

Pleasanton Weekly

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

29,000 homes and counting

Hundreds of pages of reports, analyses, studies, minutes of public hearings and citizens' comments weighed down members of the City Council, staff and many others, including this reporter, at Wednesday night's meeting to finalize Pleasanton's new housing plan.

It's been more than year, since October 2010, that Pleasanton officials have been addressing the city's woefully short share of the region's housing needs as determined by the state-authorized Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). The squeeze has been on since 1996 when voters overwhelmingly adopted a housing cap limiting the total number of homes and apartments that could ever be built here to 29,000. It was an effort to keep Pleasanton "small." Although making those who lived here then feel satisfied, that action more than any other is what caused Sacramento and affordable housing advocates to take notice.

Complaints by housing groups were heard over the intervening years, but it wasn't until the city's housing unit numbers reached 26,000, then 27,000 that fur began to fly. State HCD representatives came to town to see if there was enough available land zoned for residential uses to meet the growing numbers they and ABAG required. A demand for accountability went unanswered for too long. Finally, Urban Habitat, an Oakland-based affordable housing coalition, filed a suit asking the Alameda County Superior Court to invalidate the Pleasanton Housing Cap. Gov. Jerry Brown, then the state's Attorney General, joined in the suit. After months of litigation, the court declared the cap illegal and ordered the city to meet Urban Habitat's and the state's demand for more affordable housing, or it would handle the rezoning itself.

The City Council, advised by its outside counsel that Pleasanton probably wouldn't win on appeal, decided to stop the

costly litigation and move on. It then started the process that culminated Wednesday night with action that Urban Habitat, the state and the court have agreed complies with the court order.

Wednesday night's action by the City Council was pivotal in the city's political history. Although it rezones 73 acres of properties in various parts of the city for more than 2,200 rental units in high-density apartment complexes, the final numbers when all are built, which could take years, will barely top the sacred 29,000 that voters thought would keep Pleasanton small.

Even so, it's been a long time since our town was really small. With the housing construction surge of the late 1980s and 1990s, the population has grown to a 2010 census count of just under 70,000. Livermore has more than 80,000; Dublin is rapidly catching up. The Tri-Valley is now home to more than a quarter-million people with retail and business centers that rival larger regions across the country. When Stoneridge Shopping Center opened in the 1970s and Hacienda Business Park a few years later, Pleasanton went on the map, perhaps more than many homeowners at that time wanted it to be. BART, the freeways, even the Alameda County Fairgrounds have all added to the attraction of Pleasanton.

Along with growth comes a responsibility for meeting state and ABAG requirements to provide adequate and affordable housing for those whose incomes can't yet meet the median home costs of Pleasanton. These include young families, those new in the workforce and those whose jobs simply don't pay enough for home ownership. That's why ABAG studies Bay Area cities under its domain and assesses, with state approval, the numbers Pleasanton now has to meet. Be aware, though, that it's not over. ABAG is already holding public hearings on how to meet the needs of the Bay Area through 2040 as more housing is needed. Without doubt, Pleasanton will have new number requirements and likely the need for another City Council to establish a new Housing Task Force all over again. ■

About the Cover

Connie and Rick Schempp visit the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, with their son Kyle while he was on his semester at Sea Voyage during which he traveled to the Bahamas, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Morocco, earning nine college units toward his San Jose State University communications and business degree. Design by Lili Cao.

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ASKED AROUND TOWN

Do you think cell phones should be banned from cars?



Jennifer Branchini
Realtor, BHG

I don't think they should be banned, but I do think people should make a conscious effort not to be on the phone all the time. Now with the iPhone 4s, I am able to use my headset to dictate texts. There's still a risk of distraction, but that can happen if you eat in the car or spill coffee, too.

Matthew Bailey
Entrepreneur

No. I text and drive, and I've never been in an accident in my life. I'm able to look at the road and text at the same time. Not everyone is able to do that. I think eating and driving is actually more distracting; I never do that.



David Valencia
Release coordinator

I do. I try not to use my phone, but I've been pulled over for simply checking a missed call or taking an emergency call from my mother. In terms of the general population, I do think that they should be banned.

Brad Kygar
Helicopter pilot

No. GPS is far too important, and it's necessary to be able to reach out or be reached in the event of an emergency.



Lauren Youngsma
Student

I think you should have to keep it off, and when you're done driving you can look at it. If you see calls or texts coming in, you'll be too tempted to look at it if it's turned on.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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The winter months are typically a challenging time for blood collection due to busy holiday schedules and inclement weather.

But the need for blood is constant.

The American Red Cross invites you to visit its Pleasanton Blood Donation Center. In addition to collecting whole blood, the center has recently expanded to collect double red cells and platelets—making it a convenient destination for local blood donors of all types.



Every two seconds, someone needs blood. You can do your part to help save a life by donating blood at your local Red Cross. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org.

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DIGEST

Near record-high temperatures

A midweek temperature in Pleasanton of 67 tied the record set in 1958, which was a welcome high compared to the record low of 21 degrees on Jan. 4, 1961.

The good news of warm temperatures was clouded by a report Tuesday that California's mountain snowpack was among the driest on record for Jan. 3, the California Department of Water Resources said. The mountain snow that melts into reservoirs, streams and aquifers in the spring and summer provides approximately one-third of the water for the state's households, farms and industries.

"Fortunately, we have most of winter ahead of us, and our reservoir storage is good," Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin said.

Dr. King's legacy

Pleasanton school district Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi will be the keynote speaker at the Tri-Valley YMCAs 12th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast, "Living the Legacy." Her topic will be "Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education." The Garage Band Academy will provide entertainment.

The breakfast will take place from 7:30-9:30, Monday, Jan. 23, at the Hilton Pleasanton. Cost is \$40 per person, \$500 to sponsor a 10-seat table. For reservations, call 263-4444 or email kdulka@ymcaeastbay.org.

Celebrate Year of the Dragon

In celebration of Chinese New Year, Gu-Zheng soloist Linda Yu and her students will perform traditional Chinese music and dance at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The performance will showcase soloists as well as duets and quintets of traditional Chinese music. Also featured will be Dublin High School senior Cathy Yuan, a long-time student of Chinese folk dance.

Following the free family program, audience members will taste traditional Chinese New Year foods. No registration is required. For information on all library events, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library, or call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Linda Yu graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China, and has dedicated her life to performing and teaching the Gu-Zheng, an instrument with over 2,000 years of performance history.

Report: Halt state funding for high-speed rail

Peer-review group finds flaws in business plan for controversial system

BY GENNADY SHEYNER

California's quest to build a high-speed rail system between San Francisco and Los Angeles suffered a heavy blow Tuesday when a peer-review committee recommended that state legislators not fund the project until major changes are made to the business plan for the increasingly controversial line.

In a scathing report, the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group found that the business plan the California High-Speed Rail Authority unveiled in early November offers inadequate information about funding, fails to answer the critical question of which operating segment will be built first, and features a phased-construction plan that would violate state law. The group, which is chaired by Will Kempton, recommends that the state Legislature not authorize expenditure of bond money for the project until its concerns are met.

The rail authority responded to the report by

disputing many of its findings and by claiming that it "suffers from a lack of appreciation of how high-speed rail systems have been constructed throughout the world." The authority also said in a statement that the peer-review group's report "makes unrealistic and unsubstantiated assumptions about private sector involvement in such systems and ignores or misconstrues the legal requirements that govern the construction of the high speed rail program in California."

The report deals the latest of several recent setbacks to the project, for which state voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond in 2008. Since then, the project's price tag more than doubled and several agencies, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and Office of the State Auditor, released critical reports about the project.

In its letter to the Legislature, the peer review group highlighted some of the same

flaws that local officials and watchdogs have long complained about, most notably a deeply flawed funding plan. The project currently has about \$6 billion in committed funding and the rail authority plans to make up much of the balance from federal grants and private investments — investments that would be solicited after the first major segment of the line is constructed. The peer-review group found this plan to be vague and insufficient.

"The fact that the Funding Plan fails to identify any long term funding commitments is a fundamental flaw in the program," the report states. "Without committed funds, a mega-project of this nature could be forced to halt construction for many years before additional funding could be obtained. The benefits of any independent utility proposed by the current Business Plan would be very limited versus the cost and the impact on state finances."

See **HIGH-SPEED RAIL** on Page 6



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

First 2012 baby born in Pleasanton: Esau Cervantes

Esau Cervantes, the first baby born in Pleasanton in 2012, arrived at ValleyCare Medical Center at 1:58 a.m. Jan. 2. He weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces at birth and measured 21 inches. He is the son of Edith Lux and Alberto Savantes of Livermore, who both wanted to thank the staff at ValleyCare for the excellent care they received.

The first baby born in the Bay Area in 2012 arrived at the stroke of midnight Jan. 1 at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley, a hospital spokeswoman said.

RV show adds electric motorcycles to lineup

Pleasanton event opens today at Fairgrounds

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The 24th annual Manufacturers RV and Sports Show opens today at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, to run through Jan. 16. For the first time this year visitors will be able to test ride or see a demonstration of an electric motorcycle as well as see hundreds of RVs and accessories, new and used, and negotiate directly with dealers.

"The attendance and sales at our RV shows over the past years has been consistently growing, and we wanted to branch out and offer something we believe RV enthusiasts will love," said Mike Nohr, president of GoodTimes Promotions. "Zero Motorcycles are amazing electric motor-

cycles that we're sure will be a hit at the show."

Although the recession drove the RV industry into a ditch, signs are pointing to the end of the rough road, with total wholesale shipments for last year up 4% over October 2010, according to RV industry analyst Dr. Richard Curtin.

"The economy isn't out of the woods yet, but when it comes to inexpensive vacation options, RVing leads the pack," said show manager Shawn Nohr.

Cost for the show is \$12 adults; \$10 seniors 65 and older; 16 and under free. On Wednesday, seniors get two-for-one admission. For more information, call 931-1890 or visit www.rvshow.net. ■

Public meetings under way on how Bay Area should look in 2040

Alameda County session scheduled for Wednesday in Dublin

BY JEB BING

Two regional planning agencies will hold a public meeting Wednesday in Dublin to seek comments on a blueprint-in-the-making for expanding transportation and housing in a sustainable way over the next 25 years.

