

Pleasanton Weekly

Teens' unique extracurricular activities help those less fortunate » 15



VOL. XIV, NUMBER 5 • MARCH 1, 2013

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angel wings

FOR NEWTOWN

Moms reach out as part of a universal family bound by love for their children

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



CAMMIE CLARK

Business leaders and their employees like the ambiance of Pleasanton, including Tully's corner.

9 out of 10 business leaders say they like Pleasanton

A recent survey of Pleasanton business leaders showed that they like doing business here, they and their employees like Pleasanton schools, like living here and appreciate the ambiance and quality of life of our community. In fact about the only place where they think the city government could do better is to soften the rules and regulations and the permitting process where their perception is that it just takes too long to get things done.

They would also like to see local government become more aggressive in encouraging more businesses to move here and to work more intensely in keeping businesses in Pleasanton. Three businesses come to mind: Polycorn moved its headquarters and workforce from Hacienda Business Park to a new and vacant multi-story corporate center on Highway 237 just south of Milpitas; Robert Half Jr. moved its headquarters and most of its staff to Bishop Ranch and Ross Stores will move out of the nearly vacant California Center (formerly called CarrAmerica) to new and empty buildings in Dublin. There are reasons for these moves. Generally the companies needed more space to consolidate their workforces and couldn't find it in Pleasanton.

Still, nine out of 10 business leaders said they are happy with their location, finding Pleasanton an excellent or good place to do business. In particular, they cited the city's central location, which provides access to regional markets, and friendly people, as businesses said they feel supported by the community. In addition, they rated the city's infrastructure and services as good, with the sole exception of entertainment options. In this regard, it appears the bustling nightlife along First Street in Livermore is fast-becoming the Tri-Valley's favorite.

A summary of the survey lists six major categories where business leaders could list their comments ranging from Excellent to Poor with Fair and Good in between. The

categories included "Assessment of Pleasanton's Infrastructure" with sub-sets of roads, telecommunications services, public transportation, electric utility services and water and sewer services. All received Good responses. Also rated Good were city amenities, including recreational activities and community events. Public safety was rated Excellent, along with Community Beautification and Property Appearance Standards, and business leaders also rated the city staff excellent in terms of being courteous, helpful, fair and responsive to their needs.

The surveys of Pleasanton business leaders were conducted over the past year as part of the city's Economic Vitality Committee and City Council's work plan. Two business focus groups were held at Pleasanton-based Amplify Research, with representatives recruited using the city's business licensing listing. Companies participating included a variety of businesses from small to large and representing more than 99% of the city's business population. Feedback from the focus groups was then used in a telephone survey.

With regard to business recruitment, the surveys took place during the period that Clorox Corp. chose to move much of its workforce from its headquarters in Oakland to a six-building corporate complex near Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive that had been vacated two years earlier when Washington Mutual closed it call center there and went out of business. A second large business, Workday, again encouraged by City Manager Nelson Fialho and Economic Development Director Pamela Ott, decided against relocating to San Ramon and will soon move into a larger corporate center on Stoneridge Mall Road.

The survey also created a baseline of data points for use in future surveys to identify new and changing trends in the Pleasanton business community. This will help those with vital interests in business recruitment and retention, including City Hall, the City Council, the Economic Vitality Committee and business organizations such as the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Pleasanton Downtown Association and Hacienda Owners Association. ■

About the Cover

Jewelry designer Ali Sekany-Krebs creates one of the 26 angel wing necklaces sent to families of the victims in Newtown, Conn., with help from community members who wanted to be involved. Photo by Cathy Jetter. Design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XIV, Number 5



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

USAgain, a for-profit textile, clothing and shoes collection company is helping the environment and reducing the amount sent to landfills by providing residents with a convenient way to dispose of their unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles in our clothing collection bins.

USAgain has bins at the following locations in Pleasanton:

- 7-11 located at 3760 Hopyard Road
- Alisal Elementary School
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- Foothill High School
- Village High School
- Walnut Grove Elementary School

For more information about textile recycling and for the location of the bin nearest you, visit our website at www.usagain.com. And look for USAgain at the City of Pleasanton's Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 13.

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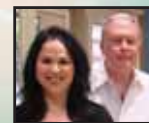
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ASKED AROUND TOWN

What types of things do you typically procrastinate about?



Eric Andre
Senior marketing manager

With life being so busy with work obligations and family activities, I tend to put off things like yard work and basic errands, like minor car maintenance. Those are the last things I want to do after a long day at work or several hours on the sports fields. A good example — I've been driving around for six weeks with my right brake light out.

Rhonda Scher Sorochak
Business development director

Good question! I would have to say my No. 1 thing I procrastinate over is laundry. It seems as though there is always another load ready to go, so even when I do it I feel as though I haven't even accomplished anything. And of course there is always something better to do than laundry.



Bill Rothrock
Senior software engineer

Cutting the grass or washing the dishes is never a problem. But ask me to do paper work and it'll take until next year to get it done.



Jackie Senechal
High school student

I procrastinate mostly about schoolwork. When an essay is due, or a project such as a poster, I sometimes wait do it until the night before it is due.



Terry O'Rourke
Certified public accountant

I typically procrastinate about several things. Like doctors' appointments, tax return preparation, and home improvement projects. Probably the exact same things that most people procrastinate about.



—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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DIGEST

Swalwell to host meeting

Congressman Eric Swalwell, who was elected in November, will host his first town hall meeting in Pleasanton from 10-11:30 a.m. tomorrow morning at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave., for residents of the 15th Congressional District.

The meeting will let Swalwell hear from his constituents and discuss the services his office provides and the issues impacting the East Bay, from creating jobs and growing the economy to reforming immigration. Swalwell will take questions from the audience and also answer those asked via Twitter and Facebook.

'Pretty in Purple'

The 27th annual Purple and Gold Gala will be held Saturday, March 9, at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery to raise money for Amador Valley High's 23 athletic programs. The theme is Pretty in Purple and back-to-the-80s.

The gala raises from \$100,000 to \$200,000, said organizers, although it's averaged around \$120,000 the last few years. Funds have helped finance renovations to fields and provided equipment as well as paid for coaches and trainer salaries and scholarships for graduating seniors. The money also helps cut out-of-pocket costs for families, and allows all students to participate in sports, regardless of their ability to pay.

Gala tickets are \$125 for singles and \$240 for couples. Tickets are still available, and the event is open to all. Purchase tickets online at amadorsports.com or call 413-7606.

Benefits planning workshop

East Bay Innovations (EBI) Affinity Employment Network will host an informational session for people receiving SSI or SSDI and interested in returning to work, from 2-5 p.m., Monday, March 11, at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The workshop is for Pleasanton and Livermore residents, 18-64, who are receiving SSI or SSDI and would like to work but are concerned about the impact on benefits. Space is limited; RSVP by March 4 to Edi Nelson of Affinity Employment Network at enelson@aenonline.org or call 407-5080. A light lunch will be provided.

EBI, an Alameda County-based agency, has received grants from the cities of Pleasanton and Livermore to expand its Ticket to Work program in the Tri-Valley.

California Court of Appeal to rule on Lin family lawsuit

Plans to build 51 homes were blocked by 2010 referendum

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

It's now up to a three-judge panel to decide if the Lin family had a valid contract with the city, or if, as the city claims, they did not.

Jennifer and Fredric Lin want to build 51 homes on 600 acres they own in the southeast hills of Pleasanton but their plan was blocked by voters in 2010.

On Wednesday, three judges from the California Court of Appeal in San Francisco heard from the Lins' attorney, in what may be their final effort to overturn earlier court decisions, which back Pleasanton's claims.

At issue is whether a development agreement between the city and the family was valid. Andrew Sabey, attorney for the Lins, told the judges that the development agreement should stand, even though voters stopped the homes from being built through a referendum, Measure D.

Sabey said the family and the city worked

for four years to hammer out an agreement, and claimed the opponents of the plan chose the wrong document to bring to a referendum. Sabey claimed the vote, which focused on Ordinance No. 1961, did not affect the development agreement, which specified various aspects of the project, authorized by Ordinance No. 1962.

"The development agreement is adopted after 30 days," Sabey said. "You have a vested right."

Both ordinances were approved by the City Council, but a grassroots group led by former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala and Karla Brown — who has since been elected to City council — successfully brought Ordinance No. 1961 to a referendum.

"In order for any city in California to enter into a development agreement, they have to approve it by ordinance," said Amrit Kulkarni, who represented Pleasanton in the case.

Kulkarni explained that the ordinance had

specific language that said the ordinance would be void if voters opposed it.

"Without an approval, you can't have a contract," he said.

Sabey maintained that the city's development agreement should stand, regardless of the outcome of the referendum.

"You can't stand on the whims of the voters," he said.

