

Pleasanton Weekly

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2012

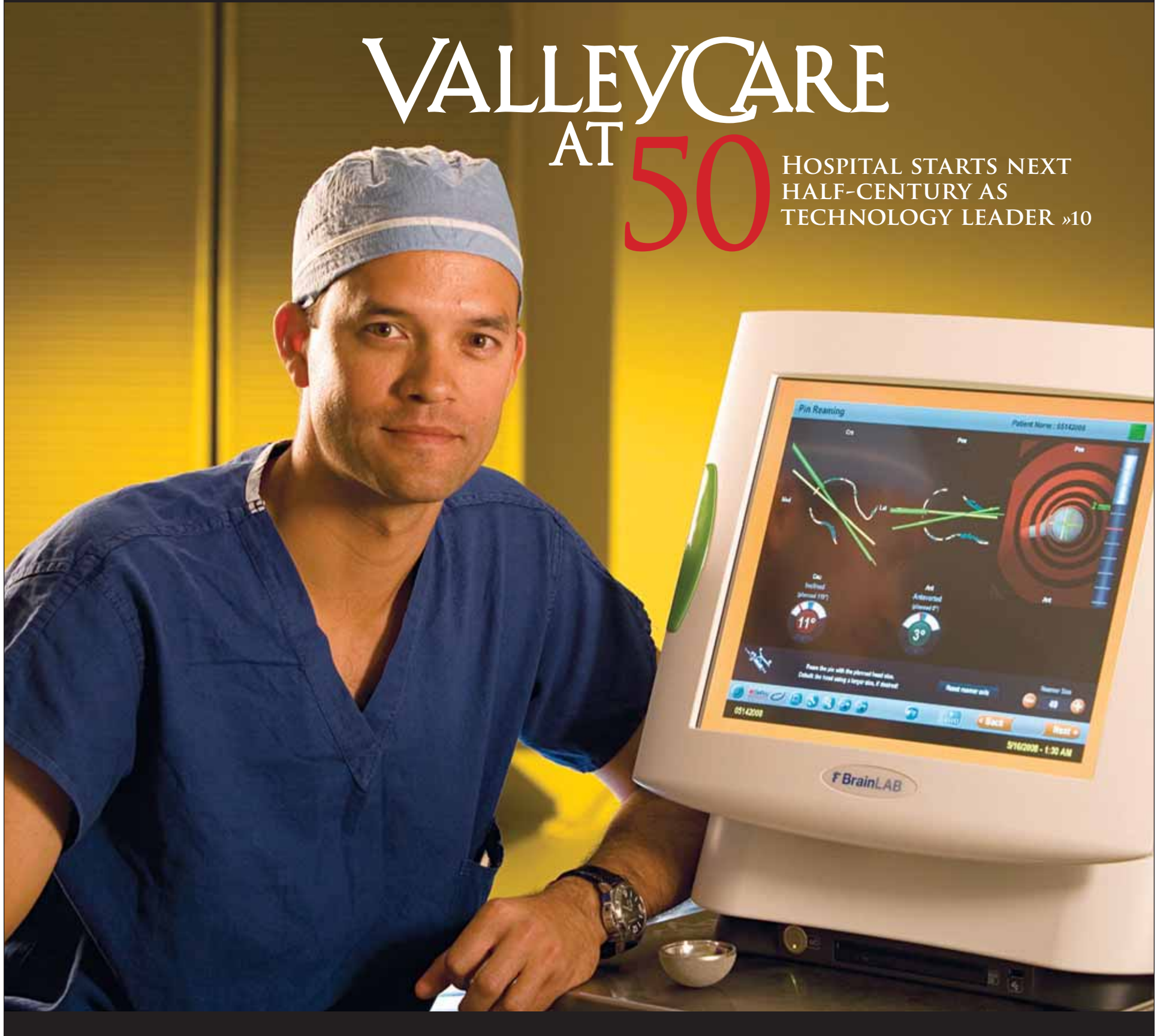


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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Military support like none other

The Pleasanton Military Families support group has been busy holding homecoming ceremonies for the local men and women coming home from Iraq. But that doesn't mean this group's work is done. At one time, more than 200 from Pleasanton served in Iraq and the number in Afghanistan is increasing. PMF's job continues.

Just this past Christmas, PMF sent 250 packages to troops there, along with 14 collapsible Christmas trees and 14 lighted garlands. The group will send spring packets on March 17, with two more mailings set for the year. For the Pleasanton troops, packages from home are bountiful with enough supplies to pass around to fellow soldiers. Several have written back with thanks, reporting that many in their unit seldom receive similar packages of food and supplies from their families, let alone from a group of well-wishers in the communities where they're from.

PMF was organized in 2003 by Chris Miller and Alice Johnston. Several hundred have joined the group since with quite a few staying on to support other families once their own sons or daughters have returned safely. Tracey Buescher, a local Realtor, found plenty of shoulders for her head to rest on after her husband Col. Chris Beuscher, an American Airlines pilot, was deployed to Kuwait a few weeks before the U.S. invaded Iraq. The call came on a Sunday and he was gone by Tuesday. Suddenly, Tracey was left as the sole parent to two daughters, then 8 and 4 years old, and a household to maintain, bills to pay and, as she recalls, the terrible uncertainty as to how long all this would continue. When Col. Beuscher returned late that year, the two devoted more time hosting PMF meetings for the growing number of parents, husbands and wives who were left behind as their loved ones shipped off to Iraq.

Pat Frizzell, a Pleasanton nurse at Kaiser Permanente, said goodbye to her son David when his Marines unit was activated. A priest told her about PMF and

she went to its first meeting. With Tracey Buescher, she's now co-chairing the group, which holds meetings at least twice a month and holds fundraisers throughout the year. Pat recalls that when her son told her he was there for the fall of Baghdad, she had the close friends she's met at PMF to comfort her during the fierce fighting at that time. Even more so today, those coming to PMF meetings whose loved ones are now in Afghanistan need the same kind of camaraderie and comfort that helped her.

PMF is unique in that it is a local organization specifically set up to help those in Pleasanton. Other groups such as Blue Star Moms and the Lafayette Flag Brigade sponsor homecomings, but Miller says he knows of no group like Pleasanton's. Perhaps PMF is best known for the festive homecomings it sponsors when a Pleasanton soldier comes home. Often escorted by a motorcycle escort, these service men and women are met at the airport and drive home to a PMF-arranged program that includes bagpipe music by Foothill High's Donna Willy, short speeches, usually a Pleasanton welcome home proclamation presented by City Councilman Jerry Thorne, and almost always a message of thanks from Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton).

In starting the homecoming celebrations, Miller said he never wants returning vets to be treated as were those coming home from service in Vietnam, which he remembers. After all, he said it's a joyous event to both salute those coming home and the parents who spent months missing and worrying about them.

PMF also is turning its attention to helping those who've served once they come back home. Often these young men and women who may have enlisted right out of high school find it a bit bewildering to be back where there's no shortage of opportunities. PMF members offer them help in finding jobs, settling into their own apartments, and even some counseling. Here are volunteers and a support group that deserves thanks from all of us. For more information, sign on to the Pleasanton Military Families' website at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org. ■



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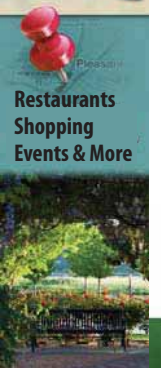
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About the Cover

Dr. Aaron Salyapongse, director of the Joint Replacement Institute at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton, has revolutionized hip and knee replacement surgeries, allowing patients to stay active and continue doing what they enjoy. He is part of an advanced medical technology team at ValleyCare, which is starting its second half-century of service in the Tri-Valley. Photo by John Benson Photography. Cover design by Lili Cao.



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Streetwise

ASKED AT LIVERMORE VALLEY WINERIES

What does the Livermore Valley have to offer?



Joe Brown
Tasting room lead

It's a great valley that is similar to Napa, but it has a more intimate feel. Every wine tasting room you go to around here is small enough to get a personal experience. We have a little bit of an advantage at Wente because we have been here since 1883 so we can attract more people, but we still are able to give a one-on-one experience.

Jeff Helfrich
Store manager, In-n-Out

My wife, Katie, and I were married at a Livermore winery, so every time I come to Livermore it brings me back to the happiness of my wedding day. There are a lot of places here to have local good times; the restaurants are great, the wineries are nice, and it's a good destination for friends and family.



Matt Dina
Civil Engineer

I'm from Detroit originally and I now live in San Francisco, so I really appreciate the warm weather here. I've been wine tasting in Napa and Sonoma, but this is my first time experiencing Livermore's wineries. I'd definitely come back again.

Neema Khan
Software tester

I think the wineries here are great. I've been to Napa and love it, but it's nice to have the convenience of a nearby destination and also to support local businesses. My husband and I come every few months and really enjoy it. One of our favorite wineries is Concannon.



