

Pleasanton Weekly

BUYING AND SELLING
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A HOME FOREVER

FAMILIES MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR CHILDREN'S LIMITED LIFE SPANS, AT GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE

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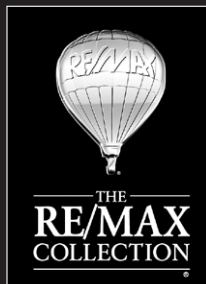
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OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Amador's 'We the People' team heads to Washington

If their presentations next weekend at the "We the People" national competition in Washington, D.C., is as good as last Monday's final dress rehearsal, the 29 seniors on Amador Valley High School's advanced civics team should come home winners once again. Coached by social studies and civics teachers Brian Ladd and Mairi Wohlgemuth, this will be Amador's 12th time to compete in the national finals as the California high school champions and will serve as the culminating event of the program that has taken much of their time since the class started last August. Since New Year's, the team has spent at least 25 hours a week practicing and preparing, first for the state finals which it won in Bakersfield on Feb. 9, and since then readying for the finals April 27-29 against 52 other high schools from the U.S. and its territories. The group leaves Amador at 8 p.m. next Thursday for the finals.

Most satisfying has been the community's support, both in terms of raising the funds needed to send the team to Washington and in attending practice sessions to hear the presentations. Last Monday evening, more than 100 sat through the two-and-a-half hour dress rehearsal, applauding loudly as each of the six teams wrapped up their remarks and responded to questions from judges who critiqued their performance. Ladd and Wohlgemuth work with the students not only on the course material provided by the Center for Civic Education, which organizes all aspects of the program and prepares the constitution-related materials, but also on how the students perform. They're taught to be clear, articulate, deliberate and confident when discussing issues dealing with "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution," as the program is called.

The national finals take the form of simulated congressional hearings. During the hearings, groups of students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees, scoring the groups through a performance-based assessment. Topic leaders this year include "What challenges might American constitutional democracy face in the 21st century?" to "What rights does the Bill of Rights protect?" Each hearing begins with a four-minute opening statement by students and is followed by a six-minute period of follow-up questioning during which judges probe the students'



JEB BING

Team Three prepares presentation on constitutional issues at dress rehearsal last Monday at Valley Bible Church. Team members (from left) are Sara Borchers, Yves Yang, Grant Bonham and Bobby Lee.

depth of knowledge, understanding and their ability to apply constitutional principles. The format provides students an excellent opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles while providing the 72 judges who will meet with them at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and in congressional meeting rooms on Capitol Hill with an excellent means of assessing students' knowledge and application to historical and current constitutional issues.

Ladd said that while in Washington, the Amador students will have a chance to explore the nation's capital, learn about government beyond the classroom walls, and meet with elected officials and other dignitaries. Congressman Eric Swalwell will meet with the group next Friday morning and provide a tour of the Capitol. The students will meet with congressional leaders from California on Monday.

The competition will have four different rounds of school teams Saturday and Sunday, with Amador facing judges at 2 p.m. Saturday and then at 8 a.m. Sunday. The 10 finalists among the We the People teams will be announced late Sunday and those 10 teams will vie for top honors Monday on Capitol Hill. The national winner will be announced at a reception late on Monday.

For Ladd, this will be his last trip as Amador's "We the People" coach. A teacher since 1989 and in the Social Studies Department at Amador since 1990, he's been involved with the program since 1992. Wohlgemuth has shared the coaching responsibilities since 1994, and she also plans to step down. Both say it's time to move back to their regular teaching positions "to keep their personal lives in check" after hundreds of extra hours conducting the school's winning "We the People" program.

Finishing first next week in Washington would cap their good work on behalf of students in the "We the People" program. ■

KATHY NARUM

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Pleasanton Weekly

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About the Cover

A wall of Memory Tiles gives every family a special way to remember their child, brother or sister, at the George Mark Children's House, which provides pediatric palliative care. Photo courtesy George Mark Children's House. Design by Lili Cao.

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www.kathynarum.com



Paid for by Kathy Narum for City Council 2013 FPPC# 1354971

Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you plan to observe Earth Day, April 22, this year?



Aishu Ravivarapu

Student

Some of the things I do daily, but will do even more on Earth Day, are recycling and keeping my school's campus clean. I do that by picking up any type of trash that I see and throwing it in the garbage, or in a recycling bin if it's recyclable. I do this to help the earth. I think it's really important to keep our beautiful planet clean.

Rick Norwood

Sales

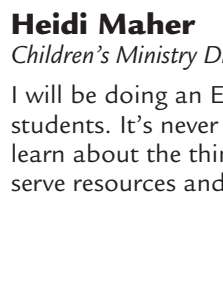
I will use less water, and since I sell products which use water, I will also encourage my customers to conserve water wherever possible.



Susan Lewis

Sales

I plan to take some of the clothing, furniture and jewelry I have and see what I can do to restore, recycle, re-use or re-purpose them.



Heidi Maher

Children's Ministry Director

I will be doing an Earth Day project with my students. It's never too early for children to learn about the things they can do to conserve resources and keep our planet pristine.



Maddie Hill

Student

My family recycles everything we can, and on Earth Day we will be sure to discuss many of the other things we can do in order to keep our earth clean and healthy.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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

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DIGEST

Six days left for lookalike photos

Entries are due by 6 a.m. Thursday for the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Mother-Daughter Lookalike Contest. First-place prize is a \$100 gift certificate for Gene's Fine Foods in Pleasanton; second-place prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Strizzi's restaurant in Pleasanton.

Send digital photos only to contest@pleasantonweekly.com, attached to an email in JPG format. Include the names of the mother and daughter(s) and the ages of children in the email. Photos entered in previous contests are not eligible.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, which will be posted at www.pleasanton-weekly.com for readers to vote online for which mother and daughter in Pleasanton look most alike.

Photos of the winners will be published in the May 10 print edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

Busted bust

A sting operation looking for stores that sell cigarettes to minors was a painless event, with every one of the 38 locations visited refusing to sell to underage decoys.

Pleasanton has 43 stores that sell tobacco, but five weren't open during the sting, which used minors as decoys, accompanied by plainclothes officers.

Officers also checked for mandatory signs about the prohibition of tobacco sales to juveniles and made sure the stores had valid tobacco retail licenses.

The undercover operation was held April 5, with officers from the Pleasanton Police Department working with the Alameda County Public Health Department.

California law prohibits the sale of cigarettes to minors. Violators can be charged with either a misdemeanor or a fine; a first offense runs about \$200.

The Alameda County Fair needs you

Volunteers are needed to help at this year's Alameda County Fair, which runs June 19-July 7 and draws a half million visitors. Individuals, companies and organizations are welcome. Interested volunteers can email Jamie Osborn at josborn@alamedacountyfair.com.

It's also time to think about showing off your talents at the Fair, entering categories such as quilting, gardening, painting, canning, etc. If you can "Make it, Take it, Grow it or Show it" you can enter it. Go to www.ACFairExhibits.com.

Council decides roads not part of hillside protection ordinance

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council approved a final version of a hillside protection ordinance called Measure PP on Tuesday night with its chambers filled for a second public hearing in a row.

Most of the speakers Tuesday and at an earlier hearing April 2 voiced their views on a key controversial point in the ordinance, whether roads should be allowed in protected areas.

Coupled with other issues considered by the council, Tuesday night's meeting ended well after midnight, making it the longest meeting in recent memory.

For more than two hours, both speakers and council members gave conflicting arguments over whether a road is a "structure," which would be banned along with residential and commercial development on steep hillsides, or are roads an "infrastructure," similar to sewer and power lines, which would be permitted.

Measure PP becomes part of General Plan in 3-1 vote

For many, including Mayor Jerry Thorne, the detailed studies of the meaning of "roadway" became a major research project although the findings were never clear.

Councilwoman Karla Brown, who helped write and support Measure PP in a referendum approved by voters in November 2008, argued that roads, along with houses, should never be allowed on hillsides. Thorne disagreed, saying his years in handling construction projects as a business executive always considered roads part of a project's infrastructure.

Although the council and most of Tuesday night's speakers, and those who addressed the council April 2, said they support Measure PP's restrictions, their only differences appeared to

be over the definition of a road. That became important because roads will need to be constructed in some parts of Pleasanton where future developments could require connecting roadways to reach them over steep slopes. If classified as infrastructure, those roads would be exempted from Measure PP's restrictions.

More than 100 filled the council chambers Tuesday night for the scheduled public hearing and then a final vote on making the 5-year-old Measure PP a part of the city's General Plan.

The hearing was actually a continuation of one opened April 2, where another 100 jammed the chambers. The council delayed its vote at that time because a number of those who wanted to attend and possibly speak were out of town during Pleasanton schools' spring break.

The voter-approved Measure PP restricts residential and commercial development on hillside

See **ORDINANCE** on Page 6



MIKE SEDLAK

An "injured" student, Elaina Gates, laments over "dead" Principal Jim Hansen of Amador Valley High.

Students witness mock DUI tragedy

'Every 15 Minutes' staged to drive home the horrors

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The aftermath of a horrific car crash, a dead principal, a badly injured student helicoptered away for treatment, and another arrested for drinking under the influence. That's what students at Amador Valley and Valley Christian high schools witnessed last Thursday morning at the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-DUI program taking place over two days.

The program, which was presented by the Pleasanton Unified School District and the Pleasanton Police Department for the 12th year, gets its name from the fact that every 15 minutes a person is killed in an alcohol- or drug-related collision in the United States.

Thursday morning's mock fatal traffic collision took place at 11 a.m. on Del Valle Parkway adjacent to Amador Valley. Before students arrived to watch, the crash scene was set up with the wounded and dead, and covered by tarps. Once the spectators were in place, the tarps were removed, and a stunned and respectful silence fell over the crowd.

The county coroner's office handled mock

fatalities on the scene, while the victims were treated, then transported to hospitals by ground ambulance and by CALSTAR. Meanwhile, police officers investigated, arrested and booked the student "drunk driver."

Student participants continued their trip to the morgue or to the Police Department to be booked for "drunken driving." To add another dimension to the realism, the parents of many students (the "living dead") received mock death notifications.

At the end of the day, those students who participated in the staged accident as well as the "living dead" were transported to a local facility for an overnight student retreat to simulate the separation from friends and family.

On the second day of the event, students assembled to view a video of the crash scene, share feelings and reactions, and listen to speakers with true stories of drunken driving tragedies.

The program alternates each year between Amador and Foothill high schools with juniors and seniors attending, so it reaches each student in the school district. ■

Boston Marathon runner looks forward to competing in 2014

'I can even see next year being bigger and better'

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

A Pleasanton runner who narrowly missed being a victim of the deadly explosions that took place Monday at the Boston Marathon is already looking forward to running the race again.

John Cligny finished his first Boston Marathon in about four hours; the first bomb went off nine minutes later.

"I looked over my left shoulder and heard the blast and saw the smoke and then I saw the next one go off," he said Wednesday after arriving home from Boston on Tuesday. He was one of about 500 runners with the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team.

"We were heading down Boylston Street, trying to get our race bags that were on the Dana-Farber bus. It was cold and we were all shaking and cold," Cligny said. "That's really when there was a lot of panic going on, people were terrified, screaming, 'Run, run!' I actually had to climb up on the bus to avoid being trampled."

Despite the fear and the panic of the crowd, Cligny is already planning to run the marathon next year.

"Absolutely I'd run. It's the mother of all marathons," he said. "I can even see next year being bigger and better, a tremendous testimony to the people who lost their lives or were hurt."

Cligny described the second explosion as "real loud, real, real loud."

"There was just so much confusion when the

See **MARATHON** on Page 7



John Cligny

High density, multi-story apartment project OK'd for California Center

Five buildings plus retail center set for Owens-Rosewood corner

By JEB BING

A new multi-story, high density apartment project and adjoining retail center was approved Tuesday night by the Pleasanton City Council for a section of California Center that has until now been one of the city's major office centers.

Developer Mark English and his Pleasant Partners group will build two-, three- and four-story buildings and a two-building retail center on a portion of the office building site at Rosewood and Owens drives, which they have acquired from California Center, formerly called CarrAmerica.

The site is one of a number of properties rezoned for high density housing as part of an agreement between Pleasanton and state housing authorities as part of a court settlement to provide more affordable housing in the city.

However, it's the "affordable" part of Tuesday night's approval that was controversial with the city Housing Commission and affordable housing advocates here arguing that Pleasant Partners' plan shows that mostly market rate, not affordable, apartment units will be built. Of the 305 studio and one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments planned for the development, just under 50 will be in the "affordable" classification, well under the 15-20% rate once required under the city's now-invalid inclusionary zoning ordinance.

Still, council members praised the design of the complex and the developer's plan for large open spaces, playgrounds and sports areas between the buildings. The project, on 8.4 acres of 61-acre California Center property, will in-



Architect's sketch of Pleasant Partners apartment complex planned for California Center at Owens-Rosewood drives in Pleasanton.

clude five residential buildings in what attorney Marty Inderbitzen, who represents Pleasant Partners, described as stepped-height construction, with the two-story buildings facing the streets and the taller buildings in the back.

The two retail buildings will total 7,520 square feet and will diagonally face the Owens-Rosewood intersection, across from Archstone and Hacienda apartment complexes and Red Robin Restaurant in the Walmart store retail center.

Interior recreation areas and other amenities will include a fit-

ness center, community room, bicycle repair shop, business center and two common rooms in a 4-1/2 story "podium" building. A pool, barbecue area, bocce ball court and children's play areas are also planned in the complex.

A total of 489 resident and guest parking spaces will be provided in the complex with at least one covered parking space assigned to each apartment.

To accommodate the apartment and retail complex, 1,242 of California Center's current 3,915 parking spaces will be removed with the

developer building 1,459 parking spaces in a new multi-story garage and additional surface parking near the I-580 side of the center. The Pleasant Partners development will take much of the surface parking lot and the sloping green grassy area adjacent to Owens Drive.

With the Planning Commission's and now the City Council's unanimous approval of the Pleasant Partners development, work can get under way as soon as final design work is completed and building permits issued. The project is expected to be finished in 2014. ■

ORDINANCE

Continued from Page 5

lots with a 25% grade or more. Although similar restrictions had

long been considered in Pleasanton, they've never been made part of the city's General Plan until now. The 2008 referendum came after developers won council approval to

build homes in the southeast hills, a project called Oak Grove, which recently was scuttled after a series of court rulings.

Although the 25% hillside protection rule is now in effect, the rush to write Measure PP in time for voter approval left many unanswered questions about the ordinance, which the city Planning Commission and council sought to clarify.

Those included how to measure the 25% slopes, whether to start with the top of the chimney of a proposed home or from its construction pad. Here again, there was disagreement, with Thorne successfully arguing that construction projects should be viewed "from dirt to dirt."

There was general agreement that "manufactured slopes," such as those built up by bulldozers moving dirt to create a hillside, are not affected by the Measure PP restrictions.

But if Measure PP also banned roads, as recommended by the city's Planning Commission, council members and city staff pointed out that a proposed bypass road to the Callippe Preserve golf course and

other connecting roads to projects that would still be allowed by the measure couldn't be built. Developers of the once-planned 51-home Oak Grove project, for example, could still build up to 10 homes on the 600 acres they own atop Kottinger Ranch and those homes would need a road to reach them.

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, who successfully led the Measure PP referendum, told the council that there was never any intent in the measure to include roads.

"The truth is, as a designer of the initiative, I can say that the intent of Measure PP was to protect hillside development," she said. "Roads were never part of this measure. They're not structures."

Still, streets that would serve the proposed Lund Ranch II development near the Sycamore Heights community off Sunol Boulevard would have to traverse steep slopes to reach the homes planned there, as would the long-planned bypass road to the golf course.

The Planning Commission determined that roads are structures and therefore could not be built on hill-

side areas prohibited by Measure PP from development. The commission also recommended that a full inventory of ridgelines affected by Measure PP be made to provide early disclosure to property owners and applicants of hillside developments.

But Brian Dolan, director of Community Development, told the council that his planning staff doesn't agree with the Planning Commission's recommendations and urged the council to omit any restrictions for roads from the final Measure PP document. He also said an inventory would take considerable staff and engineering time and could be handled when and if developers file applications.

He said the cost of developing an inventory could run into the tens of thousands of dollars and also warned that the city's eventual determination could invite lawsuits from developers who might disagree with the methodology used. Thorne and City Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Pentin agreed, and a proposed inventory requirement as part of Measure PP was dropped Tuesday night. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Fun in the sun: The Pleasanton Weekly goes boating on Lake Tulloch, Copperopolis, with the Weber, Flashberger and Gee Families: John, Tracey, Alex and Derek Weber; Dave, Cole, Chloe, Megan and Sawyer Flashberger; and Sam, Bob and Cindy Gee; Nick Brum. Floating photographer was Sue Flashberger.



Commission Vacancies Recruitment Extended

The City Council is accepting applications for the following Commission vacancies:

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee

Civic Arts Commission

Committee on Energy & the Environment

Economic Vitality Committee
for the following groups:

Green Economy/Environmental Industry
Financial Services
Medical Technology
Residential Real Estate Developer

Human Services Commission

Planning Commission

City representative to the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Application deadline Friday, May 3, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by completing an interest card on our website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

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

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

MARATHON

Continued from Page 5

bombs went off. We all thought it was a man-made explosive," he said.

He added that the confusion was made worse by the fact that most of those around had just finished the 26.2 mile run.

"You're kind of incoherent anyway," Cligny said.