A ruling on the case is expected within the next 30 days, according to Pleasanton City Attorney Jonathan Lowell, who attended the hearing on Wednesday, accompanied by Ayala, Brown, former City Councilwoman Cindy McGovern, Assistant City Attorney Larissa Seto and Allen Roberts, a homeowner who also opposed the project, known as Oak Grove.

The family lost its last attempt at getting the project approved, two years ago. In that case,

See **COURT** on Page 8



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The waterslides at Shadow Cliffs were a popular feature for many decades but will now be torn down — when East Bay Regional Park District has the money.

No more waterslides for Shadow Cliffs

Park District cannot find right vendor for popular summer facility

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

What a ride it has been but the popular waterslides opened in 1981 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area will not be refurbished or rebuilt.

One vendor, Harvest Family Entertainment LLC of The Colony, Texas, made two proposals, said Jim O'Connor, assistant general manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, but they did not meet the terms set by the district.

"They wanted the district to fund 80%," O'Connor said.

That would have meant the district paying \$2.4 million for its share to replace the current facility on 3.5 acres with a new slide complex to include inner-tube and body slides; a new Splash Harbor recreation area featuring soft play attractions, kiddie slides, a lily pad walk and aqua basketball; and a new children's multi-level water play structure, plus new food and beverage buildings and restrooms.

A second proposal from Harvest Family Entertainment was to develop a total of 8-11 acres, adding a 20,000-foot wave pool and 1,000-foot lazy river; a family adventure park with zip lines, obstacle courses and mazes; and a multi-purpose building. Estimated construction costs were \$10 million to \$12 million, which would have meant the Park District paying \$8 million to \$9.6 million.

"The staff recommendation was to reject the proposals," O'Connor said. "They didn't meet the terms, which was full funding and future operations and maintenance."

At the Park District operations committee meeting Feb. 21, its members voted 3-0 to support the staff recommendation.

A long-range land use plan for Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area, approved by the Park District board of directors in May 2011, said the waterslides were expected

See **SLIDES** on Page 6

Buchanan talks education, budget

Proposes changes to state education code

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D, 16th District), is proposing a package of three bills that could measure teacher performance, streamline discipline and dismissal procedures for teachers, and require reporting on suspected child abuse by school personnel.

Buchanan, a school board member in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District for 18 years, is now chair of the State Assembly's Education Committee.

The assemblywoman caught flack last year when she voted against a bill that could have let school districts fire teachers who commit sexual or drug-related acts with children.

Buchanan has defended herself regarding her vote; she explained that the bill was flawed, and said districts already have ways of ousting an employee involved in physical, sexual or drug-related child abuse.

In the proposed legislation, Buchanan says teacher performance should be measured — but not by test scores alone. Buchanan told a group of Pleasanton educators last week that teacher performance should be judged by "multiple measures," including formal and informal evaluations as well as student performance.

"If you're a teacher, you give a test not only for a grade, but to see what students have learned," she told the group last week.

Buchanan said teachers need time to work with other teachers, too.

Regarding discipline and dismissal procedures, Buchanan told the group, "It just takes too long and costs too much money."

"The focus of our bill is going to be cleaning up the part of the statute that needs cleaning," she said. "You want to preserve the intent, but you want to update it."

Buchanan said that includes reducing the appeals process from a year and a half to six to seven months.

In child abuse cases, she pointed to two school districts, Miramonte and Moraga. In Miramonte, third-grade teacher Mark Berndt was charged with committing lewd acts on

See **BUCHANAN** on Page 9

Foothill cracks down on late students, closes parking lots at lunch

'The main reason was just concerns about student safety'

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Foothill High students are finding it a bit tougher to be slackers.

The school has closed its parking lots during lunchtime and has cracked down on students showing up late.

The parking lots are for upperclassmen, and closing them during lunch was a matter of safety, Principal John Dwyer said.

"The main reason was just concerns about student safety — drug use, that sort of thing," he said.

While no drugs have been found in the Foothill parking lot in two recent sweeps by police with drug-sniffing dogs, two pipes were turned up in a May 4 sweep last year.

"We simply weren't able to supervise the parking lot adequately," Dwyer said.

He also said there had been reports of bullying and harassment.

"I think they block the parking lot because they found people smoking and they were leaving a lot of trash around the area," said student Stephanie Yu, 16.

Some students have complained about the new rule, saying they used their cars to eat lunch because the outdoor dining areas are too full or that they went to their

cars to take a break.

Students still can go to their cars during lunch, if, for example, they need a book; however, they have to stop in the office and pick up a pass on the way to their car.

Parents at the school's recent Friday forum said their children had complained they didn't have time to go back to the office on their way to their next class to drop off the pass. Dwyer said all they need to do is drop it off, and that no additional paperwork is needed.

Students who turn up late in the morning now have to head to the office for a warning. The crackdown on lateness, Dwyer said, was due to the number of students who were missing the start of the school day.

He said coming in late meant that students missed the beginning of the lesson.

"They do it on random days so you don't really know," said Jennifer Ren, a 10th grade student. She said she doesn't see lateness as a disturbance.

Neither does Yu, who said the new policy is "silly," pointing out there's only one road to school and that road is usually crowded.

"We usually don't start right away and they only come two to five minutes late," she said. "Their

new policy now is if you're late, you get detention.... They still have this grace period going on."

The Foothill newsletter says the school hasn't set a solid date for that grace period to end.

Initially, according to the newsletter, there will be no consequences for being late. Students are advised to be at the school no later than 7:45 a.m.

So far, Dwyer said, there's been one test: an announcement over the school's public address system, asking teachers to lock their doors.

The students who were late, he said, were rounded up into a classroom where they had to sign their names before being allowed into class.

"Initially, we had a lot of kids over a very short time," Dwyer said. "We reduced that number colossally."

One parent at the forum offered a tongue-in-cheek approach to solve both the lateness problem and the ongoing backups as students arrive and parents drop their kids off. As punishment, the tardy students could be made to hold signs at the drop-off curb, urging people to pull forward. The embarrassment, some parents agreed, could stop the tardiness problem in short order. ■

SLIDES

Continued from Page 5

to remain open for another 10 years. However, the facility was not reopened for the 2012 summer season after inspections last winter determined they needed extensive repairs.

The land use plan calls for removing the waterslide structures, then adding picnic sites with tables, benches, barbecues, shade shelter, wind screening and trees. It also calls for eventually adding a "splash pad" playground or other water-play area geared to families with young children.

"The committee is asking us to expedite the land use plan," O'Connor said, "but we currently have no funding to remove the existing waterslides and no funding to implement the plan."

Park District Board Member Ayn Wieskamp, who represents Pleasanton and Livermore, said removing the old slides is a priority.

"We will push to get that cleaned up, then probably reconfiguring the hill," she said, "then find the money to do the trails and what we can do for planting — maybe find an organization or company to take it on."

Supporters of the waterslides attended previous Park District meetings to speak on their value during the hot summer months and as a place for teen employment, but O'Connor said no one

from the public attended last Thursday's meeting.

The Rapids Waterslide was opened in 1981 by Glenn Kierstad under a 25-year contract. After its expiration, the operation continued with year-to-year agreements, which Kierstad has said prevented him from making improvements.

The facility covers about 3.5 acres with four waterslides, a maintenance building, office, storage, restrooms with dressing areas and lockers, and a picnic area.

Water Ventures, a water park developer based in Lake Forest, conducted a study of the facility last summer and concluded the "site is an excellent venue for such a water park," noting that in order to be successful, it should offer more opportunities for water play, such as wave pools, leisure pools and lazy rivers.

The Park District sent out a request for proposals with a deadline of Dec. 20, but only Harvest Family Entertainment responded.

"I think it will be missed," Board Member Wieskamp said. "This is a very hot area. And it was not just for young people but for families, for birthday parties. It served a very useful purpose, for the Tri-Valley especially."

"People liked the idea that it's a small facility," she added. "I think if someone was willing to spend money on it they could have made money on it." ■



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Castlewood, union agree to 3-year contract

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

After three years, the battle between locked out workers and Castlewood Country Club has come to a close with a new contract signed by union members.

The members voted 44-1 to approve the new three-year contract, under which they will pay \$225 per month for family health insurance — what the union proposed before the lockout began. Employee contributions will drop to \$150 for the final year of the contract.

Workers will also get what the union described as “a substantial signing bonus.”

“There’s an internal agreement not to disclose the amount,” said Sarah Norr of UniteHERE local 2850. “It’s something that people were overwhelmingly happy about.”

While the union had claimed Castlewood could owe millions to pay workers for the time they were locked out, Norr said that issue didn’t end up being a priority in the negotiations. She said figuring out how much would be owed could be complicated; Castlewood would have to pay the workers, who in turn would have to pay the state for unemployment money they received.

“The workers decided that they would focus on the future,” she said.

The fight was nominally over last October, when Castlewood ended its lockout and brought the employees back to work.

