

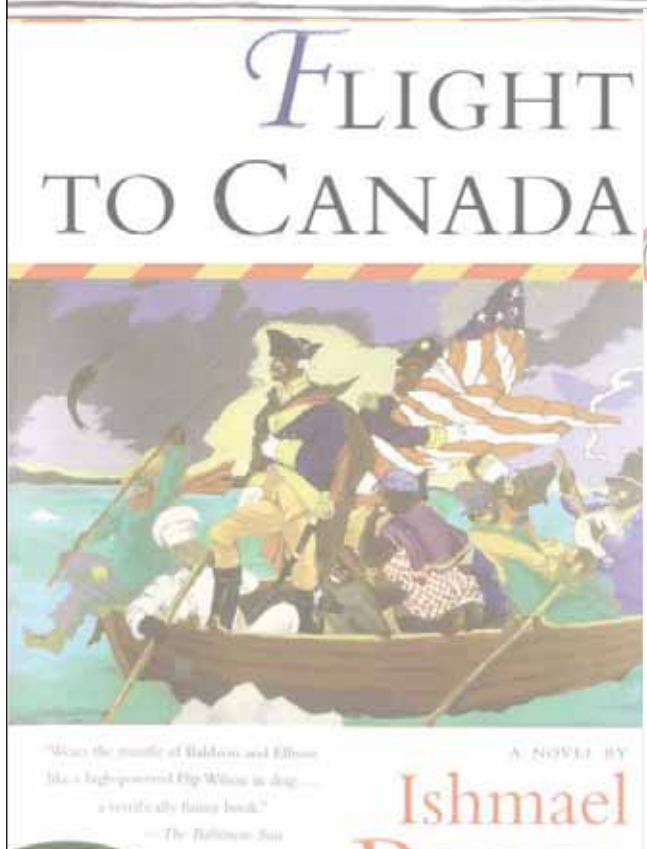
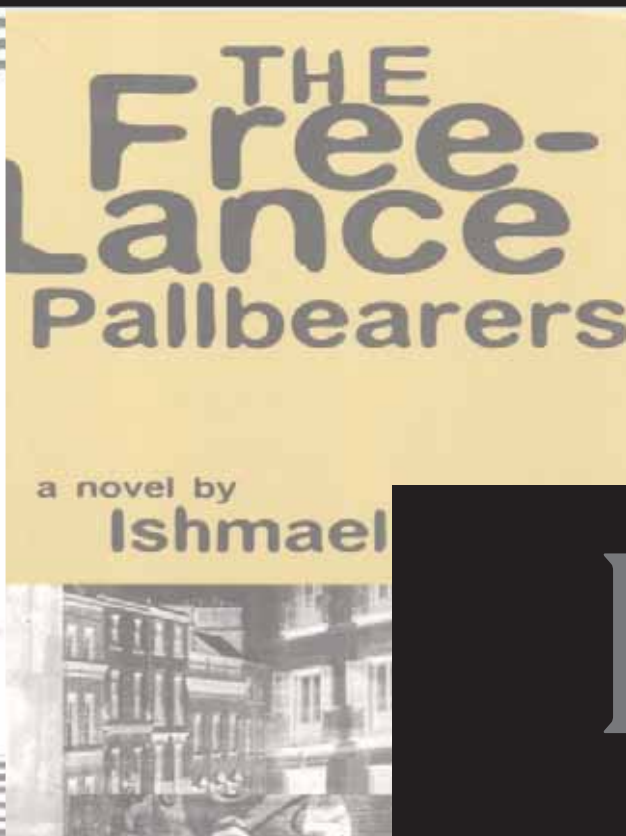
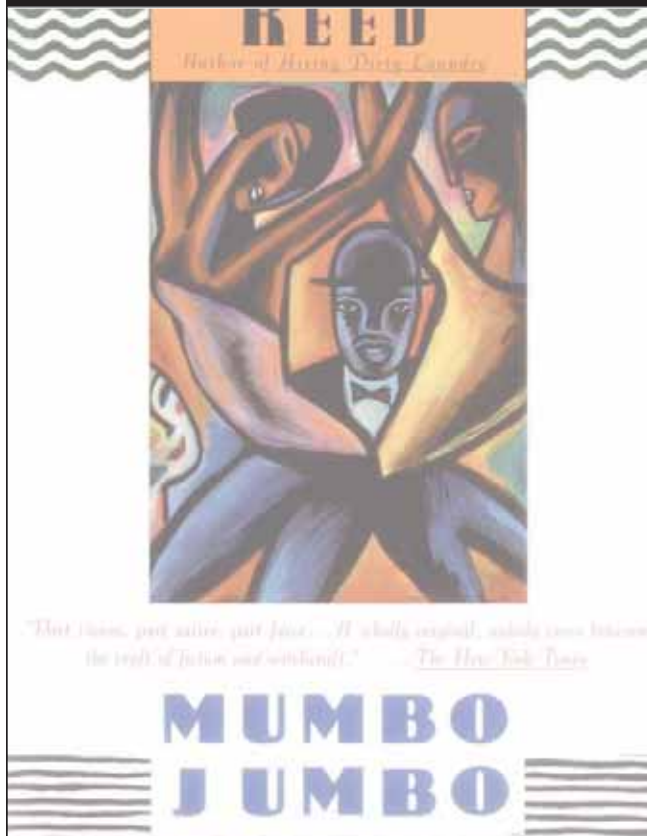
Pleasanton Weekly

LIVING LOCAL
*Shopping, playing and living
 in Pleasanton » 15*



VOL. XIII, NUMBER 5 • FEBRUARY 17, 2012

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Ishmael Reed
 to present
Black History
 through Poetry

RENOWNED POET AND WRITER DAUGHTER
 APPEARING AT FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



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LINDA TRAUIG BY APPT



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

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,319,000
Updated kitchen offers dinette area, breakfast bar, granite counters, recessed lighting & opens to family room. This single story offers a private well, pool, volleyball & horseshoe court & more! 3623 CAMERON AVE

SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



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

ROSEMARY DUTRA BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$799,000
2 homes on 1 lot! 3bd/2.5ba, 2023+/-sf main house, custom drapes, wet bar, new apppl, back desk & more. Back house w/side patio & kitchen, indoor laundry with washer and dryer & more! 1102 DANA CIR

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$749,000
Charming 4 bedroom in Stoneridge, hardwood floors, granite kitchen, new carpets and designer paint. Private yard with sparkling pool, side access and more! 7630 CHESTNUT WAY

JANNA CHESTNUT BY APPT



DUBLIN \$749,990
Stunning Dublin Ranch, 4bd + loft, shows like a model! Custom crown molding, granite counters, designer paint, situated on a premium corner lot with easy freeway access. Must See! 5486 SPRINGVALE

STASIA POIESZ SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$699,000
Large custom home close to downtown with over 3000 sq/ft, 4 bd/3.5ba. Needs updating but priced accordingly. 420 PINE HILL LN

MARK KOTCH BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$669,000
Downtown Pleasanton. Lovingly restored 1912 beauty with 2012 updates. Original redwood wainscoting & ceiling beams; oak & fir floors; all-new appliances, granite counters, 2 restored baths, 3bds. 414 DIVISION ST

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$650,000
Desirable "Parma" model on a quiet court in Avila, 4bd/2.5ba, updated eat-in kitchen with Stainless appliances, Cherry wood laminate floors, 10'ceilings, dual vanity baths, Community pool/park. 5329 PIAZZA CT

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Hatfield-McCoy feud comes to Pleasanton



JEB BING

Home at 205 Neal St.

We've all heard about the legendary Hatfield-McCoy family feud of the late 1800s that pitted two back-country West Virginia-Kentucky families in a fight over property rights. Now, more than a century later, the feud has become a modern allegory for neighbors in the Old Town section of Pleasanton, especially along Second and Neal streets where long-term homeowners succeeded last week in denying a newer neighborhood couple from significantly upgrading the 100-year-old house at 205 Neal St. they bought three years ago.

It's a neighborhood feud that has played out since March 2009, when well-known Pleasanton Realtors Francine and Dave Cunningham asked the city planning staff for a permit to replace the existing small, 482-square-foot single story house with a new two-story home with 1,844 square feet of living space. Once completed, the Cunninghams planned to move into the rebuilt home, which is just a few blocks from their real estate offices on Main Street.

But Christine and Brian Bourg, also downtown property owners who live next door at 215 Neal St., objected when the Cunningham proposal went before the city Planning Commission. Brian Bourg and a group of neighbors expressed concern that the old house is on too small of a lot to accommodate the 2-1/2 story rebuild, would require more lot space than the city allows, and that it will look even more wedged in than it does already, depressing home values in the historic neighborhood. Christine Bourg said the loss of the "cottage" would be a loss of the city's history and implored the Cunninghams to save the house, restore it without changing its looks or size and move into the old family home.

Debbie Ayres, who lives on Second Street, said the neighborhood of historic homes and wide, tree-lined streets is unique to Pleasanton. Only a small number of people are fortunate enough to live in the downtown area and even fewer have the privilege to reside in historic properties. She believes that those who live in the Old Town neighborhood have a responsibility to preserve it. The people who first settled the area are gone, but the homes they built, including the small house at 205 Neal St., live on to tell their story.

Others, however, questioned the "historic" references to homes

in the area. Although Pleasanton's downtown is historic, most of the homes beyond the downtown district are not.

Still, to keep peace in what they thought would be their future neighborhood, the Cunninghams hired Pleasanton architect Charles Huff to work with the Bourgs and city planners in making design changes that would satisfy their critics. Huff, whose home designs frequently resemble his mentor Frank Lloyd Wright, moved the Cunningham home's garage toward the back, cut back second floor front rooms, lowered the home's peak and made other design changes to provide a better streetscape view. Over a series of meetings, Planning Commissioners agreed that the new design met the city's requirements and approved the Cunningham petition 5-0.

The Bourgs and their neighbors appealed, asking the City Council to reverse that decision. They called the Planning Commission's acceptance "a very dangerous precedent (that) could open the door to similar homes being built on small sites right next to our historic homes." With the "Hatfields" and "McCoys" facing off in the council chamber, council members squared off as expected with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman calling Charles Huff's design "beautiful" and an improvement for the neighborhood, and Councilman Jerry Thorne also favoring the Cunningham plan, largely because the Planning Commission studied the application extensively and approved it.

Councilman Matt Sullivan, who has repeatedly said Pleasanton should not tear down its older homes because there are so few of them, voted to grant the Bourgs' appeal. So did Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, who said the proposed 1,844-square-foot rebuild would be just too big for the small lot it's on. Then came the stunning surprise: Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who most thought would back the Cunninghams, instead voted in favor of the Bourgs' appeal, agreeing with McGovern that the proposed home would be too big for the site. The house at 205 Neal that looks much like the 100-year-old cottage that it is, will remain untouched and will likely become a more affordable rental in a neighborhood of \$1-million-plus Victorians. ■

About the Cover

Ishmael Reed, the author of 27 books and editor of 13 anthologies and numerous magazines, will be in Pleasanton on Sunday with his daughter, Tennessee Reed, to share their poetry. Two of his books have been nominated for National Book Awards, and a book of poetry, "Conjure," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIII, Number 5

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ValleyCare Medical Foundation Cardiologist

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Time: 7:00 PM

Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Would you consider paying a fee to expedite the security screening process at the airport?



Clint Manley
Engineer

No, because I get to the airport on time. I worry more about the X-ray machine they are starting to use; frequent travelers are being subjected to radiation every time they fly, and that can't be healthy.

Jen Shackelford
Teacher

Absolutely not, because I can plan ahead and get to the airport on time. I've never waited more than 20 minutes, so it's not an inconvenience anyway.



Duke Marshall
Assistant principal

I give them enough of my money as it is, so I would simply arrive in plenty of time to get through security. For privacy reasons I don't want to give them any more of my information than I have to, because I don't know how they store it.

Jenny Festa
Youth pastor

No, because I don't have money to spare. If it were free, I would totally do it. My life's an open book, so I am not worried about the privacy concerns at all.



Kara Helmig
College athletics administrator

Yes, I would be willing to pay the fee. Most people have proven themselves to be upstanding citizens, and they should be rewarded by being able to get through security quickly. I have no privacy concerns whatsoever.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

Marrow drive targets Asian Americans

Another bone marrow drive to help two leukemia sufferers in Pleasanton is set for 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday at Amador Valley High School to increase the odds for Janet Liang, who may have only months to live. This drive is sponsored by the CACC Chinese School and targets Asian Americans. Liang, a 2005 graduate of AVHS, has said that race does play a role in finding a match.

Amador Valley's SIMS (Students Interested in Medical Science) Club will hold another drive on Feb. 25 from noon to 4 p.m., also at the school. The test for a match is a self-administered cheek swab.

Two others were held earlier this month in the hope of finding a match for Liang and for Mikki Conley, a science teacher at Mohr Elementary.