The Dublin meeting, to be held at 5:45 p.m. in the city's Civic Center on Dublin Boulevard, will cover planning considerations for all of Alameda County.

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Dublin meeting is similar to those being held throughout the nine-county Bay Area that the two agencies represent.

They are a continuation of the dialogue on "Plan Bay Area" held last year. Planners have prepared several scenarios for what the Bay Area could look like in 2040 and are seeking the public's help in selecting desired features among the alternative choices and in prioritizing transportation investments.

At the meetings, participants will rotate among a series of stations where they will have a chance to view informational videos, vote on potential transportation investments, select preferred strategies for reducing driving and greenhouse gas emissions, and use an "Urban Vision" tool that shows visually how various future development scenarios might appear in their respective counties.

Other county meetings will be held throughout the month in Contra Costa, San Francisco, Sonoma, San Mateo, Marin, Santa Clara, Napa and Solano counties.

For more information, sign onto www.onebayarea.org/spotlight_12-11.htm. ■

Miley proud of Pleasanton's smooth transition into District 4

He's pleased to begin 'long and fruitful relationship' with the community

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley said in his New Year's message to his constituents that transitioning Pleasanton into his District 4 was one of the highlights of 2011.

"Now that redistricting is complete, I am pleased and excited to begin what I expect to be a long and fruitful relationship with Pleasanton," Miley said. "From the First Wednesday events, to meetings with City Council members, the City Manager and staff, to a special welcome from the Chamber of Commerce, to numerous one-on-one interactions with community leaders, I have felt the warmth and pride so many of you express for your city.

"My goal is to be a partner in

Pleasanton's ongoing success."

Miley listed some of the 2011 highlights in District 4:

- Seamlessly transitioning Pleasanton and Hillcrest Knolls into District 4 as a result of redistricting;
- Hosting a Safe Medical Disposal Conference in partnership with the Senior Alcohol and Other Drugs Workgroup on Oct. 12;
- Completing many of the Eden Area Livability Initiative working groups' goals and creating a progress report to measure success;
- Kicking off major construction projects, including the Ashland Youth Center, Castro Valley Boulevard street improvements, sidewalks in Cherryland, and Lewelling Boulevard street improvements;

Working with independent truckers, labor, Port of Oakland, and air quality regulatory agencies to develop solutions to the impacts to minority truckers due to new air pollution regulations;

- Creating and convening a Blue Ribbon General Assistance Working Group that successfully improved services and resources for GA recipients;
- Breaking ground on the construction of a new \$700 million hospital complex at the Highland Campus;
- Passing a resolution calling for the United States government to formally apologize for slavery and for reparations to address disparities impacting African Americans; and
- Lastly, addressing issues, concerns, and needs of more than 1,000 con-

stituents throughout the district.

"I would like to thank all of you who were involved in any of our many 2011 projects and accomplishments," Miley said. "Without your support, involvement and dedication, we would not have been able to accomplish our 2011 goals and successfully serve you."



Nate Miley

Miley and his staff hold office hours every Thursday at the Heritage House at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave.

To schedule an appointment, contact Anna Gee at 510-891-5585.

"We also are making ourselves available for community meetings and are getting to know many of the coffee shops in beautiful downtown Pleasanton," Miley said.

Visit his District 4 website at www.acgov.org/board/district4 to learn what his office is doing. Click on the E-subscribe button to get automatic updates.

His staff members supporting his efforts in Pleasanton are Chief-of-Staff Seth Kaplan (Seth.Kaplan@acgov.org or 510-891-5588), Policy Aide Eileen Ng (Eileen.Ng@acgov.org or 510-670-5717), and Intern Paul Sanftner (Paul.Sanftner@acgov.org or 925-803-7959). ■

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Continued from Page 5

The group also faulted the rail authority's business plan for failing to choose the "initial operating segment" for the rail line. Though the authority has decided to build the first leg of the line in Central Valley, this segment would not be electrified and would serve largely as a corridor for testing the new line. The first "true" high-speed rail segment would be built later and would stretch either north toward San Jose or south toward San Fernando Valley.

Though the peer-review group acknowledged that a phased approach is the only feasible way to build the system, it also found that this plan violates a requirement of Proposition 1A, which mandates that the rail authority identify funding for the first usable segment of the line before construction begins. The Central Val-

ley segment, the peer report notes, "is not a very high-speed railway (VHSR), as it lacks electrification, a CHSR train control system, and a VHSR compatible communication system. Therefore, it does not appear to meet the requirements of the enabling State legislation."

The peer review group also wrote in its letter that the authority should have determined in its business plan whether the first "operating segment" would go north or south from the Central Valley. Its letter states that "it is hard to seriously consider a multi-billion dollar Funding Plan that offers no position on which IOS should be initiated first."

"This indecision may also have consequences in obtaining environmental clearances. We believe that the Funding Plan as proposed should not be approved until the first IOS is selected."

The report reserves "final judgment" on the funding plan because



COURTESY CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

the rail authority's business plan is still in draft form and subject to revisions. But it also makes clear that major changes would have to be made before the project warrants state funding. The letter notes that while legislators could potentially come up with a funding source for the project, without such a source "the project as it is currently planned is not financially 'feasible.'"

"Therefore, pending review of the final Business Plan and absent a clearer picture of where future funding is going to come from, the Peer Review Group cannot at this time recommend that the Legislature approve the appropriation of bond proceeds for this project," the peer group's letter concludes.

The new report presents a potentially devastating blow to the rail authority, which is banking on getting \$2.7 billion in Proposition 1A funds for construction of the Central Valley segment. The agency has also received \$3.5 billion in federal grants.

The state funds are particularly critical given the lack of private investment and increasing local opposition. The authority had acknowledged that private investment would not start coming in until later phases. Future federal

funding is also deeply uncertain at a time when many Republicans in the House of Representatives are vehemently opposing the project.

Roelof van Ark, CEO of the rail authority, said in a statement that the recommendations of the committee "simply do not reflect a real world view of what it takes to bring such projects to fruition."

"It is unfortunate that the Peer Review Committee has delivered a report to the Legislature that is deeply flawed in its understanding of the Authority's program and the experience around the world in successfully developing high speed rail," van Ark said.

Rail authority officials also argued that the peer-review group's report could jeopardize federal funding for the project. Thomas Umberg, chair of the authority's board of directors, said the board takes seriously "legitimate critiques" of the rail program, including recommendations that the authority hire more staff.

"However, what is most unfortunate about this Report is not its analytical deficiency, but that it would create a cloud over the program that threatens not only federal support but also the confidence of the private sector necessary for them to invest their dollars," Umberg said

in a statement.

The authority's Chief Counsel Thomas Fellenz called the committee's findings about the project's inconsistency with Proposition 1A "unfounded assumptions." The group's legal conclusions, he said in a statement, are not only "beyond the expertise of the authors, but attorneys at the state and federal government level and the legislative author of the bond measure, profoundly disagree."

The authority also submitted an eight-page letter to state Legislators responding to the peer-review group's criticisms. The authority disputed in its letter the peer-review group's finding that the "initial construction segment" in Central Valley would violate Proposition 1A and argued that the group's demand for a long-term funding plan fails to consider how major transportation projects are normally built.

"By this measure, none of the unconstrained regional transportation plans of any transportation authority should be pursued," the letter from Umberg states. "No project, in our experience, has fully identified funding sources for the entire project at this stage and it is both unfortunate and inappropriate for the Committee to apply this test only to high speed rail." ■

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Pleasanton Sears staying open

Northern California stores not affected by downsizing

By JEB BING

News that retail giant Sears and Kmart will close 100 to 150 stores started the new year out on a sour note in the Tri-Valley after most retailers reported a bountiful Christmas shopping season.

Although the closings apparently won't affect the Sears store at Stoneridge Shopping Center or the older, somewhat dated store at Sunvalley Shopping Center in Concord, the announcement by Sears Holdings Corp., which owns both Sears and Kmart, sent chills through communities. In Pleasanton, Sears is one of three major anchors at Stoneridge where it owns its building.

A list of Sears and Kmart's to be shuttered shows those closings are mostly concentrated in Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Georgia. Three stores in California will be closed as part of the cost-cutting, but those in Northern California, including its aging Oakland store, are being spared for now. So, too, is the San Leandro Kmart. Oakland's Kmart shuttered during the company's last reshuffling, and a Kmart in Livermore was closed years ago.



JEB BING

Although Sears Holdings Corp. will close 100 to 150 Sears and Kmart stores, it will leave open the Sears at Stoneridge Shopping Center, where it owns its building.

Sears Holding announced the closures following a disastrous holiday shopping season. Even as crowds filled Stoneridge during much of December, Sears appeared to be much less busy.

But Barbara Farfan, writing in the Retail Industry Newsletter, says that while retailers would have preferred to bask in the glow of their record-breaking Christmas retail sales results a little longer before

getting "yanked back to post-holiday reality" by the Sears Holdings announcement, the Sears-Kmart downsizings were not a surprise. Depending on how fast Sears Holding moves and the financial results realized, the company may actually be positioned for smoother sailing through 2012 and beyond.

That would be good news for Stoneridge and Sunvalley shopping centers. ■

Vincent C. Ewing named general counsel of AC Transit

With 12 years of municipal law experience, he is top choice among 40 applicants

By JEB BING

Veteran public law attorney Vincent C. Ewing has named General Counsel for AC Transit by the agency's board of directors.

As a former Deputy City Attorney for Los Angeles, Assistant City Attorney for Santa Rosa, City Attorney for East Palo Alto and a prosecutor of violent crimes for the city of Los Angeles, Ewing has vast experience in a variety of legal arenas, especially public law.

A graduate of Howard University School of Law, Ewing has advised city councils, city administrators, city managers, and elected boards and commissions on issues ranging from government and fiduciary responsibilities to matters of general law concerning land use, due process, the Brown Act, labor, risk management, city charters and other public policies.

"In a general counsel, professional competence is most criti-

cal," AC Transit board president Elsa Ortiz said. "Mix competence with a well-developed moral compass, a highly-valued work ethic, a clear understanding of



Vincent C. Ewing

the meaning of public service, enthusiasm and the stamina of the energizer bunny — and that is Mr. Ewing. He is precisely the person we were seeking."

Ewing has 12 years of California municipal law experience. In addition, he has a highly successful litigation record and has provided impartial legal analysis and administrative guidance on a variety of ballot measures.