That decision followed an August ruling by National Labor Relations Board Administrative Law Judge Clifford Anderson, who found that Castlewood had maintained an unlawful lockout for the previous two years.

Anderson also ruled that Castlewood had bargained in bad faith and that its bargaining proposals were motivated by hostility toward the union.

The lockout began in February 2010 after contract negotiations between the club and the union soured. Castlewood proposed raising workers’ share of family health care costs to \$739 a month, more than 40% of the average worker’s pay.

The club also urged employees to decertify the union, but workers voted 41-17 to continue union representation.

Six months into the lockout, Castlewood made new proposals that would have stripped away seniority and job security and allowed subcontracting of workers’ jobs. The proposal would also have made it optional for workers to pay union dues, and increased the cost of family health care even further.

The proposals prompted the union to file charges with the National Labor Relations Board and led to the August ruling by Anderson.

The lockout was contentious, with workers picketing in front of Castlewood’s golf course and a protest that led to 23 arrests when demonstrators blocked Castlewood Drive.

During the lockout, protests drew political leaders, including County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, members of other unions and local clergy. ■

March 10 & 14

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Office Locations in Livermore and Pleasanton

Freeway noisy over trail connection

Pedestrians can't hear approaching bicycles

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The recently completed trail connection between Pleasanton and Dublin that passes under Interstate 580 is subject to noise from the overhead freeway that is causing concern.

"You can't hear the sound of bikes at all," Deborah Wahl, a member of the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee, said at a recent meeting. "It's not just when you're under the freeway but by the park. It's so loud. And bicycles either don't have bells or don't use them."

As a possible solution, traffic engineer Janis Stephen showed photos of markings on the Monterey Bay Regional Trail which clearly show that pedestrians should keep to the right and cyclists are expected to ride toward the center.

"The Park District does not stripe its trails," Jim Townsend, of the East



MIKE SEDLAK

Traffic on the freeway over the Alamo Canal Trail I-580 Undercrossing can cause noise that prevents trail users from hearing approaching cyclists.

Bay Regional Park District, told the committee. "It's a maintenance headache — they wear out quickly."

Secondly, he noted that the mark-

ings are not legally binding so are not honored. And lastly, the Park District doesn't paint stripes on trails for aesthetic reasons.

"We want them to look like trails, not roads," Townsend said, adding, "I know there are lots of opinions on this."

Another suggestion was to put up a sign telling bicyclists to call out as they approach but Townsend said the Park District would be against such signage.

"It sounds terrible to say but typically these things work themselves out," he said.

Trails do have a 15 mph speed limit, he noted.

"It might be a good reminder to post the speed limit," pointed out Sgt. Robert Leong, who attends the meetings as a member of the Pleasanton Police Department.

The Contra Costa Canal Trail near Walnut Creek BART has a similar situation but has come up with no solution, Townsend said, adding that he is pleased the Pleasanton-

Dublin trail connection is getting traffic.

"We get lots of compliments on it," he said.

"It sounds like a couple of signs could be well used," committee Chairman Kurt Kummer said.

"I'll look into that," Townsend replied.

He also said the underpass is being studied for how well its closure works during storms that cause flooding of the adjacent Alamo Canal.

"The fence is designed to drop down manually when we close the gates but we are going to rethink that," Townsend said. "It takes two people to take the fence down and we don't always have two people. And we've found that people read the sign (saying the trail is closed) and go around it."

Then they are walking in a foot of water and cannot see the horizontal fence, which is hidden by the water.

The 700-foot segment under I-580 to connect the Centennial Trail in Pleasanton and the Alamo Canal Trail in Dublin was completed in October, a joint project involving the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin, Alameda County Transportation Commission, Zone 7 Water Agency and Caltrans. East Bay Regional Park District operates and maintains it.

Money for the \$2.4 million project includes \$1 million from federal TIGER II (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) funds plus the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan, Alameda County's Measure B, the Park District's Measure WW and the cities.

"The contractor did a good job," Townsend said. "It was early and a bit under budget." ■

PUSD to add additional one-time rehires

Approved on split vote by school board

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton school board, on a split vote, chose to add \$102,500 for new one-time rehiring, on top of approving more than \$2.8 million to restore other positions.

All five members voted Tuesday in favor of the plan to restore the equivalent of more than 38 employees, including counselors and custodians in elementary, middle and high schools, and vice principals at elementary and middle schools.

On a motion by Valerie Arkin, she, Chris Grant and Jamie Hintzke voted to add one additional literacy coordinator and the equivalent of a half-time library assistant, with the time divided between the district's three middle schools.

That's in addition to adding two library assistants at the district's high schools and the equivalent of four literacy coaches, which was requested at the board's Feb. 12 meeting.

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi and Deputy Superintendent Luz Cazares originally proposed bringing back the equivalent of 37 employees.

The board also voted to make Management Assistant Nicole Steward a fulltime employee. Arkin opposed the move. ■

COURT

Continued from Page 5

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers ruled in March 2012 that both the ordinances involved were voided when one of them was overturned in the referendum due to "poison pill" language, which essentially killed Ordinance 1962 when voters overturned Ordinance 1961.

But the battle between the mother and son Lin family and Pleasanton is not over.

"If this decision goes against them, they have the opportunity to petition for review before the California Supreme Court," Lowell said. "The chances of the Supreme Court hearing the petition are pretty slim."

However, the Lins have another lawsuit that has been put on hold until a ruling from the Wednesday hearing.

"In that one, they're seeking damages, saying the city's actions have harmed them monetarily," Lowell said.

That suit is several million dollars.

The Lins also have submitted plans for a much smaller development — 10 large lots for single-family custom homes — on the site. ■

Camp Connection

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BUCHANAN

Continued from Page 5

23 boys and girls, ages 6 to 10, between 2005 and 2010, despite complaints that date to two decades ago. No complaint was filed by that school's principal.

The Moraga school district is being sued by former student Kristen Cunnane, who claims two middle school teachers sexually abused her in the 1990s. Again, Buchanan said, the principal filed no complaint.

Buchanan said districts will be required to have a policy regarding mandated reporting, make sure all personnel are aware of the requirement, and will have to review the policy every year.

"It's the right thing to do," said Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources for the Pleasanton school district. "It's hard to understand that it hasn't been required."

Buchanan also discussed Gov. Brown's proposal to give poorer school districts in California more money.

"It's hard to go from a convoluted formula to a straightforward one on one sweep. The problem is that every one of the districts has been cut by 21 to 23 percent," she said. "It's going to be hard to put into place next year ... whatever we do, it's going to change education for the future."

Buchanan has also co-authored legislation that would require districts to inform voters if they want



PHOTO COURTESY CONTRA COSTA COUNCIL

State Controller John Chiang and Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D, 16th District) talk budget and schools to the Contra Costa Council.

to use an interest-only bond. Those bonds, known as Capital Appreciation Bonds, became a hot-button issue recently when it was discovered that a \$105 million CAP issued in Poway will cost the district nearly \$1 billion to repay.

A day after her meeting with school officials, Buchanan and State Controller John Chiang met in Pleasanton with officials from the Contra Costa Council to talk about the state budget.

"Today we have slow growth but a better economy," Chiang told the group.

Buchanan noted that young people now have more student loan debt than credit card debt.

"My concern is, 'What is the engine of growth?' My belief is it's education," she said. "If we don't

have a more educated workforce, we're going to be in real trouble."

Buchanan noted that future manufacturing may move back to the U.S., and that manufacturing will require more educated employees to operate sophisticated equipment.

Chiang said Proposition 30, the voter-approved tax increase, with

money targeted for schools, will stabilize things, but only for the next seven years.

"Then, we're going to lose \$6 billion dollars," he said, adding that could mean California becoming insolvent. Chiang added that California has already dropped from 47th to 49th in per-pupil spending.

In terms of revenue, Buchanan said California "seems to be a state that rides a bubble, each bubble as it comes along." She pointed to the savings and loan bubble, the dot-com bubble and the real estate bubble as examples.

The good times, she said, meant the state could offer better pensions to workers, which led to the problems with CalPERS, the California Public Employees' Retirement System, and CalSTRS, the California State Teachers' Retirement System.

While she's pushing for pension reform, she said courts have ruled that the state cannot renege on promises made to employees.

"We need to come up with a plan that will raise these funds up over time," she said. ■

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JEB BING

New gas station ready to serve

Safeway is scheduled to open its new self-service gas station today, with both a new Starbucks coffee shop and CVS Pharmacy to follow shortly, in the Gateway Center at Valley and Bernal avenues across from the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The three-bay, nine-pump self-service gasoline station is located in front of the main entrance to Wells Fargo Bank with Starbucks planned for the remainder of the site, between the gas station and the northbound I-680 off-ramp.