ClutterLess advice

Tina Razzell will speak about "Living Simply — Improve your Life with Less Clutter" at a special meeting of the ClutterLess self-help group, at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27. Razzell, author of a book by the same name, writes clutter-related articles and teaches a clutter class in Pleasanton.

The nonprofit ClutterLess group is for people who want to change their own cluttering behavior. It meets Mondays in Room 7 at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador, Pleasanton, with an optional donation of \$2 to \$5.

New people are requested to make a reservation at 200-1943 or clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com.

Girls to explore science, math careers

The 33rd annual Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons Conference returns Saturday, Feb. 25, to the Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus, for girls in grades 6-9 to learn more about careers in math and science.

Girls will participate in hands-on workshops, a special group activity and a career fair, while parents will attend a two-and-a-half hour workshop on college planning, academic requirements and financial aid. For more information, go to www.tveyh.org or call 422-2453.

The conference is coordinated by Diablo Valley College San Ramon, Lawrence Livermore National Security, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Association of University Women.

Shadow Cliffs waterslides may be closed this summer

Extensive repairs are needed, says Park District; operator wants to stay open

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

East Bay Regional Park District is saying that annual inspections done last month show that the waterslides at Shadow Cliffs park are not safe enough to open this summer.

"It became quite apparent there were a number of problem areas that had to be addressed," said Park District Board Member Ayn Wieskamp, who represents Pleasanton. "At the meeting last month everyone agreed that there was simply no way we could do all the repairs that need to be done and be open for this season. From electrical to the waterslides themselves, there are water issues, rust issues, upheavals, basic safety issues."

Operator Glenn Kierstad, who opened the Rap-

ids Waterslides in 1981, said the inspections are normally done in the fall, listing anything to be improved, then again in the spring after the cleanup has been completed in time for the May opening.

"We've always passed state inspections with flying colors," Kierstad said, but last fall the Park District only told him to remove most of the materials used to operate the waterslides.

"This year they did inspections and took pictures in late December, early January, when the slide looked as bad as it could possibly look," Kierstad said. "They came up with a number of violations, some I agree with, some I don't."

Kierstad said it is his opinion that the Park District wants the slides closed, which is why it imple-

mented this new method of inspection, coming up with an estimate of \$400,000 to fix everything. He expects that repairs could be made for much less, although he is not allowed to see the inspection reports until the week before the Park District Board of Directors meeting March 15.

At that meeting, staff members will present approximated costs to continue the waterslides, and the Board of Directors will make a recommendation to the full board, depending on public concerns and the economics of the park.

"If we come up with a cost, we may say, 'All right, maybe it's worth doing,'" Wieskamp said.

See SLIDES on Page 8



GLENN WOHLTMANN

A furry Valentine

Volunteer Barbara Tillinghast shares Mr. Bumbles, a year-old poodle mix, with Daniel Vasilyev, a second-grader in Stephanie Beard's class at Mohr Elementary School. He was among the elementary school students who showed their love for animals by forgoing giving the usual Valentine's Day cards to their classmates and instead raising money for the East Bay Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals.

Three classes of second-graders at Mohr Elementary raised more than \$500, with Beard's class donating \$110. A fifth-grade class at Lydiksen Elementary School, all of Valley View Elementary and a third- and fifth-grade class at Hearst Elementary also were to enjoy visits by Mr. Bumbles and Arlo, a 2-year-old cat.

The East Bay SPCA hopes to raise about \$4,000 through visits to 34 elementary schools in Alameda and Contra Costa counties through the Valentine's Day program, called Drive to Thrive.

Dozens protest reading cuts at PUSD meeting

Popular Barton program could be dropped next year

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A reading program on the chopping block drew an overflow crowd to the Pleasanton school board meeting Tuesday night, spilling out from the boardroom and into the hall and entryway.

The crowd, all wearing green "reading is fundamental" stickers, pleaded for the board to save the Barton Reading Program, which has trained volunteer tutors and a staff member working one on one with elementary school students who have problems reading. More than a dozen spoke, including some of the students currently in the program.

"If you can't read, you can't succeed," said Ed McGovern, a retired pediatrician who told the board he himself has a mild form of dyslexia.

Nancy Dunbarton, a volunteer Barton facilitator at Foothill High School, told the board her son went through the program with great results.

"I don't understand how anything to do with reading is on the cut list," Dunbarton said, calling Barton an "amazing" intervention program. "Reading is everything. It's the basis of whatever everything else is about."

Emmeline Chen called on the board to make

See BOARD on Page 7

NEO nightclub faces cutbacks after shooting

Hours, patron capacity curbed by city planners

By JEB BING

Club NEO, a Pleasanton nightclub whose owners have sued the city in Federal District Court over interference with the music it plays, has been ordered to cut back its hours and the number of patrons allowed inside.

The latest restrictions imposed by the city's Planning Commission follow the shooting of a Fremont patron at the club last month and a series of fights both inside and outside the club, which is located on the Chabot Drive side of the Gateway Square Shopping Center.

Last week, the Planning Commission decided against a proposal to revoke the operating use permit for the club for now but did order the club to limit the number of patrons to 300, down from the 812 permitted in the club's conditional use permit granted earlier. The club must also close the bar at 1 a.m. daily, instead of 1:45 a.m. as previously authorized.

At the Planning Commission meeting, Associate Planner Rosalind Rondash described a series of incidents at Club NEO that included numerous large fights that started inside the club in December and then spilled out into the parking lot of the popular open air retail center.

She cited two incidents on Dec. 17 and Dec. 18 when Pleasanton police encountered a large crowd from the club loitering in the parking lot, fighting and holding "sideshow" vehicle activities where motorists were recklessly driving their cars in the parking lot. The melee was so large that all available police were sent to the Gateway Center with backup help also sent by the Dublin Police Department and the Alameda County sheriff's office.

As the crowds confronted police, they moved from the Club NEO site to the Shell gasoline station on Hopyard, then proceeded to "mob that station," according to Rondash, and then moved to areas of the Gateway Center occupied by Kelly Moore Paints, Eddie Papa's and Kinder's.

The Jan. 14 shooting also came as hundreds of Club NEO patrons moved outside to the parking lot, again bringing police in from Pleasanton and other forces to break up the fights.

As a result, Pleasanton officials yanked the club's operating permit and shut it down. The club's owner, Diamond Pleasanton Enterprises, filed an emergency appeal in Federal District

See NEO on Page 8

Stratford School eyes takeover of Carden West

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Another school may be coming to the rescue of Carden West, the small private school at 4576 Willow Road in the Hacienda Business Park that declared bankruptcy late last year.

A parent, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Stratford School may take over operations at Carden West as well as assuming its debt.

"It's yet to be completed (but) it seems quite likely that Stratford will be coming into town," the parent said. "They have a letter of intent with the landlord signed by both parties. They're putting the finishing touches on the lease."

Carden West is a nonprofit toddler-to-middle school; it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in November, claiming debts of nearly \$1.8 million and assets of just \$6,000, only half of that in cash, with the rest in hard assets like school desks and chairs. As of the filing, Carden West owed more than \$2,600 in federal taxes and was using monthly tuition payments to pay teacher salaries.

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

"Part of it was tenant improvements on the building.

The school would become a Stratford School but is likely to

keep Carden West instructors, according to the parent.

"People are drawn to Carden West because of the teachers and teaching philosophy as well as its geographical location," the parent said. "Stratford has a similar teaching philosophy, and historically when it comes in, in a similar situation, it tries to retain as much of the student body as possible and interviews all of the teachers for positions at the site or elsewhere in the Stratford system."

A similar situation occurred at the Carden Academy in Morgan Hill; Carden closed its doors in 2009 but was reopened by Stratford.

Stratford has schools in Blackhawk and Danville and offers programs that run from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade.

Meanwhile, about half the students from Carden West have left or filed noticed that they plan to leave. The parent said it's hoped that the attrition can be staved off with the announcement of the merger.

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

A meeting between parents, Carden West staff and representatives of Stratford was set for Wednesday night. Another parent called the deal a win-win for teachers, parents, students and both schools. ■

Fire captain records dramatic rescue

Amador grad pulls children from hiding place in closet

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Capt. Tom Pappas of the Alameda Fire Department took part in a dramatic rescue last week that was recorded by a video camera on his helmet and is now being shared on YouTube.

"What appeared as a routine fire changed when crews arrived on scene and excited family and neighbors reported as many as 5 people trapped," reads the description of the YouTube video, which shows unedited footage, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0H6slvAGfc.

Pappas, a 1988 graduate of Amador Valley High School, and his Station 24 team responded to the apartment fire near the intersection of Marcella Street off 159th Avenue just outside San Leandro shortly after 7 a.m.

As the firefighters walked down the driveway to the apartment, screams could be heard calling out that children were trapped inside the burning building. Flames poured out of the first floor, then a mother lifted her child over a second-story railing and into the hands of a waiting firefighter.

The camera on Pappas' helmet shows his entry into the second story, where he faces thick, black smoke. He searches throughout the home, following the children's screams, and finds them hiding in a closet.



Capt. Tom Pappas of the Alameda Fire Department recorded his crew's response to an apartment fire with a video camera mounted on his helmet.

Three children were rescued Feb. 7 as the fire crews used infrared sensors to search the rooms, and one child made it out on his own, according to reports. Four people were taken to the hospital.

"We're really, really proud of him," said Pappas' mother, Jan Pappas, who still lives in Pleasanton with his father Tom.

"It's also a teaching moment," she added, "because kids tend to run

into a closet with blankets."

Her son Tom Pappas was a first responder after 911, she noted, involved in search and recovery efforts. Plus he received a commendation last year after he responded to the explosion and fire in San Bruno.

The cause of last week's fire is under investigation but may have been caused by a mattress placed too close to a space heater. ■

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BOARD

Continued from Page 5

cuts to administration.

"I encourage you to sacrifice at the district level. I implore you — see what else there is to be cut," she said, asking management to give up some of their salaries and noting that, unlike administrators, Barton volunteers don't get car allowances.

While Barton appears at the top of the cut list, Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi told the crowd that the cuts are not in priority order.

The pleas brought a mixed reaction from the board, with board President Joan Laursen in favor of making the proposed cuts as they are, members Jeff Bowser and Chris Grant encouraging people to support the program through donations, and members Jamie Hintzke and Valerie Arkin asking staff to find other cuts.

"Anything we cut, we do risk it not coming back," Arkin said.

A list of cuts with some potential new proposals is expected to be passed at the board's Feb. 28 meeting.

Ahmadi, filling in for Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, briefed the board on state budget reductions, which at best would cost the district \$150,000 and at worst could mean about \$5.5 million in cuts. The difference depends on the passage of Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed referendum on tax increases in November. The district must send out layoff notices based on the worst-case scenario.

Some jobs could be restored by the Pleasanton Partnerships In Education (PPIE), which brought in about \$300,000 from its most recent fundraising drive. The amount donated was down from the more than \$373,000 raised last year, meaning some of the programs restored through the current school year won't be funded for the 2012-13 school year.

PPIE, after discussions with parents, teachers and administrators, decided to fund two hours of technology specialists and one reading specialist for elementary schools at a cost of \$186,000, three hours of middle school technology specialists at a cost of \$56,000, and it donated \$44,000 to the high schools for technology, which will be divided based on student population and spent at the discretion of the principals.

Sandy Piderit, a former candidate for the school board, told the board there's a push for a November bal-

lot initiative to create a dedicated fund for schools that could not be diverted for other state purposes and would be locally controlled. Proponents of the idea, called "Our Children, Our Future," are gathering signatures now.

In other business, a search and seizure policy that could bring drug dogs onto the district's three high schools got its first hearing Tuesday night. Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services, worked with the California School Board Association to come up with language that would allow for the dogs, but bumped language that could allow the district to install metal detectors.

The proposed policy brought some disagreement about the possibility of setting a maximum number of times a year the dogs could visit any campus. Arkin wanted to set a maximum of eight times a year.

"It would give assurance that we're not going to be bringing in the dogs every chance we get," she said. The idea got support from Hintzke and Laursen, although Laursen wanted a larger number of allowable visits.

Bowser, however, disagreed. "It sounds like you want to provide assurances," he said, "but in our policy searches are defined. What is it you're trying to protect the students from?"

Ahmadi settled the matter by telling board members that the searches would not be a matter of course.

"I think setting a maximum number is irrelevant," Ahmadi said. "As a superintendent, I would not approve one every week. I'm hoping the community will trust us in making good decisions, knowing that our intention isn't to do this every time we have a chance to do it."

Parking lot searches included in the policy also got questioned by Hintzke. She pointed out that while students at Amador Valley High School aren't allowed to go to their cars during school, Foothill students can come and go from their parking lots.

Johnson said restricting students from the parking lots at Foothill would be more difficult because the layout of the school is different than at Amador. He said the idea of closing the Foothill lots during the day has been discussed with Principal John Dwyer who resisted the idea because he didn't want to punish students who hadn't done anything wrong.

