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VOL. XIII, NUMBER 27 · JULY 20, 2012

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If this collector likes an antique, she'll find a use for it >> 15

OPINION 8

COMMUNITY PULSE 9

REAL ESTATE 20



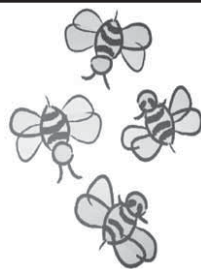
INSIDE THIS WEEK

- **NEWS:** Traffic meeting to discuss Vintage Hills streets 5
- **NEWS:** Teacher launches summer programs on her own 5
- **HOME & GARDEN:** Pleasanton Heritage Association honors gardens 18

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Making the Tri-Valley safer

From human trafficking in Livermore to mothers banding together in Pleasanton to fight drug abuse among their teenagers, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley kept local real estate professionals on the edge of their seats last Friday as she talked about crime and related issues in the Tri-Valley at a meeting hosted by the Valley Real Estate Network.



ERIC VON GELDERN
Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley

Although Oakland and the more densely populated areas of the "North County," as she calls it, get the most attention from her office, this area is not squeaky clean. In fact, of the numerous "human trafficking" cases she handled in Alameda County last year, the biggest one came out of Livermore. Pleasanton has big problems, too, especially with youth drugs. She's quick to add, however, that the reported high numbers are also due to an active adult population that is quick to report abuses rather than ignoring them. Parents here are saying they're just not going to let their kids do drugs and have adopted a "tough love" approach that hits hard at the time. Still, O'Malley credits that effort with saving children from the dire consequences of using or dealing in drugs going forward.

She gave a big "shout out" (her words) to Mothers with a Purpose, a Pleasanton group with 175 members that meets regularly in their homes to talk openly about teenage drug-related problems. With few exceptions, O'Malley said, these are high-achieving, smart kids who started raiding their parents' medicine cabinets, looking for prescription drugs, such as oxycontin. When those pills ran out, many turned to street drugs such as heroin and amphetamines, which she described as the real killers. The Mothers group, formed last year to deal with drug addicted children, has received national attention for its willingness to make other parents aware of the support and solutions to what O'Malley called a national epidemic.

With Oakland now No. 3 in the country in terms of human trafficking, it's become a major focus of the District Attorney's Office. O'Malley said her office handled 34 cases last year involving girls from 11 to 18 years old. Arrests are often made in hotels and motels, including here in the Tri-Valley, where "connections" are made through the Internet and Smart Phones. Her office recently created a program called Human Exploitation in Trafficking (HET) Watch, which encourages

anyone suspicious of an illegal sex operation to call her office. It's a robust effort that is having such success that law enforcement agencies around the world have been calling O'Malley for more details.

Terminology among law enforcement agencies has also changed when discussing human trafficking and the commercial sex trade. Pimps are now child abusers, children they coerce or force into prostitution are now victims of child abuse, not prostitutes, and even the term "Johns" is out, with those individuals now called child molesters.

The Tri-Valley's population is about 220,000 with Alameda County's now 1.6 million. O'Malley, who was sworn in as district attorney in January 2011, has been in the DA's office since 1984. Although crime this year is down somewhat, arrests are not, with driving while intoxicated charges totaling a new high of 1,500 last year. Police also are seeing more gang-related problems in the Tri-Valley, including several stabbings, shootings and a couple of murders in Livermore that O'Malley said were gang-related. Her office recently started a Youth Justice Leadership program with 21 youths from the Tri-Valley participating in the first phase. Their mission is to work with kids in middle school as peer advisors to help them resist pressure from older gang members to use drugs, drink and eventually join up.

O'Malley also asked Realtors to join her in a shared lookout effort to spot "hot spots" of possible criminal activities, especially in unoccupied foreclosed homes that have become a convenient place for illicit and illegal activities. She said she finds most Realtors have the same "eagle-eye" vision as police officers when driving through neighborhoods. Although on different missions, both can quickly spot something that's wrong. Hers was a message that struck home as real estate professionals agreed with the district attorney that a safe Tri-Valley is a great place to call home. ■

About the Cover

A Schonbek Crystal chandelier hangs over a 1930s table from a diner and near an antique hutch and a church pew for a pleasant affect in the open floor plan of this 1910 home on Second Street. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Kristin Herman.

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Casa Orozco Mexican Restaurant 7995 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, 828-5464 325 South L St., Livermore, 449-3045	Best Mexican Restaurant
Crispim BJJ Barra Brothers 7063 Commerce Circle, Unit E, Pleasanton, 468-0330	Best Martial Arts Studio
Dickey's BBQ 6654 Koll Center Parkway, Pleasanton, 426-6800	Best Barbecue Best Take-out Restaurant
The Door Doctor 39 California Avenue #102, Pleasanton, 484-4290	Best Home Contractor
Eastern Medical Center 3510 Old Santa Rita Rd. Ste. D, Pleasanton, 847-8889	Best Acupuncture
Eddie Papa's American Hangout 4889 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton, 469-6266	Best American Food Restaurant; Best Kid-Friendly, Non-Chain Restaurant; Best Meal Under \$20
Foothill Optometric Group 6155 Stoneridge Dr. Ste. 100, Pleasanton, 463-2150	Best Optometrist
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Zen Pilates & Fitness 3059 Hopyard Rd. Ste. C, Pleasanton, 600-7800	Best Personal Trainer

Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

Do you prefer a Mac or PC?



Casey Tuoto

Café Main/student/bartender-in-training

I have a PC. I like it because I feel like it's more usable and able to be personalized. My brother has a MacBook and he loves it; I've tried to use it and I don't like it as much. Price also plays a role in my preference; Macs are expensive.

Matt Loeser

Software engineer

PC. The software I have won't run on a Mac, and a PC is a little bit cheaper. I've stuck with the PC, partially because I don't want to experience the learning curve that goes along with a new system.



Hailey Hamilton

Rising kindergartner

I've got my own Barbie computer. I don't know what it is. I also have an iPad and I play Angry Birds.

Dean Mancini

Owner of Murphy's Paw

I was always a Mac person. Now I hate the Mac. They switched to the Cloud and I can't update anything on my older Mac. It's all about selling units to them now. I'm going to limp through and use my phone to forward messages that I can view on my computer.



Gerry Machi

Retired

PC. My kids all have Macs, so I have to be different. I used to run a company that made software for Macs, so I'm familiar with them. My daughter even works for Apple. But PCs are a lot cheaper.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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Newsfront

DIGEST

District OKs plan for Ridge

The East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors unanimously OK'd a new land use plan for the Pleasanton Ridge at its meeting Tuesday after reviewing comments received at public meetings. The plan will add 2,360 acres to the 4,172 acres of parkland currently open to the public, plus develop picnic areas, interpretive programs and campsites for backpackers.

The plan includes two new staging areas, Garms with 75 parking spaces and Tyler Ranch with up to 90 parking spaces; adds 20 parking spaces to the Foothill staging area and one new trailhead at the Devany Canyon entrance; and a system of trails that can support multiple uses.

Although the land use plan has been approved, there is no timeline for the improvements, which will depend on funding.

New Donlon principal

Stephanie Ceminsky has been selected to be the new principal at Donlon Elementary School in Pleasanton. She will succeed Amy Simone, who resigned the position to relocate to the East Coast.

Ceminsky, who served as an assistant principal at Amador Valley High School this past school year, has more than nine years of experience as a school administrator. She has served as an assistant principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and as a summer school principal for grades 5-8. Her teaching experience includes elementary and middle school, as well as special education.

She has a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., and a master's degree in educational leadership from St. Mary's College in Moraga.

Fast & Furious

The Fast & Furious Festival is coming to Pleasanton on Sunday, Aug. 5, for a second year. A 5K Run/Walk Race will take place in the morning, with the criterium-style bicycle races through downtown scheduled to start at 10:50 a.m. and conclude with the women's and men's championship races at 5:20 and 6:30 p.m.

The all-day wellness and lifestyle festival will benefit ALS Therapy Development Institute.

Correction

A sub-headline in last week's Pleasanton Weekly about a San Ramon attorney pleading not guilty to a misdemeanor charge was incorrect. It should have read a claim has been filed.

Pleasanton developer, wife, killed in small plane crash in Utah

Peter and Mona Branagh in single engine craft that struck mountainside

Peter Branagh, an East Bay developer with extensive interests in Pleasanton's downtown and residential communities, was killed in a plane crash Sunday along with his wife Mona in southern Utah.

The couple, who lived in Lafayette, was traveling in a single engine Cirrus SR22 from a stop in Utah to Aspen, Colo., when the plane crashed into a mountainside north of I-70 about 27 miles southeast of Salina, Utah. Sevier County (Utah) Sheriff Nathan Curtis, who went to the site Tuesday, told the Salt Lake

Tribune that based on some of the electronic devices that he found, the couple was flying at 14,000 feet before the plane plummeted down into the mountain.

Branagh was president of Branagh Development, a well-known development firm in the East Bay, as well as a director of the California Bank of Commerce. Both he and his wife, who owned and operated Pacific Bay Interior in Danville, were members of the bank's founding group.

Partnering with Craig Semmelmeier, presi-

dent of Main Street Property Services Inc. in Lafayette, Branagh was involved in the development of the building at Angela and Main Streets in Pleasanton that is home to Tully's Coffee Shop and the more recent renovation of the 234 Main St. building, where Fleet Feet sports specialty store is located and eventually a restaurant will be added. Branagh's company also built homes in Ruby Hill.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Community Presbyterian Church, 222 W. El Pintado Road in Danville. ■

Public meeting to hear Vintage Hills traffic concerns

Week day traffic on Palomino, Touriga drives now tops 2,000 vehicles a day

By JEB BING

With traffic on Touriga and Palomino drives in upper Vintage Hills now averaging more than 2,000 vehicles a day, Pleasanton traffic engineers have scheduled a public hearing July 26 to hear what neighbors along these busy routes want to do about it.

Called a "Traffic Calming" meeting, it will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. in the City Council chamber at 200 Old Bernal Ave.

The two streets have become the busiest east of Bernal, channeling commuter traffic and motorists heading to Vintage Hills Elementary School, located at the end of Touriga on Concord Street. Just before 8 a.m. on school days, and after school, traffic on Touriga moves bumper-to-bumper as cars, many from Ruby Hill, move between Vineyard Avenue and the school.