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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

More golfers would help Callippe

Without doubt, Pleasanton's municipal Callippe Preserve golf course is one of the best public courses in the Bay Area. It just needs more golfers. The course is losing about \$1.4 million a year, the amount the city must take from its fund to pay down the \$22 million in bonds still outstanding. With 14 years still to go on the bonds that the city floated to pay for the \$34.5 million



JANET PELLETIER

course that opened in November 2005, some are suggesting that the city should dip into its \$25 million capital reserve fund and pay off the bonds. In late 2011, the city became eligible to call the bonds but was reluctant to draw down the reserve in the midst of an economic downturn. Although the city has never had to use the reserves to meet payroll and service requirements, neighboring cities have. Those cities have closed fire stations, reduced workforces and seen their outstanding debts soar.

When Callippe opened, the Bay Area hype over a new golf course brought more than 73,000 players to Pleasanton. During those early years, revenue from green fees and sales in the pro shop more than paid the bond debt. The course has been ranked among the top 10 in California by Golfweek Magazine and in the top 10 of America's best new public courses by Golf Digest. Callippe Preserve also was voted one of the Top 50 Municipal Courses in the nation by GolfWeek. Still, even with those ratings and continued praise from golfers, the number of players has dropped by at least 10,000. This is partly because those who drove long distances to try the course don't make the trip back, and partly, too, because the sport of golfing is declining nationally, but it is mainly because of the economy. Rates were increased two years ago to \$53 on weekends and holidays for Pleasanton residents and \$64 for those who live elsewhere. Seniors lost their lower rates on the weekends although they can still play weekdays for \$27. The green fees are competitive with nearby public courses and probably can't be raised without cutting into the already reduced number playing Callippe.

It's not just golf that brings in the revenue. Golfers spend an average of \$62 each time they play, far more than the green fees that are \$37 on weekdays for Pleasanton residents and \$44 for non-residents. Food has become one of Callippe's favorite attractions, even for non-golfers. Memberships in Callippe's golf club, its Senior Club and Women's 18-hole Golf Club also produce revenue. Special events, including the Spring Event Showcase from noon to 4 p.m. this Sunday, add to the festive and profitable non-golfing schedule. If there's one regret about Callippe, it's that a previous City Council bowed to the demands of those living in unincorporated Happy Valley and downsized the clubhouse. If it had been built as a full-size facility, weddings and community gatherings would probably be paying much more than the \$1.4 million extra dollars needed to pay down those bonds.

If Callippe was owned and managed by a private company with \$25 million in its bank, the bonds would have been called last year and the debt retired. But the city of Pleasanton has ongoing municipal responsibilities and must hoard its reserves when times are good so they can be used to meet its city responsibilities when they're not. Taking \$22 million out of its reserves would mean that the city government might not be able to afford a new fire truck, which the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department needs, or the new hybrid squad cars that Police Chief David Spiller wants. Also, given the ongoing economic uncertainties facing the country — and Pleasanton — today, this is not the time to cash in those reserves. Paying down the bonds at \$1.4 million a year makes better economic sense to us. ■

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: P12-1785, City of Pleasanton – Introduce an ordinance to amend various Chapters of Title 18 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to comply with California Health and Safety Code Sections 17021.5 and 17021.6 with respect to housing for agricultural employees
- Approve the annual progress report on implementation of the General Plan Housing Element for the calendar year 2012 and authorize submittal to the California Department of Housing and Community Development and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Approve plans and specifications, review bids, and award contract to Carone and Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,025,523.40 for the Staples Ranch: Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road Intersection Improvements project, CIP No. 115034
- Introduction of Ordinance to amend Title 11, Chapter 11.20, Section 11.20.010 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code changing various speed limits on City of Pleasanton streets as part of the speed limit review and update of engineering and traffic surveys

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation to Allocate Community Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2013/2014

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Recommendation to Allocate Housing and Human Services Grant (HHS) Funds for Fiscal Year 2013/14

East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force

Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Operations Services Conference Room, 3333 Busch Road

- Preliminary Land Use Alternatives; Costs of infrastructure and economic feasibility of alternatives

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
For complete information, please visit
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her children, Ali called her husband, Brian and told him the details of the shootings and how devastated she felt for the Newtown families.

"He told me maybe I should send them angel wing necklaces," recalls Ali. "I told him that it just seemed too trivial — sending a necklace to someone whose child had just been killed. I didn't know if that would be appropriate."

Jewelry that honors the relationship between mothers and their children is the heart and soul of Ali's business, so it was only natural that Brian's first response was to suggest a piece of jewelry might comfort the Sandy Hook moms.

"Necklaces are what we do," Ali explains. "We give them to people we love, and they are the business I run every day. Birthdays, Mother's Days, baby showers, christenings; moms and kids are what we think about."

Featuring children's names, birthstones and birth dates on a variety of unique and beautiful charms, Ali's POSH Mommy designs are a celebration of parenting, keeping children next to their mother's hearts.

Ali had already recognized that her jewelry could serve as a way to acknowledge other significant relationships in people's lives. Not long before the Newtown tragedy, Ali designed a piece of jewelry for a friend who had recently lost her sister.

"I put both of their names on a loop and paired it with the angel wing charm. Until then, I hadn't really thought about the significance the wings could hold for those who had lost a loved one. But it was perfect for my friend; she loved her necklace and how it connected her with her sister's memory."

Still uncomfortable with sending jewelry to the Newtown families, Ali put the idea aside until she started going through her email the next week.

"A client in Connecticut wrote to me, explaining that she was related to one of the Newtown families, asking if there was anything I could do. I started looking through my customers' addresses and I realized I had two clients in Newtown."

Though Ali's clients were not related to the families involved in the shooting, Ali says she realized that her business really has created special relationships and given her the opportunity to share with others.

"POSH Mommy changed our lives and let me be successful in something that I love to do. When I got that email from someone so close to the situation, reaching out for a way to help them heal, I realized that maybe this was a way for us to give something back."

Ali has a lot of help running her business. Twenty-two full time employees run the assembly lines in Louisiana that produce her POSH designs while nine employees help manage her website, press and marketing here in California. But Ali personally maintains her Facebook page, updating it daily with news about family, her new jewelry line, Be Posh, and any interesting POSH Mommy news she wants to share with the 10,000 "friends" who like her site.

When Ali posted her intention to send the angel wing necklaces to Connecticut, she was not at all surprised by the response, though she was very touched.

"My network is mostly moms — friends, family and customers joined by the love we have for our kids. When I posted on Facebook that I was going to send the necklaces to Newtown, immediately everyone wanted to be involved."

Within a few days the inquiries were so overwhelming Ali set up a link that would allow people to donate, or sponsor, one of the 26 necklaces that would eventually be sent to the victims' families.

"I was fully prepared to do this on my own," Ali says. "But what I realized is that we are all looking for a way to show our support for these families. To let them know that we are thinking of them, praying for them, wishing them peace in spite of their sadness. We can't really make anything better, but maybe knowing so many people care, so many people are grieving with them, even all the way in California, maybe that can bring them some comfort."



Each package sent to the grieving families in Newtown, Conn., contained a necklace, a letter from POSH Mommy, an angel photo album and letters of condolence written by donors.

Sending a gift of love and support was not an easy task. "It was a huge job, organizing the donations, figuring out the addresses, making up the packages," explains Ali. "And it was right before Christmas, our busiest time of the year. I asked a friend, Dawn Mendoza, to take it on, and she made it her full time job to get it all done. It really couldn't have happened without her."

Ali's kids were happy to become part of the project, too, helping to pack and load the boxes that would eventually be mailed to Newtown.

"At first we were in a hurry to get them out as quickly as possible," Ali says. "Then we realized the families had so much in front of them, funerals and memorial services; we knew letting a little time pass would be OK."

The packages for the families of the 20 children were mailed out in late January, the families of the six school faculty were mailed this week. Ali has not received any responses from the families, but she doesn't expect to.

"I didn't include my card, or any addresses. Thank yous are unnecessary; this is about what we can do for them," she says.

Each family's box contains a necklace, a letter from POSH Mommy, an angel photo album donated by a company that heard about the project, and letters of condolence written by donors who hope those Connecticut families know they are not strangers — they are part of a larger, universal family bound by love for their children and an inability to understand an inconceivable tragedy like this.

The donations POSH Mommy received far exceeded the cost of producing the necklaces.

"We looked at many ways we could use the rest of the money — many of the families have favorite charities listed and we thought about giving a bit to each one," says Ali. "But we decided it would mean the most and make the most impact if we gave the money to one charity all the families supported, so we will be donating between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to the United Way's Sandy Hook School Support Fund."

The Newtown community is still deciding what to do with Sandy Hook Elementary, which is closed with the students attending class at a middle school in a neighboring town. Whether it will be best for the children if the school is remodeled or torn down has yet to be decided. For those families affected by the shootings, and maybe for everyone who has ever sent their kids to school without a second thought for their safety, it will be a long time before any day is ordinary again.

"I think about those families all the time," says Ali. "I have no face to picture, but they are all moms like me. They probably know everyone is shocked and wants to support them."

