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MEMORIES

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AROUND PLEASANTON



BY JEB BING



JEB BING

The status of the ACE train station across the street from the Fairgrounds, on Pleasanton Avenue, has been debated for years but now is there to stay.

ACE train station is finally ours

It's nothing like the 100-year-old Grand Central station in New York or even the more modest structures serving Fremont and Livermore, but the ACE commuter train station in Pleasanton is finally ours. It's taken a few skirmishes with Alameda County and the County Fairgrounds management over the years, but earlier this month the Pleasanton City Council worked a deal to keep the station in the Fairgrounds parking lot permanently.

Pleasanton's "Memorandum of Understanding" with county and Fairgrounds representatives comes with a hefty price tag. The city will pay 75% of the cost of repaving the lot and the annual cost for maintenance. But with the station now permanent, signs can go up and even a GPS designated destination can now help commuters find the station and make the ACE train their mode of transit from Stockton to Great America in Santa Clara.

When the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) began operating in 1998, the Pleasanton City Council and Fairgrounds management agreed that the location of the city's station could be in the parking lot across from Fairgrounds headquarters on Pleasanton Avenue. The location was given an interim status while city staff reviewed the impact to surrounding neighborhoods and explored other possible permanent locations. That made the station different from others along the ACE corridor in that the Pleasanton station's parking lot also served hundreds of patrons to events at the Fairgrounds, with the greatest demand for spaces during the annual County Fair.

In 2001, after the city acquired

the 378 vacant acres across Bernal Avenue from the Fairgrounds, which had been owned by the city of San Francisco since the 1930s, County Supervisor Scott Haggerty insisted that the station location be moved to that property, now called Bernal Community Park. City planners refused and the school district also objected, saying the station would be opposite Pleasanton Middle and Hearst Elementary schools and would cause distractions for students.

Friendlier negotiations got under way after Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was elected and with Nelson Fialho as city manager, leading to the county's property division to sell another piece of county-owned land to Pleasanton and leave the station where it is.

The years of debate and frustrations also created some political distance between Pleasanton and Haggerty, who no longer represents Pleasanton on the County Board of Supervisors. "I thought I had a handshake agreement that the station would be moved," Haggerty said. "I won't make that kind of agreement with Pleasanton again."

It's possible now that an agreement is in place to keep the station on the Fairgrounds parking lot that a more substantial facility can be built, one that is air conditioned and heated, perhaps even with beverage service and other commuter-focused retail operations. A turn-around and loading area has already been built across Pleasanton Avenue for public transit buses and company vans. When the 49ers begin using their new Santa Clara stadium next year, ACE trains and their patrons will likely make the commuter railroad that had a bumpy start more than a decade ago a seven-day, even more profitable operation. ■

About the Cover

Cole Mattos, 2, and his sister Chloe, 11, are featured on this party invitation designed by their mother Heather, a party planner extraordinaire in Pleasanton. Photo by Melissa Larson. Design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIV, Number 3



Did you know that 886,814 tons of clothing and textiles goes to waste in California every year?

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How do you feel about Pope Benedict XVI resigning at the end of this month?



Anja Gutbrod-Pollitz
German teacher

I grew up in an area where 50% of the population was Catholic. I was very surprised to hear about the pope's resignation. I always thought that a pope could not choose resignation but rather, that he has to die while in office. It'll be interesting to see who the next leader of the Catholic Church will be — I am hoping for someone who is modern-thinking.

Scott Piper

Director of marketing at mortgage brokerage company

Maybe it's true, as he claims, that he is resigning due to health issues, but in my experience when a high level official resigns, it is only for one of two reasons, and sometimes both: either revenue is down, or he is caught in a scandal.



Maureen Murphy
Animal care technician

I'm sure he did some deep soul searching with God before coming to this difficult decision. I think his intentions are for the good of the church and the people, and are good for his own well-being. It's all in God's plan.

Shane Bohan
Realtor

I was surprised by his resignation. The Catholic community is under intense scrutiny due to the indiscretions of some higher priests/bishops, etc. I am sure these horrible issues have long-term negative health impacts on everyone in the church. Hopefully his resignation will be the best thing for him and also for the church.



Liv Rose
High school student

I was surprised by the news, but I was really disheartened by his excusal of pedophiles and molesters within the church. I think it's an interesting show of humility that he's resigning so as to allow the church to thrive under newer and younger leadership.

—Compiled by Nancy Lyness and Jenny Lyness

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

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DIGEST

BART delays on Sundays

Pleasanton BART service will be affected as track maintenance is performed between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sundays through March 17.

Blue line trains that normally operate between East Dublin/Pleasanton and Daly City will instead only run between East Dublin/Pleasanton and 24th Street Mission Station. Service between Daly City and 24th Street will be provided by one train every 20 minutes instead of two. Blue line passengers traveling to and from Glen Park, Balboa Park and Daly City will need to transfer to/from yellow line trains at 24th Street.

Special Olympics needs help

Eighty teams are taking part in the 2013 Special Olympics Basketball Tournament on March 3 and 10, and 400 volunteers are needed to help Amador Valley High School Athletic Boosters, which hosts the event. Venues include AVHS plus Pleasanton, Harvest Park and Hart middle schools.

To register, email avboosters@comcast.net, with your name, address, phone number, adult or age if under 18, indicate any group you are with, and when you are available — all day, morning (7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) or afternoon (noon-5 p.m.). Also indicate your job preference: referee, team escort, lunch, setup, volunteer check-in or medical.

For more information, contact Special Olympics Coordinator Ken Mano at 846-4381.

20 years for Senior Center

The Pleasanton Senior Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary March 2-3 with a gala weekend of special activities. Festivities will kick off at 10 a.m. Saturday with class demonstrations and exhibits and a skit performed by the Senior Players. A free barbecue lunch will be held for those 50 and older who pick up advance tickets at 10 a.m. Feb. 20. The weekend fun concludes Sunday with a free Tea Dance from 2-4 p.m. featuring live music by the Cool Tones.

Since opening in March 1993 at 5353 Sunol Blvd., the Senior Center has been an important resource for the community with classes, programs and services for mature adults. It also houses Pleasanton Paratransit, Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled programs, and the offices of the independent nonprofit Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5365.

Amador Valley High wins state 'We the People' competition

Fundraising starts to send team to national finals in April

By JEB BING

Amador Valley High School captured first place in the "We the People" state finals last Saturday in Bakersfield, topping 10 other teams from California high schools, including Foothill High and Irvington High in Fremont.

Amador will now move on to represent California in the 26th annual "We the People" national finals to be held April 27-29. That competition will be conducted on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax County, Va., and in hearing rooms on Capitol Hill.

Members of the "We the People" team, their coaches, school leaders and community and parent supporters are now launching a fund-raising campaign to raise the \$35,000 it will cost to go to Washington, D.C., for the national competition.

"We are totally self-funding and don't receive any money from the school or district to cover any of the costs," said Brian Ladd, a teacher at Amador Valley who is one of two coaches serving the team. "We can't fundraise all year because we

don't know if we will make it to nationals since California is the most competitive state. We need to raise the money by the first of April."

Anyone interested in donating and helping the students can send a tax-deductible donation to Amador Valley Comp Civics, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton 94566.

Coaching the Amador "We the People" team with Ladd is Mairi Wohlgenuth. Both are social studies and civics teachers at the high school. Jeremy Detamore coached the team from Foothill, where he is a world history and economics teacher. Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio coached the team from Irvington High, where she teaches U.S. government and honors economics.

With Saturday's win, Amador Valley has made it to the national finals 12 times, coming in second in 2004, 2007 and 2011 and winning the national title in 1995. Foothill has made the state finals on a regular basis but has yet to make it to the national competition.

"This is the toughest academic competition in

the country and we are proud to be representing not only our state, but our school and the city of Pleasanton," Ladd said. "The team is all comprised of seniors who started from scratch at the beginning of the school year. They have won every level of competition — the Congressional district, Northern California regional, and the state championship. They put in an extra 12-15 hours per week on average outside of class time towards the program."

The students on the Amador team are Dena Behnam, Grant Bonham, Sara Borchers, Grant Cohen, Courtney Dickson, Will Dormann, Teresa Duddy, Blair Guilfoile, Mekhala Hoskote, Shubhankar Kapoor, Bobby Lee, Mitchell Mayo, Sabrina McGraw, Adriana Morton, Sri Muppidi, Jordan Nally, Jon Nieman, Alexis Orozco, Dhiraj Pangal, Henry Person, Jena Pianin, Nick Powell, Anika Riley, Adit Sinha, Arany Uthayakumar, Eric Yang, Yves Yang,

See **PEOPLE** on Page 8



JEB BING

Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) welcomes home Army Specialist Kyle Eith at a celebration honoring his return from active duty in Afghanistan.

Pleasanton welcomes home Army Specialist Eith from Afghanistan

Celebration includes family, friends, many veteran support groups

Nearly 100 well-wishers turned out earlier this week to welcome home Army Specialist Kyle Eith to Pleasanton.

The celebration, arranged by Pleasanton Military Families and veterans organizations, took place in front of the home of his parents, Peggy and Jeff Eith, on Yosemite Court.

Eith, a 2006 graduate of Amador Valley High School, spent the past year at Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan.

Among those at Sunday's event were Congressman Eric Swalwell, Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne, City Councilman Jerry Pentin and Planning Commissioner and City Council candidate Kathy Narum.

Doug Miller and Pat Frizzell led a large contingent of Pleasanton Military Family members with the American Legion and VFW color guard also part of the welcoming team.

—Jeb Bing

PUSD ponders plan to restore \$2.7 million in jobs

Would move from using specialists to coaching teachers in literacy, math and technology

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school district is considering adding some jobs that were cut in 2008, including a lead trainer for technology and restoring some jobs on a one-time basis.

All tolled, the one-time job restorations would come to \$2.7 million, and restore the equivalent of 37 employees, including counselors and custodians in elementary, middle and high schools, and vice principals at elementary and middle schools.

"We have had a lot of work that we've done in the last few years to mitigate the amount of budget cuts," Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi told the board. Regarding the proposal to bring back the employees, she said, "People may ask, 'Why so much?' People may ask, 'Why so little, why not more?'"

She noted that — contrary to popular opinion — Proposition 30 didn't add any money to the district, and a proposal from Gov. Brown to send extra money to poorer districts may mean less money here.

Ahmadi pointed to a March 15 deadline to send out pink slips to some workers.

"I would hate for our employees, who have gone through this every year, to get layoff notices," she said. "This is our chance to look at our needs."

In a brief update on the state budget, Deputy Superintendent Luz Cazares said the district stands to get an extra \$276,000 a year. She said there remain some unknowns, such as the governor's plan to spend more money in the least wealthy districts and a plan to shift adult education to community colleges.

The plan to restore jobs brought comments from two parents who are also representatives of Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, both of whom wanted the district to consider class size reductions instead. In addition, parent and resource specialist Michelle Verkuilen asked that

See **PUSD** on Page 8



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Kathy Narum launches campaign for seat on Pleasanton City Council

Tells supporters she has 3 priorities plus beautifying Pioneer Cemetery

By JEB BING

Planning Commissioner Kathy Narum launched her bid for election to the Pleasanton City Council at a breakfast fundraiser recently where more than 100 gave her a standing ovation and pledged their support.

Narum is one of four seeking to fill the empty seat on the council, a vacancy created last November when then-Councilman Jerry Thorne was elected mayor. Thorne was among those at the campaign launch breakfast.

Others who will be on the May 7 ballot are Mark Hamilton, a wrestling coach at Amador Valley High School and director of financial services at ADP in Pleasanton; David Miller, director of engineering program management for a Silicon Valley semiconductor company; and Olivia Sanwong, a graduate of Amador Valley High School and a member of Pleasanton's Economic Vitality Committee, who holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Simmons College's School of Management in Boston.

Narum, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from UC Davis, is in her fifth year on the Planning Commission. She has been active in civic events since moving to Pleasanton in 1996.

Prior to her appointment to the Planning Commission, Narum served on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission for five years. She is also past president of the Pleasanton Seahawks swimming organization, a member of the city's East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force and is chairwoman of the city's Heritage Tree board of appeals.

She said fellow Planning Commissioner Arne Olson has agreed to serve as her campaign treasurer, and that Planning Commissioner Jennifer Pearce will be co-manager of her campaign. Also named a co-campaign manager is Nancy Allen, a Danbury Park neighborhood homeowner who introduced Narum at the campaign breakfast fundraiser.

She is married to Jeff Narum and the couple has two grown daughters, Jennifer and Lisa, who work on the East Coast.

