

Pleasanton Weekly

**DANCE FEST
TO RAISE MONEY**
*Pleasanton event will benefit
Burmese orphans » 22*



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old farmhouse for **NEW** lifestyle

Small home reflects
family's belief in not
wasting space

PAGE 17

Home
& garden

BUSINESS NEWS 10

TRI-VALLEY LIFE 22
Arts & Entertainment

NEW
SECTIONS



INSIDE THIS WEEK

- **NEWS:** Two new CVS stores planned 5
- **NEWS:** PUSD performance continues to climb 6
- **LIVING:** 'La bohème' draws crowds 23

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Corbett to run for Congress

State Senator Ellen Corbett (D-10th) announced to members of the Valley Real Estate Network last Friday that she plans to seek the congressional seat now held by U.S. Rep. Pete Stark in 2014. While that brought a round of applause from Realtors and those in the real estate business, she left some unanswered questions.

First, Stark, an aging and long-serving congressman from the 13th (now the 15th) district that includes Pleasanton, is currently in a feisty race against fellow Democrat and Dublin City Councilman Eric Swalwell. Both topped the returns in last June's primary, which under California's new rules puts the top two vote-getters on the general ballot no matter what their party affiliation.

Second, Stark hasn't said that if he wins re-election on Nov. 6 that he won't run again in 2014. He told Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman that she could have the job after he stepped down two years from now, but he's made that kind of a statement before. He's still there and based on the cheers he has received in union halls, labor still likes him.

Third, despite Corbett's popularity with Realtors and a majority of her constituents, she would face Hosterman, who has already launched her campaign, and quite likely Swalwell, who no doubt would try again if he loses in this election. On the plus side for Corbett is the fact that she has another two years to serve of her eight-year State Senate term, so she'll stay in the public's (voters') eye, and so will Swalwell, who has two more years of his term remaining on the Dublin Council. Hosterman, though, leaves the mayor's post in Pleasanton Dec. 4, so she will have to develop a strong public relations effort to stay visible.

Corbett is truly a politician's politician. I first met her when she was mayor of San Leandro, where she served on that city's council earlier. As an Assemblywoman whose district included a sizeable chunk of Pleasanton, she was a frequent visitor to our downtown and often at the Saturday morning Farmers Market, where she shook the hand of anybody who would shake hers.



JEB BING

Senator Ellen Corbett with Valley Real Estate Network president Will Doerlich at the VREN meeting Oct. 5.

After serving the three allowable two-year terms in the Assembly, she was voted into the Senate and into key positions.

"It's in her blood," said Will Doerlich, president of the Valley Real Estate Network.

He then expounded on a number of bills that Corbett has sponsored in the state Legislature to making buying, selling and marketing a home a bit easier. One is called the California Homeowners Bill of Rights, which Corbett helped write. It becomes law on Jan. 1 and will protect homeowners and borrowers during the mortgage modification and foreclosure process, which became a nightmare for mortgage holders when they found themselves underwater on their loans during the economic downturn. Corbett's bill will prohibit a series of inherently unfair bank practices that have forced thousands of Californians into foreclosure.

It also guarantees struggling homeowners a single point of contact at their lender with knowledge of their loan and direct access to decision makers. It gives homeowners a fighting shot to keep their home, Corbett told the Realtors, and will make the mortgage and foreclosure process more fair and transparent which she said will benefit homeowners, their community and the housing market as a whole.

Of course, Corbett didn't leave the VREN speaker's desk without a parting plea to vote in favor of Proposition 30 on Nov. 6, the measure that would raise income taxes on wealthy taxpayers to provide more funds for schools and public safety programs. It would also add a quarter-cent sales tax statewide, "but only for a temporary five-year period," she assured the group as she left for Sacramento. ■

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Karla Brown

Pleasanton City Council

Karla@Vote4Karla.com
www.Vote4Karla.com



My goals as your Pleasanton City Council member will be:

- #1 Support **SLOW & SMART GROWTH** policies. Expansion should be gradual and well planned.
- #2 Develop a plan for our financial future that addresses **LONG-TERM CITY DEBT**. Changes are needed.
- #3 Remain committed to **OPEN SPACE & RIDGELINE PROTECTION**. I was a leader in getting ridgeline preservation initiatives to the ballot. Voters overwhelmingly agreed, enacting strict protections.
- #4 Safeguard **HISTORIC DOWNTOWN HOMES & NEIGHBORHOODS**, while supporting our downtown businesses.
- #5 Work with you, the **PEOPLE of PLEASANTON**. Working as a team, we can retain our quality of life, top schools, businesses and safe neighborhoods; all in our friendly small town.

Paid for by "Karla Brown for City Council" FPPC#I348596.

About the Cover

When renovating the small 1915 house on Rose Street and Peters in 2003, John Ribovich raised the ceilings back to their original 10 feet and stenciled along the tops of the walls. The dining room, with its arts and crafts furniture, is where the family eats its meals, a good chance to share their days with one another. Photo by Dolores Fox Ciardelli. Design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT DISNEYLAND DURING GAY DAYS 2012, AN UNOFFICIAL EVENT THAT DREW MORE THAN 30,000 SUPPORTERS OF GAY AND LESBIAN EQUALITY.

What rights do you not have but believe you are entitled to?



Jeremy Box
Legal secretary

Marriage. We aren't entitled to the marriage tax credit or the same Social Security benefits that married couples are. A study found that there are 1,375 rights available only to married people. I think everyone who wants to get married should have the right to, regardless of sexual orientation.

Rebecca Amensen
Legal field

I wish I could be welcomed in my church, and be able to worship and receive the acceptance there that God gives everyone. I am Christian, and I try not to judge people. I wish others would do the same. If I were legally able to, I would marry my partner in a heartbeat.



Kat McDonnell
Chef

The biggest one is marriage. We just built a house and could only put it in her name. We're domestic partners, and it doesn't afford the same rights. If something was to happen medically to either one of us, we might not be allowed in the hospital room. I already gave Mary a ring, and I can't wait to be able to marry her.

John McDonnell
Business analyst

I am not gay, but my sister and daughter are. They should have the same opportunities. It's simply the right thing to do. Not so many years ago, black people weren't allowed to marry white people, and how silly does that seem now? I believe one is born gay, and it's heartbreaking to see the discrimination that my loved ones sometimes face. It's just a lack of understanding.



Stacy Hinderliter
Telephone service representative

We just want to be able to do what everyone else gets to do. I believe in equality for all. We live in America, and it is a bit shocking that gay rights are even an issue when there are so many real problems. I want to marry my partner of two years, Mary, and get all the rights that come along with marriage.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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PLEASANTON



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DIGEST

City of Pleasanton seeks next Poet Laureate

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications for its eighth Poet Laureate to serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the literary arts. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24; postmarks will not be accepted. The person selected will hold the honorary post from November 2012-June 2014.

Pleasanton's next Poet Laureate will be called upon to provide poetry at civic events such as dedications and public ceremonies, coordinate readings and other literary events. In addition, he or she will act as a resource and liaison between the City of Pleasanton and local schools, literary and community organizations.

Pleasanton residents may contact Michele Crose, civic arts manager, at 931-5347 for more information.

Italian Film Festival returns to Las Positas College

The Las Positas College departments of Foreign Language and History will present the fourth annual Italian Film Festival on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19 and 20.

The documentaries will begin at 6:30 p.m. on both days. The four productions in the series are:

■ "The Tree of Life" — Documentary directed by Hava Volterra who tries to come to terms with his father's death by traveling to Italy to trace his family's roots.

■ "19 Arrests, No Convictions" — An eight-year documentary portrait of George Farnsworth, an Italian-American bar owner with an "interesting" background who redeems himself as an open-ocean swimmer.

■ "Le Ragazze di Trieste" — A documentary of post-WWII Trieste that follows "war brides" who emigrate with U.S. soldiers.

■ "My American Family" — Director Jerzy Sladkowski follows an Italian-American family's history of emigration and personal challenges that lead to unexpected revelations.

The festival free to the public. All films will be presented in the college's Multi-Disciplinary Building Lecture Hall, Room 2420. For more information, contact Foreign Language Professor Catherine Suarez at 424-1212 or csuarez@laspositascollege.edu.

Candidates in Pleasanton election seek votes as vote-by-mail option gets under way

Candidates get jump on wooing voters before ballots are cast

By DOLORES CIARDELLI

Candidates for the posts of Pleasanton mayor and City Council urged voters to cast their ballots for them last week, and none too soon since those registered started casting their ballots by mail last Monday.

Voters who have registered already with the county Registrar's office to vote by mail can complete and send in those ballots anytime up to the Nov. 6 General Election.

The Sample Ballot which registered voters should already have received includes a sign-up coupon that must be signed and sent to the Registrar, whose office will then send the ballot needed for voting by mail.

Voters also can become permanent by-mail voters by calling the Registrar of Voters office at (510) 272-6973 or by visiting the Registrar's

website at www.acgov.org/rov.

At last Thursday night's Pleasanton Weekly candidates' forum held in the City Council chambers, voters learned more about the two candidates for mayor and the three running for two vacant City Council seats in the upcoming municipal election.

The forum will be re-broadcast at 7 p.m. Sunday on Channel 30.

Melissa Tench-Stevens, TV30's executive director, said the 90-minute debate will be broadcast at other times through Election Day as time permits on the community television channels.

Questions ranged from the city's unfunded employee pension liabilities of approximately \$137 million to how to promote civility at City Council meetings.

The candidates for mayor are current Coun-

cilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Councilman Jerry Thorne, and, campaigning for the two open seats on the City Council, Karla Brown, Erlene DeMarcus and Jerry Pentin.

The forum was moderated by Pleasanton Weekly Publisher Gina Channell-Allen and Editor Jeb Bing. Candidates began and ended with two minute statements, and responses were strictly limited to 90 seconds.

In answer to the pension question, Cook-Kallio said that when she joined the council in 2007 it began putting plans into place to mitigate the unfunded pension.

"Clearly we have not done enough," she continued. "There has also been a reduction in revenue because of the recession. It is clear to all of us that

See CANDIDATES on Page 6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A typical CVS Pharmacy as pictured on the CVS Caremark website.

CVS planning two new drug stores in Pleasanton

New buildings to go on opposite sides of town near freeways

By JEB BING

CVS Pharmacy, one of the country's largest drug store chains, plans to build two new retail outlets in Pleasanton with stores in the Safeway Gateway Center and the Rose Pavilion opening in 2013.

With its new outlets, CVS, owned by CVS Caremark Corporation, which is headquartered in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, will gain a major foothold in the drug store business in Pleasanton over Walgreens. Reportedly, Walgreens made an unofficial inquiry about building a new Pleasanton store on Sunol Boulevard several years ago, but that request was rebuffed by city planners.

Walgreens is now completing construction of a large new store on First Street in Livermore, where its name went on the building earlier this week.

The new CVS stores will dwarf Pleasanton's one Walgreens store in the Safeway Center at Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue. Both new stores also will include drive through pharmacies for prescription drop-offs and pick-ups. As with its other new stores, the new CVS out-

lets will feature a wide array of retail products ranging from over-the-counter care products to lawn chairs and some groceries.

Brian Dolan, director of planning and community services for Pleasanton, said his department has received a preliminary application for a 14,500 square foot CVS drug store with a drive through service at the site where a now-closed TGI Friday's restaurant was located. CVS plans to tear down that structure and re-build at that location in the Rose Pavilion shopping center.

CVS's building plans must first be approved by planners before a demolition permit can be issued, Dolan said.

Preliminary plans for a new CVS Pharmacy at Gateway Center along the south edge of the parking lot next to Safeway's new Lifestyle supermarket were approved as part of that overall project. Specific building plans must still go to city planners before construction can begin.

When completed, it's expected that the smaller, older CVS Pharmacy in the Rose Pavilion will be closed. The store once housed a Long's Drug Store. ■

Tri-Valley Heroes

We're looking for a few good men and women

By GINA CHANNELL-ALLEN

We are happy to announce that we will recognize the true, yet often anonymous, Tri-Valley Heroes this holiday season through a series of feature articles honoring eight individuals or groups for their positive influence on the Tri-Valley and the lives of its residents. We will feature two Heroes each week beginning Nov. 23 and concluding Dec. 14.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

Arts and Culture, Community Spirit, Courage, Environmental Stewardship, Innovation, Rising Star and Role Model. The Lifetime Achievement award will recognize an individual or group for contributions, leadership, enthusiasm and tireless efforts on behalf of his or her community, county and neighbors.

We are calling for nominations. This awards program is being conducted in all four Embarcadero Media East Bay divisions, which include the Pleasanton Weekly, Dublin TriValley Views, Danville Express and San Ramon Express. Individuals who work or live in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Blackhawk or Alamo are eligible, as are businesses located in these areas.

If you know a person, organization or group deserving of recognition, complete the form at <http://tinyurl.com/Tri-ValleyHeroes>. Nominations can also be emailed directly to gallen@EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com, but make sure all the information requested on the form is included. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Oct. 25.

We are also looking for sponsors for the program and for the individual awards. Any individual or group can sponsor. Please contact Gina Channell-Allen at gallen@EmbarcaderoMediaGroup.com or call 600-0840, ext. 119. ■



TRI-VALLEY HEROES

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 5

sit on the council that we need to work toward mitigating that.”