"Hopefully these necklaces can be a reminder of that, and maybe bring a smile to their lives." ■

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Look for Gene's Fine Food's weekly sales flyer inside the Pleasanton Weekly beginning March 22!



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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS & WEDDINGS

Body found at recycling station

Pleasanton police are investigating the discovery of a man's body at the Pleasanton Garbage Co. transfer station on Busch Road late Tuesday morning.

The body was discovered among cardboard recyclables by an employee, and police secured the scene pending the arrival of detectives.

The cause of death had yet to be determined as of press time. A preliminary investigation indicated the

death may be accidental, and initial autopsy results showed no signs of trauma. The man's identity is being withheld pending notification of his next of kin.

The body was discovered at about 11:45 a.m. Police contacted the Alameda County Crime Lab to help process evidence. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

—Glenn Wohltmann

POLICE BULLETIN

Clever clerk helps nab ID thief

A San Leandro woman was arrested for several felonies at Macy's in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road when a clerk called the owner of a credit card being used.

Xynovia Sequita Nolen, 27, was arrested at about 10:31 p.m. Feb. 23 on charges of burglary, having a forged drivers license and identity theft, and police seized 48 items including purses, clothes and perfume valued at \$3,964 during the arrest. Macy's contacted the victim while Nolen was checking out; the owner said she hadn't given anyone permission to use her card.

In other police reports:

- Two people told police they'd been victims of identity theft in recent days. In one, reported at 11:04 a.m. Feb. 21, money from a woman's account was used to post bail in the amount of \$8,085. The woman, who works at the Stoneridge Shopping Center, was contacted when the person on bail didn't show up for court.

- In the second incident, reported at about 4:24 p.m. Feb. 21, a woman reported a call from New Jersey asking why he'd received a check from the woman's business for more than \$1,700. The woman, who hadn't authorized a purchase, contacted her bank and learned that checks in her name had been sent to New Jersey, Texas and Mis-

issippi. Those checks were stopped before they were cashed and there was no money loss.

- A 60-inch flatscreen TV valued at \$1,699 was stolen from a home in the 4300 block of Payne Road in a Feb. 22 residential burglary reported at about 3:35 p.m. Also stolen was an \$800 camera, an iPad worth \$699, and three computers worth a total of \$1,020. A side garage door was kicked in to gain entry, and the house had been ransacked.

- Two bicycles valued at more than \$1,600 were reported stolen at about 12:44 p.m. Feb. 22 from a home in the 1500 block of East Gate Way.

- A garage door of a home in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive was broken open Feb. 22, and a cordless drill/electric saw valued at \$200 was stolen, along with a motorcycle helmet worth \$200, four wrenches valued at \$80, and a polishing/waxing buffer worth \$20. The incident was reported at about 8:05 a.m.

- The cafeteria at Amador Valley High School was burglarized in a Feb. 21 incident, reported at 6:11 a.m. A window was broken and \$100 in snacks — 50 bags — was taken.

- A fraud attempt was reported from a resident of the 3700 block of Pimlico Drive at 10:42 a.m. Feb. 22, when a resident called police to say someone had contacted his daughter, who was trying to sell a dress online. The man claimed his secretary had accidentally sent a check for \$1,980 instead of the \$90 price.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Feb. 20

Auto burglary

- 9:36 a.m. in the 4400 block of Clovewood Lane
- 12:33 p.m. in the 3700 block of Reflections Drive
- 8:35 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Feb. 21

Theft

- 5:32 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; theft from structure
- 7:28 p.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way; bicycle theft
- 10:05 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- 10:31 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

- 6:11 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

Auto burglary

- 9:32 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Vandalism

- 9:40 a.m. in the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue
- 11:25 a.m. in the 3900 block of Valley Avenue
- 9:13 p.m. at the intersection of Laguna Creek Lane and Valley Avenue

Public drunkenness

- 7:59 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue

Feb. 22

Theft

- 10:42 a.m. in the 3700 block of Pimlico Drive; fraud
- 2:17 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way
- 5:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 6:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 11:04 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Burglary

- 8:05 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; residential burglary
- 12:44 p.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way
- 3:35 p.m. in the 4300 block of Payne Road; residential burglary

Auto burglary

- 8:09 a.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle

Vandalism

- 1:47 p.m. in the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue

Paraphernalia possession

- 4:56 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Feb. 23

Theft

- 12:02 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way; bicycle theft
- 11:54 a.m. in the 400 block of Bolder Court; forgery

Battery

- 10:38 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa

Rita Road

Vandalism

- 3:33 p.m. in the 3900 block of First Street

DUI

- 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Lockhart Lane
- 1:32 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue
- 10:36 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Bernal Avenue
- 11:12 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

Feb. 24

Theft

- 12:42 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 6:25 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting
- 3:28 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; bicycle theft

Battery

- 3:01 p.m. in the 1100 block of Shady Pond Lane

Public drunkenness

- 11:37 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- 6:21 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and W. Angela Street

Feb. 25

Vandalism

- 6:05 a.m. in the 1100 block of Concord Street

DUI

- 3:04 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard

OBITUARIES

PAID OBITUARIES

Perry Russell Coe

April 25, 1962-January 5, 2013

Perry Russell Coe, a former Pleasanton resident, passed away in South Lake Tahoe at the age of 50, a victim of fibromyalgia.

Perry was born in San Mateo and grew up in Pleasanton. He graduated from Amador Valley High School.

He spent his career in the aviation industry. While employed at National Air-motive, Rolls Royce and United Airlines, he performed aircraft maintenance as well as reciprocating and jet engine maintenance while holding applicable Federal Aviation Administration ratings. As a licensed pilot, he enjoyed flying small airplanes.

Perry's hobbies included motorcycling, kayaking, trading precious metals and traveling the world. His favorite travel destination was Barcelona, Spain. He created original art pieces using iron, silver and plastics.

Over the years, he had a number of girl friends, but preferred staying single. He loved living at Lake Tahoe or near the ocean.

His friends and family will miss his sense of humor, generosity and thoughtfulness.

He is survived by his father, Kenneth Coe, his mother, Ruth Pauline Coe, his sister Laura Drake; uncles Scott Coe (Dorina) and Eugene Sprague; nieces Leanne Drake and Michelle Drake, nephew Allen Drake; cousins Dina Coe, Andrew Coe, Douglas Sprague, William Sprague (Jessica), Joan MacLean and Robert Rugar.

A private memorial service was held for his family.

The family prefers contributions in his memory to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave, Dublin CA, 94568.

Jean Marie Pimentel Silva

Feb. 13, 1930-Feb. 23, 2013

Jean Marie Pimentel Silva, 83 years old, passed away peacefully on February 23, 2013. Jean was the respected Matriarch and Star of her family. She was a great wife, an incredible and amazing mother to her four children and the absolute best grandmother to seven and great-grandmother to



four. Her family was her world. Jean loved being a mother and grandmother and was actively involved in all of their lives. One of her greatest joys was treating her family to breakfasts and dinners, surprising her children and grandchildren with special family trips to Hawaii, crocheting sweaters and blankets for all and making the best cookies ever. Jean never admitted to spoiling her family, but rather said "her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were just very well loved."

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Jean was known for her hard work, incredible generosity and thoughtfulness. She had a very entertaining sense of humor and had a real zest for life. Jean loved to read, bake, play bingo, bowl, play cards, chat with friends and volunteer at the Ridge View Commons Senior facility...just to name a few. Jean was blessed with many wonderful friends and dear family members. She was loved by all, and she will be greatly missed, but will never be forgotten.

Jean was preceded in death by her best friend and husband, Marvin "Bud" Silva. She was loved and admired and will be missed by her four children and their spouses, Daryl and Patty Silva, Marvajan and Larry Harrell, Luann and Jamie Buna, Lynette and Sam Carone. And grandchildren Jeff and Stephanie Silva, Brian Buna and Tammi Valperga, David and Lindsay Silva, Nic Carone, Christina Buna and AJ Franco, Kevin Carone and Ashleigh Bernardo, Kacie Buna and Kevin Boggs. And four great-grandsons Ayden, Mason, Frank and Joseph Silva.

In honoring Jean's request, there will be no memorial service. A Celebration of Life for the immediate family will take place at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to your favorite charity in honor of Jean Silva's life.

Allen Ellis Fairchild

Aug. 26, 1922-Feb. 21, 2013

Allen grew up in Collins, Mississippi and joined the Navy during WWII. He had many hair-raising stories of military service as a young man and enjoyed entertaining friends and family with these stories. He spent most of his life in the Bay Area with his family, which included his wife Doris, who predeceased him, and his children, John Fairchild, Mary (Mal) Cameron, and Anne Miller. He traveled the country for many years with his second wife, Beulah. He also leaves well-loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He left for his current eternal home with a white shirt on and a smile on his face. Services will be held at Graham-Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton on March 3, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.