Joshua H. Pack, the city's senior transportation engineer, said that on a typical weekday Touriga Drive has about 2,100 vehicles per day. Palomino has a bit more on an average weekday at about 2,300 vehicles per day with the street now a major link between upper Vintage Hills, Vintage Heights and other neighborhoods and Bernal Avenue.



JEB BING

Signs posted on Touriga and Palomino drives in Vintage Hills notify public of July 26 hearing to consider remedies to increased speeds and traffic on these two key thoroughfares, now used by more than 2,000 vehicles each week day.

"As for complaints, it typically takes one resident's request to qualify each street for traffic calming consideration and evaluation," Pack said.

He said only one complaint has been made for each street, one regarding Touriga Drive on March 10, 2011, and another regarding Palo-

mino Drive on July 21, 2011. Both requests were made via telephone with the callers asking that speed humps, similar to those installed several years ago on Crellin Drive, be placed on Touriga and Palomino.

Speed limits on both streets are 25 mph

See **MEETING** on Page 6

Classes cut? Not for dedicated Harvest Park teacher

Formed nonprofit to offer programs for gifted students

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Cuts that eliminated special summer school programs for gifted students weren't enough to stop Lynn Gatehouse, a teacher at Harvest Park Middle School.

Gatehouse, on her own, created a 501(c)(3) charity and put together her own program, holding two two-week sessions and bringing in more than 160 students from Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Livermore with some coming from as far away as Fremont, Santa Clara and Cupertino.

"I knew there was a need and I knew there was an interest," Gatehouse said. "Usually in summer school programs the focus is on mastering skills."

She said programs for gifted students were cut in the Pleasanton school district two years ago.

"It took about a year of planning and finding out what paperwork needed to be filed," she said, adding that finding insurance was a particular challenge.

"Anything dealing with childcare is a problem," she said.

Gatehouse also recruited some of her colleagues to teach everything from art to robotics. Kevin Kiyoi taught Introduction to Digital Imaging and Web Page Development.

"I made a website using HTML code," said 10-year-old Liam O'Flynn, who's entering fifth grade this fall. "He gave us these subjects and we had to make a website."

O'Flynn's site featured Bigfoot being spotted at a Starbucks.

Neil Bello taught Brain Fitness Through Art, inspiring students to think and solve problems

with clay and offering them the chance to use a potters' wheel.

Kevin O'Dea taught Intro to Music Production, where the students created electronic musical compositions using GarageBand software and MIDI keyboards.

Randy Lomas taught Creative Problem Solving, incorporating logic puzzles and Math Olympiad and MathCounts challenges.

One popular program was put together by Gary Mansfield, a semi-retired scientist from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Mansfield taught robotics using LEGO Mindstorms NXT, which included simulations and the Mars Laboratory Challenge. Students demonstrated their robots on the final day, as they made their way through a series of steps to

See **CLASSES** on Page 6

Comedian, audience member toss drinks at each other

No arrest in Friday fracas at comedy club

Pleasanton made the national news last weekend, thanks to a brief fracas July 13 at Tommy T's Comedy Club.

According to TMZ, a celebrity gossip show, comedian Eddie Griffin dumped his water bottle on an audience member, then threw the bottle at her after the woman became offended at what he was saying and threw a drink at him.

TMZ has video taken by someone in the audience showing Griffin's side of the incident, throwing the water, then the bottle. The video begins after the drink was tossed at Griffin.

According to TMZ, the woman was removed from the club, which closed afterward because of the incident Friday night. Pleasanton police responded to a call from the club in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road, but no arrest was made.

The drink tossing began after Griffin made a joke about homosexuals, TMZ said.

—Glenn Wohlmann



No charges were filed after an incident in which comedian Eddie Griffin, above, tossed a water bottle at an audience member after she doused him with a drink.

3 more in Happy Valley agree to annexation

Property owners sign up to get city sewer, water services

By JEB BING

Three more Happy Valley property owners agreed Tuesday to pay the costs associated with connecting to Pleasanton's municipal water and sewer services as they abandon their aging water wells and septic systems.

They join a growing number of homeowners in the unincorporated community along Alisal Street on the city's far south side to seek the City Council's approval to connect to city water and sewer pipes that run under Alisal. Although the street, itself, is part of Alameda County, Pleasanton installed its water and sewer system 10 years

ago to serve its then-planned Calippe Preserve golf course, which is in the city limits.

Happy Valley residents voted in 2002 against annexing to the city of Pleasanton, 88-83. If the annexation measure had passed, the more than 100 homes in the area would have received city water and sewer lines to each property paid for by the golf course project developers, although hook-up fees — about \$26,000 — would still have been up to the homeowners.

Based on recent estimates, these costs now exceed \$100,000.

Also, new environmental regulations in Alameda County restrict

major repairs and ban any new construction of septic systems when a property is within 200 feet of a public sewer line, a rule that affects many properties in Happy Valley.

Even though there are no plans to annex Happy Valley or to seek a new vote on the issue, Pleasanton now requires any property owner there to enter into a pre-annexation agreement before allowing connections to its municipal system.

The three properties that were given connection approvals Tuesday and whose owners signed the pre-annexation agreements are located at 6360 Alisal St. and at 1070 and 727 Sycamore Road. ■

CLASSES

Continued from Page 5

rescue a trapped astronaut. Intern Scott Miller, an incoming freshman at UC Berkeley, helped Mansfield out.

Young volunteers were integral to Gatehouse's program. She brought in 12, students who this fall will be either eighth-graders at Harvest Park or freshmen at Amador Valley High, some of them the siblings of students taking the classes.

"They volunteered to be here," she said.

The programs were such a success that Gatehouse is already making plans for next year.

"This year we offered classes for incoming fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders. We plan to add classes for incoming seventh-graders and possibly incoming eighth-graders next summer," she said. ■

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Surrounded by students, teacher Neil Bello demonstrates how to throw clay on a potter's wheel as part of his summer course, Brain Fitness Through Art.



MEETING

Continued from Page 5

with a speed alert sign on Touriga and frequent police patrols on both streets. Even so, vehicles ap-

pear to travel faster, especially on Touriga.

Based on requests from residents, 17 streets have been evaluated for potential traffic calming this year, Pack said, with city staff

impartially reviewing and ranking each street based on a number of factors, including vehicle speeds and volumes, recent collision history, pedestrian generators such as schools and parks, and adjacent land uses. There are also minimum speeds and volume thresholds to qualify for the program.

"Touriga Drive and Palomino Drive met these thresholds and ranked in the top of these rankings," Pack said. "They are eligible for traffic calming funding this year."

Pack said the purpose of the July 26 meeting will mostly be educational, with both city staff and residents sharing their information and concerns. It's expected that a neighborhood steering committee will be chosen to coordinate future outreach efforts within the neighborhood.

For more information, contact Pack at 931-5667 or by email at jpack@cityofpleasantonca.gov. ■



Castlewood Country Club

Meet, Play, Relax, Return.....



Tennis Open House — Saturday, August 4

Juniors - 4:00-5:00pm | Adults - 5:00-6:30pm

Are you interested in learning the game of tennis? Have you played tennis in the past but just didn't keep up with the game? Then grab a racquet and come on out to the Castlewood Courts on Saturday, August 4 for a Tennis Open House event!

This evening is part of a grassroots initiative by the USTA to introduce new players and reintroduce old players to tennis. Our fine Castlewood tennis staff will be on hand to assist new players with correct techniques and answer any questions you may have about the game. They will also be on hand to offer pointers for those who are a little rusty.

We will also have the ever-popular "hit for prizes" game if you like a challenge! And we can't host an event without a few goodies from the kitchen so we'll be serving up some beer and light hors d'oeuvres. Castlewood Membership Director, Jami Rodriguez, will also be available during this event to answer any questions you may have about the Club and membership options.

If you're interested in joining us
call the Tennis Shop at (925) 485-2265 to RSVP.

Is Stoneridge Creek construction causing neighborhood problems?

Vermont Place homeowner asks city for help in curbing day-long noise

By JEB BING

Construction is under way at the multi-million-dollar Stoneridge Creek retirement community on Pleasanton's far northeast side, but it's disrupting the residential neighborhood it borders and may be damaging homes.

Franni Goldstein, who lives on Vermont Place just across the west barrier wall of the retirement home project, said she's been forced to keep her home tightly closed even in this summer's good weather as construction trucks and bulldozers build the homes and health center that will accommodate up to 800 seniors.

"I've had to re-hang my front

door, and my fireplace is now cracked at its foundation because of the heavy hammering and pounding that sometimes starts as early as 6:30 a.m.," she complained Tuesday at a meeting of the Pleasanton City Council. "If I could sell my house, I'd be out of there."

Goldstein's main concern is that the construction noise and work continues all day long and also on Saturdays. At the time the project was approved, she and her neighbors understood that construction hours would be limited to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and not at all on Saturdays.

Steve Bocian, assistant city manager, said the 8-5 time provision

is correct, but that Saturday work was approved unless there are complaints.

At the council's urging, Bocian will set up a meeting with the Stoneridge Creek developer and contractors to mediate Goldstein's concerns and will then report back to the council on the outcome.

Troy Bourne, vice president of Continuing Life Communities, the owner/operator of Stoneridge Creek, said earlier that 100 more new homes have been added to the first phase of the project with more than 60% already reserved.

Construction of the first phase is on track for completion during the second half of 2013, he said. ■



COURTESY STONERIDGE CREEK

Construction at the multi-million-dollar Stoneridge Creek retirement community on Pleasanton's far northeast side is drawing complaints from some nearby residents.

Deputy pleads not guilty to illegally accessing information

Court records show he forwarded six names to San Ramon attorney

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

An Alameda County Sheriff's deputy on administrative leave in connection with allegations of breaking into county buildings and illegally acquiring information pleaded not guilty on Tuesday.

Ryan Silcocks, 39, appeared in court with his attorney to enter pleas on two misdemeanor charges, for illegally accessing records and for illegally furnishing information.

On Jan. 15, court records state "Silcocks entered a closed Alameda County building after hours and accessed the county database." Court records show he searched for two names then, but on Jan. 17, entered a

building and accessed three names.

He sent the information he received Jan. 17 to Lesley Regina, a San Ramon family law attorney on Jan. 23, then entered a building a third time accessed information on a sixth person, and texted that information to Regina, according to court documents.

Regina, 36, pleaded not guilty to related charges last week.