“One of things we have to do is continue a dialog with our labor groups,” Thorne said, adding it’s been a concern of his for some time. “As mayor this will be one of my primary objectives.”

Council candidate Pentin said, “We have to adjust contracts to make it sustainable in the future,” adding that there are many different schools of thought about how to best end the pension problem.

“Pleasanton has been smart in the way we’ve saved money,” said DeMarcus. “This city was smart. It got money back from the firefighters and police.”

The “unlimited money is gone,” she continued, so negotiations will have to carry on. She commended the unions for having a place at the table.

Council candidate Brown added, “The mayor (Jennifer Hosterman) is on record to say she took baby steps. I hate to tell her but baby

steps aren’t working. We have great city employees. They didn’t create the problem but they do need to be part of the solution.”

The mayoral candidates were asked whether they supported Measure B1, which would add another half-cent sales tax in Alameda County for transportation in perpetuity.

“I don’t support it, for a number of reasons,” Thorne said. “The projects listed in the ballot book are all good projects but they decided to make this tax in perpetuity. In most cases when you do a sales tax, you get a chance to review it and see if they did what they said they will do and they didn’t. So no, I don’t support it.”

He added that he is worried about the county’s tendency to do projects using only union labor, which adds 10% to the cost.

“Since 85% (of construction workers) are non-union, I think we should use them,” he said.

But Cook-Kallio offered a different perspective.

“I support it,” she said. “It’s the only tax you pay that comes directly back to your community. If you have \$15,000 a year of taxable

purchases, the increase in your taxes a year will be \$75. This is to solve a perpetual problem — we’ll always have the traffic.”

She also explained that it’s a countywide tax, and Pleasanton wants to be in line for those projects that will bring money back to this community.

“There is a state law that says we have to pay prevailing wage,” she added.

The candidates were also asked how they would address vacancies downtown, whether banks should be limited downtown, and how they would balance historic preservation with private property rights.

Referring to the soon-to-be closed Domus store on Main Street, DeMarcus said, “Hopefully that won’t be vacant for long. We need to rely on our (Pleasanton) Downtown Association to attract businesses vital to downtown. As a council member I would support them.”

“People I talk to love going downtown but at midnight when the music is loud there is definitely some friction there,” Brown said. “We need to continue to work to find something that’s a balance.”

Thorne said he is pretty well known as a free enterprise person and he believes in the free market system.

“We can’t start being specific about what can go where,” he said. “At one time we were going to require every business downtown to have a conditional use permit. That would have been so onerous. We can put rules in place and if people comply with them we can have additional nightlife as well.”

Cook-Kallio notes, “We have eight banks in a mile downtown. If we have more banks downtown it will no longer be a destination for people to shop. People who own property like banks because they pay a higher per square foot fee, higher than restaurants.”

Pentin said the Planning Commission, which he currently chairs, sent the stipulation about banks on to the City Council to consider.

“We wanted to limit the amount of banks on corners,” he said. “I’ve sat on the Hospitality Task Force for the last year, and we’re trying to create a scenario where businesses can come into Pleasanton and not



JESSICA LIPSKY

Residents listen to Pleasanton mayoral and city council candidates at a debate held Oct. 4 by the Pleasanton Weekly.

necessarily go through the conditional permit process.”

Another question from the audience noted that City Council meetings have turned hostile in the past few years and asked: How would you maintain and promote civility? How would you handle difficult and emotional conflicts?

“There have been tremendously big projects that have come to the council over the last few years. I think the reason they have been emotional is because the mayor and the council care so much,” Brown said. “If they are less than civil it’s because the people care so much.”

“You want to elect people that have a variety of opinions,” she added. “I like to see emotions and I like it when people come up and express their opinion, too. I don’t see it as a problem.”

DeMarcus countered that she finds it embarrassing, especially in front of professionals who come from large companies, if Pleasanton isn’t conducting its meetings in a professional manner.

“I have a problem when meetings are not run in a businesslike manner,” DeMarcus said. “It doesn’t look good when a progressive city is having discord and people are being shouted down,” adding that in such a cases, the meeting should be temporarily recessed.

Pentin noted the difference between when he served on the Parks and Recreation Commission, where everyone liked what the commis-

sioners did, and the Planning Commission, where he is now sometimes treated like he personally is holding up the process.

“But I agree if we’re up here we have to make decisions that are sometimes pleasant but sometimes not,” he said. “If you take leadership on, that’s part of the territory.”

“I’m keenly aware that when people are here and are upset they’re yelling at the government,” Cook-Kallio said. “But you can’t be up here and think it’s my way or the highway.”

“We have to always respect our colleagues and their opinions,” Thorne said. “We have to discuss and try to come up with a common thread to come up with some agreement to benefit the entire city. I don’t want a City Council that always disagrees.”

“You do have to have some pretty thick skin to sit up here,” he added. “If you take things to heart it can be a pretty miserable job. But my skin is pretty thick so you can yell at me all you want.”

Other questions dealt with cooperation with the Pleasanton Unified School District, the proposed Oak Grove development, and whether “the voice of the people” will be heard now that the term limits have expired for council members Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern.

The hour-and-a-half forum was sponsored by the Bay East Association of Realtors and the Valley Real Estate Network. ■

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PUSD performance continues to climb, API shows

Subgroups slated for improvement make big gains

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton schools continue to perform well above the state standards, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

Out of a possible 1,000 points, the district’s score on the state Academic Performance Index was up nine points this year, with 12 of 15 schools surpassing a score of 900.

“Last year, we were at 906. This year, we jumped to 915,” said district Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. “Some of our schools

made tremendous gains — our middle schools jumped at least 10 points.”

Ahmadi also said many of the subgroups targeted for improvement by the district and the state made big gains. A detailed discussion of the API is set for the next school board meeting on Oct. 23.

API scores include assessment result from the California Standards Tests in subjects of English, history and social science, math and science, as well as the California High School Exit Exam. ■

2012 API results

The following data shows the school, the 2012 API score and change from the previous year.

PUSD: 915, +9
Alisal Elementary: 896, -3
Donlon Elementary: 918, +2
Fairlands Elementary: 946, -3
Henry P. Mohr Elementary: 955, +8
Lydiksen Elementary: 905, +12
Phoebe Apperson Hearst Elementary: 953, +8
Valley View Elementary: 898, -1
Vintage Hills Elementary: 927, -1
Walnut Grove Elementary: 937, +6
Harvest Park Middle: 943, +18
Pleasanton Middle: 942, +20
Thomas S. Hart Middle: 920, +13
Amador Valley High: 900, +10
Foothill High: 887, +3
Valley High: 619, -5



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Amelia's Deli closes its downtown restaurant

Search on for new tenants at Amelia's, also Domus on Main Street

By JEB BING

Amelia's Deli, a popular downtown daytime restaurant at 55 W. Angela St., has closed after the number of patrons slackened due to weak economic conditions.

The restaurant, in business since 1990, attracted a larger crowd at its original location in the Gateway Shopping Center on Hopyard Road before it moved to the downtown location several years ago. Its owner said she may seek to return to a similar location on Hopyard, where her restaurant served many during the lunch hour from Hacienda Business Park companies.

An Amelia's customer said she was told the restaurant was being closed due to a dwindling number of diners and also because of high downtown rents.

Domus, another nearby downtown business, also is closing once its current inventory is sold out.

Both the Pleasanton Downtown



JEB BING

Amelia's on West Angela Street is now closed.

Association and the city's Economic Development Department are seeking new tenants for both facilities. ■

Ghost Walk

October 2012

19th 6:00— 8:00pm
20th 6:00— 8:00pm
26th 6:00— 8:00pm
27th 6:00— 8:00pm

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Anthony Koh, MD
Donald Lai, MD
Stanley Ng, M.D.
Marilena Sandru, M.D.
Robert T Santos, M.D.
Betty M Tam, M.D.
Jerry Yen, M.D.

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William H Phillips, M.D.
Jennifer Salata, MD
Sonia Santana, D.O.
Gabrielle S Schaefer, M.D.
Laura Silverstein, MD
Rebecca Stone, MD

PEDIATRICS

Yatin Shah, M.D.
Christi Klimisch, M.D.

Barbara,
Hip Replacement
Patient



ValleyCare Medical Foundation is affiliated with ValleyCare Health System.

Family distraught over theft of dog

'I just miss my dog so much,' daughter says

The break-in and theft of a family pet Monday morning has left a 15-year-old Pleasanton girl heartbroken.

"They stole my best friend and our loved pet Holly," said Cynthia Castronovo. "She is a 5-year-old Pug who is the sweetest and gentlest pet anyone could ever know. I miss her so much and my family, including myself, is very distraught over our loss."

"It's very hard for me to grasp how such a despicable person could ever resort to stealing our family dog," she continued. "Holly is my very best friend, she sleeps with me every night, and to go about these days without her is very hard on me."

Entry was gained to the home, in the 400 block of San Gabriel Court, around 9-10 a.m. Monday morning by breaking a sliding glass door. Also stolen were jewelry, all



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Holly, 5, was stolen along with other valuables from a Pleasanton home Monday.

of the family's electronics and other valuable items.

But the worst part to Cynthia was that the thieves made away with Holly.

"I just miss my dog so much," she said. ■

TAKE US ALONG

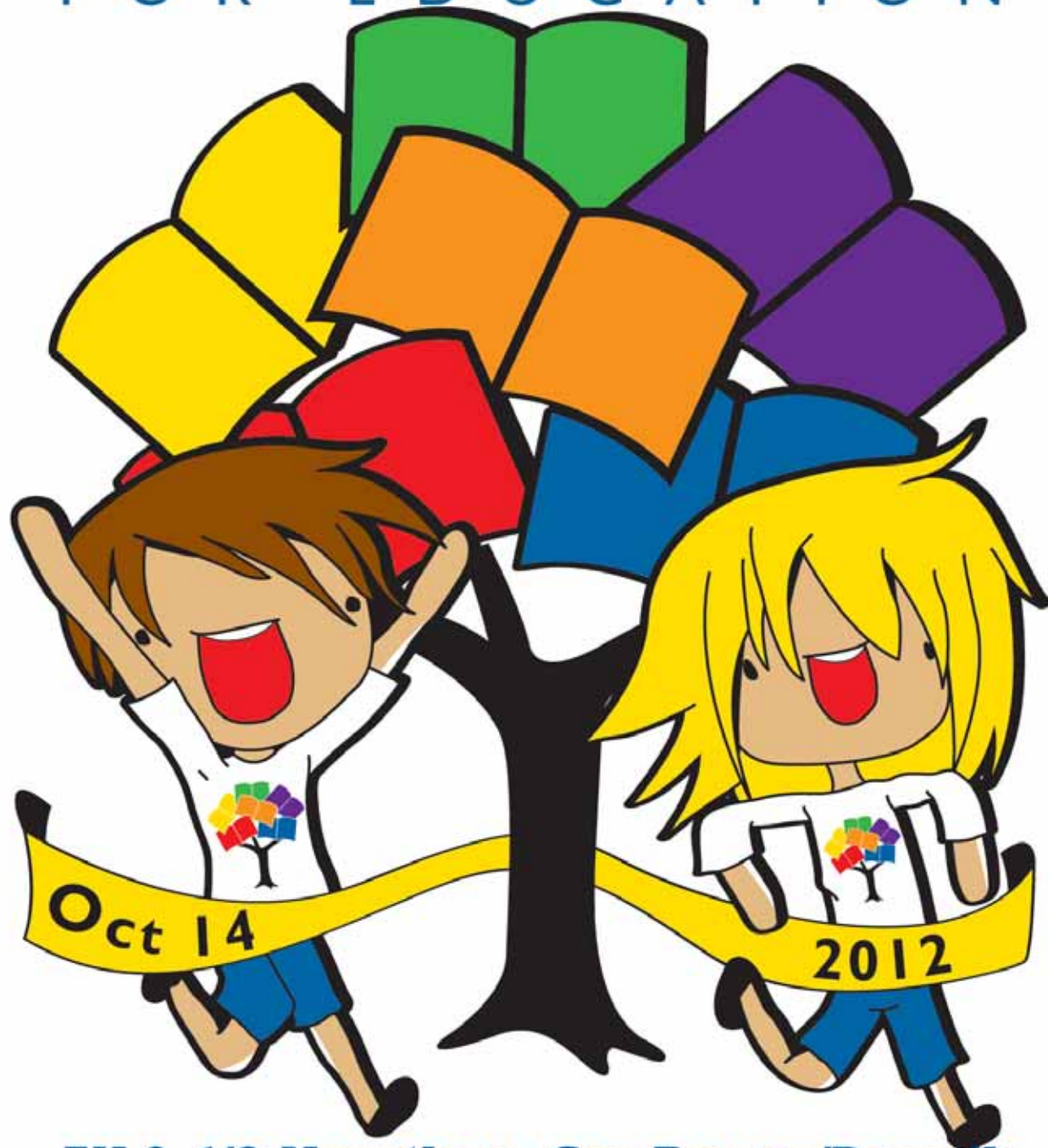


Kiss, anyone?

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce members (l-r) Larry Davis, Judy Davis, Lety Hyde, Ron Hyde, Michelle Oliveira and Karen Carlson pose with their Weekly at the Blarney Stone in Ireland.