Arkin also questioned language in the policy that allowed administra-

tors to search student desks, worrying that contraband discovered in a search might not belong to the student at the desk at that time; Johnson said, as is the case with drug detection dogs, that every student gets the opportunity to present her or his side of the case.

Arkin also brought up that the proposed policy allows for searches at school events, which, she said, was not discussed when drug detection dogs were first brought up as an idea.

The policy is expected to be approved at the Feb. 28 board meeting.

Board members also got a detailed view of how different minority groups are performing on state tests. Some district schools are on improvement plans to increase scores for specific subgroups, and the data is being used to tailor programs at different schools to address students who are below proficient or well below proficient in math and English.

Piderit was the sole speaker at the board's public hearing on what the district and Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT) will bring up during contract negotiations.

"It's going to be a tough bargaining year. I'm glad you're reopening benefits," she said, adding she supports the idea of phasing out lifetime health benefits for retirees.

The district will bring issues about retirement benefits, hours of employment, class sizes, salaries and the school calendar to the bargaining table, while APT wants to negotiate on reassignments and transfers, health and welfare benefits, salaries, retirement benefits and the school calendar.

The board unanimously approved a complicated formula that would be used to decide on layoffs and to break ties from teachers with the same length of service, but squabbled over the relatively minor issue of appointing the two members to serve on the board governance committee, which could make changes to how the agenda is formatted. Hintzke and Arkin wanted to be appointed, but Laursen and Bowser wanted Laursen to be one of those appointed. Grant suggested that the issue be discussed before the entire board and that was unanimously approved. ■

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TAKE US ALONG



We're Engaged!

While enjoying a vacation in Faial, Azores, Portugal, Mike Silva proposed to Diane Durand on the beach. She said YES of course!!



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The Rapids Waterslides, shown last winter when closed for the season, have been a fun outing for children and teens since they opened in 1981.

SLIDES

Continued from Page 5

"We could go out with a request for proposals, we could check that out, I have no objections."

"It all comes down to what it costs," she added. "Can we afford to do it, and how long would it be used?"

She said the Park District is spending half a million dollars each year to make sure everything district-wide is ADA-accessible and this would be another cost with the waterslides.

Kierstad estimated that the parking and concession revenue ranges between \$70,000 and \$90,000 per year. Rapids Waterslides employs a staff of 35, with the majority in high school and college, and has had a perfect safety record for the last 30 years, he added.

"We sell 26,000 tickets a year, and give away to charities and with coupons another 2,000," he said.

"I have a financial interest in keeping it open, but above that it's one of the only facilities in their park system that caters to young adults and children," Kierstad said.

"We're in limbo," said Jane Jones, office manager at Rapids Waterslides. "At this point

we'd be taking new applications, the workers would start cutting the bushes, scrubbing and painting and getting the place ready."

She said school groups already have contacted her to reserve the waterslides for their end-of-year parties in May.

Kierstad's 20-year lease for Rapids Waterslides expired in 2006. Since then the Park District has continued the operating agreement on a one- or two-year lease.

"During that timeframe, we were instructed not to make any major improvements on the slides because EBRPD was preparing a Land Use Plan that would determine the fate of the waterslides," Kierstad reported.

Last year after the Park District held a hearing on its Land Use Plan that calls for an eventual closing of the waterslides, it decided to keep the slides open for the short term. The plan also calls for improving the overall trail system; developing multi-use recreational trails to allow access into the western areas; and installing more picnic sites and shade shelters for family picnicking within the waterfront area.

The March 15 East Bay Regional Park District board meeting is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. at the EBRPD headquarters, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court in Oakland. ■

NEO

Continued from Page 5

Court, where District Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton granted a temporary restraining order against Pleasanton that allows Club NEO to continue operating. A hearing on the case scheduled for March 7 has since been continued indefinitely.

Meanwhile, city officials have moved forward with new conditions on the club operating permit, which they say they can do despite the court's restraining order. In addition to the restrictions on operating hours and the number of patrons allowed, the Planning Commission ordered the club to provide and pay for a security staff that meets the requirements of Pleasanton Police Chief David Spiller, and to provide regular cleanup services to keep the Gateway Center parking lot clear of trash, glass alcohol bottles and other items that have been discarded routinely in the lot.

Gateway Square, located at the northeast corner of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive, is one of the city's busiest outdoor retail centers. Among its restaurant tenants are Chili's, Eddy Papa's, Kinder's, Round Table Pizza, The Cheese Steak Shop and Ume Sushi. Numerous professional and service businesses also lease space in the center.

Club NEO is the most recent nightclub in the 10,746-square-foot space that was first occupied by Sh Boom in 1986. Between the mid-1990s and 2003, a Teen Night was approved for the site, providing a venue for youths 14-18 years old to socialize and dance in a controlled environment and at specified times. Teen Night was voluntarily discontinued and changes



JEB BING

Club NEO in the Gateway Square Center on Hopyard Drive faces new operating restrictions after parking lot shooting, fights.

were made to the nightclub to accommodate a new club called Aura, with the same owners and format as Sh Boom.

In 2010, Diamond Pleasanton Enterprise received approval from the Planning Commission to increase the occupancy and to allow outdoor dining for a newly named Status nightclub, and then won the commission's approval to increase the maximum occupancy from 643 patrons to 812 when the club's name was changed again to NEO.

Diamond Pleasanton asked the commission to further modify its operating permit to provide activities for those under 21, but that application has yet to be considered.

Diamond Pleasanton Enterprises also sued the city of Pleasanton earlier asking the Federal District Court to set aside a city requirement affecting the type of and the volume of music it plays. That case is still pending. ■

Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing



This 'Petite Syrah at Sunset' pastel by Debbie Wardrobe is on display this week at Studio Seven Arts as part of a free public exhibit of signature pastels. Wardrobe, who teaches art in Pleasanton, will demonstrate her techniques from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at Studio Seven.

Late winter exhibit opens at Studio Seven Arts

Pastels show features trio of award-winning artists

Studio Seven Arts, known throughout the East Bay for its fine art, handcrafted jewelry and custom framing, is hosting a late winter exhibition featuring the works of three master artists.

Called "Love of Art in Pastel," the exhibit features master pastel painters Debbie Wardrobe, Bonita Paulis and Marla Baggetta. Their varying works feature breathtaking landscapes, California vineyards and other colorful scenes.

Tomorrow, Debbie Wardrobe will be at Studio Seven from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to demonstrate her pastel techniques and to show her latest works.

"Nothing matches the color and inspirations of pastels," said Dirk Christiansen, owner of Studio Seven Arts. "Our featured works by Debbie, Bonita and Marla typify some of the finest work in natural scenes."

Debbie Wardrobe is a signature member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast who

also works in oil and acrylics. She teaches art through the city of Pleasanton for children and adults.

Bonita Paulis is also a signature member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, who has created paintings from a diverse collection of areas in the western United States from the high Sierra to the California coast and the desert southwest.

Marla Baggetta, also a signature member of the Pastel Societies of America and Oregon, has been a professional artist since 1983 when she began painting landscapes. She is one of the West's leading representational painters with her compelling and sophisticated imagery.

Studio Seven Arts, one of the Bay Area's largest art galleries, has been voted by Pleasanton Weekly readers as the Best Art Gallery in Pleasanton in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The store is located at 400 Main St. ■

Safeway/Kraft Foods campaign nets major donations to feed hungry

'Help Us End Hunger' offers \$420,000 to relief centers

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. announced this week that its joint campaign with Kraft Foods has provided nearly 362,000 bags of groceries and 3 million meals to the country's food banks and the hungry.

The campaign, called Help Us End Hunger, has been a national program aimed at helping fight hunger in communities across the country with Safeway customers contributing in local supermarkets.

In addition to Safeway's contribution of groceries, Kraft Foods donated \$420,000, the monetary equivalent of 3 million meals, to local food banks in Safeway's U.S. operating divisions.

Part of Kraft Foods' donation helps support the efforts of 100 Safeway stores that sold the most food drive bags for local food banks. These "Top 100 Food Banks" will re-

ceive a monetary grant as part of Kraft Foods' 3 million meal donation.

The Help Us End Hunger (Every Bag Counts) food drive was central to Safeway's end-of-year giving initiative. High-quality pantry staples were pre-selected and bagged, allowing customers to purchase the bag for a discounted price and place it in a donation barrel that went directly to a local food bank.

"Hunger is a very serious issue in our country that often goes overlooked," said Larree Renda, Safeway executive vice president and chair of the Safeway Foundation.

"Sadly, more than 50 million Americans, or one in six of our neighbors, struggles to put food on their tables," Renda said. "That's why we joined with Kraft Foods and encouraged our customers to help us tackle this problem." ■

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LETTERS

Not truly 'free'

Dear Editor,

I read with much concern your editorial Feb. 10 about the benefits of the Climate Action Plan. Specifically, how can you claim as a benefit the "free" visits to homes by experts and "free" water-saving devices? To be truly "free" the experts would have to donate their time and the water-saving devices would have to be donated by their manufacturer. Is this what is happening? I think what you really mean is that the city (taxpayers) will give pay for these items that will benefit only a few. Why can't the people who will use these services pay for what they use?

Paul Luce

Don't need another Walmart

Dear Editor,

As a 37-year Pleasanton resident and (retired) cyclist-commuter who lives near the Nob Hill site, I have concerns about locating a Walmart grocery store there.

Residents of Pleasanton Meadows are significantly impacted by congestion at the Santa Rita/Las Positas Boulevard intersection, since it is one of two entry/exit points from an area of several hundred homes. The intersection is heavily congested twice a day by elementary school traffic, a fire station access must be preserved, and there is a dangerous mid-block crossing to southbound Santa Rita Road and the market parking lot. Speeds on Santa Rita Road are frequently excessive, and traffic patterns pose significant dangers for cyclists like myself. The original traffic patterns have already been altered (by a lawsuit) in the interests of cyclists' safety, although the problems have not been fully resolved. Since Walmart stores typically attract large volumes of traffic, these problems can only increase.

Although we shopped at the Nob Hill, I ask, do we need another market in this area? There are already six within two miles. Another has opened at Rosewood drive, and it appears to have minimal traffic. Moreover, do we need another Walmart, and especially an employer like Walmart? Typically its impact on the job market is negative; for every two jobs it provides, three are lost, and those are better jobs with benefits. It is unlikely that Walmart will be able to provide significant savings in such a highly competitive business.

Therefore, I urge a re-evaluation of these potential impacts. The public needs to be heard

Steven Robinson

Lunardi's for produce

Dear Editor,

For years, I've hoped to see a Lunardi's market in Pleasanton. They carry top rate produce, much better than any other market in

Pleasanton. Their prices are extremely competitive, too.

Walmart treats workers horribly; I have no reason to trust their idea of decent food. We simply don't need another store with so-so produce. For example, last week I had to run all over town to find a decent bunch of Swiss chard (in season now); finally Safeway had Little Bear chard, from Texas — which was decent. Gene's and Lucky had chard with brown spots all over it imported from Mexico, while Raley's chard was organic, but it had gigantic, leathery leaves.

I'd like to see our city and the Nob Hill property manager court Lunardi's. I know this chain is the best fit for our city, creating strong competition in meat and produce. A win-win for all of us. If you like the middle-of-the-store foods cheaper, then go with Walmart and enjoy your diabetes. I vote for Lunardi's. I hope you will write Lunardi's as I have done. Check out the Lunardi's in Danville. If enough of us court them, maybe they will come.

Paulette Kenyon

Market would be blessing

In response to Councilman Matt Sullivan's assertion (Guest Opinion, Feb. 10) that the Pleasanton Weekly and the Chamber of Commerce are the mouthpiece for Neighborhood Walmart, I say Bravo! The proposed Market would be, in my opinion, a blessing.

Sir, you state that Walmart "has a long history of detrimental effects on both the local economies and the food system in general." Holy Cow! Thanks for the heads up! Banish them! Refuse their dirty sales/property tax money and ship them back to Arkansas! Poison our children, destroy the economy of the city of Sullivan? Let's return their tax millions. Who supports evil?

Mr. Sullivan, in business, we compete. As such we can't charge whatever we want. You may be mixing up running a business with running a utopian society.

Facts:

■ Nob Hill vacated years ago. Our center is 67% vacant (soon 75%). They were in this location from 1984 to 2010. Pleasanton's General Plan designates the site as a grocery store. The Market is a grocery store only.

■ Four other grocery stores have opened since Walmart applied for occupancy: Fresh and Easy, Ranch 99, Smart and Final and the new flagship Safeway store. The Safeway store required Pleasanton's General Plan to be altered more than once. The store was built directly over a native California Indian burial site.