Mihaela Susa
Grad student

I am originally from Romania, and so many parts of this area remind me of my country. I just love the beauty of the hills and valleys. The wineries are wonderful. I've never had an opportunity to wine taste before, and I am so grateful to be here on such a beautiful day.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

School budget blues

The Pleasanton school district is looking at "bad news and worse news" for next year's budget, said Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services. State triggers were pulled last month, initiating cuts at many districts, although Pleasanton had already budgeted for the scenario.

Cazares said Gov. Jerry Brown has made risky assumptions in his upcoming budget, including passing new taxes in November. She said the budget also includes more money than state officials believe new taxes would raise.

Beyond that, should the new taxes not pass, the district would be left with a \$6.4 million shortfall. Cazares said re-instituting cuts made last year, then restored, would still leave an additional \$3.1 million to be cut.

She said Brown has indicated that state-level cuts would be about the cost of 15 instructional days, a possible hint that he would approve a shortened school year.

King holiday Monday

Monday, Jan. 16, is the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday for the Pleasanton Unified School District and the city of Pleasanton, which means the library and city offices as well as the schools will be closed.

BART will run a Saturday schedule; service will begin around 6 a.m. and end around midnight, and parking permit and fee requirements will not be enforced in station parking facilities.

Cop class

The Pleasanton Police Department is accepting applications for its upcoming Citizens' Police Academy. Classes will run Feb. 17-May 24, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Topics include Community Policing, Patrol Procedures, Radio Communications, SWAT, Narcotics Investigations, Crime Prevention, Traffic Enforcement, K-9's, Evidence Collection, Use of Force Issues, Animal Services and the DARE program.

The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the public, explain law enforcement procedures, and discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. This is the 20th time the department is offering the classes.

For an application, go to the front counter of the Police Department; call the Crime Prevention Officer Archie Chu at 931-5233; or visit ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/police/.

Pleasanton rezones 73 acres for high-density housing

Action meets court-ordered deadline for opening more sites for workforce

BY JEB BING

It took just 45 minutes for the Pleasanton City Council on Tuesday night to rezone 73 acres in various parts of the city to accommodate high-density housing that will be more affordable for those in the city's workforce and others who want to live here.

The action, which moves the city out of its decades-long slow growth era, could have taken even less time except for 15 minutes the council spent listening to a group of speakers opposed to a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market grocery store that is under consideration. They said Safeway and other supermarket employees could be hurt if Wal-Mart is allowed to move into the now-closed Nob Hill market on Santa Rita Road.

The 4-0 vote to rezone land for affordable housing was expected, following a similar vote last week

to make the 73 acres available to builders interested in constructing high density housing. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who joined in a 5-0 vote to approve the rezoning last week, was absent from last night's meeting.

The city, itself, will not build any housing, but by rezoning the selected site, developers will have an easier time in obtaining permits for multi-family, two- and three-story developments on the properties.

Last night's action culminated one-and-a-half years of public discussion on how much land should be rezoned to meet orders by the Alameda County Superior Court and the state's Attorney General's Office to provide more housing.

The rezoned sites will give developers the right to build 1,884 apartment units at a ratio of 30 units per acre and another 400 at a ratio of 40 units per acre. Most apartment struc-

tures in Pleasanton are in the range of 20-25 units per acre.

Council members, while approving the rezoning measures for nine specific sites, also voiced concern over the impact the new housing will have on the city's infrastructure, particularly traffic, water resources and schools.

Julie Testa, a frequent speaker at meetings of the Pleasanton school board, also addressed the City Council as it weighed in on a final vote to rezone the properties.

"Our schools are already severely overcrowded," she said. "There's no room for school growth and the school district has no money. The district is \$27 million in debt."

The council will hold a joint meeting with the school board in March, when the rezoning impacts will be discussed. In the meantime, council members asked City Manager Nelson Fialho to meet with

school administrators to seek solutions to the likely need for at least another elementary school to serve school-age children who are likely to move into the new affordable housing units with their families.

With a population based on the 2010 Census of just under 70,000, adding another 2,200 housing units, which the council approved, and with most of the units likely to have at least two-bedrooms, could bring thousands more to Pleasanton based on an estimated three people for each new rental unit.

"When you approve the rezoning tonight, there's no solution, there's no way this won't have a negative impact on our neighborhoods and schools," Testa said.

Urban Habitat, an Oakland-based affordable housing coalition that successfully pursued a suit against Pleasanton over both

See HOUSING on Page 6



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Spiffing up the Senior Center

Mark Kopechny of Pleasanton's Support Services Department cuts out a new ceiling tile for the reading room in the Senior Center, which is closed all this week for routine maintenance, including painting and carpet cleaning. The facility is also a busy community center on weekends, and such upkeep is regularly scheduled to keep it in good condition for all public uses, said city spokeswoman Joanne Hall. It will reopen Tuesday since it is closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

2011 Holiday Fund closing this weekend

Five nonprofits named to receive donations

Donations to the Pleasanton Weekly 2011 Holiday Fund should be made by this weekend to be counted as part of this campaign's funds.

This season's Fund, buoyed by a \$50,000 matching grant from the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, hopes to top last year's \$147,000 in donations to help charities in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley and the thousands in need whom they serve.

Checks should be made out to Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and left at the Pleasanton Weekly office at 5506 Sunol Blvd. Donors

can also contribute online at the Tri-Valley Community Fund website (www.tvcfoundation.org); click on the "Give Now" button, and look for the Holiday Fund box. Enter the amount to be contributed and enter the credit card information.

This year's beneficiaries of the fund are Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Valley Humane Society and the Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center at ValleyCare Health System Foundation.

—Jeb Bing

Assemblywoman gets 3 years probation

Hayashi apologizes for shoplifting

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

State Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-18th), who represents much of Pleasanton, pleaded no contest Jan. 6 to a misdemeanor charge of shoplifting at a Neiman Marcus store in San Francisco's Union Square and was sentenced to three years probation. She issued an apology Monday, saying she had intended to pay for the items.

The state legislator, who is in her third and final term in the state Assembly, had initially pleaded not guilty to a felony grand theft charge after her arrest on Oct. 25 at the store at 150 Stockton St. and was released on \$15,000 bail.

A security guard stopped Hayashi, who had leather pants, a black skirt and a white blouse worth \$2,445 that she hadn't paid for, according to prosecutors.

Hayashi, 45, appeared in court last Friday afternoon and changed her plea after the charge was reduced to a misdemeanor. She was sentenced to three years of court probation and ordered to stay 50 feet away from that Neiman Marcus store. She was also ordered to pay \$180 in fines and fees.

Hayashi's defense attorney Douglas Rappaport said outside of court that the assemblywoman has a benign brain tumor that may have impacted her decision-making abilities.

Rappaport said the tumor is curable and treatable and "is no longer affecting her concentration or her judgment."

The information about the tumor was recently presented to prosecutors, he said.

On Monday, Hayashi issued the following statement:

"After a lifetime of public service, this has been a painful experience...but one of my own making. The simple fact is I unintentionally walked out of a store with items I had not

See HAYASHI on Page 6



Mary Hayashi

School board gives tentative nod to drug dogs on campus

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

If comments from school board members are any indication, the board will likely approve using drug-sniffing dogs on all three Pleasanton high school campuses.

The proposal was pitched by Foothill High School Principal John Dwyer with the two other principals, Jim Hansen at Amador Valley and Greg Giglio from Village High, quickly getting behind the plan.

Dwyer, who called the proposal "the canine protection plan," told the board that drug- and alcohol-related expulsions are on the rise, with 26 at Foothill already this year — as many as all of the last school year.

"This represents a trajectory that we're concerned about," Dwyer told the board Tuesday night. "Basically, we're talking about health and safety."

The plan calls for specially trained dogs to be brought to school parking lots and gym lockers on a schedule agreed upon by the district administration and Pleasanton police, who will provide the drug dogs at no cost.

Although board members were quick to agree to the idea, nearly all of them mentioned the need to deal with the roots of the problem — alcohol and drug use by students — as much as the need to keep drugs off campuses. While they hope the dogs will be a deterrent to students bringing drugs onto school grounds, board members largely agreed that a "multi-pronged approach" is needed to tackle the problem.

Only two parents spoke about the idea of bringing dogs onto school grounds, and both Mike Kundmann and his wife, Roseann Csencsits, said they'd support the plan as long as other approaches were included in an effort to cut

drug use and not just keep them off campuses.

"We can only do what we can do at school," Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said, adding, "If we do this, it isn't a permanent thing we do unless it's effective."

Toward that end, Board Member Valerie Arkin asked for a follow-up report after a first sweep is done, although the plan has yet to be officially approved by the board. That could come as early as Jan. 24, the next board meeting.

All three principals said discussions with parents, teachers and students produced no real objections. At a meeting in December at Amador, as reported in the Weekly last month, the idea of bringing drug dogs onto school grounds was met with largely positive reviews by parents, although some, including Jeff Hintzke, the husband of board member Jamie Hintzke, worried about fourth amendment search-and-seizure legalities and the potential for kids to get busted — and a bad reputation — for someone else's drugs or a false positive.