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Get ready for Medicare open enrollment

Sign-ups, changes can be made Oct. 15-Dec. 7

By **JASON ALDERMAN**

For senior citizens, the most important decision you will make this fall comes in the form of choosing the most appropriate Medicare coverage options for next year.

Medicare's 2013 open enrollment period runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. For most current enrollees, that's the only time to make coverage changes for the coming calendar year (exceptions are made if you later move outside your plan's service area, qualify for financial assistance or a few other situations).

Several changes to Medicare take effect in 2013, including:

■ Medicare Part D participants who reach the so-called doughnut hole coverage gap will begin receiving a 52.5% discount on brand-name prescription drugs and a 21% discount on generics, compared to 2012's 50/14% rates.

■ Medicare will begin covering additional preventive and screening services, including assessments and counseling for depression, alcohol misuse, cardiovascular disease and obesity.

■ A redesigned Medicare Summary Notice, which explains what your doctor/provider billed for, the Medicare-approved amount, what Medicare paid, and what you must pay.

Medicare also recently over-

hauled its website (www.medicare.gov), adding many new features and simplifying the language and site navigation. For example:

■ The homepage now provides direct links for common tasks like applying for Medicare, changing plans, calculating costs, researching what different plans cover and more.

■ Search for whether a specific test, item or service is covered under Original Medicare (Parts A and B).

■ Quick links to replace a lost Medicare card, find a Medicare Advantage (Part C) or prescription drug plan (Part D).

■ Find doctors and other health professionals, nursing homes, hospitals, home health services and health/drug plans, and make side-by-side comparisons of costs and care provided.

■ It can be accessed on mobile devices like tablets and smart phones, so you can seek information anywhere, anytime.

Briefly, Medicare provides health care benefits to people age 65 and older and those under 65 with certain disabilities or end-stage renal disease. For most people, the initial enrollment period is the seven-month period that begins three months before the month they turn 65. If you miss that window, you may enroll for the first time between Jan. 1 and March 31 each year, although your coverage won't begin until July 1. To apply for Medicare online, visit www.ssa.gov/medicareonly.

Medicare plans and coverage options include:

■ Part A: Helps cover inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, hospice and home health care services.

■ Part B: Helps cover doctor's services, outpatient care and some preventive services. It's optional and has a monthly premium.

■ Part C (Medicare Advantage): Offers plans run by Medicare-approved private insurers as alternatives to Original Medicare. Most cover prescription drugs and some include extra benefits at additional cost. You're usually required to use the plan's provider network.

■ Part D: Helps cover the cost of prescription drugs. It's optional and carries a monthly premium. These privately run plans vary widely in terms of cost, co-payments and deductibles and medications covered.

Some people also purchase additional Medigap (Medicare Supplemental) insurance offered by private insurers. It follows strict government coverage guidelines and helps pay for many items not covered by Medicare, including deductibles, co-payments and co-insurance.

Understanding and choosing the right Medicare options can be complicated and time-consuming. For assistance, call 1-800-633-4227 or read "Medicare & You," a highly detailed guide that explains Medicare in easy-to-understand language. It's found at www.medicare.gov.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.



Jason Alderman



Build-A-Bear Workshop store to open at Stoneridge today

Outlet to feature family-friendly entertainment throughout the day

Build-A-Bear Workshop, an American retailer that sells teddy bears and other stuffed animals, will open a new store today in the Stoneridge Shopping Center.

At the store, customers go through an interactive process in which the stuffed animal of their choice is assembled and customized during their visit to the store. It's the largest chain that operates in this style.

Build-A-Bear Workshop has been acclaimed for the quality of its working environment, especially as a workplace for teenagers. The company's motto is "Where Best Friends Are Made."

Festivities planned for grand open-

ing celebration include: a special ribbon-cutting at 10 a.m. on Friday, Oct 5, to be led by representatives of the American Red Cross. Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio will join Chief Information and Interactive Bear Dave Finnegan for the ceremonies.

The first 100 guests at the store will make special bears for free to be donated to American Red Cross, which will then distribute the bears to children in need of a teddy bear hug.

The will be family-friendly entertainment throughout the day, including appearances by Bearly, the Build-A-Bear Workshop huggable mascot. ■



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No dirt or rocks!
Saturday, October 20, 2012



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GUEST OPINION

By BART HUGHES

Select candidates who demonstrate independence and critical thinking

Regarding public employee pension liabilities and personnel costs, Pleasanton, like many cities, has had a failure in governance. How else would someone describe a situation where a City Council voted in irresponsible employee contracts in the early 2000s, looked the other way and/or downplayed the severity of the problem as it emerged (well before the recession), and only now is taking late and inadequate steps to fix the problem? E.g., both the City Council and management admit that recent contract negotiation actions ensure that the problem will grow. After nearly a decade of awareness of the issue, how can this be?



Bart Hughes

This failure in governance is having a significant negative impact on Pleasanton's finances. Personnel costs have grown from the mid-60% range to 77%, and our unfunded liability exploded from zero to approximately \$137 million. Most citizens understandably glaze over when they hear numbers like these as it is difficult to put them into perspective. However, most appreciate the increasingly not-so-subtle erosion of city services.

Pleasanton now has fewer, more expensive police on the street. Fewer roads are being re-paved. Capital projects have decreased substantially. And reserve accounts are being decreased.

It is interesting to note that the recently approved Bernal Community Park project is only partially funded and must rely on additional user fees, etc., to complete the project. Elevated personnel and pension costs are the primary culprit for this lack of funds.

City employees deserve to be fairly

compensated for the value they provide for our city. But due to lack of effective oversight, this is not what has happened. Unions did their job of maximizing the benefits to their members, winning generous benefits like 50% retroactive pension increases and above-market annual raises even through the early years of the recession. As a result, current and retired employees are extracting from the city millions of dollars more each year than their fair share.

The City Council has only recently and belatedly awoken to the realization that it must address the problem (after much pushing from the public) and admirably agreed to an improvement framework that includes the goal of reducing Pleasanton's unfunded liability by 10% over five years. Unfortunately, since then Pleasanton's unfunded liability has moved in the opposite direction in a significant way. More disappointing, many council members are already making excuses why they won't be able to meet their commitment while at the same time not pushing for all available legal concessions.

Something within the current governance dynamic must change. Otherwise, future Pleasanton residents and employees will pay an even higher price for a problem they didn't create. We need elected officials who truly are independent and can effectively sit across the bargaining table on behalf of Pleasanton citizens. Unions have identified their favorite candidates that they feel will be most sympathetic to their desires. Be aware of this. Look for and support the candidates you feel will apply the strongest independent critical thinking to this and other issues. The future of Pleasanton depends on it.

Bart Hughes has been a resident of Pleasanton for 14 years. During his 20-plus year career, he has held senior management positions with several leading technology companies where he focused on operational improvement. He has held several board positions with local nonprofit organizations. In addition to his engineering degree, he holds a graduate degree in business.

LETTERS

Powerful issue

Dear Editor,

Your suicide issue was powerful and very necessary. The coverage and respect that you showed to the survivors was gracious. The list of warning signs and ways to help those poor souls threatening suicide was open and serious. It was sad to read a few days later that a young teacher in Richmond allegedly took his own life. Suicide can no longer be a hush hush and roll your eyes subject,

especially for our young citizens.

Thank for the courage to bring this subject to the front page.

Mary McMahon

Editors note: The teacher who committed suicide worked at Albany Middle School, not in Richmond.

Educating Mr. Williams

Dear Editor,

I would like to invite Mr. Bill Williams, who faults PUSD teachers because he met one teenager who hadn't heard of the Space Shuttle (Sept. 28 Letters to the Editor, "What Shuttle?"), to shadow

See **LETTERS** on Page 12

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



Cook-Kallio for mayor; Pentin, Brown for City Council

With the current City Council breaking up after serving an unprecedented six years together, Pleasanton voters have an opportunity again to choose from among five well-qualified candidates. Four of them will be assuming stewardship roles as mayor and members of a new council to face the city's challenges in the years ahead. Of the two seeking the mayor's post — Council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio — the choice is especially tough because both have been strong colleagues in making pension reform, fiscal restraints, land use and transportation decisions that will ensure that the city maintain its forward momentum.

Our preference for mayor is Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who's been a valuable, problem-solving council member with helpful connections in Sacramento and Washington. An active Democrat, Cook-Kallio doesn't wear any party affiliation on her sleeve. She has endorsements from business and union organizations and, importantly, from Tri-Valley, Alameda County, regional and state government leaders. If she needs help on a regional issue, she has many close contacts who will quickly take her call and give our city a hand.

We like the fact that she supported highly controversial issues such as the Oak Grove housing development, worked against a citizens' referendum that stopped the plan, favored the less-onerous Measure QQ over the restrictive Measure PP hillside building ban that voters approved, and campaigned vigorously to extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road in Livermore. She weathered frequent grubbings at City Council meetings by very vocal critics without flinching.

Jerry Thorne, who will stay on the council for another two years, is more reserved than Cook-Kallio, a trait the council needs. He is a skilled administrator and retired corporate vice president who became intensely involved in city and civic affairs upon leaving his private sector career. His supporters come from all parts of Pleasanton and praise, rightly so, Thorne's commitment to business, a sustainable city employee pension program and his work with the League of California Cities and many other agencies. He especially deserves accolades for his support of veterans. There's hardly a time when a soldier is welcomed home to Pleasanton that Thorne isn't the first to be there with an official city proclamation.

For City Council, we are endorsing Planning Commission Chairman Jerry Pentin and businesswoman Karla Brown. We like the third candidate, Erlene DeMarcus, whose credentials as a BART board member years ago who helped bring BART to Pleasanton are impressive. But, frankly, we just haven't seen that much of DeMarcus at City Council meetings or city and civic events. Over the coming months, we urge her to become more visible to us and the voting public and possibly run again next June when voters will choose a fifth council member to fill the seat vacated by either Thorne or Cook-Kallio.

Pentin, a Pleasanton businessman, has served on a number of city commissions and advisory groups since moving here 21 years ago. He was honored with the Mayor's Award in 2008, with a list of achievements that he's reinforced ever since. He's our choice for election to the City Council.

This is Karla Brown's second bid for a seat on the council, where there are two openings with Council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan both termed out. Although we favored the Oak Grove development, which she and former Councilwoman Kay Ayala joined together in opposing, we share her current position as an opponent of Measure B1, which would add another half-cent in sales tax to an Alameda County transportation plan. Brown is active in a number of business and civic groups in Pleasanton, where she has lived for the last 20 years. ■

LETTERS

Continued from Page 11

me for a week in my job as English teacher at Foothill High. I would like him to see the richness of the topics we cover as we discuss great literature, plus the depth of the skills we practice. I would like him to see how hard my students work, how sincerely they wrestle with humanity's biggest questions, and how nobly some of them struggle to do so despite less than ideal home situations.

I would like Mr. Williams to follow me outside of school as I spend hours away from my own children to correct papers thoughtfully so my students have a rich education. I invite him to come with me to Office Max, where I spend hundreds of my own dollars each year for basic classroom supplies that the district cannot afford to provide.

While Mr. Williams is with me, he will hear me gush continually about how deeply I love each of my students, how profoundly they

enrich my life, how much potential I see in each of them, and how sincerely I want to help them grow into their best, most thoughtful selves — the kind of educated human beings our world so desperately needs.

Alas, when our week is over, we may discover the Space Shuttle Endeavor topic never arose. At that point only will I accept his criticism.

Heather Richey, English teacher, Foothill High School

Force of nature

Dear Editor,

Cheryl Cook-Kallio is a force of nature. Fortunately for Pleasanton, her dynamism is guided by an internal compass that reflects the best of human values. We heartily endorse her candidacy for mayor — an endorsement based on decades of knowing Cheryl in a wide range of roles.

Our relationship began almost 35 years ago, as she entered the teaching profession. She worked for us as a teacher, reading clini-

cian and manager. We watched as she integrated motherhood and teaching in ways that were remarkable — demonstrating competencies in both roles that remain high-water marks in our careers. While parenting four amazing children into responsible, productive adulthood, she grew a career in education respected throughout the state and recognized nationally.

Many people would content themselves with such an impressive personal and professional record. Not Cheryl. A life-long advocate for children and learning, she rededicated herself to public service, focusing her high-octane dynamism on her hometown of Pleasanton.

Cheryl's record as a citizen leader/advocate is clearly demonstrated by her six-plus years of dedicated public service. We have remained among her greatest supporters because we know what fuels her dynamism: Cheryl cares. Never — throughout the three decades we have known her — have we seen her make a self-serving decision.

It is always about others, be them kids, colleagues, parents or entire communities.

We urge you to support our friend Cheryl Cook-Kallio in her bid for mayor. Her intelligent, informed and caring leadership will result in high-water marks for the city and its citizens.

Bill and Becky Radulovich

No on B1

Dear Editor,

Sales tax in California is 7.25%, the highest in the nation. Alameda County's is 8.75%. Measure B1 brings it to 9.25%. This .5% tax will be in perpetuity. Our current tax rate is punitive and we are going to make it worse. Plus we will force people to shop in surrounding counties where they will pay a lower sales tax. Why not go to Costco Danville rather than Livermore?