He said he was worried about his family members and friends who knew he'd finished just before the first bomb, and said that was compounded by the fact that cell phone service was immediately cut off to prevent the possibility of another bomb being remotely detonated by phone.

Cligny is grateful for the outpouring of support that followed him and the other runners in the aftermath of the bombings.

"The hotel personnel was concerned, they checked on us," Cligny said, adding, "There was just a lot of rumors that were flying."

"The mood of the town was pensive, people were somber and quiet," he said. "Everybody was helpful. It seemed the city was getting back on its feet and getting down to business and trying to find the perpetrator or perpetrators."

Although he was initially worried about flying home — the airspace over Boston was closed immediately following the bombings — he made it home without problems.

"I was able to get a cab and get to the airport," Cligny said.

Police were stopping passengers to see if they had photos on their

cell phones or other information to provide that might be helpful in the investigation.

"Before I hit security, one of the marshals, he introduced himself to me — I was wearing my race shirt — he asked if I could help in any way. I told him I was sorry I couldn't be of more help."

Three people were killed by the blasts and more than 170 people were injured, including Aaron Hern, a sixth-grader at Martinez Junior High School who was in Boston with his parents and sister to watch his mother compete.

Cligny was one of eight runners from Pleasanton who registered for the race. The other seven are Utahna Cligny, Erin Lyons, J. Patrick McCarthy, Nancy Morehead, Lynn Muise, Karen Richards and Robyn Roybal. Utahna Cligny, John's wife, opted out of the race and all the others successfully completed it.

Cligny said he had wondered about the possibility of a terrorist attack days before the event, noting the number of people there and the notoriety of the event.

"It's really a crazy thing, I can't even fathom it," he said about his idle speculation.

Cligny ran the marathon to raise money for cancer research. His daughter Ashley, 22, has been diagnosed with a malignant inoperable brain tumor.

"That's really what spurred me on," he said.

Cligny raised \$10,000 in his run, and said he was confident that donors will fulfill their commitment for runners who were blocked by police and unable to finish the run. ■

Help solve the Big Draw Monet Mystery: Clue 2

When he saw the red bandana, the police chief immediately suspected a very polite hobo, named Murgatroid, who always kept a red bandana in his breast coat pocket. He had been lurking around the Howell house, as if he were looking for something.

The police raided the hobo camp but Murgatroid was gone. His friends said he'd returned with a young woman at noon the day of the party and had left immediately, and he wasn't wearing his red bandana. A week later, when Judge Harris was in court in Alameda, he saw a well-dressed man who matched the description of the hobo. He followed him to a mansion owned by Murgatroid C. Snodgrass. He and the hobo were the same man!

"Mr. Snodgrass," said Judge Harris. "Why you were posing as a hobo and lurking around the Howell residence?"

"Please keep this quiet," Snodgrass replied. "My only daughter, Cornelia, ran away with a jockey six months ago and disappeared. I learned they were living in Pleasanton and disguised myself as a hobo to search for her. I found her alone and working as a laundress for Mr. Howell.

"On the day of the party, she agreed to come home with me, so we left the party at 11:30 and went back to the hobo camp," he continued. "I wanted to leave my few things to the other hobos, but my red bandana was gone, and in its place, I found this note and this bottle of wine."


He handed Judge Harris a crumpled piece of paper and a bottle of wine from Ruby Hill Winery.

Here's what the note said: "Deer Murg, I needed your bandana, but I am givin you somthin better!"

"Well," said Harris, "this puts a new slant on things. I'll be in touch. Don't leave town." ■

Now it's up to you to solve this 100-year-old mystery. If you do, you will be entered to win one of the fabulous prizes from The Big Draw: A City-Wide Arts Celebration on May 11.

Go to www.The-Big-Draw.com to learn how to play or pick up instructions at a participating merchant. This mystery combines fact and fiction. To learn more about Pleasanton's history, go to The Museum on Main or Towne Center Books to read up.




Special Interests Don't Want You To Vote!

Big Development has its heart set on building East Pleasanton housing projects and has put big money on one candidate. *Big Government* backs another candidate and has their own agenda. Both want to make significant changes to Pleasanton, but they can only make those changes if you don't vote.

David Miller is the only candidate for Pleasanton City Council that has a record of putting people first. That's why David gets his support from Middle-class and Blue-collar residents, local business owners, parents, retirees, community volunteers and elected officials.

David brings experience, strength and the skill to find the best solutions to tough problems. He wants to remove Red Tape to simplify resolving issues about City services. He wants to give control back to the people.

David Miller is Good for You, Great for Pleasanton and the Best Choice for Open Government. **Please mark your ballot for David Miller and mail it in.**



Paid for by David Miller for City Council FPPC# 1355447

ValleyCare Medical Foundation Welcomes

Deanna Marie Ward, MD, MPH

Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Dr. Deanna Ward has joined the ValleyCare Medical Foundation specializing in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Ward has specialized in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics since 2007. Previously, she was with Redwood City Pediatrics, as well as Ron Robinson Senior Care Center and After Hours Pediatrics-Urgent Care, both in San Mateo. Prior to that, she practiced at East Bay Family Practice, a Sutter Health affiliate in Oakland.

Dr. Ward received her medical degree from University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and completed her residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. She received her master of public health in International Health and Health Education from Loma Linda University, School of Public Health in Loma Linda, CA.

She has participated in several research projects involving youth risk behavior and family health in both the U.S. and Mexico. Dr. Ward has also published a number of articles ranging from early sexual activity and teen pregnancy to hypertension in premature infants and coronary and liver failure in pediatric patients. She has also been involved in quality improvement initiatives for diabetic care and physician awareness of child abuse. Dr. Ward speaks fluent Spanish.



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Parents again push for smaller class sizes

Board to consider options that could decrease teacher-student ratios for first-graders

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Pleasanton parents were out in force again at the Pleasanton School board meeting Tuesday night to plead their case for class size reductions for first-grade students.

About 24 parents were joined by Bob Miller, the president of Pleasanton Partnerships In Education, who said PPIE has raised contributions toward the reductions and is willing to add an additional \$78,000, leaving a shortfall of about \$117,000.

Miller asked that the board consider closing the gap to reduce class sizes from 30-1 to 25-1 for the coming school year.

"We hope you will agree that reducing class size in first grade is a priority," Miller told the board.

Six parents spoke to ask the same thing of board members.

Emmeline Chen told a story of her daughter's class microwaving marshmallow candy, with some hard pressed to see. Chen asked for reductions in more than first grade.

"We're going to ask you to go a little bit further and consider class size reductions beyond first grade," she said. "The time is now to reduce these class sizes."

Lark Haan said parents understand that class size reductions are a big financial obligation to the district. But she said larger class sizes mean more

disruptions in class and that unruly children "feed off each other."

"The community needs to know with certainty that you think class size is important," Haan told the board.

Jen Skinner, Alice Cruce, Andrea Stokoe and Susie Montoya all made the same request.

Stokoe also asked that the board "reach beyond" first grade for class size reductions.

Montoya said she's seen the difference between the education her son received when he was in first grade when class sizes were 25-1 and what her daughter is getting.

"In two years, I've seen a decline in the education she's getting," Montoya said.

Moving class sizes back to 25-1 may be getting some traction with board members, including Valerie Arkin, who asked that staff look at ways it could cut class sizes.

"I'd like to see some options there to see what we can do," Arkin said. The board agreed to add the issue to the agenda of an upcoming meeting.

In a brief update on the budget, Assistant Superintendent Luz Cazares said revenues are up at the state level.

"This isn't too different from the good news we were hearing last year," Cazares said. "The difference is, last year, the budget was built on

risky assumptions."

She said both adult education — which was supposed to be shifted to community colleges — and a plan to give poorer districts more money, now known as the Local Control Funding Formula, are both being wrangled over by the state Legislature.

Board members also heard an update on the first year of transitional kindergarten, which brought more than 80 4-year-olds into three elementary schools, Hearst, Lydiksen and Valley View. The plan, spearheaded by Gov. Jerry Brown, will give younger students an extra year to get ready for kindergarten. It focuses on play-based learning, teaching basic reading and number skills along with art and includes a component included in a nationwide push for increased focus on science, technology, engineering and math — STEM — where those younger students learn about dinosaurs, magnets and earthquakes.

"These younger students love school from the start," said Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services.

He said two more elementary schools, Alisal and Mohr, will add transitional kindergarten classes in the coming school year to accommodate younger students from across the district.

Board Member Joan Laursen said she visited a transitional kindergarten class during Youth in Government day.

"These were 4-year-olds who were talking about the difference between fiction and nonfiction books," she said.

Some board members are looking forward to seeing how those students do in later school years compared to those who do not go through transitional kindergarten.

The board also took the first step toward laying off the equivalent of more than 11 employees who are not teachers.

"I do understand that with what we've been through over the last few years that can cause some angst," Bill Faraghan, assistant superintendent of human resources, told the board.

However, he said the layoffs are routine in nature and usually are filled later in the year by donations or school-based funding drives.

"We need to lay them off," Faraghan said. "That's the safe and prudent thing to do."

On a related note, Bonnie Kasan, representing the California School Employees Association, pushed for the district to balance what she called inequities between schools.

"Our schools are not equal," Kas-

san said, pointing to one school that raised \$60,000 at an event and another, holding the same event, that raised \$10,000.

"We need equity," she said. "We need a level playing field."

Kasan also called for school Parent-Teacher Associations to combine into a district-wide PTA; Board Member Jamie Hintzke said, however, that PTAs are advocacy groups and not meant to be fundraising organizations, although they have taken on that role in recent years due to state cutbacks to education.

While it was too soon to know how much money from last weekend's Run for Education actually raised, the event was pronounced a success and will likely return next year.

One problem that came up was that the 5K race was not actually five kilometers; event organizer Kelly French said the course was rerouted at the last minute to accommodate the crowd that turned out.

French was lauded by district staff, board members and members of the audience and will be honored by the district at a later board meeting.

The board also heard a report from the Wheelchair Foundation. An effort to raise money through schools for wheelchairs to be sent to Central America raised \$10,500, with \$5,000 coming from Lydiksen alone. ■

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Amador parents, staff, students create wish list for new principal

District looks to hire three to replace departing principals

Parents of Amador Valley High School students want a principal who can balance being an administrator and still be personable with students.

And someone who'll stick around, too.

Those were a few of the comments at an April 11 meeting with parents as the district looks to find a replacement for Principal Jim Hansen, who's retiring at the end of the school year.

Among the other comments from the handful of parents who showed up was that they want someone who has experience with the struggles of high school students.

"I think the challenges of a high school principal are very different than middle school," one woman said, pointing out that students in upper grades have to deal more with issues that include drugs and suicide.

Parents also want a principal who will work more collaboratively with the community — and with the district's other high school. Foothill High's Principal John Dwyer is leaving at the end of the year, too, to take a job as principal at Lynbrook High in west

San Jose.

The parents at the meeting also want a principal who'll be supportive of programs like band and boosters.

"I would just like them to look past the dollar amount that they take," one mom said. She said her son, a band member, would often go to the band room during the day for "the safe place it creates."

Parents also want someone who's familiar with Common Core State Standards — the new nationwide standard for learning — and will pay attention to coming trends.

"I'd like to see what best practices are around the world," one parent said, with another adding that she'd like to have the new principal pay attention to students with special needs.

Amador students also had the chance to weigh in on what they hope for in a new principal. They want someone who's open minded and in touch with them, someone who'll be at school events, and someone who'll maintain the school's reputation and integrity, something parents want as well.

Both students and parents want the new principal to understand that the school is becoming more

ethnically diverse and to be sensitive to issues that arise from the change.

The district has already advertised for new principals at both schools, as well as advertising for a principal to replace Pleasanton Middle School Principal John Whitney, who is also retiring.

"Certainly it's a little unusual at this time of year to have this many principalships," said Bill Faraghan, one of the administrators who held the meeting for parents.

He said the district has already passed the application deadline. The pool, which could hit 100 applicants, will be winnowed to about 10, the maximum that can be interviewed in a single day. Applicants will be interviewed by a team of parents, teachers and staff, as well as by a separate group of administrators.

A final recommendation is expected to be forwarded to the school board, probably by May, Faraghan said.

Foothill will hold a parents' meeting at 6 p.m., Thursday, April 25; its students and staff will also be asked what they want in a principal.

—Glenn Wohltmann



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• **P13 0013, Lakshmi Nachi**

Application for Conditional Use Permit to operate a heritage school for children in Grades K-5 at 5627 Gibraltar Drive, Suite 200.

• **P13-0057, Gymboree Play & Music**

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to relocate the existing Gymboree Play & Music in the Oak Hills Shopping Center from 5460 Sunol Boulevard Suite 2 to a new tenant space, 5480 Sunol Boulevard, Suite 2, within the same shopping center.

• **P13-0332, Matt Billings, Main Street Brewery**

Application to modify the approved conditional use permit for Pleasanton Main Street Brewery, located at 830 Main Street, to allow it to expand into the adjoining tenant space formerly occupied by the El Jarrito Restaurant located at 828 Main Street.

• **PUD 94, Lynn Jansen, Roselyn Estates II**

Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) Development Plan approval for a seven-lot single-family residential development located on an approximately 3.7-acre property generally located north of the present terminus of Calico Lane and east of the present terminus of Lynn Drive.

Energy & the Environment Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.
Operation Services, 3333 Busch Road

- Committee renewal status and meeting frequency
- Selection of committee chair and vice chair
- Revised GHG inventory
- Energy Upgrade Pleasanton program statistics
- Recognition of departing committee members

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee

Monday, April 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Access in the Vicinity of the Bernal Avenue Bridge over Arroyo De La Laguna
- Trails Project Status Report

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

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Ace is the Place that Richert celebrates next weekend

Long-time Pleasanton store triples space in major retail expansion

Ace Hardware's new store in town — Richert Lumber — will celebrate its grand reopening next weekend with festivities that include food, prizes, music and, of course, the traditional ribbon-cutting event with Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne leading the ceremony.

Matt Richert, now president of Richert Lumber, and his crew of 37 employees were busy this week preparing not just for the three-day opening event but also for a visit next Wednesday by John Vanheisen, the new president of Ace and others from the firm's headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., just west of Chicago. After touring Richert's expanded store that is now filled with Ace products, Vanheisen, Richert and Richert's father Tom, who started the business in 1976, will attend a Northern California dealer group meeting in Dublin.

Richert Lumber flew the True Value Hardware flag for 28 years, but as Matt took the management reins from his father last year, they decided to expand the business and bring in the larger variety of housewares and household improvement goods that Ace offers. They also tripled the sales floor from 5,000 to 15,000 square. The expansion and larger product offerings seems to have worked. Matt Richert said sales this month are up over April

a year ago by 94.4%.

Today, shoppers can find shelves stocked with coffeemakers, blenders and other household goods right along with 2x4s in the back lumber yard, patio umbrellas next to wheelbarrows and, just a short walk away, decorative stone and rocks from Richert's Rockyard business. Designer shower doors and complete bathroom remodels are on the second floor along with specialists to help shoppers plan their upgrades.

Open house festivities start at 7 a.m. next Friday with free coffee and donuts and spin the wheel games for prizes. At noon, Thorne and the Richerts will join the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. On Friday and Saturday, the Children's Miracle Network will be at the store with Richert contributing \$1 for every dollar shoppers spend to the nonprofit organization.

On Friday, a coupon special included in this newspaper will offer shoppers 50% off any item in the store up to \$30. On Saturday, Richert will give away reusable bags with a 20% off deal on whatever shoppers can stuff in one of those bags. On Sunday, the store will give away 5 gallon buckets, again with 20% off whatever a shopper can fit in the bucket.

Bands, hotdogs and a presen-



JEB BING

Matt Richert, president of Richert Lumber on Sunol Boulevard, stands inside his newly expanded retail store that will celebrate its grand opening as an Ace Hardware store April 26-28.

tation Sunday by Foothill High School cheerleaders cap off the festivities. Both Tom and Matt Richert will be there along with Matt's wife Amanda and their two children, Lily, 4, and Myles, 6, who is in kindergarten at Alisal Elementary school.

"We all live in Pleasanton and we look forward to seeing our friends and neighbors when they come to help us celebrate," Matt Richert said. ■

Life Technologies plans \$18 million expansion in Pleasanton

Sunol Boulevard firm involved in growing molecular diagnostics market

Life Technologies Corp. plans to invest \$18 million in a multi-phase plan to expand its facility in Pleasanton, where it will implement Current Good Manufacturing Practice capabilities for its genetic analysis products.

The project, which will broaden the company's offerings in the growing molecular diagnostics market, will break ground soon, a Life Technologies spokesman said. The expanded facility will provide accessibility for customers on a global scale and enable more efficient business continuity planning.

"As a provider of molecular companion diagnostic development and testing for the pharmaceutical and bio-tech industries, it is paramount that we have access to trustworthy oligos products that meet GMP compliance," said Byung-in Lee, senior director, research and development. "Reagents such as those planned in Life Technologies' new manufacturing facility are essential for meeting regulatory re-

quirements and will help speed up our companion diagnostic development and validation process."

The Pleasanton facility, at 6055 Sunol Blvd., currently manufactures product lines that are part of Life Technologies' genetic analysis portfolio.

The first phase of the project will rework 10,000 square feet of floor space to manufacture molecular probes and primers under cGMP standards. Subsequent phased expansions totaling an additional 30,000 square feet will follow over the next one to three years to produce regulatory-compliant materials for qPCR work flows in the clinical space.

"We are committed to providing the highest quality products that help meet the specific needs of our growing diagnostic and pharmaceutical customer base," said Mark Stevenson, president and chief operating officer of Life Technologies. "The expansion of our Pleasanton facility and plan to achieve cGMP certification underscores

our growth strategy in new markets and our commitment to win in genetic analysis from discovery to diagnostics."