"This is completely legal and within the rights of the school district to do this," said Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, who'd checked with the district's legal counsel.

Police at the board meeting said similar searches are being done at Dublin and Livermore high schools and that the courts have ruled random searches of parking lots and lockers are legal as long as the students themselves aren't sniffed by the dogs, which would constitute a search.

"My position on this is simple," Police Chief Dave Spiller told the board. "I will endeavor to use all the resources at my disposal to eliminate drugs at schools." ■

Zuffa indicted in '08 arson

The woman charged with torching her East Angela Street home in 2008 is due for a hearing in Hayward later this month.

Deonna Zuffa, 43, was indicted Jan. 4 by the Alameda County Grand Jury on charges of arson and possession of flammable liquids. Zuffa was initially charged by the District Attorney's Office with arson, possession of flammable material with intent to set fire, and one charge of forgery; the grand jury indictment, however, supercedes the original charges.

She's entered not guilty pleas on the indictment and is set for a pretrial hearing Jan. 20.

The case took more than two years to investigate, although Zuffa was the only one home when the 11 a.m. explosion and fire on Dec. 8, 2008, sent her running from the house on fire. Her clothes and shoes were still burning when police in the neighborhood rushed to her aid.

Police concluded that an accelerant had been used to start the

fire, and "substantial physical and financial evidence was collected which indicated Zuffa was responsible for the arson," a police report said. The motive appeared to have been financial gain; Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for bankruptcy in June 2008, six months before the fire.

Zuffa received second- and third-degree burns over 60 percent of her body. She was treated at St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Bothin Burn Center in San Francisco but has since recovered.

Neighbors at the time said they heard a loud explosion that shook the ground, followed by the fire that left the single-story home a total loss and damaged two nearby homes.

Pleasanton police with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department investigated the fire, sifting through the remnants to uncover evidence that the fire was deliberately set.

—**Glenn Wohltmann**

Accused 1984 slayer to stand trial as adult

The man charged in the 1984 killing of Tina Faelz will be tried as an adult.

Steven Carlson, 44, was charged with a single count of murder in the death of the 14-year-old Foothill High School freshman, who was killed nearly 28 years ago.



Steven Carlson

Tuesday in juvenile court in San Leandro — where Carlson has been appearing since his arrest last fall — Judge Trina Thompson ruled that he be tried as an adult, although he was a juvenile when he allegedly killed Faelz.

The teen's body was discovered in a drainage ditch after school April 5, 1984.

Carlson remains in the Santa

Rita Jail, and Cameron Bowman is taking over the case from Richard Foxall, the public defender originally assigned. Bowman was hired by Carlson's family to take the case from the public defender's office.

Had Carlson been arrested in 1984 when he was still a teen, a similar hearing would have been held, and the laws from that time still apply. Currently, a juvenile can be charged as an adult by the District Attorney's Office without such a hearing.

Carlson has served time, including a felony count of lewd or lascivious act with a child under 14 years of age and he is on the state's



Tina Faelz

Megan's Law list of sex offenders. Police have previously said Faelz did not appear to have been sexually molested.

Faelz was last seen alive about an hour before her body was found. While the freshman girl often took the bus home from school, she had recently started walking home to avoid being teased by other students riding the bus, her mother, Shirley Orosco, said in a 2008 interview with the Pleasanton Weekly.

Like many of her classmates, Faelz took a back route from the high school, walking on a path that connected through Aster Court to Lemonwood Way and under Interstate 680 to her home in the Valley Trails neighborhood. That day, she only made it part way when police believe she was approached and stabbed to death.

—**Glenn Wohltmann**

Coroner's office IDs homeless man

The Alameda County Coroner's Office has released the name of a man whose body was discovered last month in a sleeping bag at an encampment beneath Interstate 580 near the Hopyard Road exit.

Randolph Gonzales, 50, was found dead midday on Dec. 5 by a bicyclist on Zone 7 property known as the Alamo Canal, not far from Johnson Drive. The coroner's office confirmed Gonzales died of natural causes, specifically heart failure.

The man was identified days after he was found but the coroner's office was legally prohibited

from releasing his name until family members were contacted.

Gonzales was reportedly a friendly man who joked with local bicyclists passing through his camp; the bicyclist who found the body told police he had seen the same person, alive, about a week earlier.

The man was camping beneath the busy I-580 overpass not far from the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel and ClubSport, across Johnson Drive. A sleeping bag, blankets, coolers, bicycle, guitar, clothing and camping gear were found scattered though the area, directly below the highway.

Gonzales is the second homeless person found dead in Pleasanton in 2011. In February, the body of a man was found down a railroad easement near Case and Valley avenues.

An autopsy in that case ruled there was no foul play. As in the current case, the identity was withheld because the family had not been notified. In that case, police conjectured the man may have been walking toward an encampment somewhere in the area while returning from Raley's on Sunol Boulevard.

—**Glenn Wohltmann**

HAYASHI

Continued from Page 5

paid for. Of course, I intended to purchase what I had, but I didn't. Losing track of how fast you are driving is no excuse for speeding. And losing track of clothing I was purchasing is no excuse for walking out of a store without paying.

"I accept responsibility and I offer apologies, not excuses. I want to thank my family, constituents and colleagues for the support and patience they have given me during this very difficult personal time.

"There were a number of personal factors that led to the situation

where I made this absentminded error. My medical condition may have complicated the situation, however I want to be clear that I take full personal responsibility for my actions. I want to assure you that I am taking steps to deal with my health and continuing to work hard for my district and for the people of California."

Hayashi spokesman Sam Singer soon after the incident called it "a mistake and misunderstanding," explaining that Hayashi carries two cell phones and was texting and phoning with a bag in her hands and inadvertently stepped outdoors.

Hayashi has continued in her

Assembly duties since her October arrest. Last week she introduced a bill to increase concussion knowledge and first aid response in high school athletics.

Hayashi, whose district includes part of Pleasanton, Hayward, Castro Valley and Dublin, has served in the State Assembly since 2006. She is married to Alameda Superior Court Judge Dennis Hayashi, who was elected in 2008.

She wrote a book, "Far from Home: Shattering the Myth of the Model Minority," about her journey from childhood in Korea to prominence as a health care leader to a California Assembly member. ■

HOUSING

Continued from Page 5

its 1996 housing cap and unmet affordable housing needs, and the state's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), which has to approve the city's new housing element, have accepted the 73-acre rezoning decision.

More considerations are yet to come as city planners and the council refine the actual site plans. There is also now a 30-day waiting period for legal objections.

The actions by both the City Council on Tuesday and the city's Planning Commission earlier fol-

lowed the court's ruling that declared the city's 1996 housing cap of allowing no more than 29,000 homes and apartments here to be illegal.

When the additional affordable housing units are built, along with some 650-800 units already approved in the Hacienda Business Park, the total number of homes and apartments in Pleasanton will add up to about the 29,000-unit maximum that voters in 1996 wanted. Another wave of new housing requirements expected to be imposed by the state in 2014, however, will force Pleasanton to allow far more than 29,000 units.

The sites rezoned are BART-owned property at 5835 and 5859 Owens Drive; the Sheraton property at 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road; 10 acres of the Stoneridge Shopping Center property at 1008-2481 Stoneridge Mall Road; Kaiser-owned property at 5620 Stoneridge Mall Road; properties owned by CM Capital Properties at 5758 and 5850 W. Las Positas Blvd.; Pleasanton Gateway property at 1600 Valley Ave.; Auf der Maur/Rickenbach-owned property at 3150 Bernal Ave.; the Nearon property at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., and 8.4 acres of the CarrAmerica property at 4452 Rosewood Drive. ■

State Fund to cut 256 local jobs

Statewide layoffs follow agency's shrinking market share

The State Compensation Insurance Fund, also known as State Fund, plans to eliminate close to 500 jobs at its offices throughout the Bay Area as part of a statewide reduction in force that could see as many as 1,400 of its employees receiving pink slips.

The largest cuts are expected to come at the agency's Pleasanton headquarters where 256 jobs will be trimmed. Most of those are office and clerical personnel.

The agency, which once carried more than half of Workers Compensation policies in California, carries only about 15% now. State Fund, as the agency is called, is a government-approved agency but receives its funding from the insurance premiums it sells, not taxpayers.

It hasn't been able to trim ex-

penses as fast as its seen its share of the market decline, prompting the major cutbacks.

According to reports, State Fund's market share at its peak was about \$8 billion in yearly workers' comp premiums.

Created by the Legislature in 1914, State Fund saw its premiums soar after severe under-pricing created a shakeout in the workers compensation insurance business. By 2003, 28 private carriers either had gone insolvent or had stopped writing workers compensation policies in California.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger initiated reforms in the system to attract more carriers and reduce employer costs, causing State Fund's market share to start dropping.