■ We tenants of Meadow Plaza are going broke. The average loss of business here since Nob Hill left is 40%. Walmart's plan calls for extensive upgrades inside, a pharmacy, a flower shop, more. Ninety-five new jobs can be expected. Lastly, Mr. Sullivan, what happens if Walmart walks away?

Scott Miller, Real Estate Broker and tenant of Meadow Plaza

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Keep the housing floodgates closed

Pleasanton's two decades of managed slow growth policies ended Monday with the City Council's final approval of a new "housing element" that will become part of the city's General Plan. By rezoning nine separate sites totaling 73 acres throughout the city for high-density housing, the council has authorized developers to build more than 3,000 units for low- to very-low to moderate income tenants. Add to those 840 more housing units previously approved on land rezoned for two-, three- and four-story apartment buildings in the Hacienda Business Park, Pleasanton has now met a March 1 deadline imposed by the Alameda County Superior Court and the Urban Habitat affordable housing organization to require Pleasanton to meet its current state housing obligation to provide more workforce/affordable homes.

With only a few speakers at the special meeting Monday, the council's final 5-0 vote approving the housing element ordinance ended with more of a whimper than the loud protests heard two years ago after the court voided the city's 1996 ordinance that capped future residential growth at 29,000 units. That measure, approved overwhelmingly by voters, accompanied deliberate slow-growth efforts that limited new building permits to 350 a year with the state's highest development fees imposed on builders. The building spurts of the 1970s and 1980s came to an end as the late Mayor Ben Tarver and a no-growth City Council said enough's enough to both housing and population growth.

This year's council, headed by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, largely undid those growth impediments Monday. Not because any council member or most voters want Pleasanton to become another high-density city like those along El Camino Real on the Peninsula nor do they want a thoroughfare of high-rise apartment houses and residential parking garages that we see today along Dublin Boulevard. With their hands somewhat tied by an Urban Habitat coalition that likes what it sees in those other locations, council members nevertheless are cautiously moving toward a Growth Management policy that will still limit new permits and property densities. This policy, being formatted by City Manager Nelson Fialho at the urging of the council, should be ready for consideration early this summer in time for an up-or-down vote by the current council, which because of term limits loses three of its members in the upcoming municipal elections on Nov. 6.

For a City Council that has taken the heat for land rezonings to accommodate high density housing, albeit by state and court orders, a Growth Management Plan that keeps the residential building floodgates reasonably closed can come none too soon. ■

YOUR TURN

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Other Related Audits for the Year Ending June 30, 2011 and Approve Year-end Audit Adjustments
- **Public Hearing:** P11-0664, Carl Pretzel (Appellant); Todd Deike (Applicant) – Consider an appeal of a Planning Commission decision approving an Administrative Design Review to retain existing fencing measuring up to 85 inches in height along the rear and side yards of the residence located at 3642 Carlsbad Court
- **Public Hearing:** P11-0731, Carl Pretzel (Appellant); Robert Baker (Applicant) – Consider an appeal of a Planning Commission decision approving an Administrative Design Review to construct an approximately 74-foot long fence, varying in height from 72 inches to 83 inches between 3647 and 3633 Glacier Court North
- Mandatory Commercial Recycling and Single Use Bag Reduction Ordinances approved by Stopwaste.org

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **P12 0042, City of Pleasanton**
Application to amend Chapter 18.44 (Commercial Districts) of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to designate financial institutions as conditionally permitted uses in the Central Commercial (C-C), Downtown Revitalization District.
- **P11 0891, AC Logix**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate an air conditioning contractor business at 1241 Quarry Lane, Suite 130, in the Valley Business Park.
- **P11 0938, Little Ivy League (LIL)**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a Heritage School for 300 Kindergarten through 8th Grade students at 4160 Hacienda Drive.
- **P11-0859/P11-0860, Little Flowers Montessori**
Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a child care center at 3550 Vineyard Avenue, Suites 115, 120, and 125, in the Vintage Hills Shopping Center and for Design Review approval to construct an outdoor play area and new parking spaces at the rear of the building.

Energy & Environment Committee

Tuesday, February 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road, Pleasanton

- Water Conservation
- CAP update
- Outreach Update/Announcements

Historic Preservation Task Force Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 pm
Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road

The focus of the City's Historic Preservation Task Force will be to review selected sections of the General Plan, Downtown Specific Plan, and associated Downtown Design Guidelines, as well as other related documents. The Historic Preservation Task Force will make recommendations to the City Council to help clarify City policy on historic preservation and development review processes in the Historic Downtown and other areas within the City.

To be added to the email list for agenda packets and additional Historic Preservation Task Force information, please email your request to rrondash@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For further information or questions, see our website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/business/planning/DH/HistoricPreservationTaskForce.html>.

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

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

POLICE BULLETIN

Woman charged with leaving infants in car while shopping

A Danville woman who faces felony child endangerment charges for leaving her two infant twins in a car at Stoneridge Shopping Center last week may have done the same thing previously.

"There is some indication this has happened before," said Pleasanton police Sgt. Kurt Schlehuber. "That part is still under investigation."

Schlehuber said Danville resident Amanda Nejat, 46, was taken into custody last week.

"She was at the mall for 45 minutes. We determined that through our investigation and surveillance video," he said. "We were called there by a citizen who walked by and saw the infants in the car, heard them crying."

Schlehuber said the woman, who was driving a Cadillac Escalade, was asked by mall security to stay until police arrived. Nejat had been shopping at Nordstrom

while her 11-week-old infants were in the car unattended at about 4 p.m. on Feb. 8, he said.

Nejat was charged with two felony counts of child endangerment — one for each of the twins — and has since been released on bond.

In other police reports:

- A San Francisco man was arrested at about 2:51 a.m. Feb. 9 on a charge of felony burglary for what's commonly known as a dine and dash. Michael Patrick McAuliffe, 21, was arrested after allegedly leaving Denny's in the 6400 block of Owens Drive without paying. No additional details were available.

- A police check of a parked car led to the arrest of a San Jose man on charges of possession of burglary tools and possession of a controlled substance. Miguel Angel Diaz-Cerezo was arrested at about 1:48 a.m. Feb. 9 in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive.

- Police are investigating some fake bills passed Feb. 7 at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Three counterfeit \$100 bills and a single counterfeit \$20 were received at Stride-Rite; the incident was reported at about 10:43 a.m.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 8

Theft

- 1:43 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 1:44 p.m. in the 3400 block of Norton Way; identity theft
- 8:32 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 11:05 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft
- Child endangerment
- 4:15 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 8:33 a.m. in the 8000 block of Arroyo Drive

Alcohol violations

- 1:50 p.m. at the intersection of Division Street and St. Mary Street; DUI
- 5:26 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Valley Avenue; public drunkenness

Feb. 9

Theft

- 12:58 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; possession of burglary tools, possession of a controlled substance
- 8:58 a.m. in the 4600 block of Denker Drive; petty theft
- 11:53 a.m. in the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway; identity theft
- 7:21 p.m. in the 6000 block of Via de los Cerros; petty theft
- 11:59 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; auto theft

Burglary

- 2:05 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive

Prank calls

- 8:22 a.m. in the 3200 block of Touriga Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:33 a.m. in the 4500 block of Gatetree Circle; hypodermic needle possession
- 11:33 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Northway road; DUI

Feb. 10

Theft

- 4:43 p.m. in the 4100 block of Lucca Court; identity theft
- 8:07 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Arson

- 5:24 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Golden Eagle Way; misdemeanor arson

Burglary

- 5:22 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Auto burglary

- 5:52 a.m. in the 7800 block of Creekside Drive
- 10:29 a.m. in the 5300 block of Brookside Court
- 12:48 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 5:22 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

Marijuana possession

- 11:14 p.m. at the intersection of Old Vineyard Avenue and Yolanda Court

Feb. 11

Petty theft

- 9:19 a.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:06 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Battery

- 5:32 p.m. in the 2900 block of Amoroso Court

Auto burglary

- 6:14 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 7:55 a.m. in the 3600 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 6:55 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- 10:40 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:30 a.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Division Street; DUI, possession of a controlled substance
- 2:09 a.m. at the intersection of Tassajara Road and Taleo Drive; DUI
- 11:08 p.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive; public drunkenness

Feb. 12

Theft

- 10:34 a.m. in the 8300 block of Regency Drive; petty theft
- 2:41 p.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:07 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Golden Road; DUI
- 1:52 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 2:15 a.m. in the 2400 block of Heatherlark Circle; public drunkenness
- 9:01 a.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 7:40 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

Feb. 13

Theft

- 8:42 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 3:53 p.m. in the 1800 block of Plumeria Court: theft, forgery
- 7:26 p.m. in the 6200 block of Hensen Drive; petty theft

Alcohol violations

- 7:14 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Bernal Avenue; DUI

OBITUARIES

Angelita Chacon Martinez

Angelita Chacon Martinez passed away on February 11, 2012 with her family by her side. Angelita was born 4/4/1915 in Tucson, Arizona where she met the love of her life Pedro Martinez. They moved to California and settled in Alameda and they were married for 66 won-

derful years. Angelita is survived by her Daughter, Diana Jean and her Son In-Law Robert Schwerin, her three Grandchildren Tony, Richy and Danielle and her Great- Grandchildren Nicole Danner and Preston Peel and many nieces and nephews. Angelita is preceded in death by her husband Pete Martinez, her sisters Eva Hynson & Cassie Rueda and her mother whom she



always spoke about. Angie enjoyed bowling in a senior league once she had retired and traveled with her husband and daughter to many different places around the world.

Angie recently resided at the Parkview, Memory Care in Pleasanton where she participated in many activities the last three years.

Viewing on February 21 at 7 p.m.. At Greer Mortuary, 2694 Blanding Ave., Alameda

Funeral Mass on February 22 at 12:30 p.m. At Saint Philip Neri Church, 3108 Van Buren St., Alameda.

Sports



Rage is State Cup finalist

The Rage U12 Orange Soccer Team, coached by Gordon Lang, was a State Cup finalist after battling the Barcelona team in Woodland. It was a great finish to a successful season where the team was the Division 1 Premier League Champions.

Team members are (standing, l-r) Coach Gordon Lang, Audrey Goodman, Jenilee Chen, Lilly Ryan, Kirsty Brown, Sophia Pearson, Brianna Wolfe, Kathryn Lee, Claire Wong, (sitting) Nikki Lee, Saylor Bagnall, Tami Kwong, Samantha Dukes, Jacqueline Templeman, Giana Losson, Lauren Russell, Taylor Noval and Molly Murphy.

SPORTS DIGEST

Cross-town rivals on court tonight

The Amador Valley High Dons vs. the Foothill High Falcons varsity boys basketball game takes place at Amador tonight, beginning at 7 p.m.

At Amador, students are celebrating a purple and gold Halloween, encouraging students to dress up in the school colors that day and wear them to the game that night.

The girls varsity basketball cross-town game was scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 16, at Foothill.

AVHS in soccer playoffs

Amador Valley boys soccer team played in the first round of the North Coast Section Division 1 boys bracket, facing Newark Memorial High at Newark on Wednesday evening, after the Weekly went to press.

Amador's record in the East Bay Athletic League this year was 11-11-2.

The winner of the game goes on tomorrow night to play the winner of Dougherty Valley High vs. Richmond.

Wrestling

Foothill High wrestlers prevailed over Pittsburg in the 2012 NCS Dual Team Wrestling Championships held last weekend. The Falcons lost in the next round to De La Salle, which went on to win.

In the consolation bracket, Foothill defeated Newark Memorial, then faced College Park High of Pleasant Hill, which won the contest and went on to beat Castro Valley for the win.

Next the Falcons go to the East Bay Athletic League Championships being held beginning at 10 a.m. tomorrow at De La Salle. Foothill's time was not yet announced but Amador Valley is scheduled for 9 p.m.

Boosters offer scholarships

Foothill Athletic Boosters will award \$1,000 scholarships to four graduating senior student-athletes who can best articulate and describe the positive impact that participation in athletics at Foothill High has had on their lives. Ap-

plications for these scholarships are at www.foothillsports.com and the school counseling office.

To be eligible, athletes must be a graduating Foothill High senior; have participated in a sport for a minimum of one season; have a minimum GPA of 2.0; and be enrolled in a college or vocational training program by Jan. 8, 2013. A coach must complete the acknowledgement portion of the application for each sport in which you participated.

Applications require a one-page typed essay describing the role athletic participation at Foothill High School has played in your life, along with a copy of your first semester report card and the application. Submit it on or before April 20 to Foothill Athletic Boosters Scholarship Committee, c/o Counseling Office, Foothill High School.

Scholarship award winners will be announced at the Senior Award in the spring. Last year's scholarship winners were Chris Dotson, Anissa Mendez, Sara Quero and Christina Jayson.