He was selected from among Ewing 40 applicants for the position. He lives in Alameda with his wife and three daughters. ■

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Goodbye redevelopment agencies

The new year may not be a happy one for California's 400 redevelopment agencies and their supporters with the decision by the State Supreme Court to dissolve them and move the \$1.7 billion in revenue that they've collected to schools and other public programs where the money belongs. This is sure good news for taxpayers who for too long have seen their funds appropriated by appointed — not elected — local officials who often made decisions without adequate accountability on how to spend the money, whether for more parks, libraries, community centers, waterfront improvements or, in the case of neighboring Livermore, on a monstrous performing arts center of questionable need and with uncertain long-term funding.

Pleasanton years ago decided against establishing a redevelopment agency and Dublin never had one. In Pleasanton's case, the City Council determined that to pay for capital improvements, it would methodically set up a Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) segment in the annual budget, identifying and prioritizing these projects each January, funding the CIP with as much money as tax revenues would allow, and then building the projects. In lean years, such as the one just passed, no capital expenditures were approved as the city froze both public hiring and its employees' salaries. The Main Street sewers, new parks, Bernal Community Park baseball fields and, most recently, the \$10 million Firehouse Arts Center were all financed this way. Each project also was part of a public process that gave everyone a chance to look at the plans and sound off if they had objections.

The State Supreme Court ruling, which upholds not only the elimination of redevelopment agencies but also strikes down a law allowing them to continue operating if they shared money with the state, is a win for Gov. Jerry Brown. Brown supported closing redevelopment agencies as a way to get more money to the state. The state will now have more than \$1 billion annually in property tax revenue to use on future budgets (mainly for public schools and public safety). Many members of county governments are also applauding the decision, saying it will put more money into public schools. In the past the state, which has a huge deficit, backfilled money school districts lost to redevelopment agencies. For the life of us, we don't understand why the League of California Cities has opposed disbanding these redevelopment agencies.

According to the state Finance Department, public schools will receive in the neighborhood of \$1 billion in the current fiscal year as a result of the court's decision, with the remainder of the \$1.7 billion to be divided among cities, counties and special districts both this year and in future years.

We've said before that the redevelopment agencies were fundamentally undemocratic agencies. Writer Randy Shaw, in an article entitled "How Redevelopment Agencies Subvert Democracy," reported that his research showed that RDAs operated as private fiefdoms outside the general control of elected officials. Once elected officials would approve a redevelopment area, unelected and politically unaccountable officials typically gained control of hundreds of millions of dollars for the next 30 years. If these RDA controllers shared passions for affordable housing beyond what a city may be required to have, financing would be provided for more subsidized and affordable homes. If those in charge of the RDA were persuaded to finance a huge performing arts center, even though similar projects have failed in nearby cities, the RDA made the appropriation.

Gov. Brown's decision to dismantle the agencies and the high court's ruling in support of that action is a win for all Californians, making it indeed a happy new year for taxpayers. ■



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

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GUEST OPINION

Good government is what we do in Pleasanton

For more than two years, the City Council has wrestled with housing issues not of the current council's making. Like all types of government, council members jump into a moving stream and take the credit and the culpability for things started before their tenure. In Pleasanton, I am keenly aware that I stand on the shoulders of those community leaders that came before me. This is a beautiful, safe place to live. Our schools are wonderful and we are fortunate to have people who care about our quality of life.



Cheryl Cook-Kallio

The housing issues have always been here but the struggle is with the loss of our hard housing cap. After years of litigation, the court determined the cap was in direct conflict with state law, but opened a door that allowed us to negotiate a settlement agreement. It allowed more local control than a court decision would have and it gave us an opportunity to obtain community input and create design guidelines.

I have had the pleasure of being co-chair of the Hacienda Transit Oriented Development Task Force and of the Housing Element Task Force. These two task forces were constructed in a very similar manner, including council members, commissioners and the community at large. Staff reports were generated and there was an opportunity at each meeting to receive input from the public. Many advocacy groups submitted

written reports. Sometimes extra meetings were held to accommodate additional input. This information then went through the Housing Commission, the Planning Commission and then the City Council as additional information was received from staff and community members.

We are now at the end of this court-mandated timeline. The City Council approved the Hacienda TOD Task Force recommendations last year and we are poised to make a final decision on housing rezoning and the Housing Element this month. Staff, commissioners, the City Council and scores of other members of our community have spent hours working on the final result.

Many are afraid of what affordable housing looks like. The state-mandated inclusion of a stock of low and very low affordable housing units is causing consternation. Who will live in this new housing? They are new working families, our children home from college and working their first real job, beginning teachers, firefighters, nurses. They are your retail and food service workers. They are working people. They are your neighbors.

What is good government? It is what we do in Pleasanton. Your neighbors, maybe you, spent time and energy giving input. You educated yourselves; you offered help and suggestions. Sometimes we came to consensus and sometimes we compromised. Occasionally we disagreed. It was and is transparent government. None of it was easy. These are difficult decisions. It is good government. Remember that your community is only as good as those who are willing to participate. Based on that benchmark, this is a great community. Look around you. Who is responsible for this wonderful community? It is you. It is our neighbors.

Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio was first elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 2006 and re-elected

BY CHERYL COOK-KALLIO

to another four-year term in 2010. She is seeking election as mayor in the November municipal election. She teaches U.S History, government and economics at Irvington High School in Fremont, where she recently received the American Civic Education Award from the Alliance for Representative Democracy. She also serves on a number of local, regional and statewide civic organizations.

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BOOKS!

One teen's gift to the young

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BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



"Goodnight Moon" helped to open up the wonderful world of reading to Claire Williams, she recalls. Now 16, she is working to make sure that every child has a chance to share her love of the written word.

Her latest project, "I Am Grateful I Can Read," collects new books to give to children as a treat when they visit a pediatrician at Axis Community Health.

"I'm doing a book drive for children who don't have books in their homes," said Claire, who is a junior at Amador Valley High, as she gathered books in early December. "I'm doing this because I think these kids need help and I want to help them."

She reported this week that the drive resulted in 1,600 new books, collected through the Pleasanton Unified School District and the Cross Roads Association Girl Scouts. Both the Axis Development Director Valerie Jonas and the pediatricians were pleased.

"Most of the books we collected are for young readers between the ages of 1 and 9 years old," Claire said. "This program will allow children to have books at home so they can practice reading somewhere other than school."

"We will continue to sort the books over the Christmas break and then deliver the books in batches over the next several months," she continued. "Axis has a difficult time with storage so we have offered to help store the books over the next year."

She plans another book drive in the fall to make sure that the Axis bookshelves are never empty. She expressed thanks for the generous donations from people in the Tri-Valley. An anonymous donor sent in \$1,500, which

allowed her to purchase specific books. By Dec. 20, she'd reached the 1,000-book goal and the books and donations continued to arrive.

Claire has worked at the Pleasanton library for the last five summers, volunteering more than 500 hours; last summer she started a program called "Read to a Teen," for youngsters in grades 1 to 3 to read to volunteer teenagers to improve their reading skills. It has continued during the school year on Sunday afternoons.

"The young readers show up at the library and can read to a teen between 1 and 5 p.m.," Claire said. "The teen helps the young reader with reading skills and reading comprehension. With all the budget cuts in the schools it has been a great way for young readers to get more reading practice. The teen doesn't read the story to the child, but instead encourages and engages with the child to help them with their reading comprehension."

"This program is not only a great way to give young readers an opportunity to practice reading, it also helps teens get additional community service hours through the library," she said. "A win-win for everyone."

"I have learned a lot about children and what motivates them to read," she added. "I have learned that one very important component to motivating a child to read is access to books. I realized over the summer that a lot of kids don't have books in their home."

She quoted a government report stating that low-income neighborhoods in the United States only have an average of one age-appropriate book for every 300 children.

Claire decided a good place to start distrib-

uting books was the young patients who go to Axis, which provides health care regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

"I am hoping that we can change the course of these young readers' lives by giving them the opportunity to do what I did and read great books like 'Good Night Moon' and 'Green Eggs and Ham' at home," she said.

In November Claire set up collection sites at Alisal, Donlon and Fairlands elementary schools, as well as at Hart, Harvest Park and Pleasanton middle schools with a goal of collecting 1,000 books.

"I put boxes and signs out. That way people knew when they dropped their kids off at a school that there was a book drive," she explained.

She also got notices put into the school newsletters and on the Harvest Park TV newscast.

"I am really amazed and grateful that so many people are willing to help me create these opportunities for children in our community," Claire said. "Many people ask me why am I doing this, saying, 'Is this your Girl Scout Gold Award?' I say no, I completed my Gold Award last year."

For her Gold Award, she organized a huge Christmas party at the Veterans Memorial Building last year for children in need.

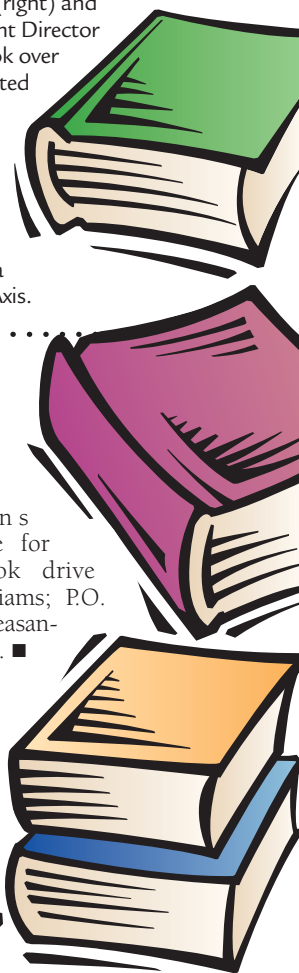
"I just tell them it is really very simple:

I don't believe we can wait for

.....
DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI
Claire Williams (right) and
Axis Development Director
Valerie Jonas look over
the books collected
through Claire's
"I Am Grateful I
Can Read" pro-
gram, which
will be given to
each child age 1
to 12 who sees a
pediatrician at Axis.
.....

a better world.
It is up to each
of us to go out
and create it,"
Claire said.

Donations
may be made for
her next book drive
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DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Nichelle Baviera reads "A Tree is Nice" to her enthralled young audience at the Museum on Main, as part of M.O.M.'s Reading Time, a free monthly program to introduce preschoolers to books and people and cultures in their community.