A bright note for the Pleasanton

headquarters is that some of the outlying jobs may be moved here in the coming months. A claims office staff now in Santa Rosa will move to Pleasanton by the third quarter of the year, State Fund reported. ■

Safeway's Duran takes top Denver division post

Al Duran, a longtime Safeway executive whose family has been active at Foothill High School, has been promoted to president of the company's Denver division.



Al Duran

style and experience on both the retail and the marketing side of our business will serve him well in his new assignment," said Safeway Chairman, President and CEO, Steve Burd. "He is also a Colorado native and knows that market well."

Duran joined Safeway's Denver division in 1979 and worked his way through the company's ranks, including senior retail operations and marketing positions in the Safeway's Phoenix and Dominick's divisions. He joined Safeway's corporate team in Pleasanton in 2009 as vice president of Retail Initiatives. ■

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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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Donate Platelets

Friday - Monday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.



American Red Cross

Opinion

LETTERS

Books for kids

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for your help with covering the story on my reading program and book drive ("Books! One teen's gift to the young," Jan. 6). I sincerely appreciate your help in letting the community know about them both.

Through my work at Open Heart Kitchen I have also decided to distribute books this summer through their sack lunch program. The sack lunch program has several distribution sites in the Tri-Valley and it will be another way to get books into the hands of children who don't have access to books in their homes.

Thank you for your effort and

commitment to helping these children learn to read.

Claire Williams

Wants proof of health

Dear Editor,

I received Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi's notice of a February "Scam Prevention" meeting at the Pleasanton Senior Center in February. This will be an opportune time to explain to her constituents the "brain tumor" which reportedly affected her behavior and judgment. Perhaps she can assure us it doesn't affect her service and voting in the Assembly, or her driving on the California roadways.

It might help us sympathize with her situation if she could bring medical evidence of this malady and the treatment plan and list of prescriptions she's taking.


Howard Merrill

What's your opinion?

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

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Michael Gagnon, M.D.
Gina Trantacosti, O.D.
Jimmy Yip, O.D.

Nationally and internationally trained, Dr. Kala Swamynathan received her medical degree from Kilpauk Medical College in Chennai, India, and after working as a research coordinator at the Stanford University Department of Ophthalmology, took her ophthalmology residency at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis, where she was awarded the Merrill Grayson Leadership Award for best graduating resident. She is Board Certified by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. As a comprehensive ophthalmologist, she will be available to see patients in the Pleasanton and Livermore offices beginning January 17th.

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Funds in peril for high-speed rail

Plans once touted by the California High-Speed Rail Authority to have trains running at speeds up more than 200 miles an hour through the Altamont and zipping past Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore have long since given way to different routes after objections by these three cities. Similar objections have come from Palo Alto and other Peninsula cities as the high-speed rail advocates pushed a plan to plow new rail lines through their neighborhoods.

Now a new blow to plans to start construction later this year in the Central Valley, a peer-review committee has recommended that state legislators not fund the project until major changes are made to the business plan for the increasingly controversial line. According to an article by Gennady Sheyner in this newspaper, the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group found that the business plan the High-Speed Rail Authority unveiled in 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 recommends that the state Legislature not authorize expenditure of bond money for the project until its concerns are met.

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.

Widespread objections were raised here when plans for the high-speed rail route showed elevated tracks running parallel to the Union Pacific tracks in Pleasanton, and then on southwest to an old railroad bridge that crosses the Bay next to the Dumbarton Bridge. Dropping that plan, but never abandoning it, the rail authority chose a southerly route to skirt the Bay and run its fast trains in the CalTrains corridor. That plan has become even more controversial on the Peninsula, where several grassroots groups have sprung up in the last two years to oppose it. Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto had filed a lawsuit challenging the rail authority's environmental analysis and the Palo Alto City Council last month adopted as the city's official position a call for the project's termination.

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."

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 the San Fernando Valley.

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, but these, too, depend on matching funds from the state which could be hard to come by given California's budget deficit.

The project, which could be a model for high-speed rail in the U.S., has its supporters, including Gov. Jerry Brown, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, labor leaders and cities in the Central Valley which would benefit both by the 100,000 jobs or so that could be created during the project's construction phase and, later, close connections to the state's major cities once station platforms are built. Remember, too, that the Pleasanton route through the Altamont and with a station here is still in play. ■

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

story & photos by DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

INTRODUCING

After debut at Hometown Holidays, milk cow makes her home at historic dairy

Fiona



Fiona, the city's new fiberglass cow, was purchased from Scotland because of her realistic appearance and simple milking mechanism.

Fiona almost missed her first date with Pleasanton. City Naturalist Eric Nicholas wanted to introduce Fiona, a fiberglass Holstein from Scotland, to the citizenry at the Hometown Holidays parade Dec. 3. But after holdups at customs and erratic local trucking schedules, she still hadn't arrived by the evening of the 2nd.

"She was slated to come out on Thursday before Hometown Holidays, sometime in the afternoon," Nicholas recalled. "When she didn't arrive, we rescheduled for Friday. The story was she got on a truck for another destination."

Friday evening found Nicholas and city personnel Chris Rizzoli and Tom Fullam sitting around the Support Services Yard, waiting for Fiona to be delivered from a warehouse in San Leandro so they could prepare her for her procession down Main Street.

After a phone call to the trucking company's dispatcher in Utah, then another to San Leandro, they learned that Fiona, alas, waited forlornly at the warehouse, having yet to be loaded onto any truck for delivery.

"I wanted to know how big the crate was so we could send our own truck out," Nicholas said. "Tom went out and rescued Fiona from the facility, about 10-10:30. We got her out of the crate Saturday morning."

Richert Lumber had donated a truck to display Fiona in the parade, and Support Services came up with a method for her to be mounted so she could proudly proceed through town in the festive community event.

"We were right behind the bagpipes," Nicholas said. "People were calling her name. They knew about her, they'd been anticipating her."

Fiona's journey actually began about three years ago, when she was but a twinkle in Nicholas' eye.

The naturalist does the city's interpretive programs at Alviso Adobe Community Park, which site was home to Native Americans, Spanish ranchers and, in the early and mid-20th century, the Meadowlark Dairy.

"I was really interested in having a cow," Nicholas said. "You can't talk about a dairy without some kind of example."

"I found two companies, one in the U.S. and one in Scotland. The cow in the U.S. looked kind of comical, kind of goofy. The other one appeared to be the better choice."

The American cow also had a motor to facilitate its "milking," whereas the Scottish one depended solely on gravity. Nicholas didn't like the possibility of future repair bills for a malfunctioning motor and perhaps even shipping the cow back to the factory for repair.

"It didn't seem practical," he said.

Nicholas communicated every few months with both manufacturers until finally last summer the decision was made and the city placed the order for one life-sized fiberglass Holstein from Horn Import Ltd. of Dundee, Scotland.

The handcrafted, realistic appearance of the Scottish cow was also a determining factor, Nicholas noted.

Originally he had hoped for several milking cows but the \$5,000 price tag eliminated the rest of the herd. Money for Fiona came from the city's interpretive funds and donations from the Pleasanton Blairgowrie Fergus Sister City Organization. This group held a contest to name the cow.

"Fiona is a very popular name in Scotland," Nicholas commented.

She crossed the Atlantic on a barge, landing in New York on Oct. 14. Customs placed her on an extra security hold for a Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System examination, which used low-energy X-ray and gamma radiation to inspect her for illegal drugs, currency or guns.

After about a month, Fiona traveled to the West Coast, was released from San Francisco customs Nov. 18, then crossed the Bay to San Leandro for delivery to her new home.

Fiona now stands, ready to be admired and to be milked, in the replica of the old milking barn, in the same corner where the Meadowlark Dairy cows were housed. Hoof prints in the cement floor remind visitors of dairy days past.

Nicholas is hoping to offer milking sessions for children on Saturday mornings.

"Fiona is going to be a nice component to our program," he said.

Alviso Adobe Community Park is located at 3465 Old Foothill Road, with meandering paths that begin at the parking lot and lead to the re-created milking barn and bunkhouse as well as the renovated adobe.

When you go, be sure to say hello to Fiona. ■



City Naturalist Eric Nicholas hopes to offer milking sessions for children on Saturday mornings at Alviso Adobe Community Park.

HOSPITAL STARTS NEXT
HALF-CENTURY AS
TECHNOLOGY LEADER

VALLEYCARE AT 50

By JEB BING

ValleyCare, which opened its first medical center 50 years ago in Livermore, is now rated one of America's top 100 hospitals and a medical technology leader as it starts its second half-century.

Incorporated as ValleyCare Health System (VCHS), the organization's roots go back to the 1950s when the 18-bed St. Paul's Hospital proved too small for the fast-growing Livermore/Pleasanton communities. Local residents, weary of traveling to Oakland or Hayward for health care, banded together and raised enough money, along with state funds, to build Valley Memorial Hospital in 1961. The 46-bed facility was built on land donated by Kaiser Paving, with a third floor added in 1969, raising the total to 110 beds.

