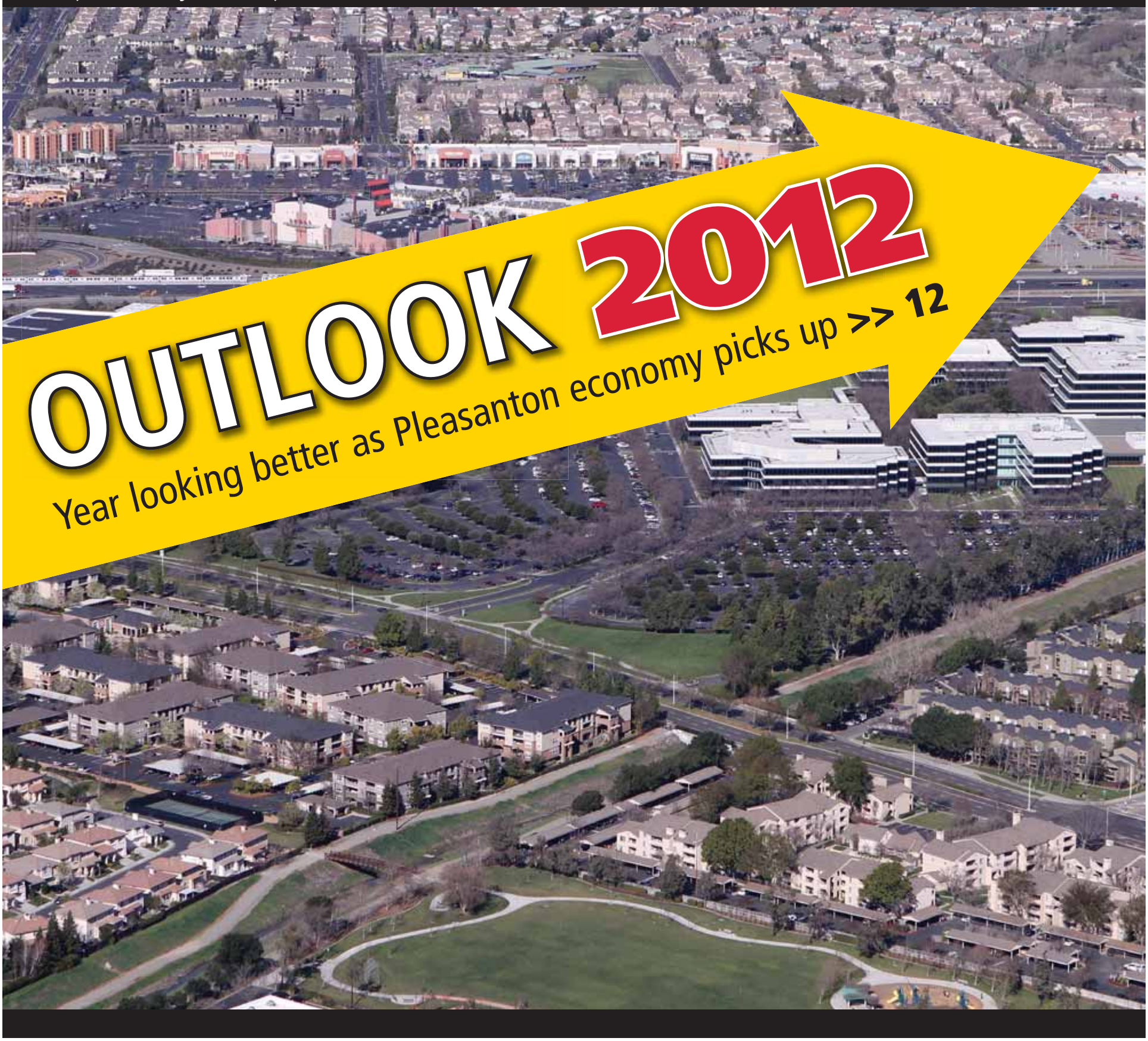
Pleasanton Weekly

VOL. XIII, NUMBER 2 · JANUARY 27, 2012 WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

NEW SCORING RECORD

Foothill High basketball player Madison Craig goes over the top — and beyond » 18



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ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

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

MARTA RIEDY — **BY APPT**

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

MARK KOTCH — **BY APPT**

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

SALLY MARTIN — **BY APPT**

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

JOYCE JONES — **BY APPT**

LIVERMORE **$849,000**
5 bd, 4 ba, cul-de-sac location backing to greenbelt. Kitchen w/tile floors/counters, Sub-Zero refrigerator, large island, family room w/built-in shelving, 2 car garage, side yard access, LOW HOA's! 2459 FRENCH OAK PLACE

JULIA MURTAGH — **BY APPT**

PLEASANTON **$849,000**
Walk to Award Winning Schools, downtown Pleasanton and shops, from this 4 bedroom. 2,5 bathroom home. Built in 2003 by KB homes, this home is just under 2900 square feet, and in great condition. 6023 STERLING GREEN CIRCLE

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE — **BY APPT**

PLEASANTON **$710,000**
3bd/2ba, 2,600+/-sq.ft on a 12,947+/-sq. ft lot, freshly painted inside and out, new appliances, inside laundry, side yard access 3596 CHIPPENDALE CT

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE — **OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4**

PLEASANTON **$695,000**
4bd/2ba, 1,554+/-sq.ft, completely renovated with granite/stainless steel kitchen, granite baths, plantation shutters, Hardwood floors,private backyard with built-in kitchen/BBQ and fire pit. 4526 TAHOE COURT

MOXLEY TEAM — **BY APPT**

DUBLIN **$549,000**
Move In Ready! Updated throughout, open & bright floor plan, granite kitchen, new appliances, court location with easy access to 580/680, Bart and more! 7144 KINGSTON PLACE

JULIA MURTAGH — **BY APPT**

PLEASANTON **$479,000**
Great Location, Great Condition and Great Price! Walk to downtown Pleasanton in minutes. Wonderful home in the "Tiffany Lane" neighborhood. 1705 sg ft , 2bed 2.5 bath. 1111 TIFFANY LN

ROBIN YOUNG — **BY APPT**

LIVERMORE **$359,900**
Former Model w/neutral decor, tile & carpet flooring, open floor plan, spacious kitchen w/granite counter tops, large dining area, private master suit, low maintenance back yard, this is a must see! 1018 BALTUSROL

#1

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

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

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AROUND PLEASANTON

By Jeb Bing

New journalism: We've got it

Mike Consol and I had a fun morning a couple of weeks ago talking about the print media and so-called new journalism with the 33 participants in this year's Pleasanton Leadership. It was the group's annual "Media Day," which meets at Las Positas College. Mike and I help conduct this interactive forum each year although the audience is always new, so we know what to say and the likely questions we'll be asked. An easy assignment, but always upbeat and this year more challenging.

For this group, the term "new journalism" is a popular way of pointing to Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and Google as the new way much of the public — those under 50, at least — are getting their news. Mike has years of experience in the print media, including top posts with American City Business Journals, including the former East Bay Business Times.

He's now a writing coach through his firm MikeConsol.com, where he helps companies build their communications prowess and expand into the interactive realm. I'm a longtime career newspaperman with a few side trips into corporate public relations, but basically a print media guy. Both of us have moved smoothly from the old electric typewriter days to computers and now to social media. So when one of the questions was what are we going to do when new journalism does away with the printed word, we had answers, and also shared our concerns. Coming at a time when the Pleasanton Weekly is marking its 12th anniversary, Mike, who reads this paper as well as our four online publications in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville, stopped short of saying there'll always be a Pleasanton Weekly. But we both acknowledged it is hard to think of a time when there won't be a newspaper to spread out on the kitchen table with a cup of coffee to enjoy while reading.

A show of hands indicated that everyone in the room reads the Pleasanton Weekly, although hands went down on an accelerating basis as we asked about local, regional and national newspapers. On many breaking news stories, it's simply faster to go online to CNN or Drudge or ABCnews.com for real time reports. But the news, as we report it for the Tri-Valley here at the Weekly, or nationally by the New York Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal, just isn't as timely as what's posted online. The Huffington Report or celebrity news on TMZ is always interesting, even entertaining, but no one can count on its accuracy. "New journalism," as it's called, really isn't all that different from old journalism where editors insisted and readers expected truth and fairness in news reports. You can't expect that out of blogs and YouTube or even from the thousands of reports simulating real news on Google. Beyond learning about a "friend's" new baby or seeing a vacation retreat, social media helps promote things, but it can't be counted on for accurate and objective news. That is unless the news showing up on your iPad, iPhone, Facebook or NuAlert comes from a "live" professional journalist at the other end.

Asked about the reliability of the hundreds of online commentaries we all read every day, Mike and I agreed that social media is here to stay and gaining ground over newspapers and television as a way many viewers are getting their news. Surveys show that younger Americans are hearing and seeing the news on their computers, smart phones and iPad devices, with many also checking out sites established by credible media. Still, the printed newspaper appeals to many who appreciate the more leisure time they have to leaf through the pages.

Embarcadero Media, which started the Pleasanton Weekly 12 years ago, was also the first in the country to put a newspaper online — the Palo Alto Weekly. Together with other newspapers in the group, we now have scores of online editions, both the weekly newspapers we publish and also continually updated daily editions. There are even email "express" editions for key stories in the communities we serve every weekday, including PleasantonExpress.com, that's posted to thousands of email subscribers at 8 a.m. every weekday morning. The best part about all of these "new journalism" dailies is that there are professional editors and reporters providing the stories. Sign up today for your Express. It's part of the "new journalism" movement. ■

About the Cover

Civic, city and business leaders look for economic improvements in 2012 as vacancy rates edge down and municipal sales tax revenue and hotel rates inch up. Aerial photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

Vol. XIII, Number 2

A community service message brought to you by Bay Area Family Fitness Center:

Affordable health care for everyone

DEAR JIM: I am a single woman 58 years old with a good job. However, my company doesn't have health insurance and I can't afford it on my own. I'm in relatively good health, but I feel extremely vulnerable if anything should happen to me. Is there anything I can do to protect myself? **UNINSURED IN URBANA**

DEAR UNINSURED: You are not alone. According to the National Coalition on Healthcare (NCHC), almost 47 million Americans are uninsured even though the U.S. spends more money on health care than any other industrialized nation. What to do if you are one of those 47 million?

While an accident can happen to any one of us, many chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, depression, anxiety, colon cancer, and others can be prevented or managed with regular physical activity.

Want proof? The Surgeon General of the United States, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American College of Sports Medicine, and the American Heart Association all tout the benefits of exercise in disease prevention.

Most experts recommend that you participate in at least 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity every day. No, you don't have to join a gym, run a marathon, or climb a mountain. Even a simple every day activity such as walking can make all the difference in the world. However, if you can't walk outdoors because of the weather your local gym might be a good alternative. The important thing is to make it an integral part of your daily life just like eating and sleeping.

Exercise is not a cure-all, but it can go a long way toward maintaining your health and preventing many of the things that might otherwise afflict us. It is the cheapest health care insurance in the world, and everyone can afford it. However, not surprisingly, most people will not lift a finger to take care of themselves. Enroll in your own health insurance program by starting a regular exercise program today. Prevention is always the best medicine.

Jim Evans is a 45-year veteran of the health and fitness industry and internationally recognized fitness consultant. He is also a member of the Visionary Board of the International Council on Active Aging. Readers can send their questions to Jim about health, fitness, and quality of life to jime@bayareaffc.com.

This column is brought to you by
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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**.

Pleasanton Blood Donation Center
5556-B Springdale Avenue - Near the Stoneridge Mall

Donate Whole Blood or Double Red Cells
Monday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

American Red Cross

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What TV show do you hate to miss?

Julianne Londquist
Project manager

I've been watching Grey's Anatomy since the beginning, and I love the Housewives, too. Beverly Hills is my favorite.

Dona Machado
Grocery clerk

I like Revenge. It's addicting; I really like the suspense. I also watch Desperate Housewives.

Shad Lehne
BART station agent

We don't really watch that much television. We have horses that take a lot of our time, and we play with our kids. If we're going to watch something, it's usually a movie.

Mark Palmore
BART driver

I watch House. I like the drama that goes with it, the main character's crazy antics, and the way he terrorizes the staff. I also watch Pardon the Interruption on ESPN.

Robert Gomez
Future interior design student

I watch UFC. My favorite is Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Imagine school supplies

Team LEAP, a Destination Imagination team with members from Harvest Park Middle School and Foothill and Amador Valley high schools, is holding a supply drive tomorrow for the high schools.

This year the team's challenge is Project Outreach, to find and address a community need in the most creative way possible, and the Pleasanton group has chosen to raise money for supplies to provide relief for the schools from the budget crisis. The drive will take place from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in front of Office Max in Pleasanton, with 100% of the money and donations going to Foothill and Amador.

The event will include drawings and other fun activities so everyone is invited to stop by even if they cannot donate. Office Max is located at 5596 Springdale Ave. in JC Penney Plaza.

Post offices to shorten hours

Post offices throughout the Bay Area are shortening their hours starting next month. Most changes will be to open 30 minutes to an hour later, while 10 post offices will close a half hour to an hour earlier. New hours will be posted on the post office doors and will be updated at www.usps.com on Feb. 20, when the new hours will take effect.

A U.S. Postal Service spokesman said that 30% to 35% of its business transactions now take place online. Also, marketing studies showed that most Bay Area customers don't arrive until after 9 a.m., with the biggest rush of activity between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Workers will shift their schedules for the new hours, which will not result in job losses.

Stipends for teachers

Members of the Tri-Valley Branch of the California Retired Teacher Association has awarded $100 stipends to their successors, including four in Pleasanton.

Beth Christensen, a counselor at Foothill High School, will use her stipend to buy intervention posters; Ellen Gardner of Pleasanton Middle School will buy garden supplies for severely learning disabled students; Cindy McDonalds, also of PMS, will buy books for under-performing students; and Susan Wells of Fairlands Elementary School, will buy three spell checkers.

Eleven other Tri-Valley teachers, from Dublin and Livermore, also received stipends.

Services for Realtor Roy Dronkers set for today

Award-winning businessman, who died last Friday, was friends to thousands

By Jeb Bing

A celebration of life for Roy Dronkers, who died last Friday, will be held from 1-3 p.m. today at Tommy T's in Pleasanton.