Products manufactured in cGMP-certified facilities ensure their quality meets standards of control for use in the pharmaceutical and medical fields.

Life Technologies currently has nine facilities that follow cGMP standards and are ISO 900 compliant for the manufacture of a broad spectrum of products, including instruments, various reagents, assays, cell culture media and sera. It is a global biotechnology company that Stevenson said is committed to providing innovative products and services to customers in the fields of scientific research, genetic analysis and applied sciences.

With a presence in more than 180 countries, the company's portfolio of 50,000 end-to-end solutions are secured by more than 5,000 patents and licenses that span the entire biological spectrum, he added. ■

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LETTERS

Passion for pianos

Dear Editor,

One of the things that's so great about putting on a big event like The Big Draw is that it takes a multitude of people from all over the community. And one of the things that is so hard about an event like this is that not everyone gets adequately credited and thanked.

From the beginning, The Big Draw has been a community effort, supported by the city of Pleasanton, the Civics Art Commission, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, Pleasanton Downtown Association, artists, teachers, musicians, merchants and more. Nothing would have happened without these groups and individuals, and everything is happening because of them.

In particular, the pianos that will be on Main Street was an idea that outgoing Civic Arts Commissioner Howard Seebach had long wanted to see happen. It is because of Howard's passion for this idea that the Civic Arts Commission personally took on the coordination of the pianos that will be on downtown Main Street from May 3-13. Howard and the other Civic Arts Commissioners operate behind the scenes to make art happen in Pleasanton. And those of us in the community are all thankful for what they accomplish on our behalf.

Jill Vellinger, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council

Distressed by downtown

Dear Editor,

I am distressed to read Cold Stone has been chased from downtown, a hardware store will occupy the former Domus site, and the 1st Hunan Chinese Restaurant has closed. What are the property owners/managers and Pleasanton Downtown Association thinking?

The downtown has become less and less desirable, confirming what I have heard from Realtors: Everyone is moving to Livermore. We will no longer ride our bikes downtown for an ice cream treat, or to dine across from a hardware store, or to enjoy an authentic Chinese dinner. Who wants to watch pickup trucks driving in and out of a parking lot while seated outside for a meal? And butternut-squash ice cream — pleazzzz, and for a hefty price.

We need more variety in our dining/shopping options. There is nothing wrong with chain stores; people flock to them for obvious reasons, and they can be as quaint as the buildings available. Kids will always be a part of a town — perhaps a walking patrol officer is the answer for the "rude" and the "spoiled." Santana Row in San Jose has both chains and a walking patrol, and people drive for miles to enjoy the ambiance.

I am suddenly feeling remorse for remodeling my home a few months ago. We have asked the question over the 16-1/2 years we have lived

here, "Why do we stay?" It was because of the downtown and the family atmosphere at local establishments. What do we tell ourselves now? Or is it finally time to read the writing on the wall and make a change while the market is hot?

Pamela Hendrickson

Narum in action

Dear Editor,

Several people have asked me which candidate I am recommending for City Council in the May election, and I have responded that I think the best candidate is Kathy Narum.

Kathy has lived in Pleasanton over 17 years, and her two girls have gone through the Pleasanton schools. The family took part in the Seahawks swim team, and Kathy gave a lot of time and leadership to the city's swim efforts.

I first saw her in action on the Bernal Property Task Force and then on the Planning Commission. She is a good listener and an experienced analyst of city problems. If she is elected, I know she will be open to communication from the people of Pleasanton and ready to work out reasonable solutions to the issues that face our city.

Kathy is the candidate with experience, and that counts the most on Election Day, so please consider her for your vote for City Council.

Patricia Belding

Sanwong has my vote

Dear Editor,

I was at the Candidates Forum last week and, after hearing all four of the candidates speak, I am confident that Olivia Sanwong is the right choice.

This is why I am voting for Olivia:

■ My husband, Srikant, and I have known Olivia since high school. She has always been passionate, a hard worker and willing to listen to people with varying points of view.

■ Olivia has worked hard to be qualified to help lead our city. She has met with civic and community leaders around Pleasanton. She has researched the issues that have faced us in the past and has researched topics that may affect us in the future. She has researched how other cities have solved similar issues. She has drawn on her experience in the high-tech industry and her education to formulate ideas that we can consider.

■ Olivia is from the X/Y Generation and her father is from Thailand. Her family moved to Pleasanton in 1981, and she is a product of our schools, community parks and programs, and tight-knit atmosphere. She was recently appointed by Congressman Eric Swalwell to the Women's Advisory Committee. She sits on several city committees, has been helping the We the People Team from Amador, and volunteers at the Museum on Main and Tri-Valley Haven. She represents a section of the community not currently found on our City Council.

See **LETTERS** on Page 12

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



JEB BING

Homes such as these along hilly Casterson Court in Kottinger Ranch probably couldn't be built today under new hillside protection rules approved by the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday.

It's over: Hillside protection is now the law in Pleasanton

It's a good thing folks in Kottinger Ranch and many other hillside communities in Pleasanton built their homes when they did, or there'd be nothing but lush woodlands for the rest of us to enjoy. After more than two decades of effort, hillside preservationists who sought rulings to keep housing off the steep slopes in and around Pleasanton, including the Pleasanton Ridgeland back in the the 1970s, won the City Council's approval Tuesday to ban all hillside development. The ruling is now part of the city's land use governing General Plan. Hillside protection language actually was part of the city's 1996 General Plan. Measure PP, approved by voters two years ago and ratified and strengthened by the City Council Tuesday, now completes that work, banning hillside development on or close to slopes with a 25% grade with few exceptions.

If PP had been in effect back in the 1970s, Pleasanton would be a much different, and smaller, city. Much of upper Vintage Hills, Vintage Heights, Foxbrough, Grey Eagle, Kottinger Ranch and developments along the west side of Foothill Road could not be developed within the new guidelines. There's even a question now if homes can be built along a proposed bypass road to the Callippe Preserve golf course where development was supposed to pay the \$15 million cost of building the roadway. At least the road could be built. After two public hearings and despite a Planning Commission decision to the contrary, the council voted to define a road as an infrastructure, not subject to the rules of Measure PP.

Developers, city staff and lawyers now have a document that can be readily understood to protect the hills of Pleasanton in perpetuity. It will protect our scenic hills from development and preserve the character of our city and keep development and development speculation away from lands with environmentally sensitive features, lands with primary open space values and lands that the public can enjoy visually and on hikes along pathways that will still be allowed.

The only exemptions that will be allowed will be housing developments of 10 units or less, but even these will have to meet critical reviews to make sure that no homes will again be built on highly visible hilltops. For those who have long promoted these restrictions, theirs is a well-deserved victory that all who live here can enjoy. ■



Visit [Town Square at PleasantonWeekly.com](http://TownSquare.atPleasantonWeekly.com) to comment on the editorial.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 11

Olivia is passionate about Pleasanton. She has a positive attitude. She has creative ideas for our city. She has common sense. She is a hard worker. Olivia Sanwong has my vote for City Council.

Christina Nystrom Mantha

Miller is best

Dear Editor,

We have some challenges in Pleasanton, and I feel that David Miller is the best council candidate to take these challenges on.

Pleasanton, along with many cities in California, has a huge unfunded liability with public employee retirement benefits. David understands the crisis and has been talking about it for some time and working on solutions that are fair to both the taxpayer and the employees. It is one thing to acknowledge the problem, it is another to truly educate yourself and work on solutions. David has done the latter. He knows that if not dealt with promptly, we are leaving a huge debt to his and our kids.

There are outside forces that are trying to ram high-density housing into Pleasanton, against the residents' wishes. While some leaders just accept this, David does not and will be there to fight it. David knows that the character of Pleasanton would change, traffic would increase, and schools will become significantly overcrowded. While previous development has paid its fair share to mitigate impacts on

local infrastructure, the new proposed high-density housing will not. Current residents, like you and I, are expected to pay more to "subsidize" the new growth. Bad enough we will have increased traffic and overcrowded schools but current residents will have to also pay more for this "privilege."

David is not accepting campaign contributions from public employee unions or land developers. David values transparency in government and does not accept contributions from special interests. He clearly wants to earn the trust of the residents.

Please join me in voting for David Miller for Pleasanton City Council.

Steve Brozosky, Former City Council member

Experience matters

Dear Editor,

Please join me in voting for Kathy Narum for City Council. Kathy has spent more than a decade participating in city of Pleasanton committees, task forces and commissions. Her hands-on experience in getting results in the public government sector sets her apart from the other candidates. I know this because I've worked in the corporate world for many years, and when I started volunteering on committees and now as a Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commissioner, I quickly recognized that my more experienced colleagues were more efficient in getting better results for the residents of Pleasanton because they understood the process and the internal working of government. That's the kind of experience Kathy Narum will bring to the council.

Kathy's years of working with residents, elected officials and city staff make her the best candidate in this race. Kathy already understands the issues facing our city, the costs, the scope, the timelines and all of the elements that go into making sound decisions. I encourage other candidates to recognize that they should first volunteer for committees and task forces — and not start their public service by running for City Council.

Experience matters. Vote for Kathy Narum.

Herb Ritter

Endorsing Sanwong

Dear Editor,

I really hoped to see the paper take an honest stand and endorse Olivia Sanwong for City Council. Kathy Narum's views are already well represented on the council, and I am concerned Kathy is too cozy with the mayor and Jerry Pentin.

The City Council seat is a living, breathing office and not a lifetime achievement award. Olivia would represent the 20, 30 and 40 somethings in Pleasanton and inject enthusiasm and high-tech know how into the council.

I was very impressed with Olivia at the forum last week and hoped the paper would endorse her candidacy.

Marty Peck

Responsible growth

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest in our local publications the information offered by the various candidates

running for the vacant Pleasanton City Council seat.

Each of the candidates offers their approach to guiding Pleasanton's future. Each includes in that future "responsible growth." But, interestingly enough, none actually defines what they mean by responsible growth. When I read further, I noticed that Kathy Narum has accepted campaign donations from Ponderosa Homes II Inc., James Tong, Charter Properties, etc.

I guess we know where her loyalties lie and who will guide her definition of responsible growth.

Edward Janas

Sanwong qualities

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to express my wish that the Pleasanton Weekly had endorsed Olivia Sanwong for City Council. Olivia combines all of the best qualities a resident of Pleasanton could want in a councilperson. She is principled, intelligent, hardworking and works well in building consensus. She is steeped in the traditions and history of Pleasanton due to her childhood and love of the city, but thanks to her travels and education knows what change the future can bring. She therefore is uniquely equipped to help maintain the tradition of Pleasanton while helping the city adapt to changing times.

David Loughnot, AVHS, Class of 1996

Narum results-oriented

Dear Editor,

As mayor of the city of Pleasanton I am frequently called upon to give my personal opinions on items pertinent to civic matters including candidates for elected office. Therefore, I must speak out in favor of Kathy Narum for the vacant Pleasanton City Council seat.

Kathy's experience as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner and Planning Commissioner as well as the other leadership roles that she has played on behalf of our community including six task forces, the Seahawks swim team and RAGE soccer show a results-oriented candidate. This is experience that we need on the council going forward.

Further, Kathy has proven herself to be an independent thinker who thoroughly evaluates a situation and makes decisions based on the benefit to the community as a whole. She does not make decisions based on who did or did not support her or on political ideology. Kathy and I may not always agree on things, but I have found her to be open minded and willing to listen to all points of view.

I look forward to our citizenry reviewing her considerable record and voting Kathy Narum for City Council.

Mayor Jerry Thorne

Narum looks at both sides

Dear Editor,

I would encourage Pleasanton voters to mail in their ballots and vote for Kathy Narum, who has been endorsed by the Pleasanton Weekly, Valley Times and Tri-Valley Herald. I served on the Planning Commission with Kathy, and while

we did not always agree on issues, she looks at both sides of an issue before coming to a decision.

Pleasanton and County voters adopted an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in 1996 and 2000 respectively. In order to move those boundaries to expand Pleasanton outside the city and county Urban Growth Boundary, a public vote of the citizens of Pleasanton is required. Right now, the city is planning to build roads, infrastructure and housing subdivisions outside the city and county Urban Growth Boundary and sidestep the voters, breaching the voter-approved Urban Growth Boundary without the voters' permission. This must be stopped.

Please mail in your ballot and vote for Kathy Narum.

Anne Fox

Fresh new voice

Dear Editor,

With the ridgeline settled it is time to shift our focus from planning to economic development in order to meet increasing demands on city services. As a member of the Economic Vitality Committee and an MBA, Olivia Sanwong has the financial experience Pleasanton needs to promote fiscal sustainability and approach pension reform.

Olivia understands Pleasanton schools and families because she is a product of this community. Olivia supports Pleasanton schools putting her ideals into action as a tireless volunteer with the We the People program at Amador Valley High. You might remember Olivia because she likely taught your children to swim at the Aquatic Center.

Retire tired ideas. Reject special interests and big campaign money's influence in local elections. Olivia is a fresh new voice for Pleasanton representing our growing diversity and the future for our young families.

Susan Piekarski

Voting for Miller

Dear Editor,

Like many residents of Pleasanton, I have been extremely disappointed with local government over the past few years. Instead of representing the interests of the ordinary people, I have seen our City Council bounce between catering to government employee special interests and helping the special interests of big developers, who want to duplicate Dublin's development in Pleasanton. What happened to the days when our government was by us and for us, the people? A prime example is this shortened, screwy City Council election. You'd think the mayor and City Council don't want me to vote. They couldn't have made it any easier to lose a ballot or forget to vote.

For the upcoming City Council election we have both a Big Government candidate backed by the public unions, and a hand-picked Big Developer supported candidate, too. Fortunately, there is also a "we the people" candidate in the race, David Miller, who has refused contributions from both the unions or the developers. He brings his 25 years of business experience and a fresh perspective and a citizen's voice to city

government. David is an independent thinker and will fairly represent the people of Pleasanton, and stand up to the special interests. I want my vote to count. That's why I'm voting for David Miller.

Kevin Daniel

Kathy for council

Dear Editor,

Kathy Narum's qualifications to be on the City Council are outstanding. She began her involvement with city government several years ago, first on the Parks and Recreation Commission and then for the past six years on the Planning Commission. This experience has given her an invaluable knowledge of the concerns and interests of the residents of Pleasanton as well as an understanding of the working relationship between the city's commissions and the City Council.

During the 17 years Kathy has lived in Pleasanton, she has also been actively involved with the community through the Seahawks swim team and RAGE soccer boards. In addition, she has served on six city task forces, including as current co-chair of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan and formerly on the Downtown Hospitality Guideline Task Force.

Kathy's top priorities are the city's fiscal responsibility and increasing city revenues. She would work to update the Hacienda Business Park's plan to attract more business which, in turn, would enable the city to include more park area and recreational opportunities in the capital improvement budget.

Kathy is well prepared to study the issues coming before the City Council and she has demonstrated the ability to work well with others. Her experience, community involvement and willingness to listen make her an outstanding candidate.

Barbara Hemptill

Financial reality

Dear Editor,

I encouraged David Miller to run for City Council years ago and thank him for stepping forward for this short term seat on Pleasanton City Council (the winner will have to run again in November 2014).

Pleasanton faces an unfunded liability of about \$160 million for employee pension and retiree health care programs. David has worked for years on this issue, appearing before the City Council numerous times encouraging them to take action. David knows that for traditional pension plans to work, the promised benefit levels must be affordable and the accounting practices and actuarial assumptions must be reasonable. David Miller knows it's time to face financial reality and has the courage to lead the way.

I thank all four candidates for stepping up but I believe David Miller is an independent thinker who has the intelligence and courage to tackle this No. 1 issue in Pleasanton. Give him 18 months to prove he is up to the job.

Send your mail-in ballot for David Miller for Pleasanton City Council today.

Kay Ayala

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Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2013
SUMMER CAMPS
FOR KIDS

Summer camp on the silver screen

Movies to enjoy for the camp experience, with or without the kids



BY JESSICA LIPSKY

For most kids, summertime means three months of glorious freedom, chock full of sleeping in and running amok. For others, the end of the school year signals the time to pack their bags and ship out to any number of local and far away summer camps.

If you're like me and never went to sleep away camp, or you're headed there for the first time, check out these summer camp classics guaranteed to give you a taste of the summer fun to come (or at least the fun you wish you had):

The Parent Trap (1961, 1998)



This tale of twin-meets-twin is a family favorite. Twin sisters — played by Haley Mills in the original version and Lindsay Lohan in the 1998 remake — meet for the first time at camp and after a series of camp capers, scheme to reunite their divorced parents.

Camp (2003)

A rare summer camp musical/dramady for teens and older. After a series of Broadway flops, a songwriter goes to work at a musical camp for young performers. Misfits and outcasts at home, the campers live it up and sing it



loud all summer long.

Heavyweights (1995)



My personal favorite camp movie. Gerry's parents send him to an upscale camp for chubby teens, much to his consternation. Upon arriving, Gerry and his friends find out that the camp's loveable owners have gone bankrupt and sold the camp to a crazy ex-fitness instructor played by Ben Stiller.

Little Darlings (1980)

Tatum O'Neal and Kristy McNicol play 15-year-old bunk mates at sleep-away camp. Under pressure from other girls, the two polar opposites enter into an interesting bet.



Meatballs (1979)



Starring Bill Murray as a zany counselor at Camp North Star who tries to help his campers have a good time and even better hijinks. The main plot centers around shy Rudy, who Murray takes under his wacky wing.