Needing more room in a building that would meet California's increasingly strict earthquake protection requirements, ValleyCare purchased a 23-acre parcel at Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard in 1974, opening its new ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton in 1991.

Today, with a two-campus health system and 242 beds, a medical staff of 400 and numerous hospital and outpatient services, ValleyCare is still the unique, fiercely independent health care facility in the Bay Area that is locally controlled just as its founders envisioned more than a half-century ago. Its board of directors includes ValleyCare doctors and members chosen from the community, including its current chairman, Marty Inderbitzen, a well-known Pleasanton lawyer who specializes in real estate transactions and land use entitlements. Board members include residents of Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore, the hospital's primary marketing and service area.

"All of us in the Tri-Valley need to understand and appreciate the value of having an independent, nonprofit hospital in our communities," said Deborah Acosta McKeehan, former city manager of Pleasanton who has been on the ValleyCare board for six years, serving as its chair for the past two terms.

"We can get excellent medical care right here where we live without having to drive to Walnut Creek or beyond," she added. "In addition to having convenient medical care and services, ValleyCare also provides more than \$14 million in charity care. So it's a local asset that not only serves all of us, it also gives back to the communities it serves."

Inderbitzen agreed.

"While not everyone in our area will be a patient at ValleyCare, everyone in our community is a beneficiary," he said. "To that end, we also rely upon our community members to support ValleyCare both financially through the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation and by utilizing our services."

"In doing so, you help ensure that ValleyCare will be here to serve the needs of the community for the next 50 years," he added.

It's not always been an easy ride for ValleyCare. Financial difficulties in the 1980s and increased competition from new and expanded hospitals and clinics in San Ramon, Walnut Creek and Castro Valley siphoned off patients who otherwise might have gone to ValleyCare. Suitors appeared at the ValleyCare door, suggesting that a merger with a larger Bay Area hospital or a corporate buyout could be solutions to ValleyCare's troubles.

Credit for staving off the merger/buyout advocates goes to Marcy Feit and a locally elected board of directors who were determined to keep ValleyCare independent and locally managed.



VALLEYCARE

Feit joined ValleyCare as a nurse more than 30 years ago, and is now its Chief Executive Officer. She, like the hospital organization she manages, has become nationally known. She is a frequent speaker at major medical conventions where she is regarded as the determined visionary that has brought success to the ValleyCare model.

Expanding the hospital's medical staff as well as its facilities, Feit has positioned ValleyCare as a leader in a number of specialties, including cardiac care, joint replacements, oncology and breast cancer treatment and weight loss surgery. Faced with nursing shortages, she initiated ValleyCare's own response to a national problem by opening its own nurses training facility in 2002 in partnership with Chabot College's nursing program. The Mertes-Feit Educational Center has now graduated 97 nurses with the majority of the



Marcy Feit
CEO



VALLEYCARE

new nurses still remaining on ValleyCare's professional staff.

The ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Resource Center in Pleasanton has become a world-wide model for health libraries and staff assistance. Its certified breast cancer Patient Navigator program offers an experienced oncology nurse to guide cancer patients through their treatments after their first diagnosis.

Under the direction of Dr. Aaron Salyapongse, ValleyCare's Joint Replacement Institute has revolutionized hip and knee replacement surgeries, allowing patients to stay active and continue doing what they enjoy.

"When you have pain, simple activities of daily living become miserable," Salyapongse said. "The most rewarding part of this job is having patients come back in and give me a giant hug because their pain is gone. To me, that makes every day worth it."

ValleyCare is also known for its excellent cardiac care. Utilizing sophisticated treatments of an-

gioplasty and stenting, ValleyCare offers cardiac treatment. Also, through cooperation between Alameda County Emergency Services and the ValleyCare Health System, less cardiac monitors have been installed on ambulances, transmitting data to the emergency room staff and the emergency team before the patient arrives.

Award-winning weight loss surgery at the Bariatric Center serves those facing dire consequences if they're not able to lose weight. While medical care and its medical staff in Livermore and Pleasanton remain a top priority, ValleyCare has become much more.

It operates an urgent care facility in Dublin and will soon open a second one in Dublin. "It's much faster to go there than to the emergency room," McKeehan said. "For patients much faster and from the hospital's perspective it's a lot less expensive."

ValleyCare's Meals on Wheels program serves homebound seniors and low income



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

ValleyCare Medical Center on Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton opened in 1991 on a 23-acre site. It's been expanded to meet a growing patient base with ValleyCare now offering 242 patient beds and a medical staff of 400 as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Bottom photos from left: Tommy Baker, first baby born at ValleyCare in 1961; old 18-bed St. Paul's Hospital in Livermore, which ValleyCare replaced in 1961; Dr. Robert Santos, a ValleyCare physician who has practiced in Pleasanton for 28 years; open air lobby and reception area of ValleyCare Medical Center's new west wing.



BROOKE DUTHIE PHOTOGRAPHY



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

s advanced collaboration by Medical system, wired on coun- ValleyCare's ncy cardiac ValleyCare's tical health weight. centers in focus, Val- Livermore ablin. to the emer- patients, it's perspective, has served e children

more than 1.5 million hot meals over the last 14 years. People without health insurance or those underinsured gain access to primary care through ValleyCare's mobile health unit, which operates in partnership with the Livermore Rotary Club. Last November, ValleyCare opened a clinic at Wal-Mart's store on Las Positas Road in Livermore, which offers walk-in care seven days a week. Basic health care services being offered at the clinic range from treatment for earaches and sinus infections to vaccinations and routine physicals. "By joining with Wal-Mart, the ValleyCare Medical Foundation is improving access to health care in our community," said Pam Marini, the foundation's chief operating officer. More services are coming. Two new partnerships will be announced soon that will bring even more specialized medical services to the Tri-Valley, McKeehan said. These partnerships, which offer broad-based medical care, allow ValleyCare to tap into major programs and services without surrendering its

independence, still the ValleyCare's board of directors and CEO Marcy Feit's key priorities. "In recent years, collaborations with research and teaching hospitals have enhanced important services in the Tri-Valley," Feit said. "Our affiliation with UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital has expanded regional access to high-quality perinatal and pediatric care, keeping our tiniest patients (and their moms) close to home." "Our commitment to exceptional care for cancer patients is evidenced in ValleyCare's collaboration with UC Davis Cancer Care Network, which brings a more focused level of care, including clinical trials, to our patients receiving cancer treatments," she explained. Feit added: "Another important cornerstone for success is ValleyCare's warm relationship with our community, and the mutual support built over these 50 years. As your local health care system, we are working diligently to ensure that ValleyCare will be here to serve you for the next 50 years...and generations beyond." ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

Home holdup under investigation

Pleasanton police are investigating a holdup at a home in the 2100 block of Cascara Court.

Police received a call about the robbery at about 10:17 p.m. Jan. 8; no additional information was available from police, although the report indicates a suspect has been identified.

In other police reports:

A Pleasanton man was arrested Jan. 7 on charges of possession of stolen property, grand theft, weapons possession and carrying a concealed firearm.

Christopher Dillon, 45, was arrested at about 2 p.m. after being spotted at the Busch Road recycling center. Police know Dillon on sight; he was originally approached regarding the violation of a restraining order, which led to the additional charges after a report that a gun had been stolen from a home in the 4200 block of Churchill Drive on Jan. 6.

A Pleasanton man was arrested Jan. 4 on charges of use of an aerosol for intoxication and assault on a police officer.

Kendall Alexander Testa, 19,

was arrested just before midnight in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road. His vehicle was approached on a possible littering violation, according to reports, but the officer noted dilated pupils and Testa allegedly became agitated and argumentative, attempting to shut the door on the officer, who blocked it with his forearm, which led to the assault charge.

Two men have been arrested on charges of grand theft after two large bales of cardboard valued at \$1,000 were stolen from Wal-Mart in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive.

The incident occurred just after midnight on Jan. 10, when an officer parked nearby spotted a pickup leaving from behind the store. A traffic stop led to the arrest of Wilmer Alexis Flores, 21, and Marlon Onasis Ruiz, 19.

A business in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road reported being bilked out of nearly \$13,000 in a report filed at about 10:40 a.m. Jan. 3. Seven fraudulent checks for \$1,850 apiece with Blackhawk Network's account number were cashed in Texas; the case was forwarded to that state for investigation.

A Jan. 8 home burglary in the 4100 block of Denker Drive netted two \$200 gold necklaces, a \$200 bracelet, a \$100 jewelry box and \$20 faux pearls. The incident was reported at about 1:35 p.m.; a pry tool was used to open the back door of the home.

Two laptops, valued at \$900 and \$500, were stolen Jan. 6 from Cordero Capital Partners in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road. The report was called in at about 6:27 p.m.; the two computers were stolen when someone gained access to an unattended suite.

A Jan. 4 home burglary led to a police canine search but no suspects after a homeowner came home and found her front door open. The incident took place at about 4:54 p.m. in the 4900 block of Middleton Place; a \$1,000 laptop, a \$600 laptop and \$400 in costume jewelry were taken.