Lasting Memories

Submit a memorial, search recent obituaries and write a remembrance through Pleasanton Weekly's obituary directory at PleasantonWeekly.com/obituaries

To place an obituary in the Pleasanton Weekly, call 600-0840.

TriValley Life

PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLES
IN OUR COMMUNITY

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



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Pleasanton teen team that started Just Dig It attends the opening ceremony of the first well it funded, in the village of Wusuta-Sakakyare, in Ghana, West Africa.

Some teens go above & beyond

Main goal is to help those less fortunate



A roadside billboard in India advertises a dance performance by Shrita Pendekanti, a student at Amador Valley High, who gave the show during winter break to benefit a hospice center in Hyderabad.

BY KATIE LYNESS

Among all the college bound, scholarly students, athletes, artists, school officers, volunteers, dancers and musicians in Pleasanton are some teens who immerse themselves in truly unique extracurricular activities. These new and different activities are certain to stand out on college applications, although this is not the reason the teens pursue them.

For example, three years ago, some Pleasanton students founded Just Dig It, a nonprofit organization that works with Meaningful Life International (MLI) to raise money for funding freshwater wells in Ghana.

It all started when these six teens — Austin Ready, now 16; Blake Ready, 16; Eric Arellano, 16; Jenny Arellano, 13; Heather Fox, 14; and Kelly Fox, 15 — discovered that 900 million people lack access to clean water and one child dies every 20 seconds due to a water-related disease. This inspired them to create Just Dig It in July 2010.

"To date, we have raised over \$30,000 for clean water, giving new life to over 2,000 people," Eric said.

"Our motive is to help save lives of villagers dying of dehydration and waterborne diseases," Blake added. "After seeing the impact we were able to make early on, we were inspired to push on."

In the summer of 2011, the six Just Dig It co-founders visited Ghana. Eric said his proudest moment was when the chief of the village Wusuta-Sakakyare, where Just Dig It built its first well, announced that its people were no longer afflicted with water-related diseases.

They also visited other villages in Ghana where they observed firsthand the amount of filth in the drinking water, although the team lived in a gated community house in Tema, Ghana, outside the capital of Accra.

"We were in a nicer neighborhood, but going around the country is pretty shocking; it's extremely dirty, poor and crime-ridden," Blake said.

Though the team was shocked by living conditions in the villages, Eric noted, "While Ghana was the poorest place I've

ever witnessed, the people were so joyful, much more so than the average American."

He said the trip changed his life by "opening my eyes to the world."

"I recognized that outside the safe and affluent bubble of suburban Pleasanton, and even America, millions of people live a life of poverty unfathomable to me," he explained.

Blake agreed.

"It gave me better appreciation for what I have and how blessed we are," he added.

The six raised money through bake sales, car washes, drawings, selling bracelets and collecting a multitude of donations. They acknowledge the Youth Ministries at Cornerstone Fellowship Church in Livermore for helping them achieve their goal. Paige Ready, Austin and Blake's mother, donated a portion of her paycheck for one year to provide enough money to fund a well. To support Just Dig It, go to justdigit.webs.com.

But these teens do not do the work for credit or for their college applications. Rather, they have a genuine desire to help people less fortunate than they are.

"It's definitely important to try to go out and help the community and do extracurricular activities because it not only helps your college application, but helps develop you as a person, too, and to develop life skills in clubs and projects as well as make friends," Blake said.

He had advice for anyone thinking of founding a charity.

"You should be genuine about your cause," he said.

Eric agreed.

"When deciding to participate in any activity, it is essential that the student recognizes his or her reasons," he said. "The main goal for anything should be for the enjoyment and development of the person and improvement of his or her community."

"My friends and I founded Just Dig It primarily to save the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves," he added.

"We didn't even have college on the mind when we started it," Austin pointed out.

They like to think of its benefit to their college applications as an "added bonus."

Shrita Pendekanti, a student at Amador Valley High School, also indulges in a unique extracurricular activity. Since 2002, she has been practicing an Indian form of dance called Kuchipudi that she learned from her mother.

"I dance because it gives me a way to retain my Indian culture while also serving as an expressive outlet," Shrita said. "Not only that, I love to perform and I think learning a fine art teaches a person to be more disciplined."

Last summer Shrita decided to embark on a new endeavor to use dance to help people in need and began to plan a benefit in India, where she has a lot of family who had never seen her dance.

During winter break, she performed for a charity called Sparsh, which is a hospice center in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Her grandfather helped to spread the word about the show and advertised through several newspaper articles, plus large billboards promoted the event. With all of these efforts, more than 800 people attended.

"We were able to raise \$10,000 for the cause, and I plan to go back this summer and do more to help," said Shrita, who was ecstatic.

She recognizes that this will make for a fascinating college essay one day, but said that volunteer work is more than that.

"With the competition to get into a top college increasing by the year, I feel like a lot of kids are motivated to help for the wrong reasons," she said. "Charity work isn't supposed to be done for a reward because that's not charity."

"I'm not saying that you should do charity work and not use it for college applications or anything," she explained. "I just think that with kids being so focused on attaining volunteer hours, a lot of the times we forget to realize that volunteer work is so much more than that. I think that can keep kids from enjoying the blessed feeling that comes with helping another human being."

Simply put, these Pleasanton students do really fascinating stuff. And while the colleges they apply to will undoubtedly be impressed by what they've done, it is more important to these students that they are impacting the world in a positive way.

Katie Lyness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She is a sophomore at Amador Valley High School.



DAR recognizes winners

The Jose Maria Amador Chapter, NSDAR, held its student awards event recently at Pleasant View Church of Christ in Pleasanton with a performance by Pleasanton's Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps. Winners and attendees included (front row, l-r) American History Essay winners seventh-grader Stacy Shimanuki, sixth-grader Amanda Yang, eighth-grader Alexandra Stassinopoulos, Chapter Regent Diane Groome, (back) Chapter winner DAR Good Citizen Olivia Coackley, ROTC Cadet Gillian Bishop, DAR Good Citizen Roshni Nair and Congressman Eric Swalwell. Not pictured: DAR Good Citizens Manuel Rubio and Mikalea Schwab, and Christopher Columbus Essay Contest chapter winner Augustine Chemparathy.

This year's American History Essay Contest topic was "Forgotten Patriots Who Supported the American Struggle for Independence," while the topic of the Columbus Essay was "How were high faith and indomitable courage demonstrated in the life and actions of Columbus, and how did they give to mankind a new world?" Winners received \$100. DAR Good Citizen Coackley, a Valley Christian High School senior, received \$500 and read her winning essay.

Multicultural talent onstage

UNICEF Club raising funds for TAP Project

By JAMIE ALTMAN

Amador Valley United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Club is hosting its first ever multicultural talent show Friday, March 8. The fundraiser, called "Hand in Hand," will be held from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in the Pleasanton Middle School multipurpose room. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

"The money raised from 'Hand in Hand' will benefit the (UNICEF) TAP Project, which raises funds for clean drinking water for children all around the world," said club publicist Namratha Soma, a senior. "We hope to not only raise money for this during the fundraiser but also to spread awareness about UNICEF's goals to the Pleasanton community."

Four thousand children die daily due to unsanitary drinking conditions, according to Soma, and the TAP Project has been collecting donations from restaurants in order to reduce this number. However, this particular fundraiser has never been successful for the Amador UNICEF Club, so its leaders decided to create a new event to benefit the cause.

The evening will include performances by the Children's Choir, the PMS Bhangra and Latino Clubs, and the Amador Bollywood Club. Even professional organizations such as the Chinyakare Ensemble, which is a Zimbabwean dance group, and Melissa Cruz Flamenco have offered to perform for free.

"Working with these groups has been such an honor," Soma said.

She emphasized the value of the Children's Choir.

"The children all attend Pleasanton elementary schools and participated in this event completely voluntarily. They've been attending weekly rehearsals ever since January and are so excited to perform and spread the UNICEF message."

Soma anticipates a successful evening, which will contribute to UNICEF's worldwide goal of eliminating preventable children's deaths.

"Thanks to the efforts of UNICEF, the numbers are reducing," Soma said. "It is Amador UNICEF's goal, with the community's help, to bring this number down to zero." ■

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Clubs

AVHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS BOOK CLUB Parents are invited to attend Amador Valley High School's Challenge Success Parents' Group at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, at the school library to will discuss the book "The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing" by Alfie Kohn. You don't have to read the book to attend. Email avhs.ChallengeSuccessParents@gmail.com. Amador Valley High is located at 1155 Santa Rita Rd.