The purpose of this tax is to improve transportation, highways, etc., and create jobs. What's not being said is that through prevailing wages and project labor agreements (PLAs) these jobs will all be union. The unions only represent 15% of the workforce if California; 85% of the workers do not belong to unions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. So, 85% of the workforce has to pay this punitive tax so the unions can enjoy more work at higher wages. Do you wonder why every union-sympathetic politician and every union in Alameda County is supporting this tax?

Please vote No on B1. Give the taxpayer a break, keep people shopping in Alameda County and please, think about 85% of the people that don't belong to a union.

Derek Kvistad

Why I support Thorne

Dear Editor,

I support Jerry Thorne for mayor:

- With the upcoming development of the Bernal property, Jerry Thorne as our mayor would draw upon his Parks and Recreation experience to guide our city in realizing this \$14 million project.

- Thorne knows how to promote viewpoint exchanges among diverse groups — for example, the arts groups and the sports leaders — in order to get consensus through meetings, discussions, emails, phone calls. I was in awe when he garnered many sports and arts groups together to ensure that the City Council launch Stage 1 on the Bernal Property.
- Thorne is level-headed and is fiscally wise. His wide business and volunteer experience will ensure that Pleasanton gets the most for its investments in our community and will develop our rich quality of life — what Pleasanton expects of its leaders.

- As Parks and Recreation Commissioner and as City Councilman, Thorne has an impressive track record: He supported and helped us realize the Dolores Bengtson 50-meter pool, the Alviso Adobe Park, the Firehouse Arts Center, the Renovation of the Gingerbread Preschool, and the Veterans Hall restoration.
- Thorne's vision for Pleasanton is

focused upon a balanced budget, city and corporate collaboration with the schools, traffic mitigation, support for veterans and their families, and resolving city pension issues.

Thorne is a doer, a careful listener and decision maker. He moves forward — once issues are accurately defined — with steady vision, a commitment to our city and a desire to see the job done. Let's make Jerry Thorne our next mayor.

Dave Wright

Vote for Karla Brown

Dear Editor,

If you have attended any of the candidates' debates then you already know Karla Brown comes prepared. She studies the issues, provides hard facts, and clearly explains her positions.

The Sierra Club endorsed Karla because of her desire to protect open spaces and the ridges in Pleasanton. She is the only slow and smart growth candidate. Lots of housing is being forced upon Pleasanton, so it is critical to ensure that the housing that does get built is appropriate, efficiently designed, and conforms to Pleasanton's high standards.

Pleasanton has been paying more money into PERS than required, and still our unfunded liability continues to grow, so you know we have a serious problem. Karla is not here to play the blame game, but she is here to sit down with both sides and figure out a way to make the budget sustainable. Public employees may have earned a good pension, but if the city can't afford to pay for what has been promised, then what? Sustainability is critical! Kicking the unfunded liability can down the road is not responsible, reasonable or moral.

Karla opposes Measure B1, not because of the planned projects but because there is no sunset clause. Once planned projects are completed, then politicians have free reign to spend the money. Measure B1 is a regressive tax and is disproportionately hard on the poor.

Please vote for Karla Brown.

John Carroll

Pentin is best

Dear Editor,

Please join us in electing Jerry Pentin to Pleasanton City Council.

Observing four candidate forums, it is clear that Jerry is the most capable and experienced of the three active candidates (Mike Harris has dropped out). He will have the fastest start up time and will serve the community at a high level sooner than the other candidates. Jerry has already performed very well in the recreational and property planning aspects of local government. He is enthusiastic. He is self employed, knowledgeable and prudent in budget and fiscal matters.

All three active candidates are good and have the best interest of the entire community at heart, but Jerry Pentin is the best for all concerned.

Brad and Sandra Hirst



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OBITUARIES

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Doris Eleanor Mitchell

6/29/1929-9/9/2012

Doris Eleanor Mitchell, 83, passed away peacefully Sunday Sept. 9 surrounded by family.

She was born June 29, 1929, in Oakland, Calif. She grew up in Oakland and graduated from Oakland High School. After graduation with a degree in Social Work from San Francisco State University, she was employed as a social worker for Alameda County.

She met her future husband Phil K. Mitchell through a friend and co-worker, Doreen Mitchell, who is married to Phil's brother. Doris and Phil were married on April 19, 1958.

While her husband served in the United States Air Force, the couple moved to various duty locations, including Ohio, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. The couple settled down in Pleasanton, where they raised their three children, after her husband's military retirement. They moved to Red Wing, Minn. in 2010 to be closer to their son Don and his family.

Doris enjoyed traveling with her husband and family. Her favorite destinations included Mendocino, Lake Tahoe, and especially Carmel, where she and Phil honeymooned. Doris and Phil were charter members of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Doris treasured her family and will always be remembered for her generous spirit and her love of conversation with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Phil of Red Wing, Minn.; two sons, James (Melinda) Mitchell of Richland, Wash. and Donald (Therese) Mitchell of Red Wing, Minn.; daughter, Jeanne (Allen) Spalding of Sanford Mich., five grandchildren, Scott and Andrew Mitchell and Philip, Theodore, and Peter Mitchell, and two step-grandchildren, Kirsten & Tyler Spalding.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard M. and Myra James, and her brothers, Richard H. James and Robert Carey.

Memorial donations may be made to the Monterey Bay Aquarium. <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/aqp/member/Donate.aspx>



Carol Linda Ghilardi

12/24/1948-10/3/2012

Born on Christmas Eve, in Burlingame, Calif., Carol was a surprise gift to her parents, John and Elizabeth Aguiar, as they had two older children. Though her life was cut short by Alzheimer's and cancer, she managed to be that gift to her family, friends, and community. Most of her life was lived here in the Bay Area, though she spent her high school years in Costa Mesa, CA, where she graduated valedictorian. Returning to the Bay Area, she got her BA at the University of San Francisco and her MS in Marriage and Family Counseling at Cal-State Hayward.

While attending graduate school, she began working for the City of Pleasanton as the secretary for Pleasanton Fire. She loved that job and kept it for 20 years, while at the same time caring for people as a licensed psychotherapist, in practice with her husband, Jim. They met while she was an intern at what is now called Axis Community Health Care. In 1987 they married and opened their office, Arroyo Counseling Services. Holding down two jobs, Carol still found time to volunteer; pioneering St. Augustine's Aid's Ministry, and doing prison ministry at the Federal Correction Institute and Santa Rita Jail. She also helped organize "The Cross Walk" through the streets of Pleasanton in protest of the death penalty.

For fun, Carol loved to act, and from 1973 through 1983, she was in 13 plays at the Pleasanton Playhouse and other community theaters, playing the lead in "Don't Drink the Water," "You Can't Take It With You," and "Barefoot in the Park." The confines of this column make it impossible to share all the ways she contributed to our lives. Those of us who knew her appreciated what a gift she was.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, John and Elizabeth Aguiar, and her brother, Rick Aguiar. She is survived by her beloved husband, Jim, and step-daughter, Jamie Ghilardi; her sister, Marilyn Reeves; sister-in-law, Nancy Aguiar-Fargis; nieces: Kris Ruzich, Sandy Goetz, Sue Balestri, Marianne Ottaway, and nephew: Andy Aguiar, and their families.

A Celebration of Her Life and Funeral Mass were held. Contributions may be made to Axis Community Health, The Alzheimer's Association, or the American Breast Cancer Awareness.



"Lasting Memories" now on PleasantonWeekly.com

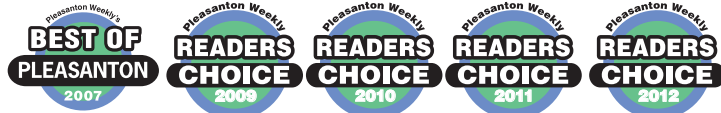
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Community Pulse

By Glenn Wohltmann, gwohltmann@pleasantonweekly.com

POLICE BULLETIN

Check nets meth bust

A suspected methamphetamine dealer was arrested Oct. 4 after a registration check at Tri-Valley Inn and Suites.

Brian Keith Behar, 38, a transient, was arrested for possession with intent to sell methamphetamine after an officer doing a routine patrol saw a man inside a car and ran a registration check. That check came back with an outstanding warrant on a traffic violation, and a further check showed Behar was on probation for a prior drug offense.

A search at the motel room in which Behar was staying turned up four bags containing an estimated four grams of meth, a scale, a bag of hallucinogenic mushrooms and three hypodermic needles.

Behar was arrested with a woman who was cited for misdemeanor par-

aphernalia possession and released.

In other police reports:

- Shane Jacob Woodcock, 35, of Livermore was arrested at about 9:51 a.m. Oct. 6 in the 3400 block of Norton Way for auto theft, felony and misdemeanor warrants and violating a court order. An officer driving by recognized Woodcock and knew the woman he was speaking with had a restraining order against him; an automated license plate reader notified the officer that the truck Woodcock was in had stolen license plates, and the truck was listed as stolen from Tracy Chevrolet a week ago.

Woodcock was also wanted on a felony charge of grand theft from Contra Costa County and misdemeanor Pleasanton battery case.

- A transient was arrested early Oct. 9 on suspicion of failing to register as a sex offender, but was released when police could not confirm he was who they thought he was.

Gary Lawrence Hood, 55, was arrested at 12:23 a.m. while walking near the corner of Bernal Avenue and Foothill Road. A description of the sex offender said he has tattoos on arms and chest, although Hood — who'd just been released from Santa Rita Jail — had only a tattoo on one arm.

Hood was detained and released when police could not confirm his identity. He was taken to BART and freed.

- A Danville woman was arrested for felony shoplifting and paraphernalia possession in a bust Oct. 8 at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Lisa Jeanne Miller, 37, of Danville, was arrested at JC Penny in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road in the theft of \$30 jeans, a \$30 T-shirt and a \$24 shirt. Miller was initially recognized as a habitual returner when trying to return a comforter.

Later the same day she was spotted concealing items in her purse and

on herself. When Miller was being placed under arrest, she turned over to police a piece of aluminum foil she said she used to smoke Norco pills, which contain hydrocodone.

Police also found wire cutters and pliers in Miller's purse along with an Arizona driver's license in the name of another person.

- Two teenaged girls from Livermore were also arrested for felony shoplifting at JC Penny this week. The two 14-year-olds were spotted putting items inside a large purse.

- An Oct. 5 burglary in the 6100 block of Corte Santiago netted gift cards worth a total of about \$2,000, a Coach purse worth \$300, a \$300 cell phone, a BMW key valued at \$100, makeup worth \$50 and five passports.

A babysitter left with children from the home at about 10 a.m.; when returning at 1 p.m. she found the house had been searched. An unlocked downstairs window was used to gain entry.

- A burglar alarm kept a would-be thief from making off with anything in an Oct. 9 break in at a home in the 9400 block of Blessing Drive. When the alarm went off at about 12:24 p.m., the security company manning the alarm called the homeowner and police.

The garage door had been pried open and the alarm panels had been ripped from the walls, but nothing was taken.

- An identity theft netted more than \$1,000 from a resident in the 300 block of Brisbane Court. In an Oct. 9 report, the man told police someone has used his personal information to charge \$960 from Walmart.com, as well as two prepaid \$50 cards and a charge to Expedia.com for \$649.51.

- An Oct. 9 burglary yielded tool worth about \$1,000 from an unlocked garage in the 3900 block of Fairlands Avenue.

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



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POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Oct. 3

Theft

- 12:36 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive; auto theft
- 1:44 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; theft

Burglary

- 3:53 p.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:24 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Dr and Moreno Ave; DUI
- 11:49 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; marijuana possession

Oct. 4

Theft

- 2:12 p.m. in the 1500 block of

Trimingham Drive; fraud

- 3:02 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft

Burglary

- 4:57 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Auto burglary

- 3:12 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive

Oct. 5

Theft

- 4:18 p.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; shoplifting
- 6:49 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Weapons violation

- 5:00 p.m. at Shorewood Court; possession of brass knuckles

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:05 a.m. at the intersection of Interstate 580 and Tassajara Road; DUI
- 10:46 a.m. in the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 9:34 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; marijuana possession
- 11:24 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; DUI

Oct. 6

Sexual abuse of a minor

- 5:31 p.m. in the 400 block of Division Street

Theft

- 10:44 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 11:00 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

DUI

- 1:02 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue
- 2:38 a.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue
- 11:09 p.m. in the 4000 block of Tassajara Road

Oct. 7

Auto theft

- 11:55 a.m. in the 4000 block of Crest Court

Auto burglary

- 11:20 a.m. in the 7700 block of Knollbrook Drive
- 3:54 p.m. in the 4500 block of Carver Court

Alcohol violations

- 11:44 a.m. in the 4100 block of

Churchill Drive; public drunkenness

- 8:17 p.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 10:36 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive; DUI
- 11:38 p.m. at the intersection of interstates 580 and 680; DUI

Oct. 8

Theft

- 8:51 a.m. in the 5700 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; theft
- 1:56 p.m. at the intersection of Junipero Street and Sunol Boulevard; auto theft
- 3:16 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; fraud
- 4:10 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 9:06 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 1:31 p.m. in the 6400 block of Arlington Drive

Vandalism

- 10:11 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- 2:34 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:03 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; DUI
- 2:35 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; public drunkenness
- 9:34 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession on school grounds
- 4:41 p.m. in the 4100 block of Fairlands Drive; public drunkenness

Oct. 9

Robbery

- 7:34 p.m. in the 3900 block of McKinley Court

Failure to register as a sex offender

- 12:19 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Bernal Avenue

Fraud

- 7:38 a.m. in the 300 block of Brisbane Court
- 9:35 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Burglary

- 12:24 p.m. in the 9400 block of Blessing Drive
- 4:19 p.m. in the 3900 block of Fairlands Avenue

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The Ribovich-Alba family has created a charming home in the simple 1915 dwelling on Rose Avenue at Peters, which has wooden windows, shiplap siding and a practical bungalow floor plan. The bathroom's original clawfoot tub is complemented by tiny vintage tiles and a pedestal sink. A corner of the kitchen provides one of several mini workspaces.

story and photos by **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

Small home reflects family's belief in not wasting space

John Ribovich and Lisa Alba weren't looking for a big house for their family — but it had to be old. “We only looked at houses built before 1940,” John said. “I grew up in a mid-century house.”