A burglary Jan. 2 netted a laptop worth about \$2,000 from a business in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle. A neighboring business called police at about 11:08 a.m. to report the front door of a neighboring business had been smashed.

POLICE REPORT

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

Jan. 2

Auto burglary

- 10:25 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
- 5:16 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 9:08 a.m. in the 3700 block of Ruby Hill Drive

Jan. 3

Forgery

- 10:41 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 9:34 a.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 3:34 a.m. at the intersection of Andrews Drive and Owens Drive; paraphernalia possession
- 8:44 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; public drunkenness

Jan. 4

Theft

- 1:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of Harvest Road; grand theft
- 1:53 p.m. in the 5200 block of Spoleto Court; petty theft
- 5:06 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 5:25 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft
- 10:33 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Burglary

- 4:54 p.m. in the 4900 block of Middleton Place

Auto burglary

- 10 a.m. in the 3200 block of Burgundy Drive
- 2:16 p.m. in the 2200 block of Vineyard Heights Lane
- 3:47 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 7:47 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street

Jan. 5

Theft

- 10:12 a.m. in the 7100 block of Valley Trails Drive; identity theft
- 3:07 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; forgery
- 3:46 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Auto burglary

- 9:42 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 9:48 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 3 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Ave

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:24 a.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 8:14 p.m. in the 1100 block of Sunset Creek Lane; marijuana possession
- 10:01 p.m. in the 2500 block of Stanley Boulevard; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

Jan. 6

Theft

- 8:54 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway; possession of stolen property
- 2:45 p.m. in the 3100 block of

Weymouth Court; identity theft

Burglary

- 6:27 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Auto burglary

- 2:49 p.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:56 a.m. near the intersection of Santa Rita Rd and Interstate 580; DUI
- 1:35 p.m. at the intersection of Old Santa Rita Road and Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 5:49 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Grapevine Drive; driving with alcohol

Jan. 7

Theft

- 12:11 p.m. in the 2700 block of Sanderling Way; petty theft
- 11:56 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:34 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 1:37 a.m. in the 2000 block of Greenwood Road; DUI
- 4:05 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; public drunkenness
- 9:03 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance
- 11:12 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

Jan. 8

Theft

- 1:47 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, possession of stolen property

Burglary

- 1:34 p.m. in the 4100 block of Denker Drive

Auto burglary

- 4:29 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 9:41 p.m. in the 7500 block of Driftwood Way

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:08 a.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- 1:12 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Rd and Gibraltar Drive; DUI
- 12:53 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Division Street; public drunkenness

Jan. 9

Theft

- 8:44 a.m. in the 8200 block of Moller Ranch Drive; grand theft
- 3:51 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft, paraphernalia possession
- 4 p.m. in the 1000 block of Bartlett Place; identity theft
- 6:25 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 8:51 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hacienda Drive; possession of stolen property

Drug violations

- 12:56 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance, possession of a hypodermic needle

Jan. 10

Theft

- 12:09 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 8:35 a.m. in the 3000 block of Camino del Cino; petty theft
- 6:39 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

THE CITY OF
PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: P11 0709/P11 0717, Brian and Christine Bourg, Appellants (Dave Cunningham, Applicant) Consideration of an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a Design Review application to replace the approximately 482 square foot, single story house located at 205 Neal Street with an approximately 1,844 square foot two story residence and for Variances from the Pleasanton Municipal Code to: (1) reduce the front yard setback from the required 23 feet to 20 feet to accommodate the new house; (2) allow one required off-street parking space to be located in the required front yard setback; and (3) allow tandem parking. Zoning for the property is R 1 6,500 (One Family Residential) District.

Housing Commission
Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Presentation from Neighborhood Solutions Regarding the City's Housing Rehabilitation Program
- Status of Housing Element and Related Matters
- Appointment of New Officers (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) for 2012

Economic Vitality Committee
Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.
Operation Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Presentation on Energy Upgrade Pleasanton Program
- EVC Priorities Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

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

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BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

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

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

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Classes

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.

Clubs

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.

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. 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

SPECIAL CONSENSUS BLUEGRASS BAND - OPENING ACT THEM BOYS Special Consensus is a "traditional, yet modern" bluegrass band. Them Boys, four local teenagers, will perform as the opening act. Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Adult: \$15, \$20, \$25; Child: \$12; Senior: \$20. Group discounts available. Purchase online, by phone Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-4848. www.firehousearts.org

Events

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The Tri-Valley YMCA will host the 12th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Fellowship Breakfast with keynote speaker Parvin Ahmadi, superintendent of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Event is from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 23, at the Hilton Pleasanton, 7050 Johnson

Drive. Cost is \$40; call 263-4444 or visit www.ymcaeastbay.org. Garage Band Academy will provide entertainment.

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, mono-type, 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

CLAWS FOR PAWS CRAB FEED Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 6-10 p.m. for a Claws for Paws fundraising event with all-you-can-eat Crab. Enchanting drawing baskets will add to the fun. No host beer and wine will be available. The event is being held at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore. Tickets are \$45 each through Sunday, Jan. 15, and \$50 thereafter. Order your tickets online at www.tvar.org, or mail a check to TVAR, PO Box 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Include e-mail address to get ticket confirmation electronically. For more information, contact Susan Ruxton at itsmrsuz@aol.com or 925-337-4946

Lectures/ Workshops

MARY MASHUTA INTERNATIONAL QUILT ARTIST "Cotton Candy Quilts" reflects Mary's love of 30s-70s feed sack and reproduction fabrics and how they can be made into new quilts. Join them for this lively afternoon. www.amadorvalleyquilters.org. Saturday, Jan. 14 from 1:30-4:15 p.m. Free Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave, Pleasanton. 510-209-1187(cell).

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.

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.

Check out
Community Calendar
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SPORTS DIGEST

Foothill's stunt cheer teams win top rankings

Foothill's group stunt cheer teams took the first- and second-place awards in the high school intermediate group stunt category at the USA Regional cheer competition held Saturday at Bear Creek High School in Stockton, which included nine high school cheer groups.

Each stunt group has four or five cheerleaders who perform as many intricate stunts as possible in under a minute, with routines timed to music. Points are awarded for difficulty, execution and showmanship.

The competition cheer teams head to Southern California this weekend for a pair of regional competitions against Southern California schools. The state competition will be held in February at the University of California, Davis, and nationals will be in Los Angeles in late March.

Foothill's group stunt cheer teams are:

- * Team Sarina: Sarina DeJoy, Bailey Downum, Alakoka Kailahi, Jordan Robinson and Haley Zavattero
- * Team Gabbie: Caressa DeRossett, Camile Hamlin, Hayley Jefferies, Emily Palange and Gabbie Scalise

The teams are coached by Kim DeJoy and Megan Moore.

Lady Falcons champs at basketball tourney

Foothill High's girls varsity basketball team won first place in the quartz division of the recent



Wrestlers compete

Foothill Falcons wrestlers enjoy their Weekly at a recent tournament. The team will have two more home dual matches, with junior varsity beginning at 6 p.m. and varsity at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 and Feb. 1 in the large gym, at Foothill High, 4375 Foothill Road in Pleasanton. The varsity wrestling team opened the East Bay Athletic League season Jan. 4 with a 44-18 defeat at home of Granada.

West Coast Jamboree. The four-day tournament featured 166 high school teams competing in 18 divisions at 12 different gyms throughout the East Bay.

Foothill won two games before facing Vallejo's Jesse Bethel High School at Las Positas College on Dec. 30. The Falcons won, 53-47.

Foothill player Madison Craig was named the quartz division's most valuable player (MVP), and Danielle LaMarche and Emily Barrett earned All-Tournament honors.

Team members are Madison Craig, Megan Clark, Danielle LaMarche, Lindsey Allen, Ashley Gustafson, Emily Barrett, Jessica Crawford, Jessica Woodruff, Ashley Lindke, Emmy Rodriguez, Britany Bicomong, Mikaela Schwab and Marianne Fernandez.

Newark beats Amador in boys soccer action

Despite coming out strong in the second half, the Amador Valley boys soccer team fell to the Newark Memorial Cougars on Jan. 7.

The Amador defense was perfect for 79 of the 80 minutes played but it only took a mistake on a corner kick and an unmanned attacker for the Newark Cougars to score and beat the Dons 1-0 in non-league soccer action Saturday at the Cougar Field.

It was the first game on a grass field this season for the Dons, but they grew increasingly comfortable as play progressed, and the offense began connecting numerous passes creating pressure on the Cougar defense. But the shots on goal were far and few in between.

The second half started with total domination by the Amador offense as they used the wind at their back to pressure the Cougar goal. But they did not shoot the ball.

The loss dropped the Dons' record to 7-6-1.

