

Pleasanton Weekly

Holiday Fund to benefit Valley Humane Society » 10



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SEEING Santa

Kids enjoy — or don't enjoy — this rite of passage at Christmastime

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SPECIAL SECTION

HOLIDAY MAGIC **14**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

A holiday off at last for ValleyCare's Dr. Camacho



Dr. Ralph Camacho

Dr. Ralph Camacho, who retires this week as ValleyCare's veteran gastroenterologist, has probably seen more of us from top to bottom than we'd like to admit, but he's also been a lifesaver to hundreds in Pleasanton. Over the last 35 years of practicing medicine, all of it with the ValleyCare Health System, Camacho estimates that he has performed 60,000-70,000 colonoscopies, along with endoscopies, esophagoscopies and all other procedures involving what makes us tick. He must be good at it. His patients keep coming back and even commentators on Yelp write about his gentle touch.

Camacho is more than a medical specialist, though. Early on, he joined committees at ValleyCare when its main medical facility was still in Livermore. He has now served on every panel the hospital has had. Last July, he resigned from the health system's board of directors after two-and-a-half four-year terms. It was during this board service and with his guidance, ValleyCare gained momentum after several financially-troubling years to become the leading regional medical facility it is today.

Camacho was raised in Pittsburg, and then enrolled as an aeronautical engineering major at Cal State San Luis Obispo with every intent of becoming an astronaut. But he was a bit too late. By the time he graduated in 1970, Americans already had landed on the moon and the list of wannabee astronauts was filled. So he switched to medicine, earning a medical degree at UC San Francisco and then completing his residency work at UCLA before moving to Pleasanton. In 1978 he opened a practice on Santa Rita Road and 10 years later, moved his practice into the new ValleyCare Medical Center when it opened.

Camacho chose gastroenterology as a specialty because of its diversity and the chance to provide patients with the care needed for healthy lives. Technology, computer-tracking and advanced scoping systems keep getting better, allowing gastroenterologists with ever-better, closer and more detailed exams of the stomach, liver, pancreas, colon, esophagus and other abdominal pathologies. Not long ago, colonoscopies, part of this specialty, were seldom discussed and too often avoided, Camacho says, often to the

regret of patients who waited too long for the procedure. He credits TV news personality Katie Couric for broadcasting her own colonoscopy with helping to alleviate the public's fear over the process.

Camacho insists that anyone who is 50 should have a colonoscopy; anyone older should have had one by now. To bolster public awareness, Camacho and his colleagues at ValleyCare even hold annual Walks for Colonoscopies in Livermore, and ValleyCare's promotions have helped encourage more patients to have the procedure done.

Medical practices have changed since Camacho first started his. Back then, he would spend 80% of his time with patients. Today, it's the reverse, with as much as 80% of his time required to prepare, review, prescribe and discuss insurance and regulatory issues concerning his practice. That will get worse as state and national monitoring efforts and computer links increase. Even pharmacies will soon be involved, providing lists of patients' medication to a national monitoring service that will determine if there's a conflict in what's being prescribed or too many drugs being handed out that could lead to overdoses.

Looking ahead, Camacho and his wife Sue, who also has worked in the practice, are planning to travel in Europe, taking their time to look up long lost relatives in Italy, where her family roots are, and Spain, Camacho's ancestral home. Extended trips away from Pleasanton most often haven't been possible because while his office closes at 6 p.m., patients with any kind of pain call after hours and he always rushes off to the emergency room to see them if there's real trouble. It's those frequent 16-hour days that led the Camachos' son and daughter, now in their 30s, to choose different careers with regular work hours. This Christmas, the family will all be together in the Camachos' Pleasanton home with no phones ringing to disturb the gathering. ■

About the Cover

Jax Rodriguez, 2, is obviously thrilled to meet the big guy in red as he and "monkey" visit Santa at ValleyCare Charitable Foundation's annual fundraiser at the Palm Event Center. His parents, Steve and Lisa Rodriguez, reported that when Santa asked Jax what he wanted for Christmas, he enthusiastically replied: "A lollipop!" Design by Lili Cao.

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What are your fondest Christmas memories?



Logan Dye
High school junior

Going skiing at Tahoe with my friends and family during Christmas week.

Bob Jolly
Retired attorney

When I was growing up in Alameda my grandmother lived downstairs in an old Victorian home with her son, and my mother, aunt and I lived upstairs. My fondest memory is coming downstairs on Christmas morning and the pleasure I had in watching my grandmother open her gifts and her joy in having all of her family there.



Dick Waldo
Retired local mayor and council member

When I was a kid in Bismarck, ND, it was too cold to go outside and build a snowman, so we stayed inside and opened presents around a big tree in the living room with lots of ornaments and lights. The tree always came from Minnesota, because there were no pine trees around Bismarck.



Jennifer Harrington and daughter, Hanna
Third-grade teacher

Listening to John Denver music in Colorado with my mother. Every Christmas we would go to Aspen and she'd play the music.



Mannie and Tom Shaffer
Retired UC Santa Cruz professor and business owner

When I was in the Marines my buddy and I were traveling in a snowstorm near Gastonia, NC, on Christmas Eve in 1945. We got stuck on a road. There were no hotel rooms available in town, so a city policeman offered us a jail cell to sleep in. It was warm and comfortable. Although it was Christmas in jail, it was better than being stranded in a car in a snow storm.



—Compiled by Stan Wharton

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

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DIGEST

Sales tax going up

Due to voter approval of Proposition 30, the statewide sales and use tax rate will increase one quarter of one percent (0.25%) on Jan. 1.

The higher tax rate will apply for four years — Jan. 1, 2013 through Dec. 31, 2016.

For more information on this increase and a listing of tax rates, visit the California City & County Sales & Use Tax Rates webpage.

Gasoline prices dropping

Gas prices in the Bay Area and across the state continue to fall in December, with every metro area in Northern California registering a decrease at the pump since last month, an American Automobile Association spokeswoman said.

According to the AAA, California's average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.62, down 23 cents since mid-November. The average Bay Area price was \$3.71, down 27 cents over the same time period, according to the AAA. Overall demand is expected to remain low into 2013.

The highest-priced gas in the Bay Area was in San Francisco, where motorists paid an average \$3.83 per gallon. The lowest was in Vallejo, where a gallon averaged \$3.49.

Walgreens to pay \$16.5 million for violations

An Alameda County Superior Court judge has ordered the Illinois-based pharmacy company Walgreen Co. pay \$16.57 million as part of a settlement for apparent environmental violations.

Together, 42 state district attorney offices and two city attorney offices filed a lawsuit against the pharmaceutical company in June in Alameda County for illegal waste disposal and improper handling of confidential medical information.

The lawsuit was led by dozens of state and city offices including the district attorney's offices of Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Monterey and San Francisco counties. The lawsuit claimed more than 600 Walgreens stores statewide unlawfully handled and disposed of various hazardous waste and materials for more than six years.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Pickering leaving Alameda County Fair for top Cal Expo post

By JEB BING

Long-time Alameda County Fair CEO and Bay Area Boy Scout executive Rick Pickering has been hired as the new general manager of the California State Fair, also known as Cal Expo.

State fair board directors made the announcement Tuesday, saying Pickering has accepted the offer to replace its current director Norb Batosik, who will retire Dec. 31. Pickering, 54, will start his new job Jan. 2.

Pickering has headed the Alameda Fair for 14 years in a period that saw the fair's remarkable growth and after its low point when a gunman opened fire on fairgoers during a crowded Independence Day fair. Fireworks, which drew tens of thousands to the fairgrounds each July 4, were canceled, although fireworks returned to the fair on a Friday night before Independence Day several years ago.

Former Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart, who now chairs the Alameda County Fair board of directors, will start the search for Pickering's replacement.

Named by Amusement Business Magazine as

"One of the Most Creative CEOs in America," Pickering has served as the Alameda County Fair's leader in a period that has drawn more than 3 million annual patrons to the Fairgrounds with some 300 events each year. The fair, itself, is recognized as one of the "Fastest Growing Fairs in North America" with a 44% increase in attendance over the past four years alone.

Home to the "Oldest One Mile Horse Race Track in America," the county fair's horse racing activity grew to a \$1 million a year business unit. The fair also has earned a record number of regional, national and international industry awards.

As CEO, reporting to a 26-member board of directors, Pickering has increased operating revenues by more than 150% and has become a sought-after international expert on fairs and festival management.

Pickering began his career as assistant city manager of the city of Cerritos after graduating from the University of Southern California. He also gained executive management experience with posts in Manhattan Beach, then Torrance,

then Costa Mesa, handling labor relations and negotiations, land use and redevelopment planning, media and public relations, political relations, and, at one time, serving as an interim director of public works.