"On Jan 23, the suspect, Lesley Regina, was emailed confidential/personal information regarding a person she was actively investigating in a domestic violence/child custody matter," a police summary says. That included driver's license

information, restraining order information from the National Crime Information Center run by the FBI, and local criminal history from the Alameda County database.

The information "contained specific confidential/personal identifying information that originated in a criminal history/booking system regarding the victim," court records show. The records were for the ex-husband of one of Regina's clients.

Silcocks and Regina are due back in court Aug. 28.

Brian Lancaster of Pleasanton said his name was among those and the information has been used against him in a custody battle. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Camel with good taste:

Joanne and Tom Hall make a new best friend while visiting the Giza Pyramids outside Cairo last summer. "My alarmed look is due to the fact that the camel kept leaning over to nibble on the Pleasanton Weekly, proving that he has good taste in reading — and eating!" reported Joanne.

Financial Education for Young Adults

Our Kids will be Leaders of Tomorrow. They need to understand Finances so they know how to manage their own Finances as well as that of our country. With this in mind, **Daven Sharma, CPA and Certified Financial Planner™**

is offering a basic Financial Education Seminar for young adults 15+.



Daven Sharma



Details of the seminar are as following:

Date:	Saturday, July 28, 2012
Registration:	10:30 AM
Time:	11:00 AM-12:30 PM
Place:	Pleasanton Public Library
Cost:	Zero
Topics:	Money management skills; Controlling credit card spending; Compounding of money; and a basic understanding of different types of investments.

To make this event a success, encourage everyone you know between the ages of 15 & 21 to attend and learn something of value that will be to their benefit rest of their life. Other age groups are also welcome to attend.

To register, call our office or send an email:

Phone: 925.400.8333 or 510.278.0915

Frankie Ruiz: frankie@daviscocpas.com

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Broadway Plaza – between Macy's and Nordstrom

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just got better.



AS INTEREST CONTINUES TO GROW, new homes — and additional floor plans — are now available at Stoneridge Creek, the new retirement community under construction in Pleasanton. It's easy to see why so many have already secured their future at California's latest *Continuing Life*® community. Live without the worries and hassles of landscaping, home maintenance and housekeeping. Instead, enjoy convenient amenities such as restaurant dining, a state-of-the-art fitness center, open-air pool, performing arts theatre, plus walking and cycling trails. Choose from more than 20 floor plans, including spacious single-story homes — all with access to long-term care that's available, *and included*, if ever needed.

Attend an upcoming event in your area to learn more. To RSVP, call **1-800-924-6430** today, or visit StoneridgeCreek.com.



5698 Stoneridge Dr. ~ Pleasanton ~ StoneridgeCreek.com
1-800-924-6430



Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.

Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

A 'shot' that can change the world

Fifteen years of work by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's National Ignition Facility (NIF) team paid off on July 5 with a historic record-breaking laser shot. The NIF laser system of 192 beams delivered more than 500 trillion watts (terawatts or TW) of peak power and 1.85 megajoules (MJ) of ultraviolet laser light to its target. Five hundred terawatts is 1,000 times more power than the U.S. uses at any instant in time, and 1.85 megajoules of energy is about 100 times what any other laser regularly produces today.

That's quite an accomplishment, especially considering that it was just a few years ago that many of us stood in the hot summer sun as the Lab and local and national political representatives joined in dedicating the sophisticated, high tech facility that made this possible. Of course, more is yet to come as scientists continue the pursuit for fusion, a technology that will make energy renewal endless.

Still, the shot validated NIF's most challenging laser performance specifications set in the late 1990s when scientists were planning the world's most energetic laser facility. Combining extreme levels of energy and peak power on a target in the NIF is a critical requirement for achieving one of physics' grand challenges — igniting hydrogen fusion fuel in the laboratory and producing more energy than that supplied to the target.

In the historic test, NIF's 192 lasers fired within a few trillionths of a second of each other onto a 2-millimeter-diameter target. The total energy matched the amount requested by "shot" managers to within better than 1%. Additionally, the beam-to-beam uniformity was within 1%, making NIF not only the highest energy laser of its kind but the most precise and reproducible. "NIF is becoming everything scientists planned when it was conceived over two decades ago," NIF Director Edward Moses told supporters at a congratulatory ceremony last week.

Now that this process is fully operational, scientists are taking important steps toward achieving ignition and providing experimental access to user communities for national security, basic science and the quest for clean fusion energy. ■

LETTERS

Solutions on track

Dear Editor,

Danger lurks with "Blended Rail": High Speed Rail (HSR) on Caltrain tracks. Forty-three auto/pedestrian grade crossings. Platforms with waiting Caltrain passengers inches away. HSR trains need secure (grade separated and fenced) track.

Far better: Upgrade UP's Mulford line long used by Amtrak from San Jose to Oakland, with a joint HSR/BART station in West Oakland. BART runs every few minutes to San Francisco and the West Bay, and frequently to East Bay BARTland.

Voila! No scarce HSR bond

funds squandered electrifying Caltrain. No costly tunneling or terminal HSR facilities in San Francisco. No new trans-Bay tube needed to extend HSR to the Sacramento area. Gone are the hazards and operating problems of "Blended Rail."

Form a five-county BART district including Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Plan to grade separate and convert Caltrain to BART (to Muni north of Millbrae/SFO); extend BART to the Golden Gate and Carquinez Bridges, to Brentwood, to Livermore, and over the Altamont. Then bring the plan and its funding to the voters — like for BART itself five decades ago.

Robert S. Allen, BART Director, District 5 (1974-88); retired SP (now UPRR) Engineering/Operations

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Letters must be 250 words or less.

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POLICE BULLETIN

Forgeries take center stage over last week

Police are investigating several forgeries and have made an arrest in one that occurred in recent days.

Miranda Carol Lee, 26, of Livermore, was arrested at Custom Care Pharmacy in the 4200 block of First Street for forgery and receiving stolen property. Lee was taken into custody at about 5:36 p.m. July 10 for attempting to pick up a fraudulent prescription and for possession of stolen checks. She's also being held on a felony arrest warrant for larceny in Kentucky.

Police are investigating a July 11 incident at 10:49 a.m. at Valley Community Bank in the 400 block of Main Street in which an unknown person passed a \$471

fraudulent check.

In a July 16 incident, a woman reported that a thief or thieves had forged two checks, one for \$350 and another for \$256, along with charging \$62.50 on her credit card. That incident was reported at 6:35 p.m. in the 3100 block of Joanne Circle.

In other police reports:

- No charges have been filed in a Tuesday incident in which a check for \$116,902.62 was used to buy a 2011 Mercedes Benz 550. In the incident, reported at 4:12 p.m. July 17, someone used a business check to buy the car at Mercedes Benz of Pleasanton in the 5800 block of Owens Drive, knowing he didn't have enough money in the account to cover the purchase. The car has since been returned.
- A twist on a scam that's made the news recently netted \$2,120 from a resident in the 1400 block of Whispering Oaks Way. The woman

wired money to someone claiming to be an acquaintance asking for help. Police have no leads in the case, which was reported at about 12:39 p.m. July 11; they've been warning people about the scam in which a person typically claiming to be a relative calls and says the money is needed right away.

- A thief stole a car from 7600 block of Highland Oaks Drive but left another stolen car in its place. In the incident, reported at about 11:04 p.m. July 12, a 1990 Honda Accord was stolen. At around 10 a.m. the next day, police found a 1997 Honda Civic that had been stolen from Union City near the same address.
- A traffic stop for an expired registration led to the arrest of a San Jose man on a felony child abuse warrant. Brian Jason Fielding, 35, was arrested July 11 at the intersection of Franklin Drive and Johnson Drive on the warrant, which had been issued by the San Jose Police Department.

- Two Pleasanton men were arrested for drug possession in separate incidents this week. Thomas Joseph Maurice, 19, of Pleasanton was arrested for possession with the intent to sell a non-narcotic controlled substance and paraphernalia possession at about 2:38 a.m. July 17 in the 3900 block of Kern Court. An officer recognized Maurice who consented to a pat-down search, which yielded 7.8 grams of methamphetamine.

Thomas Montgomery Gloede, 24, of Pleasanton was arrested around 10:17 a.m. July 16 for drug possession and paraphernalia possession after a stop for an expired registration. Police found .6 grams of heroin and 5.9 grams of methamphetamine.

- A Pleasanton man busted for burglary almost exactly a year ago has been busted again. Brodie Alexander Lewis, 19, of Pleasanton, is on probation for burglary after being

caught July 12, 2011, following a report from a watchful resident and a foot chase by police. Lewis was arrested at about 9 p.m. July 11 during the 1st Wednesday Street Fair on misdemeanor charges of violating a restraining order and resisting arrest.

- A \$1,500 laptop computer and \$100 briefcase were reported stolen from a vehicle parked at 24 Hour Fitness in the 4700 block of Willow Road between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. July 17 after a front passenger window in the vehicle was smashed.