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FOCUS ON FITNESS

Pounds and your portfolio

DEAR JIM: My wife and I just returned from a meeting with our financial advisor, and we were surprised when he suggested that we both should lose weight, exercise more and take better care of ourselves. At first we were offended and thought, perhaps, he was overstepping his bounds, but after he explained himself, it began to make sense. We hadn't thought of fit before, but the cost of our life insurance, health insurance and even our long-term care insurance is affected by our health — all of which are major factors in our retirement planning. Are other financial advisors offering the same kind of advice or is ours just ahead of the curve? **ENLIGHTENED IN ESCONDIDO**



DEAR ENLIGHTENED: Your advisor is definitely ahead of the curve — not necessarily because he is smarter than the rest but because he had the courage to bring up the subject of your lifestyle in the first place. I'm sure you can understand why some advisors might be reluctant to talk about such a personal issue for fear of losing a client. After all, it can be a sensitive subject to many clients who are expecting only to discuss the usual "black and white" facts and figures of retirement planning and are suddenly thrust into reconciling their lifestyle with their long-term retirement goals.

But it makes sense doesn't it? Fortunately, it is happening with more frequency. *"In my experience, it happens more often than not anymore,"* says San Diego's Michael Howland (Michael@mhowland.com), a Certified Public Accountant in private practice since 1991.

"I usually start out discussing, in general, how long my clients plan on living and how they plan on getting there," says Howland. *"I don't start out discussing 'lifestyle changes,' but we talk about such things as:*

- How long do they expect to live?
- How do they foresee their lifestyle after retirement?
- How long do they expect to work?
- How have they planned their later years?
- How do they expect to support their future lifestyle?
- How much do they project their future lifestyle might cost?

"But, then I start getting more specific," he continues:

- Do they intend to live fast, die young, or plan life as a marathon
- Do we calculate in assisted living, long term care, children support
- Do their lifestyle, work, savings, and retirement objectives meet realistic expectations?

"I've never thought of it as personal," explains Howland. *"It has always been simply a question of how long they expect their machine — in this case, their body — to keep working. If they find it uncomfortable, sometimes I back off, sometimes I don't. With some I might approach them about it the following year. With couples, I usually find one partner grateful for the discussion and one apprehensive. I have never had anyone become angry or indignant, but I probably wouldn't push that hard unless I know them well."*

"Basically, it's a risk/reward decision," says Howland. *"If they have an unhealthy lifestyle and expect to live a long life and haven't planned on long term care, we need to talk."*

In short, your health should be an integral part of your financial planning for retirement, and to ignore it is foolish and unrealistic. While unexpected illnesses and tragedies can happen to anyone — even those with a healthy lifestyle — most of the reasons why we die in this country are preventable (e.g. heart disease, smoking, etc.). Your weight, your cholesterol, your blood pressure, your body mass index (BMI), your resting heart rate — all of these things and more — should be factors in your planning. Your financial advisor is "right on the money" on this one — literally.

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

This column is brought to you by Bay Area Family Fitness Center, 4250 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, in the Rosewood Shopping Center. Call 925-416-1100 for further information.



Ishmael Reed to present Black History through Poetry

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ishmael Reed, who has been described as an unorthodox writer who has taken on the media, feminists, politicians, blacks, whites and the institution of higher learning, will be in Pleasanton on Sunday to share his poetry.

“African American culture and history are an integral part of our common culture.”

Ishmael Reed, renowned poet

RENOWNED POET AND WRITER DAUGHTER APPEARING A

Call him neither black nor African American. Renowned poet Ishmael Reed, who is appearing Sunday afternoon at the Firehouse Arts Center in honor of Black History Month, thinks all Americans should be referred to as “Pan-Americans.”

“Black’ and ‘African American’ are OK here but when I go to Dublin (Ireland) I refer to people here as Pan American,” Reed explained. “African is only part of their heritage. One of the secrets of American history and culture is that the people are really mixed up.”

Mohammed Ali drew tens of thousands when he visited Ireland in 2009, Reed noted, because his great-grandfather Abraham Grady was Irish.

“Numerous whites — Irish and Italians — have just recently been considered white,” Reed said. “When Armenians came here they were called Asians.”

“Whiteness is a relatively new idea. Around the 1860s-70s we started talking about it,” he said. “Before that people were ethnically distinct.”

“African American culture and history are an integral part of our common culture.”

Reed is a novelist, journalist and playwright who has been cited by critics as among the greatest contemporary African American literary figures of his generation. He is the author of 27 books and editor of 13 anthologies and numerous magazines, as well as a publisher, blogger for the San Francisco Chronicle, and radio and television commentator.

Pleasanton Poet Laureate Cynthia

Bryant hopes that people of all ages will come to this presentation to learn more about black history, which is why we have the month dedicated to it.

“There’s a lot to know and understand,”

Bryant said. “It has to do with the kind of people we are and we become, how we treat each other and how we celebrate.”

At the Firehouse, Reed will appear with his daughter, Tennessee Reed, who is also a poet.

The first of her four collections of poetry, “Circus in the Sky,” was published when she was 11 years old.

“Reed writes with clarity, wit and wonder — and with an open-hearted passion that disarms, refreshes and delights,” California Poet Laureate Emeritus Al Young wrote about her.

Her name Tennessee is Cherokee for “bend in the river,” Ishmael Reed said, explaining that her great-grandmother, his grandmother, was Cherokee.

“When we went to Chattanooga, I was able to show her the bend in the river,” Reed said.

He was born in Tennessee in 1938; when he was about 4 years old, his family was part of the black migration to Buffalo. As a young man he moved to New York City where he hobnobbed with literary figures of the ‘60s.

After living in Los Angeles to write his second novel, he moved to Berkeley in 1967. The reviewer of his book “Freelance Pallbearers” invited Reed to teach writing and literature at UC Berkeley, where he stayed until 2005.

“It’s always stimulating to get to look at new materials,” Reed said. “I always made it a practice of publishing anthologies in my classes, from totems to hip hop.”

He would include students’ works in the anthologies and would read poems by students and by famous canonized poets, asking listeners to identify which was by the professional. Often the student poem would be chosen.

“This shows how arbitrary things are,” Reed said.

He does a lot of touring with his works. His novel “Japanese by Spring,” a satire of academia as cultural battleground, is being studied in China, and he was invited to visit in November. He speaks Japanese and plans to start learning Mandarin before he visits in the fall. He also knows Yoruba, a language brought to America from West Africa, which is often heard in Cuba and parts of South America.

“When you go to different countries, speaking even a little of the language — even signing an autograph in their language — they will really open up to you,” he said. “When I went to Nigeria, I spoke Yoruba and they started giving me gifts.”

In 1990 Reed started a magazine called

OTHER EVENTS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

AFRICAN DANCE

Who: Cheza Nami (Swahili for “play with me”).

What: African drumming and dance, continuing the library’s Dance & Sing Around the World Series. Families will participate in a drum circle.

When: 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25

Where: Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

Cost: Free

Information: Children’s Desk at 931-3400, ext. 8

NEW ORLEANS

Who: Buena Vista

What: New Orleans Tin Pan Alley tradi

When: 2 p.m., Sur

Where: Pleasanton

Cost: Free

Information: 931-3

AT FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Konch, now an online publication, to publish voices that aren't heard elsewhere. He calls it, "A publication for the rest of us."

"We can get by on the basis of a little pocket money and donations, and we get a larger readership, from all over the world," he said. "I toured the Middle East, and in 2000 I was able to publish students from Lebanon, Israel, some who were never published before."

He said that books such as Kathryn Stockett's "The Help" and the movie script for Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" have outspoken critics because they were written by white people. The scriptwriter for the movie was Dutch, he noted.

"My point is that it seems like the white mainstream consumers are only comfortable when whites are writing about blacks," he said.

Reed's latest book is "Juice!" in which he argues that since 1994, "O.J. has become a metaphor for things wrong with culture and politics." Donna Seaman of Booklist said that Reed "is positively gleeful here as his irresistible trickster alter ego breaks down the toxic implications of the Simpson case and rails against American racism, hypocrisy, greed, and corruption."

Reed said his most popular novel is "Mumbo Jumbo."

"All my novel are still in print," he said.

Reed was described as "an unorthodox writer who has taken on the media, the writing establishment, feminists, politicians, blacks, whites and (the) American institution of higher learning," by Lee Hubbard in "American Visions."

"I'm 74 years old so even if I started out dumb I was bound to learn something along the way," he said.

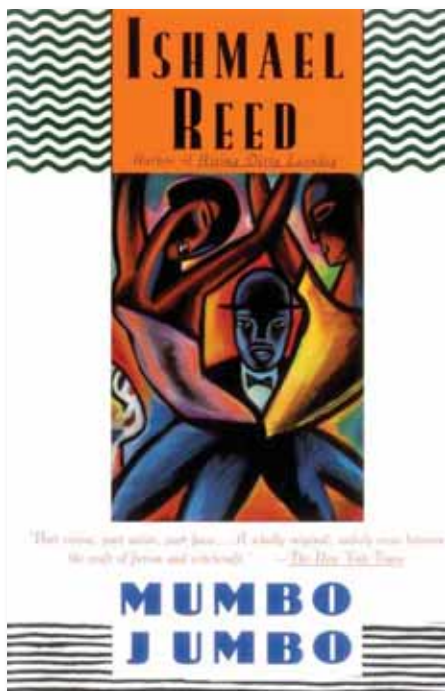
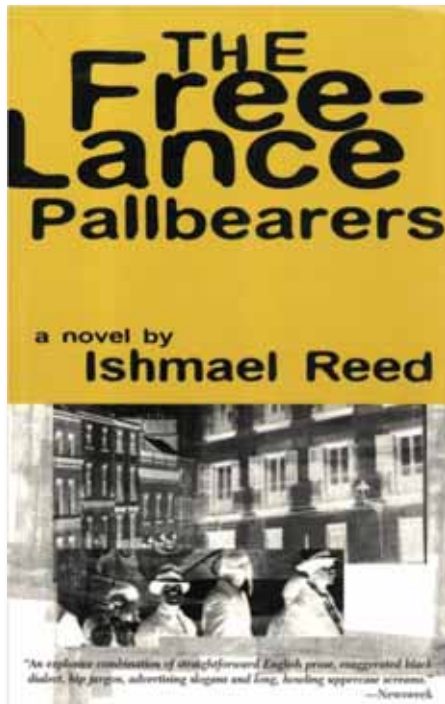
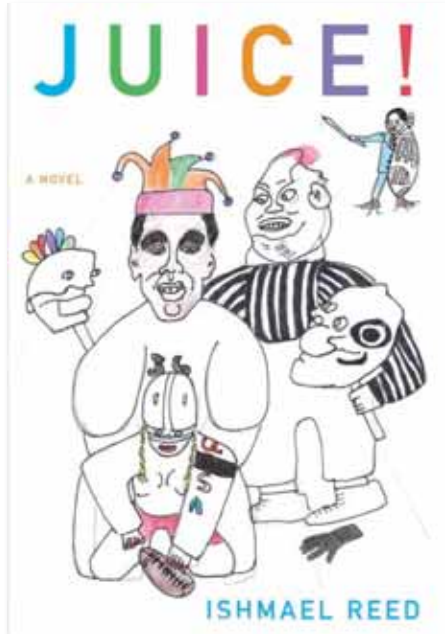
He's known many literary greats throughout his life, and wrote a poem for Malcolm X when he knew him.

"He said it was like Virgil and like Dante — which showed me that the prison library served him better than most schools," Reed said with a laugh.

Reed is looking forward to his appearance with his daughter at the Firehouse Arts Center, reading and commenting on his poems.

"I'm going to jump around a lot," he said. "I'm going to read from new poetry and my daughter will be reading from hers."

The program begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at 4444 Railroad Ave. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. ■



ANS JAZZ

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day, Feb. 26

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

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



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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

Author Visits

COMIC CREATOR SIGNING Meet Kyle Winters, Mike Andersen and Heather Brinesh from Triptych Books. They will be in store to sign their critically acclaimed series "The Trigger Men." Triptych Books will give away a free print to the first 50 people. Saturday, Mar. 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Heroes & Villains Comics, 264 Main St., Pleasanton. 399-5352. www.heroes-villainscomics.com

Clubs

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

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT Meet Congressional candidates Rep. Pete Stark and challenger Dublin City Council Member Eric Swalwell, Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, County Supervisors Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty. The discussion is from 7-9:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 20, at IBEW 595 HALL, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Q&A after statements by candidates. Refreshments will be served. Call 451-4303 or visit www.trivalleydems.com/meet_the_trivalley_candidates.htm.

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

Events

LUNCH The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like to invite you to join them for lunch. RSVP to Athene by Thursday, Feb. 23. Sunday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. Your menu choice Rising Loafer Bakery & Restaurant, 428 Main St., Pleasanton. 846-0111.