While the CEO at the Alameda County Fair, he also was selected chairman of the board of directors of the California Fairs Alliance in Sacramento and since 2002 has served as president of the Western Fairs Association. Pickering also is the past president of the California Authority of Racing Fairs, past president of the California Fairs Service Authority and, from 1994 to 1998, was deputy general manager of the Orange County Fairgrounds.

He is also the president of the board of directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Council of Boy Scouts, a position he has held since 1999. The father of Boy Scouts, Pickering used to go on overnight camping trips to the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton and regularly appears in a Scoutmaster uniform during Memorial Day and other events in Pleasanton. ■



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Sarah finds a silver lining

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When Sarah Banholzer, 10, visited the Smithsonian Gift Shop this year she spotted an ornament made of recycled magazines. Since she loves crafts she bought the ornament to duplicate. As the season approached, Sarah had the idea to make lots of the ornaments and sell them to benefit Children's Hospital Oakland; after further brainstorming she decided to buy presents for the kids that have to be in the hospital on Christmas Day.

Sarah knows what it's like to be in the hospital. At age 5 she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia and endured 16 months of treatments, which succeeded in putting the disease into remission. Today her health is excellent. "She does everything a 'normal' kid does — swims on a swim team, plays on a softball team, enjoys spending time with her friends and such," her mom Teri said. "We are so very grateful to Children's Hospital Oakland for all that they did to help Sarah beat this."

Sarah, with some help from her parents Teri and John, created more than 250 of the ornaments, which she sold along with hot cocoa Dec. 8-9 from a stand in front of their home



on St. Mary Street. Having raised more than \$1,000, she went shopping last weekend, filling three carts high with toys to bring to the hospital this week. "Hopefully we can bring a smile to these children's face with a special gift for them," Sarah and Teri wrote in an email. ■

PUSD officials: Schools are safe

Emergency procedures in place

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

In the wake of last week's school shooting in Connecticut, the Pleasanton school district and school administrators are doing their best to let both parents and students know that schools here are safe, both physically and emotionally.

Counselors were at schools across the district on Monday, offering emotional support for students who may need to talk about their reaction to the fatal shooting of 20 students and six teachers in Newtown, CT. They've also reached out to staff members.

"There was a need," said Hearst Elementary School Principal Michael Kuhfal. "There were counselors available for staff, there were counselors available for students."

He said school counselors and others were on hand to provide information to parents asking what their kids should be told, and how to deal with children asking questions. Pleasanton is lucky, Kuhfal said, because many other district in the state have let all their counselors go to balance budgets.

Kuhfal said parents in general should not allow their children to watch TV programs that have covered the mass killing. For kids who find out about the school shootings and ask questions, he said parents should acknowledge that it occurred, but should stress that they are safe.

"Yes, there was a tragedy, but the bad guy's gone," he suggested parents might say. "Turn it into a positive, that kids are safe."

Kuhfal said most direct contacts he had with parents over the last week were from them offering words of encouragement.

"I think parents know I'm going to do what's best for Hearst," he said.

Kuhfal has a thick binder filled with school safety procedures. While the Pleasanton Weekly has agreed not to disclose the specifics, Kuhfal outlined them generally, explaining that every school in the district has a similar plan.

All schools do drills every month, and those include fire drills, earthquake drills and shelter-in-place drills — such as those needed in a chemical spill. He said Hearst had already planned an intruder drill in January, but he added a second drill will probably be held before the end of the year.

See SAFETY on Page 8

Special election set for May 7 to fill vacant Pleasanton Council seat

Lawmakers also want to shift back to appointment option to save money, time

By JEB BING

Voters will be asked to choose another candidate for the Pleasanton City Council May 7 in a special election that will be by mail-in balloting only.

The vote is necessary to fill the council seat vacated by the election of Jerry Thorne to the mayor's post last Nov. 6.

Because of a change in the city's Municipal Code a decade ago, vacancies on the council must be filled by election, not appointment as used to

be the law. Earlier this month, the City Council indicated it wants to return to that system and asked city staff to prepare the necessary legal procedures for doing that.

The mail-in ballot will cost \$250,000, a fee charged by the Alameda County Registrar to conduct the election. That's still \$100,000 under what the county would charge for a traditional election where voters could choose between a polling place or the mail to cast their ballots.

The balloting-by-mail process

also can be done about a month faster than an election with polling places that could not be held before June. As it is, the winner of the May 7 election won't be seated on the council until June 4.

It's not clear how a mail-in ballot will affect turnout in the May election. Although a record-high 47% of all voters who cast ballots in the Nov. 6 election mailed theirs in, a majority, 53%, still preferred going to the polls. That 47%, City Manager Nelson Fialho pointed out, was not

only the highest percentage of voters in Pleasanton, but also in any city in the county.

The council had the option of changing the code now to allow for an appointment of someone to fill the vacant council seat, but that would have required an ordinance change, public hearings and time allowed for an appeal, putting the appointed council member in office about the same time that an elected one could be seated.

"I think we should move ahead as

planned this time, but start the process that would allow future councils to appoint someone rather than require a special election," said newly-elected Councilman Jerry Pentin. "For me, to spent \$250,000 for a mail-in election or \$350,000 for a regular one doesn't make sense when we are trying to find money for projects and capital improvements."

Fialho said the nomination period to be on the May 7 mail-in ballot will open Jan. 14 and close Feb. 8. ■

LFPD deputy chief retires

Moorhead will continue to serve the community by teaching at Las Positas

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Deputy Chief Jane Moorhead has retired from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department after almost 18 years of service.

In all, she has spent nearly 34 years of public service. Although leaving the department, where a ceremonial final roll call was held this morning, Moorhead plans to continue doing one of the things she loves by teaching future firefighters and paramedics at Las Positas College. She has taught EMT, Paramedic and Fire Science programs at both Las Positas and Los Medanos colleges.

Moorhead is a Bay Area native. She grew up in Oakland and attended Oakland High School and went on to complete a bachelor's degree in Forestry at UC Berkeley.

She began her public service career in 1979 as a park ranger for the East Bay Regional Park District, and eventually joined the district's fire department where she became one of two EMTs at the time.

Moorhead became interested in a firefighter-paramedic position thinking that it seemed like "the best job in the world," she said.

"This job covers the gamut," she said. "It's fun and exciting and if

you're an adrenaline junkie, that's good. It's also giving to the community — we're all servants at heart."



Jane Moorhead

Moorhead completed Paramedic School at the Foothill/Stanford pro-

gram in 1989 and was hired by the city Benicia Fire Department.

In 1995 she returned to Alameda County, joining the Livermore Fire Department as a Firefighter-Paramedic. She was promoted to Captain in 2001, to Battalion Chief in 2006, and to Deputy Chief in 2010.

Throughout her career, Moorhead has been heavily involved in training with an emphasis on EMS and Wildland Firefighting.

She completed the California State Fire Marshal's Master Instructor program in 2000 and is a member of FEMA California Task Force and the East Bay Incident Management Team.

Moorhead is married to Bob Heady. They reside in Dublin with their certified therapy dog, Kylie.

She and her husband enjoy cycling, hiking and kayaking and are avid world travelers.

Having summers off will allow the pair a chance to do more traveling. While she has already visited all seven continents, Moorhead and Heady plan to pack their truck and their dog to drive the Alaska Highway.

"It'll be good to not have to be any place at any particular time," she said.

The two also hope to finish a long-standing goal of visiting every major league baseball park in America. They've hit many of them so far, but large areas — including Texas and much of the South — are still on their agenda.

"We still have a ways to go," she said. ■

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Robbery team may be behind recent string of holdup and holdup attempts

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Pleasanton police suspect a crew is involved in a string of holdups and holdup attempts in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore.

Two robbery attempts were reported Dec. 13, one in Pleasanton at about 12:20 at a Rite Aid pharmacy in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road and, minutes later, at Safeway in Dublin.

A Rite Aid employee told police a lone man entered the pharmacy and presented a note claiming to have a gun and demanding narcotics. The staff did not comply and the suspect fled the store on foot.

The suspect is described as an unshaven white male in his early 30s, 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighing 130 to

140 pounds. He was described as having a very red facial complexion and was wearing a light brown jacket and brown beanie cap.

The Dublin store was locked down for about an hour, from about 12:40 to 1:40 p.m., after the pharmacy was robbed, witnesses said.

A Salvation Army volunteer outside the store said police told her to move her kettle and stay away from windows during the lockdown.