Mr. Dronkers was a well-known Realtor in Pleasanton for many years. The circumstances of his death were not reported, and Pleasanton police said they could not comment on the death.

A 1972 graduate of Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, where he was born, Mr. Dronkers was an award-winning business leader who was active in a number of professional and civic organizations. He held a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from California State University, East Bay. He worked with the Clorox Corp. before beginning his career in real estate in 1986 in Pleasanton.

Just a year ago, Mr. Dronkers was honored with a Legacy award by the Tri-Valley YMCA at its Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast. As the past co-chair of Operation Care, Mr. Dronkers also was an active member of both the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

A Realtor with Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty and more recently with Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate in Pleasanton, Mr. Dronkers also was a member of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, a past board member of the Bay East Association of Realtors and a founder of an annual Realtor charity fundraiser that has raised more than $200,000 for Tri-Valley agencies since 2007.

He also was an active booster of the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Holiday Fund, and persuaded hundreds of his real estate associates to join him in contributing thousands of dollars to the Fund that then provided direct financial help to local nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Dronkers' family is requesting that flowers, cards and condolences be sent in care of Ron Dronkers, 370 Oak Lane, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ■

DINO VOURNAS

Shad Balch charges his mother Cheryl's 2011 Chevy Volt at one of five new electric car charging stations that were started up on Monday. This station is one of three near the front of the Civic Center parking lot on Old Bernal Avenue.

Getting all charged up

City offering free vehicle charging through April 1

New charging stations for electric cars were turned on Monday at a public "uncovering" ceremony at the Pleasanton Civic Center.

These are the first municipally operated charging stations to become operational in the East Bay. General Motors representative Shad Balch, who works on environmental policy initiatives, demonstrated how to use the three charging stations in front of the Civic Center, using his mother's Chevrolet Volt at the ceremony.

Three of the chargers, which look like parking meters, have been installed in the parking lot near the entrance to the Civic Center. Another one is located in the back parking lot of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., which is accessible off Division Street, and the fifth stand-alone charging station is at the west side of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

The charging stations are funded through the federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and Coulomb Technologies.

Each of the commercial grade Level Two EV charging stations is valued at $3,000-$4,000. They can fully charge a vehicle in three to eight hours.

The city government is offering free vehicle charges through Sunday, April. 1. Starting April 2, those using the chargers will have to pay to use them with a credit card, but the charging fee has yet to be determined. ■

Pleasanton school board OKs drug-sniffing dogs at high schools

Won't begin until policy is in place

By Glenn Wohltmann

Drug-sniffing dogs will be coming to Pleasanton's three high schools — but not until the end of February at the earliest.

The school board approved a modified plan Tuesday night that would bring the dogs to high school campuses at the request of a principal, but only after a search is signed off by Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi or someone she designates.

The month delay is to allow the board to establish written policy that would allow for the canine searches. Neighboring school districts in Dublin and Livermore have such policies.

Despite the approval, hesitation remained from some board members. Board President Joan Laursen, for one, said she never envisioned herself as having to make such a choice.

"There are going to be some unusual circumstances that come up," Laursen said, bringing up a parent with a medical marijuana card as an example.

Board Member Valerie Arkin pushed for other efforts, such as the recent forums on drug and alcohol abuse, to continue and called for a revamping of the schools' DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs. She also suggested creating an anonymous posting section on the school district's website where messages could be posted, similar to the telephone/text tip line already in place.

Arkin, who also worried that students who carpool with others could be wrongly accused, asked for a report after the first canine search sweep is done and follow ups to track the plan's effectiveness.

Board Member Jamie Hintzke questioned the accuracy of the dogs' sniffing abilities.

Board members agreed that use of the dogs to sweep parking lots and gym lockers should be only part of a "multi-pronged approach."

"I really view this as one of many, many tools," said Board Member Chris Grant.

Board Member Jeff Bowser opposed the motion to delay implementation of the drug dogs, which Foothill Principal John Dwyer, who proposed the plan, called "the canine protection plan."

Bowser said there was "a sense of urgency" in getting the plan up and running, noting that some kids who may have drugs in their cars are likely to be using them and driving.

Student Board Member Shreya Gupta weighed in as well. Gupta said conversations with other students led to conflicting thinking about the plan. She said some students opposed the plan because they thought the searches would be a breach of their civil liberties, while she and others think schools will be safer if kids left their drugs at home.

Gupta said some also worried that a student could get arrested if he or she had driven an intoxicated friend home.

The board will hold two meetings, on Feb. 14 and 28, to approve new board policy on the use of drug dogs.

"We have a problem in our schools," said Ahmadi. "We can always do a better job of letting students know that if they have drugs, they're going to be searched."

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, said that while suspensions and expulsions are trending downward, drug- and

See **PUSD** on Page **9**

Ross moving corporate headquarters to Dublin

Pleasanton-based retailer move adds to California Center's woes

By Jeb Bing

Ross Stores will move out of Pleasanton in 2014 and into a three building complex it has purchased at Emerald Point near Sybase in Dublin.

One of the country's largest retailers of discounted merchandise, Ross is making the move to accommodate its expanding business operations.

The company moved its corporate offices from Newark three years ago into the CarrAmerica Center in Pleasanton (now renamed the California Center), where it now occupies 167,000 square feet. The three buildings it purchased offer 420,000 square feet of floor space.

According to the San Francisco Business Times, the deal is not only one of the largest building sales in the Tri-Valley in recent memory, but also one of the largest involving a firm going from leasing to owning.

James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Business Park Owners Association, said the Ross lease at California Center expires in June 2014, and the company said it will make the move to Dublin earlier that year.

"Fortunately that kind of lead times gives everyone a chance to put the word out that there's choice space available at California Center," Paxson said. "We're sorry to see them go, but Ross had some unique space requirements and also wanted to own their own facilities, and we simply couldn't accommodate those needs."

The announcement by Ross came at a time when leasing agents for the California Center are already scrambling to fill empty space. The occupancy rate at the center this month is about 50%. ■

To the rescue

Firefighters help woman trapped in elevator

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Staci O'Prey thought she was stepping into the elevator for a quick trip up to work on the third floor of the office building in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road on the morning of Jan. 18. The heavy doors started to slide close but didn't quite make it. Then the elevator stuck.

"My worst fear came true: The elevator froze," O'Prey recalled "I was panicked to say the least. A few people in the lobby tried to pry the doors open with no luck."

She called the elevator maintenance company but knew it would take awhile for a response. A co-worker noted her growing anxiety and pulled the fire alarm in the lobby.

A Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department crew from nearby Station 2 responded to find the 500 or so employees evacuated in the parking lot and the elevator still stuck — with an increasingly distraught O'Prey inside.

"The door was open about four or five inches," O'Prey recalled Monday at Station 2 where she was bringing a cookie bouquet to the firefighters who came to her rescue.

"Instead of leaving, they stayed with me and kept me calm," she said. "They tried to open the doors with various techniques, probably pretending to do so just to keep me calm."

Two crew members were Capt. Jim Gill and Engineer Jon Sorci, who stuck his foot into the elevator door to reassure O'Prey that it wouldn't close.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Staci O'Prey presents a cookie bouquet to Capt. Jim Gill (left) and Engineer Jon Sorci of Fire Station 2 to thank them for their assistance when she was stuck in an elevator.

"He put his foot in the door the whole time," O'Prey said, explaining that she is somewhat claustrophobic. "They calmed me down."

"His nickname is now 'the foot,'" joked Gill.

When the maintenance worker arrived, Sorci had to remove his foot and the door had to close in order for the elevator to be restarted, and the firefighters convinced O'Prey that she could handle this.

When she finally made it to her office at Pen-Cal Administrators, 45 minutes after first stepping into the elevator, O'Prey said she desperately wanted to thank the firefighters but was too afraid to ride the elevator back down to do so. But Sorci went up to check on her.

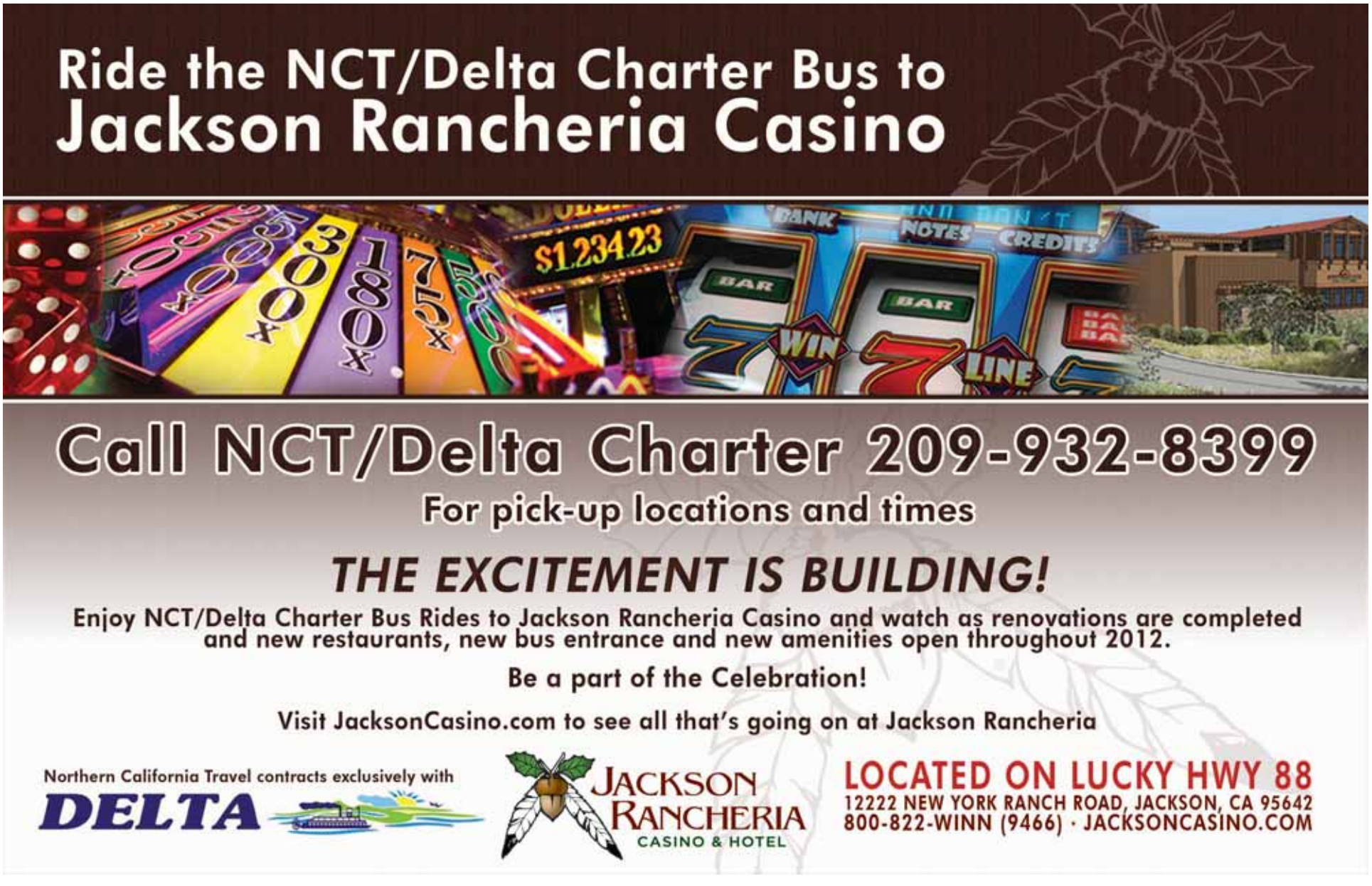
"He asked if I was OK," she remembered. "I thanked him and hugged him."

"Jon Sorci ('the foot') was truly my hero and I'll never forget his kindness," O'Prey said.

Gill said they responded to another stuck elevator later that day and that such occurrences are common.

"Usually it's when the power goes out," he said. "It's bad timing."

The good news is that he's never known people to be stuck in elevators for longer than an hour. ■



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Pleasanton's Carden West school in deep debt

Private school seeking Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection

By Glenn Wohltmann

Carden West School, a small private school at 4576 Willow Road in the Hacienda Business Park, is in serious financial trouble, court records show.

The private, nonprofit school that serves toddlers to sixth-graders has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, with debts of nearly $1.8 million and assets of just $6,000, only half of that in cash, with the rest in hard assets. The bankruptcy filing also says Carden West owes more than $2,600 in federal taxes and says the school has no money in its payroll checking account.

A Carden West parent who declined to be named said the school is working to get itself out of its financial problems. He said the school is committed to remaining open until June and could stay open "if we band together and we fight off the attrition."

"We, like the rest of society, have to answer a simple question: Do we still have the capacity to believe in and fight for something bigger than our immediate needs?" he said.

The parent said the school amassed its $1.77 million debt over a long period of time.

"Part of it was tenant improvements on the building. There have been times when it has run at a deficit in the past and the bank has loaned money," he said, adding, "We collect tuition monthly and the teachers have all been paid in full."

Chapter 11 bankruptcies involve the financial reorganization of a business and provide protection to a debtor — in this case, the school.

The process of Chapter 11 begins with the creation of a repayment and reorganization plan, which could also allow Carden West to cancel contracts. Creditors may propose their own repayment plan if unhappy with the reorganization/repayment plan offered by the debtor.

The school lists its only assets, other than cash at hand, as a collection of desks, tables, chairs, computers, musical instruments and choral risers.

The filing was made Nov. 3, and a hearing date for the repayment plan has been set for Feb. 28. Nineteen creditors are named in court documents.

The school has been operating out of and paying for a space that could hold as many as 400 students. That will have to change if Carden West is to stay open, the parent said. The school is close to ironing out a repayment plan to its landlord, he added.

"It (rent) is currently being paid and the next four months are being negotiated," the parent said.

Carden West's student population as of the bankruptcy filing was 211, which was down 11% from the 2010-11 school year.

The parent said the school has lost 5% to 10% of its students since the bankruptcy was announced, with a potential of 20% before the end of the year. He said parents must give 60 days' notice if they want to pull out a student.

Tuition, he said, will not go up before the end of the year.