TNT on Thursday

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training (TNT), the largest and most successful endurance sports training and fundraising program, is holding a meeting about training for those whose goal is participating in 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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PREP LINE-UP

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 Torunament, 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

Jan. 18

- Wrestling: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Livermore, home
- Wrestling: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Monte Vista, home

Jan. 19

- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. Granada, home

- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Carondelet, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. Granada, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. De La Salle, home
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. De La Salle, away

Jan. 20

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, away

Jan. 24

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, away
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. Foothill, home
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. San Ramon Valley, away
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. San Ramon Valley, home
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Granada, home

Jan. 25

- Wrestling: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. Monte Vista, away
- Wrestling: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. California, home



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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.



201 Autos/Trucks/ Parts
Custom Taillights 90-93 Acura Integra - \$50 Disc Brake Pads kit 75 -79 Toyota Corolla - \$12

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CASH FOR CARS
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com

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Franchise Offers* aysha7415 - 0.00

240 Furnishings/Household items
Infrared Heater
Heat your home for 5 cents an HOUR! Portable infrared iHeater heats 1000 sq. ft. Slashes your heating bills by 50%. Free shipping too! Use claim code 6239. Was \$499 Now \$279. Call 1-888-807-5741. (Cal-SCAN)

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Complete line of Home Staging an - \$12.00
Design a Platinum Wedding on a S - \$19.95

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Will provide CDL training. Part-time driving job with full-time benefits. Get paid to train in the California Army National Guard. www.NationalGuard.com/Truck or 1-800-Go-Guard. (Cal-SCAN)

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People needed now to stand in the background for a major film Earn up to \$300 per day. Exp not REQ. CALL NOW AND SPEAK TO A LIVE PERSON 877-824-7260

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Molly

Molly, a 5-year-old female poodle mix, is naturally playful, curious and trusting. She'll be happy to go for a walk everyday then curl up in front of the fire with her owner in the evenings. "Intelligent, independent, confident and clever" describes her to a tee. Meet Molly at the East Bay SPCA's Tri-Valley Animal Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. To see other animals available for adoption, visit www.eastbayspca.org or call 479-9670.



OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Address	Bedrooms	Price	Agent
Alamo	6 BEDROOMS		
1311 Laverock Lane		\$2,799,000	Michael Hatfield Broker 984-1339
Danville	4 BEDROOMS		
724 Westbrook Ct		\$775,000	Keller Williams Realty 855-8333
Livermore	5 BEDROOMS		
1097 Lexington Wy		\$819,000	Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 577-5787
Pleasanton	3 BEDROOMS		
5744 San Carlos Way		\$780,000	Sat 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600
4087 Stanley Blvd		\$400,000	Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
369 Oak Lane		\$1,549,000	Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111
Pleasanton	4 BEDROOMS		
6461 Melody Ct		\$550,000	Sun 1-3 Keller Williams Tri-valley 463-0436
San Ramon	3 BEDROOMS		
1228 Cedarwood Loop		\$459,000	Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333
5130 Canyon Crest Dr		\$739,900	Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333
San Ramon	4 BEDROOMS		
9911 Brunswick Way		\$637,746	Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333
San Ramon	5 BEDROOMS		
1060 Hawkhead Circle		\$1,875,000	Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500
675 Carrington Ct		\$799,950	Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2587

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate
For marketing opportunities contact Andrea Heggelund at 600-0840 x110.

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3 BR 2.5 BA Home is like New!Hardwood flooring. Loft Area upstairs, possible 4th bdrm.Laundry Upstairs. 925.847.2200

\$269,900



ORINDA
Open SUN 1 - 4
ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!
5 BR 4.5 BA Plus Office.Living Rm & Family Rm w/ Fireplace.Fam/Kit Combo w many upgrades.Hrdwd Flrs. 925.847.2200

595 DALEWOOD DR
\$1,699,000



PLEASANTON
Open OPEN SUN 1-4
DEL VALLE MANOR CONDO
3 BR 2.5 BA Tile Flrs. thru-out entire 1st level,Dual pane wndws,Plantation Shutters,Crown Molding. 925.847.2200

4087 STANLEY BLVD
\$400,000



SAN RAMON
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CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES AVAIL PRICING STARTS IN HIGH \$200's
1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

145 COPPER RIDGE RD.

BRENTWOOD

2885 SPANISH BAY DRIVE
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED!
Expansive Home w/Gourmet Kitch.Separate Din/Liv Rm.Bed&Full Bath Downstairs.Upstairs Loft 925.847.2200

\$430,000

BYRON

6600 ARMSTRONG RD.
40 ACRES,A-2 ZONING
1 BR 2 BA All usable,zoned for 5 acre parcels. Country Cute Home,Barns,Fenced,Central location. 925.847.2200

\$475,000

CASTRO VALLEY

o CULL CANYON RD.
GORGEOUS 100+ACRES
Many oak trees.Hard to find so much land in Bay Area.Close to BART/Airports/Freeways 925.847.2200

\$1,298,000

5167 CHESNEY GLEN DRIVE
GORGEOUS HOME!
4 BR 2.5 BA Modern Decor.Laminate Flring on Main Flr.Spacious Kitchen w/Maple Cabinet & Pantry Closet 925.847.2200

\$510,000

DUBLIN

3475 RIMINI LN
UPGRADED AND IMMACULATE!
4 BR 3 BA Kit w/Granite Slab,Cntr Island w/brkfst bar.Oversized Mstr Ste.& bath.Crown Molding,& More 925.847.2200

\$699,999

FREMONT

2223 KALENDA COMMON
BEAUTIFUL HOME!
3 BR 2 BA Remodeled Bath & Kit.w/maple cabinets,granite counters.Hardwood Flrs.Dual Pane Windows. 925.847.2200

\$568,888

LIVERMORE

945 WAVERLY CMN
SPACIOUS TOWNHOME
4 BR 2.5 BA Formal Dining.Separate Liv & Fam Rm.Tumbled marble & wood laminate flrs.Private Backyard. 925.847.2200

\$425,000

MODESTO

3617 JARENA DRIVE
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!
3 BR 2 BA Great Location! Tile Roof. Modern Home. 2 Car Garage. Landscaped Front Yard. AC/Heat 925.847.2200

\$128,000

PLEASANTON

5128 BLACKBIRD DR
GREAT LOCATION BY PARK
4 BR 2.5 BA 2364 Sq.Ft.Upgraded Kit w/beautiful cabinetry,hrdwd flrs,granite counters.Expanded Fam Rm. 925.847.2200

\$789,000

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Open SUN 1 - 4
UPGRADED CRAFTSMAN
4 BR 3 BA Fabulous Kit.w/Granite,work island,commercial range SS,custom cabinets.Mstr Ste w/deck. 925.847.2200

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233 BEGIER AVENUE
BROADMOOR TUDOR REVIVAL

Short Sale. Hardwood Floors.Remodeled Kitchen/Baths.Front porch.Great Location.Call Today! 925.847.2200

\$415,000

SAN RAMON

6902 EMERSON LANE
GORGEOUS!
5 BR 4.5 BA Kitch/Fam. Eatin.Slab Granite.S/S Appl. Lg Mstr Ste.Upstrs Bonus rm./J bath.Lndscpd Bckyd 925.847.2200

\$1,035,000



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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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>1332 SAFRENO WAY AVIGNON</p>  <p>OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30</p> <p>BED 5 BA 4.5 3,892+/- Sq.Ft. 0.50+/- ACRES</p> <p>2 Story Home w/ Lovely added Bonus Room & Bedroom w/ Separate Entry. 4 Bedrooms - 3 updated Baths. Refinished Hardwood Floors. Relaxing family room adjacent to Updated Eat-In Kitchen. Mature Landscaping & even a Balcony for your relaxation.</p> <p>KELLY PATTERSON 925.251.2535</p>	<p>7923 SAWGRASS CT GOLDEN EAGLE</p>  <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</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>1060 HAWKSHED CIR NORRIS CANYON</p>  <p>BED 5 BA 5.5 5,752+/- Sq.Ft. 0.98+/- ACRES</p> <p>Roubion at Norris Canyon Estates. "Smart Home" Control 4 home system. Upgraded cabinetry, crown molding, waincoting in master suite ceiling. SS Thermador Professional SS app. 3 ovens, microwave, warmer, Sub-Zero refrig. Pool & spa BB w/fireplace.</p> <p>DEBRA A. ALLEN 925.251.2530</p>	<p>CEDAR MOUNTAIN DR CRANE RIDGE</p>  <p>BED 4 BA 5.5 8,950+/- Sq.Ft. 17+/- ACRES</p> <p>Gorgeous income producing Tuscan single story vineyard estate in S. Livermore wine country setting. Built in 2010, the property features +/-18 ft volume ceilings, an outdoor kitchen. 14 acres of Chardonnay grapes.</p> <p>UWE MAERCZ 925.251.2568</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>675 CARRINGTON CT WINDEMERE</p>  <p>OPEN SUN 1-4</p> <p>BED 5 BA 4.5 2,955+/- Sq.Ft. 0.09+/- ACRES</p> <p>Desirable Windemere home. Excellent location to Top Schools Live Oak ES, Windemere Ranch, MS Doherty high parks & trails. Wood floors, Cherry cabinets, Open floor plan light and bright. Kit has ss appliances LG island with breakfast bar.</p> <p>MICHAEL SWIFT & ASSOCIATES 925.251.2587</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>558 ROMA COURT LIVERMORE</p>  <p>BED 4 BA 3 2,697+/- Sq.Ft. 0.23+/- ACRES</p> <p>Cul-de-sac. Brand new carpet & paint throughout. Vaulted ceilings in living/dining rooms. Gourmet kitchen w/ corian countertops, island & breakfast nook. Huge backyard (almost 10,000 sqft) complete w/ pool & sideyard. 3 car garage!</p> <p>JOE FRAZZANO 925.735.7653</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>