As of about 2 p.m., technicians from Dublin police were still on the scene processing evidence.

"They got some prescription medications, some Norco and a different derivative of Oxycontin, Percocet," said Dublin Lt. Steve Brown.

He described the suspect as 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 5 inches tall, weighing around 200 pounds.

Police now believe that at least two men are involved in the pharmacy holdups and holdup attempts, because witness descriptions are varied.

"The descriptions are too different," said Pleasanton police Sgt. Kurt Schlehner.

Two similar robbery attempts took place on Dec. 12, also just minutes apart. One occurred at about 6:15 p.m. at the Lucky pharmacy at 6155

W. Las Positas Boulevard.

In that incident, a lone suspect also presented a demand note for narcotics and claimed to have a gun. That suspect also fled without getting any drugs. As with the Dec. 13 incident, no weapon was seen and no one was injured.

The suspect in that holdup attempt was described as an unshaven white or Middle Eastern man, 30 to 40 years old, about 5 feet 8 inches tall and 190 lbs. He was wearing a blue shirt and gray sweat pants.

That holdup attempt came minutes after a similar robbery attempt at about 6 p.m. at the CVS pharmacy on Regional Street in Dublin.

No weapon was seen and no one was injured in any of the incidents.

Pleasanton police are working with police from Dublin and Livermore to determine if the attempted robberies are related to recent similar crimes in those jurisdictions.

Police have received some tips, but so far, none have panned out, Schlehner said.

"When one agency gets a break, they'll share it with us and that'll help us solve the case," he said.

Anyone with information about these crimes is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 951-5100. ■



Rite Aid suspect



Lucky's suspect

SAFETY

Continued from Page 5

With easy access to pretty much any school in the district — none

of them are locked, for example — Kuhfal said it's not so much a matter of keeping strangers out as it is protecting children.

"If someone wants to do some-

thing, they're going to find a way to do it, so we have to react," he said, pointing out the gunman in Connecticut shot locks off doors.

There are special teams, for safe-

ty, search and rescue and first aid, to name three. There are backups in case a staff member can't be contacted or is off school grounds. There are backpacks and fanny

packs with supplies in in different parts of the school.

"Every staff member has a role in a drill. If an intruder happens, they know to get kids to a safe place," Kuhfal said. "We also have a system in place to account for every student (in case one is out of the room, such as using a bathroom)."

And he said the Pleasanton police department, which comes to some school drills, has given Hearst a thumbs up.

"Police going down halls here amazed how quiet it was," Kuhfal said.

The shooting has echoed across the state, with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and education leaders in California, sending a letter to President Obama.

"Our state Department of Education and Emergency Management Agency jointly asked California's schools last week to immediately begin reviewing their safety policies, and they are doing so. And in schools across California today, teachers, administrators, and classified employees are reassuring students and parents that our schools remain safe places," the letter says. "(We) are also prepared to heed your call for a wider national conversation about school safety."

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), author of an assault weapons ban that expired in 2004, announced she will introduce updated legislation early next year.

"On the first day of the new Congress, I intend to introduce a bill stopping the sale, transfer, importation and manufacturing of assault weapons as well as large ammunition magazines, strips and drums that hold more than 10 rounds," Feinstein said.

She said she's been working on the bill for more than a year and that it will focus "on the most dangerous guns."

Kuhfal said the district has an opportunity to study what happened in Connecticut to increase school safety here.

"We learn from the other situation to make sure we have procedures in place," he said. "This is a safe school, and it's my job to make sure kids are safe, not just physically safe, but mentally safe, too." ■

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

We need your help

With Christmas approaching, what better time is there to consider also turning your thoughts to supporting local nonprofit agencies and services that care for those in need not only during the holiday season, but year round.

The Pleasanton Weekly 2012 Holiday Fund offers that opportunity. The contributions you provide will go to Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Valley Humane Society and ValleyCare Health System, as well as to Hope Hospice, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, REACH, Sandra J Wing Therapies and Senior Support Services of the Tri-Valley.

This year we are partnering with Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), which will handle all finances related to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. That will allow donors to take advantage of a tax deduction for the dollars they contribute through the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status. SVCF and the Pleasanton Weekly will handle all costs of the campaign. That means that every dollar will go directly to the 10 nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

Each of these nonprofits desperately needs a financial boost. Despite a modest economic recovery in the Tri-Valley, these are still-troubling times with unemployment in Alameda County, alone, at more than 8%. Needless to add, the so-called "fiscal cliff" is adding to uncertainties for these nonprofits as well as for all of us. In addition, the agencies we have targeted for assistance have found that they now have many more to serve as well as fewer dollars from their own regular donors who have found themselves at times facing financial, employment and health care challenges and uncertainties.

Last year, when the state of the economy was perhaps even more dire, Pleasanton Weekly readers rallied to the call and contributed \$104,000 in direct donations to the Holiday Fund. Help us do it again. Because Silicon Valley Community Foundation is handling the finances of this year's Holiday Fund, donations should be made payable to that organization and sent to:

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund
c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
2440 W. El Camino Real, Ste. 300
Mountain View, CA 94040

There is also an opportunity to donate through Pay Pal online at www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund.

All donations will be acknowledged shortly after being received. ■



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



LETTERS

We must stop culture of death

Dear Editor,

As I walked the sidewalk in front of Pleasanton's downtown shops on a gloomy Saturday afternoon, parents were holding their children just a little tighter than usual. Their hugs were a bit longer. Their brows appeared more furrowed.

I wondered how those parents explained to their kids the tragedy that had occurred the day before at another small town across the country in Connecticut. A town much like Pleasanton that had survived so innocently for years had suddenly been violated.

The grief of the nation envelopes us. Is this the America we know? Or is this some stranger that has invaded America? Has our culture deteriorated so much that we slaughter our young?

This shared grief will remain with us for some time. Mourning takes years. The healing process can take a lifetime. Does America still have a lifetime? We all need to look deep inside our very souls and resolve to change this culture of death. We must come together and help those in need, those with serious psychological problems. We must stop ignoring the problem and instead solve it. We must examine our culture and decide if we can still support it. If not, we must agree to change it. Can we afford anything else?

Victoria Emmons

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

Happy Holidays
From Our Family At
Valley EyeCare Center
To Yours

Jonathan Savell, M.D., Michael Gagnon, M.D.
Kala Swamynathan, M.D., Gina Trentacosti, O.D.
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Holiday Fund helps animals bring joy to everyone

Valley Humane Society has programs that share the love

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Thanks to the Valley Humane Society, dog lovers who can no longer have pets receive visits from canines who bring them companionship and joy.

In the Canine Comfort program, dogs go with their handlers to visit people in battered women's shelters, the veterans hospital, senior housing, and at Alzheimer's and other long-term care facilities.

"Just a small amount of interaction increases their spirits and their health," said VHS Executive Director Melanie Sadek. "Alzheimer's patients sometimes start talking about the dogs they had when they were little."

Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton is recognized and admired for the care it gives animals while looking for their forever homes. Perhaps less well-known are the programs it runs to enrich people's lives with animals.

The Canine Comfort Pet Therapy teams are certified through VHS but its involvement doesn't stop there.

"We cover them for all their liability insurance, they report their hours, tell us where they've been, we supply the vests and do everything," explained Sadek. "It's an incredible partnership."

Its pet therapy teams also work with Paws to Read programs at six libraries in the Tri-Valley including Pleasanton's, which was the first to partner pooches with children learning to read.

"The dogs are non-judgmental reading partners," Sedak noted.

VHS also works with Hope Hospice on two programs, a pet grief support group, and caring for the pet of a person who is receiving end of life help.

"When someone goes into Hospice care, if they don't have relatives to care for their pet, we have volunteers who go into their home," Sedak said.

After they die, if no one in family can take the pet, VHS brings them into its system and adopts them out.

"We've been doing this for quite awhile," Sedak said. "Our last case was a golden retriever. We went in and walked the dog every day."

VHS also has a food program to make sure that people undergoing financial hardship are able to feed their pets.

"Last year we distributed more than 20,000 pounds of food," Sedak said. "We partner with food pantries that serve the low-income."



COURTESY VHS

Join the Valley Humane Society in helping all of its pets find their "home for the holidays."

This helps people keep their loving pets, which is good for them — and good for shelters. The food is donated by individuals as well as Safeway, Pet Food Express, Murphy's Paw and other outlets.

Valley Humane Society also partners with Meals on Wheels, giving the drivers food for clients' pets.

"We found that they would feed animals part of their meal," Sedak said. "You can imagine how important this program is if you have seen a dog eat yellow curry chicken."

Since the meals are portioned based on a person's health needs and dietary requirements, it is important that the food not be shared, she added.