After college, Narum was employed as a chemical engineer, but with the arrival of the couple's first daughter, she chose to be a stay-at-home mom. As both daughters later started swimming with the Pleasanton Seahawks, she volunteered her time to work with the organization, joining its board of directors and eventually becoming president. At the same time, she became active with city and other civic organizations.

"Through my service in these groups, I've talked with many resi-

dents across Pleasanton and gained invaluable knowledge of the issues facing the city and what's important," Narum told her supporters.

She said her top three priorities as a councilwoman would be to promote the city's fiscal sustainability, maintain Pleasanton's high quality of life, and preserve and create more parks and open space for all age groups.

Responding to a question at the breakfast meeting by long-time resident Jack Bras, she said another priority of hers would be to improve and beautify Pioneer Cemetery. The cemetery was acquired a few years ago from the International Order of Odd Fellows by a then-reluctant



Kathy Narum

City Council. The cemetery has no water sprinkler system or caretaker.

With regard to one of Narum's key priorities, fiscal sustainability, she said it's critical "as it

ensures the availability of money to reinvest in our community for capital projects and to help maintain our high quality of life."

"Sometimes, when people talk about fiscal sustainability, they only refer to pension reform," she said. "However, there are really two parts to fiscal health and we need to look at both: the expense side and revenues."

"With regards to expense, it's not only pensions we need to look at, but include every line item in the budget," she added. "To only talk about pension reform ignores the revenue side of the city finances, where I believe opportunities would be missed."

She said that the city's unfunded pension liabilities are still a major concern, but that reducing them needs to be done in a way that is both fair to employees and also fair to residents and supports the long term fiscal sustainability of the city.

With regard to municipal revenue, Narum said she would work with the owner of Stoneridge Shopping Center to support its redevelopment to maximize revenues. This would include being proactive in supporting the development of the approximately 250,000 additional square feet for retail that has been approved for the mall.

At the same time, Narum would encourage owners of older shopping centers to look at revitalizing their properties to make them more attractive so that more Pleasanton residents and those from other cities would shop here. That would generate more sales tax revenue and keep property values up which will positively impact property tax dollars, she said.

See **NARUM** on Page 7

NARUM

Continued from Page 6

Narum also wants to review, update and consolidate the planning documents for the Hacienda Business Park.

"These documents have not had a comprehensive review for 20 years," Narum said. "It's important that the management of the business park has the ability to attract prospective companies and respond to their needs with an understanding of the process for getting approval of a city application. This should be done now so that we're ready to respond as the economy improves and we don't lose opportunities."

As part of seeking municipal revenue growth, Narum said the city will need to simplify its permit process where it makes sense.

"We need to keep the focus on this issue so that we continue to challenge ourselves to improve the process, ensure that expectations are clear for all parties involved and avoid unnecessary work where possible," she said. "I certainly understand and appreciate that time is money as all of you do."

"Now let's talk about my second priority, preserving our high quality of life in Pleasanton," Narum said. "What does quality of life mean to you? Is it keeping Pleasanton's small-town feel? Is it ensuring responsible growth, maintaining our wonderful downtown, keeping our schools great, ensuring public safety, having beautiful parks? For me it's these and many other things that contribute to maintaining our quality of life."

For example, she cited the ongoing work of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan task force that is now considering the best uses for 1,000 acres of mostly undeveloped land east of Valley Avenue and along Busch Road and Stanley Boulevard.

"This task force needs to take into account the desires of all residents in terms of the open space, residential needs and retail and commercial development in a balanced approach and in a way that nearby neighborhoods are not burdened by traffic from any development," Narum said.

She also promised that as a member of the City Council, she would support a strong collaboration between the city government and the Pleasanton school district. This could include sharing of resources for activities away from the classroom and also looking for land for new schools if required.

Narum said she has heard from many in Pleasanton who say they like and want to retain the small-town feel of Pleasanton.

"Nothing says 'small town' more than our downtown," Narum said. "I served on the downtown Hospitality Task Force, which was formed to identify ways to make our downtown more vibrant. It's important that residents go downtown for shopping, dining and entertainment to support the businesses. I support the downtown and will make it a priority to encourage new businesses (there) and to look at ideas to help solve the parking problem in downtown." ■



GLENN WOHLTMANN

Science takes off

Foothill students Kevin Zhang and David Bendebuty prepare to send off their elastic-launch glider as part of the Bay Area Science Regional Science Olympiad on Saturday. Foothill drew 1,800 potential future Marie Curies and Thomas Edisons to the Olympiad, the fourth time the school has hosted the event. Among the other challenges were building a robotic arm, creating a Rube Goldberg device to accomplish a task, and an egg drop.

5 rescuers get commendations

Doctors said victim has less than 10% chance of survival without help

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Two Pleasanton police dispatchers, two officers and a sergeant are being commending for their work last month that saved a heart attack victim.

Police Dispatcher Teri Stewart received a 9-1-1 call from a woman reporting her 53-year-old friend male was suffering from a possible heart attack, just before 9 p.m. Jan. 19. As the woman attempted to perform CPR, dispatcher Brandy Medeiros sent Officer Lisa Cavellini, Officer Jeff Grave and Sgt. Joseph Leonardo to the location.

Within two minutes of the call, the officers were on scene and assessing the victim. Cavellini immediately began CPR, while Grave deployed an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Leonardo performed rescue breathing.

The shock from the AED restarted the man's heart. By the time he was in an ambulance en route to the hospital he was coherent and talking. Two days later he was released from the hospital with no residual effects or complications.

Doctors determined the man had suffered a massive heart attack and had it not been for orchestrated efforts of public workers, he would have had less than a 10% chance of survival.

The five involved in the rescue were formally commended Feb. 6 by Chief Dave Spiller.

Every patrol vehicle in the Pleasanton Police Department's fleet is equipped with an AED and all officers receive regular training in CPR and advanced first aid. The department encourages everyone to learn CPR. ■

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ARICK LITTLE

Brian Ladd and Mairi Wohlgenuth (far left), co-coaches of the Amador Valley High School "We the People" competition civics team, join the team's students in front of Golden Valley High School in Bakersfield Saturday after Amador was named state champions among the 11 high schools competing in the 2013 statewide competition. Amador now moves on to the national finals to be held April 26-29 in Washington, D.C.

PEOPLE

Continued from Page 5

Kashyap Yechuri and Ke Zhao.

Saturday's competition was held at Golden Valley High School in Bakersfield. More than 300 students from 11 high schools participated in the academic competition, which tested their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

At Bakersfield, students demonstrated their understanding of the Constitution before a simulated congressional committee consisting of constitutional scholars, lawyers, civic educators and government leaders who judged the classes' performances. The judges tested the students' comprehension of the six units of the "We the People" text.

All of the participating schools, their students and teachers were recognized for their achievements during an awards ceremony Saturday afternoon at Golden Valley High.

Officially called "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution," the program has reached more than 30 million students and 90,000 teachers since its inception in 1987. ■

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

the board reconsider bringing back reading specialists.

"I'm dismayed at the decimation of the reading program," Verkuilen said. She noted that the district, when making cuts, promised to keep them as far from the classrooms as possible.

"I hope the board makes the restorations as close to the classroom as possible," she said.

The proposal also brought out requests from board members asking the district to consider bringing back different jobs. Valerie Arkin, for example, asked that a high school librarian be brought back in addition to spending \$109,350 to bring back librarians at elementary and middle schools.

The idea of replacing specialists with coaches to help teachers make better use of technology and to do a better job of teaching literacy and math also brought some concerns from the board.

"If I could pick between counselors and reading specialists, I'd pick reading specialists," said Board Member Jamie Hintzke.

Odie Douglas, assistant superintendent of educational services, acknowledged that was a shift in how the district has done things in the past.

"We are looking at ways to meet the needs of our students with a different learning model," Douglas said.

He explained that coaches would be used at all schools, "rather than each school developing its own program."

Ahmadi pointed out that in Pleasanton test scores differ by as much as 150 points between schools.

Regarding the request that class sizes be cut, Board President Jeff Bowser pointed out that funding for class size reductions has been cut from the state budget.

Ahmadi said that instead of being eligible for more than \$1,000 per child for class size reduction, under the new plan to target poorer schools for extra state funding, the Pleasanton district would receive about \$700 per child.

At least one board member sees a light at the end of the tunnel. Chris Grant said there's been job growth in California and that property values are rising.

"I think the worst is behind us, but it's going to be a slow climb back," he said.

A complete list of the proposed job restorations is on the school district's website, PleasantonUSD.net. ■

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Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing, jbing@pleasantonweekly.com



JEB BING

Mayor Jerry Thorne joins the 2013 president of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, Michael Hosterman, the organization's executive director Laura Olson and this year's board members at Redcoats British Pub & Restaurant after he performed the swearing-in ceremony Tuesday night.

Michael Hosterman installed as president of PDA

Downtown attorney chosen to lead business organization for 2nd straight year

By JEB BING

Downtown Attorney Michael J Hosterman was sworn into office Tuesday night as president of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, a post he also held last year.

Last year, he was installed by his wife and then-mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was termed out of that office last November. Tuesday night, newly elected Mayor Jerry Thorne did the honors.

With Hosterman serving a second term, Vic Malatesta, the organization's president-elect a year ago, keeps that title again and is now scheduled to take the top post next February.

Hosterman's law offices are at 555 Peters Ave. Malatesta owns and operates Vic's All Star Kitchen at 201 Main St.

Others holding top offices at the city-subsidized organization include Jim DeMersman, executive director of Museum on Main, 603 Main St., who is now the PDA's treasurer, and its secretary, Vera Revelli, owner and manager of the Civic Center Station building at 4725 First St.



Newly elected PDA president Michael Hosterman and executive director Laura Olson at Redcoats British Pub & Restaurant on Tuesday night after the PDA's annual meeting.

Serving on the PDA's board of directors this year are Dirk Christiansen, Studio Seven Arts, 400 Main St.; Mark Kearns, Specialty Inspections, 261 Spring St.; Mari Kennard, Redcoats British Pub & Restaurant, 336 St. Mary St.; Dean Mancini, Murphy's Paw, 410 Main St.; Michael O'Callaghan, MCT Development & Construction, 125 W. Neal St.; Mike Peel, Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty, 459 Main St., and Gary Schwaegerle, Schwaegerle Realtors, 189 Angela St.

Two Associate Members also were

named to the PDA board. They are Angel Moore, Alameda County Fairgrounds Association, and Melanie Sadek, executive director of Valley Humane Society. Because their organizations are not in the city's downtown district, they will be non-voting members of the board.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association, with headquarters at 4725 First St., was established in 1984 by the City Council, which recognized this special business area with the creation of the PDA. The organization operates as an assessment district with the goal of "developing and promoting a vibrant downtown community."

It functions as a nonprofit organization with funding provided by member assessments on the 575 businesses located in the downtown district. It also receives matching city/taxpayer funds, sponsorships and revenue producing events.

This year, the PDA will receive about \$65,000 in public funds to match the assessments paid, according to Laura Olson, executive director. ■

Mayor Jerry Thorne congratulates Vera Revelli after she was installed as a PDA board member for 2013.



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THE CITY OF
PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approve a contract with the Bay Area Children's Theatre in the amount of \$109,100 for the Children's theatrical production services
- Introduction of negotiations with AFSCME/PCEA (Pleasanton City Employees' Association)
- Public Hearing: P12-1786; City of Pleasanton – Introduction of an ordinance amending various Chapters of Title 18 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to comply with California Government Code Sections 65583 and 65589.5 and with the 2012 Pleasanton General Plan Housing Element pertaining to emergency homeless shelters and supportive and transitional housing
- Accept report on Business Retention Survey
- Appointment of a Representative to Kottinger Place Task Force
- Public Hearing: City of Pleasanton – Introduction of an Ordinance amending Title 18 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code by adding Chapter 18.86 regarding requests for reasonable accommodation (P13-0005); and adopt a resolution to amend the Master Fee Schedule to add a zoning processing fee for requests for reasonable accommodation

Historic Preservation Task Force

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

City Hall, Conference Room #3, 157 Main Street

- Visit our website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov for information regarding the meeting

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7:30 a.m.

City Hall, 157 Main Street, Conference Room 3

- Discussion re: EVC priorities for City Council Priorities Work Plan

Housing Commission

Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of Proposed Affordable Housing Agreement for RREEF/Pleasanton Partners California Center Apartment Development
- Information Regarding History and Current Status of Lower Income Housing Fund
- Information Regarding New Regional Down Payment Assistance Program Administered by the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center

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

LETTERS

Cemetery unrest

Dear Editor,

This letter is a passionate plea to bring your attention to the unacceptable condition of the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery. My husband passed away recently and is buried there because we are long-time residents of this wonderful city and made the decision to choose this location several years ago when we purchased the plot so our family and friends would be close to visit.