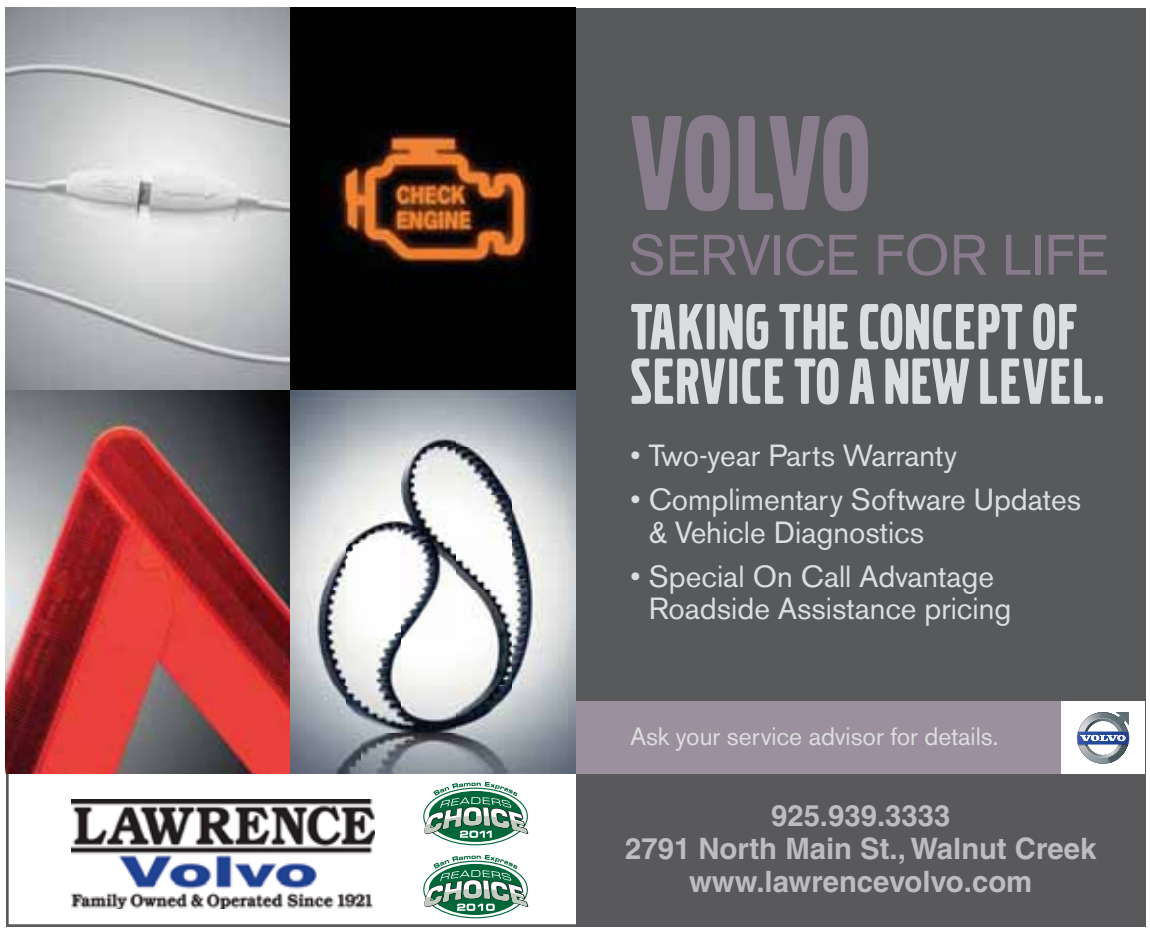
"What we did was a campaign based on donations," he explained. "The school is running at a monthly deficit, which means you either have to cut expenses, which we're looking at, or raise income."

A visitor to the school recently claimed that the heat had been turned off and classrooms were being heated by space heaters. That, the parent said, is not exactly the case.

"The HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system is finicky and in need of overhaul and has had to be repaired multiple times over the last year," he said.

The parent is urging other Carden West parents to keep their kids at the school.

"Right now, we can make it easily until June if we don't have attrition," he said. ■



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Visiting World Expo 2010: Kevin and Judeanna Chan and friends — and the Pleasanton Weekly — visit USA Pavilion at World Exposition 2010 Shanghai, China.

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Little lauded by Y

Village High School home economics teacher Kit Little was one of two recipients of this year's Tri-Valley YMCA legacy awards in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Little said she dreamed of being a teacher from the time she was in middle school but never saw herself as a home ec teacher. She is the creator of Village's catering program, which has become a model for other schools.

"My dream was to do something that hadn't been done," she told the crowd at the YMCA annual breakfast. She said her philosophy is to teach kids "to work hard and be nice."

Little has won multiple awards, including district and Alameda County Teacher of the Year.

Nancy Feely, longtime president and CEO of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce was the other Legacy award winner. The breakfast included a keynote speech by Pleasanton school Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, a talk about Y programs by Kelly O'Lague Dulka and performances by the Garage Band Academy.

Three more Art Walks planned

Despite icy, foggy weather last month, the first-ever Art Walk lead by philanthropists Nancy and Gary Harrington on Dec. 17 attracted a record crowd for World Walk to Wellness, with 70 people showing up to have a narrated tour of some of Pleasanton's public art pieces. That has inspired the Harringtons to offer four more Art Walks, the third Saturdays of January through April, with varied routes and sights. Each of these free tours will begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Ave., next to the library.

"Since purchasing public art for Pleasanton has brought such pride, enjoyment and excitement to our lives, we invite other individuals, businesses corporations and organizations to join us in this effort," said Gary Harrington, adding, "All donations are acceptable."

To donate, make checks payable to City of Pleasanton, with "Another HAPPY" in the memo section. Mail to City of Pleasanton, Attention: Susan Andrade-Wax, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton 94566-0802.

World Walk to Wellness was founded by Pleasanton resident W. Ron Sutton, CEO of ACCUSPLIT. He believes that individuals can "Change 1 Thing" toward a healthier lifestyle and that using the buddy system to walk with a friend or a group could be that one thing.

Every Saturday, World Walk to Wellness hosts either a one-hour walk or a two- to three-hour hike, visiting local city parks and trails. To receive free e-mail notification of walk locations, send a request to walks@WorldWalkToWellness.org.

"Most of the outdoor art in Pleasanton is best appreciated and absorbed while walking," said Sutton. "Riding by in a car does not do the art justice — it goes by in a blur. Join the Harringtons and your neighbors on the World Walk to Wellness art walks. You not only will see some wonderful works of art, but you also will hear the good stories that go along with them." ■

PUSD

Continued from Page **5**

alcohol-related suspensions are the only ones on the rise. He also assured Gupta that principals would investigate each accusation on a case-by-case basis and pointed out that alcohol is not one of the substances the dogs can detect.

At a Foothill parents' meeting last week, one parent questioned why they weren't made aware of the plan before reading about it in the news, while school officials thought the searches would not include teachers' lots. Johnson had said earlier that those lots would be part of the searches, with the goal of keeping all drugs off campuses

In other business at Tuesday's meeting, the school board heard that the best it can hope for is a cut of $150,000 in its upcoming budget. Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, noted once again that the recently released budget contains risky assumptions, including banking on the idea that Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed tax increase will pass in a November election. Cazares said even so, the money Brown budgeted is more than estimates say the taxes will bring in.

She said state officials are telling districts to assume the increase will pass, but to have a contingency plan.

"If the taxes do not come through, we are looking at a cut of $5-1/2 million," Cazares told the board.

The district has to prepare a budget to be passed by June, but layoff notices, likely based on the worst-case scenario, must go out by May. The district has opened negotiations with the teachers' union; those negotiations will include salaries, class sizes, hours of employment, the calendar, retirement and health benefits.

Board members also unanimously approved improvement plans for three schools in an effort to close their achievement gaps.

Valley View Elementary Principal Raphael Cruz told the board his school, which is under state mandate to improve grades for Hispanic students and English learners, has begun interventions for below and far below basic reading skills. Cruz said Valley View has started offering special instruction to those students in school and after school.

Pleasanton Middle School is in its second year of state-mandated improvements. Vice Principal Lisa Hague said the school is continuing its interventions and has begun an after-school math academy as well.

Amador Valley High School Vice Principal Stephanie Ceminsky said her school is committed to a 2% increase in proficiency for math and English learners and an increase of 5% for students working below grade level in algebra and geometry. Ceminsky said Amador will use online study and tutoring to help students improve. ■

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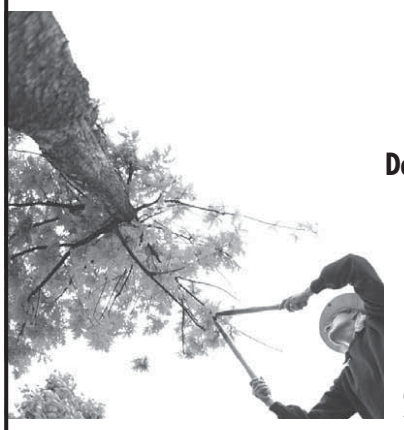

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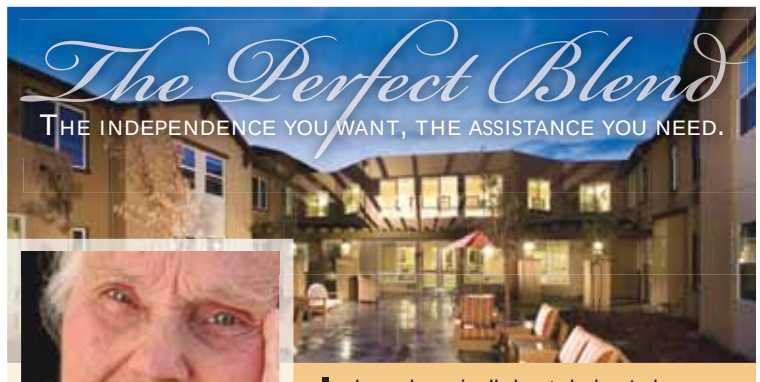

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Wal-Mart's Neighborhood Market good for Pleasanton

Wal-Mart, the retailing giant that city politicians, unions and business critics love to hate, is seeking an occupancy permit to reopen the long-closed Nob Hill supermarket as a Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, similar to those it now has in operation across the country. Wal-Mart currently operates over 180 Neighborhood Markets that sell only groceries, but none exists yet in California.

Unlike its full-size Wal-Mart at 4501 Rosewood Drive, the Neighborhood Market would be smaller, fitting into the 33,000-square-foot Nob Hill building. It would also be smaller than other supermarkets in Pleasanton. The new Safeway "Lifestyle" store that opened last November is a 55,000-square-foot facility.

The Wal-Mart grocery is a perfect fit for the site. It will sell 24,000 different products, including a wide range of groceries, pharmaceuticals, health and wellness items, and frequently purchased general merchandise consumables. It will provide jobs for 95 employees and will be open from 6 a.m. to midnight. In other words, it will virtually replace Nob Hill in size, product offerings and operating hours.

Yet Wal-Mart is facing opponents, both several on the Pleasanton City Council and others who don't like the company's nonunion policies and what they say is its inadequate health care and other employee benefits programs. In an unsigned letter being circulated to those living in neighborhoods near the old Nob Hill store, neighbors are being asked to let the council hear their protests at upcoming meetings and to urge the city "to immediately adopt a law that allows for public input and discretionary review before any decisions are made about the intensity of the use" of the store by Wal-Mart. "We hope the council hears our concerns and will take action. In the meantime, we still need you to contact the council TODAY."

The protests could hit pay dirt. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan objected in 2004 when the full-sized Wal-Mart store sought permits to expand its garden shop and add a storage center. Since then, Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio has been elected to the council. A member of the teachers' union, she also has voiced her opposition to the larger sized Wal-Mart superstores. In fact, the council here in Pleasanton, where Safeway has its corporate headquarters, adopted an ordinance that specifically denies permits to large so-called box stores that have food as their major commodity. Target, which once considered a store in Pleasanton, chose to build its newest superstore across the freeway in Dublin, instead.

By choosing to reopen the Nob Hill store with few outside changes, Wal-Mart may have outfoxed those who want public hearings on its plans. The city code allows businesses to sell their operation to others without public review if the new business is much like the old one. Many restaurants and downtown businesses do this on a regular basis.

Knowing this, Wal-Mart revised its earlier permit application to scuttle plans to paint the old Nob Hill a better color, or reposition the poorly placed front doors and to add more powerful refrigeration units on the Nob Hill building roof, changes that could trigger a design review and possible public hearings. It now says it won't even seek a sign design approval until after it opens the store so that it can receive its occupancy permit quickly. Wal-Mart's Neighborhood Market would be good for the Santa Rita Center where it will be an anchor store, serving not only the neighborhood that has been without a major market for two years but also the retail and service shops at the center that have seen their businesses suffer since Nob Hill closed. ■

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

LETTERS

Health services

Dear Editor,

The "Hidden Homeless" article (Jan. 20) was very moving and we thank the Pleasanton Weekly for letting people know that Axis Community Health is here to help. We provide primary and preventive health services for anyone in the community with a particular focus on caring for the Tri-Valley's most vulnerable citizens. Access to care is guaranteed. All of our services are made affordable by sliding scale fees, and no one is turned away due to an inability to pay. Low-income and indigent patients qualify for primary and preventive treatment through designated public health programs. Demand for services has been high and we have expanded our hours to meet the need. New patients are seen within a three-week timeframe. If you or someone you know is in need of our services, please call us at 462-1755.

Sue Compton, CEO
Axis Community Health

Great art walk

Dear Editor,

It was an inspiring experience to take part in Saturday's Art Walk downtown. Nancy and Gary Harrington shared insights and background stories to many public art sculptures — telling both how the artists and their respective works journeyed to Pleasanton. I would gladly have paid tuition to get such a close up and personal art history lesson, yet it's offered at no charge every month.

The more I learn about our city's history and public art, the more grateful I am to call Pleasanton home. We are so fortunate to have the Harringtons and other supporters of the arts continuing to contribute to the richness of our downtown.