COURTESY VHS

Roy Chrisman is soothed by a dog visiting the veterans facility in Livermore with Valley Humane Society's Canine Comfort Pet Therapy. Such programs are helped by the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund.

Donations to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will help pay for these valuable program of the Valley Humane Society, which has an annual budget of \$550,000. Except for the Maddie's Fund Adopt-athon in June, which yielded \$63,000 for VHS, it raises its own money with its Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour each spring, and Paws in the Park, a pledge-driven dog walk, in the fall.

Valley Humane Society finds homes for every pet it takes in. A few stay a long time. Some develop health problems, which can be a big expense.

"We had a cat named Joey whose front leg needed to be amputated; that was \$3,300 for one animal," Sedak said.

Another needed thyroid and radiation treatment. When a schnauzer had to get a titanium plate recently, they held a special fundraiser.

As Christmas approaches, the cheery facility in Pleasanton is busy with people wanting to adopt dogs and cats.

"We do our best to try to get as many animals as we can into new homes for the holidays," Sedak said last week. "Right now we're probably at about 55 to 60. And my veterinarian technician came in to tell me that municipal shelters are calling — they're impacted like crazy by dogs. They have two to three to a kennel. We've got to get those dogs new homes."

"It's a myth that you shouldn't adopt during the holidays," she added. "A survey just came out last year that said 60% of animals were a gift. If parents want to come in and get a puppy for their child for Christmas, they are the primary caregivers, there is no difference."

Last week Sedak was waiting for 10 puppies from Tri-City Animal Shelter in Fremont. The state does not require a holding period for those under 8 weeks old without mothers so they can be euthanized immediately, she explained, and volunteers will bottle feed very young puppies and kittens. Such animals are susceptible to illness, which wreaks havoc with her budget.

"We really rely on the community for volunteers and for donations," she said. "We have fosters and about 500 volunteers. Over 120 of those are pet therapy volunteers. The rest all volunteer in some capacity in the shelter. It is the power of volunteers that keeps the shelter running — their dedication is unbelievable."

For more information about Valley Humane Society, visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org, telephone 426-8656 or drop in at 3670 Nevada St. Meanwhile, make a donation to the Holiday Fund. ■

Holiday Fund donors

So far in the 2012 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 239 donors have contributed \$46,546 to the fund.

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local non-profit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the ninth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

We are pleased to announce that this year we will partner with Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will provide all the administrative support for the campaign at no cost. As before, the Pleasanton Weekly will donate marketing services, as well as advertising space. This means that all money raised can support the people in our community.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.

The following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund.

Scheduled to receive 75% are:

- Axis Community Health
- Open Heart Kitchen
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation
- Valley Humane Society
- ValleyCare Health System
- Hope Hospice

Receiving the other 25% are:

- Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
- REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) for special adults of the Tri-Valley
- Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley



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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

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Credit card gifts may be made at:
www.siliconvalleycf.org/pleasantonweeklyholidayfund



seeing Santa

Kids enjoy — or don't enjoy — this rite of passage at Christmastime

It's a tradition: Clad the kids in their holiday finery and trot them down to the mall or other venue to pose with Jolly Old St. Nick for a Christmas photo.

Babies are stunned by the experience. Young toddlers are terrified. Then comes the age when they are in awe of the magical man from the North Pole as they share their wishes.

Pictures sent in by our readers this year chronicle all these stages of seeing Santa — and the magic of Christmas. We hope you enjoy the pictures — and that Santa fills your stocking with wonderful things.

—Pleasanton Weekly staff



Bailey Cano, 6 months, meets Santa for the first time. She's a frequent visitor to the Tri-Valley to visit grandma and grandpa.

Landon and Blake Kenney, the sons of Bill and Julie Kenney, enjoy meeting kindergartner and Blake is a third-grader at Walnut Grove Elementary.



Tyler Tarpley, 8, comforts little sister McKenna, 19 months, while brother Tanner, 5, is all smiles. The boys attend Hearst Elementary School.



Who is this? What is this? Camille Ryan, 10 months, patiently inspects her new friend in color-coordinated red and white while enjoying the feel of his furry sleeves. She will be visiting relatives in Pleasanton on Christmas Eve.



Ashley Luckinbihl, 8, a student at Valley View Elementary, enjoys the huge gingerbread house at Castlewood Country Club



Last year's cover boys, JJ and Lucas McNamee, visit with Santa again at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Lucas, 6, is a first-grader at Donlon Elementary and he would love to get his front teeth for Christmas. JJ attends Gingerbread preschool.



Sarina Mandal, 8 months, and sister Neela, 3, visit Santa at Stoneridge Shopping Center with their parents Oanh and Sanjit Mandal. Neela goes to Quarry Lane Preschool.



Dutch, an obedience school dropout who lives with Thomas Painter, meets Santa at the Valley Humane Society fundraiser.



This classic old photo is a favorite of the Miller family, with Colin showing none of the toughness he displayed on the varsity football field where he played as a sophomore at Amador Valley High. Sister Kayla is now a freshman at University of Arizona.



Santa, 11-year-old Taylor Potter and Wally enjoy their visit at the Danville Livery where all donations benefit Animal Rescue Foundation.



Lizzie, 7, visits with Santa at Coffee Ali in Pleasanton. She is the daughter of John and Lisa Loundagin and is a second-grader at Alisal Elementary.

g Santa at the Hebert's annual holiday party. Landon is a



Giselle Tracy, 2, enjoys a trip to the Santa Cruz Mountains to cut down a Christmas tree, searching for Santa in a hollow log. Giselle is now 8 years old and lives in Austin, Texas, with her dad Dan, who grew up in Pleasanton, her mom Erin, and her brother Tyler.



Lexie Lozano, 8 months, meets Santa for the first time at Stoneridge Shopping Center, with her cousins, Karlie Rocha, 3-1/2, and Kaylee, 5. Lexie's parents are Jay and Katie Lozano; Karlie and Kaylee's parents are Ken and Keri Rocha. Karlie attends Gingerbread Preschool, and Kaylee is in kindergarten at Donlon. The photo was submitted by proud Grandma Patty Frankson.



Meeting Santa in Disneyland the week before Thanksgiving is the Kvistad family, all huge Giants fans: parents Erin, and David, 9, Daniel, 9, and John, 6, who attend Valley View Elementary School.



Kylie Olson, 8, talks to Santa at The Grove in Los Angeles with her new doll, Caroline, that she just got at American Girl in the mall. Kylie, the daughter of Kim and Gary Olson, and a third-grader at Vintage Hills Elementary, requested an underwater camera from Santa to take photos and videos of her friends, family and her dog, Bodie.



The Newman kids, ages 6, 4 and 1, just weren't into Santa that much in 1999 when they visited him at Stoneridge mall. Now Sarah, a 2012 Amador Valley High grad, attends University of San Francisco in the School of Nursing; Parker (being pushed into place by mom) is a junior at Amador and was shown catching the football recently on our sports page; and Garret is an eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School and a musician. Another son, Kyle, who was just a twinkle in his parent's eye in 1999, is a fourth-grader at Vintage Hills.



Marcus Johannesson (above) and Alexander Johannesson (left) enjoy meeting Santa at the East Bay YMCA Breakfast with Santa.



Betsy Sedlak (second from left) enjoys Father Christmas with her friends (l-r) Maimann Moller and Krista Hasemeyer at Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. Betsy, the daughter of Mike and Merry Sedlak, graduated from Foothill High in 2008 and UC Davis in 2012, and is now playing professional volleyball in Europe for Fortuna Odense Volley in Odense, Denmark.



Peace & Joy

Christmas memories

'All 10 of us children rushed under the tree to see what Santa brought'

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

You can't miss Mary Tange, 88, when you enter the Pleasanton Senior Center. She volunteers as a greeter, sitting at a desk facing the front entrance to cheerfully welcome everyone and guide them to their destination.

Although Mary lives very much in the present in a spacious home in Pleasanton, where she moved 12 years ago to be near family, her face lights up as she remembers her girlhood on a farm outside Ashtabula, Ohio.

"It's 60 miles outside Cleveland, on Lake Erie," she explained. "I had nine siblings. There were six brothers in a row, then me, then three sisters in a row."

Their last name was Naebauer. Her father was from a wealthy German family and had been sent to America in the early 1900s to escape the war in Europe.

"My father was very strict," she recalled.

Her mother was born in Massachusetts and was a midwife.

"I asked my mother why she kept having

children and she said because she wanted girls," Mary said with a laugh.

Born in 1924, she clearly remembers her family producing all their own food during the Depression, growing what they needed and raising cows and hogs in addition to the chickens.