They loved their Cape Cod-style bungalow near downtown Oakland, which they'd spent 10 years renovating and filled with their arts and crafts collection. But by 2003 they had two young children and wanted something in a good school district and closer to where they work — Alba teaches the second-third grade at Vintage Hills Elementary, and Ribovich teaches AP English at Milpitas High.

A Realtor brought them to a little 1915 farmhouse in downtown Pleasanton on the corner of Rose Street and Peters before it even went on the market. They immediately



John Ribovich and Lisa Alba with their children Natalya, 12, and Max, 10, enjoy living in downtown Pleasanton. At right: The range and butcher block table surround a counter that wraps around a corner in the kitchen.

saw the possibilities.

They especially loved the formal dining room.

“So many houses are set up like sport bars,” Ribovich said.

With the dining room table the only comfortable place for them all to gather to eat, they spend mealtimes sharing their days with each other and their children, Natalya, 12, and Max, 10. An older daughter, Leslie, 24, is out on her own.

The house is 1,200 square feet, with a living room, dining room, three bedrooms, one bath, kitchen and a back porch they've dubbed the “mud room.”

“We're using every square inch of the house,” Ribovich said, pointing out workspaces and arts and crafts oak shelves filled with books.

“We have a bigger collection of furniture than this,” he added. A lot is in storage.

Ribovich has been collecting antiques for years, and his family never knows what he will bring home or when.

“When I was little he went jogging and came home with a chandelier he found at a garage sale,” Natalya remembered with a laugh. Other finds he had to drive back for included a file cabinet and a bumper pool table.

When you have less space you actually accumulate fewer things and keep everything neat, Alba pointed out.

“One of the secrets to a smaller home is proportional furniture,” Ribovich explained. “Our stuff is oak but it is not massive.”

The home was built by the Fiorio family, which had its Market and Meat Service for over 40 years on the opposite corner. Ribovich said he talked to Jack Fiorio before he died at the age of 88 in June 2010. He asked why the 10-foot ceilings in the living room and dining room had been lowered to 8 feet somewhere along the line and said he had restored them to their original height.

old farmhouse for NEW lifestyle

“Why would you want to do that?” he recalled Jack asking. “That's a lot of work.”

Before 1938 there were no sewer pipes; when they were installed, the house was also enlarged, Ribovich said, making the kitchen bigger and adding a bedroom and the mudroom.

“It couldn't have been more than 700 square feet in its original configuration and didn't have an indoor toilet,” Ribovich said.

John and Lisa had the ceilings in the front rooms raised to their original 10 feet before they moved in, the family recalled. John stenciled around the tops, a decorative touch that draws up the eyes. They placed lace curtains at the windows to allow in light but keep their privacy.

The bathroom still has its first clawfoot tub, and they installed tiny vintage tiles in keeping with the era. It also has its original bead board wainscoting as does part of the hallway and the back bedroom.

The windows and most of the hardware in the home are also original as are the kitchen's black and white Deco tile around the sink. The stove and oven are in the opposite corner next to a small countertop wrapped around a corner and a chopping block.

“Most great meals are cooked in small kitchens,” Ribovich noted.

A desk in the extended part of the kitchen allows for a laptop to do school projects or other paperwork.

“Because there's not room for an office we have these mini workspaces,” John said.

Adjoining the kitchen is the mudroom, which has the refrigerator plus a line of hooks

See **FARMHOUSE** on Page 17





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The small living room is simply furnished with arts and crafts, oak furniture and frames with a medieval manuscript page and two art prints from the early 1900s. The kitchen's Deco counter and sink were added to the home in 1938 when indoor plumbing was added, and the size was increased from 700 to 1,200 square feet.

FARMHOUSE

Continued from Page 15

holding jackets, purses, backpacks, hats and scarves. Ribovich pointed out that he keeps his clothes simple and his wardrobe small but said they would all like more closet space.

"All these coats would be in closets," he said, if they had them.

They said they also would have liked a larger back yard, but there's plenty of room for outdoor furniture with a canopy. They enjoy walking their dog AJ on Main Street,

and Natalya and Max can also play at Veterans Plaza Park on Peters, which backs up to their house.

Their detached garage serves as a comfortable family room, which helps alleviate the crunch and allows room for yet more bookcases and an old oak file cabinet.

The move almost 10 years ago was a challenge, recalled Ribovich and Alba, with the two younger children only 3 and 1.

"It was early November when we decided to sell the bungalow, buy the farmhouse and remake it into an arts and crafts home by

Christmas," Ribovich said.

The "to do" list included installing central heating and air-conditioning; refinishing the hardwood floors in some of the rooms and installing them in others; raising the ceilings; restoring the bathroom; repainting the entire interior; and replacing fixtures and hardware with vintage fixtures where needed.

Ribovich, who is artistic director and resident playwright for the Calaveras Repertory Theatre, attributed his ability to complete the renovations in time to his work in the theater.

"I'm used to doing big projects on a short schedule," he said. "We once did a full production of 'King Lear' with only four short weeks of rehearsal.

"This was my fourth old house and I had a pretty good idea of what needed to be done."

They decided that in their after-work hours, Lisa would take care of the kids and

John would work on the new house. He called upon the expertise of his brother-in-law and also hired professionals. Even before the house was officially theirs, he began to assemble hardware, fixtures and lighting.

"On Dec. 3, the agent handed us the keys," he recalled. "Our first symbolic gesture was to remove the giant home entertainment center that took up a quarter of the living room."

They painted the arctic white kitchen a warm honey yellow, which unified the different parts and make it appear larger. Professionals re-grouted the kitchen tile, reconfigured the bathroom and installed the pedestal sink.

The bathroom was finished Christmas Eve, Ribovich recalled.

"My mother-in-law and I finished the painting on Christmas Day," he added.

"We moved in on Dec. 26, tired but happy." ■



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The art of lighting

How to add design and function to your bathroom



Uplift lights, such as these by Robern, are a good lighting option for around mirrors and vanities. These feature a nightlife option for gentle lighting when making trips to the bathroom.

A bathroom remodel is one of the most-desired home updates; it changes the way you start and end your day and also touts a high return on investment.

Most homeowners focus on a new vanity, sink, tub or toilet. But one of the most-often-overlooked — yet important — parts of bath design is the lighting. Lighting not only affects the ambiance of the room, but also the functionality.

“Most bathrooms have lower quality lighting than a janitor’s closet,” says Andrew Lippman, president of Robern, an industry leader in bath storage and grooming solutions. “And most of those bathrooms have a single recessed light over the vanity. That’s just not enough. Even the most luxurious bathroom is not functioning to its potential if it has poorly planned illumination.”

When it comes to the art of lighting, it’s about function as much as it is style. In addition to selecting a design and finish, keep in mind the role each light will play in the bathroom. By choosing the best lighting and placement, you can transform both the ambiance and utility of the space.

When evaluating bathroom lighting options, ask yourself these questions:

1. How large is the room?
2. What activities occur in this room?
3. How much natural light is in the space?
4. How many lights are in the area?
5. What type of style/design suits the room best?

The bathroom is where most people shower, shave or apply makeup, so consider the importance of task lighting in addition to ambient lighting. According to the National Kitchen and Bath Association, task lighting should be allocated to each functional area of the bath — particularly the grooming area. Task lighting takes into consideration not only the type of light, but also the placement.

Location, location, location

The placement of a light can dramatically affect the aesthetics of the room as well as the functionality. Top-

down lights provide basic general lighting and can add dramatic accents for areas you wish to illuminate, such as architectural details. But a single overhead light directly over the mirror can cause lots of shadows on the face. The same is true for vertical mirror lights too far from one another, which makes it difficult to do common tasks such as shaving or applying makeup. Instead, couple overhead lighting with a vertical light source on either side of the mirror for even lighting across the face.

Vertical task lighting options

If you already have an overhead light source, consider adding vertical task lighting. Lippman offers a suggestion: “Modular lights produce light of optimum quality and color. Shadows are eliminated and visibility improves.”

Some modular lights have a neutral design that works with virtually any cabinet style or bath decor. Energy-efficient, eco-friendly fluorescent bulbs duplicate natural light and last longer than incandescent bulbs. An optional dimmer allows you to control the illumination so you can create task lighting when you’re getting ready in the morning, but also dim to create ambient lighting for a serene atmosphere for an evening soak.

Another great task lighting option for around mirrors and vanities is uplift lights, which are available in pendant and sconce designs and feature a built-in nightlight that is operated by a second wall switch. A dim light source adds an element of safety when you have to use the restroom in the middle of the night without interrupting your partner (or completely waking you up) with a bright light. Excess light can also interrupt melatonin production — an integral part of the restorative process during sleep.

If you are remodeling your bathroom, or simply want to enhance your current design, look closer at the lighting. To achieve both style and function, you’ll want to design with both ambient and task lighting so you can create a space that shines with potential.

—ARA

Halloween decor — more treat than trick

While displaying ghosts and goblins is great for the kids and the standard for Halloween decor, how about getting into the spirit but with a bit more sophistication this year? If you are throwing a Halloween party for those adults who are kids at heart, a spooky holiday theme can still be part of the festivities, but with a touch of panache.

There are many directions you can go with a decoration theme. Certainly there are the colors of black and orange that can be integrated into the decor and the use of pumpkins or candles, which still scream Halloween but can be displayed elegantly.

Gary LaVasser, academic director in Set & Exhibit Design at The Art Institute of California, Hollywood, a campus of Argosy University, says that while everyone thinks of orange and black consider the combination of dark red and black. At Halloween, any time black is used it represents scariness and the dark red can be symbolic of blood.

“For a more sophisticated look, combine dark red arrangements of roses, cover them in black hat veiling so that you see the roses through the veil and tie them together with black satin ribbon,” he suggests. “If you want to go a little further, place the arrangement on an inexpensive black placemat and drip dark red nail polish from a few rose petals onto the placemat. It will look like the roses are bleeding.”

LaVasser also has these tips for alternative but sophisticated Halloween decor:

■ Use vintage Halloween toys from the 1930s, ’40s or ’50s as part of the design. If they are worn they have more character. Combine them with garlands of silk fall leaves available at most craft stores, tree branches or wheat and place on mantels or dining tables.



■ Paint objects black that normally are not this color. For example, jack-o-lanterns are orange so spray them black for a twist on a familiar item. Also consider painting real flowers black. To make objects more interesting, select different black textures such as using matte, glitter, satin, gloss or metallic paints.

■ The colors of fall are rich earth tones and these colors also are associated with Halloween. Add a little “punch” by using a deep purple color. It can be an interesting contrast to oranges and gold tones. Also consider using metallic gold, copper and pewter colors. You can paint leaves or pumpkins with these shades as well.

LaVasser adds that one can look for inspiration among different cultures and how they celebrate certain holidays or Halloween. A Latino tradition is Day of the Dead, observed on Nov. 1-2, which celebrates family and friends who have passed.

“Day of the Dead decor includes folk art, candles, colorful flowers and bright ribbons together with skeletons,” says LaVasser. “This theme offers great options for Halloween.”

—ARA Content

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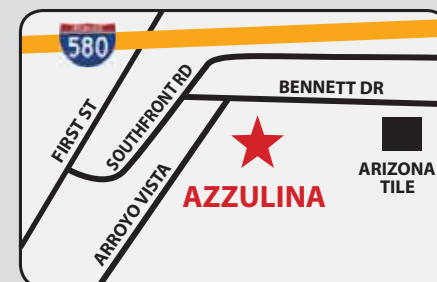
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Fountains bring sounds of serenity

Finish off your yard with works of stone

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The first thing Linda Bourland asks people looking for a new fountain is, "What do you want it to sound like?"

"I always say we sell sound," Bourland said last week among the tinkling treasures at Serenity Stoneworks on Main Street. "That's what makes a fountain peaceful — and exciting."

Some fountains have a gentle pouring sound. Others sound like rain.

Often folks want to buy a fountain to mask another sound, such as traffic, Bourland said. It won't really mask it, she explained, but the ear does go first to the closest sound.

This three-tiered fountain is a best-seller, said Serenity Stoneworks owner Linda Bourland. She has fountains and statuary on display but more can be ordered from catalogs to enhance back or front yards.



PHOTOS BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI



Serenity Stoneworks is located in the spacious rear yard of a house built in 1937 by Joe and Edith Macer, who pictured the lower front room as a place of business. Its purple awnings are distinctive on the south end of Main Street. The venue has been rented out to various businesses, but often in the last 10 years the back patio has been used for gatherings such as afternoon teas and showers.