Events

FAMILY DAY AT MUSEUM ON MAIN Join Museum on Main, 603 Main St., for a Family Day from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 2. "Making Music" will include hands-on activities and a noon performance by the Quarry Lane School Youth Concert Band. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Film

SCREENING OF 'GIRL RISING' "Girl Rising," a film about the power of education to transform girls' lives, will be screened at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, at Regal Hacienda Crossing 20 if 100 tickets are reserved by March 3 at <http://gathr.us/screening/1147>. Cost is \$10 with a portion of each sale going to supporting girls' education.

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.

MEET AN OLYMPIAN Fencer Barbra Higgins, who competed in the 1984 Olympics and whose life and message will inspire and entertain you, will be at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 9. Best for ages 8 and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8. Free.

VALLEY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM Bring your children to "Save, Share and Spend" at the Valley Children's Museum from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 9 - each child will make his/her own Moonjar Moneybox. The mobile museum is in Emerald Glen Park, 4201B Central Parkway, Dublin, next to the preschool building and playground.

Lectures

AN EVENING WITH LADY CAROLYN The 2013 Ed Kinney Series, An Evening With..., continues at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., with "An Evening with Lady Carolyn," played by Carolyn Runnells, who weaves her way through history by wearing and displaying clothing that brings history to life. General admission, \$10; members and seniors, \$5; students/teachers with ID, \$3. Tickets may

be purchased at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., by phone at 462-2766, or at the event, subject to availability.

Live Music

'MOSTLY BAROQUE' The Pacific Chamber Symphony presents "Mostly Baroque" from 7-9 p.m., Sunday, March 3, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The event will feature special artist Mike Marshall, Baroque Concerto for Mandolin and orchestra, Telemann: Don Quixote Suite, Caliendo: Suite for Strings and Maestro Lawrence Kohl. Tickets are \$30, \$36, \$45; students \$7. Call 373-6800 or visit www.mylvpac.org.

On Stage

'LA TRAVIATA' The Livermore Valley Opera is presenting Verdi's "La Traviata," a romantic story of love and heartbreak, at 8 p.m. March 9 and 16; and at 2 p.m. March 10 and 17 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The Opening Night Gala will be held on Saturday, March 9, at Uncle's Yu's

at the Vineyard. Enjoy ice cream and opera on Sundays. Tickets \$39-\$74. For more details, call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

'PIPPY' AT THE FIREHOUSE The Firehouse Theatre, 444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, presents the classic children's tale of Pippi Longstocking, a wacky youngster with a heart of gold, on two weekends, March 1-10. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6-\$18 at www.firehousearts.org, 931-4848 or at the box office.

Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE Guidelines and applications for Amador Valley Scholarships Inc. (AVSI) can be downloaded from www.amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org. AVSI awards scholarships each year to graduating seniors from Foothill, Amador Valley and Village high schools. Completed applications will be picked up from each school at 3 p.m. March 18. Questions? Call Mary Reding, 846-3933.

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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.

BLUE STAR CRYSTALS, BLUE STAR BLESSINGS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.:474569-70
The following person(s) doing business as: (1) Blue Star Crystals,(2)Blue Star Blessings, 3107 East Ruby Hill Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):Debra Jasper Wright, 3107 East Ruby Hill Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business(s) is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein (1) 4-12-06, (2) 1-1-13. Signature of Registrant(s): Debra Jasper Wright. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 4, 2013. Pleasanton Weekly, PUB DATES Feb. 22, March 1, 8 and 15, 2013.



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TRINA CORT

Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

Luxury home sales jump again in January

Most expensive East Bay sale in January was \$2.8 million for Pleasanton home

By JEB BING

Luxury home sales in the East Bay jumped once again last month compared to the same period a year ago, according to a new report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the Bay Area's leading provider of luxury real estate services.

The figures are based on Multiple Listing Service data of all homes sold for more than \$1 million last month in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

A total of 73 homes sold for more than \$1 million in January, up sharply from the 40 transactions in January 2012. The median sales price of a luxury home last month dipped 4.9% year over year to \$1.25 million. But it was up 2% from December.

On a monthly basis, sales in January were down sharply from December's level of 125 transactions, although a seasonal drop from December to January is normal. Additionally, last December saw an unusually high spike in sales as many sellers worked to close deals before tax increases took effect Jan. 1.

Most other key indicators for the luxury market improved last month compared to a year ago. There were seven sales over \$2 million versus six a year ago, homes on average sold in fewer days, and sellers on average received a higher percentage of their asking price.

"As expected, the East Bay's luxury market took a bit of a breather in January after all of the activity at the end of last year,

but when compared to a year ago it was still a very strong month," said Rick Turley, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

"The biggest challenge to the market in the new year continues to be the severe shortage of inventory," he said. "We have highly qualified buyers ready to purchase luxury homes, but there just aren't enough properties on the market to meet their demand."

Some key findings from this month's Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage luxury report:

- The most expensive sale in the East Bay last month was a five-bedroom, six-bath approximately 6,600-square-foot home in Pleasanton that sold for \$2.8 million;
- Alamo boasted the most million-dollar sales with 10, followed by Lafayette and Oakland with eight, and Danville, Fremont and Pleasanton with seven;
- Homes sold in an average of 52.7 days, down from 60 days a year ago but up from 50.2 days the previous month;
- Sellers received an average of 100% of their asking price, up from 95.6% a year ago and the same as the previous month.

The East Bay Luxury Housing Market Report is a monthly report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, a specialist in high-end real estate sales. Through its internationally renowned Coldwell Banker Previews(r) program, Coldwell Banker is recognized around the world for its expertise in the luxury housing market. ■

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Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
2476 Heatherlark Cir \$425,000
 Sun 1-4 Melissa Pederson 397-4326

3 BEDROOMS
2283 Camino Brazos \$778,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

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4932 Blackbird Wy \$819,000
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5 BEDROOMS
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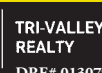
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6387 Paseo Santa Maria,
Pleasanton

Country Fair - Most Popular Amador II Model. This desirable floor plan offers 4br and 3 full baths with one bedroom and bath downstairs plus upstairs bonus room with fireplace. Features dramatic volume ceilings, spiral staircase, hardwood floors, quality carpet, two tone paint and new windows throughout and freshly painted kitchen cabinets and center island. Large, low maintenance yard with childrens play structure in the back. **Offered at \$999,950**

Open Sun 1-4



Sonali Sethna
REALTOR® DRE #01194792
925.525.2569
www.SonaliSells.com



KELLER WILLIAMS TRI-VALLEY REALTY

IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT
GINGER MCGRAIL
IS NOW A PART OF THE KELLER WILLIAMS TEAM!

As a long time Livermore resident, Ginger brings local knowledge and expertise to her real estate business. When not finding the perfect home for her clients, Ginger can be found at the family winery (McGrail Vineyards) which has recently been voted as one of the best red wines in the Bay Area. We are honored to have Ginger as part of the Keller Williams family as she continues to provide her service to the real estate buyers and sellers in Tri-Valley.

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FREMONT
47125 BENNS TER
CUTE FREMONT TERR. CONDO **\$365,000**
 2 BR 2 BA Vaulted Ceilings.View of Hills.European Style Kit cabinets.Fireplace.2 Balconies w/storage
 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
SUN 1 - 4 **1158 VIENNA ST**
SUNSET EAST BEAUTY! **\$459,000**
 3 BR 2 BA LivRm-vaulted ceilings/ fplc;Kit w/newer DW/Stove.New Water Heater & Copper Plumbing
 2012 925.847.2200



PLEASANT HILL
1853 ARDITH DR
FABULOUS REMODELED HOME! **\$499,500**
 3 BR 2 BA Hrdwd Flrs,Eat-In Kit.Granite,SS Appl. Dual Pane Windows.Sideyard Access w/rear yard!
 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
208 RIVERLAND CT
BEAUTIFUL WINDEMERE HOME! **\$969,000**
 5 BR 3 BA Upgrades-hrd flrs,tile,carpet,crown molding.Kit w/granite opens to Nook & Fam. rm.
 925.847.2200

CAMBELL
3890 BUCKNALL ROAD
NICELY UPDATED HOME! **\$749,800**
 3 BR 2 BA Kit w/Quartz counters & new appl.In-Law quarters.New dual pane windows & carpet.RV parking
 925.847.2200

CASTRO VALLEY
SUN 1-4 **2869 THERESA CT**
UPDATED TOWNHOME! **\$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

DANVILLE
SUN 1 - 4 **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 Rm.5 Stall Barn & raised garden 925.847.2200

SUN 1-4 **1026 MCCALVLEY RD**
HIDDEN VALLEY HOME! **\$1,388,000**
 4 Bed/3.5 Ba Bonus Rm/Office.Fireplace in Liv,Fam, &Mstr.Private 1/3 acre lot.Open Space.Valley Views

FREMONT

SAT/SUN 1-4 **4241 NERISSA CIR.**
RESORT LIVING IN ARDENWOOD **\$700,000**
 4 Bed/2.5 Ba. Beautiful Remodeled Kitchen & Bath. Real Hardwood Flrs.Awesome Landscaped Backyard.