Donna DuBose

Look at things differently

Dear Editor,

The Weekly's inaccurate slant on the purpose and objectives of this meeting are a concern to me (Protesters disrupt meeting to Plan Bay Area, page 5, Jan. 20). Sir, this was a group of patriotic citizens outraged at liberal bureaucrats trying to legislate their massively wasteful green agenda through other means. Please send your journalists back to interview Mr. Scott Haggerty to explain the ultimate goals of the Plan Bay Area, what exactly social justice means, and why it is more important than liberty and individual freedom. And I also suggest that you start looking at things differently...like through the eyes of your readers.

Douglas Herz

Let's support our schools

Dear Editor,

Our state is in serious financial crisis resulting in devastating cuts to our public education system. Every school district throughout California has experienced deep cuts in programs and staffing — including Pleasanton. Every resident and business of Pleasanton benefits from our excellent school district — excellent schools have direct and indirect benefits by supporting our property values, reducing crime and vandalism, and attracting families who value community. Parents of current students have been trying to backfill the cuts from the state through fundraising, but they need our help.

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) has launched the Annual Giving Fund to support valued programs at our schools including support for specialized literacy programs, science and technology, and libraries. As a community we need to support PPIE's effort as it embarks on the final three weeks of its campaign to raise funds for academic year 2012-2013. The "Super Bowl for Schools" deadline to donate is Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5.

PPIE is requesting a donation of only $150 per student, but any and all donations will help. Surrounding Bay Area education foundations request an average of $570 per student. Donations are tax-deductible. Please visit www.ppie.org for donation by check, credit card or PayPal, or to make monthly payments.

I strongly urge you to support the PPIE Foundation's Annual Giving Fund 2012-2013 effort and make a donation today. Thank you for your support.

Joyce Shapiro
Board Member of Tri-Valley Y

YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

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.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

$662,000 investment scam probed

Pleasanton police are investigating the theft of more than half a million dollars from a Muirwood Drive resident.

A complaint, filed 2:50 p.m. on Jan. 24, alleges $662,000 was taken in an investment fraud. Police have a suspect but have not released the name. No other information was available.

In other police reports:

• A gas-powered paint sprayer valued at $3,000 was reported stolen at 10:24 a.m. Jan. 22. The sprayer was taken from a locked storage container at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

• What would have been a misdemeanor arrest for shoplifting was bumped to a felony last week for a San Leandro man because of his prior convictions. Nassem Adel Yasin, 25, was arrested Jan. 18 in the theft of a $34 wallet from Solstice Sunglasses in the Stoneridge Shopping Center. Yasin, who was arrested at 8:29 p.m., has at least three previous shoplifting convictions, which led to the felony arrest.

Under the law, those arrested are considered innocent until convicted.

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan. 17

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:28 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Knolls Drive and Prairie Drive; possession of a controlled substance, under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI, marijuana possession, paraphernalia possession

Jan 18

Sexual assault

- 1:21 p.m. in the 1100 block of Kottinger Drive
- 2:28 p.m. at an unknown location

Theft

- 1:08 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; identity theft
- 8:29 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft, petty theft

Auto burglary

- 1:23 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Jan 19

Theft

- 7:38 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft
- 9:30 p.m. in the 500 block of Dolores Place; misappropriation of property

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:33 a.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 1:20 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive; DUI
- 7:39 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 6:40 p.m. in the 6100 block of Corte Santiago, public drunkenness

Jan. 20

Theft

- 10:32 a.m. in the 5800 block of Sterling Greens Circle; identity theft
- 4:44 p.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way; theft
- 6:47 p.m. in the 6700 block of Menlo court; identity theft
- 8:53 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Auto burglary

- 4:15 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 11:15 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

DUI

- 11:41 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 11:33 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Golden Road

Jan. 21

Burglary

- 9:24 a.m. in the first block of Puri Court; burglary, vehicle theft

Theft

- 2:43 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Public drunkenness

- 2:41 p.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

Jan. 22

Auto theft

- 10:41 a.m. at the intersection of Rose Avenue and Peters Avenue

Burglary

- 10:24 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

Jan. 23

Theft

- 9:35 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; theft

DUI

- 1:18 a.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 3:37 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street

Jan. 24

Theft

- 2:50 p.m. in the 3700 block of Muirwood Drive; forgery
- 6:33 p.m. in the 4400 block of Second Street; identity theft

DUI

- 2:33 a.m. in the 3900 block of Bernal Avenue

OBITUARIES

Pauline DeCoite

Jan. 3, 1921 - Jan. 23, 2012

Pauline DeCoite, of Pleasanton, was born in San Jose to Paul and Halcyon Hansen. She was preceded in death by husband Ernie in March 2007. During WWII she drove U.S. Officers around S.F. for the Red Cross while Ernie was in the Air Force.

Ernie and Pauline, who were married 70 years were avid tennis players, golfers and belonged to a ballroom dance group. Pauline golfed into her 80's as a member at Sequoia CC and Castlewood CC. They enjoyed world wide travel and spent many happy years at their Tahoe Cabin. She will be greatly missed by her children Steve (Jane), Eddie (Diane) and Linda (Tim). She was also a wonderful Nana to her grandchildren, Monique, Jennifer, Jamie, Jonathon, Ernie, Darcy, Michael and Brian. Also her cherished great grandchildren, Katlyn, Kylie, Brady, Drew, Kyle, Brett, Brennan, Rylan, Colton, Jack...and her dog, Charley. The last 6 mo. she spent many happy days as a resident at Parkview in Pleasanton.

Her days were filled with bridge, bingo, reading, walks, movies and special friends. She loved Parkview! She was kind and friendly to everyone. She will be missed by all. A memorial service will be held at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton at 11 a.m., Friday, January 27. A reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations to Hope Hospice, Dublin.

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THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Introduction of a tentative agreement between the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOA) for a term ending May 31, 2014

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of FY 2011/12 Service Agreement Midterm Reports
- Discussion regarding possible Commission merger
- Review of FY 2011/12 Housing and Human Services Midterm Reports
- Discuss adding Commission Liaisons to other Commissions and/or Committees

Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force Meeting

February 2, 2012, 6:30 pm
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

The City's Downtown Hospitality Guidelines Task Force will develop a set of guidelines that addresses key elements in creating a positive and responsible environment for downtown vitality. The task force's discussions will be focused on areas including public safety, music and entertainment, outdoor activities and transportation.

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

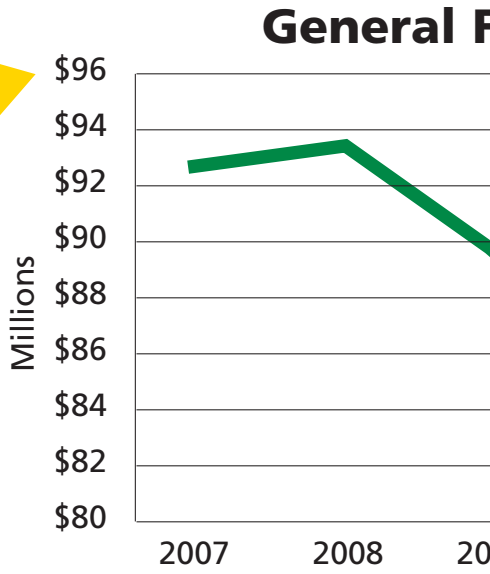
ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

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

OUTLOOK 2012

Year looking better as Pleasanton economy picks up

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JEB BING



By all accounts, the year 2012 will be better economically for Pleasanton. Not great, but better.

For starters, the city's sales taxes are projected to total $19,475 by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, higher than any year since 2008 but still short of the record $21,956 received by the city in fiscal 2007. Property taxes, projected at just over $48 million, will be about the same as last year but below the $50 million reported in fiscal 2009. Hotel/motel taxes and business license fees also are up, leading to total revenue for fiscal 2011/2012 of $73,934,890.

Again, that would be higher than for the last three years, but still short of the record high year of fiscal 2008 when city revenues totaled a whopping $75,493,115.

"That's welcome news and shows the trend line is definitely up, although we will still be nearly $2 million under what we received in fiscal year 2008," said Emily Wagner, Pleasanton's finance director.

Without the recession and based on upward trend lines that abruptly ended in 2008, Pleasanton's receipts from taxes and fees probably would be $88 million or higher this year, Wagner added.

Emily Wagner

Still, business and the city's overall economy is improving, and analysts from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce to the Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) to representatives of Hacienda Business Park and the city's economic development group are cautiously optimistic that 2012 will mark a significant turning point for the better.

Laura Olson

Laura Olson, executive director of the PDA, noted that the vacancy rate this month for the downtown district is 5%, one of the lowest ever. Shops are filling with new tenants almost as soon as someone moves out, and new stores, such as Main Street Properties' restored building at the south end of Main Street, are adding to the sizzle of downtown.

In fact, "Sizzling Saturdays" proved so popular in attracting shoppers to downtown stores and restaurants that the PDA will start them again in April, providing late-night activities for diners and shoppers.

"We are extremely busy downtown so far this year," Olson said. "That's why we are sponsoring 48 events in 2012, up from 39 last year and 33 the year before. We're working to make our downtown as vibrant and accessible as we possibly can so that not only those who live here but also everyone in the region will want to come and enjoy our beautiful downtown."

Pamela Ott, the city's Economic Development Director, agrees.

"There's long been retail demand in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, and that's now regaining momentum," she said. "Pleasanton Gateway, where Safeway just opened its new Lifestyle supermarket, is a prime attraction as are downtown Pleasanton and Stoneridge Shopping Center.

"Restaurants, and in particular fast casual eateries, are actively looking for space so residents will have more dining choices new to Pleasanton, such as the new Buckhorn Grill in the mall and Habit Burger near Safeway. And a much-desired market should finally open in the Vintage Hills Shopping Center as New Leaf Community Market has formally signed a lease there."

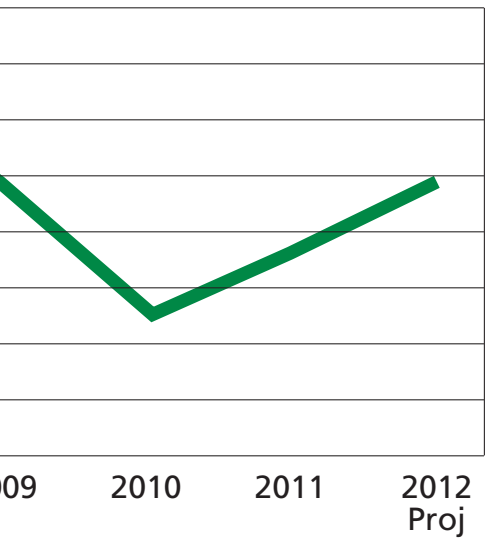
Pamela Ott

Ott said that Pleasanton remains an ideal location for business, offering desirable commercial space suitable for a variety of industry sectors, excellent transportation, a highly educated and skilled workforce and the necessary infrastructure for turnkey business opportunities.

Even so, she also reminds us that the overall national economy remains somewhat uncertain, and that affects Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, too.

"While not all economists agree on what exactly will happen, all do agree we are in a period of transition. Many say that we will likely sustain steady growth of 2%-3%. Although this is slower than we want, it would be welcome."

Fund Revenues



General Fund Revenues

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 Proj
Property Taxes	$45,341,149	$47,973,474	$50,414,366	$49,724,024	$48,569,008	$48,374,515
Sales Tax	$21,955,875	$21,130,683	$17,535,784	$15,420,066	$18,503,316	$19,475,000
Hotel/Motel Tax	$3,347,851	$3,401,582	$2,802,319	$2,719,621	$2,965,630	$3,262,000
Business License	$3,086,552	$2,987,376	$2,752,040	$2,632,848	$2,688,929	$2,823,375
GENERAL FUND REVENUES	**$92,456,009**	**$93,957,582**	**$89,935,073**	**$84,668,134**	**$87,832,845**	**$89,875,831**

Source: City of Pleasanton

Scott Raty, president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, said that while the first quarters of 2010 and 2011 saw spurts in the economy here, the brakes came on quickly. This year looks better with predicted sustained growth.

Scott Raty

"I'm the eternal optimist and I believe we will see continued economic progress in 2012," Raty said. "Hotel managers tell me they are seeing better business from Sunday through Thursday and we find that room rates are starting to climb again. These are good indicators that there's more business activity in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley."

Raty pointed out that the state Board of Equalization showed an increase in retail sales in the fourth quarter of 2011 of 2.16%. He expects that to continue in 2012.

"We've also been fortunate around here in seeing dirt turning, both last year with the new Safeway complex and now with the construction of Stoneridge Creek, the retirement community being built in Staples Ranch. That bodes well for the 2012 economy."

Also under construction in Staples is the long-planned extension of Stoneridge Drive, which will provide a four-lane thoroughfare to El Charro Road, where it will connect with Jack London Boulevard in Livermore. Near there, at the intersection of I-580 and El Charro, Livermore's Paragon Outlet Mall is also under construction, with a planned opening of 160 discount outlets by Thanksgiving.

There's optimism, too, in the corporate sector. Clorox will move into its new seven-building campus on Johnson Drive this spring, moving 1,100 employees into the complex that has been vacant since Washington Mutual went out of business. Clorox added a new research building and will sell its current center, also on Johnson Drive.

James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Business Park Owners Association, said there's been an increase in business activity there.

"We had a lot of proverbial tire kicking over the last couple of years, but now we are seeing more people who are actually interested and want to move forward," Paxson said. "If you look at our activity charts and especially the kind of new tenancy that's come in over the last couple of months, there has been a bit of surge."

James Paxson

He said space that was previously occupied by Robert Half Jr., which moved to San Ramon, has been getting filled over this past year.

"Overall, we saw more than 350,000 square feet of leasing in the park last year, which was great," Paxson said.

On the downside, however, was an announcement by Ross Stores Inc. that it will move out of California Center (formerly called the CarrAmerica Center) in 2014 and into three empty Cisco-owned buildings it has purchased in Dublin.

"We're sorry to see them go," Paxson said, "but with a two-year notice, we can start looking for companies that need the 167,000 square feet of floor space Ross now occupies."

There's even more space available at California Center, which continues today to be only about 50% occupied.

"Our bread and butter for the last couple of years has been the smaller tenants," Paxson added. "That probably will continue to be a very important sector for Hacienda Business Park for most if not all of 2012. Still it's those kinds of companies that often expand."

