

Pleasanton Weekly

CAMP CONNECTION
It's not too soon to line up summer activities for the kids >> 16



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SNIFFING OUT TROUBLE

Drug dogs keep kids on short leash **PG 12**

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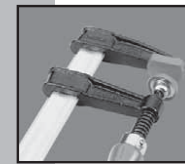
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Off to Amsterdam to play the organ

Americans travel to Amsterdam for various reasons, but seldom, if ever, do you hear about someone going there for a meeting of the city's Hammond Organ Club. But Pleasanton's well-known musical team of Julie and Don Lewis were there a few weeks ago as hundreds of the world's top organists spent a weekend performing for each other.

Don Lewis, the renowned pianist who performs around the country and most recently at a pre-Christmas musical celebration at the Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center, started playing the organ as a teenager. When he began playing professionally, he found the new Hammond organ more versatile and bought one in 1968. A Hammond Organ Co. executive heard him play at a concert in Denver and asked him to represent the firm at its booth at the 1969 National Association of Music Merchants trade show in Chicago. He was an overnight success and in the next few years represented Hammond at shows that took him throughout the country and to Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia and Japan.

Along the way, and with Julie, his wife of 34 years, often at his side and his business manager, he bought a few more Hammond and other brand-name organs, always enthused by the new sounds manufacturers were producing. He even added a few sounds of his own, becoming in recent years an expert in synthesizers with multi-keyboard setups consisting of an organ and monophonic keyboards.

Those were challenging days for Don Lewis, who often stretched his arms to the limit just to reach the keyboards around him. So he decided to design a keyboard console that would allow better access to the synthesizer and keyboards for performance, eventually encasing the instrument he named LEO into a clear acrylic case. As a singer, he was given more freedom by LEO to perform with more dynamics and unique sounds in concerts around the Bay and beyond. After one jam-packed performance at the famed London House in Chicago, where he blended his pop/jazz/classical artistry together, a Chicago Sun-Times nightclub reviewer labeled Lewis as the "ClassJazz Organist," a description that has stuck.

Although Don Lewis no longer represents Hammond Organ and has long ago moved to his own



Don and Julie Lewis with special recognition they received from the Rotary Club of Amsterdam.

synthesizer specialty in performances, he and Julie still have fond memories of their years with Hammond. To prepare for his performance in Amsterdam, playing on an older Hammond organ model, the two retrieved the same model they had placed in storage 27 years ago and restored it in their Mission Park neighborhood home. Then they left for Amsterdam.

With all of the new technology and variety of organ-sounding music on the market today, they found the Amsterdam club "an amazing experience." With 400 members, it's the largest club of its kind in the world with aficionados playing Hammond organs dating back into the 1930s when the company was founded. One organist, who came to the Amsterdam 20th anniversary meeting of the club from Finland, has 350 Hammond organs stored near his home, all in pristine condition. Others played on different models of the Hammond, "belting out" tunes from their days playing pipe organs to two teenage girls who jazzed up their performance well beyond what most of us could imagine coming from a Hammond organ. Don Lewis, again with Julie cheering him on, was the last to play, having come the farthest for the celebration. The "ClassJazz" organist brought down the house, with loud applause throughout his concert.

Don Lewis, by the way, will play at the Ardenwood Elementary School in Fremont today, with Julie helping him move their organ synthesizer from their home, into their van and into the school auditorium. School Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi wants the Lewises to perform at Pleasanton schools, and later this month, Don Lewis will perform again at the Bethel A.M.E. church in San Francisco when it celebrates its 160th anniversary. ■

About the Cover

Falco, a 2-year-old German shepherd from the Czech Republic, sniffs for drugs under the supervision of his handler, Officer Mark Sheldon. Photo by Glenn Wohltmann. Cover design by Kristin Herman.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Since you live on the West Coast, are you interested in the Super Bowl this year?



Sara Williams

Student

I'll be watching it, but not with nearly as much interest as I would have been if the 49ers were in it. They had such a great season this year.

Daniel Riskin

Furniture sales

Not really. I'm not a huge football fan, but if the 49ers were in it, I would've requested Sunday off. Since they're not playing, I'll probably just work.



Anna Goesswein

Au pair

I'm from Germany, so this will be my first Super Bowl. We're going to San Francisco to watch it in a community place, but we don't know exactly where yet. I'm really excited.

Paddy Fournier

Student

I'm going to watch it with my dad. He's from New Jersey and is a big Giants fan. I don't really have an opinion on who should win, so I'll go with the team that my dad likes. I hope there's candy to eat.



Scott Simms

Chef on long-term sabbatical, stay-at-home dad

I don't really care. I've never been a fan of the game; I've seen football and I grasp the sport, but I'm not into it. I'm not planning on watching the game on Sunday.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

'Creatures' to attack Chicago

Pleasanton's teen improvisation troupe, Creatures of Impulse, has been invited to perform in the Teen Comedy Festival in Chicago in May. Twelve of the 20-member troupe will attend the festival, which takes place May 12 at the Athenaeum Theatre. In addition to performing its improvised teen musical, "Tri-Valley High: The Musical," Creatures of Impulse will attend performances and workshops with professionals in stand-up comedy, theatrical improvisation and sketch comedy.

Several benefit performances and workshops are being held to raise more than \$15,000 to help fund the trip. Checks can be sent to Creatures of Impulse, Firehouse Arts Center, P.O. Box 520, Pleasanton 94566.

Scouts take credit for cookies

For cookie sales starting Feb. 13, local Girl Scouts are launching a program to accept debit/credit cards on cookie purchases. This will not only make it easier for cookie buyers, but it shows that Girl Scout programs embrace technology and teach real-world skills, noted Girl Scouts NorCal CEO Marina Park.

This year's cookies come in eight types, including the new Savannah Smiles, a crisp lemon wedge centennial specialty named in honor of the birthplace of Girl Scouts USA in Savannah, Ga., in 1912. All of the cookies have 0 grams trans fat per serving. A new Girl Scout cookie locator mobile app provides nutritional details on each cookie as well as sales locations. Learn more at www.ilovecookies.org.

STEM blossoms at AVHS, middle schools

The Pleasanton Unified School District, working with Project Lead The Way, will begin offering PLTW's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses starting this fall, funded through Career Technical Education grants. The Gateway to Engineering curriculum will be merged into existing classes at Pleasanton and Harvest Park middle schools and the Pathways to Engineering curriculum will be offered at Amador Valley High.

Project Lead The Way is a not-for-profit organization and the nation's leading provider of middle and high school STEM education programs in everything from energy and the environment to biotechnology, engineering design and development and biomedical innovation and more.

Council, public weigh in on new police contract

Pension contributions will be raised, benefits for new hires reduced

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council moved forward Tuesday night toward approving a new contract with the Pleasanton Police Officers' Association that requires members for the first time in a decade to contribute directly to their own retirement plan.

The new contract, which is expected to be approved by the council this Tuesday and take effect then, also will institute a so-called "two tier" plan that will reduce benefits for those hired after Feb. 7.

For those now on the police force, the new contract will require them to start paying directly into their CalPERS pension. For the last 10 years, the city has been paying the full 9% contribution based on an agreement in lieu of the police receiving salary adjustments.

Starting with the signing of the new contract, police will pay 3% of their salaries into the pension fund, followed by 6% on July 1, and then the full 9% starting July 1, 2013.

For new employees, the formula that allows police to retire at age 50 with 3% of their salary

based on years of service would be moved to age 55. Based on the current formula, officers who have 30 years of service in law enforcement in California are eligible to receive 90% of their salary, based on their three highest years of earnings. Now eligible for this benefit at age 50, new employees would have to wait until age 55 for it to become effective.

Medical benefits for police hired after the new contract takes effect also are being reduced. Cur-

See **COUNCIL** on Page 6



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Walkers on Monday night retrace the route Ilene Misheloff, 13, would have taken after leaving Wells Middle School in Dublin when she disappeared 23 years ago.

Walk keeps alive memory of missing teen

Ilene Misheloff disappeared 23 years ago from Dublin street

Twenty-three years after she vanished, Ilene Misheloff is still being remembered. About 100 people turned out Monday night to mark the anniversary of her disappearance for a walk in her memory.

The walk traced the route she would have taken after leaving a physical education class at Wells Middle School at 6800 Penn Drive in Dublin and ended with a prayer service at St. Raymond Catholic Church at 11555 Shannon Ave.

Among those participating in the walk was Michael Hart, a former Alameda County sheriff's deputy.

"I was on duty the night Ilene disappeared," Hart said as he and his wife, Crystal, walked along the teen's route. "I've been doing it just about every year since."

"It's an awful thing to lose a child," Crystal Hart added.

Misheloff was 13 years old when she disappeared in Dublin, but her family continues to search for their daughter. A website, www.find-ilene.org, offers a \$95,000 reward for her return.

On the day she disappeared, Ilene left school early after being excused from a physical education class, according to her

See **WALK** on Page 6

Major cuts for schools

Programs, jobs could be restored if tax measure passes

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Looking at bad and worse figures from the state, Pleasanton school officials have released numbers that could mean cuts of nearly 30 full-time jobs for the next school year.

The more severe cuts would come if Gov. Jerry Brown's plan for a tax increase on the November ballot fails. In that scenario, nearly \$5.5 million would have to be cut from this year's budget, and school officials are gearing up now to make those cuts.

"Due to statutory timelines for layoffs, we are unable to wait until November and hope that the governor's tax initiative passes," Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi says in a Guest Opinion this week (page 8). "We must base our budget on facts and not hope."

A tentative plan from the district would elimi-

See **CUTS** on Page 6

Amador grad seeks bone marrow match

'I don't have much time,' Janet Liang says on video

Pleasanton is rallying around an Amador Valley High School graduate desperate for a bone marrow match in her fight against leukemia.