- A would-be burglar caused damage to the front door and the lock of a home in the 600 block of Palomino Drive. A pry tool was used in an attempt to open the door. That's similar to two separate incidents reported last week in which a pry tool was used at a home and at a business.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

July 10

Theft

- 1:46 p.m. in the 5900 block of Corte Espada; grand theft
- 2:32 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft
- 5:36 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; forgery, possession of stolen property

Marijuana possession

- 10:22 p.m. at the intersection of Second and Neal streets

July 11

Forgery

- 10:49 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street
- 12:39 p.m. in the 1400 block of Whispering Oaks Way

Auto burglary

- 10:04 p.m. in the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive

Vandalism

- 7:14 p.m. in the 7800 block of Oak Creek Drive

Prank calls

- 11:49 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

DUI

- 10:58 p.m. in the 100 block of Main Street

July 12

Auto theft

- 11:04 p.m. in the 7600 block of Highland Oaks Drive

Vandalism

- 9:01 a.m. in the 3200 block of Streamside Circle
- 3:19 p.m. near the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Interstate 680
- 3:23 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 10:17 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; marijuana possession
- 7:58 p.m. in the 6000 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness

July 13

Theft

- 4:07 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 8:12 a.m. in the 2200 block of Raven Road
- 8:55 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

DUI

- 12:31 a.m. near the intersection of Bernal Avenue and I-680
- 1:35 a.m. at the intersection of Danbury Parks Drive and Valley Avenue
- 3:12 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

July 14

Burglary

- 9:29 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive

Battery

- 9:29 a.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road

July 15

Theft

- 12:25 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:35 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 8:05 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 4:01 p.m. in the 5400 block of Black Ave

DUI

- 3:26 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Mall Road

July 16

Theft

- 1:41 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; grand theft
- 4:34 p.m. in the 4200 block of Waycross Court; identity theft
- 5:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:35 p.m. in the 3100 block of Joanne Circle; forgery, grand theft

Vandalism

- 10:17 a.m. in the 8100 block of Moller Ranch Drive
- 5:38 p.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road; vandalism possession of a concealed knife

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:26 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 2:38 a.m. in the 3900 block of Kern Court; possession with intent to sell a non-narcotic controlled substance,

paraphernalia possession

- 7:49 a.m. at the intersection of First and Ray streets; driving with marijuana
- 10:17 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; possession of a controlled substance, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

July 17

Theft

- 9:09 a.m. in the 1200 block of Kolln Street; identity theft
- 1:29 p.m. in the 3100 block of Tokay Street; identity theft

- 4:12 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; forgery

- 4:19 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; auto theft

- 7:14 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road; auto theft

Auto burglary

- 7:18 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

- 7:36 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

- 8:13 a.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road

- 10:39 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PUD 02 09M, P12 0637, and P12 0638, Safeway, Inc.**
Applications for a Major Modification to the PUD Development Plan for the Pleasanton Gateway commercial center to replace an approximately 4,379 square foot bank/restaurant building with a drive through with a self serve gas station with nine fuel dispensers and a monument sign facing Bernal Avenue; a Conditional Use Permit for a service station with 24 hour operation; and Sign Design Review approval for the service station's building and monument signs at 6782 Bernal Avenue.

Energy & Environment Committee

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.
Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Climate Action Plan implementation update
 - o Discuss electric vehicle charging program and statistics
 - o Discuss results of and plan for Energy Upgrade Pleasanton rebate program
- Sustainability Partners Award – program guidelines
- Sub-committee report out
- Community engagement update
 - o Discuss CoolCalifornia Challenge
 - o Provide update on Green Scene Fair activities

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee - Cancelled

Monday, July 23, 2012

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



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Author Visits

GAIL TSUKIYAMA Towne Center Books' next Read It and Eat luncheon will feature Gail Tsukiyama, author of "A Hundred Flowers." Copies will be available Aug. 7. Reservations are required. Please call 846-8826 or reserve online at orders@townecenterbooks.com 11:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 17 \$15/ for lunch; \$30/ for lunch and book. Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton. 846-8826. www.townecenterbooks.com

Concerts

CONCERTS IN THE PARK Pleasanton Downtown Association presents live concerts throughout the summer from 7-8:30 p.m. Fridays at Lions Wayside Park at the corner of First and Neal streets. Modern & Classic Rock by the Blind Nurse on July 20 then come back July 27 for Modern/Alt Rock by Finding Stella. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events

ART UNDER THE OAKS The Livermore Art Association's 26th annual Art under the Oaks celebration is taking place July 21-22 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, with food, wine, live music and family fun. Artist will be spread through the nursery, exhibiting their work as well as painting.

LADIES OF TRI-VALLEY...TIME FOR FUN! Come for the fun of meeting and chatting with other

women at GNON (Girls Night Out Networking). Make new friends while networking and enjoying great food and drinks. RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com by July 23. 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 25 \$10/members; \$15/non-members HealthSpring Chiropractic, 5673 W. Las Positas Blvd, Suite 215, Pleasanton. 487-4748. www.gnontrivalley.com

LUNCH IN DUBLIN The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join them for lunch at noon, Thursday, July 26, at Favorite Indian Restaurant, 21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Dublin. Cost your menu choice and beverage. RSVP to David by Monday, July 23, at 833-7647.

Exhibits

'HUMANIMALS AND SUCH' This playful summer exhibit features five well-known artists' paintings and sculptures depicting humans, animals or incongruous combinations of both. "Humanimals and Such" is open July 19-Aug. 25 at the Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Visit www.firehousearts.org.

Film

'THE INVISIBLE WAR' The film 'The Invisible War' by Academy Award nominees is a nationwide effort to expose what happens to soldiers who are raped in the military and how the military further victimizes those who seek prosecution. Meet and

greet potluck at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. A short discussion follows the film. This is not a political event. Suggested donation \$3. Call 462-3459.

THE MUPPETS You are invited to enjoy the free movie "The Muppets" at dusk, Thursday, July 26, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Featuring the legendary Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy, along with some human friends in Amy Adams and Jason Segel. The film is rated PG.

Fundraisers

CHARITY DOG WASH Dogtopia of TriValley has set a goal of washing 100 dogs to benefit Dogtopia's K-9 Support Inc. to help service dogs. Bring your dog between 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 21, to Dogtopia, 7132 Johnson Drive, Suite D, Pleasanton. Suggested donation of \$15 per dog. For more information, visit <http://www.dogdaycare.com/trivalley> or call 416-7877.

TRI-VALLEY YMCA CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT Play poker and raise money for the Tri-Valley YMCA; \$100 donation buy in reserves your seat. The top eight spots will win a prize. Seating limited to the first 48 players registered. The event is at 5 p.m., Sunday, July 22, at Tri-Valley YMCA, 693 Sierra Ln., Suite F, Dublin. Food and drinks included. Donors include Eddie Papa's American Hangout, Moet-

Hennessey and J Lohr Vineyards and Wines. Call 263-4444.

Kids & Teens

FREE U7/U8 BOYS SOCCER CLINIC Ballistic United is offering a free soccer clinic for U7 and U8 boys on July 27 and on Aug. 3 at the Aquatic Park (Amador Valley Community Park). 4-5:15 p.m. FREE Aquatic Park (Amador Valley Community Park), 4301 Black Ave, Pleasanton.

KABARET FOR KIDS Described as "always entertaining, always innovative, and always memorable," world renowned cabaret and theater star Samantha Samuels will perform her "Kabaret for Kids" at 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 25, at the Firehouse Arts Center. Samuel's musical variety show is recommended summer fun for kids ages 3-9. The show will feature local talent from Diablo Theatre Company's Stars 2000, West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy and Dance Connection Performing Arts Centre. Admission is \$8 for kids and \$12 for adults.

On Stage

'OKLAHOMA' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre is presenting Richard Rodgers lively musical, "Oklahoma," at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and at 2 p.m. Sundays from July 21-Aug. 5 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No Friday performance on opening weekend. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.org.

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In the past few years we have all become familiar with the term “shop local.” It has become a very popular marketing tag line and catch phrase. But shopping local truly is more than just something to say. It is something to do, regularly, for many reasons. And we think there is no better place to shop local than in your beautiful downtown Pleasanton.

Here are 5 reasons why shopping downtown and keeping your dollars local is good for the community as a whole.

1. Protect Local Character — Our downtown is the heart of our community. The businesses housed here care deeply about Pleasanton, our residents and our visitors. By shopping local you show the businesses that they are important and valued as an integral part of our community. This is key to maintaining the diversity and distinct flavor of downtown.

2. Community Well-Being — Locally owned downtown businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities, linking neighbors and by contributing generously to local causes.

3. Keeping Dollars in Your Local Economy — Your dollars spent in locally owned businesses have three times the impact on your community as dollars spent at national chains. When shopping locally, you simultaneously create jobs, fund more city services through sales tax, invest in neighborhood improvement and promote community development.

4. Environmental Sustainability — Downtown stores help to sustain our vibrant, compact, walkable town center, which in turn are essential to reducing sprawl, automobile use and air and water pollution.

5. Product Diversity — Our varied downtown businesses are individually selecting product based on the wants and needs of our community, not based on a national sales plan. Their desire to meet the needs of local consumers guarantees a much broader range of product choices.

For more information on the wide variety of shopping, dining, personal and business services located in downtown Pleasanton please visit www.pleasantondowntown.net or download our free iPhone app with full downtown business directory in the Apple Store.



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- First Wednesday Street Parties (May-September)
- Antique Faires (May 27 & October 14)
- Summer Wine Stroll (June 28)
- Concerts in the Park (June-August)
- Halloween Brew Crawl (October 20)
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Pleasanton Downtown Association presents...

Meet the artists

ArtBlock is new popular feature at 1st Wednesday

If the ArtBlock at 1st Wednesday gives you an urge to be creative, go for it. A 20-foot by 20-foot area is marked off on the asphalt on Angela Street and there's a basket of chalk for everyone — kids and adults — to come out and draw, said organizer Dirk Christiansen of Studio Seven Arts.

"It's always something fun," he said. "And it's always well filled up."

ArtBlock is a new 1st Wednesday Street Party event this year, with 25-30 artists setting up at individual tables to display their work, a chance for folks to see a variety of original art and talk to the creators.

Each month one artist is chosen to demonstrate his or her process; August will feature Pleasanton artist Ellen Shalk, who makes ShalkBoards, abstract paintings that double as chalkboards, to write reminders, favorite quotes,

etc.

"I think an art gallery should be reflective of its community," Christiansen said. "Pleasanton is not, but likes to think of itself as a small town — very family-, kid- and dog-oriented."

"I kind of felt like a gallery should be like that, and ArtBlock should look like that, too — it's fun and interactive, with music, eclectic art, painting, jewelry, wood, a lot of different art we bring in," he continued.

"We also have aspiring young artists, senior citizen artists. We bring them in on purpose; it's not just snooty art."

More people have discovered the ArtBlock since it began in May.

"Our sales have doubled every month. That's a good indicator that we're being recognized," Christiansen said.

Art was displayed in shops throughout town during the



COURTESY PDA

At a 1st Wednesday earlier this summer, ArtBlock features artist Hines, whose abstract paintings include mixed medium, collage, figurative abstraction and what he terms "intuitive painting."

Pleasanton Downtown Association ArtWalk in the fall two years ago. The success of this event spurred Christiansen to suggest an ArtBlock to PDA Executive Director Laura Olson.

"She said, why not do it at 1st Wednesday?" Christiansen re-

called. "People are always there, and they are trying to get the 1st Wednesday event more family-oriented."

He said he has focused on local artists, and he has a waiting list of those who want to take part.

"There are lots of repeats,"

Christiansen said. "I encouraged all of them to come at least two months because it takes a couple of visits before someone buys art."