The Maddie Center, a no-kill animal organization, has purchased a 141,000-square-foot building in Hacienda and will move its headquarters there this year. The organization was founded by Dave Duffield, chief executive of Workday Inc. on Stoneridge Drive, and his wife Cheryl to provide care for wayward cats and dogs and to educate others at similar organizations in the country.

Besides providing space for animal care, the Lake Tahoe Land Co., the Duffields' organization, will also use part of the space for its administrative offices.

Maddie's Fund was named after the Duffields' miniature schnauzer, Maddie.

More housing also will come to Hacienda in 2012. BRE, a nationally known developer of affordable housing, is seeking permits this month to start construction on a major apartment house complex with 650 units for moderate- to low-income tenants.

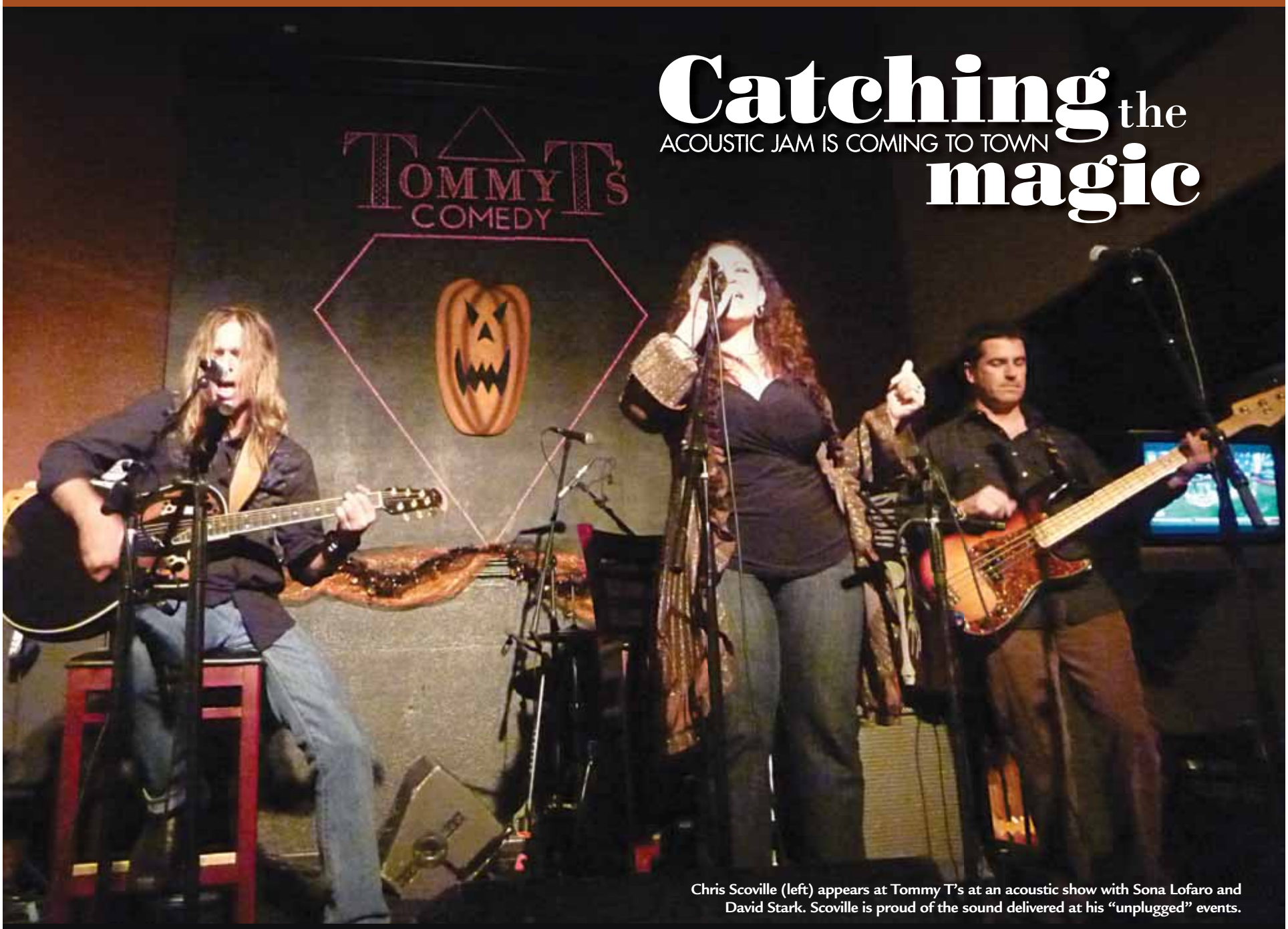
The Pleasanton City Council rezoned the property to accommodate the BRE project as part of its requirement to make land available for at least 3,000 more units for this type of housing. The move was part of a court-ordered requirement to increase the number of affordable housing units here.

Of course, 2012 is also an election year both on the national and state level as well as for Pleasanton. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and two others on the City Council — Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern — are termed out this year. Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne have announced their intentions to seek the mayor's post with others likely to follow, if not for mayor then for one of the council seats that will open. ■

Freeway sign (far left) for Ross Stores will disappear in 2014 when the large national retailer moves to Dublin, vacating its 167,000-square-foot corporate headquarters in the CarrAmerica Center. The multi-story office complex (center), one of Pleasanton's largest corporate complexes, is being renamed the California Center. Photo (immediate left) is the long-vacant Nob Hill Supermarket on Santa Rita Road with an artist's sketch of how the storefront could look when Wal-Mart opens its Neighborhood Market grocery store there.

Catching the magic

ACOUSTIC JAM IS COMING TO TOWN



Chris Scoville (left) appears at Tommy T's at an acoustic show with Sona Lofaro and David Stark. Scoville is proud of the sound delivered at his "unplugged" events.

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Chris Scoville wants to play music that makes a man proud.

Music is all about quality sound, said the pianist/guitarist/singer, and that's why he's presenting an evening of acoustic performances this Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Tommy T's Comedy Club in Pleasanton.

"I bring in a world-class sound system," Scoville explained. "I'll be the headliner and get up and sing some of my favorite songs. Then I'll call up different performers."

Scoville, 44, was raised playing classical piano, then added the electric guitar when he was 17.

"I played in local rock bands through the '90s and in corporate dance band in the 2000s," Scoville said. "I now play in bands in the local area and in Las Vegas."

"About three years ago, after being away from music as a professional, I decided I want to do music again," he said. "I missed the camaraderie and the message of the music."

Scoville became affiliated with the East Bay Board of Realtors through his day job as a roofing contractor. The group soon put his technical expertise — honed in music studios — to work at its weekly Friday morning meetings held at Tommy T's.

"I'm the sergeant at arms technically but really I run the PowerPoint and the lights," Scoville explained.

"I started discussions with the events manager at Tommy T's and said I had this idea to do an acoustic show," he said.

This will be the third time for "Chris Scoville & Friends Unplugged."

"The first one was a '60s and '70s kind of rock," Scoville said. "The second one was more about soul music."

Tommy T's is located at 5104 Hopyard Road. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with comedy at 7:30 p.m., and music beginning at 8 p.m. with a cover charge of $5. Scoville will start with Chopin's prelude in C minor, followed by Bach's Solfeggietto on the piano. He'll move on to an original song called Insomnia and interpretations of other well-known songs, then call up the other performers.

"Everybody rehearses a lot for these," Scoville said. "I tell them, 'If you guys had one chance to play in front of an audience with a world-class sounds system, what would you play?'"

"We try to make each one a special evening people will remember for a long time," he added. "It's as much about connecting with the audience as the performers. It's not like a nightclub where you have a bunch of drunks hanging around."

He decided to focus on quality soon after he returned to music a few years ago, he recalled.

"My first concert back was at a terrible venue, a regular hole-in-the-wall bar," he said. "My old drummer played the gig with me and about a month and a half later suddenly died of a heart attack."

Scoville decided that in honor of the drummer, whose name was Manuel DaLuz, from then on he would only play places that would make him proud.

"I said I'm never going to play at a place without good sound," Scoville remembered deciding. "I've gone to pretty great lengths to make sure these things sound wonderful. As a performer I've always want to catch that magic, try to embrace it for all it's worth.

"On New Year's Eve in Las Vegas, with Kaos X, my rock band, I looked up to heaven and said, 'You be proud, Manny.'"

Scoville described music as a personal art, but emphasized that performances take a lot of effort.

"If it's going to be good you have to put in time rehearsing, arranging the sound system, promoting the event," he said.

This sounds like a lot of work to some of his friends but that's not the way he sees it.

"You don't 'work' music you 'play' music," he said. "I'm striving hard to be a professional musician, to bring something that will hopefully move people."

And make Manny proud. ■

SPOTLIGHT

DEBBIE DESANTIS

"Annie" stars Jordyn Foley as the irrepressible orphan while Jess Martinez plays billionaire Daddy Warbucks.

Leapin' lizards!

Eternally optimistic 'Annie' is a hit

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's "Annie" opened to a packed house Saturday night to revel in the adventures of America's favorite orphan as she searches for her parents during the Depression and ends up being adopted by a billionaire — inspiring America's New Deal along the way.

The red velvet curtain lifts to reveal the grim NYC orphanage of 1933, with stained walls and little girls huddled under meager blankets. Annie, not to be discouraged, belts out hopes about her parents, who left her in 1922 with a note saying they would return. Soon the heartless, hard-drinking Miss Hannigan staggers in to make the ragged girls scrub the floor at 4 a.m., kicking off a rousing rendition of "Hard Knock Life." But Annie's optimism can't be quailed and she sings out her confidence in "Tomorrow." She escapes with the laundry pickup and her adventures continue until the fairytale ending.

The TVRT does its usual fine job with the staging and choreography of this popular musical. Success also depends on the leading roles, and each one is superb. Annie is played by Jordyn Foley, a sixth-grader from Brentwood who was 7 when she was traveled on a national tour of "Annie" in the role of Molly. Besides her powerful singing voice, she's loveable, spunky and perpetually cheerful, so it's believable when the crusty billionaire Oliver Warbucks falls for her.

Jess Martinez is perfect as Warbucks, the hardnosed business tycoon who hobnobs with President Roosevelt and personally contacts J. Edgar Hoover to find Annie's parents. He delivers "N.Y.C." and "Something was Missing" with sentimentality, and his song and dance routines hit the mark.

Julia Etzel brings out the humor and horror of Miss Hannigan, as she yells, drinks and desperately searches for adult love and an escape from the "Little Girls." Her brother Rooster (Erik Scanlon), who is accompanied by his moll Lily St. Regis (Sarah Schori), is a loose-limbed crook, and together the three plot a con to land them on "Easy Street."

Children in the audience seemed to love the show although the Depression and political humor are aimed at adults. When Warbucks invites FDR to dinner he orders his secretary: "Find out what Democrats eat." The only actor who was less than enthusiastic was the stray dog Sandy, played by a dog rescued from a shelter, and whose name, coincidentally, is Annie. But the cast members kept Sandy in tow and her confused expressions added to the overall fun.

Cute kids, an upbeat story with a happy ending set to catchy music — what more could a theater-goer want? Good job by producer Kathleen Breedveld, director John J. Maio, choreographer Christina Lazo, vocal director Min Kahng, musical director-Jo Anne Fosselman and the rest of the talented production and artistic staff as well as those onstage and in the orchestra pit. ■

Fun for all ages

What: "Annie"

Who: Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

When: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, ending Feb. 5

Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

Tickets: $27.50-$37.50; call 373-6800 or visit www.trivalleyrep.org.

Firehouse musical continues this weekend

Two actors explore 'The Last Five Years'

This is the last weekend for the Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre's production of "The Last Five Years" at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. The musical premiered in Chicago in 2001 and was produced off-Broadway in March 2002.

This production features David Judson and Joy Sherratt, the two professional actors who recently starred in "Chicago," as it looks at a five-year relationship told from two different perspectives. Jamie (Judson) tells the story of the relationship from the first meeting to the final breakup while Cathy (Sherratt) remembers backwards from the breakup to the first date.

The score, which will be performed with a full orchestration of piano, strings and guitar, contains both funny songs and others that are beautifully poignant.

Tickets are $18-$33, and shows are at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow, and at 2 p.m. Sunday. For tickets call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre is the professional theater company for the Firehouse Arts Center, which is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton. ■

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The Last Five Years" stars David Judson and Joy Sherratt as a couple reviewing their relationship from their own perspectives.

Scenes of Yosemite

Water colors, photographs capture the majesty

The Firehouse Arts Center is currently displaying Scenes of Yosemite in its lobby and hallway galleries through Feb. 15.

The works done in the national park and its environs are by watercolorist Charlotte Severin, photographer Marc Davis and painter Larry Gipson. Severin, a founder of the Pleasanton Art League, will have her work on the PAL wall upstairs.

Blue Bay Press, a group of East Bay printmakers will be on exhibit in the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center from Jan. 19-Feb. 18.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Ave. in downtown Pleasanton. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, and 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Exhibits also open one hour before performances in the theater.

For more information, visit www.firehousearts.org. ■

"Milkweed Meadow" by Charlotte Severin

"Granite Ablaze" A major winter storm blanketed Yosemite National Park, but finally started to clear at dawn. Hiking along the Merced River in the quiet of deep snow, photographer Marc Davis captured this scene just after sunrise, as the emerging sun burned the snow off the face of El Capitan.

Out & About

—Concerts, Film & Live Music

Renown historian to speak New York Times best selling author John Barry, who wrote "Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty," will speak at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. The event is free. Reservations are helpful. Call 846-8826.

Cypress String Quartet Ward, Stone, Filner and Kloetzel of the Cypress String Quartet return with great classics of the quartet repertoire: Haydn, Beethoven and Ravel. Sunday, Feb. 12 from 3-5 p.m. Adult: $20, $25, $30; Child: $12; Senior: $25 Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. 925-931-4848. www.firehousearts.org

Indian (Gujarati) Food Cooking Demo Meet the author of Gujarati Kitchen Cookbook, Bhanu Hajratwala. Written in English with treasured family recipes starting with basic spices. Have comprehensive methods, colorful photos, and illustrations. Intro, Q & A, Demo, Book Signing, and Tasting. RSVP to 461-2688. Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1-4 p.m. Free Hina and Chetan Saiya, 8048 Golden Eagle Way, Pleasanton. 461-2688. www.gujaratikitchen.com

Lunar New Year Celebration The countries of Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and China will be highlighted through entertainment, activities and traditional foods, from 4:30-6 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3, at Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Dr. No charge; please RSVP to 485-5750.