LUNCH & OPTIONAL MOVIE The **PEACEFUL WAR PROTEST** Pleasantonians 4 Peace has an ongoing

peaceful war protest from 5 to 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at First and Neal streets. Contact Cathe Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net. Visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

Film

'MITCHELL20: TEACHER QUALITY IS THE ANSWER' University of Phoenix College of Education is hosting a screening of "Mitchell20: Teacher Quality is the Answer." The inspiring documentary is the story of 20 teachers, their journey to seek National Board Certification and their collaborative efforts to improve their school. Panel discussion follows. Friday, Feb. 24 from 6:30-9 p.m., Free Livermore Learning Center, 2481 Constitution Drive, Livermore. 349-2336. www.baycoefilm.eventbrite.com

Fundraisers

AMADOR VALLEY GOLF BENEFIT TOURNAMENT Golf tournament to benefit the Amador Valley boys and girls golf teams. Cost includes a round of golf, range balls/BBQ lunch/tee prizes - closest to the hole and long drive prizes. Format is Four Man Scramble or you can play own ball. Monday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$125 Ruby Hill Golf Club, 3400 W. Ruby Hill Dr., Pleasanton. 580-1364.

BINGO BASH A night of bingo, prize drawings, snacks, entertainment, music and dancing to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante. The fundraiser is from 7-11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18 at St Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation Br. #285. Proceeds will support Children's Hospital Oakland and its scholarship program. Cost \$10. Call 846-0897 or 846-4227.

BRING BACK THE LIVERMORE FIREWORKS The community is invited to an evening of food, wine, beer, entertainment and fun while raising money to bring back the Livermore July 4th fireworks display and celebration. A local favorite, vocalist and guitarist Roger Kardinal, will provide entertainment for the evening. Thursday, Mar. 22 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$20 Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 963-8019. www.livermorefireworks.org

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

Health

BAY AREA BREAST CANCER FORUM ValleyCare is hosting the Bay Area Breast Cancer Forum. Hear Dr. Rishi Sawhney speak about updates in breast cancer research and updates from the International Breast Cancer Meeting. This is a free event. Call 734-3319 to register. Tuesday, Mar. 6 from 6-7:30 p.m. Free ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd Suite 240, Pleasanton. 734-3319.

LEAGUE PRESENTS HEALTH CARE FORUM "Healthy Californians-Stronger California," a free health care forum open to the public, will be presented by the League of Women Voters L-AV at the Livermore Library from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 29. Dr. Randolph Clarke, Andrew McGuire, Sen. Loni Hancock's representative speaking. Free. Livermore Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. 426-2412.

SEMINAR ON TREATMENTS FOR ENLARGED PROSTATE Urologist Parminder Sethi, M.D., is speaking on the treatments for Benign Prostate Hyperplasia, causing an enlarged prostate. Men may experience bladder control issues from pressure on the urethra. All are invited to the free seminar from 7:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Mar. 7 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Building, South Conference Room, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Please register. Call 800-284-2878 or visit www.OurSanRamonHospital.com.

SHABBES POTLUCK AND ADULT EDUCATION Tri-Valley Cultural Jews sponsors non-religious welcoming of the Sabbath, potluck and presentation on the Jewish classical texts - what they are, what's in them, and how they came to be authoritative. Bring a dish for eight to share. Call for location. Friday, Feb. 24 from 7-9:30 p.m. Private Home, Livermore. 485-1049. www.trivalleyculturaljews.org

Live Music

'AN EVENING IN ROMA' The Firehouse Arts Center Cabaret Series continues with an evening of romantic, tango-inspired international music by singer/musician Naresh Michael at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, at 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

DARLENE LANGSTON AND BUENA VISTA JAZZ BAND Buena Vista Jazz Band plays the classic songs of New Orleans jazz, along with

selections from America's blues and Tin Pan Alley traditions. In honor of Black History Month, classics of the African American jazz canon will be featured, voiced by the song stylist Darlene Langston. The performance is at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

On Stage

COMEDIAN MIKE PACE Pace displays a wealth of experience including appearances on comedy shows and live performances with legends such as Robin Williams and Dana Carve. Thursday, Mar. 8 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. 931-4848. www.firehousearts.org

Recreation

ART WALK On Feb. 18 and on the third Saturdays of March and April, Nancy and Gary Harrington will lead tours of public art in downtown Pleasanton. The Art Walks begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot adjacent to City Hall, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Each takes about two hours, walking on level, paved sidewalks. The Harrington's alternate two routes, taking in different works of art. The February walk will loop north on Main Street, with side excursions to view three murals and sculptures surrounding the Firehouse Arts Center.

Volunteering

NEEDED: ADVOCATES FOR NEGLECTED YOUTH CASA of Alameda County is looking for compassionate, committed volunteers from the Livermore/local community to help youth who have been abused, abandoned and neglected. Attend an orientation at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the conference room at the Multi-Service Building, 3311 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Contact John Anyosa, Volunteer Recruiter at (510) 618-1964 or janyosa@acgov.org to sign up or for further questions.

PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the American Red Cross Bus at Life Technologies, 6055 Sunol Blvd. Use sponsor code "Lifetech925" when scheduling an appointment. Call 800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Workshops

COLLEGE PLANNING College Planning Workshop for 10th/11th graders and parents. A college counselor will guide you through the college application process. Topics include: SAT/SAT II/ACT, Application Essay College Selection, Info for Athletes and College Fairs. Wednesday, Feb. 29 from 6:30-8 p.m. Free to YMCA members; \$10 per family for non-members Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane #F, Dublin. 263-4444. www.trivalleyymca.org

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WINTER 2012



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- PLEASANTON MEADOWS 16
- BIRDLAND 17
- CASTLEWOOD 18

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Pleasanton Meadows

Greenbelt is big attraction in northeast neighborhood

A park running the length of the Pleasanton Meadows neighborhood is one of its main attractions, say the residents, as well as its school, popular Cabana Club and friendly neighbors. Plus it's near the freeways.

"It's got good access to 580 and 680, and Fairlands Elementary is a good school," said Realtor Blaise Lofland. "It's also convenient to BART and if you're going to the Oakland Airport. A lot of the residents travel."

Pleasanton Meadows, in the northeast corner of the city, has consistently

attracted families since it was built by Rouseau Development beginning in 1968 with homes ranging from 1,300 to 2,500 square feet. Its street names exhibit a British flare, from Churchill to Dickens to Balmoral. The neighborhood is bordered by I-580 to the north, Staples Ranch to the east, Santa Rita Road to the west and West Las Positas Boulevard to the south.

The Pleasanton Meadows Cabana Club is the heart of the community and the site of its annual Easter egg hunt, grand opening BBQ, and fall adult wine and food party. The swim team competes with local teams in the summer.

Another 300 houses and townhomes, not part of the original subdivision, were built after the mid-'80s in what is sometimes called Monopoly land because one street is named Boardwalk and another, Park Place. At the northeastern end, residents in newer homes enjoy the half-

acre Meadows Park, which has a basketball court and picnic tables. A condo unit near Santa Rita has its own pool.

In the '90s the residents erected a "Pleasanton Meadows" sign at Santa Rita and West Las Positas although many of the residents, especially those with ties to the school, refer to their neighborhood as Fairlands.

Realtor Lofland also noted that the neighborhood is close to good shopping — "or it will be."

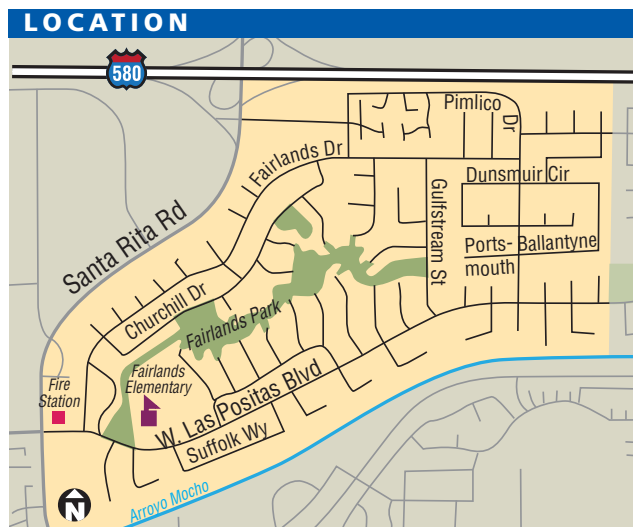
Nob Hill Foods moved out of nearby Meadow Plaza in early 2010, and Walmart plans to open a Neighborhood Market in the space. While some neighbors look forward to the new supermarket, others object to Walmart and point out that Safeway is only a mile further away.

The neighborhood also backs up to a center anchored by Trader Joe's and is near the Rose Pavilion, which has Ranch 99 and Fresh & Easy for grocery shopping.

Neighbors have banded together before to stop the expansion of the Livermore Airport and to prevent Stoneridge Drive from extending to El Charro, at least for awhile. When it goes through in the next year or two it will open the way to more amenities, including Paragon Outlet Mall with 120-plus upscale stores currently under construction. ■



Pleasanton Meadows has a unique quality—a large greenbelt that leads to Fairlands Elementary School. It's also close to Interstate 580 and shopping centers.



FACTS

FIRE STATION:

Station No. 3, 3200 Santa Rita Road

LIBRARY:

Downtown branch, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

PARKS:

Fairlands Park, Meadows Park

POST OFFICE:

4300 Black Ave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Fairlands Elementary School, Hart Middle School, Amador Valley High School, Foothill High School

SHOPPING:

Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, Meadow Plaza/Santa Rita Square, Cort Furniture Rental Plaza

2011 HOME PRICES:

High: \$743,000; low: \$530,000

HOMES SOLD IN 2011: 22

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Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2012 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Amigos de Pleasanton

Near Valley View Elementary School
(408) 203-1308
www.wix.com/micasita0203/amigos

Spanish Immersion Preschool and Summer Camps K-5.

Camp Centerpointe

3410 Cornerstone Ct.,
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 461-3011

www.centerpointepreschool.org

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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.

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFT!

7690 Quail Creek Cir.,
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 271-0015
www.KidzKraftz.com

Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects, while introducing children to fashion design concepts, sewing techniques, basic pattern manipulation and fashion illustration. Sewing machines and notions provided. Free fabric for first day of the camp. Early Bird Registration Special, as well as many discount options available.

Triple Threat Performing Arts

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Livermore, CA 94551
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www.triplethreatpa.com

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For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at PleasantonWeekly.com/Camps. To advertise in a weekly directory, call (925) 600-0840 or email sales@pleasantonweekly.com.

Birdland

Central location, schools and parks attract families

This neighborhood may not have a larger avian population than others in town but it's known as Birdland because its streets are named after birds, including Raven Road, Canary Drive and Blackbird Way. It's bordered by Valley Avenue to the south, Santa Rita Road to the east and Hopyard to the west.

At one time it was all farmland belonging to the Casterson family, where two homesteads were put in the 1930s. Al Casterson sold the land to Morrison Homes in 1963, except for about an acre where today the two original homes face Valley Avenue.

Now the mature Birdland landscaping is a draw in the neighborhood, said Realtor Tyler Moxley.

"You have tree-lined streets that give you shade and make you feel like it's more of a neighborhood than a subdivision," Moxley said. "People have mentioned that to me it's a homey, comforting feeling."

The main attractions for families, he said, are its central location, schools within walking distance and nearby parks. Birdland is close to Walnut Grove Elementary School, Harvest Park Middle School and Amador Valley High School, as well as Alisal Elementary. It has Wood-

thrush Park in the neighborhood and is bordered by Pleasanton Sports Park to the north.

"Being in the center of town, there's easy access to downtown, and there are shops and restaurants in the area. You don't have to drive 15 minutes just to get to grocery stores," Moxley said.

"You've got the ability to hang out at parks with the kids on weekends," he noted, "and because it's a family-friendly neighborhood, there are lots of kids there."

Birdland has single-story ranch homes and two-story colonials, which also make it popular.

"They're for families, not too small and not crazy big, so you could theoretically move there as a young family, your kids could leave and the house is still a manageable size," Moxley explained.

The quality construction allows remodeling, even knocking out walls.

"The floor plans are easy to work with, if you want to take walls out or move bathrooms around," Moxley said. "Everybody comes in and has their own spin on it. There is everything from original linoleum to hardwood floors and everything in between."

"They were built well back in the '60s and have held up for almost 50 years," he added. ■



The Birdland neighborhood gets its name from all of the streets, which are named after birds. Homes here are one-story ranches and two-story colonials.