Bourland, a Pleasanton resident, liked fountains and her husband Larry was a sales rep for a fountain company five-and-a-half years ago when she discovered the outdoor site. She immediately envisioned it as a perfect display area for outdoor furnishings.

"We'd saved money to renovate our kitchen," she said. "But my kids were older, and this place happened upon us."

The kitchen project was put on hold, and Linda and Larry moved fountains and statuary onto the

premises. For a while she rented the front office space to a guitar studio and later a photographer since all she really needed was the back yard.

Having the array of fountains, statuary and outdoor furniture on display helps customers visualize them in their own home settings. They usually place their orders from the many catalogs, with Linda's guidance.

"We call Linda the 'fountain whisperer,'" McKain said. "She's really excellent at what she does."

Amid the fountains are nestled angels, turtles, benches and a Buddha garden with images ranging from six inches to massive.

Some of the fountains are traditional with three tiers off the ground. A few are wall fountains,



and yet others twist and undulate in creative shapes.

"I love the modern style but there is no sound," Bourland said.

Her fountains all come from companies in California that can deliver within four to six weeks. Fountains, statuary and benches are formed in molds made by Italian artisans from the Lucca region. They are poured in place, she said, because otherwise shipping would be prohibitive, and the fountains are hand-finished.

"You can set them up yourself 90% of the time," she said.

Linda's sister Nancy McKain now runs her business, The Bracelet Bar, in the front of the house. To draw Serenity customers in the winter when people aren't focused on their yards, Linda opened Serenity Gifts upstairs.

During the spring, summer and fall, the outdoor premises can be rented for events.

"We've had several weddings," Bourland said. "At one baby shower they floated little rubber ducks in all the fountains."

A 150-year-old pepper tree provides shade and a lovely backdrop to the outdoor setting, which can help people see the possibilities of their own back yards, where a water fountain or other stonework can add up to relaxation and peace: serenity. ■



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

'Dance fest' to raise money for orphans displaced from Burma

Speakers, exhibitions, dance
classes will help
School of Hope in Thailand



BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

A Pleasanton teen is offering something for the mind, body and spirit for those who come out to her Girl Scout Gold Star fundraiser this weekend.

Taylor Zevanove, a 17-year-old senior at Foothill High School, is raising money to help orphans in Thailand after being introduced to them and their plight by her uncle, Bart Broadman.

Zevanove has organized a dance fest and global outreach event to earn her Gold Star, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. Her event is set for 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at Foothill high.

There, participants will hear speakers talking about global social responsibility for their minds, get a chance to take dance classes for their bodies, and boost their spirits by helping kids less fortunate than themselves.

The idea for a fundraiser began in July 2011, when Zevanove began her Gold Star project. She said her uncle was one of the founders of the orphanage.

"The School of Hope, the orphanage, is in a small rural town called Nong Ook, about 10 miles from the Burmese border and part of the Chiang Mai province," Zevanove said. "Nong Ook is about 140 miles from the city of Chiang Mai, which is a major city in Thailand."

She said she was amazed by her trip there over the summer.

"Obviously I had my expectations of what it was going to be like," she said. "I was blown away by how sweet and resilient the kids were."

About 60 orphans, ranging in age from 5 to 17, live at the School of Hope. They're among the thousands of Shan and other minorities who fled Burma because of civil war, forced labor and poverty.

The children, abandoned or left orphaned by the death of their parents — often through working dangerous, underpaid jobs — are at risk of being exploited themselves, in Thailand's notorious sex industry or through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: a School of Hope student dances a traditional Shan dance; Taylor in front of the school's sign, written in Thai, Shan and English; Taylor and two students from the school. Oye, on her lap, is 8 years old and was found begging for food about a year ago and has been at the orphanage since.

human trafficking.

On her visit, Zevanove was able to see the struggles of the orphanage first hand. She said getting there was an adventure in itself.

"We flew from San Francisco to Singapore. From Singapore we flew through Bangkok to Chiang Mai. That part of our trip took up a good part of the day — we left at around 7 a.m. and arrived at our stop in Chiang Mai at around 2 p.m.," Zevanove said. "We had a driver who picked us up at the airport and stayed with us during the entire trip. From Chiang Mai, we drove to Rim Doi, which was about 90 miles away. This is where we stayed at night. We would drive to the School of Hope, which was about 50 miles from Rim Doi."

Zevanove travelled with Broadman, her mother and brother.

"We were in Thailand for four days, which included travel and time at the school. When we were at the school we were there from early morning and into the evening. I am friends on Facebook with several people at the school and we have kept in touch since then," she said.

Although the school lacks basic necessi-

ties, she said, "Ironically, they do have a computer, and Thailand has excellent wireless coverage so email and Facebook are fantastic ways to communicate."

On her way home, Zevanove wondered what she could do to help.

"I noticed a need for sanitation and for a youth health center," she said. "Unfortunately, I don't think my sponsorships will reach that goal. I'm going to have to reassess to make sure the money is used as efficiently as possible. We have sponsors for the dance fest — people have been super generous. We're still collecting donations and at the end of the day that will all go to my project."

The speakers will include two from international charities focused on helping children worldwide. Hallie Pond of Free the Children will speak on "Youth and Global Responsibility" and Marris Vessels of Impact Alliance will talk about "Youth and Being a Leader in Your School. In addition, Rev. Steve Wilde, pastor at the Livermore First Presbyterian Church, will speak on "Giving Back Locally." Nonprofit organizations will have booths so

young people can find out more about their organizations and volunteering.

Zevanove said there will be both dance classes and dance performances, too.

"We will be offering U-Jam and Zumba," she said. "I wanted fun, easy styles that anyone could do and not worry about having experience or skills. Two instructors, Lisa Marie Pena and Laura Higgins, have donated their time, and a Zumba instructor from Zumba Fitness, Raquel Call, is donating her time."

Call will also donate time to teach an adult Zumba class after the youth event. That will cost \$10, and all the money will come back to Zevanove's project.

Also during the event will be performances from Xiaopei Chinese Dance, KalaiKOIL Dance and Arts of India and Bhangra of Foothill, along with Irish dance and Hawaiian dance demonstrations.

More information about Zevanove's event is at a web page set up to promote it, dancefest.eventbrite.com. Donations are tax deductible through Girls Scouts of Northern California, a nonprofit organization. ■





BARBARA MALLON

Left: Rudolfo (David Gustafson) and Mimi (Marie Plette) revive their romantic past as she tries to fight her illness. Right: Dealing with the landlord (Carl King) are (l-r) artist Marcello (Eugene Brancoveanu), poet Rodolfo (David Gustafson), musician Schaubard (Krassen Karagiozov) and philosopher Colline (Philip Skinner).

'La bohème' draws crowds on opening weekend

Outreach by Livermore Valley Opera helps to spread the word

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Check out the opera.

Livermore Valley Opera has been working to spread the word, sending singers into classrooms, libraries and other public venues to give people a taste of what they can expect if they buy a ticket to its performances. The outreach seems to be working.

The opening of "La bohème" on Saturday night at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore drew a crowd. "The main sections of the theater were filled and enthusiastic" at the Sunday matinee, according to Board President Jim Schmidt. Several opera publications sent reviewers; one noted that he is always happy to review performances at the Bankhead with its superior acoustics.

IVO has been presenting operas with professional musicians, stage

directors, principal singers and designers since it began in 1992, performing first at Livermore High School. Volunteers serve as board members, chorus, stage crew and set builders.

With the opening of the Bankhead in 2007, the venue caught up with the quality of the operatic voices.

"La bohème" would be a good first opera experience, as would most choices of LVO, which sticks to traditional favorites. This season opened with "Tosca," and Verdi's "La Traviata" is coming in March.

On Saturday night, the Bohemians in 1830s Paris drew the audience into their lives and loves as they handled their poverty with a light touch. Poet Rodolfo was alone in his attic studio when he was visited by Mimi, a pretty downstairs seamstress who needed a light for

her candle, thus beginning a passionate romance that has echoed through opera halls since its premiere in 1896. The other on-again, off-again love storm was between the painter Marcello and Musetta, a girl of the Latin Quarter.

"Stories of Famous Operas" was published in 1950 with synopses of the major operas so people could familiarize themselves with the action "whether the performance is seen on the stage or heard on radio." Today we also have television and the Internet to prepare for opera performances, plus supertitles run above the stage so audience members can read the libretto as they enjoy the music and the drama.

"La bohème" continues this weekend at 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. For more information, go to www.livermorevalley-opera.com. ■



Operatic offerings

To celebrate the Christmas season, Livermore Valley Opera is collaborating with the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore to offer "Amahl and the Night Visitors." It is also planning an Intimate Musical Evening in a private home on Jan. 26, and A Grand Opera Afternoon on June 2. The full production of "La Traviata" will take place March 9-17.

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THE CITY OF
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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Adopt a resolution approving a combined appropriation from the Citizens' Options for Public Safety Program (COPS) Year 16 Funds and the Police Department's Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds
- Review of Kottinger Place Predevelopment Report and authorization to proceed to Phase II (project development phase)
- Information regarding various options for creating a public body for promoting peace related programs
- Consideration of a General Plan Amendment to the Housing Element to Amend Program 9.1 and Background Section on Potential Governmental Constraints to Housing
- Consider amendment to the Pleasanton Municipal Code Chapter 17.36 Growth Management Program

Housing Commission

Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of City Down Payment Assistance Program and Proposed Modifications to Program Guidelines
- Update Regarding the Status of Housing Element Work Plan Implementation Tasks
- Approval of the Annual Operating Budget for Ridge View Commons for 2013

Historic Preservation Task Force

Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
Operations Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Review the draft local historic context document that was prepared by Consultant (ARG)
- Discussion about future task force meetings and set meeting date for Planning Commission check-in.

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

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



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4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food," "Best Meal under \$20" and "Best Kid Friendly Restaurant," 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.

Author Visits

ARTISTS SIGNING: DAN BRERETON AND CHARTRUZ LOVELACE Meet critically-acclaimed artist Dan Brereton and creator of Cuddle Monsters Chartruz Lovelace at Heroes and Villains Comics, 264 Main St., 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12. For more information, contact Jim Cravens at 399-5352 or visit www.heroesvillainscomics.com.

Classes

COMPUTER TUTORING Need help with downloading E-books from the library to your E-Reader, sending

e-mail attachments, social networking, blogging, general Internet questions? Drop-in classes are from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Mary Luskin at 931-3400, ext. 7. Free and open to all.

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS Learn about the legal and financial matters you need to address following the death of a loved one: requesting death certificates, acquiring titles to property, accessing social security benefits & life insurance benefits, and tax implications. This free class is from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25, at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin. Must preregister.

Call 829-8770 or visit <http://www.hopehospice.com/EDM.html>

visit www.lpfire.org or call 454-2361. 8 a.m.-noon. Free.

Events

11TH ANNUAL ARTWALK Experience the 11th ArtWalk from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at 2400 First St., Livermore. This event brings thousands out to stroll and enjoy a day of art, music, wine and shopping in downtown Livermore. Visit www.artwalklivermore.org.

CARAVEL & OUTCAST WINE RELEASE The event is from 2-7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 at Callippe Golf Preserve, 8500 Clubhouse Dr. Adults only 21 and over. Cost is \$20. Visit www.outcastwines.com.

FIRE SAFETY EXPO In observance of Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 7-13), the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Dept. is hosting a Fire Safety Expo on Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Fire Training Tower, 3301 Busch Rd., Pleasanton. The day kicks off with a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m. with proceeds supporting local charities and the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. For more information,

GENERAL MEETING/BIRTHDAY LUNCH The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California invite you to its General Meeting and Birthday Lunch at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, at Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. Please RSVP to Barbara by Monday, Oct. 8, by emailing hsk-oog@comcast.net. Cost determined by your menu choice.

GREATER TRI-VALLEY REGION NCHRA FALL NETWORKING SOCIAL Join your HR colleagues for a fun-filled evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Rd. Cultivate new relationships, catch up with friends, and enjoy great hors d'oeuvres. Cost is \$35; NCHRA Members are \$25. Contact Denise Granados at 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

STRETCH YOUR LEGS AND 'WALK WITH A DOC' This unique walking program offers you a chance to spend time walking with a doctor, who will answer your questions and provide you support. Put on a

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pair of comfortable walking shoes and come out to the Pleasanton Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr., at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13. For details, call 225-0500. Free.

TRI-VALLEY COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR High school students and their parents can meet with representatives from Community Colleges, CSUs, UCs, Private & Out-of-State colleges; Military & ROTC recruiters; Vocational & Technical Schools from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Granada High School, 400 Wall St., Livermore. Call Danille Mintz at 606-4800, ext. 3520.

Exhibits

INDIAN BASKETRY AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Museum on Main, 603 Main St., is showcasing the traveling exhibit, "American Masterpieces: The Legacy of California Indian Basketry," through Oct. 14. Guided tours are available at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; and 1-4 p.m. Sun. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumon-main.org.