At the City Council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman called on the public to help Janet Liang. The 2005 graduate is looking for a match, particularly from the Asian-American community.

Two local drives have been set up in the hope of finding a match for Liang, one at Mohr Elementary School from 2-6 p.m. on Feb. 16 and another at Amador on Feb. 25 from noon to 4 p.m.

Liang is working on a tight timeline, too: she needs a bone marrow match before April, or it will be too late to save her life. She has issued a personal, tearful plea on YouTube, asking for help.

"It feels like I don't have much time, and I realize mostly why I'm afraid of dying is because I'm afraid of what I'm leaving behind," Liang said in the video. "So, please, register your bone

See **BONE MARROW** on Page 6



Janet Liang

TAKE US ALONG



Saloon stopover: Gayle Furukawa and her Weekly visit the Red Dog Saloon in Juneau, Alaska. "Yes, I went behind the doors and it was so much fun," she said.

WALK

Continued from Page 5

family. She walked home alone, and witnesses who saw Ilene at several points along the walk say that she was last seen at the intersection of San Ramon Road and Amador Valley Boulevard.

Mike and Maddi Misheloff, accompanied by the girl's twin brother Brian, led the walk as they have done every year since

Ilene went missing.

The Misheloffs continue to hope someone has information and will come forward.

Pictures of what the 13-year-old looked like at the time and an age progression showing what she would look like today can be found on the website, along with information about rewards and tips for preventing child abductions.

—Glenn Wohltmann

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

rently, police personnel who retire receive medical plan benefits for themselves and their spouse calculated on a percentage based on years of service with the city. The new agreement modifies that benefit from two parties to the employee only, and terminates when the employee becomes eligible for Medicare.

More than 30 of the 73 police officers now on the force sat together in the council chamber at Tuesday night's special City Council meeting, with many of them walking to the lectern to say they support the new contract.

Officer Dave Bato, president of the police union, told the council that while police recognize their duty to help the city reduce its unfunded pension liability, the new contract will impose financial hardships on its members.

"This new contract will require officers to contribute roughly \$1,000 of their pay each month and significantly alters health care benefits for those who now join the police force," he said.

Julie Yuan-Miu, Pleasanton's assistant city manager and Director of Administrative Services, who worked with City Manager Nelson Fialho in negotiating the

new contract with police union representatives, said the new agreement will result in a savings to the city of approximately \$2.4 million through the fiscal year 2013/14 budget.

Despite the police accord, Bart Hughes, a financial analyst who frequently talks at City Council meetings about the city's pension problems, said the new contract won't have any impact on Pleasanton's unfunded pension liability.

To address that liability, the council recently authorized setting aside \$1 million from a surplus at the end of the last fiscal year to start paying down the deficit.

"But that won't help," Hughes said. "The unfunded liability which stood at \$121 million has grown to \$137 million, so a lot more has to be done."

Fialho said now that the police contract has been settled, the council can turn its attention to the unfunded pension liability. He told council members Tuesday that he will be back with an action plan within the next few months.

The City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday to ratify the new police contract and discuss other issues. Council meetings are held at the Pleasanton Civic Center, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

Science on Saturday starts tomorrow

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, "Science on Saturday," returns tomorrow and runs through March 3, with topics including the Lab's work on the Mercury Messenger; effects of earthquakes; space junk; and restoring sight to the blind.

The lectures are free of charge and will be held in the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St. in Livermore. Two presentations are offered, at 9:30 a.m.

and 11:15 a.m., plus the talks will be streamed live via the LLNL Facebook page. Each lecture highlights cutting-edge LLNL science presented by leading Lab researchers joined by master high school science teachers.

The schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 4: "The Gamma-Ray Spectrometer at Mercury: A Seven-Year Journey to the Innermost Planet," by scientist Morgan Burks and teacher Dan Burns
- Feb. 11: "Sleuthing Seismic Sig-

nals: Understanding Earthquake Hazard and Monitoring Nuclear Explosions," by scientist Sean Ford and teacher Ken Wedel

■ Feb. 18: "Space Junk: Traffic Cops in Space," by scientist John Henderson and teacher Tom Shefler

■ March 3: "Restoring Sight to the Blind: Bridging the Medical Gap with Technology," by scientist Sat Pannu and teacher Kirk Brown.

Seating is on a first-come basis. There is no pre-registration. ■

An evening with Teddy Roosevelt

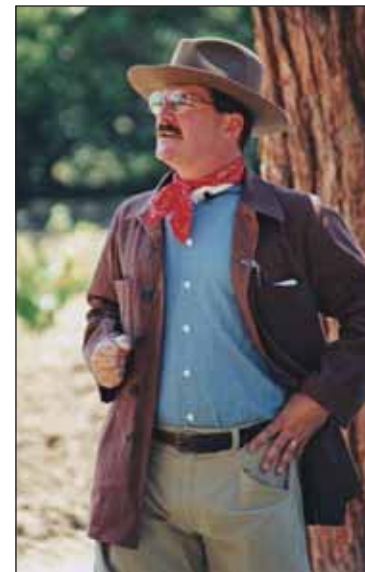
The Museum on Main invites everyone to spend "An Evening with President Teddy Roosevelt," beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Firehouse Arts Center. It's part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, in which this year's audiences come face to face with famous people through actors who look and sound as if they have stepped from the pages of history books.

Teddy Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, was a naturalist, explorer, author and soldier, as well as a politician. He is portrayed by Fred Rutledge; this

month's event is sponsored by Rebecca Bruner.

The speakers series takes place monthly January through October at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets can be reserved in advance at www.museumonmain.org or by calling the Museum on Main at 462-2766.

Ticket prices: \$10 general admission; \$5 members and seniors; \$3 students/teachers with ID, to be paid at the door. All tickets are open seating and after 6:45 p.m. unclaimed reserved tickets will be released for sale. ■



BONE MARROW

Continued from Page 5

marrow, especially if you're Chinese American."

More than a dozen YouTube videos have been posted seeking help for Liang, many from people who have never met her face to face. There's also a Facebook page, Help Save Janet Liang, and a web page, www.HelpingJanet.com, devoted to helping find potential donors.

The Facebook page says she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in August 2009 while studying at UCLA, and went through eight rounds of high-dosage chemotherapy that lasted over the course of a year. Some of her hospitalizations lasted for 30 days, while others took several weeks. In June 2010, she left the hospital in complete remission and began a regimen of maintenance therapy that kept her cancer-free for a year and a half.

CUTS

Continued from Page 5

nate funding for the Barton Reading Program, axe adult education and summer school, along with its director and classified staff, drop three fulltime counselor positions from middle schools, another three at high schools and one-and-a-half at elementary schools, plus eight-and-a-half elementary fulltime reading specialist positions.

The fulltime positions cited are not necessarily fulltime jobs held by one person; in many cases, employees are part-time workers or split their schedules at different locations.

The plan would also cut one fulltime psychologist position and

During that time, she took a dream trip to England and France with her mother and also appeared in People Magazine on behalf of the nonprofit organization First Descents to promote hope and healing to other young adult cancer patients.

Liang was recently hired by a school district, but her cancer returned. The Facebook page says she recently relapsed and that her plans for the future have been put on hold once again, and that Liang "is now pressed for time to find a match for a bone marrow transplant that may be the last chance to save her life."

She's hoping to be out of the hospital in February so she can work on getting potential donors, when she's in less pain, and to have a month "to enjoy things that I haven't done before, I guess a bucket list."

"I need you to help me, to save my life or find someone out there who could save my life. I'm still

positive," she said in her video. "I'm pleading with you, to just continue to get out on the drives. Register. I have until April to find a match."

There's already been one bone marrow drive, on Jan. 21 at Pleasanton Middle School. Typing is easy: All it takes is a cheek swab. But Liang is more likely to get a match from an Asian American, so her friends are asking for help particularly from that community.

Other drives, not just for Liang, but for other Asian Americans are being held in Northern California (www.aadp.org/drive/) and in Southern California (www.asian-marrow.org/index).

Only 3% of the nation is registered as potential bone marrow donors, according to Project Michelle (www.ProjectMichelle.com), which was formed to raise awareness and increase the pool of potential donors.

—Glenn Wohltmann

school counseling could be restored midyear, bringing it to the same as this year; even with the tax increase, middle school counseling would see one-and-a-half fulltime positions cut and high school counseling would be cut by one fulltime position.

If the tax increase is approved, elementary reading support specialists would be still cut by four-and-a-half fulltime positions and the teachers assigned to the Barton Reading Program would be cut by half to one half-time position. Psychologists and program specialist positions would remain the same, as would the one-and-a-half-time position for home schooling support. Custodial positions could be restored to their 2011-12 schedules. ■

Beware of mystery shopper scams

Payment is often with a bad check

By JASON ALDERMAN

Getting paid to go shopping may sound like a dream job, but buyer beware: For each legitimate mystery or secret shopper opportunity, probably hundreds more are scams.

In fact, the National Consumers League says complaints regarding fraudulent mystery shopper and work-at-home schemes were up nearly 9% during the past six months.

Why the increase? It's due in part to our nation's high unemployment rates and how desperate people are to earn money while seeking full-time employment. Plus, many people are lured by offers that sound too good to be



Jason Alderman

true (and are).

Here are tips for spotting bogus mystery shopper programs:

Many retailers hire marketing research companies to gauge their employees' quality of customer service. Those companies in turn hire mystery shoppers to make purchases anonymously and fill out questionnaires documenting their experience.

Many research firms belong to the Mystery Shopping Providers Association, a trade organization that links businesses with mystery shopping providers. The association also provides a search engine where people can register for mystery shopping assignments.