Museum plans 2012 preschool themes

Readings introduce tykes to books, people and places

The Museum on Main has announced themes for its 2012 preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. Now, in its third year, this popular program introduces preschoolers to books and activities about the unique people, places and events in the community.

Preschoolers ages 2-5 and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main for this free monthly reading program from 10-11 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Book reading begins at 10 a.m. with theme crafts immediately following.

Admission is free although donations are always appreciated. No reservations are required although large groups or playgroups are asked to phone in advance to 462-2766 or email education@museumonmain.org.

M.o.M.'s Reading Time is sponsored by Target as part of its Early Childhood Reading Grant program.

The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main St. For more information about hours, current exhibits and programs, visit www.museumonmain.org or call 462-2776. ■

2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes:

- Jan. 11:** All Aboard
- Feb. 8:** The Day it Rained Hearts
- March 14:** The End of the Rainbow
- April 11:** Art Smart
- May 9:** Please & Thank You
- June 13:** Flag Day
- July 11:** We All Scream for Ice Cream
- Aug. 8:** It's A Circus
- Sept. 12:** Fiesta
- Oct. 10:** Creepy Critters
- Nov. 14:** Thank You, Veterans
- Dec. 12:** Light Up the Seasons

Out & About

SODOKU Sudoku is everywhere. It's in the newspapers, magazines, on-line, TV and cell phone games. Take a one time fun class to learn "how to" solve these brain teasers from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Get a free paperback Sudoku game book (while supplies last) after class. Cost is \$1.25. Call 556-4511.

EARLY ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE Jim Anderson will perform early hits from Elvis Presley such as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Hound Dog," "Don't Be Cruel," "Jailhouse Rock" and more at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

ED KINNEY LECTURE SERIES "An Evening with John Sutter" will kick off the 2012 Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture Series, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. John Sutter was a California man both revered and ruined by the discovery of gold at his mill. The new "An Evening

with..." series lets audiences come face to face with people who made history. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for members and seniors, and \$3 for students/teachers with ID. Call 462-2766.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE This group will host a candlelight Vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11, in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. The group will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor our veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Additionally, there will be a Peaceful War Protest from 5-6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the corners of First and Neal streets. For information, contact Cathie Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net, or visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

JUDY RICE WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPES Judy Rice will show her watercolor landscapes at Garre Winery from Jan. 3-Feb. 9, at the winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; and 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday.



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United in friendship: Yellowstone National Park was the destination last summer for Ken and Cindy Nielsen, Pam and Curtis Boggs, Patti and Bruce Takens — and their Pleasanton Weeklies.

READERS TAKE US ALONG



Pagodas of Myanmar: Dennis and Evelyn de Freitas visit a glittering pagoda in Myanmar along with their Pleasanton Weekly.



The ole Mississipp: Patrick Gearty and cousin Melissa Engstrom share a Weekly on the Mississippi River in Minnesota.



Aloha, Oahu: Alex and Jasmine Benito enjoy their Pleasanton Weekly in front of Diamond Head Crater on the island of Oahu.



Jamali clan: Dean, Sean and JJ Jamali enjoy the beach in Cancun, Mexico, with their Weekly.



Half Dome hike: Nick Vallerga and Debbie Russell, Weekly in hand, brave the “cables” and slip by three bears to complete the Half Dome Hike, a 10-hour round trip, last summer.



Weekly hikes to the top: Emma and Sam Buck packed the Weekly to climb Mount Vesuvius, near Naples, Italy, in July.



Don't forget Paris: Dan, Andrew, Robbie and Janeen Brumm visit the Eiffel Tower while on their two-week European vacation last summer, traveling to London, Paris and Rome.



Rossi remember the Weekly: Rossi sisters JC, Sue, Geneva and Michaela cruise to Ensenada with the Pleasanton Weekly to celebrate sixth annual sister's trip.



Sand, sun and the Weekly: Isabel McElroy, Sean Sanders, Alejandra McElroy and Kate Sanders of Pleasanton enjoy Lake Tahoe with the Weekly.



Off to the races: R.T. Green of Pleasanton finished fourth last summer in his 2009 Corvette Z06 in the Sandhills Open Road Challenge in Arnold, Neb., a challenging 52-mile open road race.



Great art and the Weekly: Al Copher catches up on his hometown news under the Inverted Triangle while touring the Louvre in Paris.



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

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Author Visits

GUJARATI KITCHEN (INDIAN) COOKBOOK LAUNCH Meet the Bhanu Hajratwala, author of "Gujarati Kitchen," at 1 p.m., Jan. 15, at 847 East Angela St. The book has treasured family recipes starting from basic spices. This event is free, but reservations are required; call 846-3521.

Classes

CONVERSATIONAL GERMAN FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS Livermore Adult Community Education is offering German classes from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, from Jan. 11 to March 14. This is an on-going class, but each session has a new theme and new students are welcome. Effective communication is fostered through sources such as online news, short videos, music, magazine articles and literature. Cost is \$140. Call 606-4722 or go to www.livermoreadulted.org.

CONVERSATIONAL GERMAN FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS Livermore Adult Community Education is offering Conversational German for Intermediate Students from 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays from Jan. 10 to March 13. New students are welcome. Cost is \$140 for 10 sessions. Call 606-4722 or go to www.livermoreadulted.org.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING Learn the best pruning techniques to maximize your fruit harvest. Care, feeding and pest control will also be covered. The free class is from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, and at 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. No registration is necessary. Call 462-1760 or visit www.WesternGardenNursery.com.

GO WILD, GO BIRDING! Come bird watching at the Alviso Adobe Community Park and learn some birding basics from 1-2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, at the park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Make your own bird book and bird house and discover the fun sport of birding! Cost is \$3 for residents; \$5 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

HIDDEN WORLDS Travel into little seen worlds; the macroscopic and microscopic universes where you'll be in for some big surprises, from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 21, 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.

PIGMENT-MAKING AND CAVE-PAINTING Learn to make pigments from some of the materials nature provides from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 14, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Use the pigments to make cave paintings like those who lived on this land before us. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

ROSE PRUNING Learn the basics of pruning bush, tree and climbing roses. Care, feeding and pest control will also be covered. This is a free class taught by Lita Gates of Western Garden Nursery. The class

is from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, and 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 15, at the nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760 or visit www.WesternGardenNursery.com.

Clubs

DBE (DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE) Welcome to ladies of British or British Commonwealth Heritage. DBE holds monthly meetings at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday at Castlewood Country Club. Members focus on philanthropy, enjoy social interaction and form long-lasting friendships while contributing to local charities and supporting retirement homes in the USA. Call Edith at 998-3500.

JOE TUMAN CBS SPEAKER TriValley Democratic Club monthly meeting will host Joe Tuman, Political Analyst at CBS, Chair of Communication Studies at SF State and author, to speak about politics and communications. Free meeting will take place 7-9 p.m., Monday, Jan. 16, at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin. Call 451-4303 or visit www.trivalleydems.com. Refreshments. Public invited. Dublin.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12, Alisal Elementary's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contra Costa master gardener Janet Miller will speak on non-toxic rodent control. Visitors are welcome. Call Bev at 485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

RING IN 2012 WITH YOUR GNON SISTERS! Celebrate 2012 at a special GNON "New Years" event hosted by Comerica Bank from 5:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12, at the bank, 600 Main St. Enjoy great food, drinks and networking. Cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Reservations are due by Jan. 10 to gnoners@gmail.com.

TRI-VALLEY CARES Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs) is holding its next monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library from 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19. The organization was founded in 1983 by concerned neighbors of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, one of two locations where all US nuclear weapons are designed. Tri-Valley CAREs monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the U.S., with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities; its overarching mission is to promote peace, justice and a healthy environment. Call 443-7148 or visit <http://www.trivalleycares.org/>.

Concerts

DAVID LANZ Firehouse Arts Center will host the return of Grammy-nominated composer David Lanz at 8 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, at the center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$18, \$20 and \$22 for adults; \$22 for seniors; and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.davidlanz.com or www.firehousearts.org.

Events

EVERYTHING POETRY Poet Laureate, Cynthia Bryant, will host "Everything Poetry" in two parts with "Second Saturday Soup" from 10 a.m.-noon, on the second Saturday of every month, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.; and "Third Tuesday Trope" from 7-9 p.m., on the third Tuesday of every month, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. E-mail Cynthia at pleasantonpoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

FARMERS MARKET Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

FREE HEALTH SEMINARS Did you know that mood, anxiety and attention issues can be caused by underlying health issues? Lynne Mielke, M.D., will discuss these issues at Optimal Health Spectrums, 4463 Stoneridge Drive Suite A from 3-6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14: 3-3:30 p.m., Achieving Mental Health; 4-4:30 p.m., The Amazing HCG Diet; 5-5:30 p.m., The Miracle of Bioidentical Hormones. Seminars are free. Call 846-8000.

HAPPY HOUR WITH WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join us for Happy Hour in Pleasanton from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Sheraton Hotel across from Penney's in Stoneridge Shopping Center. RSVP to Kathy at 398-8005 by Tuesday, Jan. 17. Your choice of food and/or beverage

JULIETTE GOODRICH AAUW SPEAKER Emmy Award winning TV news anchor and reporter Juliette Goodrich will speak to the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21. The meeting, at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, is free and open to the public. Juliette has also written two children's books. Call Vicki-Dawn at 484-3321.

WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join us at the Brass Door Restaurant, 2154 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, for a General Meeting and Birthday Luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 15. RSVP to Marsha at 830-8483 by Saturday, Jan. 7. Cost is your menu choice.

WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN LUNCH The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join them for lunch at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Red Robin Restaurant, 4803 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton. RSVP to Janet by Jan. 16 at 443-3317. Cost is your menu choice.

WINTER SKIES Come out and view the stars above when the sky really

puts on a great show! Enjoy games and hands-on activities that will aid in the search for answers from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Dress with the weather in mind. Cost is \$5 for residents; \$7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

Exhibits

'ELOQUENCE IN PRINTMAKING' Blue Bay Press is presenting "Eloquence in Printmaking" from Jan. 19 to Feb. 18 at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., with an Artists' Reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 19. Exhibit includes several styles of printmaking such as etching, monotype, chine colle, and woodblock, on handmade paper, canvas, and other surfaces. For more information, visit www.firehousearts.org.

