</p>	<p><b>3742 ANGUS WAY</b>   STONE ORCHARDS</p>
<p><b>BED 7   BA 8.5   10,191+/- Sq.Ft.   0.88+/- ACRES</b> Stunning Italian Villa. You have arrived - probably THE most spectacular home in Ruby Hill. Every square inch world class - this is the benchmark! Picturesque aesthetics inevitably transforming the past into today's lifestyle.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 3   2,500+/- Sq.Ft.   0.20+/- ACRES</b> Fabulous private custom Mediterranean in resort-like setting has it all. Porte Cachere, grand entry, gourmet kitchen, awesome theater w/ theater seating, stunning arcade &amp; exercise rms. Vast lawns &amp; wrap-around decks, guest house, pool/spa.</p>	<p><b>BED 6   BA 3.5   3,670+/- Sq.Ft.   0.80+/- ACRES</b> Spectacular private park-like setting for this beautiful updated cstm home w/ amazing valley views. Open layout w/ grand entry &amp; luxurious master suite. Remodeled kitchen. Crown molding &amp; cstm designer features throughout. Pool &amp; waterfall.</p>	<p><b>BED 3   BA 2.5   2,523+/- Sq.Ft.   0.16+/- ACRES</b> Move-In Condition. Popular 3 BR/2.5 BA detached single-story Plan 2 in Golden Eagle. Security Gate. Private patio/yard area. 2-car attached garage. In-unit laundry room. Community pool and tennis courts. New roof and gutters in 2008.</p>	<p><b>BED 3   BA 2   1,293+/- Sq.Ft.   0.10+/- ACRES</b> Includes: fresh paint throughout, living room w/ cozy fireplace gourmet style kitchen, spacious master bedroom w/masterbath, indoor laundry, private backyard patio. Located near Parks, great schools and freeway access.</p>
<p><b>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM</b>   925.251.2568</p>	<p><b>CORTEZ &amp; PESTAL</b>   925.648.5300</p>	<p><b>CORTEZ &amp; PESTAL</b>   925.648.5300</p>	<p><b>GARY CIVELLO</b>   925.939.2743</p>	<p><b>JOE LEDESMA</b>   925.251.2559</p>
<p><b>1441 CALVARY LANE</b>   LIVERMORE</p>	<p><b>2188 McLEAN PLACE</b>   S. LIVERMORE</p>	<p><b>2068 CABRNET WAY</b>   ARROYO CROSSINGS</p>	<p><b>2306 MERLOT LANE</b>   TAPESTRY</p>	<p><b>583 AMBERWOOD WAY</b>   AMBER RIDGE</p>
<p><b>BED 4   BA 2   3,322+/- Sq.Ft.   0.80+/- ACRES</b> Classic Ranch style home with 6 horse stalls, uniquely located near the heart of Livermore. Just minutes away from Shopping, fine dining, schools, and the newly renovated Downtown with all the local activities, the location is the perfect place to call home.</p>	<p><b>BED 3   BA 4.5   3,322+/- Sq.Ft.   0.80+/- ACRES</b> Stunning custom home in the heart of wine country. Every detail of this home has been carefully considered and has every amenity imaginable. Wonderful architecture &amp; a well designed floor plan. Fantastic backyard w/ outdoor kitchen and inground pool.</p>	<p><b>BED 5   BA 4.5   4,655+/- Sq.Ft.   0.34+/- ACRES</b> Includes: LOFT + OFFICE + MUD ROOM, 4.5 baths, butlers pantry, wine fridge. 1 BR and 1.5 baths downstairs. Flowing FLOOR PLAN! Less than 4 years old, walking distance to downtown &amp; school, large private backyard.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 3.5   3,940+/- Sq.Ft.   0.36+/- ACRES</b> Private and Peaceful describes this Beautiful Home. Located in one of Livermore's Top Neighborhoods this home includes; loft+office, close to 4000 sq ft with vaulted ceilings. Updated Kitchen and Baths! Resort like backyard with waterfall pool.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 3.5   3,940+/- Sq.Ft.   0.36+/- ACRES</b> Private and Peaceful describes this Beautiful Home. Located in one of Livermore's Top Neighborhoods this home includes; loft+office, close to 4000 sq ft with vaulted ceilings. Updated Kitchen and Baths! Resort like backyard with waterfall pool.</p>
<p><b>MAX DE VRIES</b>   925.251.2514</p>	<p><b>PATRICK MARAVELIAS</b>   925.583.2192</p>	<p><b>GAIL HENDERSON</b>   925.980.5648</p>	<p><b>COREY GREEN</b>   925.583.2173</p>	<p><b>COREY GREEN</b>   925.583.2173</p>
<p><b>3030 PICHOLINE DRIVE</b>   S. LIVERMORE</p>	<p><b>6000 MOUNT OLYMPUS</b>   CASTRO VALLEY</p>	<p><b>3429 ASHBOURNE CIRCLE</b>   NORRIS CANYON</p>	<p><b>2501 TAMWORTH LANE</b>   WINDEMERE</p>	<p><b>623 GREYLAND DRIVE</b>   PONDEROSA VILLAGE</p>
<p><b>BED 5   BA 4.5   3,776+/- Sq.Ft.   0.23+/- ACRES</b> Super Los Olivos! Gourmet kit, granite, big island, 2 butler's pantries, lrg breakfast room, formal living &amp; dining w/recessed lights &amp; coffered ceiling. Built-ins! Brazilian cherry flrs upstairs. Big master w/travertine tiled bath. Stamped concrete patio. Views!</p>	<p><b>BED 3   BA 3   4,277+/- Sq.Ft.   7.00+/- ACRES</b> FABULOUS VIEWS! Custom Built, Mediterranean Style, Estate Home on 7 acres. Gourmet Chef's kitchen, stainless appliances, custom cabinets and Pecan Flooring, 2 Master suites, Sparkling Pool and Spa with Bay Views, all of this on acres of privacy.</p>	<p><b>BED 5   BA 5.5   5,017+/- Sq.Ft.   0.33+/- ACRES</b> FABULOUS VIEWS! Custom Built, Mediterranean Style, Estate Home on 7 acres. Gourmet Chef's kitchen, stainless appliances, custom cabinets and Pecan Flooring, 2 Master suites, Sparkling Pool and Spa with Bay Views, all of this on acres of privacy.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 4   3,824+/- Sq.Ft.   0.16+/- ACRES</b> Over \$300k in upgrades, prof landsc, pebble sheen pool, prem lot, McNear paver drive, 4 car gar, office, bonus rm, walnut floors, custom iron banister, cust bit-ins, mill-work, crown mouldings, greatroom, bonus rm, hike trails, open space, top-rated school.</p>	<p><b>BED 4   BA 2.5   3,102+/- Sq.Ft.   0.07+/- ACRES</b> Come see a beautiful home with lots of upgrades. Brazilian hardwood floors, new carpet, upgraded kitchen, upgraded Master Bath, a real beauty. Enjoy a fire in the master bedroom or family room, or a backyard with no rear neighbors, a must see.</p>
<p><b>DIANE SASS</b>   925.583.2168</p>	<p><b>KRISTY AND COMPANY</b>   925.251.2536</p>	<p><b>DAVID AZIMI</b>   925.251.2580</p>	<p><b>THE ENGEL TEAM</b>   925.580.5107</p>	<p><b>PATRICK MARAVELIAS</b>   925.583.2192</p>

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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