"We traded for the things we needed," she said. "We had our own smokehouse, for the hog, and everyone wanted fresh eggs."

The children had a stand by the road to sell their apples although they mainly wanted to make sure they didn't go to waste.

"First we put up a sign that said 'Free' and no one wanted any. Then we put up a sign that said '1¢' and people bought them," she said.

Mary recalls the abundance of flour sacks in their home, which her mother used to make their bloomers and other clothes. They each had one pair of shoes for school "and our Sunday shoes."

"My mother baked. She was Hungarian and Polish," Mary said. "We lived down a hill and we would smell my mother's baking



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Mary Tange, 88, a greeter at the Pleasanton Senior Center, remembers growing up on a farm outside Ashtabula, Ohio.

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Peace & Joy



and run down that hill."

Her father worked at a place that made pitchforks, hoes and other implements, and two of her brothers were employed by the WPA.

Mary relishes her memories of life on the farm and the holidays. They would decorate their tree on Christmas Eve.

"Most of the things on the tree were hand-made," she said. "We had a forest behind us where we cut the tree down."

They walked a mile to midnight Mass since they didn't have a car, and she recalls with a laugh how they would run home afterward.

"When we got home, presents would be under the tree. We all got only one thing. The girls got a doll and the boys got sleds. My father made the sleds."

Her father also created a clever sled for them to use on the grassy hill behind their house during the summertime.

"We couldn't touch the presents until we were all in the house. Then we all dove under the tree to find our name," Mary recalled. "I tore the paper off to find my doll."

When it snowed, her father would dig them out of the house, she said. And the kids walked through the snow to the bus stop.

"I don't miss that at all," she said. "But I would run and play in the snow — I was a tomboy."

When she was in third grade her father lost his job, they either lost or had to sell their farm, and her family moved into "the city," Ashtabula.

"It was a terrible experience," Mary remembered, shaking her head. "It took me one year to eat an egg; I was used to fresh eggs from our own chickens."

The house was smaller, too, with four little bedrooms upstairs. Since all the children were still living at home, they removed walls on the second floor to make two large rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls.

In high school it wasn't easy having six older brothers.

"There were several boys I liked but my brothers said, 'Don't touch my sister,'" she recalled. "But I did go out, in a group."

After high school she went to business college and moved to Cleveland with a friend.

"The Salvation Army had a home away from home," she said. "It was \$10 a month, with breakfast and dinner."

She shared a room with another young woman named Mary and it became confus-

ing because they were both blond and had the same name.

"They started calling me Nae," she said, a name that stuck.

She met her husband Vince when he was attending podiatry school; they came to California on their honeymoon to visit his mother and sister.

"His mother talked him into signing up at the school of podiatry in San Francisco. When we got home he was notified he was accepted. We packed up the car and came back," she said.

"I was homesick for a year. Then I went back to visit and I couldn't take the soot and the cold. When you hung out the clothes they'd be stiff as boards."

She and Vince lived in San Bruno for 50 years and raised their two sons, who now live in Petaluma and Pleasanton. Her four grandchildren are 27, 25, 23 and 21.

"Three boys and one girl," she said. She's the only survivor of the 10 siblings; two of her brothers died in World War II.

Ten years ago the Naebauers had a reunion and more than 100 showed up, she said.

Mary Naebauer, aka Nae Tange, is a long way from the farm, but she's a smiling pres-



ence at the Senior Center, where she also ran the poker games for many years. Childhood memories are wonderful but she's enjoying being in the here and now. ■

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Keeping memories fresh

Photos still worth a thousand words

Cell phones are great to capture the moment as are digital cameras, with photos easy to sort, send or share. But some of us still like to tuck our memories away in a photo album or scrapbook.

If you don't own a high quality printer, it's easier than ever to make prints at any drugstore chain with only a few seconds to wait. The trick is not to let the photos accumulate, especially in the case of a new baby. Make prints often and tuck them away immediately in an album or frame.

A fancier way to document memories is to create a special scrapbook. This hobby has become so popular that "scrapbooking" is now a recognized word.

The Pleasanton scrapbooking store near Raley's has closed but Michael's in Dublin or Richard's in Livermore and Alamo have large sections with scrapbooks, pages and accessories plus helpful personnel. Classes are held periodically for everyone from beginners to enthusiasts wanting to share new ideas.

Scrapbook Expo is taking place at the

Alameda County Fairgrounds from March 15-16, with national manufacturers and local retail stores selling scrapbook supplies to the public. This year's event will feature four crop parties and technique filled workshops.

Organizers promise something for every skill level and area of interest so it's a chance to be introduced to scrapbooking or to learn the newest and hottest techniques. Workshops will share everything from new designs, color and layout basics to artistic embellishing, using unconventional materials.

Class descriptions and times will be posted at www.scrapbookexpo.com about two weeks prior to the show's pre-registration date. Workshops will include supplies, and will be one to two hours in length with varying prices. Preregistration is advised.

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—Pleasanton Weekly staff



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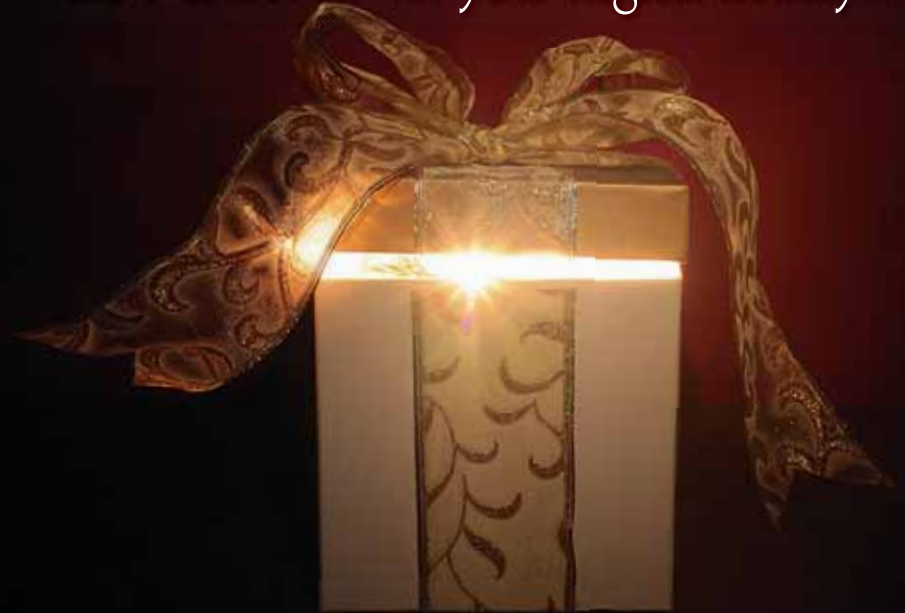
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POLICE BULLETIN

Stores draw holiday crime

Stoneridge Shopping Center seemed to be the go-to place for criminals over the last few days, with at least seven crimes committed at the mall or nearby, according to police reports.

Five shopliftings were reported between Dec. 13 and Dec. 16, all of them misdemeanor cases.

In addition, a backpack with \$5,000 in cash was stolen from a vehicle parked at Stoneridge Shopping Center between 7:45 and 7:50 p.m. Dec. 14. Also taken was a \$50 iPhone and the backpack containing the cash, worth \$45.

At about 7:31 p.m. Dec. 14 \$2,000 Apple Macbook Pro and a \$250 leather jacket were stolen from a car parked in the 1000

block of Stoneridge Mall Road at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

In addition, an Apple laptop worth an estimated \$1,300 and a \$30 backpack were stolen between 10:30 p.m. Dec. 16 and 9:20 a.m. Dec. 17 from a vehicle parked at the Medical Center of Stoneridge in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road. Windows were smashed in all three incidents.

In other police reports:

- Stoneridge Mall was not alone in drawing crime. Dominique Myrtaa Ewig, 23, of Oakland, was arrested at Walmart on Dec. 18 for felony death threats and two misdemeanors, for giving false identification to police and for failing to leave the store when ordered to do so.

Ewig was known to store se-

curity. When he attempted to return items without a receipt, they ordered him out of the store. He refused, then threatened to kill the loss prevention officer who followed him to his car. The incident took place at about 4:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive.

- In other holiday-related crime, Christmas gifts worth \$404 were reported stolen Dec. 18 from a home in the 1800 block of Halcyon Way. Also taken was Christmas trim worth \$42. The items were taken between 7 p.m. Dec. 12 and 8:52 p.m. Dec. 18 from an unlocked garage.