At the time of our purchase, the city of Pleasanton had recently purchased the cemetery from the Oddfellows and it was our understanding that the property would be renovated to reflect a beautiful park-like atmosphere.

While Pleasanton prides itself on our many state of the art

sports and community parks, it is an embarrassment that our cemetery is in such need of care. During the summer, the land is cracked and dry and weeds dominate the area. In the winter, large puddles of mud seep onto the headstones leaving them unreadable. It is very difficult to place flowers on the gravesites due to all the mudslides.

While I support the need for our city to provide sports parks, it seems to me that it should be of equal importance to maintain our cemetery at a level of which we can be proud. Shouldn't the Pleasanton cemetery be the most beautiful park in the city?

I ask that the City Council give this request its immediate attention so that our families may be at rest in a beautifully maintained setting in keeping with Pleasanton's commitment to excellence.

Carolanne Montgomery

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Pleasanton receives a clean bill of financial health

Independent auditors gave the city of Pleasanton a clean bill of health last week after closing the financial books for the Fiscal year that ended last June 30. The comprehensive annual financial report by the firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co. said that for the 15th consecutive year, the city's audit has met the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting practices. The city also maintained its AA (Double A) rating by Standard and Poor's. With few exceptions California cities top out with a Double A rating although many are lower.

In the FY2012, the assets of Pleasanton exceeded its liabilities by \$872.4 million. Of this amount, \$157.8 million in unrestricted net assets may be used to meet ongoing obligations, another \$58.2 million is restricted for specific purposes, and \$656.4 million is invested in capital assets.

The city's total net assets increased by \$5 million during the fiscal year, a 0.6% increase during a time of slow recovery from the recent economic recession. The city also has maintained an unrestricted reserve of \$25.3 million committed for economic uncertainties, another \$11 million that can be used in the event of a temporary recession, and \$2 million assigned to service the roughly \$24 million Callippe Preserve golf course construction debt.

The audit report, made to the Pleasanton City Council by the city's Finance Director Emily Wagner, also showed that unfunded pension liabilities for city police and miscellaneous employees, and the city's share of those liabilities for the jointly-operated Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, now stand at between \$131 million and \$162 million. Last year, those liabilities decreased by approximately 13% because of improved market conditions. More reductions are expected this fiscal year as the council sets aside surplus funds for paying down the liabilities and as employees pay more, themselves, toward their pensions. Contracts negotiated with unions representing police and firefighters raised the individual pension contributions to 9%. Negotiations of contract provisions affecting all other city employees, a contract that expires March 31, will also seek to raise individual contributions from the current 4% to 9%. All managers in city departments already pay 8% toward their health and pension benefits.

Also affecting the good financial standing of Pleasanton municipal finances is the decision three years ago, as the recession began, to freeze employee wages and temporarily halt hiring, even to fill vacant positions. That may see some softening this year, as it should, with property tax revenue increasing slightly although sales taxes continued to lag.

The City Council, which has curtailed all capital spending since the construction of the \$10 million Firehouse Arts Center, will meet next month to consider revisiting that freeze. It may be that with a bit more municipal revenue forecast for 2013, and with a promise of financial support from the youth sports community, we can at least start building the lighted sports fields promised years ago on the still-mostly-empty Bernal Community Park across from the Fairgrounds and along Bernal Avenue. ■



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

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Summer camps help kids grow

Being on their own instills confidence, say psychologists

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

**Hello muddah, hello faddah
Here I am at Camp Granada
Camp is very entertaining
And they say we'll have some fun
if it stops raining.***

In songs and movies, summer camps are a rite of passage for children and usually involve mishaps — because otherwise there would be no plot.

But what about in real life? How is the experience?

One great thing about camps these days is that they get kids unplugged from cell phones, TV and the Internet. And the youngsters discover that even without technology, there is plenty to do.

Parents may question whether their kids will be too homesick if they go away to camp, but psychologist Michael Thompson, author of "Homesick and Happy: How Time Away from Parents Can Help a Child Grow," said the question often is whether the parents will suffer from "childsickness." Parents who revolve a lot of their lives around their children may find they aren't ready to have them leave, even temporarily.

"The only way children can grow into independence is to have their parents open the door and let them walk out. That's what makes camp such a life-changing experience for children," Thompson wrote in a blog on Huffington Post in June.

He said the away-from-home camping experience teaches children skills that are just as important as the obviously impressive ones taught at specialized programs that many feel are important in today's competitive world.

"I believe that children develop in profound ways when they leave their parents' house and join a camp community," he wrote.

"When a child is on his own, the experience is his alone, the satisfaction belongs only to him and he does not have to filter it through what his parents think and feel," he explained.

He also said college admissions officers

say former campers succeed in college because camps built confidence and identity.

Campers learn more than how to build a fire or go on a hike, said Michael Ungar, a family therapist, and author of "The We Generation: Raising Socially Responsible Kids."

"There are the much more complex challenges of getting along with a new group of peers, learning how to ask for help from others, or taking manageable amount of risks without a parent following after you," Ungar wrote in an article in Psychology Today.

He listed seven things that camps provide for children:

1. New relationships, both with peers and other trusted adults.
2. An identity that makes them feel confident.
3. They help children feel in control of their lives.
4. Camps make sure all children are treated fairly and valued for who they are.
5. Campers get fresh air, exercise, a balance between structured and unstructured time, and good food.
6. Camps help kids feel they belong.
7. Camps can offer children a better sense of their culture.

Ungar noted that these experiences can be found in luxurious residential camps or in subsidized day camps in cities.

Camps also emphasize that children learn social skills as they learn to cooperate and trust each other. And they make good friends as they laugh, sing, talk, play and do things together without the pressures they have at school.

**Wait a minute, it's stopped hailing.
Guys are swimming, guys are sailing
Playing baseball, gee that's better
Muddah, faddah kindly disregard
this letter.***

* From "Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah, a popular novelty song in 1963 by Allan Sherman.



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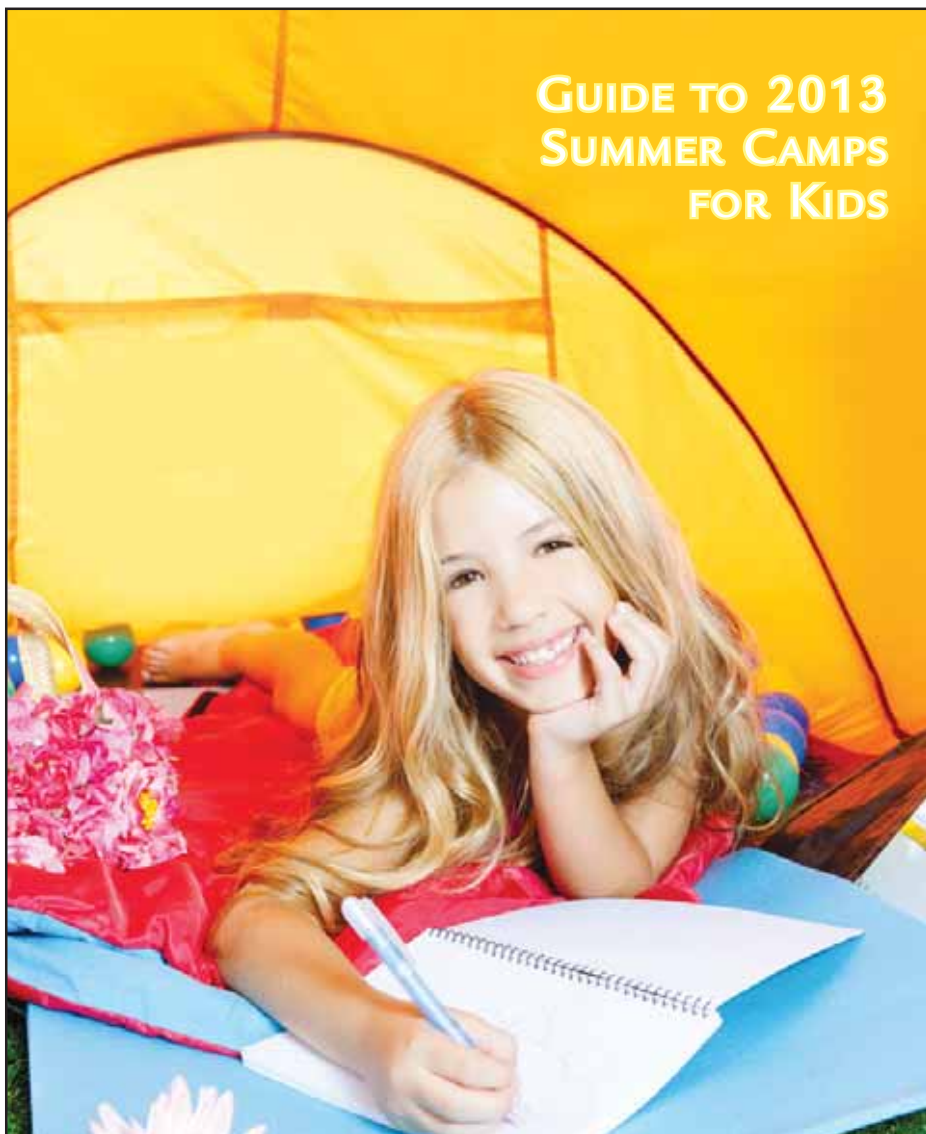
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GUIDE TO 2013 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS



Helpful hints for choosing the right camp for your kids

BY KARLA KANE

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

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

“It’s normal that there will be some measure of homesickness. But parents have to ask, ‘Is the child ready to learn new skills and meet new people?’ Usually yes, they are.”

Often it’s the parents who aren’t ready to let their child go, Nienow said, and initial

bouts of homesickness will quickly pass. However, “is there value in imposing camp on a child who is completely not interested or ready? Probably not,” he added. Most camps start accepting children around age 7, he said.

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

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

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

On the other hand, “if a child has never slept away from home, is afraid of the dark

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or is very shy or a picky eater," he or she may have a hard time adjusting to camp life, Shaw said.

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

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

"Some kids may have never swam in a lake, slept in the woods or rowed in a rowboat," until camp, he said. For children with specific interests, a camp dedicated to one hobby, sport or topic may be a dream come true. However, parents should be

ball four or six hours a day."

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

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

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

No matter what type of camp a child at-



sure their child really wants to focus intently on one interest rather than trying the more classic general-camp route.

"Choosing a specialty camp really comes down to making sure the child really and truly has the desire to go and devote themselves to this intense, in-depth experience," Nienow said. "If they're at a basketball camp, they're going to be playing basket-

tends, the experience will make a lifelong impression, Nienow said.

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



Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2013 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society

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Whether you're curious about cats or dedicated to dogs, Valley Humane Society has the camp for you! Our fun, fur-filled humane education programs for ages 7-15 offer kids and teens an exciting variety of animal activities, games, crafts, special guests, and hands-on opportunities. Week-long day camps start June 17 and run until August 2.

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4651 Gleason Drive
Dublin, Ca 94568
(925) 230-1302

Register: www.eastbayspca.org/camp

East Bay SPCA Summer Animal Camp (for kids entering grades 1-8) is a fun-filled learning adventure complete with daily animal interactions! Kids learn about kindness and compassion, as well as basic animal care. Your child will be sure to make new friends, play with animals, and have a great time! We offer full day or half day camps from June through August at our Dublin Adoption Center. Visit website for details.

dents thrive with the time and encouragement to deeply investigate topics of interest and learn to ask questions that will lead to a lifetime of discovery. Two-week or four-week options for incoming 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Courses include Creative Writing Through Creative Reading, Brain Fitness Through Art, Creative Problem Solving, Music Production, Digital Art & Animation and LEGO NXT Robotics. Session 1 is June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, July 1, 2 & 3. and Session 2 is July 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18. Hours are 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

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

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

Write Now!

Summer Writing Camps

Website: www.headsup.org
Telephone: Emerson
(650) 424-1267
and Hacienda (925) 485-5750
Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new!) Test-Taking Skills. Call or visit our website for details.

Join our exciting week-long camps for kids entering Grades 1-8!



EAST BAY SPCA
Animal Camp
summer

Register Today at:
www.eastbayspca.org/camp

Camps held at Dublin Adoption Center: 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin, Ca

enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp at Harvest Park Middle School

(925) 577-6981
www.engagethegifted.org
info@engagethegifted.org

enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp inspires kids to stretch themselves beyond grade-level standards and use higher order thinking skills to become creative problem solvers. enGAGE! stu-

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at PleasantonWeekly.com/Camps.

To advertise in a weekly directory, call (925) 600-0840 or email sales@pleasantonweekly.com.