Unfortunately, scammers increasingly are using newspaper and Internet job ads, emails and phone calls to snare unsuspecting consumers with promises of quick, easy money for minimal

effort. Here's how a typical mystery shopping scam might work:

You answer an ad and are "hired" as a mystery shopper to evaluate its clients' businesses. The company sends an official-looking employment packet containing the business evaluation forms you'll supposedly use. But first, you'll be required to complete a so-called training assignment to make sure you're a suitable employee. That's where the fraud comes in.

■ The company claims it's evaluating a money transfer service like Western Union.

■ It sends you a large check with instructions to deposit it in your personal checking account.

■ You are told to keep a certain amount as your fee and then to pose as a customer by wiring the balance to a third party — usually within 48 hours.

■ You then submit a report about your customer experience.

What you may not realize is that the original check was fake. Scammers know that by law, banks generally must make deposited funds under \$5,000 available within a few days. They count on your completing the transaction before the check has been cleared by the issuing bank, which may take several weeks. Once your bank discovers the fraud, it will bounce the check and you are on the hook for the whole amount you wired — plus your wasted time.

Common red flags include:

■ Legitimate companies will never ask you to send a money transfer for any purpose.

■ Legitimate companies don't charge shoppers a fee to work for them.

■ Be suspicious if you're hired on the basis of an email or phone call without any interview or background checks.

■ Companies that promise you can make a lot of money as a mystery shopper are almost certainly scams.

■ If mystery shoppers are asked to make purchases, it's usually for very small amounts for which they will be reimbursed.

Mystery shoppers are paid after completing their assignments and returning the questionnaires. Shoppers never receive checks up-front.

Jason Alderman is a financial expert who directs Practical Money Skills for Life, a free, award-winning financial education program.



JEB BING

Waiting for workers

This nearly empty parking lot along the west side of the California Center (formerly called CarrAmerica) shows the dilemma this huge 1-million-square-foot complex has in the center of Pleasanton's Hacienda Business Park.

Office leasing continues to be soft with roughly a 20% vacancy rate in Hacienda and just under 50% at California Center. With Ross Stores moving its corporate headquarters to Dublin in 2014, that will leave another 167,000 square feet for California Center to fill.

Relief could come from an affordable housing plan just adopted by the Pleasanton City Council that rezoned part of the California Center peripheral property for apartments. A new hotel also is planned there once the economy improves.

Chevys restaurants close in Pleasanton, Livermore

Series of purchases over years ends in bankruptcy

Chevy's Fresh Mex Restaurant at 5877 Owens Drive in Pleasanton has closed as part of its owner's bankruptcy filing, ending an era of early growth.

The chain was founded in 1981 by Warren Simmon and his son Scooter Simmon when they opened their first restaurant in Alameda. It grew to 37 restaurants across California by August 1993, when it was acquired by PepsiCo subsidiary Taco Bell.

When PepsiCo decided to exit the restaurant business in 1997, Chevys was sold to the investment group

J.W. Childs Associates. In 1999, Chevys then paid \$59 million to Applebee's International to buy Rio Bravo Cantina, a poorly performing chain of Mexican restaurants with 66 locations in the U.S.

However, efforts to boost Rio Bravo's customer appeal failed, causing Chevys' executives in 2003 to file for bankruptcy protection. In January 2005, Chevys was acquired by Real Mex Restaurants Inc., the Long Beach, California-based parent company of El Torito Restaurants and Acapulco Mexican Restaurants. Because of that, Real

Mex Restaurants became the largest operator of full-service Mexican restaurants in the U.S.

But in October 2011, Real Mex Restaurants filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and announced that it was putting itself up for sale, citing the poor economy as a reason. Last December, as part of its bankruptcy filing, restaurant owners began closing a number of its California restaurants, starting in Southern California and more recently here when both the Pleasanton and Livermore restaurants were closed permanently. ■

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

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Opinion

GUEST OPINION

By **PARVIN AHMADI, SUPERINTENDENT,
PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

New cuts, unfortunately, impact students

On Friday, Jan. 28, a list of proposed reductions was posted on Pleasanton Unified School District's website. After cutting over \$20 million the past four years, it is no surprise that many of the programs on the list directly impact students. In 2007, when the current state budget crisis began, it was common to hear, "Keep the cuts away from the classroom." After ongoing cuts for several years, it's unfortunately not possible to keep cuts away from the classroom.

Last year after cutting over \$3.5 million dollars, employee concessions, donations from the community, and the one time Federal Job's Bill enabled us to restore programs on a one-time basis. These items are not budgeted for the 2012-13 school year. We recognize that restoring programs may create a perception that perhaps the district does not need to cut in the first place. We have to base our budget on facts and not risky assumptions as the Legislature does, such as tax initiatives that may or may not pass, or possible increased revenues.

Our employees have agreed to concessions year after year, and PPIE (Pleasanton Partnerships In Education Foundation) and PSEE (Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation) have helped raise funds to help restore some programs. When budget cuts continue as they have, the result is cumulative and after cutting \$20 million, the impact is severe and ongoing.



Parvin Ahmadi

The governor's proposed budget released this month is based on a tax initiative on the November ballot that if not passed will result in midyear cuts for the 2012-13 school year. Districts will need to assess the risk of a midyear cut, make an informed estimate of the potential exposure, and plan accordingly.

For PUSD, the risk equates to approximately \$5.5 million dollars for 2012-13. The question we are asked is, "Could the district wait until November to make cuts if taxes do not pass?" The answer is no. Due to statutory timelines for layoffs, we are unable to wait until November and hope that the governor's tax initiative passes. We must base our budget on facts and not hope.

The state budget process lends itself to turbulence and uncertainty. In January of each year, we hear the governor's proposed budget. In May, this forecast is revised by the governor. Before July each year the state budget is to be approved by the Legislature. Although we were fortunate and last year the budget was actually approved on time, in the previous year, the state allowed itself an extension and the budget was not approved until 100 days later! We, as school districts, are not afforded these sorts of extensions.

We take proposing and making cuts very seriously, as this impacts our students' lives as well as our employees and families. We truly appreciate our community's passion and support for public education. I believe managing the education budget as has been done in California is nothing short of aggressive neglect of public education. We must work together to advocate for our students and for public education by actively seeking long-term solutions and changes in public policies that have resulted in such drastic cuts to education. ■

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

What's the rush?

Pleasanton has always made crime prevention a top priority, which benefits all that live, work and raise families here. But in a city that has spent millions of dollars in litigation costs and with a school district that's not far behind, proponents of sending drug-sniffing dogs onto high school campuses should make sure the legality of the sniffing is clear before making the move.

The school board's much-publicized effort to use dogs to reduce drug use in the schools also has another consequence. It's sending a message that Pleasanton may have more of a teenage drug problem than it does, which may frighten away new residents and/or create a negative image of our community. One Realtor already has heard from a Raleigh, N.C., mother who is considering a move here but now is concerned because of the stories she has read about drug problems in our city's high schools.

The subject, which writer Glenn Wohltmann covers in depth in today's cover story in the Pleasanton Weekly, has been among the most talked-about/written-about school stories in recent weeks throughout the Bay Area and other parts of the country. From national newsletters such as "Police Link" to "Dogs Online" to newspapers in Beaumont, Texas, and Palm Desert, Calif., Pleasanton high schools, drugs and sniffing dogs have been among leading reports. Facebook last week included commentaries such as "So, paying extra for a police dog is more important than education?" and, "I see drug sniffing dogs as nothing more than a measure to keep drugs out of schools in affluent communities where kids have the means to acquire them." Pleasanton police have said they will not charge for the service.

Wohltmann points out that there continues to be concern over the legality of drug-detection dogs sniffing around public school campuses, although most courts have agreed that it's not an intrusive act. Still, as Wohltmann writes, the U.S. Supreme Court may have the final word when it rules later this year on a Florida case. Our school board, though, wants to have its dog-detection policy in place for a vote on Feb. 28. We don't need another lawsuit against the Pleasanton school district and, since Pleasanton police dogs will be used, against the city. Why not wait until the Supreme Court rules. What's the rush? ■

LETTERS

Act now against Wal-Mart

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton Weekly's message (Jan. 27) to residents questioning the proposed Wal-Mart grocery at the Nob Hill site? "It'll be good for you, so sit down and shut up." When somebody says that, I smell a rat. A big Arkansas rat.

Until recently, Wal-Mart hid for months while submitting anonymous plans to the city. Wal-Mart then amended its plans to cleverly remove anything triggering a "design review" that allows public input. All crafted so that, crazily, this new Wal-Mart could get far less city scrutiny than your neighbor's room addition. Do good neighbors hide what they're doing?

This is not just about a few

tenant improvements. No. Wal-Mart wants no questions about big impacts it could have on the city and issues like traffic, jobs, crime and noise. With predatory pricing, Wal-Mart will poach sales from our local Pleasanton stores, threaten existing local jobs, and advertise to attract hordes of out-of-towners Nob Hill never did. And, profits leave town for Arkansas. That's a "neighborhood" store?

Santa Rita traffic is terrible now. Southbound from I-580 and Dublin/Tassajara, how much worse will Wal-Mart customers spike traffic at Las Positas, Stoneridge and the dangerous, unprotected left turn at Navajo Court? Under Wal-Mart's secret approval method, we can't know, can't even ask about these and other impacts. Pleasanton residents must act now, before it's too late. Ask your City Council to move Wal-Mart out from the rat hole into the light of public view.