Space Camp (1986)



Four teenagers and a 12-year-old boy go to space camp for three weeks during the summer to learn about the NASA space program and mimic astronaut training. But the shuttle is launched early and is not ready for flight; it has no long range radio, is critically low on oxygen, and does not have enough air to last to the re-entry window at Edwards Air Force Base. The campers have to figure out how to get back home alive.

Wet Hot American Summer (2001)

Set on the last day at Camp Firewood in 1981, campers and counselors attempt to wrap up a summer's worth of unfinished business in this raunchy, tongue-



in-cheek comedy. All issues are, of course, resolved at the big talent show. Starring Paul Rudd, Janeane Garofalo, Bradley Cooper and Elizabeth Banks.

Moonrise Kingdom (2012)



For those dreading summer camp, take a lesson from this Oscar-nominated film by Wes Anderson. Young lovers flee their small town and Scout summer camp for a chance at romance while the rest of the town mobilizes a search party.

Some of these are not for children, of course, but they would make for great viewing while the kids are away — at camp. ■

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Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2013
SUMMER CAMPS
FOR KIDS

Labels in clothes save stress — and money

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Whether your child is heading off to a weeklong adventure camp or seeking a great time locally at a day camp, chances are a jacket, sweatshirt or swimsuit may be misplaced.

The simplest way to label clothing is with a permanent laundry marker with indelible ink. These are quick and easy, and the ink is designed to last through many washings. The downside is that while writing the name on one side of the clothing, it can soak through to the other side — and it is permanent. It also may limit the clothing's acceptance as a hand-me-down.

There are also self-inking stamps that can be used to label clothing but, again, they can mark through clothing.

Iron-on labels are available that will usually last the life of the clothing. Craft stores carry iron-on labels with laundry markers, which can be done at the last minute.

Sew-in labels range from the ordinary to the sublime but better check with the camper to make sure he or she likes it. Be sure to allow time to order and receive labels — and to sew them in to clothing.

The newest way to label clothing is with a

plastic tag, similar to a security tag in a store only a lot less cumbersome. They are stuck on with applicators, which come in various sizes depending on the number of garments to be labeled. Plastic tags are most comfortably worn on a side seam or shirt tail rather than behind the neck.

Other tips for labeling clothes:

- Socks are easier to label with feet in them. Have your child perform this task.
- Buy used clothing to wear to camp so it won't be a big loss if it doesn't return home with your camper. Check out a dollar store for socks.
- If your child is older, don't label the clothing — make a rule that any clothing that gets lost and needs to be replaced will be paid for by her or him.
- Parents also advise packing clothes in zip lock bags, one for each day. This keeps the dirty clothes away from the clean ones, protects the clean clothes from spills and dirt, and keeps everything organized.

A huge variety of labels, like everything else, is available on the Internet. Choosing them with your child can be part of the going-to-camp experience. Or you can grab a Sharpie the night before camp begins and label away. ■



Camp Connection

GUIDE TO 2013 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Cooking Camps

at Pans on Fire
3059-JK Hopyard Road
Pleasanton, CA 94588
(925) 600-7267
www.pansonfire.com
info@pansonfire.com

Sizzle! It's HOT in the kitchen this summer with week-long cooking camps where kids (ages 8 and older) and teens can explore world cuisines, create a restaurant concept, and cook like a Food Network star or a Disney princess. Week-long half-day camps include snacks and a full meal, plus an adult ticket to the Friday gala buffet. Early Bird registration through May 1 and other incentives. Only time for a one-day program? Check out our special 4th of July week classes. Off to college? Our College Boot Camp class will give you survival culinary skills. Visit the website for details.

enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp at Harvest Park Middle School
(925) 577-6981
www.engagethegifted.org
info@engagethegifted.org

enGAGE! Summer Enrichment Camp inspires kids to stretch themselves beyond grade level standards and use higher order thinking skills to become creative problem solvers. enGAGE! students thrive with time and encouragement to deeply investigate topics of interest and learn to ask questions that will lead to a lifetime of discovery. Two-week or four-week options for incoming 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Courses include Creative Writing Through Creative Reading, Brain Fitness Through Art, Creative Problem Solving, Music Production, Digital Arts & Animation, Basic Programming, LEGO NXT Robotics and Kinesiology for Kids. Session 1 is June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, July 1, 2 & 3 and Session 2 is July 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18. Hours are 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Fashion Design & Sewing Camp @ KIDZ KRAFTZ!

7690 Quail Creek Cir.,
Dublin, CA 94568
(925) 271-0015
www.KidzKraftz.com
Focus on sewing stylish, wearable clothing, accessories, craft and jewelry projects,

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

Roughing It All-Outdoors

Summer Camp
Lafayette Lakefront Site
1010 Oak Hill Rd
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 283.3795
www.roughingit.com
camp@roughingit.com

Our premier all-outdoors program for ages 4 to 16 is located at the Lafayette Reservoir. Instruction for all abilities in horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, fishing, adventure and more. Longer sessions designed for growth, friendships, and fun for every camper! Free extended care and free transportation. Pleasanton: Stoneridge Park & Ride and Sunol Blvd Raleys; San Ramon: Bollinger Safeway in Crow Canyon Commons and San Ramon Central Park; and 23 more stops in the East Bay. Open House May 4. Try camp activities, take a tour, and meet some of our great summer staff!

Vacation Bible School at Trinity Lutheran Church
1225 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925) 846-6363

Register: www.trinitypleasanton.org

Join us June 17-21 from 9:00 a.m. - noon for an epic adventure as Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton hosts Kingdom Rock — Where Kids Stand Strong for God! This fun and educational Vacation Bible School (VBS) program is open to youth who will be 4 years old by 9/1/13 through youth entering 5th grade. The cost is \$60/child or \$120/family. To register, visit www.trinitypleasanton.org and click on the VBS button. The website will give you more information about this great week of VBS that is approaching.

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



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Creative arts, mathematics and technology courses

for incoming 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th graders

- Creative Writing Through Creative Reading
- Brain Fitness Through Art
- Creative Problem Solving
- Digital Arts & Animation
- LEGO NXT Robotics
- Kinesiology for Kids
- Music Production

Session 1: June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, July 1, 2 & 3

Session 2: July 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, & 18

at Harvest Park Middle School

enGAGE! is not affiliated with Pleasanton Unified School District. Students from other districts welcome!

ENROLL NOW at www.engagethegifted.org
email: info@engagethegifted.org



Preparing kids for camp

Tips to make the experience a great one

Set your children up to succeed at camp as you would for any other experience. Here are some tips to get them ready:

- Involve them in preparations, including shopping and packing.
- Let them pack a favorite T-shirt or small stuffed animal.
- Let them spend the night at the home of a friend or relative as "practice."
- Talk about what they will be doing at camp so they will know the fun things they have to look forward to.
- Talk about your own experiences at camp or the first times you were away from home. Of course, these stories should be positive.
- Mention how things that children do well will be an asset at camp.
- If you think they would like it, mail a letter to your camper before they depart so it will be there to greet them.

For a week or so before your camper leaves, here are some things to work into your conversations:

- Campers all cooperate with each other — be sure you do, too.
- If there is any problem, be sure to tell a counselor or some other leader.
- Cleaning up will be part of camp and it is important to participate.
- Try new things at camp even if you don't think you will like them or be good at them.
- If you are afraid to meet new people, try approaching just one. Ask questions about how they like camp, where they are from, and what they like to do, then be a good listener.
- Don't worry about being friends with everyone. One or two friends would be great.
- Have a wonderful time. ■

Join us for an epic adventure

Vacation Bible School

Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God

Monday, June 17 -
Friday, June 21, 2013
9:00 a.m. - noon

For youth who will be 4 years old by 9/1/13 through youth entering 5th grade

COST: \$60/child or \$120/family



HOW TO REGISTER: Starting NOW visit www.trinitypleasanton.org and click on the VBS Button. It will take you to the registration and volunteer sign up forms. The website will give you more information about this great week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) that is approaching.

Trinity's VBS is being co-directed by Mollee Madrigal, Denise Fournier and Pastor Brian Deckinger.



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Pleasanton Weekly • April 19, 2013 • Page 15

POLICE BULLETIN

JC Penney store robbed and burglarized a day apart

Two women were arrested for robbery, and police are still seeking a burglar in separate incidents just over a day apart at JC Penney at the Stoneridge Shopping Center, according to police reports.

Kinasha Brown, 18, and Corrin D. Ray, 21, both from Richmond, were arrested for robbery, and Brown was also arrested for use of tear gas in an April 12 incident at the store, police said. The two were spotted on a security camera coming out from a dressing room with a bag of merchandise later valued at about \$115.

A security guard approached the two when they left the store with-

out paying and was attempting to arrest them when both women became hostile and began yelling. When the guard grabbed Ray's arm, she began to struggle and Brown pepper sprayed him, the report said. Fighting with the security officer elevated what would have been a shoplifting arrest to robbery.

Both women were also arrested for probation violation.

In the other incident, police received an alarm indicating a break-in at the store at around 2 a.m. April 11, Pleasanton police Sgt. Kurt Schlehuber said.

Police arrived at the store and saw there had been a burglary. An undisclosed amount of jewelry was taken, Schlehuber said.

He said 24-hour mall security

personnel responded to the burglary as well. Investigators are working to track down an unnamed suspect, who is believed to have worked alone in the jewelry theft, Schlehuber said.

In other police reports:

- Gabriel Farfan, 33, of Pleasanton was arrested April 12 for sexual abuse of a child. Farfan was taken into custody at about 5:20 p.m. Details are being withheld by the Pleasanton Weekly to protect the identity of the child.

- Eight high-end laptop computers worth more than \$27,000 were stolen April 13 from the Dahlin Group in the 5800 block of Owens Drive. The laptops were valued at \$3,400 apiece and were stolen in just minutes — between 2:55 and 2:58 p.m. — through the unlocked front door of the firm, which was open for business.

- Two businesses in the 600 block of

Koll Center Parkway were burglarized in overnight break-ins April 9.

In one, two computers valued at \$5,300 were stolen in a break-in at Designing Benefits. That burglary occurred between 6:30 p.m. April 9 and 7:15 a.m. April 10.

In the second, nothing was stolen, but the lock was damaged at Infinite Edge. That burglary took place between 10 p.m. April 9 and 8:15 a.m. April 10.

- Acura of Pleasanton in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive reported an identity theft and receiving three forged checks in an incident that was forwarded to Modesto police for investigation. Three fake company checks were passed, one for \$1,894, a second for \$1,498, and a third for \$1,869 between April 8 and April 10.

- For the second time in recent months, sunglasses were stolen from Sunglass Hut in the Stoneridge Shopping Center. The theft of four

pair of sunglasses valued at a total of \$1,470 took place between 1:30 and 1:35 p.m. April 14.

- Four umbrellas worth a total of \$1,200 were stolen overnight April 12 from Stacey's Cafe in the 300 block of Main Street. The theft took place between 11 p.m. April 12 and 9 a.m. April 13.

- Three Pleasanton residents reported identity theft in recent days. One case was reported at about 9:44 a.m. April 14 from a resident of the 800 block of Genevieve Place; a resident of the 1000 block of Sycamore Creek Way reported a fraudulent charge of about \$30 on a credit card at about 2:24 p.m. April 15; and the same day at about 8 p.m. a resident of the 4000 block of Rockingham Drive told police someone had used his Social Security number to file taxes.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

April 10

Commercial burglary

- 9:42 a.m. in the 6000 block of Koll Center Parkway
- 11:11 a.m. in the 6000 block of Koll Center Parkway

Public drunkenness

- 6:52 a.m. at the intersection of Andrews Drive and Owens Drive

April 11

Theft

- 11:53 a.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; fraud
- 3:34 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; bicycle theft
- 10:06 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Commercial burglary

- 12:01 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Auto burglary

- 7:52 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 8:59 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- 4:41 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 7:16 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Rd; possession of methamphetamine
- 10:43 p.m. in the 700 block of Main Street; DUI

April 12

Robbery

- 7:22 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Theft from structure

- 3:06 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Auto burglary

- 7:44 a.m. in the 6200 block of Ruxton Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:50 a.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Corte Barcelona; possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 6:36 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and I-680; DUI

April 13

Theft

- 9:54 a.m. in the 300 block of Main Street

Commercial burglary

- 2:56 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive

Battery

- 4:11 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

DUI

- 1:15 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

April 14

Theft

- 9:44 a.m. in the 800 block of Genevieve Place; identity theft

- 1:55 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Public drunkenness

- 2:18 a.m. in the 600 block of Main St

April 15

Theft

- 12:34 p.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue

- 2:24 p.m. in the 1000 block of Sycamore Creek way; fraud

- 5 p.m. in the 1300 block of Germano Way; theft from structure

- 5:04 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

- 8:00 p.m. in the 4000 block of Rockingham Drive; fraud

- 9:17 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Public drunkenness

- 12:18 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

April 16

Bicycle theft

- 1:02 p.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way

Residential burglary

- 5:55 p.m. in the 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

Public drunkenness

- 8:22 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road



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FAMILIES MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR CHILDREN'S LIMITED LIFE SPANS, AT GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE

STORY BY CATHY JETTER

PHOTOS COURTESY GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE

George Mark Children's House is a pediatric palliative care facility tucked away in the hills of San Leandro. Though the 5-acre setting is peaceful and perfect for the dozens of families who are served by the welcoming atmosphere and caring staff every day of the year, it is a shame that the bucolic setting allows the rest of the world to remain largely unaware of this incredible home hidden a mere mile from the 580 freeway.

No one wants to think about sick children with limited life spans, but it only takes one visit to understand that while death and the process of grieving is recognized and addressed as part of the unavoidable reality for those who need their services, the people at George Mark are all about the business of living, sharing and making the most of the time given on this earth.

Time was a driving force behind the creation of George Mark Children's House. As a pediatric oncologist with Children's Hospital Oakland, Dr. Barbara Beach saw too many children spending too much time in the hospital environment.

While adults with terminal illnesses are expected to and usually live for a limited period of time during which there is accepted protocol, including hospice, children with life altering illnesses can spend many years receiving treatment. Beach explains that while children coping with what the medical community terms "chronic progressive life limiting illnesses" can live for two decades or longer, they require daily specific medical interventions to make that happen.

"Their lives are cumbersome," says Beach. "Every member of the family is affected by the child's illness 24 hours a day, seven days a week, when parents become full time caregivers."

In her practice, Beach saw firsthand the toll taken on families as they dealt with the need for constant vigilance.

"These kids grow up, but they can never achieve an independent life," she says. "Periodically the kids need a break from their parents and parents need a break from their kids. It helps if they can take a break from being in charge of medical care and have the opportunity to just be a normal family."

Normal is a luxury for families of children with life altering illnesses. From the moment of diagnosis the roles are changed, the settings altered. Children become patients; parents become caregivers, researchers, advocates, insurance negotiators and trained medical specialists. Hospital beds, oxygen tanks, monitors and refrigerators stocked with life-saving medicines transform homes into mini-ICU's operating full time under

the watchful and worried eyes of mom and dad. Additionally, changes in treatment can mean long hospital stays as parents learn to use new equipment or watch for complications.

Beach decided there must be a better way, a place where families could let others take over the medical care, or learn new procedures without the restrictions, rules and sterile atmosphere of a traditional hospital. In the mid 1990s Beach and clinical psychologist Dr. Kathy Hull set out to find it. The home was named for Hull's two brothers, George and Mark, who died at the ages of 30 and 16.

"Unfortunately, it didn't take long to discover there was no model for what we envisioned in the United States," Beach says. "We had to make several trips to England to learn how it was done."

Using the motto to "steal shamelessly and share seamlessly," Beach and Hull designed George Mark using the best of what worked at each facility they visited, and as a result George Mark has since become the destination for those hoping to establish similar facilities in other areas of the United States.

George Mark offers different programs for families in different stages of dealing with their child's illness. Transitional care is for families leaving the hospital and taking on the medical care of their child. Respite care provides periodic breaks from the responsibility of caring for a child with a life threatening illness. Families generally receive 21 days of respite per year, with parents offered the opportunity to rest in

the house while their child is cared for or to take a vacation knowing their child is well loved and attended by trained staff.

End-of-life care gives families the opportunity to make the most of their last moments with their child, with support services provided to the extent each family chooses. However, Beach is quick to point out that George Mark involvement does not end with a child's death.

"We provide bereavement support forever," she explains. "We understand that grief is different when a child dies, and may be needed long after the traditional year that is offered by hospice."

Beach adds that immediately after the child dies, parents are often too overwhelmed by emotion, and the desire to visit George Mark may take a year or two. But once a child has stayed with George Mark, they are considered family members, and bereavement services are offered for a lifetime.

"This is not a sad place," Beach assures. "For families, for siblings, this is a tangible place full of memories. This all becomes a part of the fabric of their lives."

It is difficult to describe George Mark Children's House to someone who has not been fortunate enough to take a tour and see the facility in action. Even using the term "facility" feels uncomfortable; the sterile and depressing image that word conjures is a stark contrast to the nurturing atmosphere found within the 11,000-square-foot home where hardwood floors allow wheelchairs to move about unimpeded and every door is wide enough to accommodate a bed-bound patient



Beautiful landscaping and residential architecture give an atmosphere of home to George Mark. Landscaping and weekly maintenance is donated by Serpico Landscaping. Top: Aquatics Specialist Sheila Pyatt, RN, and a very special friend enjoy the benefits of the hydrotherapy tub at George Mark. Parents are often surprised by their child's response to the water; rigid muscles may relax as the child floats with support from loving hands.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GEORGE MARK CHILDREN'S HOUSE

■ **DONATE** — Established in 2004, George Mark Children's House was forced to close its doors for six months in 2010 in order to reorganize and formulate a new business plan. Because insurance companies do not yet recognize a majority of services offered by George Mark, the facility is largely dependent on the generosity of private donors.