Pleasanton Lions annual Crab Feed The event is at 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. No host bar at 6 p.m., DJ, casino night and dancing. Tickets are $40 and include parking. For tickets or more information, call Steve Grimes at 484-3524 or Greg Aynesworth 336-6069.

Revival of Hebrew as Native Tongue The Revival of Hebrew as a Native Tongue by noted Archaeologist and Scholar Reuven Kalifon will focus on the creation of a modern spoken language in modern times. Sunday, Jan. 29 from 10:30 a.m.-noon Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. 510-318-6453. www.bethemek.org.

Comedian Andrew Norelli Norelli has appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live, The Byron Allen Show, Live at Gotham on Comedy Central and The Late Show with Craig Ferguson. The performance is from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are $15 for general admission. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

ON THE TOWN

AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 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.

BREWPUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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Auditions

'SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL' Tri Valley Repertory Theatre will host auditions for "SHOUT! The Mod Musical" at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 13 with call backs at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15, at 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309. Bring 32 bars up tempo '60s Pop. An accompanist will be provided. No a capella or tapes allowed. Be dressed for and prepared to dance. All are roles open to ages 18 and older. There is no pay. Rehearsals begin on Feb. 27 and the show will perform the weekends of April 13-29. Call 980-7090.

PACIFIC MASTERWORKS CHORUS AUDITIONS They are looking for singers who would like to join them for their 2012 Spring concert on March 31, featuring the Serenade to Music by Ralph Vaughn-Williams. Feb. 1, 8 & 15 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. John Knox Presbyterian, 7421 Amarillo Rd, Dublin.

Classes

AMAZINGLY COOL STUFF The natural world is full of wonderful things, complex shapes, beautiful colors and all that cool and shiny stuff. Learn about the 'amazingly cool stuff' from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 11, 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.

BALLOON TWISTERS Come and join us for a fun class. Impress your friends and family with your balloon twisting skills. Learn basic balloon sculptures including swords, hats, flowers and toys. There is a $10 materials fee for balloons and pump payable to the instructor. Instructor: Keith Jackson Tuesdays, Feb. 2 - 21 from 1-2 p.m. $4/4 classes resident & $5/4 classes non-resident Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin. 925-556-4511. www.DublinSeniorCenter.com

JAPANESE MAPLE PRUNING Learn the best pruning techniques to make your Japanese Maple look its best. Care, feeding and pest control will be covered. The class is from 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, and at 1 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 29, at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760 or visit www.WesternGardenNursery.com.

Clubs

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the first Saturday of the month. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For meeting time and location, call Ann at 510-507-5509 or email anarciso@comcast.net.

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

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit www.pleasantonnewcomers.com or call Ruby M. at 462-6404.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is $17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at the Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call 580-7947 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

TRI-VALLEY DIVE CLUB MEETING Monthly meetings are from 7-9 p.m., the second Wednesday of every month. Meetings are held at Dive N Trips, 1032 Serpentine Ln. Guest speakers provide exciting topics on diving. For further information, call 462-7234 or visit www.diventrips.com.

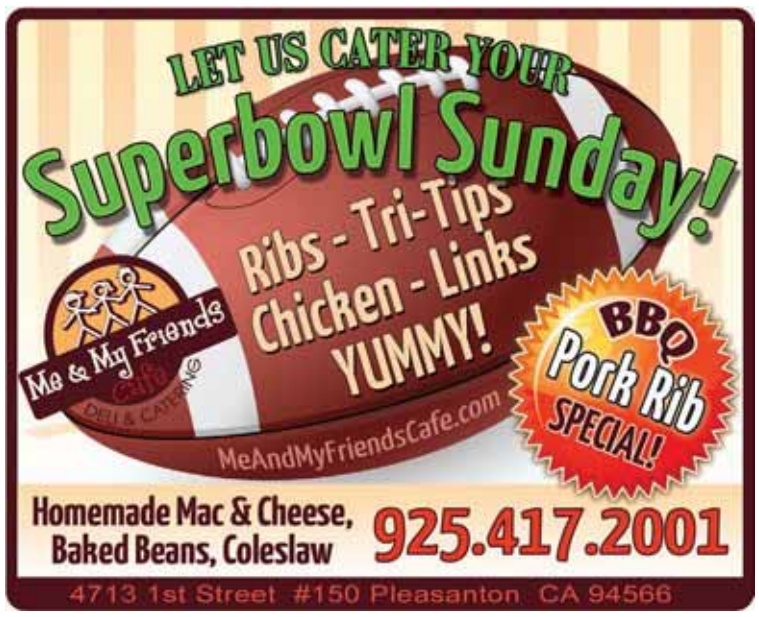
TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED MEETING Guest speaker is Janie Johnson, author of "Don't take my lemonade stand, an American Philosophy," and "Obama 2012 Slogans Rewritten." The group meets for dinner and discussion at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, at Cattlemens Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Cost $20 for guests and $26 for members. Call 462-4931 or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org.

Concerts

37TH ANNUAL CAMPANA JAZZ FESTIVAL The festival will feature 50 ensembles from 24 Bay Area schools, ending with an Awards Concert at 5 p.m. featuring the winning bands. New to the festival, this year will be the addition of the popular gourmet food trucks featuring an array of food choices. Saturday, Feb. 11 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. $10 adults, $8 seniors/students, free for 5 and under Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. 699-7921.

Events

'ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND' A free preview performance will take place at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., performed by the Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. Best for ages 5 and older; audience will have the



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Return visit for 'Patsy Cline'

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will host the return of Joni Morris in a nostalgic Patsy Cline Tribute Show at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 5. The show celebrates the music of Patsy Cline, the first woman to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, whose hits included "Crazy," "Sweet Dreams," and "I Fall to Pieces." Tickets are adult: $15, $20, $25; Child: $12; Senior: $20. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org or the box office at the Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

chance to create theatrical masks. Call 931-3400, ext. 23. The full play will be at the Firehouse Arts Center from Feb. 29-March 1.

American Roller Skating Derby Victor Tour Roller Derby teams roll into town at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Featuring 3 teams in the American Roller Skating Derby league, The World Champion San Francisco Bay Bombers, Los Angeles Fire Birds and the Calvello Cup Champion Brooklyn Red Devils. Tickets are $20 in advance or $30 at the door for VIP Reserved, $10 for adults in advance or $20 at the door, and $5 for children in advance or $10 at the door. Visit www.arsd-bombers.com.

It's a New Year's WIGS (Women in GNON Seminars) Start 2012 in a new, fun way. Guest speaker is Deanna Kinkins, owner of Hairlights Salon, and her team will be presenting new ways for a new you. Learn new affordable hairstyles, cuts and colors just for you. The event is from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30 at Hairlights Salon, 4307 Valley Ave. #F. Cost free for members and $10 for non-members. RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by Jan. 27.

Lunar Event The moon is up and there's no better time to learn some exciting facts about our closest neighbor, than the moon, from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Cost is $5 for residents; $7 for non-residents. Pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

REI Avalanche Awareness Tips for safe winter back country travel from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2 at REI, 7099 Amador Plaza Rd., Dublin. For more information, call 828-9826.

Sunol Repertory Theatre Ticket Sales Tickets for its 31st year are on sale for $15 at Grape Times Wine Bar, 4469 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Fogue of the Railway is Fun for the whole family. Performances are at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol, for three weekends in March. Proceeds to benefit Sunol Glen School. Hoot, Holler & Yell! Call 862-0664 or visit www.sunol.net/srt.

Valentine's Rabbit Adoption Event Fall in love with a rabbit from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, at the East Bay SPCA, Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. They will feature rabbits from greater Bay Area rescue groups. Rabbit experts answer your questions and help you find the bunny of your dreams. Bring your spayed/neutered bunny to fall in love, or get a nail trim. Call (209) 244-7174 or visit www.harvesthomeanimal.org.

Exhibits

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

Locals Day at Aquarium of the Bay Every Tuesday in January and February, local residents are invited to explore Aquarium of the Bay on Fisherman's Wharf at Pier 39 in San Francisco and get 50% off general admission. For discounted entry, locals must present proof of residency. Call (415) 623-5333 or visit www.aquariumofthebay.org.

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 fund-raising event with all-you-can-eat Crab. Enchanting raffle 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

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

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

Health

Diabetes Classes Alameda County Public Diabetes Program offers this 7-week series to teach you how to manage your diabetes with exercise, health eating (including the foods you love) and medications, and answer all your questions about living with diabetes. Open to all adults with Type 2 Diabetes and Pre Diabetes. Thursdays, Feb. 23 - Apr. 5 from 10 a.m.-noon No charge for classes Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard. 408-768-3763.

Free Health Advisory Services Do you need medical advice from a health care professional? If so, HCCC offers free health clinics from 1-3 p.m., every Saturday, at Livermore Shiva Vishnu Temple, 1232 Arrowhead Road, Livermore. Consult with doctors from various specialties. Call 371-5640.

Free Spin Classes SportsPlus Group Fitness is offering free Spin classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the entire month of January to get the feet moving and the heart pumping. Bike set up and orientation at the beginning of each class. All levels welcome. from 6-7 p.m. free SportsPlus Group Fitness, 80 Mission Drive, Pleasanton. 925-462-5557. www.SportsPlusBayArea.com

Holiday

Tu B'Shvat The Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting a Tu B'Shvat Seder in honor of the New Year of the Trees at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center on Sunday, Feb. 5. We will learn about the shoreline area and do a litter pick-up of the area. All necessities provided. Child and adult friendly event. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. $5 per non-member adult Hayward Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Ave., Hayward. 925-485-1049. eastbay-secularjews.org

Lectures/ Workshops

Archaeologist to Speak What Archaeology Reveals about the Bible. Saturday, Jan. 28 from 7-9 p.m. $10 Cong. Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. 510 318 6453. www.bethemek.org

Kirk Waller Brings Black History Alive Experience history coming alive through the power of storytelling. Performer Kirk Waller will be sharing insights during Black History Month. The event is at 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. With a lifelong love of story, literature, music, movement, and the visual arts, Kirk Waller has been immersed in these art forums for over 20 years. Call 828-1315 or visit www.aclibrary.org.

Live Music

The Amador Valley High School Winter Percussion and Winterguard Competition The AVHS Winter Percussion unit and the AVHS Winterguard will host a dual home competition to benefit the Winter Percussion and Winterguard groups. The newly formed Pleasanton Unified Middle School Winterguard will also be participating. Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1:30-10:30 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults, and $8 for students and seniors, (children under 5 are free) Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd.. 925-425-9932. www.amadormusic.org

Miscellaneous

Pleasantonians 4 Peace Candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Group will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathe Norman at 462-7495.

On Stage

Ohlone College Smith Center Presents Barry Shabaka Henley Most well known for his appearances in film and television including Collateral, State of Play, Law & Order: SVU, and Grey's Anatomy, Barry Henley will discuss the history of black artists on stage and cinema, as well as excerpts from his play Jungle Bells. Friday, Feb. 10 from 8-10 p.m., $18- $20 Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. (510) 659-6031. www.smithcenter.com

Recreation

Games of Yesteryear Just like you, Ohlone children and the children that lived on the California Ranchos had favorite games that they liked to play. You're sure to be just as entertained as those kids were all that time ago from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 4, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. This event is free, but pre-registration is required; call 931-3479.

Spiritual

What Christians Should Know about Other Faiths Father Thomas Bonacci will share his expertise from his extensive work in the interfaith community, at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnewood.org.

Support Groups

ClutterLess Guest Speaker Emily Wilska, will speak about Getting Organized at Work and at Home, at a special open ClutterLess meeting at 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30 at Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador. Ms. Wilska has appeared on TV on TLC's Hoarding: Buried Alive. Members are free, an optional donation from guests will be appreciated.

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Sports

CCOP 6A boys take tourney

The CCOP CYO 6A team took first place in the 26th annual Sierra Valley Basketball Tournament held in Loyalton, Calif., Jan. 13-15, with members (front, l-r) Ramon Cristwell, Dawson Walsh, Jake Benson, Quinn Brinnon, Michael Smith, (back) Mitch Benson, Lawrence Liu, Anthony Costello and Paul Jackson III. Not pictured are Tommy Kramer and JT McDermott. They are coached by Ed Costello and assistant coaches Matt Smith and Todd McDermott.

Their scores at the tournament were: first game, 42-6; second, 51-8; and third, 55-21.

They started their season with two losses but are now four and four and have won the last four out of six games.

"We came back and have dominated the last two games," Smith said. "The boys are playing really well. We've had these kids for three years, and they're really starting to work together."

Falcon breaks record for scoring points

Madison Craig, senior point guard for the Foothill Falcons girls basketball team, reaches a milestone in school history at the Jan. 3 game against Granada after she finished the game with 14 points and a career total of 1,339. Through Jan. 18 she has a total of 1,395 points. This surpasses the former record of Lindsey Jones' 1,332 career points. Craig's accomplishment will be formally acknowledged at Foothill High on senior night on Feb. 16 when the team faces Amador Valley High.

Madison Craig

SPORTS DIGEST

Soccer players signing with colleges

Eleven members of the Pleasanton RAGE soccer organization will be signing on the dotted line at the College Letter of Intent Signing Night at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday at the Pleasanton Marriott.

The public is invited to join in the celebration, which will include seeing the players introduced and watching them sign their letters.

The colleges include University of Hawaii, U.S. Air Force Academy, Wellesley College, Azusa Pacific University, Fresno State, University of Nevada Reno, Lehigh University, Chico State, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Indiana University and Colorado College. ■

PREP LINE-UP

Jan. 27

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

Jan. 31

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

Feb. 1

- Wrestling: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home

Feb. 2

- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. California, home
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon, home

Feb. 3

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

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- **FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE** 801-860

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New HOA laws impact homeowners

State adds requirements for associations

By Jeb Bing

From rental restrictions to electric vehicles and electronic meeting notices, Californians living in homeowners associations are seeing several new laws governing their communities that took effect on Jan. 1.

The California Association of Community Managers reports that one out of every three Californians lives in a homeowners association.