Tom Zengel

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 111

Online/Community Editor

Jessica Lipsky, Ext. 229

Reporter

Glenn Wohltmann, Ext. 121

Contributors

Jay Flachsbarth
Jerri Pantages Long
Kerry Nally

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Lili Cao, Ext. 120
Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

ADVERTISING

Account Executives

Carol Cano, Ext. 226
Lorraine Guimaraes, Ext. 234
Karen Klein, Ext. 122

Real Estate Sales

Andrea Heggelund, Ext. 110

Ad Services

Cammie Clark, Ext. 116

BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathy Martin, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail: circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Visiting with Margaret Davoren at her kitchen table is like chatting with an old friend. She recently talked in her soft Irish lilt about the celebrations when she turned 104 on Jan. 10, and shared a congratulatory note from the president of Ireland.

Floral bouquets and birthday cards sent from friends and family members surrounded Margaret in her comfortable home at Hacienda Mobile Home Park.

"I had five children — three girls and two boys. And I have 17 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren," Margaret said.

Her first great-great-granddaughter was born last week, and she hopes to see her at a wedding in September and to take a five-generation photo.

Margaret's life journey began near the sea in County Cork, Ireland, in 1908. Her mother died when she was a toddler, and at 18, although she was a shy young woman, Margaret yearned to travel to America where her mother's three sisters lived in San Francisco and Oakland.

"Dad said I was too young," she recalled, "but it was my idea to see my aunts."

When she found out a friend with a sister in New York was planning a voyage to the United States, the two of them went to the American Consulate.

"There was an examination, physical and mental, and my friend didn't pass," Margaret remembered, although she did. "We came back in month and she still didn't pass."

Margaret decided to leave on her own.

"I sailed that night," she said, "on the SS Republic."

First she stayed with her many cousins in New York.

"But I didn't want to stay in New York. I was meant to come to California," she said, and she boarded the train for the West Coast.

She recalled pulling into Oakland and being enchanted looking out the windows at the picturesque little houses with geraniums growing in the gardens. She found a job as a nanny for a family in Alameda.

"In three years I met husband, Stephen, who was from Dublin," she said. "He proposed to me behind the Cliff House on our first date, and we were married in 11 months."

They lived in Oakland, and Stephen worked as a street-car man on a line that ran to the university.

"Now it's changed to buses," Margaret said. "In 1929 it was a beautiful place."

Stephen became acquainted with postal workers that traveled on the streetcar and ending up working for the postal service himself, she recalled.

In 1941 their family was growing and they began to search for a house to buy that could accommodate them. Stephen



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The management of Hacienda Mobile Home Park sent Margaret Davoren a bouquet of yellow and green for the colors of Ireland on her 104th birthday.

had the idea that a plot of land to work would be nice, but he was from the city of Dublin, she pointed out, while she'd been raised on a farm and knew the reality of it.

They found a house in San Leandro with four bedrooms and central heating, which she loved. Plus it was on a double lot so they had room for Stephen to "farm" and for the kids to play.

In 1984 Margaret, then a widow, moved to Pleasanton.

"I had three children here, and they talked me into coming," she said.

Her children have since moved out of Pleasanton but are still nearby.

"They take me to church on Sunday and do the grocery shopping," she said.

She accompanied one to the supermarket recently.

"I couldn't believe you can check yourself out," she said.

All the "computer things" amaze her, too, she said, and the ease of travel. She's returned to Ireland three times and been to her childhood home, which was bought and renovated by people from Tiburon. She's also traveled to England, Spain, Rome and the Holy Land.

"I took the tram to the top of Masada," she recalled.

Margaret has had sadness in her life, with the early loss of her mother, and having her husband die many years before her. Her oldest son, who would now be 80, also died a few years ago.

She said her faith has sustained her through difficulties and she thanks the Blessed Mother for the many good

things in her life.

"God has been so good to me," she said.

She doesn't know how to explain her longevity.

"I walked a lot, three miles to school each way," she said.

"After school I helped my father on the farm."

"It was near the ocean and so pretty," she added. "But of course it rains."

Margaret said she never cared for a lot of butter or oil, except for a little on salads.

"I love sweets but I restrict myself," she said.

She has a wealth of memories that span the last 10 decades, such as when she looked up at the sky and saw Charles Lindbergh flying over.

"I said, 'That's Lindy's plane,'" she recalled. "It was 1927."

She's never regretting moving to the United States.

"This country has been so good," she said.

Margaret definitely enjoys the present, her family, friends and home. She often sits in the family room and watches the birds at her feeder, letting an adventurous squirrel nibble a little before she shoos him away.

She's grateful to have no aches or pains, although she uses a walker.

Margaret plays bingo at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and sometimes at the Hacienda clubhouse. For her 104th birthday, she played for free plus was presented with a big cake.

"We gave Margaret a 100th birthday party and have given her one every year since," said her friend and neighbor Lorraine Blakley. ■

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Think outside the (chocolate) box for unique Valentine's Day gifts

Buying the standard bouquet or box of candy for the love of your life doesn't show you've put much thought into the sentiment. In fact, if your valentine is like many others, they are just six weeks into the new year that likely began with all sorts of promises to get fit or lose a few pounds. Will chocolate really say

"I love you?" Will flowers convey your devotion?

Instead, consider a gift that not only comes from the heart but benefits the heart. Here are better options for Valentine's Day when you want to say:

"You are adored." There is nothing like a spa treatment to put your loved one on a pedestal. "A facial or massage is the gift of relaxation and self-care," says Kate Rice, a massage therapist and national massage educator. She says a gift certificate can be part of a bigger pampering day — perhaps along with breakfast in bed or an end-of-day bubble bath. "People tend to think of massage as a luxury, but it's therapeutic and can help 'reground' them. It's also the perfect gift for someone who does so much for everyone else."

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"I want you in my life forever." The vow is "in sickness or in health," but we'd all prefer good health. If your special someone knows they need to get fit or stay fit, they might need more than a gentle nudge. Hiring a personal trainer — for a private session or for the two of you — is a way to show your commitment to life and to each other.

Resist the urge to go the traditional (and unimaginative) route this Valentine's Day. Think of your gift ideas with health in mind to make your love last.

—ARA Content



or other physical event can create memories to last a lifetime. That's how 29-year-old Michael Lorenzen ended up registered for his first ultra-distance triathlon. "My wonderful girlfriend, Brigit, gifted me a 2012 entry into a triathlon." He says his initial reaction was irritation, followed quickly by panic, which soon transpired into gratitude. "She did it because she knew I'd never sign up myself. I've never done an ultra-distance triathlon. I know I can, but committing to doing it is a big deal to me." The gift, he says, showed him that she believes in him. It's hard to get



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SNIFFING OUT TROUBLE

Drug dogs to keep high school students on short leash

STORY & PHOTOS BY GLENN WOHLTMANN



Pleasanton police Officer Mark Sheldon and Falco, who work the night shift, are one of two teams likely to be called in to do scent searches at the three Pleasanton high schools.

Dogs may be man's best friend, but for some Pleasanton students, in the not-too-distant future, they may be anything but.

The Pleasanton school board has approved a plan to allow drug detection dogs to do scent searches of student and teacher parking lots and gym lockers, although the board held off giving final approval until it finalizes its policy to address the issue.

Using dogs to sniff for drugs can be traced to 1971, when, during the war in Vietnam, dogs were trained to scent on marijuana in an effort to curb its use by military personnel. The idea was soon adopted by U.S. customs for use in airports and border crossings, and picked up by police departments nationwide. Pleasanton has had its own dogs for 30 years, according to Lt. Scott Rohovit, and currently has three dogs, two for sniffing drugs and one used to detect explosives.

Officer Tim Martens works with Camo, 9, a Dutch shepherd from Holland; Martens said most police dogs come from Europe. In the U.S., he said, dogs are bred for their physical appearance; in Europe, dogs are bred for competitions that include agility, fending off an attacker and paramilitary exercises.

Thinking of police dogs might bring to mind large, frightening dogs like Doberman pinschers, but the two drug dogs in Pleasanton seem a far cry from that.

Camo, for example, seems just like a friendly family dog, which he is, most of the day.

"When he's at home, he's pretty mellow," Martens said.

Even while at work, it seems he's just as happy to be goofing off as sniffing out drugs. Martens said with Camo, whom he's had for 6 years, he's got the best of both worlds.

"I get to go to work every day with my buddy," Martens said. "And when a crime comes down, we're right in the thick of things."

Martens and Camo work the day shift, while Officer Mark Sheldon works nights with Falco, a 2-year-old purebred German shepherd from the Czech Republic. They say most of the work is routine but far from boring.

Largely, they're brought in to search when an officer making a traffic stop suspects drugs are

in a car, or when someone on probation or parole is stopped. Parolees and probationers have search clauses issued by the courts that allow police to search them, their cars and homes without a warrant.

Falco, who began working with Sheldon last October, is also used to enter a business when an alarm goes off and there are signs of forced entry, although Sheldon said officers always follow up and search the premises themselves.

"It's your job to put him in the places where he's going to succeed," Sheldon said.

The two dogs react to drugs — marijuana, heroin, MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy, and methamphetamines — in different ways. Camo scratches when he scents drugs, while Falco is a passive alert dog, meaning he sits when he gets a scent.

Martens said the dogs don't have any direct contact with suspects.

"We never use the dogs to search people," he said, which fits with the school district's plan to use them out of the presence and sight of students.

Police have said they would not charge the district for the searches.

Other school districts

Pleasanton isn't the first local district to use dogs. Both Livermore and Dublin have used dogs for searches, while the San Ramon Valley hasn't even considered them, according to school district spokesman Terry Koehne.

"We do not use them currently, and we have not had any conversations about using them at this point," Koehne said.

Dublin Superintendent Steve Henke said they haven't been used in the six years he's been with the district, but said that's about to change.

"We actually have had it in our policy for a time," he said.

Henke explained that the district had used an outside service that was discontinued. Now, he said, the district plans to work with Dublin police, much like the plan for Pleasanton.

"It's been a while," Henke said. "I would say that it does prove to be a deterrent, as part of a program. Drug prevention education is critically important in this."