Fundraisers

DANCE FEST AND GLOBAL OUTREACH The Dance Fest and Global Outreach event supports Taylor Zevanove's Gold Award project, which will benefit Thai refugees. The event is from 1:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at

Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Youth ages 10-17 and of all skill sets are invited to earn service hours as they take dance classes, watch performances, listen to outreach speakers, and engage in leadership training. \$12 minimum donation. Call 484-2513 or visit www.dancefest.eventbrite.com.

Health

HEALING TOUCH FOR TRI-VALLEY VETERANS Free Healing Touch sessions for veterans of any military branch are from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Las Positas College. A session can help relaxation, ease pain, improve sleep, focus thoughts and promote overall feeling good. The American Holistic Nurses Association endorses Healing Touch. Space is limited. Contact Vivian at 352-8917 or htfortrivalvets@yahoo.com. Visit www.quantumhealingth.com.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind will be meeting from 1-3 p.m., second Saturday of each month at Valley Memorial Hospital, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

SEMINAR: BACK PAIN--TREATMENT OPTIONS FRO SPINAL STENOSIS On Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:30-8 p.m., Neurosurgeon Ronnie Mimran, M.D., will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments, including many advanced minimally-invasive tech-

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Complete the form at <http://tinyurl.com/Tri-ValleyHeroes>. We are also looking for sponsors for the program and for the individual awards. Please contact Gina Channell-Allen at gallen@PleasantonWeekly.com or 925-600-0840 for information.

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ON THE TOWN ● CALENDAR

niques. The lecture is at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Stenosis is the narrowing of the spinal canal that causes pressure on the nerves in the spinal cord. Symptoms are shooting pain and numbness down the leg. RSVP at 800-284-2878 or visit www.OurSanRamonHospital.com. Free.

WALK WITH A DOC This unique free walking program allows you to spend time walking with a doctor and have questions answered. The next walk is at 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Pleasanton Sports Park, 5800 Parkside Dr. Call 225-0500 or visit www.walkwithadoc.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

DISCOVER GENEALOGY, PLEASANTON Discover your family heritage with help from volunteer docents from the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, who will be at the

Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, and Sunday, Oct. 14. No appointments are necessary. For more details, call Nancy Jones at 931-3400, ext. 7. Free.

JUDY MULLEN: WEARABLE ART TRUNK SHOW Master Quilter Judy Mullen will visit the Amador Valley Quilters, 1:30-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Judy is the winner of a prestigious Bernia Award and is considered a master in "wearable art." If you love quilting, you'll enjoy her trunk show and a lively afternoon. For details, contact Helen Rydbeck at 510-209-1187 or visit www.amadorvalley-quilters.org. Free.

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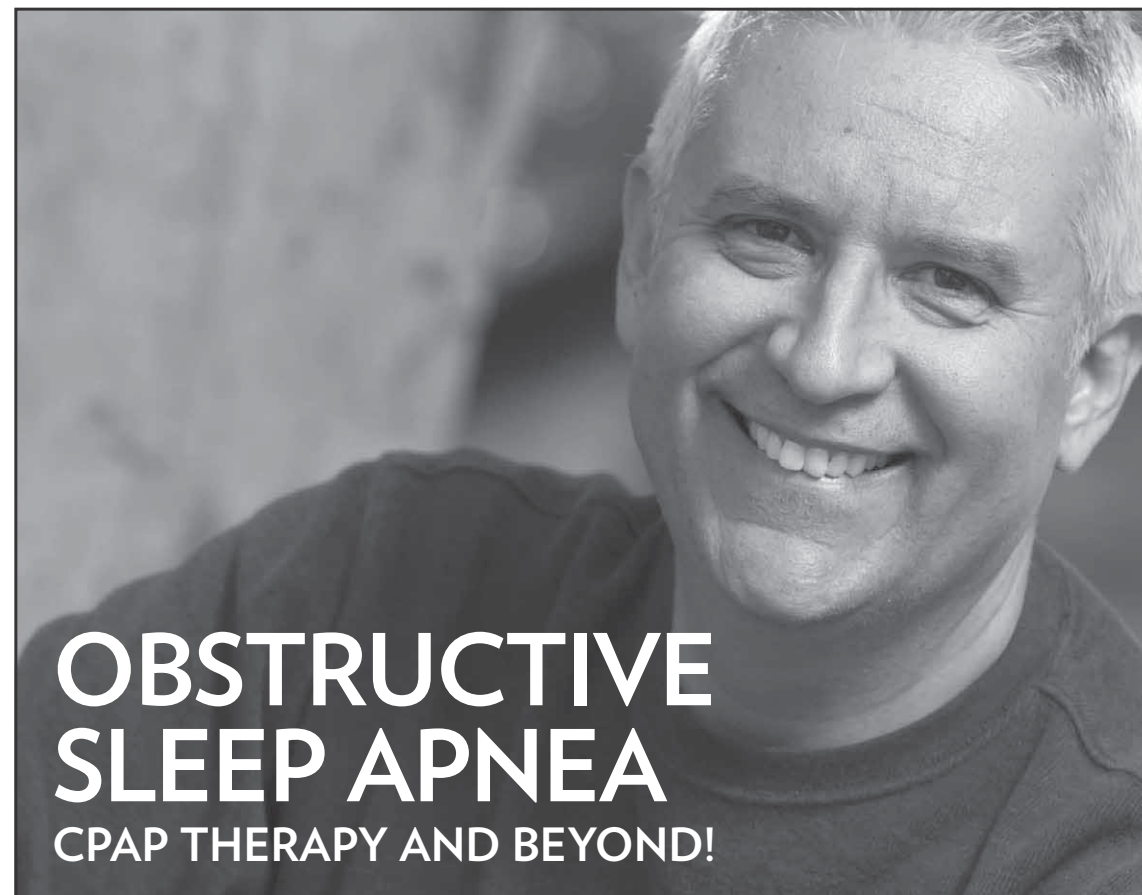
CARPENTERS TRIBUTE "Close To You," a tribute to the Carpenters, comes to the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14. Celebrate the '70s with classic songs and sounds that made this music duo so popular. Tickets for adults \$15,

\$20, \$25; for children \$12; group discounts available. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Sports

LACROSSE REGISTRATION Pleasanton Lacrosse Club (Boys) registration is now open for spring 2013 season for new and returning players ages U9, U11, U13, U15, and HSJV. Register before December 1st and save \$. Tryouts for team placements to be held in early December. Call Alex Pouteau at 353-6503 or visit www.pleasanton-lacrosse.com

TABLES AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE Harvest Park Middle School Cheer have spots available for vendors or service providers at its Holiday Boutique to benefit the cheer program and help send its athletes to competitions this year. The event is from 6-9 p.m., Friday, Oct. 19, at Harvest Park Cheer Holiday Boutique, 4900 Valley Ave. Cost is \$25 for a table. Email Barrie at barrieshaffer@gmail.com.



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Presented by: Chirag Pandya, MD

Date: October 17, 2012

Time: 6:30pm

Location:

ValleyCare Medical Plaza
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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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3834 Orion Court \$988,500
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel, Realtors 251-1111
8113 Regency Dr \$1,325,000
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5 BEDROOMS
463 Montori Ct \$1,070,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200
1368 Bordeaux St \$1,329,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200
3273 Novara wy \$2,925,000
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1743 Spumante Pl \$1,595,000
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Home sales, job creation could rise with sensible lending standards

Realtors say economy would see 'enormous benefits' with safe, sound policies

By JEB BING

New survey findings, combined with an analysis of historic credit scores and loan performance, show home sales could be notably higher by returning to reasonably safe and sound lending standards, which also would create new jobs, according to the National Association of Realtors.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said there would be enormous benefits to the U.S. economy if mortgage lending conditions return to normal.

"Sensible lending standards would permit 500,000 to 700,000 additional home sales in the coming year," he said.

"The economic activity created through these additional home sales would add 250,000 to 350,000 jobs in related trades and services almost immediately, and without a cost impact," Yun added.

A monthly survey of Realtors shows widespread concern over unreasonably tight credit conditions for residential mortgages. Respondents indicate that tight conditions are continuing, lenders are taking too long in approving applications and that the information lenders require from borrowers is excessive. Some respondents expressed frustration that lenders appear to be focusing only on loans to individuals with the highest credit scores.

Even though profits in the financial industry have climbed back strongly to pre-recession levels, lending standards still remain unreasonably tight.

Yun said all it takes is a willingness to recognize that market conditions have turned in the wake of an over-correction in home prices, with all of the price measures now showing sustained gains.

"There is an unnecessarily high level of risk aversion among mortgage lenders and regulators, although many are sitting on large volumes of cash which could go a long way toward speeding our economic recovery," Yun said. "A loosening of the overly restrictive lending standards is very much in order."

Respondents to the NAR survey report

that 53% of loans in August went to borrowers with credit scores above 740. In comparison, only 41% of loans backed by Fannie Mae had FICO scores above 740 during the 2001 to 2004 time period, while 43% of Freddie Mac-backed loans were above 740.

In 2011, about 75% of total loans purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which are now a smaller market share, had credit scores of 740 or above.

There is a similar pattern for FHA loans. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has defined a prime loan as having a FICO score of 660 and above. However, the average FICO score for denied applications on FHA loans was 669 in May of this year, well above the 656 average for loans actually originated in 2001.

Loan performance over the past decade shows the 12-month default rate averaged just under 0.4% of mortgages in 2002 and 2003, which is considered normal. Twelve-month default rates peaked in 2007 at 3.0% for Fannie Mae loans and 2.5% for Freddie Mac loans, clearly showing the devastating impact of risky mortgages.

Yun said home buyers in recent years have been highly successful. Since 2009, the 12-month default rates have been abnormally low. Fannie Mae default rates have averaged 0.2% while Freddie Mac's averaged 0.1%, which are notable given higher unemployment in the timeframe.

Under normal conditions, existing-home sales should be in the range of 5.0 to 5.5 million.

"Sales this year are projected to rise 8-10%," Yun said. "Although welcoming, this still represents a sub-par performance of about 4.6 million sales."

"These findings show we need to return to the sound underwriting standards that existed before the aberrations of the housing boom and bust cycle, and thoroughly re-examine current and impending regulatory rules that may cause excessively tight standards," he added. ■

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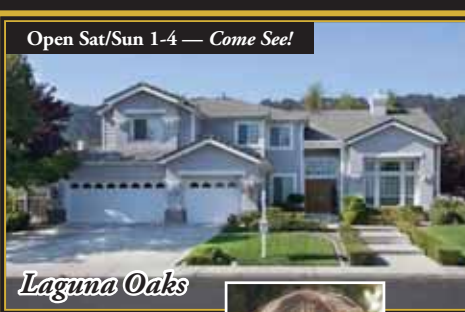


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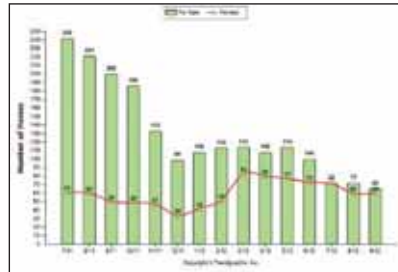
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The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton Market Update - Inventory Falls Again!

After staying flat last month, the inventory of single family detached homes in Pleasanton fell again in September. Homes priced under \$1 million led the decline. Pended sales, surprisingly, were unchanged from August, ending a five month skid. Pended sales were ten units higher than a year ago, while inventory was 135 units lower. I don't think inventory can go much lower, but I have felt that way for the past several months. Something has to give and the fact that closed sales fell 60% from August may be an indication that sales could suffer from limited inventory. Overall, there were 60 homes for sale at the end of September, down about 10% from 72 at the end of August. 60 sales pended during the month, unchanged from August. There was 1.1 months of inventory relative to pended sales at the end of September, down from 1.2 months at the end of August. The inventory of homes priced below \$1 million fell 11% during September, from 37 at the end of August to 33 at the end of September. 47 sales pended in this segment during September down

one from August. Inventory relative to pended sales fell from .8 months at the end of August to .7 months at the end of September. This price range accounted for 51% of Pleasanton's inventory and 80% of pended sales for September, about the same as August.



Pended sales of homes priced between \$1 million and \$2 million increased two units to 12 during September. Inventory fell one unit to 18 at the end of the month. That left 1.5 months of inventory in this >> [Go to www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.



Doug Buenz

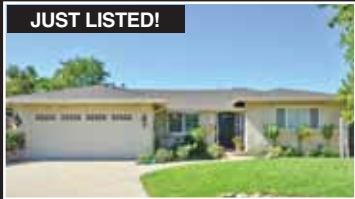
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Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.