■ **ATTEND THE GALA** — George Mark Children's House's major fundraiser, The Autumn Gala, will be held at George Mark on Sept. 21.

■ **VOLUNTEER** — There are many opportunities to become involved with the wonderful works going on at George Mark. Working with the families and kids requires participation in a weekend training program and a year-long commitment to working one four-hour shift per week. Volunteers are always needed to help with gardening, fundraising, pet therapy, office work and a wide variety of other activities.

■ **PURCHASE AN ITEM FROM THE WISH LIST** — George Mark has an ever changing variety of needs to help them best serve the children and their families. The Wish List can be found at www.georgemark.org.



Amador fundraisers

Help Amador Valley High School support George Mark Children's House by attending a Mr. Amador fundraising event: Let the Mr. Amador nominees clean your car tomorrow, from 9 a.m. until all the cars in line have been cleaned. Location: Big O Tires, 3688 Washington St.

Help your favorite Mr. Amador nominee win the title by buying a ticket to one of the two performances on Monday, April 22. Tickets can be purchased at the high school in advance, and will also be available at the door before show time. Come to the 5 p.m. show for the bargain price of \$10 per ticket, or catch the always sold-out 8 p.m. performance for \$15.

Amador donations to the George Mark Children's House

2011 — \$7,000
2012 — \$10,000
2013 — Hoping for \$12,000

Becky Randall celebrates Easter with one of her happiest friends. Families come together for holiday celebrations throughout the year at George Mark Children's House. As manager of Volunteer Services, Becky works with over 200 volunteers who gave 10,000 hours of time last year.



L-R: The Circle of Patrons gazebo honors those who have donated to the George Mark Children's House, helping to ensure that no family will ever be asked to pay for the help and support they receive. Donors names are carved into the stones surrounding the gazebo. Each of the eight bedrooms is beautifully painted with a themed mural, private bathroom and an extra bed for a caretaker or sibling. George Mark also offers two family suites, each with a private bath and kitchen area, though most families will choose to be a part of the community kitchen where a chef prepares three healthy meals each day.

who would like to enjoy the garden on a sunny day.

No one wears scrubs. Oxygen tanks and other equipment are tucked away behind sliding doors when not in use. Craft rooms are filled with art supplies, a hydrotherapy tub is always warm, and the game room is a favorite destination for healthy siblings who can play ping pong, watch television or play video games with whomever might be hanging around.

There are no set visiting hours, no age restrictions and the entire family is encouraged to be together, whenever they can, during a family's stay and especially throughout the end of life process.

Though palliative care can be part of a treatment plan at some hospitals, standalone facilities like George Mark are still rare.

"I thought if we built it, they would come," Beach recalls. "But I think we were ahead of our time. It has been a struggle educating the medical community and the community at large."

That includes the insurance industry, which has been slow to comprehend the cost benefit offered by places like George Mark, where there is no need for full time doctors or expensive medical equipment on site. Ken Sommer, director of Advancement at George Mark, points out that even though analysis shows services offered at George Mark cost nearly 60% less than at a hospital, insurance companies have been slow to accept this philosophy, hindering financial security and requiring valuable hours and resources to be dedicated to raising funds and public awareness.

"Sixty percent of our income comes from the community and private donations," explains Sommer. "Only 40% is earned income — payment from insurance companies for services they recognize."

Given that no George Mark family is ever sent a bill, advocating for a greater partnership with the insurance companies is imperative.

Claire Goveia first learned about the George Mark Children's House during her sophomore year when she toured the house as a committee member for Mr. Amador, an annual male pageant event the students of Amador Valley High School run to raise money for a chosen charity. Previously, larger, more nationally focused organizations had been the beneficiaries of the friendly competition in which 10 young Amador men present their talents to the student body and parents who then vote for their favorite contestant.

Now a senior and president of her class, Claire believes the shift to a local charity has made the event more meaningful for the participants.

"Being a part of Mr. Amador is a lot of work," she says. "We put on events to raise funds throughout the year, and the show itself takes a big commitment. The fact that we take the boys to the house and let them see where that money goes gives them a connection that makes the work so much more worthwhile."

Claire's connection with George Mark was strong enough to inspire her to add volunteering to her already ambitious schedule, though her parents had reservations when she announced she wanted to spend time interacting with the children.

"I was 15 and I was squeamish about pulling out one of my own teeth," Claire recalls. "My parents were understandably concerned for me to be in such a serious environment, but after my first visit I couldn't stop talking about all the kids and families I met there. Once my mom and dad visited and took a tour, they understood how amazing it is to be a part of it all."

Claire acknowledges the grave nature of the children's conditions, but says that is not the focus once you are involved.

"It would be easy to think that a place like George Mark is depressing, but it's not," Claire explains. "Of course, it's intense sometimes, and at first it is an emotional struggle. You want those kids to feel like they are just like everyone else,

but you have to respect their limitations and focus on what they are capable of doing, not what they can't do."

Claire has been amazed by the community aspect of George Mark, apparent in the way kids with more mobility help the kids who can't do as much.

"You know they are dying, but inside that house it just feels like a home, and a community that has accepted that reality and is ready to make the most of the time they have left," she notes. "After a while it doesn't even feel like volunteer work, it feels like you are hanging out and when you're not there, you just want to go back."

Becky Randall agrees. In 2011 Becky began driving from her Pleasanton home with her maltese, Cody, to volunteer in the pet therapy program at George Mark. It was not a good fit for Cody, but Becky couldn't stay away.

"The standard volunteer commitment is one four-hour shift, one day each week," she says. "I thought if I was going to be there four hours, I might as well be there all day."

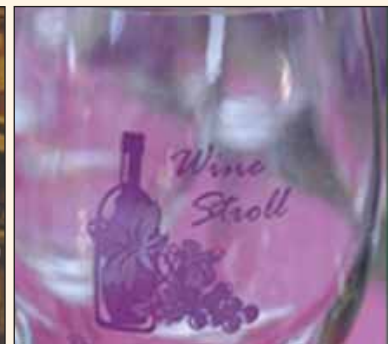
After training to work with the kids and families, Becky found herself spending the hours following her volunteer shift working in the office, helping to organize, schedule and complete projects that needed the skills she had developed working with nonprofit groups in the years since her children had grown.

"And then one day the position of manager of Volunteer Services opened up and they asked me if I would like to apply for the job," she remembers.

Now a full time George Mark employee, Becky says kids spot her in the hallways and begin their pleas for a play date.

"They remember me as a volunteer, when my only job was to hang out and enjoy interacting with all these amazing kids," she says. "Now I have to convince them to let me get a little work done before we sit down together. But really? Spending time with those kids is the best part of my job." ■

Rediscover YOUR Downtown!



One thing we hear all the time ... "as soon as my realtor drove me through Downtown Pleasanton I knew this is where I wanted to live!" Downtown is the true heart of our beautiful city and it is the natural gathering place for residents and visitors alike. But like many things we love, it is easy to take our prized Downtown for granted. This spring and summer we encourage you to rediscover the Downtown you know and love! Here are a few easy ways to get reintroduced to your downtown.

COME TO A PARTY! – 1st Wednesdays Street Parties have been reinvigorated over the last few years. Did you know that in addition to the 200 booths there is now a full Farmers

Market at each event? We also feature a wonderful ArtBlock showcasing local artisans. Our beer and wine garden has lively music and a variety of local food and there are new kid activities and entertainment at each monthly event.

STROLL & DISCOVER – When simply driving through downtown it is hard to see all the new businesses. Take some time to stroll all of downtown, not just the main street, and discover the wonderful shops, restaurants and businesses that are new to the streets. Some of our downtown businesses are under new ownership and offer new merchandise so be sure to check out some of your old favorites as well.

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LEARN MORE – Want to learn how you can become involved in Downtown Pleasanton? Please call the Pleasanton Downtown Association at (925) 484-2199 to learn more about how you can be part of all that is happening in downtown!

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Event Calendar Highlights



Farmers' Market

Rain Or Shine On Saturdays, Year-Round – 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.
E. Angela St. Between First St. & Main St.

Concerts in the Park

Fridays – June 7 - August 30 – 7 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.
@ Lions Wayside Park
(Corner Of First St. And Neal St.)



1st Wednesday Street Parties

May - September — 6 P.M. - 9 P.M. On Main Street

Antique and Collectable Faires

Sunday – May 26 – 8 A.M. - 4 P.M. – Main Street
Sunday – October 13 – 8 A.M. - 4 P.M. – Main Street

Sizzling Saturdays

Every Saturday In August & September – 6 P.M. - 9 P.M.



Summer Wine Stroll

Saturday – July 20 – 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.



Brew Crawls

Halloween Brew Crawl – Saturday, October 26 – 5 P.M. – 8 P.M.

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To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

Classes

BEGINNING DRAWING Want to draw but don't know where to begin? Let this class show you the way, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, May 4-25, at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Cost is \$89. Contact Frances Denisco at 424-1467 or commed@laspositas-college.edu. Livermore, CA, 94551.

Clubs

EIGHT ELEMENTS EVERY WRITER WEBSITE MUST HAVE Linda Lee will discuss key components of a great writer's website including a sales page, sample book content and Media/Press kit, from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 20, at Four Points, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$15 non-members, \$10 members. Contact reservations@trivalleywriters.org or 216-5238.

Concerts

PACIFIC CHAMBER SYMPHONY The Pacific Chamber Symphony con-

cert, featuring pieces by Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven, will begin at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 11, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Cost is \$30-\$45, students \$7. Call 373-6800.

SINGERS NEEDED FOR BEETHOVEN'S 9TH Choir rehearsal has started for the May 18 performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Check livam-symph.org for times and locations for singers. Contact Carol at 462-4863 or cjbooster@sbcglobal.net.

Events

BRILLE NOTE EVENT Rachana Narahari will present an event about the Braille Note, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, April 27, at Amador Valley High School. Featuring guest speakers, cultural performances, informational booths and fun activities for people of all ages. Contact tfuture2013@gmail.com.

GET HIRED JOB FAIR Determined job seekers are encouraged to come to the free Get Hired Job Fair, from 2-4 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, at A Hand 'n Hand Career Training Center, 5980 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 110. Bring a resume and a positive attitude, and dress for success. Contact Sue at 523-3594 or suebarto8@gmail.com.

GNON TRADE SHOW Girls Night Out Networking and Lois Cox of Prudential California Realty invite all women to come to the fabulous GNON Trade Show, 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, April 24, at Prudential California Realty, 4725 First St. Cost is \$10-\$15. RSVP by April 22 to gnoners@gmail.com or 487-4748. Pleasanton.

LUNCH IN SAN RAMON The Widow and Widowers of Northern California will have a lunch meeting at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, at Uncle Yu's, 2005 Crow Canyon Pl., San Ramon. RSVP to Marsha at 830-8483 by Sunday, April 21. San Ramon.

TWO DAY TOWN CAMPING Two Day Town will take place Friday-Sunday, April 26-28, at Lake Del Valle in Livermore. Join family camping and community music at its finest. Cost is \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door. Visit twodaytown.com for tickets and more info. Two Day Town management is a group of local people who care about the communities in and around the Bay Area, the environment, and the need for interacting in a positive way.

VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY'S GREAT CATSBY Enjoy an unforgettable evening of food, music, dancing and gambling with a Roaring '20s theme and music by the CoolTones at the Valley Humane Society's Great Catsby, from 6-10:30 p.m., Saturday, July 27, at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Cost is \$65, or \$100 with poker. Contact Melanie Sadek at 426-8656 or msadek@valleyhumane.org Pleasanton.

Exhibits

STUDENT DRAWING SHOW Sample student work from Nancy Storch's adult, beginning, and intermediate portraiture classes will be displayed at the Berry Patch from April 19-25 with an artists' reception 2:15-3 p.m., Saturday, April 20. Call Nancy at 895-5112.

Film

'MAKING A KILLING' "Making a Killing" is the untold story of the psychotropic drug industry. Meet and greet potluck at 6:30 p.m., film from 7-9:30 p.m., Saturday, May 4, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Contact 462-3459 or flick-knight@gmail.com.

MAKE 'EM LAUGH: 'THE PRODUCERS' Las Positas College presents "The Producers" with film historian Dr. Candace Klaschus at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 2, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. See you at the movies!

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- Hanasia Korean Spicy Sauce - for rice cake 17.6 oz: 2 for \$5
- Nong Shim Shin Ramyun Black 4/pack: \$5.99 pack
- Planters Dry Roasted Peanut 16 oz: 2 for \$6
- Tilapia Fillet: \$2.99 lb (Previously Frozen)
- AGV Pure Olive & Grape Seed Oil 87.9 fl.oz: \$9.99 ea
- Hanasia Honey Tea (selected varieties) 1 kg: \$4.99 ea
- Chicken Wing Middle Joint: \$2.99 lb (Previously Frozen)

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Quilts, quilts, quilts

The Amador Valley Quilters are presenting Quilts from the Heart this weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Quilts of Valor, which will be given to veterans, will also be on display; they were stitched and sewn by the local community with side-by-side assistance of members of the Amador Valley Quilters Rookie Project. Shown above is Ruby's Fruit Basket Redux, sewn using a famous pattern from the last century by members of the club; it will be given away in a drawing. Hours of the event are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10. Parking is free — mention the quilt show.

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Fundraisers

24-HOUR-LIVE-IN-YOUR-CAR-A-THON Shepherd's Gate of Livermore, which provides shelter for battered and homeless women and children, is seeking participants and sponsors for its "24 In Your Car" event May 18-19, in which participants live in their car for 24 hours. The event is designed to bring awareness to the issues of homelessness, and funding to support the programs helping homeless women and children at Shepherd's Gate. Visit www.24inyourcar.com to find out how you can help.

5TH ANNUAL WINE TASTING Come to a silent auction and wine tasting benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society from noon-4 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at The Purple Orchid Resort and Spa, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. Blues Award Winner John Lee Hooker Jr. and local wineries will participate. Cost is \$35. Contact Theresa at (925) 413-7788 or tjrose@sbc-global.net.

BEAUTY EVENT FOR YMCA Join in a great event to support your community YMCA while having fun with make-up artists, wine-tasting and an auction, at the Beauty Event dinner and auction, beginning at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, April 25, at Castlewood Country Club. Call 263-4444 to register or visit www.trivalleyymca.org. Free child care will be provided at the YMCA in Pleasanton.

FHS/AVHS WALK-A-THON Join Foothill and Amador students in a community walk-a-thon for all ages to support underprivileged orphans in Nairobi, Kenya. Music, games and prizes, from noon-2 p.m., Sunday, April 21, at AVHS, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Free; lunch and a T-shirt, \$25. Call 600-7941.

GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club's annual Plant Sale will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 27, at the Amador Valley High School parking lot, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Garden club members will provide expert advice. Call Bev at 485 7812.

GOLF FOR BLUE STAR MOMS Callippe Preserve golf course is presenting a Blue Star Moms Chapter 101 Charity Tournament Supporting Gold Star Families on Friday, April 26. Check in at 10:30 a.m.; 1 p.m. shotgun. Entry fee of \$200 includes shoes, green and cart fees, lunch and dinner, two drawing tickets for great prizes, and a free future round of golf. Call 426-6666, ext. 18, to sign up.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE VALLEY TOUR This unique fundraiser features a self-guided, rain-or-shine tour of 10 beautiful private gardens throughout Pleasanton, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 19. Cost is \$35 to benefit the Valley Humane Society. Contact Charli Hyden at 918-0799 or charlihyden@comcast.net.

PRIMAVERA DINNER DANCE The Italian Catholic Federation Branch presents this fundraiser for Tri-Valley Scholarship programs at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 4, at St. Michaels Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Cost is \$35. RSVP required. Call 373-4821 or 846-4227.

THE HIKE FOR HOPE Gather your family, friends and co-workers or come solo for The Hike for Hope to benefit Hope Hospice, on Saturday, May 4, at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore. Check-in is from 8:30-10 a.m. Registration fee is \$25 before April 18, \$35 after. Go to TheHikeForHope.com or call 829-8770.

TIME FOR JEWELS Come to a fantastic Jewelry Event and help raise

funds for cancer patients, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday-Sunday, April 19-21, at the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 Santa Rita Rd. Call Monda Wiseman at 462-7374.

TIMMY CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT Raise money to help families struck by tragedy while enjoying meals, golf, on-course beverages, games, auctions and more. Event takes place noon-8 p.m., Monday, May 6, at Castlewood Country Club. Cost is \$150. Call 216-4863 or go to www.timmychallenge.com.

TOP CHEF GRAND TASTING EVENT The Rotary Club of Dublin will host the popular "Top Chef Grand Tasting" charity event from 4-8 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave, Dublin. Cost is \$50. Contact Linda Smith at 321-5319 or ismith411@comcast.net.

TRI-VALLEY YMCA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Tri-Valley YMCA's sixth annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir., on Thursday, April 25. Contact Katie Dulka at kdulka@ymcaeastbay.org or call 808-5288 for registration and sponsorship information.