- Jesus Alvarado Medina Jr., 25, a transient from San Jose, was arrested at about 1:40 p.m. Dec. 14 in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road for false imprisonment of an elder or dependent adult, a felony, and battery, a misdemeanor. Medina refused to let his girlfriend leave with her children.

- Rashad French, 20, of San Jose, was arrested at about 12:15 p.m.

Dec. 14 on a warrant for felony theft and for giving false identification to police. French was arrested in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive.

- Shawn Everette Lemelle, 28, of San Jose, was arrested at about 12:19 p.m. Dec. 14 for forgery and receiving stolen property, both felonies, in connection with a vehicle stolen at a residential burglary in San Jose. Lemelle was arrested in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road.

- Jesse Allison, 29, of Pleasanton, was arrested at 10:57 a.m. Dec. 13 for felony threats.

- Roselia Martha Banta, 19, of Pleasanton was arrested at 2:10 p.m. Dec. 18 in the 4400 block of Clovewood Lane on a felony warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

- Cooper Allen Eisenmann, 19, of Pleasanton, was arrested at about 4:39 p.m. Dec. 13 for possession of a controlled substance for sale, paraphernalia possession and for committing a felony while

on bail.

- A \$400 laptop, two BMW key fobs worth a total of \$600, a \$100 gold coin, a \$50 watch, and a \$50 iPhone were stolen in a burglary a home in the 5900 block of Corte Arboles, reported at about 9:08 p.m. Dec. 13. Entry was made through an unlocked rear door to the home.

- A Dec. 12 burglary netted \$400 cash from Fastenal in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle. Access was gained through a rear door; there was no sign of forced entry. The incident was reported at 9:32 p.m.

- A Pleasanton woman received an unpleasant surprise when Comcast's collections department contacted her. The resident of the 4100 block of Cid Way discovered someone had opened an account in her name and ran up a bill of \$971. That was reported to police at about 9:41 a.m. Dec. 14.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 12

Robbery

- 6:18 p.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

Theft

- 10:31 a.m. at the intersection of Via de la Cruz and Hansen drive
- 12:37 p.m. in the 7400 block of Aspen Court

Burglary

- 9:32 p.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle, commercial burglary

Battery

- 9:07 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:46 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; drug violation
- 8:50 p.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Circle; public drunkenness

Dec. 13

Robbery

- 12:36 p.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

Theft

- 9:03 a.m. in the 4900 block of Mohr Avenue; fraud
- 9:59 a.m. in the 2200 block of Via Espada; fraud
- 3:24 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Burglary

- 12:05 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; commercial burglary
- 9:08 p.m. in the 5900 block of Corte Arboles; residential burglary

Auto burglary

- 9:45 a.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road

Threats

- 10:55 a.m. in the 3300 block of Muscat Drive

Battery

- 9:11 p.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive

Vandalism

- 3:32 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:29 a.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; public drunkenness
- 4:26 p.m. in the 7400 block of Hillview Ct; paraphernalia possession
- 6:23 p.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 6:25 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 8:59 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- 11:51 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

Dec. 14

Fraud

- 9:41 a.m. in the 4100 block of Cid Wy

Burglary

- 7:31 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 11:51 a.m. in the 4200 block of Churchill Drive

Alcohol violations

- 12:35 a.m. in the 1600 block of Orvieto Court; DUI
- 1:25 a.m. in the 1700 block of Spumante Place; public drunkenness
- 11:09 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hacienda Drive; DUI

Dec. 15

Rape

- 2:20 p.m. in the 4100 block of Francisco Court

Vandalism

- 4:30 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:29 a.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 12:36 a.m. in the 1000 block of Shadow Hills Ct; public drunkenness

- 7:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

- 11:31 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Ave; possession of methamphetamine

Dec. 16

Fraud

- 11:21 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:40 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 2:39 p.m. at the intersection of Paseo del Cajon and Calle Enrique; paraphernalia possession
- 5:41 p.m. at the intersection of Golden Road and Calle Enrique; paraphernalia possession

Dec. 17

Theft

- 10:55 a.m. in the 3100 block of Half Dome Drive; fraud
- 1:09 p.m. in the 3200 block of Northampton Court; fraud
- 4:47 p.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive; theft from structure

Vandalism

- 9:01 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Dr and Springhouse Dr
- 9:14 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

Dec. 18

Theft

- 3:45 a.m. in the 3300 block of Arbor Drive

Burglary

- 8:53 p.m. in the 1800 block of Halcyon Court; residential burglary

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TOWNE CENTER BOOKCLUB The club meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenter-books.com for the current selection.

Classes

COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE Cheza Nami is presenting a Community Drum and Dance Circle from 6-9 p.m., Sundays through Dec. 30, at Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Jam with them in a family-friendly, community-building drum circle facilitated by Phil Didlake and learn what African drumming is all about. Donations are accepted. Call 398-3827 or visit www.chezanami.org.

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.

Clubs

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION The Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, meets at 10 a.m., the second Saturday of each month Sept. through May. It is a social gathering and time to explore the history of our American roots. For more information contact the chapter's regent Diane Groome at dggroome@comcast.net.

MOM2MOM Mom2mom is for all moms, regardless of their children's ages, to see moms of all ages connecting with one another much like the Titus 2 women. They meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at Harvest Valley Christian Church, 3200 Hopyard Rd. Childcare is available. Call 484-2482 ext 121 or email valerie@harvestvalley.org. Free.

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

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

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

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415, Pleasanton. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Exhibits

ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Animal lovers of the Tri-Valley are sharing their collections with the public in Museum on Main's exhibit, Animal Attractions, through Sunday, Jan. 20. The exhibit features selected treasures from nine local collectors. Museum on Main is at 603 Main St. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. 1-4 p.m. No admission, but donations appreciated. Call 462-2766 or visit curator@museumonmain.org.

Fundraisers

CALENDAR BENEFITS OPEN HEART KITCHEN Sue Evans Photography has created a desktop calendar that highlights the beauty of the

Tri-Valley area, and sales benefit Open Heart Kitchen. Contact Sue Evans at 989-4113 or sueevansphotography@comcast.net for more information.

Holiday

MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR The Moscow Boys Choir will be at the Bankhead Theater on its "Christmas Around the World" tour at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, with traditional melodies, folk songs and Christmas classics from many countries. Tickets range from \$43 to \$63; \$14 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org. The theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

SEND THEM 'HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS' All the cats and dogs at the Valley Humane Society, 3570 Nevada St., want to be home with YOU for the holidays. Find yourself a warm and fuzzy critter to snuggle with and enjoy discounted adoption fees. "Home for the Holidays" runs through the month of December, during normal adoption hours. Closed Tuesday, Dec. 25. For details, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Kids & Teens

EBSPCA WINTER ANIMAL CAMP Take some time for yourself during the busy holiday season and let your child (grades K-5) join the East Bay SPCA's Winter Animal Camp for up to three days of activi-

ties, animals and all-around fun at the Dublin Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Dr. Sign up online at www.eastbayspca.org/camp. For more details, call 479-9670.

Live Music

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ELVIS! The Firehouse Arts Center celebrates Elvis Presley's birthday weekend with The Early Elvis Tribute Show, featuring returning hit group Jim Anderson & The Rebels, on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25; child \$12; senior \$22; group discounts available. Purchase your tickets at www.firehousearts.org, 931-4848, or at the box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Miscellaneous

FREE SANDBAGS TO PLEASANTON RESIDENTS The city of Pleasanton reminds its businesses and residents it has free sandbags to those who are concerned about flooding. Residents can pick them up at the city's Service Center, 3333 Busch Road, anytime; the bags are located in the parking lot under a brown tarp. For residents only, NOT contractors seeking sandbags for their work sites. If you see flooding, call the city's Operations Services Department at 931-5500 or the Police Department at 931-5100.

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Christmas Eve, Monday December 24
3 p.m. Nativity service and Holy Eucharist for young children.
5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant
8:30 p.m. Prelude with String Quartet, Organ, and Flute
9 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with the Amador Valley High School String Quartet

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25
11 a.m. Festive Choral Eucharist

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4:30pm Family Worship: A service for families with favorite carols and a children's message

8:00pm & 10:00pm Candlelight Communion Worship: A traditional Christmas worship, with candle lighting, carols and brass

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of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit www.amazon.com/shops/pwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

On Stage

AN EVENING WITH GEORGE BURNS The Museum on Main's 2013 Ed Kinney Series, "An Evening With..." kicks off at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8, when Broadway actor Duffy Hudson portrays George Burns. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students and teachers. Call the museum at 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.com. The lecture series takes place at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Political Notes

CULTURAL PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE Applications are being accepted for Pleasanton's Cultural Plan Update Steering Committee and are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main St., or can be downloaded at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Applications are due by 4:40 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 27. For details, contact Michele Crose at 931-5347 or mcrose@cityofpleasanton.gov.