JUST LISTED! Fabulous remodeled one story with 4 BR plus huge bonus room, luxurious stone master bath, walk-in closet, hardwood floors, skylights, granite & stainless kitchen, and large end of cul-de-sac lot!! **\$939,000**



OPEN SUN 1-4 20 1/2 CASTLEWOOD DR. Gorgeous Castlewood home with upgrade finishes throughout! 4 Bedrooms plus bonus room, 4 full baths, pool, gated entrance, sweeping views, 3 car garage, hardwood floors, and more! **\$1,479,000**



PENDING SALE! Walk to Downtown! Newer home with 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTHs, new carpeting, new designer paint, gourmet maple kitchen and private yard with stamped concrete patio! **\$619,000**



JUST SOLD! Stunning luxury home with 4 BR plus office & bonus room, 4 1/2 baths, exquisite granite & stainless kitchen. Luxurious master suite, and private 1/3 Acre lot backing to vineyards with views! **\$1,444,000**



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! 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**



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9480 BLESSING DR, PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN THE PRESERVE



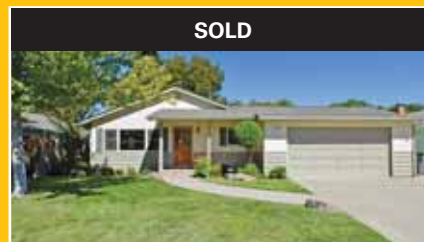
This 193+/- acre privately owned land, known as Blessing Ranch, offers privacy and views. Close to 580/680 interchange. For more information contact the Moxley Team. **\$4,000,000**

7755 COUNTRY LANE
LOCATED IN WEST PLEASANTON



4BD + 1 office, 4.5BA + .5 in Pool House, 4,496+/- sq. ft. on a 38,194+/- sq. ft. lot. This exquisite custom home sits on just under an acre of land. The home offers vaulted open beams ceilings, hardwood floors and sky lights. This one of a kind property backs to a peaceful creek and is privately graced with heritage oak trees. Call for private showing; no public open houses. **\$1,950,000**

4263 JENSEN ST, PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN JENSEN NEIGHBORHOOD



SOLD
3BD 2BA 1,350sf. on a 6,076sf. lot. Single level in highly sought after neighborhood. New carpets & flooring; updated throughout. Close to schools & downtown!
OFFERED AT \$580,000 SOLD AT \$600,000

885 KOLLN STREET, PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN JENSEN NEIGHBORHOOD



PENDING
3BD 2BA 1,728sf. on a 6,000sf. lot. Single level close to downtown and schools. Great backyard for entertaining - pool, spa, covered patio, fireplace and outdoor speakers. **\$595,000**

3456 PALERMO WAY
LOCATED IN AMALFI AT SORRENTO DUBLIN



PENDING
2BD 2.5BA 1,435sf. condo. This end unit offers 3 patios with amazing views. Includes two car attached garage, pool, spa & more!
\$455,000

1479 IRONGATE DR, PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN IRONWOOD ESTATES



SOLD
4BD, 3.5BA, 3,182sf. on a 10,690sf. lot. Newly constructed, single level highly upgraded throughout. Three car garage; spacious and private rear yard.
OFFERED AT \$1,285,000; SOLD AT \$1,285,000

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Dublin Ranch Courtyards
3BD 2.5BA 1,897sf. condo located in the Dublin Ranch Courtyards. Hardwood laminate flooring, built in security system, and upgraded kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counters. Regular sale; call for more information. **\$399,000**

Downtown Pleasanton Home
3BD 1BA 1,139sf. on a 5,040sf. lot. Remodeled 1940's bungalow with new kitchen, bath, roof and landscaping. Call for more information. **\$449,000**

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AVILA

NEW LISTING — OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



5284 ARREZZO STREET, PLEASANTON
Newer upgraded three bedroom, two and a half bathrooms, approximately 1482 square feet "Signature Home." Updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Brazilian Cherry hardwood flooring and new carpet. Recessed lighting, dual pane windows, central air conditioning, & new paint interior/exterior. Private rear yard. Community amenities include pool/spa, clubhouse & playground. Close to BART and 580/680 access and more!
OFFERED AT \$579,500

CUSTOM

NEW LISTING — OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



3834 ORION COURT, PLEASANTON
Quiet court location near downtown, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2800 plus square feet. Lot size is 9074 sq. ft. Highly upgraded custom home, gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances, expansive master suite with retreat, fireplace and upgraded bathroom. Large family room with fireplace, plantation shutters and crown molding. Newer landscaped private rear yard with built-in BBQ, refrigerator, sitting area, fire pit and beautiful stone patios and landscaping!
OFFERED AT \$988,500

PRIMA

PENDING!



176 PRATO WAY, LIVERMORE
Upgraded 5 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, approximately 3325 square foot Centex home. Spacious gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, island, and breakfast bar! Expansive master suite with spa tub and walk-in closet. Plantation shutters, crown molding, custom tile and Brazilian cherry hardwood floors throughout downstairs. Dual heating & air conditioning. Beautifully landscaped front and rear yards, in-ground pool/raised spa and private courtyard area, three car garage with electric gated private driveway. Close to golfing, Ruby Hill Country Club, renewed downtown and adjacent to the Livermore Wine Country!
OFFERED AT \$869,000

OAK LANE

PENDING!



369 OAK LANE, PLEASANTON
Former Friden Estate Hunting Lodge - "Moonlight Oaks." Private Driveway included in this 1.2 acre estate lot in premium wooded, secluded location. This is an entertainers dream home. Extensive use of quality Redwood timber. Recently upgraded, desirable single level with tastefully maintained historic charm. Panoramic views of nature and historic majestic Oaks. Approximately 3800 Square Feet with three bedrooms, three remodeled bathrooms, large gourmet kitchen, and incredible Great room with large Yosemite style fireplace and open beam ceiling. Large basement for storage and detached two-room wine cottage.
OFFERED AT \$1,399,000

DANBURY PARK

SOLD!



1431 GROTH CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
Premium location, two bedroom, two bathroom, approximately 1345 square feet, extensively upgraded single level home with open floor plan, adjacent to park. Kitchen has new granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Bathrooms are upgraded with granite countertops, new plumbing fixtures and hardware. Vaulted ceilings, new window blinds, new tile flooring, private atrium area, & upgraded landscaping. Conveniently located near Downtown, Mission Plaza Shopping Center, Amador Shopping Center, The Aquatic Center, and Amador Valley Community Park.
OFFERED AT & SOLD FOR \$839,500

MURIETTA MEADOWS

SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER



27 ROCKROSE STREET, LIVERMORE
SWEET!!! Stonybrook Estate Home-shows nicely! Great curb appeal-sparkling clean. Hardwood and tile flooring downstairs. Vaulted ceilings in Living room & Dining room. Dramatic circular staircase. Large Master bath with separate shower and tub. Park like backyard with large patio and beautifully manicured lawns. 1 Bedroom/1 Bathroom downstairs. **SOLD FOR \$520,000**

HIDDEN OAK

SOLD!



1010 LAMB COURT, PLEASANTON
Former model home, upgraded throughout, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2029 sq. ft. Built in 1999. Premium 3654 sq. ft. Corner lot. Upgraded contemporary kitchen, adjacent family room, formal dining & living rooms, wood burning fireplace, two car garage, walk to downtown (1 minute walk to main street). Crown molding throughout, dual pane windows downstairs, triple pane windows upstairs (most), upgraded carpeting, dual zone heating & air conditioning, ceiling fans/lights in all bedrooms, two inch wood blinds in kitchen & family room. **SOLD FOR \$640,000**

CUSTOM HOME

SOLD!



6513 ARLINGTON DRIVE, PLEASANTON
Enter this secluded .56 acre estate through the long, private driveway! This mostly single level custom home includes an upstairs spacious second master suite. Five bedrooms, three full bathrooms, and two half bathrooms. Approximately 4003 total square feet, large remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Expansive rear grounds with views of open space and Pleasanton Ridge, includes ten person spa, built-in fireplace, expansive lawn area and stamped concrete & brick patios. Great home for entertaining! Three car garage with adjacent bonus room. **SOLD FOR \$1,130,000**

BRIDLE CREEK

SOLD!



5206 SELENA COURT, PLEASANTON
Check out this double sized lot (.56 acre). Premium private court location for this quality built Greenbriar home (2000), includes 4 bedroom (1 down), 3 baths, and bonus room. Beautiful professional landscaping with in-ground pool/spa in this expansive private backyard including multiple sitting areas, adjacent beautiful Heritage Oak tree, elevated ridge viewing deck. Upgraded gourmet kitchen, with granite counters, marble heated flooring and stainless appliances. Comprehensive audio/video system included. Three car garage. Great home for entertaining! Attendance area for great schools. Walk to Mission Park & Downtown Pleasanton! **OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$1,399,000**

PLEASANTON VALLEY - "BIRDLAND"

SOLD!



2449 MINIVET COURT, PLEASANTON
"The heart of Birdland" Location, Location, Location! Quiet court is walking distance to Wood-thrush Park, all levels of schools, two shopping centers, Aquatic Center & Sports Park! Premium .28 Acre Lot (12,125 sq. ft.) Single Level-4 bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms with 2112 Sq. Ft. "Gatewood" model in excellent condition. Granite countertops in kitchen. Remodeled master bathroom. Expansive front yard with private gated courtyard. Beautifully landscaped! Large backyard, great for entertaining, with in-ground pool/spa & refinished deck!
OFFERED AT AND SOLD FOR \$819,000

LIVERMORE

SOLD!



5598 BERWIND AVENUE, LIVERMORE
Highly upgraded single level home on premium cul-de-sac, 9927 square foot lot! Three bedroom, two bathrooms, with approximately 1500 square feet. Upgraded kitchen and bathrooms, wood flooring and new carpet. Large park-like private rear yard with extensive custom stamped concrete work and custom patio overhead structure with fan. Spacious grass areas, Side-yard access and separated storage area with spacious shed. **SOLD FOR \$425,000**

VALENCIA

SOLD!



5019 RIGATTI CIRCLE, PLEASANTON
Newer upgraded Valencia home. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2321 Sq. Ft. Downstairs bedroom/office (5th). Spacious master suite. Large family room with built-in entertainment center. Formal dining room. Modern gourmet kitchen has granite counter tops, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Community amenities include Club House, Greenbelt, Playground, Pool/Spa, and Tennis Court(s). Close to Owens Plaza Park, BART, & 580/680 access.
SOLD FOR \$825,000





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AND SALES



2561 Glen Isle Ave, Pleasanton
Great open floorplan. 2330+ sqft. plus large loft. 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Hardwood floors, neutral paint décor; stainless appliances. Back yard includes: garden area, pool & spa w/outdoor shower. Please call for a showing. **SOLD at \$705,000**
Multiple offers



1042 Nelson Court
Home is 3179 sqft. / Lot size is 9227 sqft. 5 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, 3 Fireplaces, 3 Car Garage. One Bedroom on Main Level, New Garage Doors. Pool, Nice Court Location. Walking Distance to Schools, Mission Park & Downtown. **Listed at \$925,000**



89 Terra Way, South Livermore
Great home for entertaining! 3325 sq ft, four bedrooms plus loft (5th bedroom option), gourmet kitchen, tons of upgrades, 3-car garage, low-maintenance backyard and courtyard. Call for private showing!
925.918.2045. **Offered at \$875,000**



6872 Heath Court, Pleasanton
ValVista single story on cul de sac. 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. 1372+/- square feet. Updated Kitchen with breakfast bar and office nook. Family Room with fireplace. Covered, stamped concrete patio. Walking distance to park and elementary school. Easy freeway access.
Offered at \$499,000



1405 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton
Immaculate 3 BR & 2 BA Patio Villa, end unit with no adjoining walls to neighbors, 2 bedrooms on the main level, walking distance to downtown. **Pending with multiple offers. Offered at \$375,000**



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3266 Novara Wy., Ruby Hill
Beautiful home of 6,450 sq.ft., 5 BR, 5.5 BA, office & bonus, quality architectural detail throughout, pool/spa and views from this golf course lot. Located on one of Ruby's most sought after cul-de-sacs.
Offered at \$2,690,000



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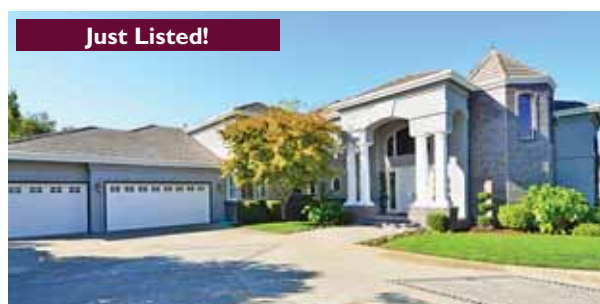
3273 Novara Way - Pleasanton (Ruby Hill)
5 bed/6 bath, 7800 sq. ft. Grand French Estate on .6 acre lot. Exquisite details include Brazilian Cherry and French Limestone floors, beautiful gourmet kitchen, crown molding and wainscoting. Golf course view and rose gardens. **Offered at \$2,925,000**



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Just Listed!
Simply Elegant in Every Way! An opportunity to live in Grey Eagle Estates only comes along once every few years. There are breathtaking views from this custom estate. 4 bdrms, 4.5 baths, two dens, a media rm and over 5000 sq ft. Stunning marble entry, handsome hardwood floors, dramatic iron staircase and handcrafted woodwork throughout. Gourmet granite slab kitchen with two pantries. Master suite with stunning views, dual fireplace, pedestal tub, oversized shower and heated floors. Offered at \$1,725,000
4 Grey Eagle Court, Pleasanton



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& Lisa Sterling-Sanchez**
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1368 Bordeaux St, Pleasanton
Unique 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath home w/ 3,864 sq ft. Home features an amazing custom gourmet kitchen, first floor master suite plus 2 more bedrooms, upstairs 2 additional private bedroom suites, an office, playroom and beautifully landscaped private backyard. Walking distance to Vintage Hills Elementary School. Part of the Kottinger Ranch HOA w/ pool, tennis courts and walking paths. **Offered at \$1,329,000**



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