Film

PRAIRIE GIANT: THE TOMMY DOUGLAS STORY This film is a dramatization based on the man voted the "Greatest Canadian Ever," the Rev. Tommy Douglas. It is the inspiring story of the founding and creation of most of the freedoms that Canadians now enjoy. Meet and greet potluck begins at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 14, while a short discussion follows the film, which begins at 7 p.m. Free but \$3 donation is appreciated. Venue is IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. For more information, call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

RAGIN CAJUN - DINNER AND DANCE Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation will host its fourth annual "Ragin Cajun" event from 6:30-11 p.m., Friday, March 2, at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. The Mardi Gras themed dinner, dance, silent and live auction sold out last year. Tickets are \$85. Call (866) 862-7270 or visit www.healingtherapies-foundation.org.

SLEEP TRAIN'S PAJAMA DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS Help make sure California's 60,000 foster kids sleep tight tonight by donating new pajamas to Sleep Train's annual Pajama Drive for Foster Kids from Jan. 2-Feb. 16. Drop off donations of new pajamas in all sizes at 6050 Johnson Dr., Suite C. Call 469-1284.

WORK OUT FOR CANCER VICTIMS Tri Valley Trainer will host an Open House benefit from noon-5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7, at Tri Valley Trainer, 3724 E. Stanley Blvd. Cost is \$25. Proceeds benefit the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. Attend any or all of our group exercise classes, including yoga, boxing, zumba, cardio/strength/pilates. Call 413-2268 or visit <http://trivalleytrainer.com>.

Health

DEVIL MOUNTAIN OCD SUPPORT AND INFORMATION Beginning after the first of the year, this group will meet monthly for parents and adults who have or have a family member dealing with OCD from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19.

Discussion will center on proper diagnosis, finding help and the use of CBT, ERP and medications. Similar issues such as BDD, skin picking, will be discussed. For information, call 648-4800 or visit www.behaviorquest.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

'SAVE MY HOME' WORKSHOP Solance Realty Group is hosting a free workshop at 5994 W. Las Positas Blvd. to help homeowners in the process of or facing foreclosure review options available. The workshop is a nationally recognized program provided by a nonprofit HUD certified agency. Registration is required to attend this event, which is from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 7. Email info@solanceteam.com or call Christine at 322-4300.

PHILOSOPHERS' CAFE Philosophers' Café, an informal gathering to discuss ideas, will hold its January meeting from 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 8, at Cafe Rumi, 4799 Heyer in Castro Valley. The topic is "Is Human Nature basically competitive or cooperative?" Event is sponsored by Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Cost is \$5. Call 240-5612 or visit www.tri-valleyculturaljews.org.

On Stage

'ANNIE' Nonprofit Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting "Annie" from Jan. 21-Feb. 5 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$27.50-\$37.50; visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org or call 373-6800.

'THE LAST FIVE YEARS' Pacific Coast Repertory is presenting "The Last Five Years" at 8 p.m. Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28; and at 2 p.m. Jan. 22 and 29, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. in Pleasanton. It is the story of the five-year relationship of rising novelist Jamie Wellerstein and struggling actress Cathy Hyatt, told from their two perspectives. Tickets are \$18-\$33. Visit www.firehousearts.org or call 931-4848.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED This club will meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12, at Cattlemen's, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Guest speaker will be Roseanne from the Northern Division of Republican Women Federated. Cost is \$26 for members; \$30 for non-members. E-mail coupclan1962@pacbell.net.

Seniors

LIVING WITH VISION LOSS Have you or a loved one experienced vision loss? A free overview of blind rehabilitation services will be presented from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Topics presented will include causes of vision loss, ways to handle and adjust psycho-socially to vision loss, sensory awareness, exams and devices, along with rights and resources. Call Amy at 931-5365.

Sports

TEAM IN TRAINING INFO MEETING Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training (TNT), the largest and most successful endurance sports training and fundraising pro-

gram, will inspire and support you to achieve your goal of an endurance event. Attend a meeting from 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call 800-78-TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf.

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January is pruning month at Western Garden Nursery

Freshen up on your pruning skills by attending one of our free pruning classes in January. Care, feeding and pest control will also be covered.



All Classes are free.

Saturday classes start at 10 am.
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Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5
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Holiday Fund 2011 donors

Since the launch of the 2011 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 434 donors have contributed \$141,517.40 to the fund, which includes \$50,000 that was matched by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. 63 anonymous donors have given \$11,275 of that total. With a deadline of January 13, the donation form is available online at pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund/

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 Dody Guasco from The Swain Family 250
 Richard Brierly from Stephanie Brierly England .. 100
 Rick Aguiar from Nancy Aguiar Fargis **
 Harold & Michael Consedine 100
 Donald D. Reid from George & Susan Reid.. 100
 Michael Gable from The Michelotti Family .. 100
 Richard Marshall from Sandra Holliday..... 100
 Lola Palladino from Mr. & Mrs. R. Barsanti. 100
 Grandpa Ray from Jeff Ulatoski..... 150
 Grandpa Tom from Kevin & Annie Sjordahl .. 150
 Carol Kimberling from Bob & Marie Smochko . **
 Owen Saupe from Rebecca Saupe **
 Fred Baker from Mary Ellen Baker 100
 Doris Cink & Charles Glass from Vern & Tracy Cink..... **
 Sandy English from Jeff English 100
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 Ray & Stella Gatlin and Henry & Lynne Corrigan from Harold, Gena & Wayne Gatlin **
 Karen Elsnab, Tom Elsnab & Chuck Volonte from Jon & Linda Elsnab..... 150
 Gene O'Brien from the Wednesday Tennis Gals . **
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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• PTR 7721, Ponderosa Homes, Carol Lehman, and William and Kathryn Selway

Application for a Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map to subdivide an approximately 19.6 acre property at 3157 Trenery Drive and 2313 Martin Avenue into 31 lots for 29 new single-family homes and two lots for two existing homes; and ten remainder parcels for land to be conveyed to adjacent owners.

• P11 0818, Lake Tahoe Land Company

Application for a Conditional Use Permit for a shelter/ animal adoption center/animal rehabilitation center (Maddie's Center) at 4280 Hacienda Drive.

• PADR 2090, Rodney and Trina Lopez

Application for a modification to a previously approved Administrative Design Review application (Case PADR 2090) for additions totaling approximately 1,118 square feet at 6114 Homer Court to modify Condition No. 8 of City Council Resolution 11 420 regarding a skylight.

• P11 0997, City of Pleasanton

Recommend approval to the City Council of an amendment to the City of Pleasanton General Plan Air Quality and Climate Change Element to adopt a Climate Action Plan by reference.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Status Report of the Youth Master Plan Oversight Committee Work Plan
- Review of FY 2011/12 Community Grant Midterm Reports

Library Commission

Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Commission Retreat Results discussion
- Literacy and Adult Programs presentation
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
 Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force

Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
 Operation Services, 3333 Busch Road

The City's 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. The task force's discussions will be focused on areas including public safety, music and entertainment, outdoor activities and transportation.

To be added to the email list for agenda packets and additional Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force information, please email your request to tsnyder@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For further information or questions, see our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/business/planning/DH/DowntownHospitality.html

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



Aloha hoops

The Amador Valley High School boys varsity basketball team played in the Merv Lopes Hoops Classic in Oahu, Hawaii, Dec. 26-Jan. 1, and came in third out of 16. They also remembered to bring along their hometown reading.

The Dons returned home to open EBAL play at De La Salle on Jan. 3, which they lost, 66-28. Nick Ruotolo and Zac Liu scored 10 points for the Dons, then Ruotolo tied the game with a four-point play halfway through the first quarter before De La Salle began to prevail.

PREP LINE-UP

Jan. 6

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. San Ramon, away
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, home

Jan. 7

- Wrestling: 9 a.m., Foothill at Granada Tournament, away
- Boys Soccer: 1 p.m., AVHS vs. Newark, away

Jan. 10

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, home
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Livermore, home
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, away
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. California, home
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, home
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, away

Jan. 11

- Wrestling: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. San

Ramon, away

Jan. 12

- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. Carondelet, away
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. De La Salle, home
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home
- Wrestling: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away

Jan. 13

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, home
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. California, home
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, away

Jan. 14

- Wrestling: 9:30 a.m., Foothill at Clayton Valley Tournament, away

Jan. 17

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. California, home
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Monte Vista, away
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. California, away
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. AVHS, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. AVHS, home



Seahawks score 2nd at sectionals

Despite the cold outdoor venue at Golden West College, the Pleasanton Seahawks placed second overall out of 10 teams in the large team division at the Winter Sectionals in Huntington Beach from Dec. 16-20.

From the Senior Elite group: Celina Li was High Point Winner, Allison Brown was 2nd High Point Winner, and Marissa Brown was 5th High Point Winner. In addition, Celina set one Sectional Record (400 IM) and one Pacific Swimming 15-16 Record (100 fly).

From the Senior group: New Team Record — Jason Chen 15-16 boys 100 Back (51.11); PLS Top Ten Swims — Katie Woods 13-14 girls 50/100/500 free, 100 fly; Moriah Simonds 13-14 girls 50/100/200/500/1000/1650 free; Cayla Jetter 15-16 girls 100 backstroke; Tony Shen 15-16 boys 100/200/500 free; Jason Chen 15-16 boys 50/100/200 free, 100/200 back, 200 IM; Maxime Rooney 13-14 boys 100/200/500/1000/1650 free, 100/200 fly; Maxime had six swims that are No. 1 nationally: 100/200/500/1000/1650 free, and 100 fly; Hannah Bergh had 100% Lifetime Best swims; and Kevin McLaughlin swam very well.

SPORTS DIGEST

Amador ties Monte Vista in opening EBAL soccer

The 0-2 Amador Dons soccer team came into their match against the Monte Vista Mustangs in the East Bay Athletic League opener Tuesday knowing a loss would put a serious dent in any hopes to go all the way this season but were unable to get into a much needed offensive flow. At halftime, the Dons were down with a 1-0 score.