One of the most significant of the new laws was state Senate Bill 150, which prohibits associations from restricting owners' abilities to rent their properties unless a rental restriction was in place before the owner purchased the property. This section of the bill applies to a governing document provision that becomes effective on or after Jan. 1, 2012. The law requires owners to provide a statement describing any applicable rental restriction to potential buyers.

Also going into effect in 2012 was Senate Bill 209 governing electric vehicle charging stations. The new law restricts homeowners associations from prohibiting or restricting the installation of an electric vehicle charging station, although associations still have jurisdiction over the approval process for such stations. Owners will be responsible for the maintenance costs associated with charging stations and for any commonly metered electricity. Owners will also be required to obtain an umbrella liability insurance policy that names the association as an additional insured.

Senate Bill 563 laid out several new requirements regard-

See **LAWS** on Page **22**

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2 BEDROOMS

3919 Vine St **$339,999**
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 838-4300

3 BEDROOMS

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

2579 Gillian Ct **$1,299,000**
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 397-4200

4 BEDROOMS

4526 Tahoe Court **$695,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 462-7653

3298 Monmouth Court **$699,000**
Sat 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

640 Varese Ct **$1,950,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

5128 Blackbird Dr **$789,000**
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

404 Oak Ln **$1,648,000**
Sun 1-4 Weiner & McDowell 251-2585

5 BEDROOMS

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

6 BEDROOMS

1667 Via di Salerno **$3,299,000**
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2568

San Ramon

1 BEDROOM

210 Reflections Dr **$159,000**
Sat 11-1 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc. 280-8500

3 BEDROOMS

5130 Canyon Crest Dr **$739,900**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

5 BEDROOMS

9452 Thunderbird Pl **$759,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

6902 Emerson Ln **$1,035,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

1060 Hawkshead Cir **$1,875,000**
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2530

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

For marketing opportunities contact Andrea Heggelund at 600-0840 x110.

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Selling your home is one of the most important financial decisions you can make. Our well planned Strategy can maximize your equity position while minimizing your time on the market.
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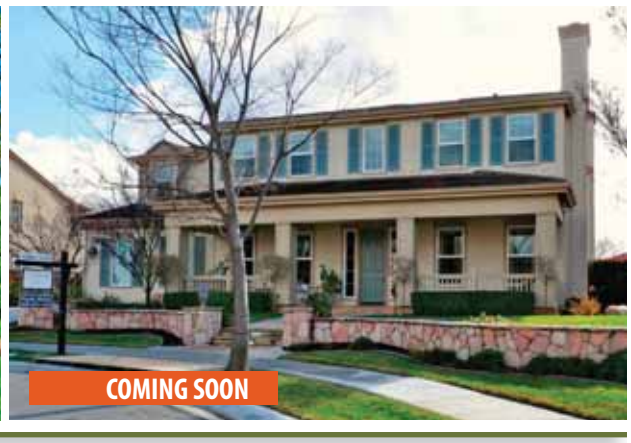
925.251.2585

NEW IN 2012



J. Rockcliff
REALTORS

404 OAK LANE PLEASANTON, CA Offered at $1,648,000
Italian Country Villa on the West Side of Pleasanton. One of the most wonderful and unique homes available today. Gorgeous Italian Villa with an amazing 3/4 acre wooded lot, creek, views and more.Home features authentic Italian style and design with all modern features and amenities.

971 SUMMIT CREEK CT PLEASANTON, CA
One of the finest homes in the desirable Bridle Creek neighborhood! This luxurious 4455 square foot home features 5 Bedrooms plus Library and Media Room, including a private Guest Suite downstairs. Beautifully upgraded and decorated with custom window treatments, built ins, pecan hardwood floors, and much more.Incredible backyard with pool, spa, gazebo with outdoor kitchen and sports court. This is a property you should not miss seeing! Please call for more information and private viewing.

PHYLLIS WEINER
PETER MCDOWELL
925.251.2585
925.251.2550
PWEINER@ROCKCLIFF.COM
PMCDOWELL@ROCKCLIFF.COM
CA DRE #00673849
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Text to get the application
Text: ROCK To: 87778

1225 Lozano Court — Ruby Hill

Bed 6 | Ba 7(2) | 8,877+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.65+/- Acres

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.

The Uwe Maercz Team | 925.251.2568

404 Oak Ln — Pleasanton

OPEN SUN 1-4

Bed 4 | Ba 2.5 | 3,400+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.75+/- Acres

Italian Country Villa, West Side of Pleasanton. Gorgeous Italian Villa with an amazing 3/4 acre wooded lot, creek, views and more. Home features authentic Italian style and design with all modern features and amenities.

Weiner McDowell Group | 925.251.2550

7818 Flagstone Dr — Stoneridge

Bed 4 | Ba 3 | 2,200+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.23+/- Acres

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.

Greg Fielding | 925.855.4029

1667 Via di Salerno — Ruby Hill

OPEN SUN 1-4

Bed 6 | Ba 6.5 | 8,700+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.55+/- Acres

+/-8,700 sf of luxury and sophistication on the 16th fairway. 6 BR, 6.5 baths, library, private movie theatre, spa retreat, tech room, 25 foot ceilings in family room and gourmet kitchen make this estate one of the most desirable properties at Ruby Hill.

The Uwe Maercz Team | 925.251.2568

4137 Silver St — Jensen

Bed 3 | Ba 2 | 1,320+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.16+/- Acres

New paint, 2 panel doors, baseboards, countertops, tile floor in kitchen, range, built in microwave, vanity, fixtures, lighting, and glistening hard wood floors. Walk to Pleasanton's quaint downtown as well as Award Winning Pleasanton Schools!

Anne A. Martin | 925.200.5272

7781 Clfden Ct — The Ridge

Bed 5 | Ba 5 | 4,606+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.47+/- Acres

Former Model Estate built by Taylor Woodrow! Extensive use of natural stone, marble, hardwood, wood paneling, crown mouldings & built-in speakers to name a few! Master suite w/ retreat & balcony. Premium location with panoramic views.

The Joe Frazzano Team | 925.735.7653

4614 Black Ave — Pleasant Valley

Bed 3 | Ba 2 | 1,377+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.17+/- Acres

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.

Tom Bramell | 925.583.2180

1060 Hawkshead Cir — Norris Canyon

OPEN SUN 1-4

Bed 5 | Ba 5.5 | 5,752+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.98+/- Acres

Roubion at Norris Canyon Estates. "Smart Home" Control 4 home system. Upgraded cabinetry, crowm molding, waincoting in master suite ceiling. SS Thermador Professional SS app. 3 ovens, microwave, warmer, Sub-Zero refrig. Pool & spa BB w/fireplace.

Debra A. Allen | 925.251.2530

Cedar Mountain Dr — Crane Ridge

Bed 4 | Ba 5.5 | 8,950+/- Sq.Ft. | 17+/- Acres

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.

Uwe Maercz | 925.251.2568

971 Summit Creek Ct — Bridle Creek

COMING SOON

Bed 5 | Ba 5 | 4,455+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.29+/- Acre

Features 5 Bedrooms plus Library and Media Room, including a private Guest Suite downstairs. Beautifully upgraded and decorated with custom window treatments, built ins, pecan hardwood floors, and much more.

Weiner McDowell Group | 925.251.2550

3056 Rivers Bend Cir — New Price

Bed 5 | Ba 3.5 | 2,878+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.12+/- Acres

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, traviertine/carpet floor, granite counter top, shutters, fully landscaped.

Max de Vries | 925.251.2514

3919 Vine St — Pleasanton

OPEN SUN 1-4

Bed 2 | Ba 2.5 | 1.221+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.03+/- Acres

Two story end unit. 2 master suites upstairs w/ vaulted ceilings & lots of closet space. 0.5 bathroom downstairs. 1 car attached garage. Inside laundry area. Skylights, new paint, & carpet throughout. Close to downtown,, great schools, & ACE Train.

McDaniel / Callahan | 925.838.4300

675 Carrington Ct — Windemere

Bed 5 | Ba 4.5 | 2,955+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.09+/- Acres

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.

Michael Swift & Associates | 925.251.2587

7793 Peppertree Rd — Silvergate

Bed 4 | Ba 3 | 2,240+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.21+/- Acres

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.

Cathy Dean & Kari Wahl | 925.200.4130

8570 Mines Rd — Livermore

Bed 3 | Ba 2 | 1,518+/- Sq.Ft. | 1.13+/- Acres

Country Living at its finest! Living the Country Life w/over 1 Acre of beautiful oak trees. Walk and feel the Tranquility, Inviting Creek where you can enjoy all the Seasons. Completely Remodeled Home. Horse property & more.

Sara Lovett | 925.583.2194

3322 East Avenue — Livermore

Bed 1 | Ba 1 | 432+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.51+/- Acres

Great development opportunity on this half acre lot. Zoned RG-16 - up to 8 units possible.

Uwe Maercz | 925.251.2568

6950 Crow Canyon Rd — Crow Canyon

Bed 4 | Ba 3.5 | 2,700+/- Sq.Ft. | 1.04+/- Acres

Country Colonial Charming This Gated Entrance to this Country Charming property is great. Updated kitchen and most windows are new, flooring thru out the home is newer and so much more. Cottage which is over 850 sq.ft. all on 1 Acre.

Kristy and Company | 925.251.2536

2620 Basswood Dr — Villa Paseo

Bed 3 | Ba 2.5 | 1,436+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.08+/- Acres

Minutes from Bollinger Canyon Rd., Gale Ranch Middle School, Creekside Park, dining, shopping and a short distance to the Bridges Golf Course. Open floor plan with some updates, walk-in closet in master, balcony, stamped concrete and more!

David Azimi | 925.251.2580

30156 Palomares Rd — Castro Valley

Bed 3 | Ba 1.5 | 1,410+/- Sq.Ft. | 24.1+/- Acres

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!

Kristy and Company | 925.251.2536

2194 Elsa Common — The Reserve

OPEN SUN 1-4

Bed 3 | Ba 2.5 | 1,911+/- Sq.Ft. | 0.10+/- Acres

Stunning cherry hardwood floors, freshly painted interior, open floorplan, Corian counters in kitchen, & formal dining room. Master bedroom is oversized w/ walk-in closet, tub, separate stall shower in the master ba. Low HOA. Close proximity to shopping.

Diane Sass | 925.583.2168

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

Blackhawk West
3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville
15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

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

Livermore
1983 Second St.
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

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

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

Orinda
89 Davis Rd.,
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

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

LAWS

Continued from Page **20**

ing the actions of homeowner association boards between meetings. Going forward, HOAs must notify members at least two days prior to a meeting of the board's executive session. The law also allows for meeting notifications to be sent electronically to homeowners and permits board meetings to be conducted by teleconference as long as they are conducted in a manner that protects the rights of members.

Notices of teleconference meetings must identify a physical location so that members can attend and also requires that at least one member of the board be present at the location. However, the board is prohibited from conducting a meeting via a series of electronic transmissions, such as email, except to conduct an emergency meeting.

One piece of proposed legislation that didn't pass last year was Senate Bill 759 governing synthetic grass. This bill would have prohibited associations from restricting the installation of synthetic grass. Gov. Jerry Brown declined to sign this bill into law, stating that associations should be able to decide whether or not to allow synthetic grass.

According to Karen Conlon, president and CEO of the Community Managers association, the new laws for 2012 are indicative of a growing use of technology to govern homeowners associations as well as the acceptance of new energy sources to power California's transportation needs.

"California continues to lead the way in the evolution of laws governing the rights and restrictions of homeowners living in common interest developments," Conlon said.

"We are all facing an ongoing reality in California," she added. "We must find better, more efficient ways of communicating with our homeowners while allowing flexibility when it comes to energy efficiency and rental opportunities, especially in light of our ongoing economic challenges."

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, Laguna Hills, Calif.-based CACM's membership is composed of nearly 3,000 California-based professionals from the community association management industry. For more information on CACM, sign on to its web site at www.cacm.org. ■

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2011

Dublin

6623 Adare Lane Dublin Tralee II to B. Zhang for $434,000

6631 Adare Lane Dublin Tralee II to Y. Griggs for $365,000

6647 Adare Lane Dublin Tralee II to D. Bixby for $470,000

8526 Bandon Drive B. Mes to M. Chanderh for $330,000

7317 Bower Lane Vericrest Trust to L. Nguyen for $315,000

3717 Branding Iron Place National Residential to Anderson Trust for $340,000

7302 Croy Lane M. Mizban to R. Hart for $389,000

5501 De Marcus Boulevard #220 J. & B. Hall to S. Abbasi for $311,000

5425 De Marcus Boulevard #302 Alvernaz Partners to M. Ngan for $210,000

5501 De Marcus Boulevard #617 Federal National Mortgage to S. Kahlon for $245,000

3275 Dublin Boulevard #115 Z. Hilton to Zamora Trust for $270,000

3385 Dublin Boulevard #120 P. Sani to M. Zheng for $273,000

11809 Dublin Green Drive Clabo Trust to D. & L. Howard for $525,000

3420 Finnian Way #322 Toll Dublin Limited to M. & I. Choithramani for $417,000

3420 Finnian Way #408 Toll Dublin Limited to A. Germenos for $368,000

4318 Keegan Street #23 A. Oviedo to I. Lopine for $290,000

5655 Newfields Lane J. Lim to W. Shu for $780,000

8481 Newry Place GMAC Mortgage to T. Trinh for $359,000

5752 North Dublin Ranch Drive MPDF Fund I to C. & M. Latsis for $698,000

5048 Piper Glen Terrace Dsla Mortgage Loan Trust to V. Widyanto for $700,000

8598 Wicklow Lane Wells Fargo Bank to A. Mittal for $372,000

Pleasanton

570 Abbie Street E. & C. Tzang to A. Just for $819,000

603 Blossom Court Decoite Trust to S. & S. Ahmed for $1,370,000

7560 Canyon Meadow Circle #C Steele Trust to J. Lew for $174,000

7595 Canyon Meadow Circle #C Downey Savings to J. McFadden for $225,000

7670 Canyon Meadow Circle #C US Bank to K. Evitt for $167,500

3851 Eastwood Court J. Kacinski to Liu Trust for $580,000

3151 Gach Court P. Cho to M. Murphy for $610,000

196 Kottinger Drive MPDF Fund I to T. Callahan for $525,000

1008 Laguna Creek Lane N. & M. Merchant to S. & S. Jamal for $1,390,000

2703 Maria Street Song Trust to D. Chetan for $625,000

4746 Mason Street R. & J. Seefeldt to S. & S. Raj for $500,000

518 Montori Court Mckean Trust to S. Datta for $860,000

5168 Mt. Tam Circle G. & L. Gusha to Souza-Kim Trust for $880,000

5083 Muirwood Drive Titus Trust to P. & A. Sharma for $799,000

3405 Norton Way #8 M. Nunes to H. & F. Fatehi for $182,000

3596 Olympic Court #S W. & S. Han to M. & T. Neuman for $525,000

633 Palomino Drive #A Federal National Mortgage to W. Goodwin for $230,500

4269 Pleasanton Avenue #C RJ Dublin to S. Murarka for $247,000

3111 Saginaw Court C. Taylor to K. Koski for $235,000

4501 Sandalwood Drive Williams Trust to S. & R. Sharma for $694,000

653 St. John Street Pepper Trust to Jackson Trust for $915,000

740 St. Michael Circle D. Gehrke to D. Feng for $350,000

7254 Valley Trails Drive Haranczak Trust to K. & H. Chhina for $540,000

3847 Vineyard Avenue #G Aurora Loan Services to T. Holubowsky for $98,000

3677 Woodbine Way J. & E. Reynoso to Y. Geng for $220,500

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin (Dec. 22 - Jan. 3)