Drug-sniffing dogs are an active part of the Livermore school district's war on drugs, according to Assistant Superintendent Chris Van Schaack.

"We believe it's been very effective in helping modify the culture at school campuses," Van Schaack said. "We don't believe the drug dogs are going to modify the behavior of students, but we want 8 o'clock to 4 o'clock to be sacred."

For the last five or six years — since Van Schaack was principal at Granada High School — the dogs have been brought in six to 10 times a year at random.

"The first couple of years we only did it two or three times," he said. "We were real careful to follow all the guidelines."

The dogs are used a little more aggressively than is planned for Pleasanton: In Livermore, when they're brought



Officer Tim Martens and Camo go over a car in a search for drugs. K-9 teams are often called in for backup when an officer making a traffic stop suspects drugs are inside.

Students are asked to leave their backpacks behind in the room and class is held somewhere else.

"We have the kids go on, we call them field trips. The kids go outside and study," Van Schaack said.

Like Henke in Dublin, Van Schaack said the dogs are only a deterrent and should be part of a bigger drug prevention program; similarly, Pleasanton school board members said searches here would be part of a "multi-pronged program."

Van Schaack said it's impossible to know how well they work because the district didn't know how many students were bringing drugs to school in the first place. But he noted that 10 students have been found to have drugs in their possession in the last five or six years.

"Typically it's zero or one (per search). And recently, I think we haven't found anything in five or six times," he said. "They say other kids still sell and do drugs, but not there."

Van Schaack also said the dogs have been accurate. "Not one single time has a dog hit on a car or a locker or a backpack that we didn't find something," he said.

Effectiveness

Van Schaack's assertion that the dogs are accurate has been challenged elsewhere, and their questionable accuracy is a problem for Pleasanton School Board Member Jamie Zinke.

An analysis by the Chicago Tribune in January 2011 looked over a three-year period that dogs were correct only about 44% of the time, and only about 27% for Hispanic students. In the piece, dog handlers defended the findings, saying that the scent of drugs and paraphernalia can last for days after drugs are sold or used.

However, the piece noted that even advocates of drug detection dogs agreed with experts who say many of the dogs and handlers "are poorly trained and prone to false alerts."

The analysis also noted that officers' personal biases can lead a dog to scent drugs when none is present.

Legal issues

Opponents of Pleasanton's plan to implement drug detection dogs have vowed to sue, claiming a violation of students' Fourth Amendment protection against warrantless searches and seizures, although students on school grounds do not have the same rights as adults. For a student to be searched, all school administrators need is a reasonable suspicion, which is a legal proof less than probable cause.

Pushing for the drug dogs, Kevin Johnson, Pleasanton School District's senior director of pupil services, cited a 2009 Connecticut case in which Harold Burbank sued the school district of education in the town of Canton. The court concluded that a warrantless sweep using drug-sniffing dogs was not a search under the Fourth Amendment "because students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in

the odor or 'aroma' emanating from their unattended lockers and motor vehicles on school property."

The Connecticut court also found that ordering students to remain in their classrooms did not constitute a seizure because school officials are authorized to schedule student activities during the school day; the students were allowed to leave their classrooms in the case of an emergency; and much of the time the students were kept in their normal classrooms.

However, in California, a 2000 opinion by then-Attorney General Bill Lockyer said:

"(S)chool administrators at a public high school may not implement a policy requiring on an unannounced, random, and neutral basis that (1) pupils be directed to vacate their classrooms and leave behind their personal belongings, including backpacks, purses, jackets, and outer garments, for sniffing by canines trained in the detection of drugs, (2) the pupils would proceed to a location not within the immediate vicinity of the canines and would remain away from the canines at all times, and (3) if a canine's behavior indicated the presence of drugs, the pupil's personal belongings would be searched by the school administrators without the pupil's consent."

Cases in California have shown individual districts handling the situation differently. In 1997, Galt Joint Union High School District dropped its plan to use drug detection dogs after the threat of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, according to ACLU-NC spokeswoman Laura Saponara.

In that case, the district also agreed to pay lawyers' fees to end the case, Saponara said.

A 1999 case brought by a student at a high school in Plumas County dismissed the student's claim that his Fourth Amendment rights had been violated.

But a 2009 search at La Canada Unified School District in Southern California prompted the district to revise its policies after the constitutionality of the school district's search and seizure practices were questioned by a parent who is a career federal public defender, according to the La Canada Valley Sun. Guy Iversen, the father of two sons who were subject to that search, told the school board that, "Technically, if you don't have justification, that's kidnapping."

He said students' rights were violated when they were separated from their personal belongings against their will and without reasonable suspicion.

The U.S. Supreme Court may have the final word on the matter. While it has ruled on drug detection dogs in the past, the court has agreed to hear a new case, Florida v. Jardines. That case, involving a drug detection dog outside an alleged marijuana grow house, may change how dogs can be used in searches.

It's unlikely, however, that the court will rule before the Pleasanton board lets drug dogs start their searches here. The board expects to have its new policy allowing the searches in place by Feb. 28. With approval by Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi, a search could be done the next day. ■

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

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

- Continued from January 17, 2012 - Public Hearing: P11-0709/P11-0717, Brian and Christine Bourg (Appellants); Dave Cunningham (Applicant) – Consider an appeal of a Planning Commission decision approving a Design Review to replace the approx. 482 sq. ft. single-story house at 205 Neal Street with an approx. 1,844 sq. ft. two-story residence and Variances to: (1) reduce the front yard setback from the required 23 feet to 20 feet to accommodate the new house; (2) allow one required off-street parking space to be located in the required front yard setback; and (3) allow tandem parking
- Public Hearing: P11-0997, City of Pleasanton – Adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and adopt a General Plan Amendment to incorporate the CAP by reference in the General Plan Air Quality and Climate Change Element
- Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Police Officers Association for the term June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2014

City Council/Planning Commission Joint Workshop

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue
Review and receive comments on the BRE Properties, LLC projects:

- PUD-85-08-12D:** Application for a PUD (Planned Unit Development) Development Plan to construct a mixed-use high-density residential/commercial development containing 251 residential units, four live/work units, and approximately 5,700 square feet of retail space at the property located at the southeast corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road. Zoning for the property is PUD-MU (Planned Unit Development-Mixed Use) District.
- PUD-81-30-86D:** Application for a PUD (Planned Unit Development) Development Plan to construct a high-density residential development containing 247 residential units and four live/work units at the property located at the northern corner of Gibraltar Drive and Hacienda Drive. Zoning for the property is PUD-MU (Planned Unit Development-Mixed Use) District.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter following Joint Workshop
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- P11-0981, Chinese Church in Christ**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a church at 5064 Franklin Drive.
- PCUP-273/UP-90-43, Diamond Pleasanton Enterprises**
Consideration of a possible modification of conditions of approval or revocation of a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of Club Neo located at 4825 Hopyard Road.

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of FY 2011/12 Community Grant Midterm Reports
- Consider Request from Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council to Amend its use of FY 2011/12 Community Grant Funds
- Presentation on Commissioner's Application Review using ZoomGrants: An Online Grant Application Software Program
- Review and Approve Transit-Themed Artwork for the Bus Shelter on Santa Rita Road near Valley Avenue

Library Commission

Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Teen Services and PUSD Cooperation Update
- Library Commission Retreat Goals and Objectives

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Presentation on Commissioner's Application Review Using ZoomGrants: An online grant application software program.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

**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

POLICE BULLETIN

Police re-arrest brothers busted for running a meth lab

Two men charged with running a meth lab out of their home were arrested on new charges after police stopped by their home last week.

Robert Willard Magoon, 52, and his brother, Matthew Robert Magoon, 42, were both arrested Jan. 27 for possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance and paraphernalia when police stopped by to do a probation check.

Robert Magoon was ordered to serve six months in jail after the original arrest in 2010, when police went to their home in the 800 block of Angela Street to serve an arrest warrant on Matthew Magoon on unrelated charges.

On March 10, 2010, police found evidence Robert Magoon had built a small clandestine drug lab to make methamphetamine. During the investigation, police turned up evidence that included glassware, beakers, propane tanks, tubing, acetone, salts, powders, smoking devices, a substance used for making methamphetamine, a digital scale and packaging. Matthew was initially charged, but those charges were later dropped.

During the 2010 investigation, the Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement agents went to the home to help investigate and dismantle the lab; the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department hazardous material crews went to the home as a precaution.

A probation check also led to the arrest of Richard Cordova, 23. Cordova was arrested at about 3:43 p.m. Jan 24 in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue for possession of stolen property, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance and possession of a hypodermic needle.