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

NEW LISTING — OPEN SUN 1-4



369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON

Former Hearst Estate Hunting Lodge - "Moonlight Oaks." Private Driveway leads to 1.2 acre estate lot in premium wooded, secluded location. This is an entertainers dream home. Extensive use of quality Redwood timber. Recently upgraded, desirable single level with tastefully maintained historic charm. Panoramic views of nature and historic majestic Oaks. Approximately 3800 Square Feet with three bedrooms, three remodeled bathrooms, large gourmet kitchen, and incredible Great room with large Yosemite style fireplace and open beam ceiling. Large basement for storage and detached two-room wine cottage.
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

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

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

OAK MANOR

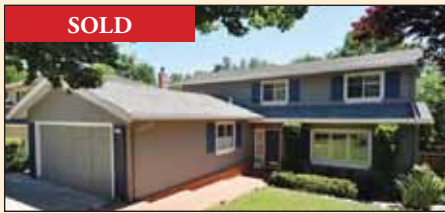


819 OAK MANOR COURT, PLEASANTON

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

DOWNTOWN

SOLD



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

KOTTINGER RANCH

SOLD — REPRESENTED BUYER



1348 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Excellent location!!! Panoramic views of surrounding hills. Backs to open space, no rear neighbors. Great condition, move in ready! Five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 3500 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

FOOTHILL KNOLLS

SOLD



7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON

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

LAGUNA OAKS

SOLD



2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON

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

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



The latest from The 680 Blog

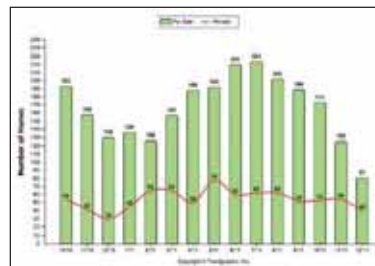
Pleasanton Market Update – Lowest Inventory In Seven Years

The inventory of single family detached homes in Pleasanton dropped to its lowest level since 2005, led by homes price under \$1 million. Meanwhile, pending sales matched December 2009, which was the highest December on record since 2006. There was 2.0 months of inventory on the market relative to pending sales at the end of December, nearly matching the low for the year of 1.9 months set in February. This comes on the heels of some renewed optimism that the economy might be slowly heating up. Of course, now that we are into the New Year we will see inventory climb. But there seems to be fairly stable demand in most sectors of the Pleasanton market right now, especially for more moderately priced homes. Interest rates remain at near record levels, so it seems many buyers have decided that this is a good time to make a move.

Overall, inventory fell 35%, from 125 units at the end of November to 81 at the end of December, a loss of 44 units. There were 40 pending sales during the month, down 14, or 26%, from 54 in November. Inventory

relative to pending sales fell from 2.3 months at the end of November to 2.0 months at the end of December.

Homes priced under \$1 million accounted for 58% of Pleasanton's inventory at the end of December, down from 66% at the end of November. Inventory fell more sharply in this segment (43%) than any other, losing 35 units, to end December at 47. There were 82 available homes in this price range at the end of November. Pending sales also fell but not as sharply. There were 35 pending sales during December, down >> **Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



Doug Buenz

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Direct
925.463.2000
680Homes.com

CA DRE# 00843458



High Performance Real Estate

Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.

JUST LISTED!



Luxurious 5 BR, 5 1/2 BTH home in The Preserve shows like a model with approx. 5700 sq ft on premium 1/2 Acre view lot!
\$1,595,000

OPEN SUN 1-4



4184 Creekwood Ct. Single Story 4 BR, 3 1/2 BTH home on private 1/2 Acre lot with granite kitchen, hardwood floors, pool, and 4 car garage!
\$1,079,000

JUST LISTED!



Stunning luxury home with 5 bedrooms plus office, 5 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, granite & stainless kitchen, and a tropical oasis rear yard with sparkling pool, spa, waterfall, and covered patio with outdoor kitchen!
Offered at \$1,525,000.

JUST SOLD!



Fabulous French Country custom with 5 BR + office, 4 full & 2 half BTHs, hardwood floors, 4 car garage, and private .62 Acre lot with pool, spa, & BBQ!
\$1,690,000.

JUST SOLD!



Upgraded 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH Stoneridge area home with vaulted ceiling, granite kitchen, hardwood floors, new carpeting, new roof, 3 car garage, and private yard!
\$819,000

JUST SOLD!



Pristine upgraded 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home shows like a model! Cherry & granite kitchen, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, and private .31 acre yard with sparkling pool!
\$885,000



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KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE
IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES

Open Sun 1-4



3038 Bersano Ct, Ruby Hill
Stylish single story 3,687 sq. ft. home w/ 4 BR + office, 3.5 BA, granite, hardwoods, marble, many upgrades. Lush backyard with gorgeous views in a quiet cul-de-sac.
Offered at \$1,399,000

The Fabulous Properties Team
Cunningham-Garrison-Schall

Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
Donna Garrison
925.980.0273
Susan Schall
925.519.8226
www.FabulousProperties.net

Open Sun 1-4




640 Varese Ct, Ruby Hill
This beautiful 5665 sq. ft. French Country home offers 4 BR, 4.5 BA, bonus room, gourmet chef's kitchen, golf course lot & views, and pool/spa.
Offered at \$1,950,000

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Just Listed!



5999 Hillbrook Place, Dublin
Must see! Pride of ownership shows throughout this great 3 bedroom 3.5 bath home built in 2005! While close to shopping and freeways, it is located in the quiet Roxbury neighborhood. It sits just across the street from open space and gently rolling hills.
Priced at \$490,500

Dennis Gerlt
Broker Associate DRE # 01317997
925.426.5010
www.buytrivalleyhomes.com

Open Sat/Sun 1-4



16715 Selby Drive, San Leandro
3 BR, 2.5 BA 1796 +/- sqft. Castro Valley schools and amazing views! Kitchen with gas range. Family room, newer paint, stucco, dual pane windows. Laundry room. Level yard with play area & patio.
Offered at \$379,000

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

6917 Sunnyslope Ave., Castro Valley
Fabulous views and a beautiful home! Completely remodeled 3 BR, 2 BA ranch home. 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
www.krugergroup.com

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

2324 Roundhill Dr., Alamo
Roundhill Country Club custom single story home with 4 BR, 2.5 BA, creek side setting, on almost 1/2 acre, faces the 11th tee. Indoor pool and spa featured in "Sunset Book of Pools and Spas." **Offered at \$1,099,000**

Sydney Haslam, CDPE
REALTOR® DRE #01238253
925.397.4381 direct
510.701.8879 cell

1641 Vetta Drive.com



1641 Vetta Dr, Livermore
Outstanding 5 BR (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, and more.
Offered at \$914,900

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

Reduced Price

3263 Vineyard Ave., Space #188, Pleasanton
Recently remodeled community facilities. Beautiful 3 bed 2bath Easy Senior living, extra storage. One year Home Warranty.
Offered at \$175,000

Dorothy Broderson
REALTOR® DRE #01779623
925.963.8800
KottingerRanchNeighbors.com



Open Sun 1-3



6461 Melody Ct. Simply Elegant
Delightful 4 bdrm, 2 bath home in Pleasanton. Remodeled granite & stainless steel kitchen with tile and hardwood floors. Family room with fireplace and French doors to patio, bonus room and large yard.
Priced in the mid \$500's

Dave & Sue Flashberger
925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com

PEEL SANCHEZ

Join us in celebrating a new year and a new partnership
Sunday, January 15, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Open House at Keller Williams – 459 Main Street, Pleasanton

Danielle Peel
925.998.9692 DRE #01293873
Cristin Kiper Sanchez
925.580.7719 DRE #01479197
homes@peelsanchez.com | www.PeelSanchez.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
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925.577.5787
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Technology Training & Coaching Wealth Building Culture of Caring It's all about YOU!

Andrew Greenwell
Team Leader/CEO
AGreenwell@kw.com

Our Associates continue to outperform the market...

Selling MORE HOMES in the Tri-Valley in 2011 than any other company!

Source: Broker Metrics reports in units and volume for calendar year 2011 for Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore