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: $210,000
Highest sale reported: $780,000
Average sales reported: $402,905

Pleasanton (Dec. 22 - Jan. 3)

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: $98,000
Highest sale reported: $1,390,000
Average sales reported: $550,460

Source: California REsource

COLDWELL BANKER presents

californiamoves.com

ANTIOCH
2115 HAILSTONE WAY
BEAUTIFUL & SPACIOUS HOME **$229,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Kit w/Island & Breakfast Bar.Opens to Fam.Rm.Separate Living & Dining Rm.Indoor Laundry. 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON
927 HAPPY VALLEY RD
COMPLETELY REMODELED! **$1,000,000**
4 BR 3 BA 3,361 sq.ft. living space.Gourmet Kit.w/ granite counters,SS Apps.Mstr Ste w/Spa like tub. 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON
Open **SUN 1 - 4** **5128 BLACKBIRD DR**
GREAT LOCATION BY PARK **$789,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA 2364 Sq.Ft.Upgraded Kit w/beautiful cabinetry,hrdwd flrs,granite counters.Expanded Fam Rm. 925.847.2200

Open **SAT/SUN 12 - 4** **145 COPPER RIDGE RD.**
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

BYRON

6600 ARMSTRONG RD.
40 ACRES,A-2 ZONING **$475,000**
1 BR 2 BA All usuable,zoned for 5 acre parcels. Country Cute Home,Barns,Fenced,Central location. 925.847.2200

CASTRO VALLEY

5167 CHESNEY GLEN DRIVE
GORGEOUS HOME! **$459,000**
4 BR 2.5 BA Modern Decor.Laminate Flring on Main Flr.Spacious Kitchen w/Maple Cabinet & Pantry Closet 925.847.2200

DISCOVERY BAY

540 STIRLING CT
COURT LOCATION! **$269,900**
3 BR 2.5 BA Home is like New!Hardwood flooring. Loft Area upstairs, possible 4th bdrm.Laundry Upstairs. 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

3475 RIMINI LN
UPGRADED AND IMMACULATE! **$699,999**
4 BR 3 BA Kit w/Granite Slab,Cntr Island w/brkfst bar.Oversized Mstr Ste.& bath.Crown Molding,& More 925.847.2200

FREMONT

4631 ROUSILLON AVE
ARDENWOOD BEAUTY! **$550,000**
3 BR 2.5 BA Upgraded Kit. w/Granite counters. Dual-Door Ref.New Interior Paint.New Roof 1yr old. 925.847.2200

5027 PASEO PADRE PKWY
UPGRADED ARDENWOOD HOME! **$499,998**
3 BR 2 BA Tile Flrs-Kit/Bath.Granite Counters in Kit. Wood-Burning fireplace in Liv Rm.Spacious Bdrms 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

1457 MACATERA AVE #250
MANUFACTURED HOME! **$144,900**
3 BR 2 BA Newer manufactured home.Kitchen with island,upgraded cabinets,flooring.Too many extras. 925.847.2200

OAKLAND

3070 MIDDLETON ST
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE W/VIEW **$289,900**
2 BR 1.5 BA Dual Pane Windows.Hardwood Floors in living/dining rm.Eat-In Kitchen.Downstairs rumpus rm. 925.847.2200

ORINDA

595 DALEWOOD DR
ABSOLUTELY STUNNING! **$1,699,000**
5 BR 4.5 BA Plus Office.Living Rm & Family Rm w/ Fireplace.Fam/Kit Combo w many upgrades.Hrdwd Flrs. 925.847.2200

SAN LEANDRO

942 WOODLAND AVE
UPGRADED CRAFTSMAN **$589,000**
4 BR 3 BA Fabulous Kit.w/Granite,work island,commercial range SS,custom cabinets.Mstr Ste w/deck. 925.847.2200

1400 CARPENTIER ST
GREAT GROUND UNIT **$125,000**
2 BR 2 BA Near Pool/clubhouse w/view from patio/courtyard.Newer appliances.Close to BART,580/880 FWY 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

Open **SAT/SUN 1-4** **6902 EMERSON LANE**
GORGEOUS! **$1,035,000**
5 BR 4.5 BA Kitch/Fam. Eatin.Slab Granite.S/S Appl. Lg Mstr Ste.Upstrs Bonus rm.J/J bath.Lndscpd Bckyd 925.847.2200

COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

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apr.com

OAK LANE

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

ESTATES OF MOHR PARK

JUST REDUCED

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 $1,129,500

WALNUT GLEN ESTATES

PENDING

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

OAK MANOR

SOLD

5809 STONECLIFF VISTA LN, PLEASANTON

Newer beautiful home built in 2004. Great location, backs to open space with views of Mount Diablo, Pleasanton Ridge & surrounding open space! Three bedrooms plus loft/office, two & a half bathrooms, 2401 square feet. Custom tile flooring. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless appliances. Spacious master suite. Oversized two car garage. Beautiful landscaping. Walk to new sports park & award winning Hearst Elementary, Pleasanton Middle School, Oak Hill Shopping Center & Main Street! Convenient to Callippe Golf Course & Castlewood Country Club.
SOLD FOR $810,000

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, 3300 square feet. Recently updated gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops! Spacious master suite with fireplace & large bathroom. Open living room, family room and formal dining room. French doors, hardwood flooring. Three car garage. Beautiful, professionally landscaped grounds include, in-ground pool, spacious deck, gazebo, large lawn areas and 135 wine producing grape vines, private vineyard! Community amenities include tennis courts & pool! Walking distance to Main Street and downtown! Award winning Pleasanton schools!!
SOLD FOR $1,400,000

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

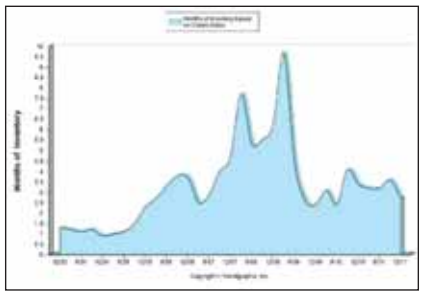
Best location in Laguna Oaks! Desirable Newport model on premium .40 acre lot. Quiet premium court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, plus formal office. Private guest/in law/au pair quarters (4th). Three and a half bathrooms. Approximately 3,830 square feet. Large gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, 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

Where's the Inventory?

It may seem odd to think we are in a tight market right now, given the uncertain economic times and weak housing market nationally, where home prices have continued to decline. But the fact is that the inventory of single family detached homes has been trending down sharply the past few months and there are fewer homes on the market right now in the Tri-Valley than there have been since 2009. Here is a table showing December's inventory level in Tri-Valley cities and the last time inventory was that low (December 2009 and June 2006).



No reason to panic, at least yet. December is typically the low point for inventory and inventory often climbs rapidly as we get deeper into the year. That was certainly the case after December 2009, when inventory rose steadily into late 2010. Some communities

>> Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.

Tri-Valley Inventory

City	Dec 2011		Dec 2009		June 2005	
	For Sale	Mos. Inv.*	For Sale	Mos. Inv.*	For Sale	Mos. Inv.*
Alamo	61	15.3	75	3.8	44	1.7
Blackhawk	26	5.2	46	7.7	39	2.3
Danville	107	1.9	100	2.1	95	1.0
Dublin	35	1.3	22	1.0	38	0.7
Livermore	160	2.6	126	1.8	141	0.9
Pleasanton	81	1.5	114	2.4	96	1.0
San Ramon	95	2.1	54	1.2	72	0.7
Tri-Valley	565	2.2	537	2.1	525	1.0

* Months of inventory based on closed sales
Source: Trendgraphix, Inc.

ALAIN PINEL REALTORS

Doug Buenz
Office
925.251.1111
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 ½ BTH home in The Preserve shows like a model with approx. 5700 sq ft on premium 1/2 Acre view lot! **$1,595,000**

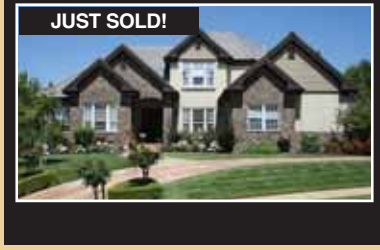
PENDING SALE!

4184 Creekwood Ct. Single Story 4 BR, 3 ½ BTH home on private 1/2 Acre lot with granite kitchen, hardwood floors, pool, and 4 car garage! **$1,079,000**

PENDING SALE!

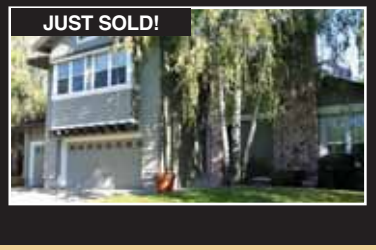
Stunning luxury home with 5 bedrooms plus office, 5 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, granite & stainless kitchen, and a tropical oasis rear yard with sparkling pool, spa, waterfall, and covered patio with outdoor kitchen! **Offered at $1,525,000.**

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 ½ 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 ½ 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**

apr.com | **PLEASANTON** | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

Pleasanton Weekly READERS CHOICE 2011

KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 Office in Pleasanton in Volume and Sales

Open Sun 1-4

2579 Gillian Ct, Pleasanton

Single story, 3146 sqft. home, w/3 BR plus office/or 4th BR, 3 full BA, cherry kitchen with stainless appliances, & private and expansive yard with built in bbq & fire pit. **Offered at $1,299,000**

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

www.RubyHill.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**

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

www.RubyHill.net

1641VettaDrive.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

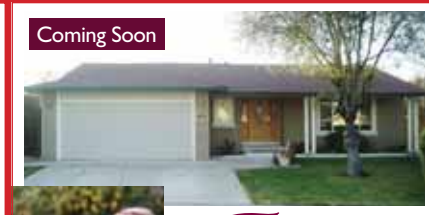
Open Sat/Sun 1-4

1097 Lexington Way, Livermore

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

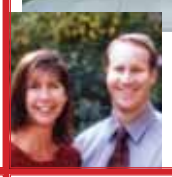
Gail Boal
REALTOR® *DRE # 01276455*
925.577.5787
www.gailboal.com

Coming Soon



Pride in Ownership!

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath one level home on a quiet court in Pleasanton. New stucco, roof, windows and almost 1600 sq ft. Call today for a sneak peek! **Priced in the mid $500's**



Dave & Sue Flashberger
925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com

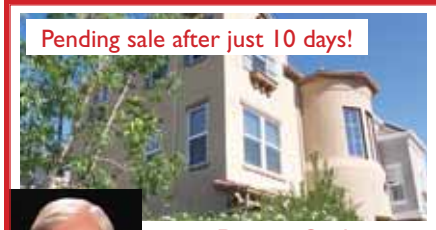
Open Sat & Sun 1-4

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 $675,000**

Natalie Kruger
REALTOR® *DRE # 01187582*
925.847.7355
www.krugergroup.com

Pending sale after just 10 days!



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**

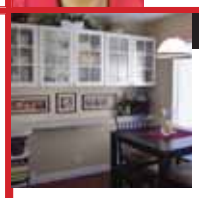
Dennis Gerlt
Broker Associate *DRE # 01317997*
925.426.5010
www.buytrivalleyhomes.com

COMING SOON

4956 Blackbird, Pleasanton

This recently updated home boasts custom kitchen with new cabinets, stainless steel appliances and Siltstone cabinets. Charming home has 4 BR and 2 remodeled BA and is located near shopping and schools. Updates include new insulation and dual pane windows.

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



1405 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton

Immaculate 3 BR & 2 BA Patio Villa, end unit with no adjoining walls to neighbors, 2 bedrooms on the main level, within walking distance of downtown. **Offered at $369,000**

PEEL & SANCHEZ

Danielle Peel
925.998.9692 *DRE #01293873*
Cristin Kiper Sanchez
925.580.7719 *DRE #01479197*
homes@peelsanchez.com | www.PeelSanchez.com

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

JUST SOLD!
2676 Calle Reynoso
Pleasanton
5 Bedroom, 3 Bath.
2,266 SqFt home in
Prestigious
Del Prado

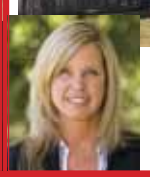
Mike Chandler
DRE#01039712
925-426-3858
MikeChandler.kwrealty.com

Jill Denton
DRE#01804876
925-998-7747
JillDenton.kwrealty.com

Open Sat/Sun 1-4

637 Ruth Way, Livermore

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 1324+/- sq. feet. Single story on 6444+/- sq. ft lot in Granada neighborhood. Updated kitchen with newer cabinets. Updated bathrooms. Hardwood floors. Great location within walking distance to high school. Cute backyard and RV parking. **Offered at $329,000**



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

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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

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5994 W. Las Positas, Suite 101, Pleasanton | www.KWTrivalley.com | 459 Main Street, Pleasanton

Broker License #01395362