Making magical

MEMORIES

BY CATHY JETTER

Plan a great kid's party at home – the delight is in the details

The evolution of children's birthday parties has been on fast-forward during the past few decades. Pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey and crepe paper streamers in the dining room have been replaced by rented rooms in warehouse-sized buildings filled with inflated apparatus, video games, flashing lights and acres of play space where the kids run wild. Often, the celebration gets lost in the chaos.

Not every parent is happy sharing hosting duties with an oversized mascot of indeterminate species, but a return to the days of white paper plates and a handful of balloons seems kind of — boring. Is it possible to bring the party back home and still make magical memories?

"Absolutely," says Heather Mattos, Pleasanton party planner extraordinaire. "A party at home keeps the focus where it belongs — on the person being celebrated. You don't need lots of glitz to give the feeling of a special event. Just adding a few unique details makes the party personal and memorable for the guest of honor."

Four kids of her own have given Heather plenty of opportunity to utilize her talent for finding those distinctive details, which she credits her mother, Carree Anderson, for sparking.

"Everyone hoped for an invitation to my birthday parties," she confesses. "My mom did things differently; no one had parties like my family."

While most kids were handing out paper invitations and slicing grocery store cakes, Heather's mother was ahead of her time, taking things to a different level.

"My mom liked to find a theme and run with it," Heather recalls. "No detail got overlooked. For a '50s party we had a karaoke machine, costumes with all kinds of accessories, a custom-made cake in the shape of a record and decorations she made herself."

"But she did that for all of her parties, not just birthdays," Heather adds, smiling. "When I smell a glue gun, I still think of Christmas."

It was only natural that Heather would want her own children to experience the unique parties that made her childhood so memorable.

Over the years these have included family picnics offering blankets and baskets packed with takeout cartons; Lego parties with boxes of Lego-shaped candies and marshmallow Lego heads; and milk and cookie celebrations featuring "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" books as invitations.

As the parents of her children's friends noticed and appreciated all the imaginative details featured at her

parties, Heather's business, Cookie Mondays, was born. "People asked me questions about how I did things, where I got my ideas, and then they started asking for help," she says. "I'm just really organized and I can lead people in the right direction."

Her friends and clients would disagree and claim she is overly modest. Not everyone can look at an empty milk bottle and envision a custom label to create bowling pins, or have the patience to make dozens of bowling ball cake pops as Heather recently did for her son's 8th birthday.

"Chayse wanted to have a bowling party with his friends. A bowling alley is not very personal, so I thought of simple ways to emphasize the bowling theme in a different way."

Heather says she sees people moving away from the prepackaged theme parties that have been the go-to answer in the past.

"It's important to have an idea to build the party scheme around, but it doesn't have to be a character or a sport or a movie. It can be a favorite color, or a texture or a design," she notes.

Vintage decorations are very popular for children's parties, but, Heather says, the biggest party trend these days is, in fact, party planning.

"You don't have to go to a big party store and buy their perception of your party idea. Inspirational resources like Pinterest are so accessible people can find a hundred different ways to put together one party idea. There are many creative ideas out there and the Internet makes it easy to share."

What about the people who are inspired and excited and yet might be considered dangerous with a staple gun and electric mixer?

"That's where I can help," Heather says. "People can outsource as much or as little as they want. There are resources for photographers, caterers, decorations, props. I can help figure out what will make the event personal, and if you need help putting it all together in an exceptional way, or planning crafts and activities, I can help with that, too."

Crafting is a big part of Heather's business. The custom burlap banners she sells through her website have become a popular party personalization tool in Pleasanton and serve as a keepsake of the event.

"The banners are just another example of a way to individualize the party — using details to make it special."

Heather emphasizes that decorations don't need to be overwhelming or abundant to bring spirit to the party. "Choose a table and make it the focal point," she explains. "If you center the party around that one place, all eyes will be drawn there. You don't have to cover the room to create a wonderful atmosphere."

You can bring spirit, and a little magic, to the party with a phone call to Kari's Magic Parties. If ghosts aren't on your guest list, she's got plenty of other options: princesses, pirates, wizards, elves, faeries, even the Cat in the Hat. If a child is dreaming of a visit from a certain someone, Kari can probably make it happen.

Five years of working in the non-stop party atmosphere of Walt Disney taught Kari a few things about what keeps kids happy and that expertise keeps her company a perpetual favorite throughout the Bay Area. "It used to be that the character would just appear

at a party, maybe perform a magic show or make balloon shapes," Kari says. "Now it is an interactive experience for the guests — they are all part of the show, whether it involves magic, building volcanoes, spa treatments or dancing."

Specializing in parties for the 2- to 13-year-old set, Kari recommends party planners remember that guests will not always arrive at the moment specified on the invitation.

"You want to remember that people will be arriving over a period of time," Kari cautions. "Too often hosts want to get the party going and plan the main entertainment to begin at the start of the event. Make sure to give some time for latecomers to arrive and everyone to socialize."

Dance parties have become an increasingly popular social event for the tween and teen crowd, says Darlene Laspina. She and her sister, Bonny Wallace, have been party planners for more than 25 years, and their company, Events By Wallace, is one of the most established in our valley.

Though weddings, corporate functions, fundraisers and other "adult events" are their main focus, the sisters know all the tricks to keep those awkward teen party moments to a minimum.

"Activity, activity, activity," cites Darlene. "Those kids need to be kept busy. If you don't keep them focused, they can disappear."

Keeping the kids engaged includes hiring professional dancers to get the kids off the chairs and onto the dance floor, renting photo booths with accessories for crazy photography, and, of course, the food.

"The food needs to be fun," Darlene emphasizes. "Sliders, fries, pizza ovens, taco bars and at least one 'action station' like a build-your-own ice cream sundae can all add to the atmosphere and keep the kids interested."

Fun can also come with some adult influences. "The martini luges that are so popular these days can also be a great treat for the kids. We develop a signature non-alcoholic drink in honor of the celebrant, then we send the mixture through a carved ice sculpture to come out chilled and pouring straight into the guest's glass," she explains.

Custom mocktails may be cool, but Darlene admits keeping the real thing out of the underage parties can be a real challenge.

"There's a lot of liability involved with minors and alcohol; we always recommend that parties for the older teenage crowd be held at a facility, not a home. And bring in a security guard."

Security guards, photo booths, princesses and party planners — today they are not just accepted, they are expected. You have to marvel at how very far we are from the parties of our own childhoods.

Until you take a look at Heather Mattos' blog and see pictures of her daughter's All Tangled Up Party featuring a very creative and totally retro "Pin the Pan on Flynn" game, complete with blindfold and scotch-taped frying pans. Suddenly everything feels a little bit more like home. ■



Tips for a party to remember

- Make the guest of honor feel special. Use personal photos and favorite themes (books, colors, celebrant unique).
- Involve children with the planning. Anticipation is half the fun!
- Outsource and accept help when it is offered. Find things that can be done ahead of time.
- Decorations don't need to be overwhelming — pick a focal spot and make it shine.
- Use unexpected items to add to the festive feel. Stack old Coke crates to add height. Use an old door as a backdrop — string photos to personalize.
- Put a memory book or a photo framed with a wide mat for guests to sign — even at a child's birthday these will create memories to last.
- Hire a photographer, or ask someone to be in charge of taking pictures. You don't want the special day to pass without a record of all the fun!
- If you hire a character, make sure to ask for pictures of the costume and the person playing the character, then ask for a guarantee that what is represented is what will be arriving.
- The key to tweens and teen parties is activity, activity, activity. Hiring outside entertainers is often the best way to keep things moving and under control.
- Teen parties at home can be crazy. Consider asking the parents to celebrate with you — have a separate room with food and drinks for adult socializing.

Far left: Birthday baker Camden Mattos, 6, waits for her guests to arrive to start the fun. Clockwise, from top left: Camden and her guests model their colorful apron party favors; details don't have to be expensive — colorful baking cups strung on baker's twine add a festive feel and emphasize the party's baking theme; incorporate photos of the guest-of-honor to personalize the celebration decorations; make one table an over-the-top focal point and don't worry about decorating the rest of the house; a child size cookie sheet holds all that guests need to bake their favorite treats; glass jars full of picnic party fare makes serving lunch easy and beautiful; a cookie tower topped with candles takes a birthday dessert from traditional to terrific — and there is no need for forks and plates.



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

Taking a 'stand' against pediatric HIV/AIDS

*UCLA students dancing
26 hours this weekend
for a good cause*

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"When there is a cure we'll dance for joy. Until then we will dance for life."

If you happen to be at UCLA this weekend, stop by the Ackerman Grand Ballroom for an inspiring sight: Hundreds of college students will be dancing away from 11 a.m. Saturday until 1 p.m. Sunday to raise money for the Pediatric AIDS Coalition.

"I'm participating in Dance Marathon because I've been told that it's truly one of the most life changing and incredible 26 hours one can experience here," said UCLA freshman Evan Gum, who graduated from Amador Valley High last year.

Gum, who is majoring in biology and minoring in neuroscience, is one of four local students who signed up for the fundraiser, pledging to raise a minimum of \$250 for the cause as well as dancing all night. The others are Kelsie



"When there is a cure we'll dance for joy. Until then we will dance for life."

Lofand, Jae-Ho Nam and Jack Rogers.

Gum said he's participating "not just for the fun and craziness of dancing 26 hours straight, but because of the incredible people surrounding you doing the same thing all for the same cause."

"I'm excited to be part of another year of fundraising for such a great cause," he added. "I got involved through the Alumni Scholars Club, which is filled with students dedicated to community service as well as their schoolwork."

An undertaking of this size involves more than the dancers. ■ "Moralers" work three-hour shifts to keep the dancers on their feet by cheering them on. They have to raise \$30 to work a shift.

■ "Performers" are an assortment of talented UCLA students who keep the dancers entertained.

■ Volunteers keep the event running smoothly.

The dancers not only battle to stay on their feet moving for 26 hours, they also learn more about the disease, meet young children who are affected and celebrate the continuous fight for a cure. This year's Dance Marathon theme is "Illuminate!"

This is the 12th year for the fundraising event.

"So far, we have contributed more than \$3 million toward



PHOTOS COURTESY PEDIATRIC AIDS COALITION

Hundreds of energetic and compassionate UCLA students enjoy an incredible experience at Last year's Dance Marathon, which raised more than \$450,000 to benefit research on pediatric AIDS and a camp for children affected by AIDS.

beneficiaries such as the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF); Project Kindle, a free camp for children affected by AIDS; and the UCLA AIDS Institute," said spokesman Elliott Yancy.

The event gets great press coverage in Southern California, said Yancy, has live music and, being in L.A., draws celebrities such as Perez Hilton, James Franco, Kate Flannery and many, many more who visit and entertain the dancers.

"Last year's event united more than 3,000 supporters and raised over \$450,000," he said.

UCLA's Pediatric AIDS Coalition is the largest student-run philanthropic organization on the West Coast, Yancy added. ■

Why pediatric AIDS?

- 45,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County.
- 34 million people across the globe are currently living with HIV.
- 2.5 million of them are children under the age of 15.
- 50% of people with HIV/AIDS are not receiving proper care.
- It costs just \$19 to test a pregnant women for HIV to take critical steps to prevent transmission of the virus to her child.



Concert to feature winners of youth competition

Livermore-Amador Symphony continues to celebrate 50th season

By PATRICIA BOYLE

The Livermore-Amador Symphony's 50th Season celebration continues with its second concert of the season, "Vienna Bonbon and Russian Drama," on Feb. 23 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Featured will be the winners of the symphony's Competition for Young Musicians: violinist Young Sun (Angel) Kim of Pleasanton and pianist Vivian Sung of Dublin.

The program includes Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich; Schumann's Concerto in A Minor (1st movement); Zigeunerweisen by Sarasate; and, to honor the Symphony's 50th Season, Lehar's Gold and Silver Waltz. Dr. Arthur Barnes is conducting.

Kim, 17, will solo in Pablo Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen (Gypsy Airs), a composition with themes of sad lament and bright dance based loosely on the czardas, a Hungarian folk dance.

She began playing the violin at the age of 8, and first performed as a soloist at the Livermore Solo and Ensemble Festival in the fifth grade.

"I like to play the violin because it helps me relieve my stress

when I have many things on my mind," said Kim, the daughter of Chunsun Kyung and Wan Ho Kim, and a senior at Amador Valley High.

Kim currently studies with Davis Law at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has been a member of the LAS Youth Orchestra for three years, and is the concertmaster and student representative of the Oakland Youth Orchestra (OYO). She also serves as concertmaster and vice president of the Livermore-Pleasanton Youth Outreach Symphony (LPYOS).

Kim won first place in the most recent OYO Concerto Competition and the honorable mention award as a sophomore. Last year, at the Korea Times Youth Music Competition she won third place; in the sixth grade she won second place.

She received a scholarship award from the Korean American Music Supporters Association and the



Young Sun (Angel) Kim

Contra Costa County scholarship award for leadership and volunteer work. In addition to violin she has served as a math tutor since eighth grade. She became a book club leader in the Korean Parents Association when she was in ninth grade.

"Besides solo violin, orchestra has been a huge part of my life, and I plan to continue to be in an orchestra even when I grow up," Kim said.

The first movement of the Schumann concerto features Sung, who remembers that she was first enchanted by the piano at age 5, when she laid her eyes on her cousin's fingers dancing across the keys.

Sung, the daughter of I-Ping Liu and Michael Sung, is now 16 and a junior at Dublin High School. She has studied the piano for the past 10 years.

"Music has always been an entanglement of my emotions; there is passion, hatred, and frustration — but above all, love," Sung said. "Music is the only world in which I can truly be myself, express my emotions, and expose my soul."

Sung's current teacher, whom

she says has instilled in her "a wild passion for music," is Dr. Jed Galant. At Wells Middle School, she was the keyboardist for the jazz band.

She also has excelled in the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) Certificate of Merit (CM) exams, which qualified her to perform in numerous MTAC CM Branch Honors Recitals and Convention Festival Recitals. In 2012 she was selected as an Advanced Panel winner. Sung has also participated in music festivals and won various competitions, including the Schumann Festival in Pleasanton and the U.S. Open Music Competition.

Music of the romantic period is most intriguing to her. Aside from classical music, she enjoys listening to modern music — the latest pop music of both American and Asian cultures, rhythm and blues, and jazz.

Sung shared her knowledge of

music with young children in a summer program at the Dublin Library, telling anecdotes of composers with music recordings to demonstrate their unique personalities, turning several Lady Gaga fans into Beethoven fanatics.

"I have always regarded music as my own little 'happy place,' where no one can disturb me in my reveries of melodies and harmonies," Sung said.

Future concerts of the season will take place on April 6 with guest conductor Dawn Harms and on May 18, featuring Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Valley Concert Choral and Pacific Masterworks Chorus.

The Feb. 23 concert begins at 8 p.m., preceded by a prelude talk from 7-7:30 p.m., at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. For tickets, visit www.mylvpac.com or call 373-6800.

The symphony's 50th season celebrations include a retreat at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds in Monterey from April 19-21. Guild members, donors and their families are invited to join orchestra members for this stimulating weekend event. ■



Vivian Sung

Trio to perform classics

The Bonfiglio-Bedrossian-Cho Trio will present a concert of classic works at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 3, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Road in Livermore. The program will include "Trio," op. 11, by Ludwig van Beethoven; "Fantasy Trio," op. 26, by Robert Muczynski; "Eight Pieces," op. 83, nos. 2, 6, and 4, by Max Bruch; and "Trio in A minor," op. 114, by Johannes Brahms. Admission to the concert is by free-will donation (suggested amount \$15-\$25) at the door beginning one hour before the concert. Early arrival is recommended, as seating is limited to approximately 100.

Trio members are clarinetist Joseph Bonfiglio, who teaches part time at Chabot College and Ingram and Brauns Musik Shoppe in Pleasanton. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Music degree at the Juilliard School.

Cellist Peter Bedrossian holds both A.B. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Harvard University and is on staff at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has served as principal cellist with the Tassajara Symphony, the Livermore Valley Opera and the Livermore-Amador Symphony, and plays with the Berkeley Symphony and the Fremont Symphony.

Pianist Sang Yoon Cho received a diploma for piano performance from Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland, and her Professional Study Diploma (PSD) from San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

A reception with the opportunity to meet the artists will follow the concert. A portion of the proceeds of the concert will benefit Hope Hospice.



'La Traviata' opens March 9

Free preview at Pleasanton library Feb. 24

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Livermore Valley Opera continues its season's offerings starting March 8 with the opening of Verdi's "La Traviata," a romantic tale of love and heartbreak that is a staple of operatic repertoires.

"'La Traviata' offers an emotional ride between the gaiety of 1800s Parisian parties and the despair of a poignant ending," said LVO President Jim Schmidt. "It belongs in the top tier of opera with some of the most familiar and enjoyable music known, and our cast brings the characters to life with rich vibrant voices and commanding stage presence."

"'La Traviata,' which literally translates as 'The Fallen Woman,' is the story of a young courtesan, Violetta Valéry, who finds the love of her life in a young nobleman, Alfredo Germont. But Alfredo's father insists that Violetta break off her relationship to protect his family's reputation.

Giuseppe Verdi adapted the opera from Alexandre Dumas' romantic novel, "La dame aux Camé-



lias" (The Lady of the Camellias). The opera will be sung in Italian with English supertitles above the stage.

Lyric soprano and dramatic actress Rebecca Davis will sing Violetta. She is an alumnus of the San Francisco Opera Merola Program and has performed principal roles in major opera houses across the country.

"Her voice is muscular enough to tackle the most daunting displays of power, but tenderly lyrical in more intimate passages," reviewer Joshua Kosman said in the San Francisco Chronicle about Davis' performance in a prior appearance as Violetta.

Tenor David Gustafson, one of the Bay Area's most popular opera singers, will sing Alfredo. He sang Roldolfo in the Livermore Valley



COURTESY LVO

Love and heartbreak

What: "La Traviata"

Who: Livermore Valley Opera

When: 8 p.m., Saturdays, March 9 and 16

2 p.m., Sundays, March 10 and 17

Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

Cost: Adults, \$39-\$74. Students 18 younger, \$10 off. Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks, beginning one hour before curtain. Sunday matinees include ice cream at intermission.

Tickets: Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Other: Opening Night Gala, \$85, at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, 4:30 p.m.

Opera production of "La bohème" is the fall.

Schmidt explained that the upcoming production of "La Traviata" will be unique, even for opera aficionados.

"If you have seen 'La Traviata' before, our production promises to be a new experience, thanks to the imaginative direction of our stage director Brian Luedloff," Schmidt said.

Luedloff directed LVO's production of "Madama Butterfly" in 2011, which San Francisco Classical Voice described as "riveting."

An OperaLIVE! Free event at the Pleasanton library will feature Davis and Gustafson performing excerpts from "La Traviata" and other operas at 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24. ■

Community Pulse • Transitions

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

POLICE BULLETIN

Jewelry, electronics stolen in residential burglaries

Three homes were hit by burglars in recent days, including one daytime break in that netted an arrest (see story below).

Both others were reported on Feb. 6.

In one, a Rolex watch valued at

\$8,300 was among the items stolen from a home in the 500 block of Kottinger Drive, according to police reports. Also reported stolen was a Swiss watch worth \$1,000 and a \$1,000 tennis bracelet, an \$800 watch and miscellaneous other jewelry and electronics worth a total of \$1,900. The break-in occurred between 9:40 a.m. and 12:01 p.m. Entry was made by breaking in a

rear door to the home.

In the other, jewelry and other items worth more than \$3,000 were reported stolen between 8:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. from a home in the 6700 block of Paseo San Leon. In addition to the jewelry, which was taken from jewelry boxes, a \$600 iPad was taken. Access was gained through breaking the frame on a side garage door.

In other police reports:

- Three residents reported they were victims of identity theft.

In one, \$2,800 was taken from a resident of the 1600 block of

Chatham Lane through a common scam. A man claiming to be the woman's grandson told her he had been jailed in Peru. The woman wired money, but became suspicious when the man called back looking for more. That incident was reported at 9:20 a.m. Feb. 8.

In the second incident, a resident of the 3600 block of Dunsmuir Circle reported that someone had applied for a line of credit in his name. The man later learned that accounts had been opened in his name, but was unable to tell police yet what, if anything, had been

charged to those accounts.

In the third, reported at about 10:10 a.m. Feb. 6, a resident of the 5800 block of Arthur Drive told police someone had used her Social Security number to file a tax return.

- Mark Steven Rosencranz, 55, of Pleasanton was arrested at about 7:22 p.m. Feb. 8 in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive on a felony warrant for grand theft from Alameda County.

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

Police nab daytime burglar

Juveniles were home, called police when man broke in

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Lincoln's birthday may be in part responsible for the arrest of a Discovery Bay man in a Pleasanton burglary Monday.

School was out for the day honoring the president, and two boys, ages 11 and 16 were alone in their home in the 1400 block of Briones Lane. At about 2:45 p.m., a white male adult began forcing entry into the side garage door, according to a police report.

The pair hid in a bedroom and one of them called 911 as the man entered the home.

Police, responding to the call, established a perimeter around the adjacent homes while other officers entered the house to make

sure the two juveniles were OK.

The man was not inside the home, and a K-9 unit from Livermore helped Pleasanton police search the area.

Christopher Chase, 34, was found hiding in a nearby yard, with property stolen from the home found close to where he was hiding.

Chase was booked into Santa Rita Jail on a count of first-degree burglary. He is being held on \$50,000 bail.

Kamp Drive was closed to vehicle traffic for about 90 minutes while police conducted their search.

The Police Department also used an automated system to ask residents in the area to stay inside for their own safety. ■



Christopher Chase

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 6

Theft

- 10:10 a.m. in the 5800 block of Arthur Drive; fraud
- 11:34 a.m. in the 7000 block of Cortez del Oro; bicycle theft

- 4:46 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 12:01 p.m. in the 500 block of Kottinger Drive; residential burglary
- 3:28 p.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo San Leon; residential burglary

Auto burglary

- 10:13 a.m. in the 3200 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 2:36 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:44 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Vandalism

- 7:19 a.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue
- 1:46 p.m. at the intersection of Del Valle Parkway and Main Street
- 6:15 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

Drug violations

- 2:44 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; possession of marijuana with intent to sell, transporting marijuana
- 3:56 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; public intoxication/drugs

Feb. 7

Rape

- 8:55 a.m. in the 500 block of Dolores Place

Theft

- 3:02 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 3:41 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall road; theft from structure
- 5:17 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 2:46 p.m. in the 7900 block of Fair Oaks Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:52 p.m. in the 280 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance
- 5:07 p.m. in the 4800 block of

Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

- 8:22 p.m. at the intersection of old Vineyard Avenue and Vineyard Avenue; minor in possession of alcohol, marijuana possession

Vandalism

- 9:09 a.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue

Feb. 8

Theft

- 9:20 a.m. in the 1600 block of Chatham Lane; fraud
- 2:35 p.m. in the 4100 block of First Street
- 5:39 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- 6:39 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 10:34 p.m. in the 4700 block of Willow Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:46 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 4:44 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; possession of methamphetamines, paraphernalia possession

Feb. 9

Theft

- 8:13 a.m. in the 1000 block of Kottinger Drive; auto theft
- 4:07 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:18 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 4:50 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 5:15 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 8:10 p.m. in the 700 block of St. John Circle

Battery

- 12:53 a.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue

Vandalism

- 2:34 p.m. at the intersection of Touriga Drive and Palomino Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:55 a.m. in the 200 block of Spring Street; public drunkenness
- 2:43 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession
- 10:34 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road; possession of methamphetamines

- 11:55 p.m. near the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Interstate 580; DUI

Feb. 10

Theft

- 7:19 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Auto burglary

- 12:25 p.m. in the 7700 block of Knollbrook Drive

Vandalism

- 9:08 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 10:23 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:00 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession
- 2:02 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness

Feb. 11

Theft

- 9:31 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; auto theft
- 11:58 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; bicycle theft
- 12:35 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from structure
- 1:27 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; bicycle theft

Burglary

- 2:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Briones Lane; residential burglary

Vandalism

- 7:27 a.m. in the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:13 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; DUI

Feb. 12

Theft

- 4:23 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting
- 8:30 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from structure
- 8:59 p.m. in the 3600 block of Dunsmuir Circle; fraud

Vandalism

- 9:32 a.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street
- 10:09 a.m. at the intersection of Norton Way and Gamay Court
- 10:11 a.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton Avenue and St. John Circle


Friday, March 8, 2013
 6:30 pm - 11:00 pm
Ragin' Cajun
Dinner and Dance

**Dinner, Music, Dancing,
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Palm Event Center
 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton

This is the primary fundraising event for the
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Purchase Tickets
www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org
 or (866) 862-7270
 Tickets are \$95 per person




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Author Visits

FRANKLIN-WILLIS AT TOWNE CENTER BOOKS Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., welcomes Amy Franklin-Willis, author of "Lost Saints of Tennessee," from 4-6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16. Enjoy refreshments, games, prizes and cameo appearances of local writers Camille Minichino, Ann Parker and Penny Warner.

Clubs

SELF-PUBLISHING: SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS Jennifer Basye Sander will be the guest speaker at the next monthly meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, speaking about avenues for becoming published. She is the author of more than 50 books including "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Getting Published." The talk is from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members. Call 216-5238 or email reservations@trivalleywriters.org.

TVDC: CLIMATE CHANGE

DISCUSSION The next meeting of the Tri-Valley Democratic Club addresses "Putting Climate Change on the Front Burner" with Erica Stephen from Al Gore's Climate Reality Project; Judy Pope of 350bayarea.org; and Jim Donnelly, an environmental, health and safety consultant. Meeting is from 7-9 p.m., Monday, Feb. 18, at IBEW 595, 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin. Refreshments will be served. For details, call 451-4303 or visit trivalleydems.com/Calendar.htm. Free.

Concerts

CABARET TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER "The World of Webber: A Cabaret Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber" will present the epic Broadway songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber in an intimate cabaret-style setting performed by Tielle Baker, Kelly Brandeburg and Kyle Martin. The concert is from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17, at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Cost \$15-\$25. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

GUITARIST OF THE DECADE: ADRIAN LEGG With his unique, dynamic amalgam of acoustic and electric guitar over four decades, British guitar maestro Adrian Legg will perform at 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$20. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Events

'THE BIG DRAW' The city of Pleasanton is sponsoring an arts day, "The Big Draw," from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, May 11, which will take place downtown. The organizers are looking for people who are interested in showing off all different types of art forms to the public, including dance, literary, music and visual. The event will emphasize the talent of our youth, and money raised will go toward supporting art programs in our schools. Contact the city of Pleasanton at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/contact/.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Irreverent wit and wisdom

Bill Harley, Grammy Award winning storyteller, musician and author who uses song and story to paint a vibrant and hilarious picture of growing up, returns to Firehouse Arts Center with two different signature shows on Saturday, Feb. 16. The Youngsters Show is at 2 p.m.; tickets are \$10. The Grown-Ups Show is 8 p.m.; tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20. Buy tickets at www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848 or go to the box office at 4444 Railroad Ave.

ON THE TOWN



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ESTATE FURNITURE ART AND ACCESSORIES The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Mission Plaza on Santa Rita Road has received a large donation of furniture and household items. Bedroom sets, dining tables, lamps and art work will be featured from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23. For details, call Monda Wiseman at 462-7374.

GOODGUYS 31ST ALL AMERICAN GET-TOGETHER A giant Goodguys event will take place 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Saturday, March 23-24, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. This class event features more than 3,000 American-powered show cars and trucks of all years, makes and models. Vendor exhibits, swap meet, free kids entertainment, arts and crafts, model car show, high-speed AutoCross and fun for the entire family. Tickets: adults, \$17; kids 7-12, \$6. For details, call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

LISA NICHOLS TO SPEAK The Bright Side of Life Women's Gathering is pleased to present Lisa Nichols, author, motivational speaker and

TV guest personality, at 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28, at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road. Nichols will present "Leading From Your Place of Power." Tickets are \$35 if purchased by Feb. 14, \$40 thereafter. Go to www.thebrightsideoflife.com.

NEW WAR AGAINST ISRAEL Jonathan Cary of Blue Star will examine the role of the media in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, exploring how the print, electronic and social media have had an impact on public perception. The event is from 7:30-9:15 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. Cost \$10. Call 510-318-6453 or visit www.bethemek.org.

Exhibits

'DIFFERENT PATHS' PHOTO EXHIBIT The Figurehead Gallery is pleased to present "Different Paths, Alternative Photographic Expressions" featuring photos of Walter Davies, Lisa Rigge and Ron Rigge. The opening reception is from 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St. Suite 21, Livermore. The exhibit runs Feb. 16-March 30. Call 353-0419 or visit [\[headgallery.com\]\(http://headgallery.com\).](http://www.figure-</p>
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Film

18TH ANNUAL EAST BAY INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival will run March 9-17 and feature 41 independent and international screenings in Pleasant Hill and Orinda, and locally at the Vine Cinema & Alehouse, 1722 1st St., Livermore. Tickets are \$7 and \$10 in advance, \$1 more at the door. For details, visit www.eastbayjewishfilm.org/.

Fundraisers

ALISAL ELEMENTARY CRAB FEED The public is invited to the fourth annual Alisal Elementary School Crab Feed on Saturday, March 2, at the California Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. The goal for this year's fundraiser is \$20,000 to purchase new laptops for the teachers. Come enjoy silent and live auctions and delicious crab. For more details, contact Marcey Donnelly at auction@alisalpta.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF AMADOR

VALLEY The local chapter of this national philanthropic organization is hosting its 18th annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, April 13, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. This event includes tea tables decorated by members, food, drawing prizes, lucky teacups, a hat contest and silent auction. The guest speaker will be Penny Warner, author, family life columnist and child development educator. Tickets are \$50, with proceeds providing school clothes and shoes to needy children. Reserve by March 29. For details, call Annette at 462-5275 or visit www.amador-valley.assistanceleague.org.

BINGO BASH The Italian Catholic Federation, Branch No. 285, is holding its annual "Bingo Bash" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16 at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Fundraiser will aid the Cooleys' Anemia research at Children's Hospital Oakland and the college scholarship fund. There will be 10 games of bingo, dancing to the music of DJ Joe Buonsante and a prize drawing and line dancing led by Melanie Calabrese. Cost

\$10. Beverages, pizza and snacks available for purchase. Reservation required; call Helen at 462-3798. If unable to attend, donations accepted. Mail to ICF, C/O E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton 94566.

JEWELS NEEDED FOR 'TIME FOR JEWELS' EVENT Clean out your jewelry box to donate items to the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Mission Plaza on Santa Rita Road, which is seeking jewelry and clock donations for its "Time for Jewels" event happening April 19-21. Shop is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday at 1987-L Santa Rita Road. Call Monda Wiseman at 462-7374.

TRI-VALLEY ANIMAL RESCUE 8TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, March 9, at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Ave., Livermore, for its fabulous Claws for Paws fundraising event with all you can eat fresh cracked crab, Caesar salad, pasta, french bread, dessert and coffee/tea. No-host bar (beer and wine) and more. There will be a creative selection of prize drawings to add to the fun. Tickets are \$45 each through Feb. 28, and \$50 thereafter. Order tickets online at www.tvlar.org or mail a check to TVAR, P.O. Box 11143, Pleasanton 94588. Include e-mail address to receive ticket confirmation electronically to save on mailing costs.

Kids & Teens

LUCK OF THE IRISH The Museum on Main, 603 Main St., hosts Preschool Reading Time on Wednesday, March 13, with "Luck of the Irish," fun books and activities celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Book reading begins at 10 a.m. with theme crafts immediately following. No reservations required, but large groups should call in advance, 462-2766. Free.

PIPPY LONGSTOCKING AT THE LIBRARY Enjoy scenes from the upcoming Firehouse Arts Center performance of "Pippi Longstocking," meet the cast, and make simple Pippi-inspired crafts, from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Best for ages 5 years and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8, or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library. Free.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Sonshine Enrichment Center Preschool, 1225 Hopyard Road, invites you to an Open House from 1-3 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21. Bring your child and find out about the part-time parent cooperative, preschool program. The preschool is registering children for September 2013. For details, call Rashel Crockett at 417-8411 or visit www.sonshinepreschool.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY FORUM Meet local Energy Upgrade California Participating Contractors and find out how energy efficiency upgrades can help you save money on utility bills. The lecture is from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Pleasanton Operations Services Conference Center, 3333 Busch Rd. Learn about how you can earn

A FREE Educational Seminar

PRE-DIABETES

Learn how to reduce your risks

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY SEMINAR

Pre-diabetes means your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed with diabetes. This condition puts you at increased risk for developing diabetes, heart disease and stroke. The good news is with healthy lifestyle changes you can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. Learn about risk factors, signs and symptoms. Find out how to change your diet and exercise routine to help stop diabetes in its tracks.

SEMINAR LOCATION

San Ramon Regional Medical Center
South Conference Room
South Building
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583

SPEAKERS

Stephen Pratt, M.D.
Internal Medicine Specialist
Barbara Reis, R.D., CDE
Certified Diabetes Educator



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Live Music

11TH ANNUAL YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Young musicians from the Tri-Valley and greater Bay Area are coming together for the 11th annual Youth Music Festival, starting at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 15, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 at the door. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

The Firehouse Arts Center will present "The World of Webber" at 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17, a cabaret-style tribute to composer Andrew Lloyd Webber with songs from Broadway musicals including "Evita," "Phantom of the Opera," "Cats" and "Sunset Boulevard." Tickets \$15-\$25, youths \$12, seniors \$22; group discounts available. Purchase tickets at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 931-4848, or visiting the box office at 4444 Railroad Ave.

Miscellaneous

'LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY' Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names will be selected at 5:50 p.m. and people must be

present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

On Stage

SUNOL REPERTORY THEATRE

PRESENTS Sunol Repertory Theatre presents "Murder in the House of Horrors," a who-done-it mystery. Tickets are \$15; purchase at Elliston Vineyard, 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol; performances are at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol, on Fridays and Saturdays, March 8-9, 15-16 and 22-23. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Guin Van Dyke at 862-0664 or visit www.sunol.net.

Scholarships

TRI-VALLEY RETIRED EDUCATOR'S

SCHOLARSHIP Up to six scholarships, each worth \$2,000, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation to high school graduating seniors and college/university students who are planning a career in education. Requirements are: a) applicants must reside in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol area; b) high school applicants must be seniors planning to attend a four-year college in fall 2013; c) community college applicants must be qualified to transfer as juniors to a four-year institution in fall 2013; d) four-year college applicants must be sophomores who will continue as juniors in fall 2013. Send questions to greegno@pacbell.net or call 443-6097. Application deadline is March 15. Download

application at the retired educators' website, www.div85.calrta.org.

Seniors

BUNCO Play this popular dice game with your friends at the Senior Center, a great place to socialize and make new friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, every Tuesday, Jan. 29 through March 19, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR SENIORS

Pleasanton Public Library hosts Computer Classes for Seniors including Beginning Internet on the first Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Beginning E-mail on the second Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Open Practice on the third Wednesday and Thursday of every month; Advanced E-mail on the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of every month, at the Adult Computer Area in the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Computer classes are designed for mature adults. Registration is required; call 931-3400.

TEA TIME SOCIAL Come join your friends for an afternoon of tea and cookies. This free event happens 1-3 p.m., Thursday, March 7, at the Pleasanton 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 stag-

ing area or register to ride over on Paratransit. For more information please 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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK MASS

The Catholic Community invites you to a Mass celebrating World Day of Prayer for the Sick from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16, at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Mass will include Anointing of Sick and a special blessing for doctors, nurses and caregivers. RSVP by Feb. 13 to pamcampion@comcast.net. Call 846-4489 or visit www.catholiccommunityofpleasanton.org.

Support Groups

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP

Overwhelmed by clutter? Learn how to deal with it by attending this Non profit Self Help Support group, which meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every

Monday (except some holidays) at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., Rm. 7. Donation requested \$2-\$5. Call 200-1943 or visit www.clutterless.org.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES

SUPPORT GROUP Formed in 2003 this group provides support and comfort to the Pleasanton families whose loved ones are deployed in the combat zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. The group has monthly meetings and other events such as "pack outs" of comfort and care items for deployed members of the armed forces. The group also sponsors the Yellow Streamer program on Main Street where streamers are displayed with the name, rank and branch of service of Pleasanton military personnel. Learn more at www.pleasantonmilitaryfamilies.org.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS Is holding a public blood drive from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Las Positas College, Student Center, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. (Sponsor Code: LASPOSITAS) to schedule an appointment.

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Wanted: Pre 1973 Mercedes SL
any condition. Other convertibles, Porsche 356, 912, 911, Jaguar XK150 through E-types. Gas station signs. Other interesting cars considered. 714-267-3436 or michaelcanfield204@gmail.com (Cal-SCAN)

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NOTICE TO READERS -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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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.



805 Homes for Rent

Menlo Park, 2 BR/2 BA
Ideal location with great schools! E-mail: martulino@yahoo.com

Menlo Park, 3 BR/2 BA
Charming W/S MF,LM Schl, \$5,000. 3 Br,2Ba, FR,DR,Hrdwd,Flrs, NSNPets,650598-7047

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA
W/RC 3BR2Ba,LrgKit,Hrdwd Flrs,NSNPets,Lrg Yd,\$4,000 650 598-7047

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Palo Alto, 4 BR/3.5 BA
New built in 2012 two story SFR 2,850 sq. ft. including 1 car garage at 7,000 sq. ft. lot (Buyer to verify). Will be shown by appointment with Owner - cell phone 650-465-3773, vergassov1@yahoo.com



995 Fictitious Name Statement

EINTELLECT; KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITIES FEDERATED FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 473591-2
The following person(s) are doing business as: elntellect; Knowledge Communities Federated, 3250 Burgundy Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stanley & Cynthia Gould, 3250 Burgundy Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein elntellect; Knowledge Communities Federated. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 10, 2013. Pleasanton Weekly, PUB DATES Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8 and 15, 2013.

TOWER CLIMBER SAFETY SOLUTIONS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 473886
The following person(s) doing business as: Tower Climber Safety Solutions, 207 Spring St., Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Charles Steven & Lisa Marie Sanford, 207 Spring St., Pleasanton, CA, 94566. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrants (s): Charles S. Sanford. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 15, 2013. Pleasanton Weekly PUB DATES Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 2013, and March 1, 2013.

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA.
Case No.:HG13664642
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Dritan Dyrmishi & Felicia M. Dyrmishi filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
DEAN DYRMISHI to DEAN ALLEN DYRMISHI.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: April 5, 2013, 8:45 a.m., Dept.: 504. Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: PLEASANTON WEEKLY Dated: (January 24, 2013)/s/ Cecilia Anchundo CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (Pleasanton Weekly February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2013).

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Down Mexico way: The Wong family (l-r) Jee-Yeon, Wallace, Kaitlyn (9), Zachary (5), Ryan (3) visit Loreto, Mexico with their Weekly.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Betty Boop

All Betty Boop wants is to be close to you. This 1-year-old is loving, sweet and very interested in the "goings on" of people. You're working on the computer? She will be there to help you draft emails. Reading the paper? Let her hold the pages down for you. Watching TV? She makes a great lap warmer. You'll wonder how you ever managed without this fabulous feline. Meet beautiful Betty Boop at the Dublin Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason St. See other available animals at www.eastbayspca.org or call 479-9670.



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Real Estate Matters: Deal killers are superstitions, core beliefs

Seller discloses death in house, even though it was his cat

By NANCY MACLEOD

There are two types of deal killers in real estate: those that are correctable or avoidable and those that are core beliefs or superstitions and unalterable.

The buyer may not even consider making an offer to purchase a home if certain conditions are present. Many of these beliefs are held in multiple cultures so the groups are not identified by name in this article. As of late, Realtors are seeing more superstitions coming into play.

Understanding their clients' needs is extremely important. Realtors can do some extra work by reviewing homes to save time for their clients if they understand their issues and needs. There is no need to show a property with problems unless there is a creative solution. A few of these can be remedied with mirrors, crystals, screens and repositioning an entry door, but some are just not going to work for certain buyers.

Here are some of the superstitions and core beliefs that can impact a potential sale:

- The shape of the lot: A lot that is shaped like the head of a tiger is undesirable in some groups and they will not even consider buying the property. On the other hand one shaped like a cow's head is good. These shapes are found primarily at the end of a cul-de-sac or a court. The tiger has a very narrow front and the back end is wide. The opposite is true of the cow. A square or rectangular lot is preferred.

- Sunlight exposure: Many cultures have sunlight issues; they differ depending on the ethnic groups. Some will only accept a home that faces south/north with south being the entry to the home. Others want a south/west frontage or only an eastern entry. Thank goodness they do not all want the same exposure so many options are open for the seller.

- The house is located on a T intersection: A house that sits on a street where another street is directly perpendicular to it will cause some buyers to cringe. The orientation of the perpendicular street brings in excessive energy toward the home that can disrupt good fortune from being able to settle inside the home.

- House numbers: Some groups do not want a number 4 in their house numbers. The number 4 means death. Another group does not like the address numbers ending in a downward stroke. An address with the last number ending in the num-

ber 1, 4, 7 or 9 indicates that the house will bring bad luck to the occupants. The downward stroke when the number is written causes all good luck to decline. On the other hand some believe that a number 8 or 9 brings good luck and fortune.

- The number of steps on the staircase or the location: On the first ascending step to the front door, the buyer chants "gold," second step, "silver," third step "debt." This chant is repeated until the last step is reached. If the last step lands on debt there is no deal. For some, a descending staircase that leads to the front door is a sure sign of future failing finances. Its presence indicates that all money entering the household will surely flow out due to the direct pathway of the stairs to the front door.

- The back door can be seen as you enter the front door: If the back door is parallel with the front door when entering the home, some believe that all good fortune experienced while residing in that home will be short lived. Good fortune will go in the front door and quickly come out of the back door. Others believe the garden should not be seen from the front door for the same reason.

In California, we have multiple real-estate disclosures that have to be filled in by the seller. The buyer is given the disclosures to approve or disapprove the purchase. I instruct my sellers to disclose every negative issue they are aware of other than superstitions to protect them and the buyer.

My favorite answer was by one of my sellers whom I had assisted several times with his homes regarding buying and selling. On his last sale he marked the "yes" box that there was a death in the home within the past three years. When questioned about his answer he replied, "Our family cat died last year." Precious and thoughtful answer, would you agree?

It is fortunate that not all people have strong superstitions but it is helpful for the seller and the Realtor to have compassion and understanding regarding the feelings of those who have genuine beliefs that may affect the purchase of a home.

Nancy MacLeod has run an independent boutique real estate firm, <http://Homes2Buy.com> since 1999. She was named Palo Alto Realtor of the Year in 2011. She can be reached at nancy@homes2buy.com.

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Blackhawk

4 BEDROOMS

37 Chestnut Place \$2,499,000
Sun 1-4 Rockcliff Realtors Inc 855-4000

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

3690 Silver Oak Place \$494,500
Sat/Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

5 BEDROOMS

35 Stanton Ct \$949,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc. 280-8500

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS

7012 Ann Arbor Way \$459,800
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

4 BEDROOMS

2706 Kilbride Ln \$750,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-8333

Livermore

2 BEDROOMS

325 Garden Cmn \$329,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors Inc 855-4000

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

7380 Stonedale Dr \$529,950
Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

4 BEDROOMS

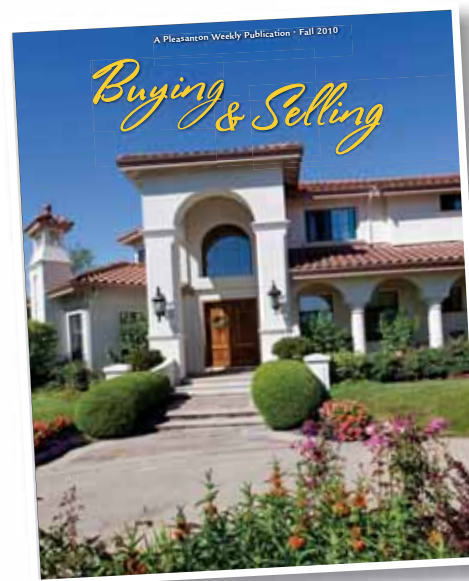
7755 Country Lane \$1,899,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel, Realtors 251-1111

5176 Blackbird Dr \$797,500
Sat 12-3/Sun 1-4 Prudential Ca Realty 249-1600

The market is HOT!

ADVERTISE IN PLEASANTON WEEKLY'S BUYING & SELLING

Publishing April 19, 2013



The 2013 BUYING AND SELLING special Real Estate section includes news and articles of interest about the local market. Use this opportunity to showcase properties or tell your prospective clients about your successes so when they are ready to sell they call you!

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To reserve your space today contact Carol Cano at ccano@pleasantonweekly.com or call (925) 699-5793

SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 14
Lowest sale reported: \$226,000
Highest sale reported: \$842,000
Average sales reported: \$515,535

Livermore

Total sales reported: 21
Lowest sale reported: \$260,000
Highest sale reported: \$855,000
Average sales reported: \$454,095

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 9
Lowest sale reported: \$310,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,974,000
Average sales reported: \$1,052,277

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 15
Lowest sale reported: \$205,500
Highest sale reported: \$988,000
Average sales reported: \$644,033

Source: California REsource



3 YEARS IN A ROW!



KELLER WILLIAMS
TRI-VALLEY REALTY

#1 OFFICE
IN PLEASANTON
IN VOLUME
AND SALES



SOLD!

5543 Oakmont Circle

4 Bed / 2 Bath in 1520sqft. LOTS OF NEW! New Roof, Gutters, Garage Door, Flooring, Lighting, Interior and Exterior Paint, Kitchen Counter, Sink, Stove, Master Bathroom and an Updated Hall Bathroom.



Mike Chandler
DRE#01039712
925-426-3858
MikeChandler.kwrealty.com

Jill Denton
DRE#01804876
925-998-7747
JillDenton.kwrealty.com



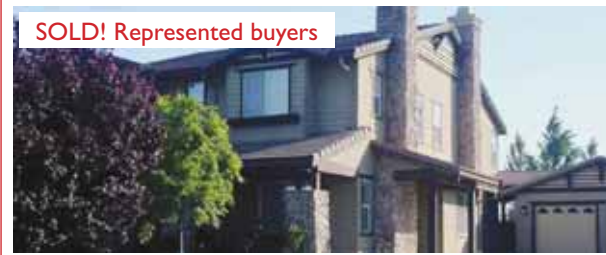
1124 Piemonte Drive, Pleasanton
Beautifully updated Ruby Hill home overlooking Fairway 2. 6 BR, 4.5 BA among 6060 sqft. Traditional styling and luxurious amenities throughout, including remodeled Gourmet Kitchen and Baths, Formal LR/DR, main level Master Suite, Executive Office, Bonus Room and optional Exercise Room. Hardwood Floors throughout.
Offered at \$2,450,000

Open Sat & Sun 1-4



DeAnna Armario

REALTOR® DRE # 01363180
925.260.2220 www.armariohomes.com



SOLD! Represented buyers

Exquisite, Vineyard Estate Home with over 4000 sq ft. 2 bedrooms & 2 full baths downstairs. Fireplaces in Living room, Family room & Master bedroom. Gourmet Kitchen with Cherry Cabs, Slab Granite Counters & Stainless appliances. Inside Laundry & Mud Room. Master bath with Jacuzzi Tub.
Sold for \$900,000.



Dennis Gerlt
Broker Associate DRE # 01317997
925.426.5010
www.buytrivalleyhomes.com



403 Neal Street, Pleasanton
4 bed (plus bonus room) 3.5 bath, 3300 sq. ft. Amazing location! Victorian home located a stone's throw from historic downtown. Exquisite details include stamped tin ceiling, stained glass overlay window, AZEK wrap around porches, classic beadboard, hardwood floors, newer composition shingle roof and paver circular driveway.
Offered at \$1,399,000

FABULOUS PROPERTIES



Donna Garrison, REALTOR® 925-980-0273
Susan Schall, REALTOR® 925-519-8226
www.FabulousProperties.net CA Lic#s 01735040, 01713497



4937 Monaco Drive | Beautiful Pleasanton Hills Home!
New on the market! 5 bed, 3 baths, 3233 sq ft, possible au-pair set up. Gorgeous remodeled kitchen and much much more VIEWS!!
Offered at \$1,198,000



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



1327 Clavey River Court, Livermore
Highly upgraded home in like new condition!
5 Bedrooms • 3 Full Bathrooms • 3,020 sq ft.
Gourmet kitchen • Beautiful floors • Custom paint
Priced to sell at \$819,000



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



SOLD!!

Homes are selling for **OVER** asking and in under 30 days in the Tri-Valley!

5482 Martingale, Livermore - Days on Market: 22
List Price: \$524,888 Sold Price: \$540,000

Find out what your home is worth by going to:
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Call Pamela or Anthony @ 925-443-7000



SERENITY REAL ESTATE TEAM
Pamela Ann Northup REALTOR® DRE #01517489
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info@theserenityteam.com



COMING SOON

4 Grey Eagle Court, Pleasanton
Breathtaking views from custom estate. 4BR/4.5BA, two dens, a media rm and 5000+ sqft. Marble entry, hardwood floors, iron staircase and handcrafted woodwork throughout. Granite slab kitchen with two pantries. Master suite with stunning views, dual fireplace, pedestal tub, oversized shower and heated floors.



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



COMING SOON

Coming Soon in Fremont
Wonderful Mission area home. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home with an expansive great room. With over 2900 sq ft, this home shows pride in ownership throughout! Located on a quiet street and walking distance to parks and trails. Priced in the mid \$800's.