SAT 2-4/SUN 1-4 **42969 NIDO COURT**
SPANISH VILLA IN MSJ **\$899,900**
 4 Br/ 2 Ba. Din. Rm.Lrge Fam Rm. Hrdwd Flrs, Fireplace. Kit-Lots of cabinets/gas range.MBR walk-in closet. 925-847-2200

LIVERMORE
4706 BEL ROMA RD.
LOVELY SINGLE STORY **\$1,749,000**
 4 BR 2.5 BA Din/Liv rms.Fam rm-wet bar:Remodeled

kit w/granite,Thermador stove +hood.6 st horse barn
 925-580-9050

SUN 1-4 **2445 ANCONA CIR**
DESIRABLE SOUTH LIVERMORE **\$1,050,000**
 5 BR 4.5 BA Plus Office.Pool/Spa.4 Car Garage.Large Side Access Area.Chef's Kit w/Granite/Maple Cbnts.
 925-321-3169

1914 SANTA CROCE DR
SINGLE LEVEL HOME! **\$795,000**
 4 BR 3 BA Upgrades-granite,Thermador SS Appl,high ceilings.plantation shutters,Built-In Cabinets
 925.847.2200

SAT/SUN 1-4 **2866 ALNWICK AVE #5**
CONDO W/LOTS OF UPGRADES **\$464,950**
 3 BR 3.5 BA Lovely Nassau Model Condo w/balcony. Upgraded w/maple flrs,Gourmet kit.,decorator paint.
 925-963-0887

SUN 1-4 **1215 GONZAGA CT**
COURT LOCATION! **CALL FOR PRICING**
 4 BR 3 BA 2 Story w/In-Law Unit.Gleaming Hrdwd

Flrs.Lovely Upgrades.Fireplace.Bckyrd w/fruit trees.
 925.847.2200

2833 ALNWICK AVE #2
DESIRABLE MONTGOMERY FLOOR PLAN **\$440,000**
 2 Bed/2.5 Ba Two Car Garage!Wonderful layout.Hurry Builder is raising prices!This one will go quickly! 925-487-2956

SAN LEANDRO
14988 ENDICOTT ST
WASHINGTON MANOR HOME **\$380,000**
 3 BR 1 BA Cute as a Button.Spacious Flr plan. Lrge Kit.w/island,& double ovens.Security Alarm.
 925.847.2200

"If you are a licensed realtor interested in joining our real estate office please contact Will Butler, Manager at 925.847.2257. We look forward to welcoming you to Coldwell Banker!"

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PLEASANTON

925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

CaliforniaMoves.com

3099 Bersano Court Ruby Hill



This grand Mediterranean Estate built by John Clawson in 2000 features 5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms plus 2 powder rooms with 5,577 square feet of elegant living space. Elegantly designed & lovingly cared for, this custom home is truly one of Ruby Hills most exquisite homes. It possesses a comforting sense of harmony and warmth with stately dimensions that create the ultimate environment for luxurious living. **Call for pricing!**

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41111 Mission Blvd.
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Pleasanton Luxury Home Market Year in Review 2012

It was a very solid year for luxury home sales (single family detached homes selling for \$1 million or more) in Pleasanton. The median sales price for these homes was virtually unchanged but the price per square foot increased nearly 4% and sales prices were closer to asking prices than in 2011. Luxury homes were also on the market for fewer days and overall sales of luxury homes increased 14%, even though the inventory of these homes was 25% lower.

The median sales price was \$1,370,000, which was \$2,500 less than in 2011. As we will examine further

below, there were more luxury sales of \$2 million and more in 2012 than in past years, which helped out the median sales price. The average sales price per square foot in 2012 was \$352, \$13 higher than in 2011. The average luxury homes sold



>>Go to www.PleasantonLuxuryMarket.com for the complete report

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JUST LISTED!

Elegant home with 4 bedrooms plus bonus room, 3 full baths, gourmet cherry/granite/stainless kitchen, 3 fireplaces, elegant master suite, plantation shutters, and lush private yard! **\$869,000**



PENDING SALE!

Charming West Pleasanton home with upgraded granite & stainless kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, upgraded baths, cozy fireplace, and private yard with BBQ & trellis! **\$699,900**



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**



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WALNUT GLEN NEIGHBORHOOD

COMING SOON



4 BD plus Den, 3.5 BA, 3,225sf. on a 19,554sf. lot. Built in 1996 with a bedroom and full bath on main level. Large side yard access, pool/spa and large patio with arbor.

NOLAN FARMS NEIGHBORHOOD

COMING SOON



5 BD, 5 BA, 4,277sf. on a 10,736sf. lot. Built in 2000 with a bedroom and full bath on main level. Corner lot with pool and private back yard. Located close to downtown.

ROSE POINT NEIGHBORHOOD

COMING SOON



6 BD, 3 BA, 3,450sf. on a 9,858sf. lot. Includes additional bonus room. Hardwood flooring, granite counters, stainless steel appliances and breakfast bar. Large lot with pool and side yard access.

9480 BLESSING DRIVE, PLEASANTON
LOCATED IN THE PRESERVE



This 193+/- acre privately owned land, known as Blessing Ranch, offers privacy and amazing views. Close to 580/680 interchange. Options for development are possibly a handful of single family residence homes or a large estate. For more information contact the Moxley Team. \$4,000,000

7755 COUNTRY LANE
LOCATED IN WEST PLEASANTON



4 BD + 1 office, 4.5 BA + .5 in Pool House, 4,496+/- sq. ft. on a 38,194+/- sq. ft. lot. This exquisite custom home sits on just under an acre of land. The home offers vaulted open beams ceilings, hardwood floors and sky lights. This one of a kind property backs to a peaceful creek and is privately graced with heritage oak trees. Call for private showing. \$1,899,000

**Coming
Soon**

Livermore Home
4 BD, 2 BA, 1,820sf. on a 7,700sf. lot.
Single story located in South Livermore.
Price: \$520,000

5315 Black Ave #2, Pleasanton
2 BD, 2 BA, 1345sf. condo.
Great location close to downtown and schools!
Price: \$375,000

Call for more information on these Coming Soon Properties!

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STONERIDGE PARK

JUST LISTED — OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



2812 GARDEN CREEK CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

Beautiful Pleasanton single level close to great neighborhood parks & award winning schools. Open floor plan with three bedrooms, two updated bathrooms, 1720 square feet. Excellent condition, remodeled kitchen and master bathroom, spacious family room/kitchen area. Newer dual pane windows, wood flooring, updated fixtures, vaulted ceilings, completely finished garage. Large private rear yard with mature trees and concrete stamped patio. 6264 square foot lot. Convenient to Downtown.

OFFERED AT \$649,000

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

SOLD!



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! 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**



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PRESENTING THE PROPERTIES OF OUR *Pleasanton & Livermore* OFFICES...

EMILY BARRACLOUGH BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$6,900,000
Stunning custom home nestled in foothills of Pleasanton with breathtaking views of Mt. Diablo and valley. 5bd, 6 full ba and 2 half ba. Gorgeous kitchen opens to great room, views out every window, 1 of a kind 10 car garage and more! 4140 FOOTHILL RD

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



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 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! 3 bd, 2.5 ba. 5800 EAGLES RUN RD

MARTA RIEDY BY APPT



DISCOVERY BAY \$985,000
Gorgeous 4bd, 3ba 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

LESLIE FAUGHT SAT & SUN 1-4



UNION CITY \$890,000
Talavera by Summerhill Homes. Granite slab counters, separate living/dining and family rooms, fireplace, large master suite, junior suite on 2nd flr. 5bd, 4ba. 4568 NOVATO STREET

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$739,000
Walk to K-12 schools, new stamped concrete drive & patio, new granite and maple bathroom, skylight, new interior and exterior paint, updated kitchen, professionally landscaped and more! 4bd, 2ba. 5248 RIDGEVALE WAY

MIRANDA MATTOS BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$529,950
1,853+-sf, newer one story 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, granite counters, hardwood floors, plantation shutters and more. 1821 MEADOW GLEN DR

SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



CASTRO VALLEY \$500,000
Views, Views, Views, end unit, newer hardwood bamboo flooring, newer paint, Master suite, beautiful patio, water fall, pond and arbor in back yard and more! 3bd, 2.5ba. 20460 SUMMERCREST DRIVE

BRENT WILLIAMS SAT & SUN 1-4



CASTRO VALLEY \$499,000
Views, Views, Views! Bring your love for breathtaking sunsets and charming details, highly desirable upper Castro Valley, multiple living spaces, potential for lock off income and more! 3bd 2ba. 18058 REAMER RD

TIFFANY ROSE OPEN SUN 2-5



SAN RAMON \$350,000
Darling condo in prime location. Updated, bright floor plan with 2 full size bedroom/2 baths and more! 327 NORRIS CANYON TERRACE

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