Seniors

BRAIN MATTERS Enjoy a morning of fun while learning how to

keep your brain active and your memory sharp. The class is held from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Word games, puzzles, challenging activities, reminiscing and more, geared to help you age-proof your mind. Cost \$1.75 for resident and \$2.25 for non-resident. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

FREE MEMORY SCREENING FOR SENIORS Caring Solutions is sponsoring free memory assessment on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Call 556-4511 for a 30-minute appointment. Preregister by the Monday prior to reserve an appointment. Informational materials are available at the Senior Center.

SENIOR LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM You have a history and a story to tell. Would you be willing to share your story with the local community in a casual setting like a high school, museum or senior center? For more information about this program, email rficken@cityofpleasantonca.gov or stop by the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

WALKING SOLE MATES Join the Pleasanton Senior Center as we kick off our new walking group. Get out and meet new people while walking the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail with them. Meet at the staging area or register to ride over on Paratransit. Contact the Senior Center front desk at 931-5365. 8:45-11 a.m.

Wednesdays Free. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. 931-535. www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org

Spiritual

CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. CLARE'S Celebrate Christmas Day at 11 a.m. Dec. 25 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Festive Choral Eucharist. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. CLARE'S Celebrate Christmas Eve at 3 p.m. Dec. 24 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Nativity Service & Holy Eucharist for young children. 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant. 8:30 p.m. Prelude with String Quartet, Organ and Flute. 9 p.m. Festive Choral Eucharist with Amador Valley HS String Quartet. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT LYNNWOOD Join Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., on Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. (families) and 7:30 p.m. or 9 p.m. (traditional) for candlelight, choir and carols. Nursery available at 5 and 7:30 p.m. services. All are welcome. For details, call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnwood.org.

HOLIDAY SERVICES Special speaker Rev. Karen Epps will speak about "Birth 2012: An Awakened Humanity" on Sunday, Dec. 23,

"Sacred Light, Sacred Life" at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 24 and "Turning Resolutions into Realities" Sunday, Dec. 30. Sunday services are at 10 a.m. at Unity of Tri-Valley Church, 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

SUNDAYS OF ADVENT Celebrate Advent at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, on Sunday, Dec. 23. Holy Eucharist 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

Sports

WINTER BREAK SPEED/ACCELERATION/JUMPING CAMP Middle school and high school athletes are invited to the Foothill High School Track, 4375 Foothill Road, on Wednesday, Jan. 2 - Friday, Jan. 4, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. This camp will focus on running form/skills/technique work and proper stretching and warm-up. Cost is \$100. For details, call Jorge Quero at 209-7520 or visit www.foothilltrack.com.

Support Groups

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional

Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. View their blog at www.eastbayet.com or call 487-5706 or email eastbayet@comcast.net.

GRIEF WORKSHOP The grief workshop is at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, from Dec. 13-March 24, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

Volunteering

BECOME A LITERACY TUTOR Pleasanton Library's Project Read (400 Old Bernal Ave.) needs volunteer tutors to help adults with English skills. Project Read supplies the workbooks and study guides; you supply the energy and creativity. For more information, contact Penny at PennyJohnson@CityofPleasantonCa.gov or call 931-3405.

LIONESS SEEK NEW MEMBERS The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. The Lioness are a service club which helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543.

HOLIDAY DINING

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Christmas Specials

Rancheria Buffet

Christmas Eve Seasonal menu with Holiday favorites
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Dinner 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$16.95

Christmas Day Special Holiday buffet
10 a.m. to 8 p.m. \$26.95

Lone Wolf Restaurant & Lounge

Christmas Eve Seasonal menu with Holiday desserts and cocktails

Christmas Day Special Prix Fixe Menu - \$39.95
Please call (209) 223-WOLF (9653) for reservations

Margaret's Cafe & Bakery

December Bakery Specials include Tres Leches Napoleon and Sweet Potato Praline Cheesecake

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140 Lost & Found
LOST CAT (reward!)
 Hello! Our beloved 2 year old Tabby cat disappeared near Ovella Way in Ruby Hill on Dec. 3 around noon. She is an indoor/outdoor cat and usually returns home before dark. She is about 8 lbs and has a pink collar with a black bow (though she could have lost it by now). She is also microchipped. We are offering \$200 for her, no questions asked. If you find her, please contact us at 925.487.6656 or 925.487.9199. We miss her dearly and are worried sick!!!



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 Ballistic United Soccer Club. Register players, coordinate club activities, manage AGCs. Visit www.busc.org.

Part time after school help for kids needed!
 Needed a part time caregiver to help with kids after school Monday - Friday 4 - 7 pm in Pleasanton. Assist in taking them to activities and some homework.

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751 General Contracting

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 It is illegal for an unlicensed person to perform contracting work on any project valued at \$500.00 or more in labor and materials. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500.00 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.



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 The following person(s) doing business as: In Charge Office Solutions, 1068 Glenn Common, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Emma Calkins, 1068 Glenn Commons, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant(s): Emma Calkins. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 12, 2012. Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 21 & 28, 2012 and Jan. 4 and 11, 2013.

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Robert Decker aka Robert W. Decker, Robert Walter Decker Case No.: # RP12655600

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Robert Decker, also known as Robert W. Decker. aka Robert Walter Decker. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: Janice E. Decker in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. The Petition for Probate requests that: Janice E. Decker be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 2, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept. #201, Probate Division of the

Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA, 94704.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ Alexandra Gadzo, 2600 El Camino Real, Suite 412, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650)321-3050 Pleasanton Weekly Dec. 7, 14, and 21, 2012

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TAKE US ALONG

Self portrait:
 Nicole Leyman and her Weekly pose at Lake Geneva, Switzerland, with the French Alps in the background.

PET OF THE WEEK

Energetic Cobb

Cobb, also known as Gobble, came into the East County Animal Shelter during Thanksgiving week. He is a young adult hound maybe pointer mix. He is a fairly energetic boy that loves to run after a thrown ball or go for a long walk. He is not such a happy boy being confined to a small kennel in a shelter, but his volunteer friends try and get him out for some socialization and exercise as much as they can. His freckles are adorable and he loves to flop on his back for a belly rub. If the sweetness of a hound dog is something you are considering, come down to the shelter at 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin and ask to meet Cobb.

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

Survey shows home buyers more optimistic about market

25% say prices will rise in one year; 41% think it will take 5 years

By JEB BING

In a sign of an improving housing market, California home buyers are more optimistic about the housing market now than they were three years ago, according to the California Association of Realtors' "2012 Survey of California Home Buyers."

More home buyers this year believe that home prices will rise, with 25% saying prices will rise in one year; 41% saying they will rise in five years; and nearly three-fourths of buyers (73%) believing home prices will rise in 10 years. This compares to only 8%, 35%, and 60%, respectively, in 2009, when the question was first asked.

The survey also found that the mortgage interest deduction is extremely important to home buyers across all income levels and age groups, with 79% of all home buyers saying that the mortgage interest and property tax deductions are "extremely important" in their decision to purchase a home.

When broken out by income levels, the findings were similar across all income levels, with 80% of those earning less than \$100,000 annually; 78% earning between \$100,000-\$199,999;

and 81% earning more than \$200,000 annually saying the deductions were "extremely important" in their buying decision.

When broken out by age group, the deductions were equally important to Generation Y, Generation X, and baby boomers, with 76%, 82%, and 80% indicating that mortgage interest and property tax deductions were "extremely important," respectively, when deciding to buy a home.

"It's clear that home buyers at all income levels and ages value the tax deductions associated with purchasing a home," said CAR President Don Faught of Pleasanton. "The mortgage interest deduction plays an important role in buyers' monthly budgeting. Without this tax advantage, housing affordability would be negatively impacted and potentially price out many would-be buyers."

Additional findings from CAR's "2012 Survey of California Home Buyers" include:

- Buyers also cited price decreases (45%), the desire for a better location (12%), and favorable prices/financing (11%) as reasons for purchasing a home.

- None of the buyers felt that prices would drop in the future, which echoes

a jump in the consumer confidence index from 37.38 in January 2009 to 73.7 in November 2012.

- In a sign of tighter lending standards common today, buyers experienced extreme challenges in obtaining financing. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being extremely difficult, buyers rated their difficulty in obtaining financing at 8.5 on average, up from 8.0 in 2011.

- Higher down payments are the norm for the market these days, with buyers putting an average of 25% down on their home purchase. The average down payment has been higher than the traditional 20% since 2009, when the question was first asked.

- 93% of buyers obtained a fixed-rate loan, up from 84% in 2011, reflecting buyers' need for certainty as the market gets back to basics.

The 2012 CAR Home buyer survey was conducted by telephone with 800 people statewide to measure their perceptions of the home buying process. Eligible respondents all closed escrow on their new homes within the six months prior to August 2012. For the full report on the survey findings, contact carmenh@car.org. ■

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

404 Old Orchard Ct **\$448,500**
Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Livermore

2 BEDROOMS

173 Heligan Ln **\$450,000**
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$890,000
Average sales reported: \$575,100

Livermore

Total sales reported: 25
Lowest sale reported: \$130,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,435,000
Average sales reported: \$491,660

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 20
Lowest sale reported: \$205,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,324,500
Average sales reported: \$663,325

Source: California REsource

Happy Holidays

May your Holiday celebrations be blessed with family and friends.

Prudential California Realty
4725 First St. #150, Pleasanton

| | | | | | | | |
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Prudential California Realty also has offices to serve you in Brentwood, Castro Valley, Discovery Bay, El Dorado Hills, Livermore, Los Banos, Oakland, Oakley, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, Redwood City, San Francisco, San Ramon, Tice Valley, Tracy and Walnut Creek.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during December 2012

Dublin

- 8672 Beverly Lane** P. Schaffer to T. Halim for \$620,000
- 3725 Central Parkway #27** T. Kwan to K. Cheng for \$555,000
- 5502 Crestridge Terrace** Hendershot Trust to H. Xiong for \$840,000
- 7116 Cross Creek Circle #A** C. Diaz to S. Yu for \$220,000
- 3590 Cydonia Court** KB Home to T. Wang for \$869,500
- 5425 De Marcus Boulevard #305** G. Behan to V. Jain for \$310,000
- 3385 Dublin Boulevard #142** A. Wain to S. Rajamahanthi for \$400,000
- 3465 Dublin Boulevard #146** Toll Dublin Limited to N. Jaitly for \$402,500
- 8172 Elgin Lane** Daoudi Investments to J. Sevilla for \$391,000
- 5768 Penwood Lane** Cartus Financial to S. & L. Yousufzai for \$890,000
- 6150 Shadow Hill Drive** V. Rubio to V. Yerubandi for \$590,000
- 3750 Silvera Ranch Drive** I. Fernandez to C. Hsieh for \$700,000
- 11495 Silvergate Drive** Kekos Trust to E. & S. Pacillas for \$485,000
- 6593 Spruce Lane** A. Pirouz to J. Wright for \$500,000
- 4616 Valley Vista Drive** Brookfield Mariposa to M. & S. Aravamudhan for \$853,500


Pleasanton

- 6215 Alvord Way** Aura Trust to S. Ahmed for \$600,000

- 7920 Driftwood Way** T. & B. Fredricksen to H. Zhu for \$699,000
- 5029 Forest Hill Drive** M. & T. Jackson to T. & S. Overton for \$1,075,000
- 6216 Guyson Court** R. Gonzalez-Minarez to C. Sumerlin for \$561,000
- 4014 Jackie Court** M. Isle to M. & J. Needham for \$560,000
- 1126 Lund Ranch Road** R. & K. Egan to J. Thurlow for \$1,175,000
- 3433 Norton Way #10** Federal National Mortgage to L. Kim for \$205,000
- 2070 Palmer Drive** R. & T. Borchard to Y. Ramakrishna for \$1,000,000
- 691 Palomino Drive #D** M. Jerman to S. Hunter for \$331,000
- 905 Pamela Place** Taboada Trust to A. Khawaja for \$825,000
- 4123 Payne Road** C. Hoptry to M. & T. Bigelow for \$500,000
- 6829 Rayland Court** J. & K. Mangan to J. Chang for \$680,000
- 4246 Remillard Court** Hopper Trust to Y. Wang for \$1,324,500
- 4862 Saginaw Circle** S. Dean to K. Vitaldevara for \$226,000
- 246 Trenton Circle** D. & K. Matsumoto to N. & M. Patel for \$500,000
- 6081 Via De Los Cerros** L. & J. Definney to Alves Trust for \$448,000
- 6674 Via San Blas** M. & M. Giacomini to S. Cheng for \$818,000
- 1548 Whispering Oak Way** Motavalli Trust to M. & B. Kim for \$828,000
- 3861 Yosemite Court #N** L. Frates to I. & E. Garcia for \$570,000
- 3025 Yuma Way** M. Hinck to X. Mo for \$341,000

Source: California REsource

Seasons Greetings
 May the warmth and peace of the holiday season
 be yours today and always.
 From Our Home to Yours,
 Delores, Charles and Mariab
 2012



Delores Gragg
 KELLER WILLIAMS
 Tri Valley Realty
 925.989.6500
 WWW.DELORESGRAGG.COM
 REALTOR® Lic#01206964

The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton market Update: Sales finally Fall

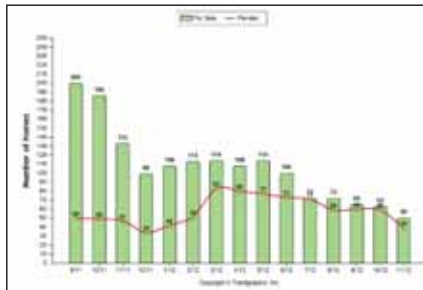
It's hard to believe that there are only 50 single family detached homes for sale in Pleasanton but that's what we had at the end of November. After seemingly defying gravity for the past few months, pended sales took a hit as well, falling more than a third, to post the lowest number since December of last year. Pended sales for homes priced under \$1 million lead the market downward, falling nearly 43%, while other market segments were unchanged.

Overall, 39 sales were pended during November, down about 34% from 59 in October. Inventory fell about 21% in November, from 63 at the end of October to 50 at the end of November. There was 1.3 months of inventory relative to pended sales at the end of November, up from 1.1 months at the end of October.

Pended sales of homes priced under \$1 million fell by 20 units, from 47 during October to 27 during November, a 43% drop off. Inventory in this segment fell 30%, from 33 at the end of October to 23 at the end of November. Inventory relative to pended sales increased from .7months at the end of October to .9 months at the

end of November. Homes priced under \$1 million accounted for 46% of Pleasanton's inventory and 69% of pended sales for November, compared to 52% and 80%, respectively, for October.

In the \$1 million to \$2 million price range, pended sales were flat at 11, while inventory fell by a third. 10 homes were for sale in this segment at the end of November, down five from 15 at the end of October. The loss of inventory resulted in there being .9 months of inventory >> Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.



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High Performance Real Estate



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



CASTLEWOOD

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**



JUST SOLD!

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**



JUST SOLD!

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**





3 YEARS IN A ROW!



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TRI-VALLEY REALTY

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IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
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7123 Cedar Mountain Dr

South Livermore wine country living – the vineyard life you've always dreamed of! Built in 2010, the property boasts +/-8,400sf of living space, 4 bedrooms/5.5 bathrooms, 9 car garage, located in a gated community at the end of a cul-de-sac with endless vineyard views. Total acreage of 16.84 acres includes 14+ acres of planted chardonnay grapes. **\$3,899,000**



Uwe Maercz
REALTOR® DRE # 01390383
925.360.8758
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We have several new listings in Ruby Hill and Pleasanton coming in January 2013. Call for more details.



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Home for the Holidays!

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 \$1,690,000 **4 Grey Eagle Court, Pleasanton**



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Happy Holidays
May 2013 bring only the best.

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1817 Spumante Place, Pleasanton
Amazing custom home in Ruby Hill! Exquisite French Country estate w/5 BD, 4.5 BA, 6,374 sq ft. Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters, maple cabinets & hickory floors. One of a kind 27,170 sq ft view lot w/black bottom pool, rock waterfall and spa. **Offered at \$2,600,000**



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3127 Cassia Court, Pleasanton
Highly desirable 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1536 sq ft single family home. Walking distance to Mohr Elementary School. Sunny kitchen and breakfast combo. Large bedrooms and baths upstairs. 2 car tandem garage. This is a must see home!! Call for a private showing. **Offered at \$612,000**



Cindy and Gene Williams
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6872 Heath Court, Pleasanton
Val Vista 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**



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4571 Mohr Avenue
Gorgeous remodeled home! All the bells and whistles! Just move in! **Offered at \$699,000**



Gail Boal
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925.577.5787
www.gailboal.com

From our family to yours, warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season, and much good health, happiness, love & prosperity in 2013!

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

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