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www.darleneccrane.com
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Brett Junell REALTOR®
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CASTRO VALLEY
17106 ROBERTO STREET
BEAUTIFUL BAY & CITY VIEWS \$388,000
3 BR 2 BA Freshly painted interior.Gleaming Hrdwd Flrs.Mstr Ste.Bckyrd w/covered patio.Easy Commute!
925.847.2200



2869 THERESA CT
COMING SOON! \$310,000
2 BR 1.5 BA Kitchen w/SS Appl,Granite Counter,Spacious Dining Rm.Travertine Tile Flrs. Fireplace in Fam 925.847.2200



SAN LEANDRO
Open SUNDAY 1-4 1729 EDGEHILL RD
GREAT SINGLE STORY HOME! \$689,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Spectacular View of SF Bay,Updated Kitchen.Dual Pane windows. 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
9640 DAVONA DRIVE
BEAUTIFUL HOME W/OPEN FLR PLAN \$595,000
4 BR 2 BA Hardwood Flrs.Kitchen Updated w/SS Appl.French Doors to Patio.Dual Pane Windows. Backyard. 925.847.2200

CAMBELL

3890 BUCKNALL ROAD
NICELY UPDATED CAMPBELL HOME \$720,000
3 BR 2 BA Kit w/Quartz counters & new appl.In-Law quarters.New dual pane windows & carpet.RV parking
925.847.2200

DANVILLE

1250 COUNTRY LANE
HIDDEN TASSARA GEM! \$1,348,000
5 BR 3.5 BA Upgraded home w/In-law Apt.Kit/Ba w/Granite.Formal Liv/Din Rrm.5 Stall Barn &raised garden 925.847.2200

2112 SHOSHONE CIR
SPACIOUS TOWNHOME! \$575,000
3 BR 3 BA Gated Community!Open Flr Plan.Kit w/ island.Separate dining & living rms.Mstr w/fireplace.
925.847.2200

DISCOVERY BAY

2238 PRESTWICK DR
DISCOVERY BAY-GOLF COURSE HOME \$525,000
4 BR 3 BA Features new carpeting/paint.Kitchen has SS Appl & granite counters.Lrge bckyrd w/pool.
925.847.2200

DUBLIN

3245 DUBLIN BLVD #307
COMING SOON! \$399,000
2 BR 2 BA Bright Open Flr Plan.Kit.w/granite.Hrdwd Flrs.Crown Molding.2 Car Garage.Built in 2004
925.847.2200

FREMONT

42969 NIDO COURT
COMING SOON! \$899,900
4 BR 2 BA Spanish Villa in "Mission Area"Spacious Floor Plan. Many Upgrades. Excellent Value!
925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

2257 MINERVA CT
STUNNING SEVILLANO NEIGHBORHOOD \$1,225,000
5 BR 4.5 BA Court Location!Very Private.Ground Flr Mstr Ste. & Guest Ste.Gourmet Kitchen w/Island.
925.847.2200

821 ORION WAY
BEAUTIFULLY EXPANDED HOME \$789,000
4 BR 3 BA Top of the line Remodel!Gourmet Kitchen.Huge Fam rm 2 Ceiling fans,2 mstr suites. Lrge yrd 925.847.2200

2866 ALNWICK AVE #5
COMING SOON! CALL FOR PRICING
3 BR 3.5 BA Two Story Condo. Lovely Nassau Model Condo w/balcony. Upgraded w/maple flrs, gourmet kit.,decorator paint. 925.847.2200

341 N STREET
LOTS OF POTENTIAL! \$180,000

Level lot for building. Check with City Planning for specifics. Lots of potential here! 925.847.2200

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

46200 SAN ANTONIO VALLEY ROAD
GREAT RANCH HOME! \$1,199,950
2 BR 2 BA 2 Cabins,2 Barns,Huge Swimming Pool & Cabanas.New Well.Got Airplanes...Paved Frontage Road 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

6 BOARDWALK PLACE
GREAT LOT FOR OWNER BUILDER \$525,000
Location is ideal right off of Crow Canyon Rd.Bldg area is approx. 4400 sq.ft. 925.847.2200

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PLEASANTON

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MURRIETA MEADOWS

COMING SOON



174 SUMMERTREE DRIVE, LIVERMORE

Don't miss this premium West Livermore location! This upgraded Primrose model with 4 spacious bedrooms, 3 bathrooms & approximately 2500 square feet was built in 1994 by Signature Homes. The lot size is 8,331 square feet, which includes a large private backyard with in-ground Pebble Tech pool/spa, waterfall and more room to roam. Also included is an upgraded kitchen with granite countertops, wood flooring, spacious master suite and more! Not far from beautiful downtown Livermore! **PRICE TO FOLLOW BUT BETWEEN \$699,000 & \$719,000**

RUBY HILL

PENDING SALE!



4355 CAMPINIA PLACE, PLEASANTON

Gorgeous custom single level on .60 acre premium lot in desirable Ruby Hill private gated community. Beautiful views of surrounding hills and vineyards. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, custom gourmet kitchen with granite slab countertops. Extensive crown molding, Brazilian cherry hardwood flooring, expansive master suite. Completely finished three car garage. Beautiful grounds include mature professional landscaping, built-in BBQ, viewing/sitting area, large covered patio and extensive lawn area. Ruby Hill community amenities include country club, golf course, swimming pool, tennis courts, dining and greenbelt. **OFFERED AT \$1,439,000**

CUSTOM

RECENTLY CLOSED!



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! **SOLD FOR \$958,000**

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**

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**

PLEASANTON VALLEY - "BIRDLAND"

SOLD!



2449 MINIVET COURT, PLEASANTON

"The heart of Birdland" Location, Location, Location! Quiet court is walking distance to Woodthrush 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**

AVILA

SOLD!



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**

PRIMA

SOLD!



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! **SOLD FOR \$850,000**

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**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



The latest from The 680 Blog

Pleasanton 2012 Year in Review

The story for the real estate market in Pleasanton in 2012 was inventory, or the lack of it. We ended the year with only 76 homes for sale here, the fewest in eight years. Not surprisingly, prices (as measured by the median sales price, price per square foot and sales price relative to list) were higher in 2012. The table below and the following analysis provide greater detail. This review includes single family detached homes only.

Sales Price

The median sales price in 2012 was \$740,000, 3.5% higher than 2011's median price of \$715,000. The average price per square foot was 3.6% higher in 2012 (\$352 versus \$340). Homes also sold for a greater percentage of their list price during 2012 (98%) than 2011 (97%). The table below shows the median sales price by month for the past two years.

Inventory

Pleasanton ended 2012 with 74 fewer single family detached homes for sale than year-end 2011. The average month-end inventory during 2012 was 83 units or 34% lower than during 2011 (165 versus 248 respectively). On average, there were 1.6 months of inventory available during

	2012 Review			
	2012	2011	Change	% Change
Closed Sales	691	605	86	14.2%
Median Sales Price	\$740,000	\$715,000	\$25,000	3.5%
Average Price Per Square Foot	\$352	\$340	\$12	3.6%
Average Sales Price as % of List Price	98.2%	96.8%	1.4%	1.4%
Highest Sales Price	\$3,900,000	\$3,000,000	\$900,000	30.0%
Lowest Sales Price	\$250,000	\$292,000	-\$42,000	-14.4%
Average Days on Market	31	48	-17	-35.4%
% Short Sales & REO	19.2%	18.5%	0.7%	4.0%
Average Month End Inventory	165	248	-83	-33.5%
Average Monthly Inventory in Months	1.6	3.4	-1.8	-53.9%

Single Family Detached Homes

2012, less than half of 2011's level of 3.4 months. The two following tables show the dramatic loss of inventory, based on both the number of units for sale and the number of months of inventory.

Closed Sales

691 sales closed during 2012, 14% or 86 units higher than 2011. As can be seen in the chart below, the spring and summer months were quite strong >> 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.



SOLD!
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! **\$1,425,000**



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!! **\$910,000**



SOLD!
Prime West Pleasanton home with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, granite kitchen, outdoor BBQ, hardwood floors, luxurious master suite, and more! **\$1,075,000**



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**



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**



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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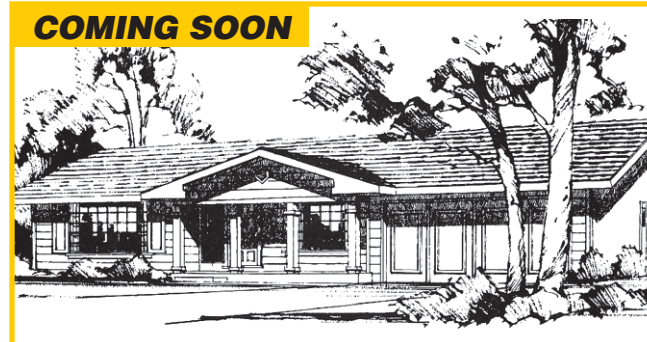


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A Concierge Approach
To Real Estate



COMING SOON

"Miramar" model in Birdland
4932 Blackbird Way, Pleasanton
4bd/2ba, 2,104+/-sq.ft with remodeled Granite kitchen, new windows, new paver driveway, custom fireplace and solar heater pool. CALL FOR DETAILS



COMING SOON

"Country" Model in Pleasanton Valley
4bd/2ba, 1,854+/-sq.ft, Hardwood floors, new Granite baths, newer furnace and new stamped concrete driveway. CALL FOR DETAILS



COMING SOON

"Heritage" model in Birdland
5bd/3ba, 2,550+/-sq.ft with new Granite kitchen, tile flooring, new furnace, paint, carpet, dual pane windows, newer roof and garage door, updated baths and inside laundry, plus a spacious backyard for outdoor entertaining. CALL FOR DETAILS



COMING SOON

"Trinity" model in Original Country Fair
4bd/2.5ba, 2,854+/-sq.ft, full bed/bath downstairs, eat-in kitchen, wet bar, formal dining room, large lot and 3 car garage. CALL FOR DETAILS



900 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 925-462-SOLD (7653) www.TimMcGuire.net

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MOXLEY TEAM SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$1,899,000
4bd +office, 4.5 ba +.5 in pool house. Vaulted open beam ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows inspire a grandness to the home. This home sits on just under an acre lot & backs to a private creek! 7755 COUNTRY LANE

DAN GAMACHE, JR. BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,499,950
Immaculate and rare property! 3332+/-sf single story home, excellent condition, 1800+/-sf basement, 1800+/-sf shop/garage/apt., endless views! 5800 EAGLES RUN RD

STASIA POIESZ BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,495,000
If you like privacy, this home is for you! Tucked away on a quiet court in Grey Eagle Estates, 4200+ sf of living space, huge yard and more. Must See! 5 RED FEATHER CT

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



DISCOVERY BAY \$985,000
Gorgeous Discovery Bay home at end of cul-de-sac, mini marina, 2 docks ~ could accommodate 50' yacht, gourmet kitchen, water views from many rooms, large covered waterproof deck and so much more! 5771 SALMON COURT

LEIGH ANNE HOFFMAN BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$925,000
Highly sought after Tapestry Traditional single story, updated kitchen with granite and stainless steel, updated carpeting, upgraded marble/granite flooring. Huge, park like backyard. 3 car garage plus workshop space. 2574 BESS AVENUE

MARK LAFFERTY BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$599,950
Absolutely Beautiful! 4bd/3 updated baths, granite counters, ss appliances, custom tile flooring, new carpet & baseboards, pool with 3 waterfalls and more! 1708 PLACER CIR

DAN GAMACHE, JR. BY APPT



DISCOVERY BAY \$595,000
Highly upgraded deep water home ~ perfect for entertaining! Gourmet kitchen with granite counters and cherry cabinets. Wood deck, 2 hydro hoists, covered lift and more! 4328 MONTEREY CT

STACY GILBERT BY APPT



PLEASANT HILL \$529,000
Charming upgraded "Gregory Gardens" home, prime creekside location! 4bd/2ba, new carpet & paint, spacious living room, cozy fireplace, large yard and more! 1771 LUCILLE LANE

JO ANN LUISI BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$455,000
Shea's Portico Penthouse model. Over \$30k in upgrades: 18" tile floor at entry, hardwood flooring in living area, Bosch SS appliances, French Walnut cabinetry, pre-wired for Home Theater package. 173 HELIGAN LN #7

LINDA FUTRAL SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



SAN RAMON \$185,000
Incredible location features shopping, dining, and entertainment within close walking distance. Backs to greenbelt and comprehensive HOA amenities. Walk or bicycle to work. So much to offer! 120 REFLECTIONS DRIVE



APR SOARS TO #5 IN THE NATION

Alain Pinel Realtors not only continues to lead the Bay Area in home sales, but we also rank as the **#1 Largest, Privately-Owned Residential Real Estate Firm in California** – and **#5 Largest Real Estate Broker in the United States.**

Source: 2011 REAL Trends Top 500 survey, ranked by Closed Sales Volume in 2011

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