Cordova was arrested in 2007 on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and felony vandalism. The victim in that case, a 17-year-old Foothill High School senior, was attacked at a house party with a baseball bat and wooden chair, in addition to being hit and kicked.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Jan 24

Theft

- 3:16 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; petty theft, vandalism
- 3:43 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; possession of stolen property, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, possession of a controlled substance, possession of a hypodermic needle
- 6:33 p.m. in the 4400 block of Second Street; identity theft

Jan. 25

Sexual assault

- 12:01 p.m. in the 2200 block of Delucchi Drive; sexual assault, sexual assault of a minor
- 5:29 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; sexual battery, child molestation

Theft

- 9:48 a.m. in the 2900 block of Bottini Court; grand theft
- 10:34 a.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft, possession of stolen property, identity theft
- 5:07 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft, identity theft
- 5:08 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft, identity theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:34 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Pleasanton Avenue; driving with marijuana
- 11:34 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Main Street;

driving with marijuana

Jan 26

Theft

- 9:16 a.m. in the 1200 block of Chianti Court; theft, identity theft, mail theft, petty theft

Vandalism

- 12:35 p.m. in the 500 block of St. Thomas Way

Alcohol violations

- 4:21 a.m. at the intersection of Piemonte Drive and East Ruby Hill Drive; DUI
- 10:53 p.m. at the intersection of Lakewood Street and W. Las Positas Boulevard; DUI

Jan. 27

Theft

- 5:14 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 6:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:48 p.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road; theft

Vandalism

- 7:27, 7:49, 8:02, 8:13, 8:24 and 8:43 a.m. in the 500 block of Tawny Dr
- 7:59 a.m. in the 600 block of Concord Place

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:55 a.m. at the intersection of Rosewood Dr and Santa Rita Rd; DUI
- 10:41 a.m. in the 800 block of E. Angela St; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 4:31 p.m. in the 800 block of E. Angela St; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

cotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

- 8:20 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

Jan. 28

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:18 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Rd; paraphernalia possession
- 5:16 a.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

Jan. 29

Theft

- 9:56 a.m. in the 3900 block of Promenade Way; identity theft
- 11:06 a.m. in the 7900 block of Cherrywood Court; fraud

Vandalism

- 10:22 a.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive; vandalism, battery

Alcohol violations

- 12:14 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 12:55 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; DUI
- 2:18 a.m. in the 5200 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness

Jan. 30

Vandalism

- 8:27 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Northway Road

Drug violation

- 10:30 a.m. in the 8200 block of Moller Ranch Road; possession of a controlled substance, possession of a hypodermic needle, paraphernalia possession

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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. 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.

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

Events

AN EVENING FOR YOUR VALENTINE

Museum on Main's Valentine fundraising dinner, "Casks, Kegs and Cupids," promises to be a lively evening with a gourmet dinner paired with fine wines or beers, live auction and popular two-bit auction. The event is at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main St. Tickets are \$80 and may be purchased at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.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. 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

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE

Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. The group reflects on the human and monetary costs of the war and honors veterans who have sacrificed. Contact Cathie Norman at 462-7495.

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. It will feature

rabbits from greater Bay Area rescue groups. Bring your spayed/neutered bunny to fall in love, or get a nail trim. Call (209) 244-7174 or visit www.harvesthomeanimal.org.

Kids & Teens

FORECAST CALLS FOR RAINING HEARTS

Bring your umbrellas to M.o.M.'s Reading Time from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. For preschoolers ages 2-5. Participants will enjoy "The Day it Rained Hearts" with books and crafts in honor of Valentine's Day. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Lectures

ACTNOW CHAPTER MEETING The Alameda County Tri-Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women (ACTNOW) will hold its monthly chapter meeting. Featured speaker will be Jennifer Dow-Rowell of Tri-Valley Haven. Topic of discussion will be about homelessness in the Tri-Valley. Wednesday, Feb. 8 from 7-9 p.m. Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St., Pleasanton. 510-388-5665. www.freewebs.com/actnow1

KIRK WALLER BINGS 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. Call 828-1315 or visit www.aclibrary.org.

On Stage

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

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.lynnwood.org.

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BARBECUE

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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.

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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



Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2012 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Making the summer camp choice

By KARLA KANE

The phrase "summer camp" brings to mind images of woodsy cabins, canoes, games of capture the flag and lanyard making, the stuff of treasured memories and Hollywood movies. But while many such traditional camps exist and are thriving today, the modern camper has a wide variety of camp styles to choose from, including specialty camps dedicated to sports, arts or other interests; church-sponsored retreats; day camps; fitness camps and many more. And camps today vary greatly in length, distance from home and cost. So how can families decide which camp is the best fit?

Sean Nienow, an advisor with the National Summer Camp Association, said it really depends on what the family is looking for in a camp experience, but the first step when considering a sleep-away camp (versus a day program) is to make sure both parent and child are ready for a separation, sometimes of weeks or months.

"It's normal that there will be some measure of homesickness. But parents have to ask, 'Is the child ready to learn new skills

and meet new people?' Usually yes, they are."

Often it's the parents who aren't ready to let their child go, Nienow said, and initial bouts of homesickness will quickly pass. However, "is there value in imposing camp on a child who is completely not interested or ready? Probably not," he added. Most camps start accepting children around age 7, he said.

Local YMCA and church camps can be short, lasting about one week, while more traditional sleep-away camps can run for several weeks or the whole summer. Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Child Psychiatrist Richard Shaw said rather than simply going by the child's age, parents need to consider the individual needs and personality of their child to determine whether he or she is ready to go away to camp and not be overly influenced by whether his or her peers are ready.

"Kids may not be at the same developmental age as their friends," he said.

Shaw said signs that a child is ready to go off to sleep-away camp include initiating



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GUIDE TO 2012 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS



basic self-care such as teeth-brushing, tying shoes and hygiene, making friends on their own and being able to trust adults in authority. Participating in sleepovers with friends or staying with relatives away from home successfully are also good signs of camp readiness, he said.

On the other hand, "if a child has never slept away from home, is afraid of the dark or is very shy or a picky eater," he or she may have a hard time adjusting to camp life, Shaw said.

Though camp can be a wonderful experience in socialization and confidence-building for shy or anxious kids, Shaw recommends preparing them for camp by sending them on one-night overnights or weekend programs first, or to camp with a good friend to ease the transition.

Nienow recommends a more traditional camp experience, offering a wide variety of activities for first-time campers, especially those who come from urban areas or who otherwise don't spend much time in the great outdoors.

"Some kids may have never swam in a lake, slept in the woods or rowed in a rowboat," until camp, he said. For children with specific interests, a camp dedicated to one hobby, sport or topic may be a dream come true. However, parents should be sure their child really wants to focus intently on one interest rather than trying the more classic general-camp route.

"Choosing a specialty camp really comes down to making sure the child really and

truly has the desire to go and devote themselves to this intense, in-depth experience," Nienow said. "If they're at a basketball camp, they're going to be playing basketball four or six hours a day."

National Camp Association staff members such as Nienow offer free advice to any parent looking to choose a camp. A quick visit to www.summercamps.org puts the reader in touch with a variety of articles and tips on the camp-selection process.

Nienow said parents concerned with finding the right camp for their child should go directly to the source and check out interesting camps on an individual, in-depth basis. Speaking with the head of the camp can go a long way toward determining if the camp is a good choice, especially if the child has special needs or the parent has particular concerns.

"Check out what each camp is offering and make sure it's a good fit for your child. Talk to the staff and the director; they want to talk to parents and make sure it's a good fit and that the child has a good time," he said.

No matter what type of camp a child attends, the experience will make a lifelong impression, Nienow said.

"Any adult who ever went to camp as a child remembers it. For many kids, it's their first time away from mom and dad, their first taste of independence, learning a new sport, finding a first love. They are impacted for life," he said. ■

Amigos de Pleasanton
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www.wix.com/micasita0203/amigos

Spanish Immersion Preschool
and Summer Camps K-5.

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Pleasanton, CA 94568
(925) 461-3011
www.centerpointepreschool.org

A weekly summer day camp serving children entering grades 1-6. It offers children a lively, creative and exciting summer camp experience. Campers will take weekly swim and field trips and explore their artistic sides with fun arts and crafts. Open from 7:30 am - 6 pm, Monday through Friday beginning June 11 through August 17.

East Bay SPCA Animal Camp
4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 230-1302
www.eastbayspca.org/camp

Animal Camp is an interactive educational program where campers learn about animals and foster an appreciation for all living beings. Week-long camps run from June 19-August 17, 9 am - 3 pm for children entering grades 1-8 in the fall.

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Register at www.eastbayspca.org/camp or call 925-230-1302



CHRIS SCOTT/WWW.CALSPORTSPHOTO.COM

Soccer moments

Foothill varsity faces San Ramon Valley High on Saturday in an exciting game that ended in a victory for the Danville team, 5-1. Boys soccer action continues Tuesday, with the Falcons facing De La Salle away, and Amador Valley playing Livermore High in Livermore. Thursday is the crosstown rivalry for both boys and girls, with boys playing at 6 p.m. Feb. 9, at Amador Valley; and girls playing at 6 p.m. at Foothill.

SPORTS DIGEST

Foothill Alum signs pro football contract

Brendan Faubion, a 2006 graduate of Foothill High, has signed a contract to play professional football in the Austrian Football League for the Salzburg Bulls after completing his four-year college football career at Humboldt State University. He played starting defensive end to help the Lumberjacks clinch the GNAC



Brendan Faubion

Conference Title in November. At Foothill, Faubion lettered in football and received All-East Bay Athletic League first team honors as a senior and second team recognition as a junior. He is the son of Christina and Gerald Faubion.

Wrestling Falcons win 6 medals at Santa Rosa tourney

The Foothill varsity wrestling team had six members receive medals at the Puma Classic Wrestling Tournament in Santa Rosa last weekend, leading to a fourth-place team trophy. Team Captain Cal Dutrow, who is a senior, defeated the fifth-ranked wrestler in North Coast Section at 197 pounds. In the finals, Dutrow lost to the

13th ranked wrestler in the state from Vacaville.

Senior Austin Soto also had an undefeated day into the finals at 140 pounds. Soto, who entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed, also had a finals match against a talented wrestler from the prestigious Vacaville program and fought hard but was unable to prevail, and finished second in the tough weight class.

Junior Louis Desprez won his first two matches in the championship rounds, then dropped to consolation where he placed third at 134 pounds.

Seniors David Harizal and Conner Aura, and junior Zac Wilner, placed Top 6.

Also competing at the tournament for Foothill were Michael Belichak, Kyle Batoy, Jacob Nel-

son, Vas Stover, Sage Frye and John Carandang.

Basketball on TV

Tri-Valley TV30 will film tonight's Foothill vs. Livermore High School basketball game and air it tomorrow at 7 p.m. This is the second of four basketball games to air on Tri-Valley Community TV, with Sports Final personalities Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevich providing commentary.