In the second half the Dons passing game began to click and there was

an offensive flow as the ball was being passed with precision and pressure on the Monte Vista defense increased. Jason Chow took a pass from Dane Shaffar down the left flank, then into the Mustang box and toward the goal. The Monte Vista defender took the ball away from Chow with a hard challenge but the ball ended up 29 yards from the Mustang goal. Defender Tyler Pangia read the clear all the way and was first to the ball. Pangia sent a rocket that ate up the back of the net and brought the crowd at the Fabled Amador Pitch to their feet as the Dons tied the match at 1-1. Play intensified for both sides but neither team was able to net the elusive game winner and the final whistle blew

with the match tied at 1-1.

With the tie the Dons are now 0-2-1 in league and 7-4-1 overall.

Tri-Valley Futsal registration opens

The Tri-Valley Futsal season will start Feb. 25 and will end in late April, typically one day a week with no games during spring break. Find more information at www.trivalleyunited.com. Cost is \$90 per player, \$720 per team.

Gym locations are in Dublin for the five-a-side indoor soccer play. Tri-Valley United has a Super Juniors program for training U6 and U7 soccer players.

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135 Group Activities

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155 Pets



Missing Orange Tabby Cat
Hellion has been missing since April. Lost near Sutter Gate and Stoneridge Drive near the Arroyo. He is short haired with a long skinny tail. He is a large cat with a white chin and dark orange short hair. He has green eyes is neutered and microchipped. REWARD OFFERED. Any info call Melissa 510-381-3261.



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PET OF THE WEEK

Charming Holly

Meet Holly, a charming lady looking for love. Before she came to Valley Humane Society, she was alone in this big world with nowhere to go. Its workers rescued her in early December



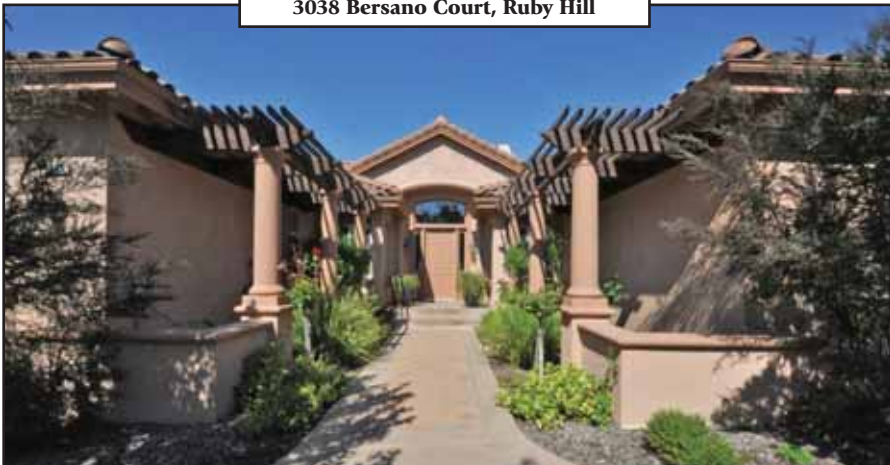
TRINA CORT

and have helped to make her very happy but now it is time Holly finds her forever home. At only a year old, she is spirited and intelligent and greets every person she meets in hopes that she will become their canine companion. To learn more, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton and is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE
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LISTINGS

Home sales down, but getting better

By JEB BING

Pending home sales in California fell in November but were up from the previous year for the seventh consecutive month.

Additionally, the California Association of Realtors reported that distressed home sales dropped in November from both the previous month and year.

Pending home sales

California pending home sales fell 9.1% in November but were up from a year ago, according to CAR's Pending Home Sales Index. The index was 109.8 in November, based on contracts signed in that month, down from October's index of a revised 120.9. However, the index was up 11% from November 2010, marking the seventh consecutive month that pending sales rose from the previous year.

Pending home sales are forward-looking indicators of future home sales activity, providing information on the future direction of the market.

"The strong year-over-year growth in pending sales observed in the last several months suggests we should see an increase in December's closed sales over the same month last year," said CAR President LeFrancis Arnold.

Distressed housing market data

■ At 55.1%, equity sales made up more than half of home sales in November, up from 53.9% in October and 54.4% in November 2010.

■ The total share of all distressed property types sold statewide fell to 44.9% in November, down from October's 46.1% and 45.6% in November 2010.

■ Of the distressed properties sold statewide in November, 21% were short sales, up slightly from the previous month's share of 20.7% and up from last November's share of 19%.

At 23.5%, the share of REO sales was down from October's 24.9%, and down from the 26.2% reported in November 2010. ■

Workshops tomorrow to help home sellers, buyers

Professionals to offer advice to avoid foreclosures

Two "home buyers" workshops that are designed to help individuals trying to sell or wanting to buy home without any down payment or closing costs have been scheduled tomorrow at Keller Williams Realty, 5994 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton.

The workshops, which are being sponsored by the Solance Realty Group, are free and aimed at offering professional guidance for both homeowners and potential buyers.

According to Real Estate Consultant Christine Jeffers, the workshops "will also be of

tremendous help to those homeowners who are particularly at risk of losing their home and need to sell their homes."

The workshops will be seeking to address two separate needs. The morning session, scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon, will address the specific needs of "home buyers," while the 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. workshop will focus on home owners who need to sell their homes, Jeffers said.

For more information, contact Jeffers at 322-4300 or sign onto the Solance website at <http://SolanceTeam.com/>. ■

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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1311 Laverock Lane \$2,799,000
Sun 1-4 Michael Hatfield Broker 984-1339

Blackhawk

3 BEDROOMS

306 Live Oak Drive \$879,000
Sun 1-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

4 BEDROOMS

69 White Pine Lane \$1,450,000
Sun 1:30-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

Danville

5 BEDROOMS

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Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Livermore

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140 Lee Ave \$479,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 583-2175

5 BEDROOMS

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Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 398-6706