Health

2013 TRI-VALLEY ARTHRITIS WALK(R) The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation's signature community event to highlight and benefit the nation's most common cause of disability, which affects 50 million men, women and children living with arthritis. The walk is from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, May 4, at Lifestyle RX, 1119 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call Beth Miller at 415-356-5483 or email bmiller@arthritis.org. Visit www.TVArthritisWalk.kintera.org.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES FOR WELLNESS EXPO Explore alternative therapies that focus on the marriage between complementary and traditional medicine, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 20, at California Convention Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Cost is \$10 for guests, \$200 for exhibitors. Contact Linda Crose-Andersen at (650) 417-1545 or wol.hypnotherapy@gmail.com. Pleasanton.

Kids & Teens

6TH ANNUAL LADYBUG RELEASE Find out how ladybugs can help keep your garden healthy and safe at 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 24, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Ages 2-6. Cost is \$9. Preregistration required at www.pleasantonfun.com using the code 54772 or 54773. Call 931-3483 for details.

WHAT ABOUT WEAVING Come learn about the history of the loom and how it was used during the California Mission period, at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 20, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old

Foothill Road. Ages 8-14. Cost is \$5. Register at www.pleasantonfun.com using code 54777. Contact 931-3483 for details.

Lectures/ Workshops

'JEWISH LIFE UNDER ISLAMIC RULE' Professor Fred Astren will present "Al-Andalus and the Muslim Conquest of Spain: Jewish Life Under Islamic Rule," a historian's view of the relationship between Jews and Muslims during the Middle Ages, 7:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. Cost is \$10. Call 931-1055. Pleasanton.

FORMER AMBASSADOR TO VATICAN ON PAPAL ELECTION Ray Flynn, former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, will be sharing his insights on the recent Papal election at May's Catholics@Work monthly breakfast, 7-8:15 a.m., Tuesday, May 14, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville. Cost is \$20-

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



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\$25. Contact 525-0272 or Info@CatholicsAtWork.org.

TAYLOR GUITARS ROAD SHOW

Enjoy an evening of guitar talk and demos with the Taylor factory staff and guitar makers from 6-8 p.m., Thursday, May 2, at JAMS Music, 7282 San Ramon Rd., Dublin. Register for a chance to win a custom Taylor guitar. Call 828-5267 or go to www.jamsmusicdublin.com.

Live Music

JAZZ PIANIST AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY

Larry Vuckovich brings his "Beyond Category" diverse jazz repertoire at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 28, at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Event is free.

Miscellaneous

15TH ANNUAL ARTISTS' FLEA MARKET

Come to the 15th annual Artists' Flea Market from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 27, at DeLucchi Park. A great place to buy paints, frames, canvas, art books, bargain art, pottery seconds and inexpensive supplies for kids. For details or to ask about your own booth space, call Gail at 846-8960.

FREE JOB SEARCH COUNSELING

The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers free, 20-minute consultations with an employment recruiter. Receive help with resume writing, finding employment websites, and learning how to get help with online applications. To make

an appointment, call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7.

On Stage

'SHE LOVES ME' Pacific Coast Repertory Company presents "She Loves Me" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, April 12-28, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Cost is \$19-\$35. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org for more information.

BROADWAY BASH

Broadway Chorus will present "Broadway Bash," a romp through some of Broadway's best party songs at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11; and at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 12, at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Cost is \$10-\$20. Call 462-2121.

Seniors

HAWAIIAN LUAU Pleasanton Senior Center is holding a Hawaiian Luau from 11:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m., Monday, April 22, at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., presented by the Senior VIP Club. It's open to everyone. Entertainment, plus a Hawaiian lunch. Cost is \$8. Tickets on sale now through April 22 at the Travel Desk. Call George Mirande at 202-6905 or email drlions2012@aol.com.

Sports

BOYS RECREATIONAL SOCCER

REGISTRATION Register for Ballistic United Boys Recreational Soccer.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Fresh Works coming to Firehouse Arts Center

"Inner Piece" by Paul Fitisoff and "Rusty" by Ruth Leslie will be part of the Fresh Works III: Annual Open Juried Exhibit opening Wednesday and running through May 25 at the Harrington Gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. A public reception and awards ceremony will be held from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, April 27. Call 931-4849.

All boys ages 4-18 are welcome. Visit www.busc.org or register in person at the BUSC Office, 275 Rose Ave., Ste. 209 in downtown Pleasanton, from 9 a.m.-noon Monday and Wednesday; or 1-4 p.m. Thursday. www.busc.org

RAGE SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Fall Rec Season for girls U5/U6 to U19 with RAGE soccer. New programs to

enhance the recreational soccer experience include free coaching education and reduced fees for U5/U6-U7. Register at www.pleasantonRAGE.org. Early bird discount by May 31.

Support Groups

ENJOY THE JOURNEY: AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP Anyone caring for a person on the Autistic Spectrum is invited to

join, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 25, at C.A.S.T. Creative Autism Solutions Team, Pathways Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contact Annette at 784-1537 or annettemusso1@gmail.com.

For more listings visit pleasantonweekly.com/calendar

Spring EVENTS

AT JACKSON RANCHERIA






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LOVERBOY
APRIL 27

LA MAFIA
MAY 4

ABBA THE CONCERT
MAY 11



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

Fresh, healthy, delicious

PLEASANTON WOMAN
WINS VEGAN IRON CHEF
COMPETITION

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Armed with her blender, food processor, dehydrator, knives and plenty of fresh ingredients, Lisa Books-Williams arrived at the Vegan Iron Chef Competition in San Francisco last month to face off against two other chefs who are nationally known in vegan circles.

"I thought I had no chance," said Books-Williams, who lives in Vintage Hills. "The other chefs — Eric Tucker of Millennium Restaurant and Philip Gelb of In The Mood for Food — cooked, baked, grilled, sautéed and fried their foods. Everything I made was raw."

Nonetheless her Appetizer Tea Trio and Dessert Trio were awarded first place from the judges, themselves celebrities in the vegan community.

"I felt like I was transported to a spa in Bali with her gorgeous food," said Colleen Holland, associate publisher of VegNews Media, who described her creations as "genius."

Books-Williams joined the competition at the urging of the event promoter, who knew her from her catering and churning with the San Francisco Vegetarian Society. She works all over the Bay Area, teaching cooking classes, doing culinary therapy with the Veterans Administration, working with disabled veterans on adaptive cooking, and more.

"The biggest gig I have now is teaching plant-based eating at Kaiser with a vegan MD, in Redwood City," she said.

"We are teaching not only community members but people with diabetes and high blood pressure," she said. "The MD teaches the science, and I teach how to make it delicious."

She hopes the program — and more plant-based eating — will come to Pleasanton.

"Most of the fan base has been in San Francisco, Marin, Berkeley and Oakland but I want people in my own neighborhood to get excited," she said. "I am hoping and I believe that there are enough people here who are interested and want to learn."

"That's my goal," she added, "to teach people how they can make healthy eating delicious — creative and innovative ways to get the most bang for their buck, to take more nutrient-dense foods and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: Lisa Books-Williams enjoys shopping at the Pleasanton Farmers Market for fresh produce to turn into tasty dishes; Lisa's Berry Cream Parfait; Sprouted Pumpkin Seed Falafel; since changing to plant-based eating, Lisa has lost her health problems — along with 100 pounds. Now she is on a mission to teach others how to make their food healthy, delicious, exciting and beautiful.

September, then she leaves for China, where she will address the World Congress of Health and Nutrition on vegan and raw foods.

But first she will be preparing her award winning recipes plus a vegan entree for a dinner at a private estate in Alameda on April 28. It will be limited to 20 people, for \$50.

Next she will present "Fast, Easy and Healthy Plant-based Foods" at Juice and Java on Angela Street on Wednesday evening, May 15.

"For \$50 they get lots of food and recipes," she said. "All my classes are fun. People love it."

Also, she is hoping to start a vegan supper club in Pleasanton. Anyone interested can contact her at Lisa@ThriveHolistic.com or telephone 989-1811.

"There are so many wonderful fruits and grains out there, beans and vegetables. I just feel divinely inspired to put them together in delicious and creative ways," she said. "I know how it's restored my health. I feel like it's my ministry."

Award-winning menu

Lisa's Appetizer Tea Trio

- Kohlrabi Apple Slaw with Creamy Green Tea Dressing
- Coconut Noodle Udon with Oolong Tea Dashi
- Lisa's Luscious Live Dumpling

Lisa's Dessert Trio

- Green Tea Ice Dream topped with Cardamom Pistachios and Candied Blood Orange Ginger Chili Peel
- Green Tea Cacao Truffle
- Green Tea Sesame Ball

make them delicious."

It was about 10 years ago when Books-Williams began to question the eating habits she brought from rural Pennsylvania when she moved to the Bay Area to work at UC Berkeley.

"I was getting fatter and getting sicker, and making more trips to the doctor," she said.

Two things changed her eating habits: She attended a lecture by John Robbins, author of "Diet for a New America," who asked the audience members how they could call one animal their pet while eating another, which started her thinking. Soon after that she went to a conference in Marin that talked about reducing the risk of cancer with plant-based eating.

"I became a veg in 2004," she recalled, "and ended up vegan. I've always loved preparing food and I started teaching plant-based cooking in 2005."

"I'm eating this way for health and vitality, with fruits and vegetables full of micronutrients, full of vitamins and minerals — and those are everything our body really needs to thrive."

She has lost 100 pounds by eliminating

processed sugar from her diet and eliminating gluten products.

"Eating foods that are not processed or minimally processed has been a big thing for me as well," she said.

She began teaching cooking classes through recreation departments in the Tri-Valley.

"Now I teach a lot more private classes, one-to-one instruction, at local businesses," she said.

"I can't make anyone become vegan or a vegetarian but my goal is to help them by making food delicious, healthy, exciting and beautiful," she said. "I know I can't get people to give up meat and ice cream but why not fill up on the healthy food?"

She is about to publish a book with her recipes for cooked and uncooked plant-based recipes.

"Lots of times people see a bunch of kale and say, 'What the heck am I going to do with this?' I can do 50 things with it to make it delicious," she said, noting that she adds kale to brownies.

She is now preparing for the World Vegetarian Festival in San Francisco in

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115 Announcements

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Livermore, 1788 Whipoorwill St, April 20, 8-2
Multi-Family yard sale...here are a few items...Neon beer signs, oak desk, twin bedding (boy and girl), coffee table, love seat, furniture and decor for girls bedroom, snow clothes, tools, baby girl clothing and much much more...

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PA: Citywide Yard Sale, June 8
Helping the environment and making money has never been so easy. Reusing - whether you donate, buy, or sell - is one of the best ways to reduce waste and keep usable stuff out of the landfill.

Join us for the Palo Alto Citywide Yard Sale on June 8.
Details will be posted on www.PaloAltoOnline.com/yardsale/ The map and listings will be uploaded to this page and be printed in the **June 7, 2013** edition of the **Palo Alto Weekly**.

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

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751 General Contracting

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

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

Wolf Waggin Mobile Dog Spa; Wolf Dog Spa
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476564-65
The following person(s) doing business as: Wolf Waggin Mobile Dog Spa; Wolf Dog Spa, 168 Edythe St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alberto Martinez, 168 Edythe St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/02/2008
Signature of Registrant: Alberto Martinez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/26/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19 2013)



809 Shared Housing/Rooms

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

Stoneridge Creek Retirement Living FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476247
The following person(s) doing business as: Stoneridge Creek Retirement Living, 3300 Stoneridge Creek Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, 1940 Levonte Street, Carlsbad, CA 92009 and is registered in Delaware. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 2/1/2013
Signature of Registrant: Richard D. Aschenbrenner, Member of Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 3/18/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19 2013)

Creekview Skilled Nursing Assisted Living FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476248
The following person(s) doing business as: Creekview Skilled Nursing Assisted Living, 2900 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton HC, LLC, 1940 Levonte Street, Carlsbad, CA 92009 and is registered in Delaware. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 2/1/2013
Signature of Registrant: Richard D. Aschenbrenner, Member of Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton HC, LLC. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 3/18/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19 2013)

Wolf Waggin Mobile Dog Spa; Wolf Dog Spa FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476564-65
The following person(s) doing business as: Wolf Waggin Mobile Dog Spa; Wolf Dog Spa, 168 Edythe St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Alberto Martinez, 168 Edythe St., Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/02/2008
Signature of Registrant: Alberto Martinez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/26/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Mar. 29, Apr. 5, 12, 19 2013)

GRAND TECHNOLOGY GROUP FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476426
The following person(s) doing business as: Grand Technology Group, 130 Raccoon Ct., Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ying-Chi K. Wei, 130 Raccoon Ct., Fremont, CA 94539. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 03/01/2013.
Signature of Registrant: Ying-Chi Wei. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/22/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26 2013)

WHITE HOUSE/BLACK MARKET #3585 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476276
The following person(s) doing business as: White House/Black Market #3585, One Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner: White House/Black Market, Inc., 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966. Business registered in FL. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President-Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/19/2013 (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2013)

SIT STAY LOVE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 475675
The following person(s) doing business as: Sit Stay Love, 4338 Valley Ave., Unit H, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gina Richardson, 4338 Valley Ave., Unit H, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Kimberle Wolf, 7813 Cranford Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Co-partners. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/01/2013. Signature of Registrant: Kimberle Wolf, Co-Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/06/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2013)

SANTA RITA TOW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476847
The following person(s) doing business as: Santa Rita Tow, 3862 Old Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): N.F. Incorporated, 3908 Old Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Suzanne L. Luther, V.P. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 04/03/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2013)

RRA LLC DBA CALIFORNIA SHINE CO. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 477028
The following person(s) doing business as: RRA LLC DBA California Shine Co., 7090 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RRA LLC DBA California Shine Co., 7090 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 04/09/2013. Signature of Registrant: Hector Rodriguez-President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 04/09/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2013)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Kitty to cuddle

Talk about a cuddle-bug! Simone, an 8-year-old female domestic, short-hair Calico cross, is as affectionate and loving as they come, and she's looking for the right family to bask in her warmth and charm. If you're looking for a cat the whole family can love, then look no further. She's a self-assured cat who can't wait to be your new best friend. Meet Simone at the East Bay SPCA Oakland Adoption Center, 8323 Baldwin St. Visit www.eastbayspca.org to see more adoptable animals or call (510) 569-0702 for more information.

WHITE HOUSE/BLACK MARKET #3585 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 476276
The following person(s) doing business as: White House/Black Market #3585, One Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner: White House/Black Market, Inc., 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966. Business registered in FL. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Kevin R. Schockling, Vice President-Tax. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/19/2013 (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2013)

SIT STAY LOVE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 475675
The following person(s) doing business as: Sit Stay Love, 4338 Valley Ave., Unit H, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gina Richardson, 4338 Valley Ave., Unit H, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Kimberle Wolf, 7813 Cranford Lane, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by Co-partners. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/01/2013. Signature of Registrant: Kimberle Wolf, Co-Partner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 03/06/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Apr. 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2013)

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Buying & Selling

REAL ESTATE

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THESE HOMES
SEE PAGE 28**



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AVAILABLE



9480 BLESSING DRIVE
PLEASANTON

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. **OFFERED AT \$4,000,000**

JUST LISTED!



7755 COUNTRY LANE
PLEASANTON

4 BD + Office, 4.5 BA + .5 in Pool House, 4,496+/- sq. ft. on a 38,194+/- sq. ft. lot. Recently updated kitchen, new carpeting and move in ready! This exquisite custom home sits on just under an acre of land. Offering vaulted open beams ceilings, hardwood floors and sky lights. **OPEN SAT / SUN, 1-4PM. OFFERED AT \$1,850,000**

JUST LISTED!



3806 PICARD AVENUE
PLEASANTON

5 BD plus bonus room, 3.5 BA, 3,525sf. 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. **OPEN SAT / SUN, 1-4PM OFFERED AT \$1,450,000**

JUST LISTED!



1766 NURSERY WAY
PLEASANTON

4 BD, 3 BA, 2,637sf. on a 6,000sf. lot. Open floor plan. The private back yard offers 3 patio areas, new decking, professional landscaping and a sparkling pool. Close to the Iron Horse Trail, Mohr Elementary & Downtown Pleasanton. **OFFERED AT \$950,000**

PENDING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!



6415 AMBER LANE
PLEASANTON

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. **OFFERED AT \$899,000**

PENDING WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS!



135 TURQUOISE WAY
LIVERMORE

4BD/2BA 1,820sf. on a 7,700sf. lot. Spacious entry, eat in kitchen/breakfast bar and formal living room. Expanded master suite with walk-in closets. Dual pane windows, newer roof and remodeled kitchen. **OFFERED AT \$520,000**

JUST SOLD!



1440 WHITE STABLE
PLEASANTON

5BD/5BA 4,277sf. on a 10,736sf. lot. High end finishes throughout. Private interior courtyard with water fountain and fireplace. Oversized bedroom and full bath on main level. Backyard with pool/spa, covered patio and greenhouse. **SOLD FOR \$1,480,000**

JUST SOLD!



1479 IRONGATE DRIVE
PLEASANTON

4BD 3.5BA 3,182sf. on a 10,690 sf. lot. Danbury Model Single level - open floor plan and gourmet kitchen with breakfast nook. Top of the finishes throughout. 3 car garage and private back yard - Move in Ready! **SOLD FOR \$1,285,000**

COMING SOON!



5185 SPRINGDALE AVENUE
PLEASANTON

3BD / 2BA 1,760sf. on a 7,532sf. lot. Single level with an open floor plan. Expanded master suite with walk-in closet and views of back yard. Located close to 580/680 interchange. **OFFERED AT \$660,000**



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Bubble up?

Current real estate market is challenging, but professionals say this isn't another 'bubble'

By GINA CHANNELL-ALLEN

While there is a lot of good news about the current local real estate market, there are still plenty of questions and challenges facing both buyers and sellers.