The game will also air at 5 p.m. Sunday; 9 p.m. Tuesday; and 10 p.m. Thursday, plus is scheduled to stream live and be available via Video on Demand on the Tri-Valley TV website at www.trivalleytv.org. DVDs of the games may also be purchased via the website.

PREP LINE-UP

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

Feb. 7

- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, away
- Boys Basketball: 7 p.m., Foothill vs. California, away
- Girls Basketball: 7 p.m., AVHS vs. San Ramon Valley, home
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. Carondelet, home
- Girls Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, home
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., Foothill vs. De La Salle, away
- Boys Soccer: 6 p.m., AVHS vs. Livermore, away

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Real Estate

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Landmark associates helping professional organizations

By JEB BING

A number of top advisors for Pleasanton-based Landmark Mortgage Group are now also serving in key roles at local real estate organizations.

Rick Benitez, mortgage advisor and managing partner, has been elected Affiliate Director for the Bay East Association of Realtors. Realtor Otto Catrina, past president of Bay East, said Benitez was chosen for his "professionalism and commitment to supporting the growth and success of the Realtor community."

At the same time, Landmark mortgage advisor and branch manager Linda LoGrasso is serving as the Education and Program chairwoman for the Delta chapter of Women's

Council of Realtors.

Landmark mortgage advisor Russ Barto is starting his third year with the Women's Council of Realtors' Tri-Cities chapter as a board member. For 2012, Barto will be in charge of budget and finance.

Mortgage advisors Corinne Andrews and Laurie Christeson of Landmark Mortgage Group were elected to the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore board of directors. Andrews will serve as media communications officer and Christeson as tour coordinator.

Also, mortgage advisor Todd Utikal has been named the public relations officer with the Rotary Club of Pleasanton.

Landmark has offices in Pleasanton, Livermore, Capitola and Brentwood. ■

Norton joins One Risk Group

One Risk Group, a Pleasanton-based retail property and casualty insurance brokerage, has added Marcus Norton as a vice president in the property/casualty area.

Norton will specialize in working with mid-to-large-size contractors of all types. He has expertise in the concrete and utility contractors field, which has been the focus of his experience for the last 12 years.

"We are very pleased to have Marcus join our team as his presence enhances our footprint in the construction industry throughout the Bay Area and Central Valley," said Jon Turner, CEO of One Risk Group. "His ability to navigate the legislative issues fac-

ing the construction industry will provide our clients tremendous advocacy."

Norton currently serves on the board of directors for the American Subcontractors Association of California and he is currently the chairman for the Government and Industry Relations Committee for the National Utility Contractors Association of Colorado.

Prior to joining One Risk Group, he was a vice president of the Moody Agencies in Colorado and earlier a vice president of Allied North America/AON in California.

One Risk Group is located at 3825 Hopyard Road. ■

East Bay luxury home sales dip, but prices up

By JEB BING

Luxury home sales in the East Bay dipped in December but the median sale price moved higher compared to last year, according to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage of the Tri-Valley.

There were 74 sales in December for more than \$1 million in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, down from 84 in November and 107 in December 2010. However, the median sale price of a luxury home was up 5.1% from a year ago to reach \$1,256,000. The median did fall 3.3% from the month before.

Two other key metrics showed year-over-year improvement in the high-end market: Sellers received 96.5% of their asking price on average compared to 95.9% a year ago, and homes sold in 63 days on average, down from 76 days in December 2010.

The figures were derived from Multiple Listing Service data of all homes sold for more than \$1 million last month in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

"Although last month was a bit of a mixed bag, there continues to be solid demand for homes priced above \$1 million in the East Bay and throughout the Bay Area, for that matter," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

"We've seen really good activity in the upper end of the market for the better part of the past year," he said. "That's a healthy sign for the overall market because history has shown that sustainable recoveries in

the housing market typically begin with the luxury segment."

Turley said the challenge for the East Bay's real estate market continues to be a shortage of homes for sale, not lack of buyers.

"I think it's important for sellers to get the message that the market is getting better in many areas and there are buyers willing to pay competitive prices for homes," he said. "If you've been thinking about putting your home on the market, you shouldn't wait any longer. It's time to jump in."

Some key findings from this month's Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage luxury report:

■ The most expensive sale in the East Bay last month was a five-bedroom, six-bath 6,488-square-foot home in Blackhawk that sold for \$2.81 million;

■ Danville boasted the most million-dollar sales with 13, followed by Pleasanton with 11, Lafayette with nine, Oakland with eight, and Orinda with six;

■ Homes sold in 63 days on average, down from 76 days a year ago but up from 48 days the previous month;

■ Sellers on average received 96.5% of their asking price compared to 97.5% the previous month and 95.9% a year ago. ■



Rick Turley

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30 Erselia Ct **\$1,650,000**
Sun 12:30-3:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

143 Tivoli Ln **\$629,950**
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

5 BEDROOMS

755 El Pintado Rd **\$1,750,000**
Sun 1-3 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

2221 Creekview Pl **\$899,000**
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS

11769 Solana Dr **\$416,000**
Sat 1-4/Sun 10-1 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

Manteca

2 BEDROOMS

2133 Tiffany Walk **\$119,000**
Sat 2-4 Lori Adams 209-324-2579

2327 Shadow Berry Dr **\$219,990**
Sat 2-4 Lori Little 209-606-5011

1883 Elmbrook Wy **\$365,000**
Sat 2-4 Susan Russitano 209-275-5817

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

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

3 BEDROOMS

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Sat 1-4 Tim McGuire 895-9950

2579 Gillian Ct **\$1,299,000**
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

4 BEDROOMS

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

5260 Ridgevale Way **\$980,000**
Sat 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

5 BEDROOMS

1856 Zenato Place **\$1,849,000**
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

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

4 BEDROOMS

1868 Barossa Dr **\$729,000**
Sat 1-4/Sun 11-2 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

5 BEDROOMS

6902 Emerson Lane **\$1,035,000**
Sat 1-4/Sun 11-2 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

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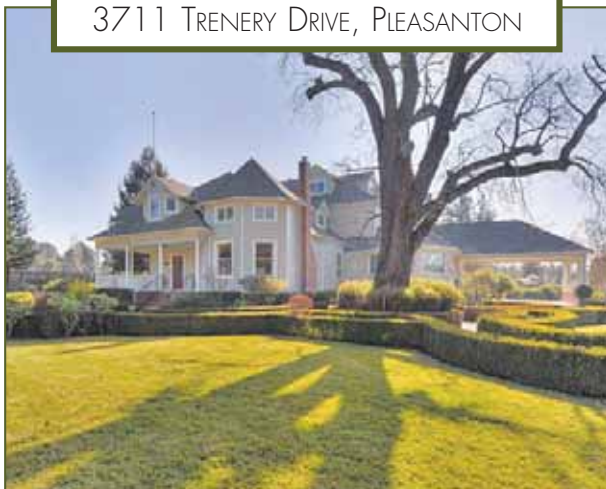
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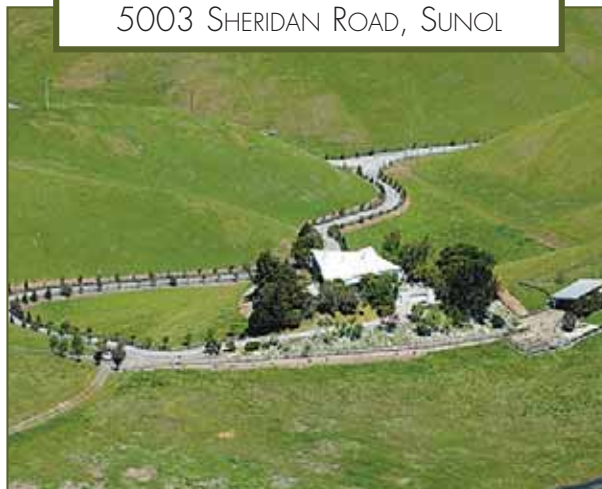
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Danville, CA 94526
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Lafayette
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Orinda, CA 94563
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Walnut Creek
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

REAL ESTATE

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2012

Livermore

- 6315 Almaden Way** H. Berberian to M. & L. Phillippi for \$307,500
- 1922 Banyon Common** G. Gondhalekar to B. Welch for \$422,500
- 656 Canterbury Avenue** Renck Trust to J. & M. Flascck for \$385,000
- 3611 Carrigan Common** Last Mile Properties to J. & S. Holton for \$310,000
- 3135 Chateau Way #207** L. Miller to W. & L. Futral for \$126,000
- 6426 El Capitan Way** Meritage Homes to R. Jamison for \$470,500
- 6445 El Capitan Way** Meritage Homes to G. Spencer for \$471,000
- 1390 Hillview Drive** Bank of America to A. Trespando for \$310,000
- 1358 Killarney Street** J. & L. Frost to G. & K. Butchko for \$500,000
- 3812 Madeira Way** US Bank to M. Stiles for \$280,000
- 76 Meritage Common #200** S. & D. Swenson to A. & F. Eck for \$275,000
- 979 Olivina Avenue** Catalina Bay Limited to S. Gebreselassie for \$280,000
- 5771 Rainflower Drive** S. Williams to D. Bon for \$485,000
- 2484 Robinson Circle** Wells Fargo Bank to Polymathic Properties for \$551,500
- 2268 Santa Croce Drive** J. & L. Eastment to L. & M. Erickson for \$735,000
- 194 Selby Lane #11** Shea Homes to C. Ionescu for \$308,500
- 194 Selby Lane #12** Shea Homes to P. Hari for \$325,500
- 194 Selby Lane #8** Shea Homes to C. Wilson for \$389,500
- 194 Selby Lane #9** Shea Homes to L. & V. Wulff for \$369,000
- 671 Shadow Mist Court** Aurora Loan Servicing