"It's been really successful and fun, and we're planning to do it again next year," he added. ■

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Debbie Ayres has spent more than 30 years collecting antiques, which she mostly puts to good use. This old Frigidaire holds a dish set; in her previous home, she used it to store linens. The plant sits in an old wash tub.

What does one do with an antique baby bathtub from France? Fill it with flower pots and place it on the front porch.

What does one do with an old-fashioned electric Frigidaire? Position it in the corner of the dining room to hold dishes.

Debbie Ayres, teacher and basketball coach by profession and antiquer by avocation, has become a master at re-purposing antiques in her Pleasanton home on Second Street.

"For 30 years I was a coach, and for 10 of those years I was traveling to recruit year-round, which enabled me to be in small towns in the Midwest often. That's where I found all these things," Ayres said.

"For almost 30 years I rented and collected antiques. I kept things in storage sometimes."

"I couldn't afford to buy these things of course but now I'm so glad I did," she added with a laugh.

Ayres pointed out that her house, built in 1910, is one of the smallest on the block. It was among many that were built for railroad employees on Second Street, which was laid out extra wide to give horse carts room to maneuver.

The previous owner dramatically enlarged and remodeled the house during the last decade.

"She worked with a designer and did fabulous things to the home," said Ayres, who purchased it almost two years ago. "I was nervous my furniture and antiques wouldn't be a match for it. This is my first home — and everything has its place."

In the remodeling, half of the large front

porch was converted to an entryway inside the home. The former living room and a front bedroom were opened up to the kitchen so the entire front of the house flows freely, with off-white wood-paneled support columns with see-through glass shelving that display more of Ayres' collection.

"I've had a Christmas brunch every year for 20 years and now it's so great — I can be in the kitchen cooking and talk with all the people," she said.

The interior of the home was painted yellow and had fancy lighting when Ayres moved in, for a formal look. She's repainted most of the walls red (Raisin Torte by Benjamin Moore, to be exact) but kept the lighting.

"I'd always wanted a red room," she said. "I walked up and down Second Street and could see that five or six people had red rooms."

The Schonbek Crystal chandelier with some colored drops somehow blends with the enamel and wood dinette set in the space off the kitchen. Two smaller matching lights hang over the peninsula.

Against a wall is a church pew, which Ayres said she'd always wanted to own. On the floor is a metal basket with long loaves of French bread, sprayed to preserve their freshness.

Stools from a soda fountain provide seating at the counter, where a large scale is used for fruit.

"My home is shabby chic, where old meets new," Ayres said.

A scale hanging over the kitchen sink holds towels, and two small egg scales rest

on the windowsill. Ayres said the antique cast iron skillet on the stovetop is the cooking utensil she uses most.

Resting against a wall in the living room are three seats from an old college gymnasium.

"I was working for the University of Tennessee when they redid the basketball gym," Ayres recalled. They sold the old seats as a fundraiser.

Off the living room is her "school room," with very old children's desks lined neatly in rows, some with slates, books or lunch pails. At the front is a teacher's desk with a big hand bell, a chalkboard, a hanging American flag, and photos of presidents Washington and Lincoln.

"This is my classroom," said Ayres, who teaches kindergarten through high school at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont and also has taught in public schools. "The first thing I collected was school desks."

An antique hanging light in the middle of the room is also from a school. Photos on the wall show old classrooms in France, with little boys obviously ready for the bell to ring. She has 18 school desks altogether but others are placed throughout the home, serving as magazine racks, benches and — desks.

Down the hall, two guestrooms have more antiques — a scooter, a tricycle, a sewing machine, and another school desk with two dolls that once belonged to Ayres' mother on the seat.

To the rear of the home the laundry room has an antique Maytag ringer washer, an even older non-electric wash tub with wringer, a washboard, a wooden ironing board and an old shopping cart filled with laundry products

from the past and present. (She keeps a modern, stacked washer and dryer in a closet.)

The good-sized master bedroom has a bay window with an antique doubled-seated desk from France facing out to the large pleasant yard.

"I do use it," Ayres said. "I pay bills, I do some work."

In the master bath is a cabinet from a doctor's office, also from France, which she found at a shop in Petaluma. On top are old pharmaceutical jars. An antique stand from a butcher shop that held the brown paper for wrapping meat now serves to hold rolls of toilet tissue.

Multi-paned French doors from the side of the bedroom lead onto a back patio with an old wooden seat from a carriage.

"That's one of the first things I bought, in Iowa," Ayres said.

Although she left the front yard in the traditional design done by the former owner, Ayres revamped the multi-leveled back yard.

"I read and read and learned so much," she said, before redesigning the yard. "You're supposed to have a theme: Peace and serenity was what I wanted to create."

A tinkling fountain is surrounded by succulents and a stone patio with an antique glider and raised flowerbeds. Steps lead through an arched pergola to a second level with seating. Ayres likes to keep old furniture as she found it but noted she tries to remove rust from metal furniture for the sake of her guests' clothing.

Large red and yellow umbrellas provide

See **ANTIQUE** on Page 16



Clockwise from top left: The entryway at left leads into a large open living space created when the walls throughout the front of the 1910 home were removed; Ayres, a school teacher, has created an old-fashioned classroom with some of her 18 desks and other antique school furnishings; her laundry room has an old wooden ironing board, while a shopping cart carries vintage laundry products as well as those Ayres uses; a scale has been re-purposed to hold fruit but antique egg scales in the kitchen are purely decorative; a washtub with a hand wringer is also in the laundry room.

ANTIQUe

Continued from Page 15

more shade on the first and second levels of the yard. Gentle steps made of three-rivers stone from Idaho lead up to a third level where, although Ayres replaced the grass with drought-resistant plants, an old lawn mower rests against a tree.

"My uncle gave it to me when I bought the house," she said. "Now it's yard art."

Ayres originally moved to Pleasanton 15 years ago, when she was first working at the California School for the Deaf.

"I'd heard that Pleasanton was the parade capital of the world, plus it had five antique stores on Main Street," she recalled. "I loved old homes, and I rented an old farm house."

Then she moved to Long Island, N.Y., to coach basketball at Stonybrook University for three years, and she fondly remembers



the wonderful antique shops in that area. She returned to the School for the Deaf because Pleasanton is where she wanted to settle down, and because college coaching jobs are not as stable, she said.

Ayres said she was very fortunate to find her house on Second Street to buy.

"The neighbors and living on this street are better than I could have imagined," she said.

She keeps old world charm in her home, decorating the outside of her front windows with red, white and blue bunting from Memorial Day through Labor Day, as is done on the East Coast. At Christmastime she puts candlesticks and wreaths in the three front windows.

"I love the East Coast because of the old buildings," she said. "Looking out at the old church across the street makes me feel like I'm in New England."

"Second Street is like a parade," she added, "with joggers, and people riding bikes and walking."

Near those front windows antique pewter

candlesticks are arranged on a long table that converts into a bench and was once a farm table in Ireland.

To one side is the 1930s Frigidaire with the door open to display dishes and antique ice cube trays. The Frigidaire is staying where it is, Ayres said, because it weighs 300 pounds. It was 500 pounds but she removed the 200-pound motor.

"In New York I kept my linens and towels in it," Ayres said. "That's my theme: re-purposing." ❧

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Winning gardens

Pleasanton Heritage Association (PHA) has announced that Ingrid and Steve Kramer (left photo) will receive this year's PHA Formal Garden Award, and Debbie and Steve Coffin will be honored with the PHA Country Garden Award. PHA gives its Garden Awards to owners of heritage homes who enhance their neighborhoods with distinctive formal and country gardens. Gardens in Pleasanton's Historic Downtown District are nominated by Heritage Association members and then voted on by the 150-plus membership of the organization. The awards were to be presented July 19 at the respective homes, both on Second Street.

Pleasanton helps with smart irrigation

City provides rebates for better landscaping, home visits to assess problems and more

Grass uses a lot of water, which is why both the city of Pleasanton and Zone 7 Water Agency offer rebates to residents who replace their front lawns with water efficient landscaping.

The city is offering 50 cents per square foot through Oct. 31 when the rebate drops to 25 cents; Zone 7 gives an additional 50 cents.

"Our water efficient rebate program is basically a lawn removal program," said Rita Di Candia, Pleasanton's water conservation coordinator. "It's for a minimum of 250 square feet that you convert of front yard area."

The city recommends sheet mulching to

remove unwanted lawn, which entails covering the grass with cardboard and mulch to break it down naturally. Details can be found at pleasantonwaterconservation.com.

Di Candia is available to answer residents' questions about water conservation; telephone 931-5513.

"People usually call when they've recently received a water bill that was pretty high and they want to bring it down," Di Candia said. "Lawn is the main culprit for outdoor landscape watering. Many people think it needs more water than it does."

Di Candia is also the point of contact for

the city's Controller Assistance Program.

"Staff comes to your house and looks at how you are irrigating your landscaping, and they make recommendations on how you can change that," she said. "An average of 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water should be applied per week."

The city offers a Quick Guide to Proper Lawn Care at the utility billing counter, 3333 Busch Road. Tips include how to conduct a test using 10 containers of the same size to make sure a lawn is being watered enough and evenly.

"You may have the problem of over-watering in one area, or maybe need to add in another spray head rather than add five minutes to your time every day," Di Candia said.

The amount of watering needed depends on the weather and the time of year, she noted.

"Step on the grass. If it springs right up, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, it is stressed and needs water," she said. "You want to water the lawn just at the point that it is showing water stress."

Mowers should be set at 2-1/2 to 3 inches, Di Candia said, to provide shade but also to help roots grow deeper.

"More blade length produces more energy through photosynthesis," she explained.

The most important thing people can do for their non-lawn landscaping is to apply mulch, Di Candia said, which retains moisture so the plants

don't need watering as frequently.

"Like you wouldn't build a house without insulation, don't design your landscaping and forget to include insulation to your soil — mulch," she said. "You want to have a 2- to 3-inch layer minimum of mulch. Apply to areas that are just bare soil."

During the summer an estimated 30% to 70% of household water use is outdoors, according to www.smartirrigationmonth.org, and up to half can be lost to evaporation, watering non-plant areas and over-watering. July is Smart Irrigation Month, a good time to revisit your watering habits.