Sales prices for existing homes in Pleasanton have been increasing dramatically while the number of homes for sale is plummeting just as quickly. From first quarter of 2012 to first quarter of 2013, the median sales price of homes in Pleasanton's two zip codes has increased 33.3%, but the number of sales has decreased 44.7%. Buyers and sellers both are asking if this is another "bubble" like the one that burst a few years ago.

Local Realtors report that when a home hits the market, the seller is immediately bombarded with multiple offers. To purchase one of these elusive homes, buyers must either have significant down payments and solid financing or be able to make an all-cash offer.

Two local real estate experts helped make sense of the current market and offered advice for both buyers and sellers.

Craig Ragg, the 2013 President of the Bay East Association of Realtors, who has more than 25 years in real estate, said the market fundamentals are different from the heady



Gina Channell-Allen

days of the real estate bubble circa 2005, but the pressure on buyers is just the same — or worse.

Bay East President-elect Jennifer Branchini agreed. Asked about how a buyer can compete for the few homes on the market today, Branchini, who is both a Pleasanton homeowner and works from a Pleasanton-based brokerage, said, "It depends on how much of a down payment; the stronger the offer the better chance you have."

"Buyers need to get out of the mindset that they will make an offer and wait for it to get countered. Today, they're competing with other buyers before they can start negotiating with the seller," Ragg added.

All-cash offers are becoming commonplace, but the majority of home sales still use some combination of a down payment and financing. Also, while interest rates continue to be at historically low levels, there are still challenges related to securing purchase financing.

Both Branchini and Ragg agreed that the highest offer doesn't always get accepted.

"Some sellers toss out the high offers because they aren't confident the home will appraise," Branchini said.

When asked about difficulties buyers may have getting a loan, both said their current clients are not having bad experiences securing financing.

"Buyers today are better qualified for See **BUBBLE** on Page 30

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

VINTAGE HEIGHTS — 825 MONTEVINO DR., PLEASANTON, \$980,000



Simply stunning custom Vintage Heights home is nestled in the hills of Pleasanton and offers stunning views of the Pleasanton Ridge and the valley! This beautiful home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and is over 2200 square feet. It is situated on a hilltop with beautiful garden views and a lovely brick patio. The owners will miss this lovely home, but they are grateful to have found a buyer who will adore it as much as they do.

Sold for \$980,000 (\$435 per square foot — a new record high for Vintage Heights) by Dave and Sue Flashberger of Keller Williams Tri Valley Realty (925) 463-0436

About the Cover

These stunning Pleasanton homes are listed by the Moxley Team at Alain Pinel Realtors. Top: 3806 Picard Avenue, Pleasanton; bottom (l-r): 1440 White Stable Drive, Pleasanton; 1766 Nursery Way, Pleasanton; and 135 Turquoise Way, Livermore. For more details, see the property listings in the Buying & Selling special section on page 28.



Emily Barraclough

emilyb@apr.com

(925) 621-4097

DRE# 001479356

Are you thinking of buying or selling a home? Contact me today for all your Real Estate needs.



apr.com

Pending With Multiple Offers!
2520 Willowren Way, Pleasanton



Don't miss this gorgeous home located in the desirable Birdland neighborhood close to schools, parks & shopping. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 1911 square feet. Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen with a breakfast nook. Upgrades include hardwood floors, upgraded master bathroom & plantation shutters. Upstairs bonus room/loft is ideal for a playroom or extra storage. Fantastic yard for entertaining or relaxing. Offered at \$779,000

Pending With Multiple Offers!
6922 Corte Mateo, Pleasanton



Gorgeous home in the desirable Del Prado neighborhood of Pleasanton. This home features a fabulous open floor plan with a light & bright upgraded kitchen with a breakfast nook that opens to the family room. Upgrades include laminate wood floors downstairs, newer carpet upstairs, freshly painted inside and out, newer baseboards & beautiful granite counter tops in the kitchen. The formal living room with vaulted ceilings flows into the formal dining room. Spacious Master bedroom with a walk-in closet and a nice master bathroom with dual sinks. Large beautifully landscaped backyard with room for RV storage on the side yard. Offered at \$788,000

4 Generations of Service and Experience...

Real Estate is always shifting between buyers markets and sellers markets. Right now is no exception as the market shifts back to a seller's market in many price points. Experience matters and the Moxley Team family has been here for over 30 years serving Pleasanton residents. We are a full time mother/son team; Kris being licensed since 1980's and Tyler, now the 4th generation Realtor in the Moxley family.

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Buying & Selling

BUBBLE

Continued from Page 29

financing than they were three years ago," Ragg said.

"Many of my clients have at least 20% for a down payment, which helps them compete," Branchini said. "It's about aligning yourself with a lending institution that actually makes loans."

Ragg mentioned there is more to a successful offer than how much money a buyer brings to the table.

"It depends on what kinds of terms a buyer will offer, such as waiving contingencies related to purchase financing and the condition of the home," Ragg said.

While today's market may seem to favor sellers, Ragg observed, "sellers need to recognize that once they sell they will be in the same position as their buyers. But dealing with a local agent who has a good reputation can help a buyer compete."

"You need to work with an agent that can work outside of the box and try some alternatives," he added. "Sellers that want to be buyers need to be flexible, and that's where the creativity comes in."

Some sellers negotiate renting their home from the buyer while they shop for a new home. Branchini explained that this tactic has challenges and opportunities.

"Some clients will sell, then lease another home while shopping for another home," she

said. "This strategy gives them more time to find the right home."

"In that case a buyer needs to be prepared to move twice," she noted.

The current big increases in sales prices echo market conditions from 2005. The median sales price for a single-family detached home in Pleasanton during March 2013 was more than \$800,000. That's a 24% increase from March 2012. The combination of low

inventory, rising prices and multiple offers begs the question: Is this another real estate "bubble" and when will it burst?

"How can there be a bubble when there are investors with cash and buyers with significant down payments?" Branchini asked. "Prices have gone up dramatically, but it's starting to level off. Meanwhile, many buyers are priced out and are now waiting for more in-

ventory to come on the market later this year. It's not about a price bubble but a lack of inventory."

Ragg agreed.

"When 30% of the offers are cash, that's not a bubble," he said.

Both said the market is very different from 2005 because loan underwriting is stricter, loans are realistic, and there are significant down payments.

"It is challenging to buy, but the deals are being done," Ragg said. "You need to be patient and work with a real estate professional who can really help." ■

"It is challenging to buy, but the deals are being done. You need to be patient and work with a real estate professional who can really help."

Craig Ragg,
the 2013 President of the
Bay East Association of Realtors

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LIVERMORE

10 ROLLINGSTONE COMMON

COMING SOON!

CALL FOR PRICING

3 BR 2.5 BA Open flr pln. Separate living rm & family rm. Corian kit. counters. Lrg Mstr Ste. Corner Lot!
925.847.2200



LIVERMORE

339 ENCINO DR

GORGEOUS REMODEL!

\$519,000

3 BR 2 BA Kit w/cherry cabs, granite counters/SS appliances. Newer roof, heat & A/C, windows. Great Yard
925.847.2200



LIVERMORE

1611 BROADMOOR CT

SINGLE STORY HOME!

\$395,000

3 BR 2 BA Large lot with RV Access. Open kitchen. Dual pane windows. Located on a quiet court location.
925.847.2200



PLEASANTON

2415 POMINO WAY

HIGH QUALITY HOME!

\$2,650,000

6 BR 5 full BA + 2 Ruby Hill Stunner w/Nanny Ste., Lg. Mstr Ste., Office, Rec/Game Rm, Wine Cellar, Interior Ctyrd. 925.847.2200

DISCOVERY BAY

2238 PRESTWICK DR

DISCOVERY BAY-GOLF COURSE HOME

\$489,000

4 BR 3 BA Features new carpeting/paint. Kitchen has SS Appl & granite counters. Lrg bckyard w/pool.
925.847.2200

DUBLIN

3245 DUBLIN BLVD #104

BEAUTIFUL DUBLIN RANCH!

CALL FOR PRICING

2 BR 2.5 BA The Terraces. Open Flr Pln. Dual Pane windows. Formal Liv. w/fireplace. Kit. w/granite. Mstr Ste
925-367-7414

FREMONT

Open SAT 1:30 - 4

MISSION SAN JOSE

796 LOS PINOS

\$1,225,000

5 BR 3.5 BA Court Location. Remodeled throughout. 2 bdrms & full bath on 1st flr. Award-winning schools!
925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4

BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOME!

38724 CRANE TER

\$519,000

3 BR 2.5 BA Mission Hill Views! Private Yard. Attached 2 Car Garage. 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4

BEAUTIFUL SONOMA MODEL

2307 RAPALLO COMMON

CALL FOR PRICING

4 BR 2.5 BA Open living/family rm. Sunny Kitchen. Great Neighborhood! Call for Pricing! 925.847.2200

1334 MAPLEWOOD DRIVE

CHARMING HOME!

\$485,000

3 BR 2.5 BA Formal Dining & Living Rm. Vaulted Ceilings. Eat-In Kit. Side yard access for RV/Boat.
925.847.2200

571 COVINGTON WAY

SUMMERSET COMMUNITY

\$480,000

4 BR 2 BA Updated-Dual pane windows, Energy Efficient Dual zone heating & Air, Kit-Granite Counters.
925.847.2200

944 LISBON AVE

GREAT FLOOR PLAN!

\$448,888

3 BR 2 BA Updated Kit & Baths. Central Heating & Air. Cozy Fireplace in Liv. Private Bckyard. Large Lot!
925.847.2200

NEWARK

7419 WELLS AVE

TWO HOUSES ON ONE LOT!

\$299,000

2 BR 1 BA Great Rental Income! Main house was remodeled 2yrs ago. Newer Copper Plumbing, bthrm, & flrs. 925.847.2200

NEWARK

2905 CHOCOLATE ST

STONERIDGE PLACE HOME!

\$699,900

3 BR 2.5 BA Kit w/Corian Counters/SS Appliances. Tile flring on 1st flr. Close to Top Rated Schools.
925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

2655 MARSH DR

GORGEOUS SAN RAMON HOME!

\$499,800

3 BR 2 BA Remodeled Kit. w/Granite Counters & Stainless Steel Appliances. Updated Baths. 2 Car Garage. 925.847.2200

TRACY

353 RIDGEVIEW DRIVE

GLENBRIAR ESTATES

\$435,000

4 BR 3 BA Kit. w/granite. Plantation Shutters. 2 fireplaces. Huge backyard w/pool & play structure.
925.847.2200

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PLEASANTON

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DOUG BUENZ

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$2,699,000
Incredible 70+0acre parcel on top of the Pleasanton Ridge, views of oak studded hills, home can be expanded, remodeled or build your dream home! Gated entry, 8+ car garage, detached guest house and more! 9745 SANTOS RANCH RD

BLAISE LOFLAND

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,729,000
Private backyard, panoramic views! 5BD, 4.5BA, activity room, 4,021sqft. Custom woodwork. Highly upgraded gourmet kitchen- granite & SS appliances. Large master suite. Professionally landscaped! 5731 DAKIN COURT

DAN GAMACHE

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,499,950
Immaculate and rare property! 3,332+/-sf single story home, excellent condition, 1,800+/-sf basement, 1,800+/-sf shop/garage/apt., endless views! 5800 EAGLES RUN RD

L. GOVEIA/P.GELLMAN

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,030,000
Premia home in Ruby Hill. San Marco model, nice court location, 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home, 3 car garage, large back yard great for entertaining and more! 550 MONTORI CT

LINDA FUTRAL

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$950,000
4bd/2.5ba, 2,506+/-sf Eichler style custom home near downtown with incredible views! Very retro home situated on a street where neighbors rarely move! 825 ABBIE ST

LINDA FUTRAL

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$925,000
Grace and elegance in this incredible custom home! Modern architectural design, grand living with granite slab kitchen, 2 islands, hardwood floors, spiral staircase and more! 1444 MILAN CT

LINDA FUTRAL

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$899,000
4 gracious bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2,700+/-sf home situated on a large but easily maintained 10,000+/-sf lot. Single story, S.Livermore with grand master pool, spa and living retreat. 1005 LEXINGTON WY

LINDA FUTRAL

OPEN SAT&SUN 12-3



LIVERMORE \$799,000
Picture Perfect! 5bd/2.5ba, 2,898+/-sf home with all the bells and whistles you would expect in this magnificent neighborhood. Enjoy this private lot and all this home has to offer. 2627 ELSTON ST

ANNI HAGFELDT

OPEN SAT&SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$689,000
3bd/2.5ba, 1,651+/-sf close to downtown, parks and award winning schools. Great opportunity to live in a great neighborhood. 3110 HALF DOME

JO ANN LUISI

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$485,000
Spacious living space with premium tile floors, vaulted ceiling, cozy fire place and comfortable patio. Elegant dining area and kitchen with breakfast bar and upgraded appliances are flawless. 545 HELIGAN LANE #1



73rd Annual Pleasanton Rose Show

Saturday, May 11, 2013

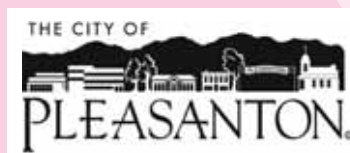
Pleasanton Senior Center
5353 Sunol Boulevard

Rose Show Exhibitor Registration	8:00 am - 10:00 am
Judging	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Open to Public	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Awards Ceremony	2:30 pm

Open to the public | Entry is FREE

For more information visit
www.PleasantonRoseShow.com

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Doug Buenz awarded the Pinnacle Award

Doug Buenz, broker associate with Alain Pinel Realtors, has been awarded the prestigious Pinnacle award from Bay East Association of Realtors for his outstanding production and service in 2012. Doug's production has consistently placed him as one of the highest producing REALTORS in the East Bay.



DRE # 00843458

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DRE# 001479356

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Alain Pinel Realtors
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Buying & Selling

Local market on the rebound as prices go up and equity is regained

BY BLAISE LOFLAND

The local real estate market has made a tremendous rebound. Over the last six years, the real estate market in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley area has bottomed out to extreme lows. Starting in 2007, we saw the worst downturn in the real estate market since the Great Depression. The "bubble" that some predicted would burst did indeed burst. Many didn't foresee the extent of this downturn.

Remarkably, now home prices are already approaching the highs of six years ago. The combination of low interest rates and pent up demand from homebuyers and investors (some foreign) have fueled the rebound. This rebound initially started at the entry, first-time homebuyer level and has now worked its way up to luxury price point. Many of those waiting for the bottom to hit recognized when it happened and have been jumping into the market ever since.

Some data shows that values in the Tri-Valley area have increased over 20% in the last 12 months — quite an amazing and quick turnaround. The question now becomes, "Will history repeat itself as a result of this pent up demand being unleashed

on our market?" This could cause property values to continue to dramatically increase to unsustainable highs, causing another needed future correction. Or alternatively, demand will be absorbed and our market stabilize with values increasing moderately year after year.

Most real estate professionals hope for the latter, so long-term stability and growth can be established in the real estate market. Home values based on consistent growth is healthy and will make it easier for both buyers and sellers to make long-term plans.

It is favorable to see current home values going up in our market. However, this market does present some challenges for both buyers and sellers. Because of very limited inventory, buyers are finding it difficult to purchase a home, finding themselves competing for available properties. One of the reasons inventory is low is that sellers fear that in selling their current homes they won't be able to find a suitable replacement property.

The best news is many homeowners have regained lost equity and, as a result, short sales and foreclosures have reduced significantly. Many owners are now able to refinance their existing loans at much lower rates because they have the lender-required equity back in their homes.

Blaise Lofland is associated with Alain Pinel Realtors in Pleasanton.



Blaise Lofland

Love Where You Live



6000 Old School Rd, Danville

Nestled in Tassajara Valley, this 145 acre estate offers the ultimate in privacy. Contact Katie today for a private showing.

Price upon request

www.6000oldschool.com



6821 Payne Ct, Pleasanton

Walking distance from schools and parks, this move-in ready home is ready for your family! Open House Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm

Price \$709,000

JUST LISTED



KATIE MOE
925-216-9083
KATIE@KATIEMOE.COM
 DRE: 01507863

Whether the market is up or whether it is down, there are two things that always hold true in real estate. It is all about the location and it is a relationship business. Tri Valley living is as good as it gets offering communities with character, pride and a drive for success. In my business, I take pride in creating relationships with my clients and associates to ensure a seamless transaction and to have a little fun in the process. Whether you are buying or selling, I want you to Love Where You Live.

Contact Katie for additional details!



PLEASANTON REAL ESTATE OVERVIEW

MARKET VIEW

Avg. Listing Price
Week ending April 10
\$1,442,893

↓ **-\$15,413**
-1.1%
week over week

Median Sales Price
January - March 2013
\$698,000

↑ **+\$173,000**
+33%
year over year

89 Homes for Sale As of April 16, 2013
573 Recently Sold July 2012 - April 2013
93 Foreclosures July 2012 - April 2013



MARKET TRENDS

Average price per square foot for Pleasanton was \$366, an increase of 14.4% compared to the same period last year. The median sales price for homes for January to March 2013 was \$698,000 based on 133 home sales. Compared to the same period one year ago, the median home sales price increased 33%, or \$173,000, and the number of home sales decreased 32.5%. There are currently 89 resale and new homes in Pleasanton on Trulia.com, as well as 93 homes in the pre-foreclosure, auction, or bank-owned stages of the foreclosure process. The average listing price for homes for sale in Pleasanton was \$1,442,893 for the week ending April 10, 2013, which represents an decrease of 1.1%, or \$15,413, compared to the prior week.