FACTS

FIRE STATION:

Station No. 3, 3200 Santa Rita Road

LIBRARY:

Downtown branch, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

PARKS:

Woodthrush Park, Sports Park

POST OFFICE:

4300 Black Ave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Walnut Grove Elementary School, Harvest Park Middle School, Amador Valley High School

SHOPPING:

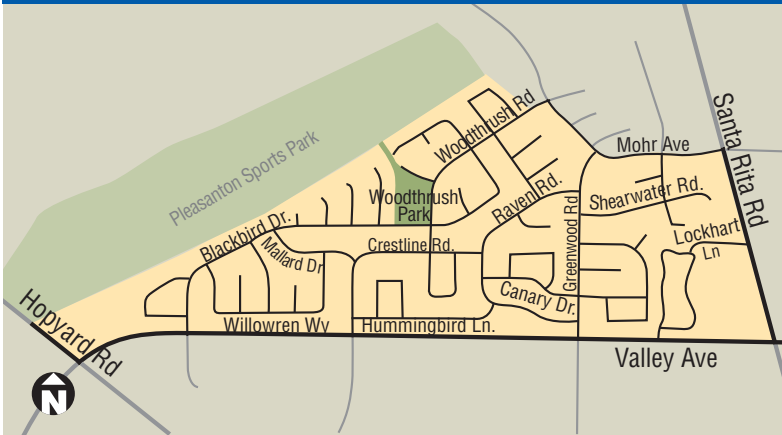
Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Amador Center, Mission Plaza/Valley Plaza, Gateway Shopping Center

MEDIAN 2011 HOME PRICE:

\$763,000 (\$940,000-\$575,000)

HOMES SOLD IN 2011: 25

LOCATION



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SOLD



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2170 FOXSWALLOW RD

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Castlewood

Hillside neighborhood full of history, trees, views — and golf

The Castlewood neighborhood, just south of Pleasanton city limits, covers 500 tree-studded acres, which were purchased by George Hearst in 1886, to use for hunting. After his death in 1891, his widow Phoebe Apperson Hearst hired architect Julia Morgan to design a palatial home for the site, which she named the Hacienda del Pozo de Verona. The 53-room hacienda served as the Castlewood Country Club until it burned down in the 1969; the new clubhouse was built in the Mediterranean and California Mission style of the original building. “People move to Castlewood be-

cause of the beauty of the area and to own a piece of an established, prestigious and historic neighborhood,” said Realtors Phyllis Weiner and Peter McDowell, who specialize in the area.

“For those who do enjoy golf, it provides an amazing location for access to two incredible 18-hole golf courses and all the amenities associated with country club living,” they added.

Phoebe Hearst’s chosen style of architecture was followed by other architects around 1920-35 when wealthy residents of San Francisco and Oakland built second homes in the area. Hearst died in 1919, and the estate was sold in 1924 to a group of businessmen. The area became known as Castlewood, in deference to the impressive hacienda and the wooded hills.

The businessmen formed a country club and hired architect William P. Bell to design the Hill golf course, known for its views and its challenge, according to club literature. In 1954 a more traditional course was added, known as the Valley course.

“It is not mandatory to be members of the country club in order to live in

Castlewood, although the benefits of being a member are wonderful and the prices are remarkably reasonable compared to other golf and country clubs,” Weiner and McDowell said.

The next building phase came in the 1950s, when ranch-style homes were built on the golf course, then there was another wave of building in the late '80s to early '90s, and there are now about 190 homes in Castlewood. Lots now vary from a quarter acre to several acres, and many of the homes are situated to protect their privacy.

Residents find Castlewood to be a warm and friendly place.

“Families enjoy the amenities such as pool, tennis and the great restaurants,” Weiner and McDowell said. “Children can take swimming and tennis lessons, young adults can take golf lessons from a pro, and everyone enjoys special events occurring throughout the year.”

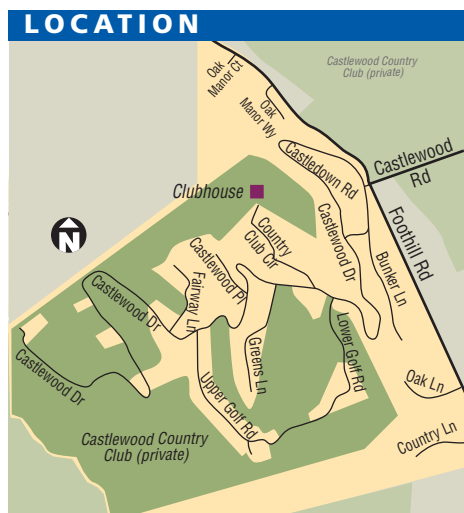
Since Castlewood lies outside the city limits, it receives police services from the Alameda County Sheriff’s Department; the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department provides fire protection.

“The location is ideal, nestled against the beautiful Pleasanton Ridge, with easy access to Highway 680, and very close proximity to downtown Pleasanton,” Weiner and McDowell said. ■



SHANNON COREY

Castlewood, southwest of Pleasanton city limits, is known for its Mediterranean and California mission-style architecture. The sprawling homes are located in the hills on the west side of Interstate 680.



FACTS

FIRE STATION:

Station No. 4, 1600 Oak Vista Parkway

LIBRARY:

Downtown branch, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

PARKS:

Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park

POST OFFICE:

4300 Black Ave.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Hearst Elementary School, Pleasanton Middle School, Foothill High School

SHOPPING:

Pleasanton Gateway, Koll Shopping Center, Oak Hills Shopping Center

MEDIAN 2011 HOME PRICE:

\$1,337,000 (\$1,525,000-\$1,150,000)

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971 SUMMIT CREEK CT PLEASANTON 971SummitCreek.com

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7923 SAWGRASS CT PLEASANTON 7923Sawgrass.com

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2128 WATERCRESS PL SAN RAMON 2128Watercress.com

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What's happening around town

Pleasanton offers a host of community events for all ages and all interests. While the Alameda County Fair and Goodguys Shows also draw Pleasantonians, the locals have events they can call their own. In the 2011 Pleasanton Weekly Readers Choice contest, readers voted Friday Concerts in the Park the Best Place for a Picnic and for Live Music. First Wednesdays Street Fairs and the Farmers Market were named among the Best Places to Meet People and to People Watch.

Free Concerts on Friday evening are a summer tradition in Pleasanton. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown association, the concerts are held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday from June through the first week in September at Lions Wayside Park, at First and Neal streets.

The Pleasanton Farmers Market is held year-round rain or shine from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays on East Angela Street between Main and First Street.

Here are some other spring and summer activities Pleasantonians can look forward to:

MARCH

Brew Crawl:

A St. Patrick's Day-themed Brew Crawl will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 16. The St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl will feature costumed guests enjoying local craft beer and appetizer tastings in a variety of downtown businesses. A costume contest and photo booth will be part of the festivities. For information, visit www.PleasantonDowntown.net.

MAY

The First Wednesday Street Parties:

Begin in May and will kick off with a Cinco de Mayo theme from 6 to 9 p.m. May 2. May's featured band is Ruckatan. Main Street will be closed from Del Valle Parkway to Bernal Avenue from 4:30 to 10 p.m. For information, visit www.PleasantonDowntown.net.

Spring Antiques & Collectibles Street Faire

Antique Faire: The Antique Faire is returning to Downtown Pleasanton with more than 400 dealers filling up Main Street from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 27. Admission is free. For information call Jerry at Turnkey Show Productions, (650) 242-1294 or



email jerry@turnkeyprod.com, or visit www.pleasantonantiquefaire.com.

JUNE

First Wednesday:

June's First Wednesday Street Party will be from 6 to 9 p.m. June 6. The featured band is an annual favorite, Finding Stella. Main Street will be closed from Del Valle Parkway to Bernal Avenue from 4:30 to 10 p.m. For information, visit www.PleasantonDowntown.net.

Rotary Club Spirit Run:

The Rotary Club of Pleasanton presents its 16th Annual Pleasanton Spirit Run on Sunday morning, June 17, in downtown Pleasanton. The 10K Race will start at 8 a.m., with the 5K Run and Walk will begin at 8:20 a.m. The Kids' Challenge events will begin around 9:30 a.m. Check-in and race-day registration opens at 6:30 a.m. This Father's Day community tradition will benefit the Pleasanton Rotary Club's Scholarship Program. All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and goodie bag, as well as refreshments and will each receive a ticket to the huge after-race drawing.

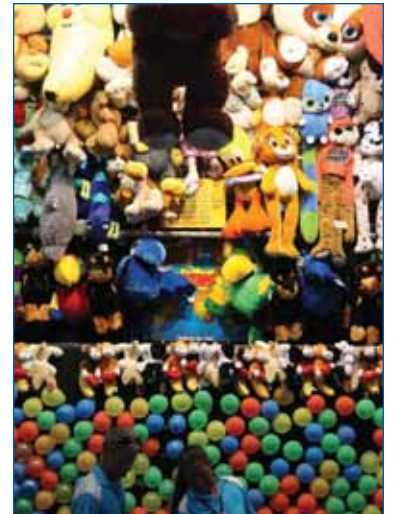
2012 Alameda County Fair:

The Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton runs from June 20 to July 8, except Mondays, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Bernal and Valley, Pleasanton. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children, and children under 6 are free. Parking is \$8 to \$20. The fair features horse-racing, carnival rides, a petting zoo, exhibits and, of course, fair food.

JULY

(Second) First Wednesday Street Party

As July 4, 2012 lands on the first Wednesday of the month, the July First Wednesday Street Party will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on the "second Wednesday," July 11. Main Street will be closed from Del Valle Parkway to Bernal Avenue from 4:30 to 10 p.m. For information, visit www.PleasantonDowntown.net.



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TriValley Life

PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES
IN OUR COMMUNITY

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



JIM BRICE

Assistant principal Lori Vella (standing, left) and Career Talk creator Kevin Greenlee join Foothill High students to hear a presentation on the types of job skills in demand at Kraft Foods by Cheryl Stark, at right, director of customer logistical development.

‘What should I be when I grow up?’

LUNCH-TIME LECTURES PRESENT CAREERS IN A PERSONAL WAY

By JIM BRICE

Tri-Valley business people and professionals are helping Foothill High School students answer the age-old question: What should I be when I grow up?

A new lunch-time Career Talk lecture series, sponsored by Pleasanton North Rotary, aims at increasing future career options for Foothill students by exposing them to jobs they may not otherwise consider for themselves, said the program's creator Kevin Greenlee.

“Career Talk is intended to give students exposure to a wide variety of career paths over their academic year,” Greenlee said. “It will hopefully stimulate them to seek out further information as they plan for college or seek out other opportunities after high school.”

Greenlee developed the program while volunteering as North Rotary's youth services coordinator, which provides oversight for the chapter's 85-member Rotary Interact Club at Foothill High.

The 17-week series held on the Foothill campus covers the pleasure, pains and necessary qualifications to work as a firefighter, TV meteorologist, lawyer, human resources specialist, salesperson, financial planner and other professions.

The series was launched in December with separate sessions on broadcast journalism meteorology by Juliette Goodrich and Roberta Gonzales. Both work for KPIX TV and Radio in San Francisco.

Goodrich graduated with a communications undergraduate degree from UC Davis and began her broadcasting career by reporting for Channel 30 in her hometown of Pleasanton in the early 1990s. She also gained experience at TV news stations in Redding, Chico and Sacramento before joining KPIX Channel 5 in 1997.

Gonzales' pathway to the top weather anchor post at KPIX started at the ground level as gardener and messenger at KPRI FM radio and XETV Channel 6 in San Diego. She was a writer, reporter and film editor before her career as a weathercaster took

flight at WMAQ in Chicago.

In her talk, Gonzales stressed the importance of goal-setting for attaining one's professional heart's desire.

“I gave (the students) an idea of who I am, where I came from. If I can dream big, so can they,” she said.

Cheryl Stark lectured students Jan. 12 about her work as director of customer logistic development at Kraft Foods, Livermore. Stark is responsible for the delivery and presentation of numerous Kraft products at Safeway stores. She applies sales, marketing and organizational skills to keeping the shelves filled with Kraft Jell-O, Oreo Cookies, Capri Sun fruit drinks and other products.

As an international corporation, Kraft hires employees with diverse skills including packaged food research and development, food manufacturing, package design, transportation, warehousing, finance, sales and marketing, she said. The company employs 150 workers at its Livermore facility as well as at factories and distribution facilities in San Leandro, Stockton, Fullerton and Tulare.

Stark urged students to follow the three principles of performance, image and exposure (PIE) to maximize their prospects for success.

“Good job performance is essential,” she said. “But career progress comes as you create a positive image about yourself with your co-workers and the community. Exposure comes as your professional mentors and colleagues make other people aware of you, especially if you are young in your career.”

Foothill student and Interact president Alex Ku noted that learning about more types of careers could work to her advantage.

“It gives me opportunities to see the different opportunities I actually have,” she said. “I may not think I have the potential to do something, but listening to this gives me confidence that I can do something as well.”

Jerry Chen, Interact Club secretary, is using the session to expand his career options.

“I found the lectures to be very insightful because they are about careers I have not actually considered before,” he said. “It opens up a lot of career possibilities for me.”

The schedule of Career Talk lectures for 2011-12 has been filled, but organizers are looking for Pleasanton residents to participate in the program for the school year beginning in August. Potential speakers should contact Foothill High assistant principal Lori Vella for more details at lvella@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

—Jim Brice is chairman of media relations for Pleasanton North Rotary.