1097 Lexington Wy \$819,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 577-5787

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

5744 San Carlos Way \$780,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

2751 Labacca Court \$610,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

4 BEDROOMS

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

2913 Amoroso Ct \$1,090,000
Sun 1-3 Keller Williams Tri-valley 463-0436

4493 Holland Dr \$559,950
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 463-0436

7114 Corte Balboa \$769,950
Sun 1-4 Prudential CA Realty 989-7639

5 BEDROOMS

1108 Crellin Rd \$895,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 998-4311

2248 Kamp Ct \$1,149,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

430 Adams Wy \$839,000
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers Real Estate 846-3755

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

71 Carousel Pl \$499,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc 855-4000

4 BEDROOMS

812 Barnwood Dr \$619,900
Sun 1:30-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc 648-5300

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<p>1225 LOZANO COURT RUBY HILL</p> <p>BED 6 BA 7(2) 8,877+/- Sq.Ft. 0.65+/- ACRES</p> <p>Stunning, classic Italian Villa in one of Bay Area's most desirable locations. Catch your breath & prepare for what lies beyond the gorgeous entry of this estate. Nestled in an unrivaled setting among olive trees & lush landscaping w/ mile long views of vineyards.</p> <p>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM 925.251.2568</p>	<p>9999 LONGVIEW LN PLEASANTON</p> <p>BED 6 BA 5(3) 8,330+/- Sq.Ft. 3.85+/- ACRES</p> <p>A gated westside French Chateau custom estate with stunning grounds, elevator, private tennis court, indoor pool, casino/theater, 450 gal salt water fish tank, finished attic, vista terrace etc. Incredible level of detail!</p> <p>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM 925.251.2568</p>	<p>7818 FLAGSTONE DR STONERIDGE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3 2,200+/- Sq.Ft. 0.23+/- ACRES</p> <p>Semi-custom home loaded w/ upgrades. Newer roof with skylights. Newer interior & exterior paint, windows, and updated master bath with sunken tub. Gorgeous backyard with outdoor kitchen, hot tub, and solar-heated pool. Side access boat or RV.</p> <p>GREG FIELDING 925.855.4029</p>	<p>5775 JOHNSTON RD PLEASANTON</p> <p>BED 3 BA 2 2,474+/- Sq.Ft. 4.10+/- ACRES</p> <p>Come Experience Country Living - prestigious Tassajara Ranches, mins to vibrant Shopping & Entertainment. Newer roof, paint & carpet.+office, plantation shutters, central vaccum, bath/heated floors, new irrigation system. Barn/Garage w/ 2+ stalls.</p> <p>CORTEZ & PESTAL 925.648.5300</p>	<p>7923 SAWGRASS CT GOLDEN EAGLE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3.5 4,320+/- Sq.Ft. 0.68+/- ACRES</p> <p>Welcome to this exceptional home located in the prestigious gated community of Golden Eagle in Pleasanton. Remodeled and upgraded throughout with exquisite attention to detail.</p> <p>WEINER McDOWELL GROUP 925.251.2550</p>
<p>1695 GERMANO WAY RUBY HILL</p> <p>BED 5 BA 6.5 7,330+/- Sq.Ft. 0.65+/- ACRES</p> <p>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>THE UWE MAERCZ TEAM 925.251.2568</p>	<p>4614 BLACK AVE PLEASANT VALLEY</p> <p>BED 3 BA 2 1,377+/- Sq.Ft. 0.17+/- ACRES</p> <p>A rare find for a single level home on a corner lot in the Pleasant Valley District. Upgraded windows and roof last six years. Walking distance to schools, Amador Community Park and Post Office. Close to downtown.</p> <p>TOM BRAMELL 925.583.2180</p>	<p>7903 DRY CREEK DR DUBLIN</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3.5 3,449+/- Sq.Ft. 0.20+/- ACRES</p> <p>Resort style backyard with pool. 4 bedrooms + large loft, 3 car garage, cul-de-sac location, numerous upgrades including cherry cabinets, slab granite, upgraded flooring, wrought iron, Brazilian cherrywood flooring. Don't miss this one!</p> <p>THE JOE FRAZZANO TEAM 925.735.7653</p>	<p>7781 CLIFDEN COURT THE RIDGE</p> <p>BED 5 BA 5 4,606+/- Sq.Ft. 0.47+/- ACRES</p> <p>Magnificent Former Model Estate built by Taylor Woodrow! Every option you could imagine; natural stone, marble, hardwood, wood paneling, crown mouldings, built-in speakers & more! Master suite w/ retreat & balcony. Panoramic views. a kind</p> <p>THE JOE FRAZZANO TEAM 925.735.7653</p>	<p>8615 MINES RD LIVERMORE</p> <p>LOTS AND LAND 16.53+/- ACRES</p> <p>Extraordinary 16.5 Acre Horse property. Property has 3 wells. A beautiful 5800 William Poole Three Story traditional home has been designed. The plan is negotiable to go with property. Site has been approved for 8 stall barn.</p> <p>CAROLE CLINE 925.683.0488</p>
<p>3056 RIVERS BEND CIR NEW PRICE</p> <p>BED 5 BA 3.5 2,878+/- Sq.Ft. 0.12+/- ACRES</p> <p>Gorgeous. 5th bed room converted into suite and attached to master bedroom, to relax, to watch movie privately/withfriends of choice. Has formal living room and family room, travertine/carpet floor, granite counter top, shutters, fully landscaped.</p> <p>MAX DE VRIES 925.251.2514</p>	<p>140 LEE AVENUE LIVERMORE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3 2,080+/- Sq.Ft. 0.13+/- ACRES</p> <p>Spacious 2 Story Home w/ Lovely added Bonus Room & Bedroom w/ Separate Entry. 4 Bed - 3 updated Ba. Refinished Hardwood Floors. Relaxing family rm adjacent to Updated Eat-In Kitchen. Mature Landscaping & even a Balcony for your relaxation.</p> <p>TOM E. CHANCE 925.583.2175</p>	<p>533 STARLING AVE LIVERMORE</p> <p>BED 3 BA 2 1,328+/- Sq.Ft. 0.15+/- ACRES</p> <p>Come see this 3 bedroom 2 bath Corner lot home, before its to late! It also has side yard access. REO/ Bank owned.</p> <p>DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580</p>	<p>7793 PEPPERTREE RD SILVERGATE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3 2,240+/- Sq.Ft. 0.21+/- ACRES</p> <p>Desirable Westside in Silvergate Highlands! Laminate & wood flrs, dual pane windows, updated kit & baths. Master bd downstairs w/ private bath. Amazing parklike yard on 2 lots with RV access. Minutes to 580/680 & BART, schools, shopping & restaurants.</p> <p>CATHY DEAN & KARI WAHL 925.200.4130</p>	<p>2889 RUTHERFORD CT LIVERMORE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 3.5 3,504+/- Sq.Ft. 0.30+/- ACRES</p> <p>Wonderfully location at the end of a cul-de-sac, near vineyards & open fields. Spacious entry way, gourmet kitchen & grand master bedroom suite. This home has a large backyard w/ a private apartment/office above the garage.</p> <p>SARAH ARNOLD 925.253.7074</p>
<p>3322 EAST AVENUE LIVERMORE</p> <p>BED 1 BA 1 432+/- Sq.Ft. 0.51+/- ACRES</p> <p>Great development opportunity on this half acre lot. Zoned RG-16 - up to 8 units possible.</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ 925.251.2568</p>	<p>11215 LAS PALMAS COURT HACIENDA HEIGHTS</p> <p>BED 4 BA 2.5 2,616+/- Sq.Ft. 0.57+/- ACRES</p> <p>Fantastic showplace! Beautiful Views. Remodeled kitchen with a chefs flair, customized. Family room w/ home theater. Designer touches Hardwood floors up and down stairs. Views from Diablo to Plesanton. Newer dual pane windows and french doors.</p> <p>MARK TRAIKOFF 925.855.4115</p>	<p>3429 ASHBOURNE CIRCLE NORRIS CANYON</p> <p>BED 5 BA 5.5 5,017+/- Sq.Ft. 0.33+/- ACRES</p> <p>This Norris Canyon, San Ramon beauty backs up to open space and the Bishop Ranch Regional Open Space. Features a wonderful pool and waterfall, spa and an excellent space for outdoor entertaining.</p> <p>DAVID AZIMI 925.251.2580</p>	<p>30156 PALOMARES RD CASTRO VALLEY</p> <p>BED 3 BA 1.5 1,410+/- Sq.Ft. 24.1+/- ACRES</p> <p>Great Ranch style on 24 acres, views of the rolling hills. Property Backs up to the park district, lots of room for horses, Home has 1930's charm and has been nicely maintained, Near 2 wineries and minutes from the freeway, schools and shopping!</p> <p>KRISTY AND COMPANY 925.251.2536</p>	<p>1524 GREEN VALLEY DANVILLE</p> <p>BED 4 BA 2.5 2,402+/- Sq.Ft. 0.23+/- ACRES</p> <p>Custom built rancher completed in 2007. Open floor plan. Chef's kitchen w/custom island, walnut cabinets, granite slab, + SS appl. Distressed walnut hrdwd floors. Amazing bathrooms. Ringed-shaped extended gated driveway/ detached oversized gar.</p> <p>MICHAEL SWIFT & ASSOCIATES 925.251.2588</p>

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

Blackhawk West
3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

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

Livermore
1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

Montclair/Piedmont
6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200
Oakland, CA 94611
510.339.4800

Pleasanton
5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Orinda
89 Davis Rd.,
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2011

Dublin

- 6627 Adare Lane** Dublin Tralee to W. Tang for \$365,000
- 4220 Clarinbridge Circle** N. Challa to Tip Fund for \$285,000
- 3478 Cydonia Court** KB Home to N. & G. Fong for \$770,000
- 5501 De Marcus Boulevard #235** C. Kung to G. Kung for \$330,000
- 4691 Finch Way** D. Suassuna to L. Parampath for \$668,000
- 3661 Finnan Way** P. & M. Tweed to S. Mckiernan for \$350,000
- 5291 Gilford Court** A. Bahou to J. Chen for \$490,000
- 7300 Ione Court** Masterpole Trust to J. Ha for \$387,000
- 3251 Monaghan Street** R. Duque to M. Full for \$350,000
- 4829 Perugia Street** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to C. & D. White for \$434,500
- 4643 Rimini Court #65** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to K. Godavarthi for \$600,000
- 7599 Silvertree Lane** Wells Fargo Bank to M. & L. Miller for \$239,000

Livermore

- 2755 1st Street #1504** A. Petersen to W. Roux for \$265,000
- 6338 Altamar Circle** D. Rudish to D. To for \$375,000
- 6347 Altamar Circle** R. & D. Clarin to J. & L. Cortes for \$355,000
- 5494 Arrowhead Court** J. & D. Macleod to J. Sanchez for \$440,000
- 6351 Bluebonnet Common** R. & T. Willson to K. Holliday for \$420,000
- 2021 Buckskin Road** US Bank to W. Hillmer for \$312,000
- 2363 Chateau Way** Manis Trust to T. & G. Reynolds for \$525,000
- 2431 Covey Way** T. & C. Sosine to M. Witherspoon for \$970,000

- 1018 Cromwell Street** Z. Li to J. & C. Hollingsworth for \$412,000
- 2181 Fernbrook Common** J. & A. Antony to N. Ong for \$340,000
- 4019 Guilford Avenue** J. & M. Kordas to D. Chung for \$565,000
- 488 Jensen Street** Federal National Mortgage to D. Clark for \$215,000
- 1803 Keeler Street** J. & G. Cruz to S. Kwan for \$650,000
- 1847 Keeler Street** P. & S. Seymon to K. Koenen for \$630,000
- 4847 Maureen Circle** Department of Housing to H. Haley for \$448,000
- 1991 Meadow Glen Drive** Wells Fargo Bank to L. Pelz for \$669,500
- 1229 Murdell Lane** Silva Trust to A. & D. Silva for \$240,000
- 1354 North P Street** B. Hackwell to S. & J. Castronovo for \$338,000
- 148 Prato Way** P. & G. Brennan to G. & M. Mcclellan for \$750,000
- 1080 Via Madrid** V. & A. Sanchez to E. McLaren for \$296,000
- 3152 Churchill Downs Lane** Miller Trust to J. Grigoropoulos for \$1,175,000
- 2413 Decker Lane** Long Beach Mortgage to Rod Properties for \$532,000
- 3814 Harvard Way** Bank of America to Pecos Limited for \$220,000
- 996 Logan Street** A. Garruto to P. Mendiola for \$276,000
- 1172 Marigold Road** S. Eads to T. & K. Hoffmann for \$330,000
- 5625 Mt. Hamilton Court** C. Middlekauff to K. & P. Parker for \$450,000
- 4623 Nicol Common #107** D. Villarreal to R. Lanzone for \$170,000
- 1038 Roxanne Street** Deutsche Bank to D. Oliver for \$408,000
- 682 Stetson Court** T. & B. Shingler to M. Lee for \$460,000
- 2153 Walnut Street** Federal National Mortgage to R. Kelly for \$180,000

Pleasanton

- 5636 Belleza Drive** M. Lim to C. Ralph for \$330,000
- 6028 Big Bend Court** K. & B. Sasinski to B. Lin for \$475,000
- 4340 Campinia Place** A. Groves to K. Young for \$1,050,000
- 6974 Corte Mercado** K. & C. Dong to N. Meiyappan for \$658,000
- 4338 Denker Drive** Tri-Valley Golden Investments to K. & T. Lee for \$486,500
- 2305 Foothill Road #2** US Bank to Y. Geng for \$169,000
- 3228 Glenda Court** J. & L. Vanderlip to J. & E. Genberg for \$775,000
- 3451 Gravina Place** J. Mcmanus to D. Shiffman for \$1,142,500
- 2755 Huff Drive** M. & D. Amato to P. & P. Tyagi for \$850,000
- 3159 Lansdown Court** M. Higgins to L. Nguyen for \$520,000
- 4485 Linda Way** J. & L. Armstrong to PGC Partnership for \$575,000
- 4212 Tamur Court** M. Pederson to Tracy Trust for \$502,000