—Pleasanton Weekly staff



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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-155
- **FOR SALE**
200-270
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-355
- **JOBS**
510-585
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-690
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE**
801-860

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Mandarin speaking nanny for 2 kids Mountain View Job starts in August 2012. Seeking Mandarin speaker with some English. About 35 hrs/week, 12-7 pm Mon. - Fri. Kids age 3 and 5. Light cleaning and shopping during school. CA drivers license required, parents provide use of car for kids. \$18/hr or negotiable. Paid time off. Kids bilingual, parents English only. Small dog in home. Contact Renee: dubordbrown@sbcglobal.net or 650-279-9311



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Sufferers: Clinically proven all-natural supplement helps reduce pain and enhance mobility. Call 877-217-7698 to try Hydraxflexin RISK-FREE for 90 days. (Cal-SCAN)

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475 Psychotherapy & Counseling
Free telephone consultation



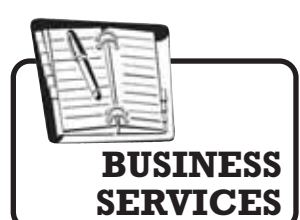
560 Employment Information

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Drivers: Choose Your Hometown
from Weekly, 7/ON-7/OFF, 14/ON-7/OFF, Full or Part-time. Daily Pay! Top Equipment! Requires 3 months recent experience. 800-414-9569. www.driveknight.com (Cal-SCAN)

Help Wanted!!!
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Social Security. Win or Pay Nothing! Start your Application In Under 60 Seconds. Call Today! Contact Disability Group, Inc. Licensed Attorneys & BBB Accredited. Call 877-490-6596. (Cal-SCAN)

St. Jude Riata Defibrillator?
Were you implanted with a St. Jude Riata Defibrillator Lead Wire between June 2001 and December 2010? Have you had this lead replaced, capped or did you receive shocks from the lead? You may be entitled to compensation. Contact Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727 (Cal-SCAN)

645 Office/Home Business Services
Advertise Truck Driver Jobs
in 240 California newspapers for one low cost of \$600. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 6 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: http://www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares
Vacation Properties
Advertise in 240 California newspapers for one low cost of \$600. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 6 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

850 Acreage/Lots/ Storage
Boat Storage Space

Marketplace

Employment/Help Wanted

Childcare Providers Needed!

Family Support Services of the Bay Area is looking for creative and energetic people to provide short-term care in the homes of children with special needs in the Tri-Valley area. \$9.25-\$10 per hour

Call Francesca at (510) 834-2443 x 3027
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To advertise in the Marketplace
call **Karen Klein at 925.600.0840 x122**
or email kklein@pleasantonweekly.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Playful and adventurous

Ninja, a gray 3-month-old male domestic shorthair cross, does everything in a big way. He not only likes to be in the middle of things, he likes to lead the parade. He is playful and adventurous with an affectionate side. Want a cat who's brimming with confidence? That's Ninja! Come see Ninja at the East Bay SPCA's Dublin Adoption Center, 4650 Gleason Drive in Dublin. Visit www.eastbayspca.org or call 479-9670. Its annual Adoptathon is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday at Jack London Square with 35 rescue groups and shelters, more than 15 pet supply vendors, dog demonstrations, Ask the Trainer sessions and fun for the kids.



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DRE# 1307919



Oak Tree Farm Beauty!

**Fabulously updated, one of a kind! Available!
337 Yearling Court**

Welcome to Casa Yearling and Oak Tree Farm. A unique lifestyle that blends elegant living with the serenity of a rural past. Highly upgraded 5800 sq. ft. executive home, secluded backyard with sparkling pool — an entertainers delight. 5 bed, 4.5 bath, executive office with fireplace and patio, wine cellar with bar attached. Gorgeous kitchen includes granite,

upgraded stainless appliances, 2 dishwashers and hardwood floors. Huge master suite and bonus room. Close to shopping, commute, schools. Must see! **Call CINDY for a private showing.** Offered at \$2,250,000

PENDING	PENDING	SOLD	SOLD	SOLD
	 <i>Rep. Buyer</i>	 <i>Laguna Oaks</i>	 <i>Laguna Oaks</i>	 <i>Fremont</i>
3881 Foothill Rd. \$1,378,000	3526 Welch Creek Rd., Sunol \$943,526	8009 Regency Dr. \$1,574,000	7943 Paragon Cir. \$1,360,000	42685 Montevideo Dr., Fremont \$990,000

I have buyers between 1.1 million to 1.7 million. Call CINDY today!

Support RELAY FOR LIFE this weekend.

July 21 10am to July 22 10am.

Pleasanton Middle school!! Team SAM AND NICK'S FIGHT FOR LIFE. Donate to the American Cancer Society. COME WALK WITH US!!!



The market is "HOT"!!!

We sold this one!!



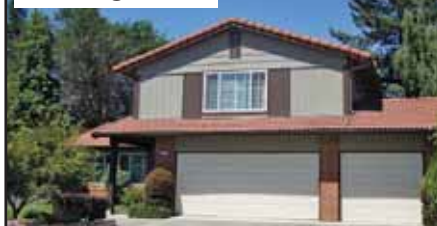
SOLD in 5 days with multiple offers!

This highly upgraded and remodeled Val Vista home sold for \$600,000 with 15 offers. Rich hardwood flooring, granite kitchen, remodeled baths, side access and 1800+ sq.ft. of living space!

COMING SOON in the "Gates" Neighborhood

Highly updated 4 bedroom home with an ideal location, backing to the Pleasanton Sports Park! Rich interior, remodeled kitchen, court location, 3 car garage, side access and MORE!
A great home with a great location!
Call for more details!

Coming soon!



This is a great time to be a Seller!

Low inventory of houses + plenty of Buyers in the marketplace = good chance for multiple offers.

If you are even thinking about Selling a property, **CALL US!** We are experienced agents and we can help you capitalize in this market!



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NAR wants greater appraiser competency, accuracy

Strong, independent appraisals critical in housing market, Realtor tells Congress

By JEB BING

Reporting property values more accurately is critical to improving market performance, reducing risk and strengthening the housing finance system, according to the National Association of Realtors.

That was the message delivered last week by Frank Gregoire, immediate past chair of NAR's Real Property Valuation Committee, in testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Involvement regarding appraisal oversight.

"As the leading advocate for housing issues, Realtors know that an accurate appraisal is an important part of the home-buying process and that a strong and independent appraisal industry is critical to restoring faith in the mortgage origination process," Gregoire said.

"There are many challenges currently facing the appraisal industry, and we see appraisals as one of the most crucial and overlooked aspects of the recovery of the real estate market," added Gregoire, who is a state-certified residential appraiser and president of Gregoire & Gregoire Inc. in St. Petersburg, Fla.

In his testimony, Gregoire said a number of issues are impacting the credible valuation of real property, including appraiser competency and local market knowledge, challenges in accurately estimating market value in stabilizing markets, and the lack of oversight and regulation of appraisal man-

agement companies, also known as AMCs.

While many AMCs provide legitimate services for legitimate fees, a large number of AMCs are contributing to problems in the appraisal business and the overall housing market, Gregoire said.

He told the committee there is evidence that AMCs are often compromising appraiser independence by insisting appraisers include specific transactions as comparable sales, complete appraisals in unreasonably short turnaround times, and comply with a broad scope of work not commensurate with the fee paid. Many AMCs also require appraisers to accept any and all liability if a loan defaults if there is any claim related to the value of the property.

All of this puts pressure on the appraiser, compromises their independence and negatively impacts the quality of the appraisal report, said Gregoire.

"Appraisers are facing undue pressure by AMCs to complete appraisals using distressed transactions as comparable sales, to deliver completed appraisal reports faster, and do a greater scope of work for a lower fee than a competing vendor," he said. "The end result is that lenders and consumers are being underserved, and all of this is contributing to the failure to recognize positive movement in prices and values in many markets, creating an additional obstacle to the housing market recovery." ■

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

4 BEDROOMS
2046 Pinot Ct \$1,069,000
Sun 12-3 Corey Green 583-2173

Blackhawk

5 BEDROOMS
4278 Silver Meadow Ct \$1,799,000
Sun 12:30-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc. 648-5300

Danville

4 BEDROOMS
75 Versailles Ct \$774,950
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

204 Chatham Terrace \$949,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Dublin

2 BEDROOMS -
3456 Palermo Wy \$466,500
Sat 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3 BEDROOMS
11735 Murietta Ct \$575,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS
7900 Shannon Court \$1,095,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Kouri Miller Team 251-2548

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS
523 Heligan Lane \$520,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

2046 Pinot Ct \$1,069,000
Sun 12-3 Corey Green 583-2173

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS
435 East Angela \$598,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

618 Palomino Dr \$550,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

7825 Driftwood Wy \$590,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

4444 Foothill Rd \$1,890,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

5063 Blackbird Wy \$749,000
Sat 1-4/Sun 2-5 Tim McGuire 251-1111

2301 East Ruby Hill Dr \$1,910,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

5 BEDROOMS

4116 Grant Court \$1,799,000
Sun 1-5 Mark James 216-0454

9616 Crosby Dr \$1,450,000
Sun 1-4 Faran 922-0822

6 BEDROOMS

4925 Monaco Dr \$899,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

Sunol

3 BEDROOMS
3530 Welch Creek Road \$1,590,000
Sun 1-3 Kristy and Company 251-2536

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

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



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3530 Welch Creek Rd Sunol	2055 Valley Oak Rd Pleasanton	8012 Golden Eagle Wy Pleasanton	5641 San Carlos Wy Pleasanton	4264 1st St Pleasanton

bd 3 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,964 \$1,590,000	bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 4,839 \$2,250,000	bd 5 ba 5(3) sqft+/- 8,585 \$3,498,000	bd 2 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 1,400 Call for Price	bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,557 \$949,950
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Panoramic views from every room, Serenity and nature awaits for you at this fabulous estate home, Bring your horses to this beautiful 22+ acre estate and or great property for the car enthusiast, Great drive and location. Endless possibilities for this estate.	Golden Eagle Estate home on 1.12 acre lot w/ views of Pleasanton ridge & valley. Property surrounded by Heritage oaks. Aupair option, office & bonus room. Lots of upgrades, 5-car garage, pool, spa & much more. Close to BART, downtown, Castlewood C.C., shopping & more.	Fabulous private custom Mediterranean in resort-like setting has it all. Porte Cachere, grand entry, gourmet kitchen, awesome theater w/ theater seating, stunning arcade & exercise rms. Vast lawns & wrap-around decks, guest house, pool/spa.	Absolutely gorgeous! Just remodeled throughout! New flooring, paint, carpeting, bathrooms, etc. 2 bedrooms, plus a loft, 2.5 bathrooms, 2 car garage and a backyard! Rear yard w/patio, grass and deck off the master bedroom. Walk to downtown Pleasanton!	Victorian style charm with all modern amenities. Gleaming hardwood floors, crown mouldings, gourmet kitchen, maple cabinets, 3 fireplaces. Walk to Downtown Pleasanton, concerts, Farmer's Market, live the Downtown Lifestyle! Lush private yard!
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Kristy and Company 925.251.2536	Mahshid Shaghafi 925.648.5340	Peggy Cortez 925.209.3451	Denise Ivaldi 925.251.2532	Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2585
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3030 Picholine Dr Livermore	7900 Shannon Ct Dublin	9895 Foothill Rd Sunol	118 Alisma Ct San Ramon	4357 Mirador Dr Pleasanton

bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 3,776 \$939,000	bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 4,000 \$1,095,000	bd 3 ba 2 sqft+/- 1,984 \$1,299,000	bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,479 \$898,900	bd 3 ba 2 sqft+/- 1,644 \$709,000
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Amazing Los Olivos home! Gourmet kit w/SS, granite,big island, lg breakfast room, formal living & dining w/ recessed lights & coffered ceiling. Built-ins! Brazilian cherry flrs upstairs. Big master w/travertine tiled bath. Stamped concrete patio, extra parking.	One of a kind! Beautiful remodeled home on cul-de-sac, west side. Includes Private Master Suite w/2 balconies, fireplace & beverage bar, living/dining rm, family rm & game room w/full bar, Gourmet kitchen, 3 Fireplaces, pool/spa, waterfall & fire pit. Walk to schools & park.	Beautiful Home Located in the desirable town of Sunol, 3 bed, 2 bath, Updated kitchen, Original barn, Newer flooring, Just a horse back ride away from Pleasanton Ridge all this on 5+ Acres. This home has the look of Tahoe, a Must See.	Rarely available single story end unit. Immaculately maintained! Open floorplan with vaulted ceilings, breakfast bar, fireplace and center atrium outdoor sitting area. 2 car garage with extra storage above. Located by beautiful Orloff Park. Walk to schools and shopping.	Absolutely beautiful home. Walk to Downtown. Newer Comp Presidential roof. New paint & carpet. Hardwood in 2 bdrs. Custom Cherrywood, granite and S/S kitchen. Master has new travertine flooring and shower. Granite counters with custom upmont decorative sink.
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Diane Sass 925.583.2168	Kouri Miller Team 925.251.2548	Kristy and Company 925.251.2536	Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065	Todd Martinez 925.251.2571
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110 Radford Ct San Ramon	213 Fieldcrest Ct Danville	10843 Reuss Rd Livermore	2046 Pinot Ct Livermore	14 Comstock Ct San Ramon

bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,496 \$769,950	bd 4 ba 5.5 sqft+/- 5,236 \$2,251,000	bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 4,118 \$1,690,000	bd 4 ba 4 sqft+/- 4,340 \$1,069,000	bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+/- 2,087 \$739,000
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Charming Deer Ridge home located on court. Large office/den downstairs could be converted to bedrm. Beautiful hardwood floors, large open floor plan w/ vaulted ceilings. Peaceful backyard w/ redwood trees & spa. Close to shopping, restaurants & award winning schools.	Northridge Estates established home on very large lot. Cul-de-sac. Architecturally designed w/ open flr plan to incorporate beautiful outside court yard, pool, pool house, otr kitchen & open space. 1st floor mstr wing w/office & exercise rms. Guest bedrm downstairs.	Fabulous property on a 2 acre parcel surrounded by gorgeous vineyards. 4,118 sq ft single-story with large kitchen/family area. 360 degree views of 200 acres of vineyards. Front and rear courtyards, fountains and koi ponds. This is a special property.	Beautiful South Livermore Home located in the Exclusive Chardonnay Estates. This home has it all...including 4 Lg Bds, 1 Bd Dwnstrs, Huge Bonus/Media Rm, 4 Baths. Gourmet Kit and Grt Rm. Huge Priv Bckyard with Built in BBQ. Top rated schools. Tennis Court Park.	Hardwood floors throughout, plantation shutters on every window. Vaulted ceilings in living/dining room area. Tile counters in kitchen, Updated bathrooms. Ceiling fans in wach bedroom. Full laundry room with sink, storage and counter space.
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Jared Higgins 925.855.4178	Karen Worswick 925.518.7830	Carole Cline 925.683.0488	Corey Green 925.583.2173	Bonnie King 925.736.8411
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501 Wells Ct San Ramon	2725 Corey Pl San Ramon	824 El Quanito Dr Danville	2337 Grosvenor Heights Ct Livermore	6950 Crow Canyon Rd Castro Valley

bd 5 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 3,992 \$1,019,000	bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 2,260 \$849,900	bd 4 ba 3 sqft+/- 3353 \$1,349,950	bd 4 ba 4.5 sqft+/- 3,490 \$1,089,000	bd 4 ba 3.5 sqft+/- 2,700 \$857,500
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Hawthorne Beauty! Highlights: Travertine natural stone flooring, designer 2 toned paint, upgraded carpet, recessed lighting, plantation shutters, granite counters, GE S/S appliances, security system, bonus room w/surround sound & balcony, Casita w/HVAC & much more!!	Nestled against the foothills, rarely available tri level in a development on a oversized lot backing to hillsides .Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops and maple cabinets,large family room w/cozy fire place,hardwood floors throughout,dwnstrs ofce/4th bedrm.	Entertainer's Paradise! Large flat backyard with views, fenced pool/spa, covered decks and grassy area. Huge bonus room plus office and 4 beds. 2 sideyards one with covered RV/Boat parking, one with 10X12 Out Building. Updated w/ hardwood, tile, granite, shutters and more.	This stunning two story custom home displays the mark of exquisite details and charm. Features include 4 bedrooms, 4.5 ba, fine stonework, designer lighting, amazing formal dining room, dramatic gourmet kitchen with custom granite.	Pride of ownership Location-Location...Wow over 2700 sq.ft. is the main home, 4 BDR, 3.5 Bath updated kitchen wait until you see this place. All this on one acre plus an In-Law type unit a must see.
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Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065	Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559	J. Bell/ D. Harvey 925.855.4022	Alex Villasenor 925.385.2349	Kristy and Company 925.251.2536
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Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Montclair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500
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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 2012

Dublin


- 3317 Araldi Lane** D R Horton to K. Chung for \$625,000
- 7679 Arbor Creek Circle #135** C. Young to E. Fahey for \$175,000
- 7518 Calle Verde Road** D. Yarmlak to M. & A. McNeal for \$475,000
- 7315 Cronin Circle** R. & S. Dorociak to N. Miljkovic for \$261,000
- 8301 Davona Drive** S. Willis to Bamboo Consulting for \$343,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #130** Toll Dublin Limited to S. Shaker for \$385,500
- 2407 Forino Drive** J. & V. Sandhu to S. & M. Tudor for \$790,000

- 7336 Hansen Drive** Ficken Trust to B. Gordon for \$670,000
- 7379 Hansen Drive** Herlich Trust to W. Johnson for \$530,000
- 4867 Houlton Street** S. Ng to C. Liao for \$720,000
- 7083 Lancaster Court** K. & K. Esmeyer to C. Rolandelli for \$480,000
- 3360 Maguire Way #402** E. Buice to A. Nezami for \$339,000
- 3789 Oakhurst Way** N. & A. Colletti to R. Fernando for \$820,000
- 4785 Perugia Street** Sorrento at Dublin Ranch to Y. & P. Araktingi for \$430,500
- 2894 Poppy Hills Lane** Bhumireddy Trust to J. Yang for \$911,000
- 7907 Shannon Avenue** S. Williams to A. Lim for \$470,000

- 7315 Starward Drive #53** US Bank to D. Zheng for \$155,000
- 8240 Vomag Road** R. Russo to B. & P. Harjehausen for \$410,000
- 4763 Woodrose Circle** Graham Trust to F. Zhang for \$840,000

- 3538 Kings Canyon Court** R. Neciuk to Y. Wu for \$560,000
- 3265 Marilyn Court** J. Bratten to X. Song for \$795,000
- 633 Palomino Drive #B** K. & J. Jopes to J. & E. Martinez for \$235,000
- 3732 Pimlico Drive** Silvergate Investment Group to J. Green for \$625,000
- 3720 Raboli Street** D. & C. Ruso to L. Papkoff for \$1,800,000
- 1576 Ramblewood Way** Price Trust to J. & A. Garcia for \$705,000
- 8009 Regency Drive** Borg Trust to C. & M. Bedi for \$1,574,000
- 3761 Riesling Court** Decoito Trust to P. & C. Read for \$785,000
- 5019 Rigatti Circle** T. & M. Vincent to M. Shameem for \$825,000
- 3772 Rocky Mountain Court** Harborview Mortgage to S. Tuminelli for \$407,000
- 4066 Suffolk Way** Deutsche Bank to S. & K. King for \$608,500
- 7149 Valley Trails Drive** W. & V. Plein to A. Durairajan for \$620,000
- 3254 Verde Court** M. & E. Verna to W. & P. Sandbrink for \$407,500
- 3464 Vermont Place** K. Wolfe to J. Park for \$735,000
- 1988 Via Di Salerno** J. & L. Guilmart to R. & K. Gilham for \$1,625,000
- 3186 West Las Positas Boulevard** J. & M. Walsh to S. Raj for \$675,000
- 2553 Wilde Avenue** Howe Trust to Z. Chen for \$1,350,000



Source: California REsource




The Preserve

9616 Crosby Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588

Open Sun 1-4



Faran
Broker

Single Story actual sqft is 4100 which includes the 382 sq.ft. being permitted. 5 Bed-rooms, bonus room and 3.5 baths, 4 car garage. Marble & hardwood flooring, recessed lights, gourmet kitchen with granite counters and much more. 3 fire places, large master bedroom. Gorgeous backyard with garden gazebo. Price: \$1,450,000

HomesByFaran.com 925-922-0822
DRE#01327248

Find more real estate news, sales information and open homes at
pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