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gentle per-
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boy, does she
love her toys!
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looking for a



AARON CZESZYNSKI

companion, Maizy will suit your desires. She could also
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Interested in learning more? Call Valley Humane Society
at 426-8656. To see other adoptable dogs and cats, go to
www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located
at 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton.

No phone number in the ad? GO TO fogster.com for contact information

Dublin Ranch - Now Pending!

PENDING!



5629 N. Dublin Ranch Dr, Dublin

Built in 2000

5 bedrooms, 4 baths plus a large bonus room, and approx. 3841 sqft. Gorgeous kitchen with island open to the family room. Crown moulding, tile floors neutral carpet, excellent location.

Walk to John Green Elementary School.

Offered at \$798,000

JUST SOLD! - 11398 Tesla Rd., Livermore

4 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx 2100 sqft. 7 acres with stables.

SOLD at \$690,000

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If you are thinking of selling or buying a home, call me for information on current market conditions and options available to you.

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Orinda, CA 94563
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Walnut Creek, CA 94596
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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE
AND REAL ESTATE
LISTINGS

Take 'America Saves Week' to heart

Don't wait for economic recovery to stash something away

BY JASON ALDERMAN

"America Saves Week" starts Sunday. After four years of coping with a stagnant economy, probably the last thing you want to hear is how important it is to sock away money for a rainy day.

You already know that, but hear me out, just in case.

Those who struggle with long-term unemployment or under-employment often simply don't have spare cash available to save. Others, worn out by years of being frugal, just want to buy things again.

Even as we wait for economic recovery it's still good to remember — or perhaps learn for the first time — why saving is so vital:

- You could lose your job or see your wages cut. Most financial experts recommend having at least six to nine months' income saved for emergencies, but even \$500 could help bail you out of a sticky situation.

- Medical care, retirement and college tuition far outpace inflation. In fact, the average college graduate now carries \$25,000 in outstanding loans, debt that can't be discharged through bankruptcy and has no statute of limitations.

- If you're approaching or in retirement, your net worth has probably been hammered by plummeting home and retirement account values in recent years.

- If nothing else, you can teach your children good financial habits that will serve them well during hard times.

So where can you learn sound savings habits? One great resource is America Saves (www.americasaves.org), a national campaign sponsored by more than 1,000 nonprofit, government and corporate organizations.

Its goal is to encourage people from all income levels to save money and build personal wealth using its free financial tools, savings services, advice and other resources, including:

- A Personal Wealth Estimator that helps you calculate your current net worth and estimate your future net worth.

- Monthly Savings Messages from national financial experts on topics such as money management, investment basics, building wealth through home ownership, saving during tax time and getting out of debt.

- Tips for saving money on everything from groceries to utilities to insurance premiums.

- Links to numerous websites offering financial education materials.

Last year, more than 2,000 organizations, including nonprofits, employers, government agencies, educational institutions and unions participated in the fifth annual America Saves Week, reaching millions of Americans — everything from local banks offering low-fee savings accounts and higher-rate CDs to new savers, to free tax preparation assistance and credit counseling, to worldwide Military Saves drives to encourage savings by military families.

This year's America Saves Week, "Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically," is slated for Feb. 19-26.

Here are some great ways to start saving that first \$500:

- Direct deposit part or all of your federal tax refund into a savings account or savings bond.

- Avoid overdraft and late fees by regularly monitoring your bank and credit card accounts.

- Brown-bag it to work more often. If you saved \$5 a week, you'd be halfway there.

- Kick bad habits. Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day might cost \$2,000-plus a year.

- If you have low-deductible homeowners, renters or auto insurance, consider raising the deductible to \$500 or \$1,000. Many save 15% to 30% or more on their premiums.

Saving can be a tough habit to start, but once you're hooked, you'll never go back. ■

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

2 BEDROOMS

210 Alamo Square \$439,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

4 BEDROOMS

42 Kentfield Ct \$885,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

6 BEDROOMS

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

Blackhawk

3 BEDROOMS

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

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

292 Windstream Pl \$564,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

5 BEDROOMS

755 El Pintado Rd \$1,750,000
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS

887 Roma Street \$549,700
Sat 5-7 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

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

247 Tomas Way \$549,000

Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

4580 Harper Ct \$559,950

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 463-0436

4 BEDROOMS

640 Varese Ct \$1,950,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 397-4200

5260 Ridgevale Way \$980,000

Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

2765 Hartley Gate Court \$829,950

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

4668 Laramie Gate Ct \$789,000

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

1397 Whispering Oak Wy \$964,950

Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 525-2569

4432 1st St \$979,000

Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 260-2220

420 Pine Hill Ln \$699,000

Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 339-3077

5 BEDROOMS

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

7330 Hickorywood Ln \$1,199,000

Sat/Sun 1-5 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

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

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during January 2012

Dublin

- 6615 Adare Lane** Dublin Tralee to M. & Z. Latifi for \$450,000
 - 6619 Adare Lane** Dublin Tralee to S. Zhou for \$435,000
 - 4593 Brannigan Street** Bank of New York to Poperidge Limited for \$355,000
 - 4095 Clarinbridge Circle** E. & V. Enrile to J. Brickman for \$305,000
 - 3219 Colebrook Lane** Yashar Trust to Y. Siddiqi for \$752,500
 - 6586 Conestoga Lane #61** C. Leydecker to L. Schwarz for \$165,000
 - 3420 Finnian Way #124** Toll Dublin Limited to F. Nowak for \$243,000
 - 3420 Finnian Way #316** Toll Dublin Limited to S. Pearson for \$200,000
 - 7420 Hansen Drive** Darcy Trust to E. Baboneh for \$500,000
 - 8042 Iglesia Drive** Walker Trust to D. & C. Radian for \$639,000
 - 5231 North Forestdale Circle** Pineda Trust to X. Deng for \$638,000
 - 10628 Roys Hill Lane** R. Yockey to R. Botelho for \$400,000
 - 4610 Sandyford Court** Wells Fargo Bank to J. Chao for \$413,000
 - 5859 Southbridge Way** R. Nobles to J. Min for \$520,000
- Livermore
- 219 Albatross Avenue** H. Hello to E. & A. Zavala for \$390,000
 - 1183 Bannock Street** Besson Trust to J. & J. Goodwin for \$269,000

- 1284 Hyacinth Court** M. Urrutia to S. Coleman for \$406,000
- 295 Junction Avenue** E. Tauer to C. Wang for \$190,000
- 1124 Madrone Way** C. Morgenstern to A. & A. Wheelen for \$365,000
- 231 Northwood Commons** E. Larussa to J. Keller for \$320,000
- 1776 Prima Drive** T. Hayes to V. Nguyen for \$765,000
- 738 Saddleback Circle** Rodriguez Trust to J. Biederman for \$385,000
- 548 Sonoma Avenue** S. Williams to T. Padilla for \$450,000
- 3973 Stanford Way** Bank of New York to T. Simons for \$317,000
- 5360 Starflower Way** HSBC Bank to P. Mitchell for \$368,500
- 614 Tanager Road** Wells Fargo Bank to B. Dickerson for \$341,000
- 1975 Walnut Street** K. Whitaker to J. & J. Warren for \$245,000

Pleasanton

- 3643 Bernal Avenue** RWW Properties to G. Gao for \$695,000
- 2781 Calle Alegre** Rosa Trust to Singh Trust for \$1,000,000
- 4157 Lucca Court** Bank of America to A. Venkiteswara for \$381,000
- 4615 Mohr Avenue** Polymathic Properties to R. & S. Govil for \$562,000
- 7807 Paseo Santa Cruz** A. & S. Martinez to R. Gupta for \$660,000
- 4161 Sharab Court** T. & V. Skowron to D. Karlson for \$770,000
- 3068 Staples Ranch Drive** E. Chiu to C. & R. Sivanandan for \$620,000

Source: California REsource

PRESENTED BY *Sonali Sethna*

OPEN SUN 1-4



1397 WHISPERING OAK WAY, PLEASANTON

Beautifully Upgraded Home in the Desirable Walnut Hills Community



This stunning 4brdm plus office/3.5ba, 3364 sq. ft. home sits on approx 5000 sq. ft. and is perfectly located near Bernal Community Park, Alameda County Fairgrounds, shopping and downtown Pleasanton. Allows for easy access to the 680 freeway, BART and ACE Train. Part of the award winning Pleasanton School District, Hearst Elementary and Pleasanton Middle School. Richly upgraded features include: designer tile, Brazilian cherry floors, 2.5" blinds and custom window coverings throughout. The downstairs office can easily be converted into a 4th bedroom with a full bath. Large secondary bedrooms and upstairs laundry. Kitchen has cherry cabinets, granite counters, built-in refrigerator, upgraded appliances, large pantry, breakfast bar and dining nook. Large master with berber carpet and travertine floor in bath with soaking tub, his & hers sinks and a spacious walk in closet. Added bonus: large 1bd /1ba apartment over the garage with spacious living/dining areas. The full kitchen includes dishwasher, microwave, refrigerator and gas range. The apartment laundry is located in the 3 car garage. Offered at \$964,950

Sonali Sethna

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OAK LANE



369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON

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

ESTATES OF MOHR PARK

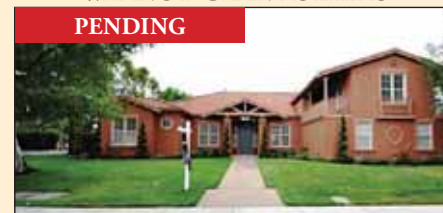


2248 KAMP COURT, PLEASANTON

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

WALNUT GLEN ESTATES

PENDING



3891 PICARD AVENUE, PLEASANTON

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

OAK PARK

OPEN SUN 1-4

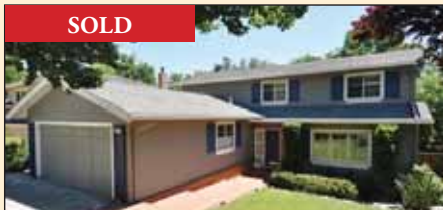


247 TOMAS WAY, PLEASANTON

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

DOWNTOWN

SOLD



335 DEL SOL AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Location, location, location. Desirable downtown quiet court location! Beautiful upgraded home, 5 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with 2350 square feet. Remodeled kitchen with granite slab countertops, custom backsplash and stainless appliances. Newer upgraded hardwood flooring, plantation shutters, dual pane windows, newer brushed nickel hardware and fixtures. Lots of upgrades including 30 year roof. Elevated lot with private secluded tranquil grounds includes TimberTech deck, mature trees. Walk around the corner at Neal and in one minute you are at the Farmers Market and can also enjoy all the other downtown amenities! Award winning schools! SOLD FOR \$830,000

KOTTINGER RANCH

SOLD — REPRESENTED BUYER



1348 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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

FOOTHILL KNOLLS

SOLD



7863 FOOTHILL KNOLLS, PLEASANTON

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

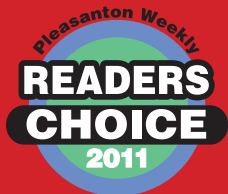
LAGUNA OAKS

SOLD



2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON

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



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IN VOLUME
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**4580 Harper Ct, Pleasanton
Pride in Ownership!**

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Just Listed!



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

We have a lot of buyers, but no homes for them to buy! Inventory is low; so if you have any interest in selling your home, please call us right away for a confidential interview.

PEEL SANCHEZ



Danielle Peel
925.998.9692
DRE #01293873

Cristin Kiper Sanchez
925.580.7719
DRE #01479197



homes@peelsanchez.com | www.PeelSanchez.com

Open Sat/Sun 1-4



4432 1st Street, Pleasanton

One of a kind! Amazing Downtown Victorian. 4 BR, 3 BA and 1791 +/- sqft. Within walking distance to all Downtown events. Updated throughout with original details, and custom enhancements. Plus 417 sqft. studio apartment above the garage and an additional basement in law unit! **Offered at \$979,000**



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

Great New Price!



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

1641VettaDrive.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

Open Sun 1-4



4668 Laramie Gate Ct., Pleasanton

Beautifully updated 4 BR and 3 BA home w/vaulted ceiling on a quiet court in the "Gates" neighborhood. 1 BR and full BA downstairs. Charming and spacious kitchen. Large, private backyard with tiled patio & /charming grape arbor. Great schools! **Offered at \$789,000**



Ingrid Wetmore
REALTOR® DRE # 00923379
925.918.0986
www.krugergroup.com

OPEN SUN 1-4



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

Fran & Dave Cunningham
925.202.6898
DRE # 01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
925.980.0273
DRE # 01735040

Susan Schall
925.519.8226
DRE # 01713497



www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net

OPEN SUN 1-4



2579 Gillian Court, Pleasanton

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**

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www.FabulousProperties.net
www.RubyHill.net



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. **Offered at \$569,000**



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