- to B. & K. Berg for \$1,150,000
- 665 Summertree Drive** Castle Peak Loan Trust to W. & L. Henry for \$565,000
- 945 Sunset Drive** Terry Trust to P. & K. Gordet for \$369,000
- 6633 Tiffany Common** Deutsche Bank to J. & A. Sparks for \$352,000
- 753 Traviso Circle** J. Caggiano to J. & J. Phillips for \$810,000
- 643 Via Del Sol** Pehrson Trust to W. & S. Mizutani for \$515,000

Pleasanton

- 2108 Alexander Way** A. & M. Jain to J. Dai for \$410,000
- 478 Bonita Avenue** C. Doyle to G. & C. Cohen for \$545,000
- 20 Cali Court** Federal Home Loan Mortgage to A. Roberson for \$485,000
- 4262 Diavila Avenue** S. & S. Tatavarty to A. Deshpande for \$615,000
- 3880 Eastwood Court** Alameda County to Y. Hu for \$475,000
- 2102 Eilene Drive** D. & L. Ditlevsen to G. Valente for \$477,000
- 4232 Garibaldi Place** U. & N. Ezeh to A. Blair for \$517,000
- 5230 Hummingbird Road** J. Green to P. Alfrejd for \$650,000
- 1536 Mendoza Court** J. Nelson to S. Pichal for \$465,000
- 3170 Pawnee Way** Wells Fargo Bank to Ling Trust for \$226,000
- 1089 Piemonte Drive** Bobba Trust to X. Zhang for \$1,777,000
- 3862 Pimlico Drive** R. Kotecha to S. Pallerla for \$280,000
- 4823 Pipit Court** Dillon Trust to S. Blacklock for \$875,000
- 2381 Romano Circle** D. & A. Wohlwend to R. & G. Gibbons for \$1,063,000
- 8102 War Glory Place** Nye Trust to H. Long for \$1,480,000

Source: California REsource

COLDWELL BANKER

presents

californiamoves.com



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



DUBLIN
11769 SOLANA DR
MOVE IN READY! \$416,000
3 BR 2 BA 1 Story Ranch Style Hm.Great West Side Neighborhood.Exc Schools,Wood Burning FP-Fm. Rm 925.847.2200



SAN LEANDRO
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
145 COPPER RIDGE RD.
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES AVAIL PRICING STARTS IN LOW \$300'S
2 bd condos, 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 usable,zoned for 5 acre parcels. Country Cute Home,Barns,Fenced,Central location. 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

MARTINEZ
4896 STARFLOWER DR.
PATIO VIEWS OF MT.DIABLO \$248,000
3 BR 2 BA End unit,travertine fireplace w/oak mantle.Lam. wd flrs.Kit w/granite & brkfst bar,SS Appl 925.847.2200

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

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

HAYWARD
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

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 rum-pus rm. 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. 510-851-3551

DUBLIN
4436 ROSCOMMON WAY
GREAT DUBLIN GREEN HOME! \$588,000
4 BR 3.5 BA Lrge Mstr Bdrm downstairs.Upgraded w/hrdwd flrs.Fm Rm w/fireplace & built-in media ctr. 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. 510-851-3551

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

SAN RAMON
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.// bath.Lndscpd Bkyd 925.847.2200

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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Julia Murtagh

925.997.2411

jmurtagh@apr.com

JuliaMurtagh.com

DRE #01751854

"Bringing Integrity to Your Front Door"



ALAIN PINEL
REALTORS

AVAILABLE



6023 STERLING GREEN CIRCLE

Beautiful home in the "Canyon Oaks" neighborhood of South Pleasanton. This 4 bed/2.5 bath home, is just under 2900 sq ft. upgraded home.
OFFERED AT \$849,000

PENDING



1111 Tiffany Lane

Charming Duet, close to downtown, 1705 sq. ft. upgraded throughout, built in 1985. Walk to school, shops, parks. Call for more details.
OFFERED AT \$479,000

JUST SOLD



REPRESENTED BUYER & SELLER

2650 Chocolate Street, Pleasanton
Wonderful 4 bedroom / 2.5 bathroom home. Built in 2000, located in Mohr Elementary School District.
Call Julia for more information

RECENT SELLER REVIEWS

January, 2012

"Julia was fantastic to work with. She is detail oriented, knows the market and the area extremely well and generally goes the extra mile to ensure a successful transaction. If you are looking for a realtor in the area, I'd highly recommend Julia."
—Travis Hockersmith

December, 2011

"We highly recommend Julia Murtagh as a partner in any real estate transaction. Julia recently represented us as our Listing agent. We were quite impressed with the level of knowledge she brought and her detailed follow up and commitment to our success with the sale of our home. We do believe that her personal touch and hands on approach assisted in a prompt and painless process. We will definitely look to Julia to handle any future real estate needs."
—Jennifer Koidal

BUYERS NEEDS

- 4 bedroom, 1800 sq ft plus, West Side or Birdland 700-800k
- 5 bedroom 3000 sq ft plus, West Side, Kottinger Ranch, Happy Valley, 900-1.3K
- Downtown ~ Multiple Buyer's needs for downtown location

DISTRESSED SELLERS

Today, nearly 1 out of every 4 homeowners in America is behind on mortgage payments. These are tough and frustrating times. Foreclosure can be avoided, your credit can be saved, and your financial future can be salvaged. Please review my dedicated website for more information.
www.JuliaHelpsDistressedSellers.com



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Blofland@BlaiseLofland.com
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apr.com

OAK LANE

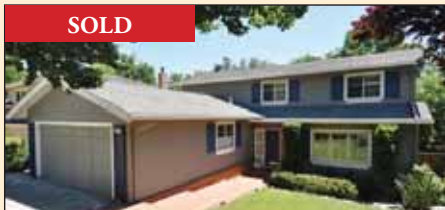


369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON

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

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

ESTATES OF MOHR PARK



2248 KAMP COURT, PLEASANTON

Premium private large (12,691 sq ft) lot in excellent court location with in-ground pool & spa! Highly upgraded five bedrooms, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,369 square feet. Completely remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom cabinets & stainless steel appliances. Remodeled master bathroom with new granite & tile. Three car garage. Professionally landscaped private rear grounds with in-ground pool, spacious deck and large lawn area. Just a few minutes to downtown. Just around the corner from Nielsen Park. Award winning schools!
OFFERED AT \$1,129,500

KOTTINGER RANCH

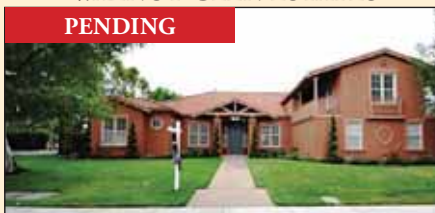
SOLD — REPRESENTED BUYER



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

WALNUT GLEN ESTATES



3891 PICARD AVENUE, PLEASANTON

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

FOOTHILL KNOLLS

SOLD



7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON

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

OAK PARK



247 TOMAS WAY, PLEASANTON

Completely remodeled, single level in Oak Park. Remodeled gourmet kitchen, remodeled bathrooms, newer dual pane windows, crown molding, hardwood floors, upgraded baseboards, central air conditioning, and private rear yard. Newer doors, door trim, and hardware, upgraded light fixtures and fans. Close to downtown and shopping.
OFFERED AT \$549,000

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



KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE
IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES



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



3429 Beecham Ct, Pleasanton
Great 3 BR home in Pleasanton Meadows, located near the community greenbelt, new dishwasher, new 50-gal. water heater, newer carpeting & laminate floors. **Offered at \$475,000**



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



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



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.
Price Reduced to \$799,000



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



1641 Vetta Dr, Livermore
Outstanding 5 bed (6 potential) & 4.5 ba home w/ 3500+ sq ft. 1 bed/ba downstairs. Upgrades throughout including \$27k in solar (no PG&E), new carpet, crown molding, maple cabinets, plantation shutters & great yard for entertaining. **Offered at \$914,900**



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



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

The Fabulous Properties Team
Cunningham • Garrison • Schall



www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net

Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
DRE # 01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
925.980.0273
DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497



2579 Gillian Court, Pleasanton
NEW LISTING! Single story, 3146 sqft. home, w/3 bedrooms plus office/or 4th bedroom, 3 full baths. Timeless design, with cherry kitchen with stainless appliances, & private and expansive yard with built in bbq & fire pit. **Offered at \$1,299,000**

The Fabulous Properties Team
Cunningham • Garrison • Schall



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www.RubyHill.net

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DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497



Be the first to see this lovely 4 BD, 3 BA home with approx. 1,986 sq ft., a private yard with no rear neighbors in a great South Pleasanton location. Updated kitchen w/ white cabinets, stainless steel appliances and laminate floor.



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



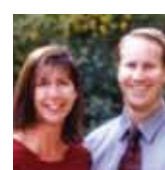
This is a gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom, 1726 sq.ft. home with hardwood floors, newer paint, newer appliances and more updates! Located in the Valencia neighborhood — conveniently located to the business park, BART, shopping, schools, commute-ease and so much more. Enjoy great community pool, tennis courts, basketball courts, tot lot and club house.



Lisa Sterling & Natalie Kruger
REALTORS® DRE # 01012330 and 01187582
925.980.9265
www.krugergroup.com



4580 Harper Ct, Pleasanton
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. Beautifully updated kitchen.
Priced in the mid \$500's



Dave & Sue
Flashberger
REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES
925.463.0436
www.SoldinaFlash.com



Wonderful 4 Bedroom Home
One level home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and almost 2000 sq ft. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Formal dining and cozy fireplace in the living. Spacious master bedroom.
Priced in the low \$500's

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

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