Coldwell Banker

#1 IN CALIFORNIA



 <p>DUBLIN Open SUN 1 - 4 11735 MURIETTA CT DESIRABLE WEST DUBLIN BEAUTY \$575,000 3 BR 3 BA Remodeled Kit & Bath.SS Appl w/Granite tile counters.Lrge Fam.Rm.Dual Pane Windows. 925.847.2200</p>	 <p>LIVERMORE 523 HELIGAN LANE #4 CONTEMPORARY LIVING CALL FOR PRICING! 3 BR 3.5 BA 2090 sqft, Plus a loft!Premium Lot w/2 car garage. Don't miss this opportunity! 925.847.2200</p>	 <p>PLEASANTON Open SAT/SUN 1-4 618 PALOMINO DRIVE CORNER TOWNHOME UNIT! \$550,000 3 BR 2.5 BA Lrge Bonus Rm.Open & Sunny Kitchen. Mstr Suite w/Walk-In Closet.Close to Parks w/views. 925.847.2200</p>	 <p>SAN RAMON 145 COPPER RIDGE RD. CONDOS AVAILABLE PRICING STARTS IN LOWER \$300'S 2 bd condos,Vaulted Ceilings avail, w/Garages, Gated Community, Renovated/Upgraded 925.847.2200</p>
BRENTWOOD	FREMONT	LIVERMORE	PLEASANTON
<p>6600 ARMSTRONG ROAD 40 ACRE W/BARN \$399,950 1 BR 2 BA 1124 Sq.Ft.Home.Trees,Outbuilding,A-2 Zoning.Possible Split lot.Kitchen updated.Got Horses 925.847.2200</p>	<p>Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 440 CHERRY MANOR GREAT COURT LOCATION \$928,000 5 BR 3.5 BA Bed/Bath on Main Flr.Granite Counters,Tankless Water Heater,Hrdwd Flrs,Dual Pane Windows. 925.847.2200</p>	<p>4706 BEL ROMA RD. LOVELY RANCH HOME! \$1,850,000 4 BR 2.5 BA 6 stall horse barn w/pipe paddocks. Formal Din/Liv.Lg Fam.Rm.Lovely Kit w/granite.Pool. 925.847.2200</p>	<p>Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 7825 DRIFTWOOD WAY LOVELY MAINTAINED HOME! \$590,000 Newly remodeled kitchen, backyard designed for entertaining, pool, spa, patio & lawn area. 925.847.2200</p>
CASTRO VALLEY	HAYWARD	OAKLAND	SAN RAMON
<p>Open SAT/SUN 1-4 3743 SEPTEMBER CT SOUTHWESTERN STYLE HOME \$962,000 6 BR 4.5 BA 3,553 Sq.Ft.Remodeled w/Permits.Kit.w/ Fam.Rm Combo & Fireplace.Hot Wtr Recirculation Sys. 925.847.2200</p>	<p>40970 NUNES CT MISSION SAN JOSE! CALL FOR PRICING! 3 BR 2 BA Walking Distance to award-winning Mission schools.Hrdwd & tile flring.Skylights.Pool. 925.847.2200</p>	<p>2254 FOURTH STREET WONDERFUL 1920'S HOME! \$495,000 3 BR 2 BA Residential,Live/Work,commercial/Business.Lrge Rms w/Oak Flrs.Antique Drs.Fireplace in Fam 925.847.2200</p>	<p>Open SAT/SUN 12:30 - 3:30 25 SAN BLAS PLACE COURT LOCATION W/SIDE ACCESS CALL FOR PRICING! 4 BR 2 BA 2 fireplaces.Remodeled 1st flr bath. Newer baseboards.Tahoe like setting in the rear yard. 925.847.2200</p>
DANVILLE	<p>2449 DEPOT RD WELL MAINTAINED HOME! \$389,888 4 BR 2 BA 9,310 Sq Ft. Lot.Lrge Eat-In Kit.Formal Dining rm.Inlay Hrdwd Flrs,Laundry Rm,Fireplace 925.847.2200</p>	<p>4329 EVANS AVE WONDERFUL HOME IN GLENVIEW! \$659,000 4 BR 2.5 BA Major Upgrades:dual pane windows,crown molding, hrdwd flrs,granite counter-tops & more! 925.847.2200</p>	<p>458 PINE RIDGE DR UPGRADED TOWNHOME! \$399,000 2 BR 2 BA Upstairs laundry,Wood & Tile Flrs.Kit w/granite slab & all appliances.Spacious Family Rm. 925.847.2200</p>

641 Varese Court, Pleasanton



- 5 Bedrooms, 4 Baths
- Approx. 4,027 Sq. Ft.
- Lot Approx. 21,769 Sq. Ft.
- Built in 1995
- 3 Car Garage
- Den/Office
- Possible au pair set up
- Stunning Floor plan
- Lush Landscaping

This magnificent single level home is in pristine condition & is move-in ready! The upgraded kitchen is perfect for the avid cook with granite counters, 2 dishwashers, gas cook top and new faucets. There is plenty of room for all of your entertaining needs with a family room, formal living & dining room, den/office and a butler's pantry. The 5th bedroom could easily be an in-law or au pair set-up with its own entrance. With the lot just under 1/2 of an acre, the lush manicured gardens contain over 40 rose bushes & trees and many perennials. There is a great entertaining area with a built in double BBQ. Other features include freshly painted interior, updated bathrooms & alarm system.

Priced at: \$1,500,000



RE/MAX ACCORD

John Rocha

5950 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton
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Open Sunday 1-5



4116 Grant Court, Pleasanton

Gorgeous Custom Home in "Kottinger Ranch"

5/4 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4072 sq. ft. of living area. 21,000 sq. ft. premium lot with a huge side access. Custom pool and waterfall plus a 5 car garage. This home has it all!

Offered at \$1,799,000



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The latest from The 680 Blog

Market Update - Inventory Remains Extremely Low

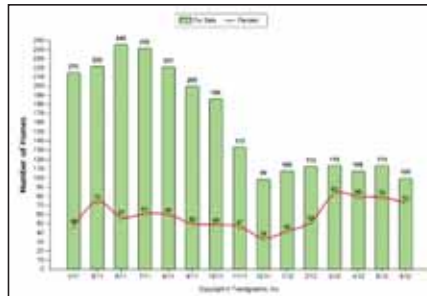
Demand remained very strong in Pleasanton, while inventory stayed low in June. Pending sales of single family detached homes were nearly 30% higher than they were a year ago, even though inventory was 60% lower. Pleasanton's inventory has not been this low in June since 2005. Inventory dropped the most for homes priced under \$1 million. The market remains very hot, with multiple offers on many homes, especially in the lower price ranges. At the moment, there is plenty of demand to absorb virtually all of the inventory that hits the market, so as a result inventory remains at extremely low levels. In fact, a dramatic increase in inventory would result in record sales given the strength of the market. It is the lack of inventory that is constraining sales.

Overall, there were 100 homes for sale at the end of June, down about 12% from 114 at the end of May. That is the lowest inventory level since December, when there were 99. 1.4 months of inventory relative to pending sales were available at the end of June, unchanged from May. 73 sales were pending during June, down about 8% from 79 during May.

Homes priced under \$1 million accounted for 53% of Pleasanton's inventory at the end of June, down from 60% at the end of May. However,

86% of Pleasanton's pending sales during June were in this segment. There were only 53 homes for sale in this price range at the end of June, compared to 68 at the end of May, a 22% decline. Pending sales increased from 59 during May to 63 during June, an increase of 7%. That left less than a month of inventory relative to pending sales at the end of June (.8 months), compared to 1.2 months at the end of May.

In the market for homes priced between \$1 million and \$2 million, inventory fell >> **Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



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



COMING SOON
Gorgeous remodeled Castlewood home with designer upgrades and finishes throughout! 4 Bedrooms plus bonus room, 4 full baths, pool, gated entrance, sweeping views, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, and more! **\$1,529,000**



JUST LISTED!
Charming one story with 3 BR, 2 BTHs, updated sunny gourmet kitchen, large dining area, spacious living room with fireplace, skylights, new carpeting, new paint, private rear yard with new redwood deck, and awesome location! **\$589,000**



JUST SOLD!
Pristine Custom home with 4 bedrooms plus office & loft, 5 baths, state of the art granite & stainless kitchen, travertine flooring, designer finishes and touches throughout, and private .46 Acre flat lot on a quiet private road! **\$1,630,000**



JUST SOLD!
Stunning Castlewood Mediterranean! Hardwood flooring, huge gourmet granite kitchen, bonus room, and a large private .57 Acre lot with sweeping views! **\$1,325,000**



JUST SOLD!
Fabulous luxury home in pristine country setting! 5 BR plus bonus room, loft, & office, 7 baths, 1 acre flat lot with outdoor kitchen, granite, hardwood floors, and designer features inside & out **\$1,795,000**



JUST SOLD!
Stunning luxury home with 5 BR + office, 5 1/2 BA, hardwood floors, granite & stainless kitchen, and a tropical oasis rear yard with sparkling pool, spa and waterfall. **\$1,525,000**



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Pending in 1 day!



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Park like backyard, huge lot with beautiful pool and spa. Gorgeous Brazilian floors on 1st floor. Call for more details!
Offered at \$739,000



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15903 Paseo Largavista, San Lorenzo

This completely remodeled 1537 sq ft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is absolutely charming! Includes step-down family room addition, hot tub, and kitchen remodeled with granite. Stainless steel appliances, fridges, recessed lighting, gas stove, shutters, maple cabinets, double-paned windows, wood-burning fireplace, central heating & A/C!
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If you're looking for fabulous views and a beautiful home, this is it! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home with granite counters and travertine tile in the baths. 1.51 +/- acres includes additional buildable lot with sale! Open floor plan & plenty of light. End of the road private location. **Offered at \$649,950**

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Just listed! 4806 sq. foot home, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bath custom single story home on the golf course. **Offered at \$1,910,000**



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3105 Chardonnay Drive, Pleasanton

Quality Craftsmanship! 4 BD, 2.5 BA, 2,494 sq ft home w/ absolutely stunning kitchen including cherry cabinets, rosewood floors & breakfast bar. One of a kind master suite w/ valley views & elegant bathroom. Spectacular yards with paver patios, waterfall, terraced yard, garden area and vegetable planters. **Offered at \$898,000**



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Pending — 2 offers!



Downsizing in Pleasanton Isn't Easy until you see this fabulous one level Vintage Heights home! 4 bdms, 2.5 baths, almost 2900 sf with a 3 car garage. New cement roof, windows, central heat & air. Offered at \$999,000



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