San Ramon

- 2380 Baker Way** Belmont Tool to S. Ayyappan for \$710,000

- 409 Bridle Court** J. Perez to S. & M. Reynoso for \$1,300,000
- 7205 Briza Loop** M. & Z. Latifi to N. Arumugam for \$540,000
- 7265 Briza Loop** Oliva Trust to F. Cheng for \$435,000
- 2769 Canyon Creek Drive** G. & R. Vetter to J. & N. Bunker for \$590,000
- 2404 Cuenca Drive** L. & J. Lussing to C. Chatterjee for \$545,000
- 9727 Davona Drive** Wells Fargo Bank to C. Soebroto for \$473,000
- 5128 East Lakeshore Drive** L. Mangal to J. Mokkupati for \$610,500
- 729 Galemeadow Circle** Integrity Investment Group to V. & A. Dwivedi for \$505,000
- 705 Jadecrest Court** A. Evans to G. & S. Thomas for \$960,000
- 2114 Joree Lane** S. & C. Mackey to P. Lin for \$322,000
- 6225 Lakeview Circle** Harborview Mortgage to N. Brazeau for \$482,000
- 101 Laredo Court** G. & C. Parikh to C. & S. Yenichik for \$608,000
- 2455 Milford Drive** P. Gamboa to G. Pon for \$540,000
- 300 Nicholas Court** B. & R. Snyder to M. Rom for \$735,000
- 215 Weymouth Court** Bank of America to A. Zlotnikov for \$474,000

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5)

Total sales reported: 12
 Lowest sale reported: \$239,000
 Highest sale reported: \$770,000
 Average sales reported: \$439,042

Livermore (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5)

Total sales reported: 10
 Lowest sale reported: \$170,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,175,000
 Average sales reported: \$420,100

Pleasanton (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5)

Total sales reported: 12
 Lowest sale reported: \$169,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,142,500
 Average sales reported: \$627,750

San Ramon (Dec. 11 - Dec. 21)

Total sales reported: 16
 Lowest sale reported: \$322,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,300,000
 Average sales reported: \$614,344

Source: California REsource



BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500

www.blaiselofland.com

Blofland@BlaiseLofland.com

DRE# 00882113

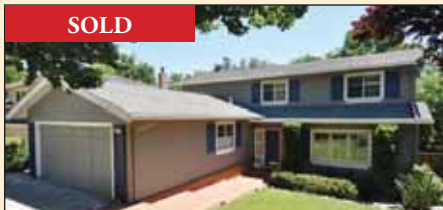
apr.com

WALNUT GLEN ESTATES



3891 PICARD AVENUE, PLEASANTON
 Wow! Better than new because it is done & ready! Extensively designer remodeled, single level, plus upstairs bonus room/au pair/guest quarters! Premium corner .34 acre lot! Four bedrooms plus bonus, four bathrooms, 3588 square feet. Completely remodeled gourmet kitchen with new granite slab countertops, designer backsplash & new stainless appliances. Remodeled bathrooms with granite slab countertops, custom marble flooring & surround. New interior & exterior paint, new carpet, new Travertine flooring! Vaulted ceilings, plantation shutters, crown molding, new door hardware & light fixtures! Security alarm system & intercom! Finished three car garage! Tile roof. Professionally recently upgraded landscaped grounds with spacious lawn area & patios. Award winning Pleasanton schools! Walk to neighborhood parks!
OFFERED AT \$1,269,000

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!
SOLD FOR \$830,000

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 \$1,149,000

KOTTINGER RANCH



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

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 Castledown Country Club. **OFFERED AT \$1,565,000**

FOOTHILL KNOLLS



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

CANYON OAKS



5809 STONECLIFF VISTA LN, PLEASANTON
 Newer 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 & Castledown Country Club.
SOLD FOR \$810,000

LAGUNA OAKS



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





Go to **open.apr.com** for the Bay Area's only complete online open home guide.



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

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$2,049,000
Beautiful Craftsman style quality custom home in Ruby Hill. Rich hardwood floors, 5bd w/ private baths, game room, office, gourmet kitchen w/commercial grade appliances, stunning views of Mt. Diablo. 3720 RABOLI STREET

LINDA TRAUIG BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,799,000
Absolutely stunning custom home features 5bd + bonus room + office on over an acre backing to open space. Recently remodeled kitchen, situated on quiet cul-de-sac. Perfect for entertaining! 8008 ROCKFORD PLACE

MARK KOTCH BY APPT



DANVILLE \$1,650,000
4bd/3.5ba, 3800+/-sf on 5.18+/- acres. Formal living & dining rooms, bonus room and large kitchen. Back yard with pool, spa & gazebo. Abundant room for horses or vines. Private gated entrance. 6650 JOHNSTON RD

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,325,000
Custom built, single level home on 1+/- acre. Open floor plan, updated kitchen, dinette area, breakfast bar, granite counters, formal LR & DR, pool, 2 patios, volleyball court and more! 3623 CAMERON AVE

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,079,000
Charming 4bd/3.5ba, 3,283+/-sf home situated on .50+/-acre cul-de-sac lot. Features granite kitchen, pool, 4 car garage and more. 4184 CREEKWOOD CT

SALLY MARTIN SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$895,000
Stunning hardwood floors & vaulted ceilings. Kitchen has slab granite & lrg brkfst nook. Master with fireplace & fabulous views. Gorgeous pool & spa. 5th bdrm is an office, 4th bdrm is media room. 1108 CRELLIN ROAD

JOYCE JONES SUN 2:00-4:00



LIVERMORE \$860,000
5 bd, 4 ba, cul-de-sac location backing to greenbelt. Kitchen w/tile floors/counters, Sub-Zero refrigerator, large island, family room w/built-in shelving, 2 car garage, side yard access, LOW HOA's! 2459 FRENCH OAK PLACE

JULIA MURTAGH BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$849,000
Walk to Award Winning Schools, downtown Pleasanton and shops, from this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom home. Built in 2003 by KB homes, this home is just under 2900 square feet, and in great condition. 6023 STERLING GREEN CIRCLE

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$799,000
Model sharp home featuring 3bd + loft, downstairs luxurious master suite, sunny granite & maple kitchen, premium location across from open space with private lot and more! 5703 ATHENOUR CT

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$739,950
Absolutely beautiful. Upgraded 5bd/4ba home, 3270+/-sf, granite slab counters, s/s appliances, tile flooring, new carpet, built-in cabinets. A must see! 2235 ROBINSON CIR



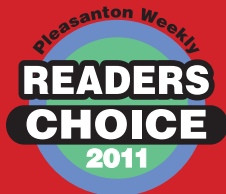
Alain Pinel Realtors not only continues to lead the Bay Area in home sales, but we also rank as the #1 Largest, Privately-Owned Residential Real Estate Firm in California - and #2 Largest in the United States.

In a day when real estate firms proliferate, merge, morph and disappear, APR thrives.

Source: 2011 REAL Trends Top 500 survey, ranked by Closed Sales Volume in 2010

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





KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE
IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES



640 Varese Court, Ruby Hill

This beautiful 5665 sq ft. French Country home offers 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, bonus room, gourmet chef's appointed kitchen, and golf course lot & views. The pool, spa and barbecue island enhance your living and entertaining experience. **Offered at \$1,950,000**



Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
DRE # 01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
925.980.0273
DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497

www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net



7795 Cedar Mountain Drive, Livermore

This gorgeous 16.2 acre Tuscan vineyard estate features a 6,671 sq. ft. home with 7 BR, plus in-law apartment, and 7 BA, plus a beautifully landscaped backyard with a pool, Jacuzzi and waterfall. Includes 14.2 acres of income-producing vineyards. **Offered at \$3,950,000**



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DRE # 01226296 & 00930892

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925.980.0273
DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497

www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net



2600 Ridgewood Rd, Westside Alamo

Spacious 4 bed/2.5 bath Main House with Separate 6-car garage with rec. room and apartment
Sold for \$1,006,000



1405 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton

3 bed/2 bath Patio Villa
Walking distance to Downtown
2 bedrooms on main level
Listed at \$369,000

PEEL SANCHEZ



Danielle Peel & Cristin Kiper Sanchez
REALTOR® Associates
DRE #01293873 & #01479197
925.998.9692
homes@peelsanchez.com
www.peelsanchez.com



Open Sun 1-3

Don't Wait Until Spring... to buy, when you can have the perfect home in Pleasanton right now! Stunning custom home in Vintage Heights home with gourmet granite slab kitchen, high end stainless steel appliances & rich cabinetry. Over 3200 sq ft, 4 bedrooms & a 3 car garage.
Priced at \$1,090,000



Dave & Sue Flashberger

925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com



First Time Open Sun 1-4

Family with Swimsuits... will love the sparkling pool with this 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1800+ sq ft home. Don't miss this spacious one level floor plan. Beautiful paved driveway, new paint and dual pane windows.
Priced at \$559,950



PENDING

1320 Bordeaux Street, Pleasanton
Absolutely gorgeous 4 BR, 3.5 BA home was completely rebuilt in 2005. With generously sized rooms and living areas, the 3825 +/- sq. ft. residence sits on an expansive 19291 +/- sq. ft. lot featuring a private, oasis style backyard with pool and built-in BBQ. **Offered at \$1,190,000**



DeAnna Armario
REALTOR® DRE # 01363180
925.260.2220
www.armariohomes.com



Open Sat/Sun 1-4

1097 Lexington Way, Livermore
Beautiful single story 5 bedroom, 3 bath home in popular Kristopher Ranch. Wonderful floor plan. Backyard is an entertainer's delight complete with pool/waterfall/spa and outdoor BBQ.
Offered at \$819,000



Gail Boal
REALTOR® DRE # 01276455
925.577.5787
www.gailboal.com



1641 Vetta Drive, Livermore

Outstanding 5 bed (6 potential) & 4.5 ba home w/ 3500+ sq ft. 1 bed/ba downstairs. Upgrades throughout including \$27k in solar (no PG&E), new carpet, crown molding, maple cabinets, plantation shutters & great yard for entertaining. **Offered at \$914,900**



Cindy and Gene Williams
REALTORS® DRE # 01370076 and 00607511
925.918.2045
www.williamsteam.net



JUST SOLD

3741 Newton Way, Pleasanton
Fabulous home with all the amenities!! Hardwood floors, Granite kitchen, french doors, aupair suite, bonus room, Large flat professionally landscaped yard with portico and play area. Walk to school. **\$1,290,000**



Melissa Pederson
REALTOR® DRE # 01002251
925.397.4326
www.melissapederson.com



6917 Sunnyslope Ave., Castro Valley

Fabulous Views & Beautiful Home
If you're looking for fabulous views and a beautiful home- this is it! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home with granite counters and travertine tile in the baths. 1.51 +/- acres includes additional buildable lot with sale! Open floor plan & plenty of light. End of the road private location. **Offered at \$698,950**



Natalie Kruger
REALTOR® DRE # 01187582
925.847.7355
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