Pleasanton Sales – January - March 2013

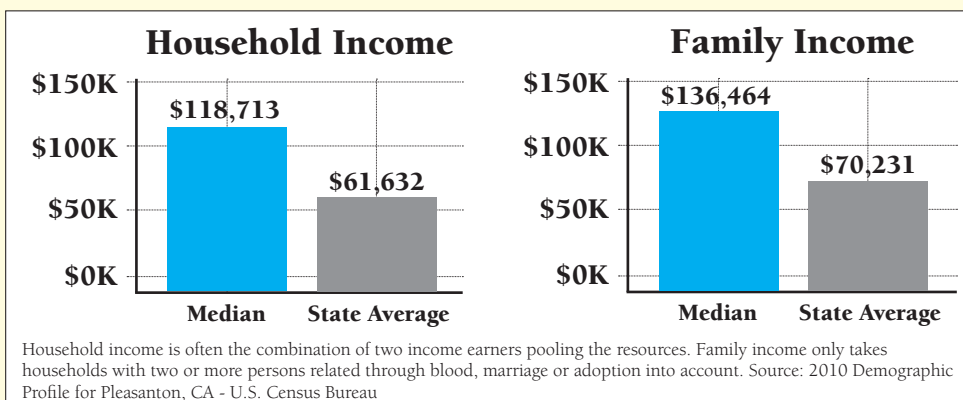
Avg. Listing Price	\$1,442,893	-1.1%	week over week
Median Sales Price	\$698,000	+33%	year over year
Avg. Price/Sq. Ft.	\$366	+14.4%	year over year
Number of Sales	133	-32.5%	year over year

Pleasanton Listing Prices

Number of Bedrooms	Week Ending Apr. 10	week over week	Week Ending Apr. 3	Week Ending Mar. 27	Week Ending Mar. 20
2 bedrooms	\$282,008	-4.2%	\$294,437	\$301,524	\$306,518
3 bedrooms	\$762,516	+6.2%	\$717,926	\$694,017	\$651,409
4 bedrooms	\$1,110,956	+1.4%	\$1,096,075	\$1,030,981	\$1,034,380
All properties	\$1,442,893	-1.1%	\$1,458,306	\$1,300,390	\$1,220,116

Nearby Cities

Cities	Median Sales Price Jan. - March 2013	Avg. Listing Price Week ending April 10
Dublin	\$570,100	\$716,962
Livermore	\$436,500	\$751,014
San Ramon	\$708,000	\$930,129
Danville	\$800,000	\$1,403,872



APR's Don Faught named President for the California Association of REALTORS®

Don Faught, Vice President and Managing Broker of Alain Pinel Realtors (APR) Pleasanton and Livermore Valley office has been named President for the California Association of Realtors®. As President, Don represents more than 160,000 REALTOR® members statewide. Due to his financial commitment, as well as the amount of personal time he has dedicated to the Association, Don is also a member of the prestigious REALTORS® Political Action Committee "Hall of Fame." To date, there are only 345 members in RPAC's "Hall of Fame" and Don is one of 33 members in California.

Throughout his more than 25 years in the Real Estate industry, Don has become increasingly involved at the local, state and national levels. After becoming a C.A.R. director in 1997, Don's high level positions with C.A.R. have included 2010/2011 Treasurer, Chair of Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, Chair of Federal Issues and Executive Committee Liaison. Don has also served as a National Association of REALTORS® Director since 2002, Chair of Economic Issues and Commercial Real Estate Trends Forum and is currently serving a 3 year term on the prestigious Finance Committee.

Don has received designations as 2012 REALTOR® of the Year and Outstanding Leadership awards from the Bay East Association of REALTORS®, Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) and is a Graduate of the REALTOR® Institute (GRI).

These attributes make his sales associates the most successful and well informed in the Bay Area. Experience the difference – visit www.apr.com/dfaught today.



DRE # 00971395

Don Faught, CRS, GRI
Vice President/Managing Broker
Alain Pinel Realtors, Pleasanton/Livermore Valley
2013 California Association of REALTORS® President
(925) 251-1111

What Katie's Clients Are Saying...

This is our fourth home purchase and Katie's understanding of our needs and in-depth knowledge of the market made this the easiest purchase ever. She was a great resource for our family who is new to the area. She is extremely professional: well prepared, available, flexible, conscientious, and honest. Katie is also a very warm and genuine person whom we came to like and appreciate personally. We sincerely recommend Katie to anyone looking for just the right house to call home.

—The Svetcovs, Pleasanton Residents



DRE # 01507863

Katie Moe
Better Homes and Gardens
Tri-Valley Realty
(925) 216-9083



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Sharon He
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DRE# 01341138
Romar De Claro
Top Sales Volume Leader
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dcrane@opesadvisors.com
www.darlenecrane.com
 NMLS 30878 License 00907071
 349 Main Street #203, Pleasanton

Lorraine Davis & Kim Grass
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510-421-2836
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Brett Junell REALTOR®
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direct: 737-1000
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David Bellinger, MBA
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Rebecca Bruner Sales Manager/REALTOR®
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www.rebeccabruner.com
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Eva Deagen, GRI
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4 bedrooms, 2 baths. 1928 sq. ft.

Located in Del Prado neighborhood

Price to be determined

Call Julia for more information (925) 997-2411

RECENTLY PENDING AND SOLD



2573 Secretariat Dr, Pleasanton
3 BR Duet with Master Loft. 1421 sq.ft of living space, with upgraded features through out home. Walking distance to downtown. **SOLD FOR \$590,000**



1485 Chianti Ct, Livermore
Wonderful home in Livermore, 3126 sq. ft. 4 BR/3 BA on 16,000 sq. ft. lot. Huge backyard with custom pool and spa. **JUST SOLD FOR \$925,000**



4718 Pheasant Ct, Dublin
4 BR/2.5 BA, 2390 sq. ft. Built in 1997, fantastic location, good condition. **SOLD FOR \$701,000 — \$51K OVER THE ASKING PRICE**



28 Pinkerton Ct, San Ramon
Large family home on a large court in "Inverness Park." 4 BR, 3 BA, 3367 sq. ft. Fully upgraded. Park like back yard. Never hit MLS. **JUST SOLD FOR \$875,000**



1938 Clover Ct, Pleasanton
Stunning home, in "Golden Eagle" Estates. 5 BR/ 4.2 BA, 5784 sq. ft. stunning views, on just under 1 acre. **JUST SOLD FOR \$1,830,000**



7131 Valley Trails Dr, Pleasanton
Single story home in Central Pleasanton. 4 BR & 2 BA, 1549 sq.ft. Newer roof, & windows, whole house painted inside and out. **LISTED AT \$650,000**

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



752 Turrini Drive, Danville – Just Listed – Open Sat & Sun 1-4

Remodeled, upgraded single level on a premium .35 acre lot with in ground pool and outdoor kitchen. Four bedrooms, three baths, 3,114 square feet and three car garage. Large gourmet kitchen with granite counters, spacious family room, living room and master suite. Beautiful views of the ridge and a ten minute walk to Downtown. Great schools! Offered at \$1,169,000



5731 Dakin Court, Pleasanton – Pending

Newer Summerhill home on premium private lot in Sycamore Heights. Secluded location with private backyard and panoramic views! Professionally landscaped! 5BD, 4.5BA, activity/hobby room, 4,021 sq. ft. Lots of custom woodwork, including fully wrapped windows. Gourmet kitchen open to large family room includes granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Large master suite, spacious bathroom. Great location, walk to downtown and neighborhood park! Less than 5 minutes to Castlewood Country Club. Don't miss this one! Offered at \$1,729,000



Blaise Lofland

(925) 846-6500

www.BlaiseLofland.com



DRE # 00882113



RE/MAX ACCORD

Jerry & Stephanie Stadler

OWNER/BROKERS

PHONE: 925.362.0486

CELL: 925.998.6267

FAX: 925.632.1611



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Jovy Chow
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Dan Kneisler
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Bob Silva
has joined the
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If you are considering all of your options for 2013 and want to increase your income potential, please call Jerry or Stephanie Stadler for a private, confidential interview.

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Beyond Full Service — A Concierge Approach to Real Estate

Tim handled the sale of my home in Pleasanton (Birdland neighborhood). His service was fantastic from marketing my home to handling the closing. He and his staff were all so nice and readily available to answer any and all of my questions. Tim goes above and beyond as an agent....my home was staged beautifully and Tim even helped me move furniture and buy plants. Since the sale he has kept in touch in several ways including offering to supply documents at tax time...just in case I had "misplaced" something! He is a long time Pleasanton resident and really knows the community. I can't imagine using any other agent...particularly in Birdland!

— Sharon Obrien

Tim McGuire
Alain Pinel Realtors
(925) 462-SOLD (7653)
www.TimMcGuire.net



DRE # 01349446

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Recent Seller Review



JUST SOLD!
4718 Pheasant Court
Dublin
Sold for \$51K over the asking price with 46 offers.

Julia Murtagh
Alain Pinel Realtors
(925) 997-2411

Julia Murtagh of Alain Pinel was absolutely amazing to work with. We listed and sold our home with her. She is knowledgeable, patient, helpful, ethical, and truly cared about what was best for us. Julia answered ALL of the loads of questions we asked, kept us in the loop each step of the way, and really made the process easy on us. We had a few curve balls thrown at us and she handled them with grace and ease. If you need to sell your home, I highly recommend Julia.

—Natalie Bering, April 2013



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3785 SMALLWOOD CT Kottinger Ranch Hills

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Location, Luxury, Privacy and Views! Welcome to this exquisite custom home located in the hills above Kottinger Ranch, one of Pleasanton's premier locations, with 360 degree views over the Pleasanton Valley all the way to Mt. Diablo.

Featuring 5 spacious bedrooms, 5 1/2 baths, in over 5800 square feet of luxurious living space on a .60 acre view lot.

This timeless home exemplifies European architecture with the highest level of aesthetics and durability on every level including: construction, material selection, attention to detail, custom appointments and incredible craftsmanship.

Two Great Castlewood Homes Coming Soon

5 Bedroom plus bonus/ rec room,
3,889+/- sq.ft. home on 2/3 acre view lot.

4 bedroom plus office, 3,606 sq.ft. on 1/2 acre view lot with pool. **Call Us Today!**

What Our Clients Are Saying...

My family and I recently relocated from the UK to the East Bay area, California. We engaged Phyllis Weiner and Peter McDowell to assist us in finding a property in the Pleasanton area. The outcome was successful and we are now settled in the area, but put quite simply we would not have achieved this without their help. They both possess a wealth of knowledge and experience of the local area as well as being highly expert in the process of the house sale/purchase transaction itself. Throughout the process we found them to be professional, friendly, responsive and very persistent. We cannot recommend them highly enough. *Chris and Liz Jones*

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Pending!

Laguna Oaks
2577 Arlotta Place
3886 sq ft. home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, office and bonus room, plus 4-car garage. Located at the end of a quiet cul de sac.

Coming Soon:
8005 Regency Dr.
5BR, 3BA, 3500 sq ft.
Updated Laguna Oaks
beauty with views!



Pending!

Laguna Oaks
7973 Paragon Circle



Pending!

Laguna Oaks
7913 Paragon Circle



Pending!

Laguna Oaks
2541 Arlotta Place



5 Tips for Sellers in a Hot Market

Welcome back to Seller's Paradise! We have all heard the stories... 47 offers on a house in Danville, 34 offers on a home in Pleasanton, a friend of a friend got over 100 offers, etc etc etc. It's as if there is some kind of competition to see who gets the most offers. And while it is fun to exchange stories about how many offers are flying around, there are definitely some things to keep in mind if you are going to enter the fray and put your home on the market. Here are 5 tips for Sellers to keep in mind in this hot market:

- 1. Don't get too greedy.** Easier said than done. And who can blame you? Property owners and sellers have taken their lumps in the last 5 or 6 years. But smart sellers know that they can still overplay their hand. Yes the market is hot, and yes everyone will want to buy your home, but the market moves very fast. If you severely overprice your property and miss the initial wave of buyers, you will likely have to make some concessions or even lower your price to rekindle interest. 30 days on the market is an eternity in this market, and buyers will wonder what is wrong with your home.
- 2. Keep an eye on the appraisal.** If you are successful in accepting an offer, be aware of the appraisal contingency. The market is moving fast,

and home values are surging. It is not uncommon for appraisers to struggle to find closed sales that justify the sales price of your home, especially if there has not been many sales in your neighborhood.



If your contract has an appraisal contingency, wherein the buyer can cancel the contract if your property does not appraise for the sales price, you could hit a road block in your transaction. If you have multiple offers, one of the factors to use when evaluating offers is if the offer has an appraisal contingency. That might help you decide which buyer to deal with

- 3. Don't believe everything you hear.** Just because your neighbor says they got 28 offers on their home, it might not be true. As with anything, any >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.

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The 680 Group

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Custom home on Incredible 70 acre site on top of the Pleasanton ridge with sweeping views of oak studded canyons. 3 BR, 2 1/2 Bths, guest house, 7 car garage, and more! \$2,699,000

JUST SOLD!



Fabulous 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath luxury home backs to open space with hardwood floors, granite & stainless kitchen, soaring ceilings, and private 1/3 Acre lot with pool & spa! Sold for \$1,300,000

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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SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin (Feb. 22-Mar. 1)

Total sales reported: 6
Lowest sale reported: \$350,000
Highest sale reported: \$701,000
Average sales reported: \$539,333

Livermore (Feb.22-Mar. 1)

Total sales reported: 17
Lowest sale reported: \$405,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,750,000
Average sales reported: \$652,706

Pleasanton (Feb. 22-Mar. 1)

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$220,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,633,500
Average sales reported: \$772,816

San Ramon (Mar. 12-19)

Total sales reported: 22
Lowest sale reported: \$181,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,600,000
Average sales reported: \$786,795

Source: California REsource

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND
 For more open homes visit www.PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

5575 Old School Road \$1,679,000
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

4 BEDROOMS

1610 Fountain Springs Circle \$779,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

752 Turrini Drive \$1,169,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

3601 Country Club Terrace \$2,650,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Tom Slape 209-915-5638

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS

5102 Bianca Wy \$620,000
 Sun 1-4 Gene & Cindy Williams 918-2045

2307 Rapallo Common \$590,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

5 BEDROOMS

2627 Elston St \$799,000
 Sat/Sun 12-3 Linda Futral 980-3561

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

380 E. Angela St \$619,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

3110 Half Dome \$689,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Anni Hagfeldt 519-3534

5624 San Luis Ct \$694,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Rebecca Bruner 730-1628

4 BEDROOMS

920 Pamela Pl \$1,289,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Gaylen Roberts 510-342-9536

7755 Country Ln \$1,850,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3710 Smallwood Ct \$1,525,000
 Sun 1-4 Melissa Pederson 397-4326

6821 Payne Ct \$709,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Katie Moe 216-9083

5 BEDROOMS

475 E. Angela St \$988,000
 Fri 10-1/Sat 11-3 Julia Murtagh 997-2411

3806 Picard Ave \$1,450,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Moxley Team 600-0990

3785 Smallwood Ct \$2,499,000
 Sun 1-4 Weiner McDowell Group 251-2585

6 BEDROOMS

1520 Via di Salerno \$2,890,000
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San Ramon

4 BEDROOMS

521 Morning Glory Ct \$1,075,000
 Sun 1-4 Jennifer Branchini 577-6113

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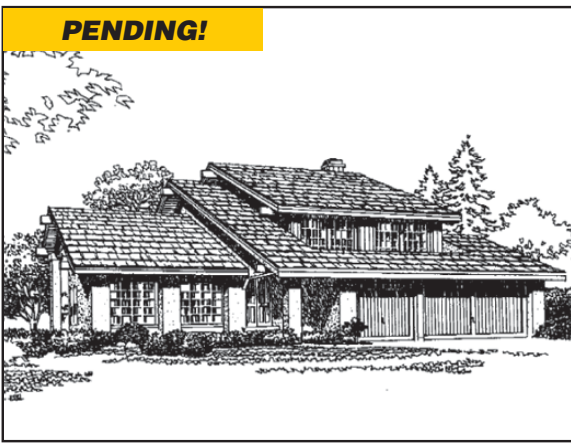
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2740 Laramie Gate Circle
 Beautiful upgraded "Fir" model in The Gates, 4 bd/3 ba, 1897 +/- sq. ft. Custom marble entry floor, updated granite kitchen, remodeled granite baths, plantation shutters, gorgeous backyard with sparkling pool and spa.
Offered at \$839,000

PENDING!

2789 Calle Alegre
 "Trinity" model in Original Country Fair. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths with 2854 sq.ft.+/- w full bedroom and bathroom downstairs. Situated on a lush 1/4 acre lot with fruit & citrus trees, new fencing, redwood decking and hot tub plus a 3 car garage.
Offered at \$1,050,000

SOLD!

2009 Raven Road
 Holiday model in Birdland, 4bd/2ba, 2,186+/-sq.ft, 8,104+/-sq.ft lot Hardwood floors, new carpeting/baseboard, newer stamped concrete driveway and walkway, private backyard with citrus trees and large deck, walking distance to parks, schools and shopping
Sold for \$780,000



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- ✓ Satisfaction

DRE# 00882113



Now more than ever in a hot real estate market you need a professional, experienced Realtor!

SYCAMORE HEIGHTS

PENDING!



5731 DAKIN COURT, PLEASANTON

Just Listed! Newer Summerhill home on premium private lot in Sycamore Heights. Secluded location with private backyard and panoramic views! Professionally landscaped! 5BD, 4.5BA, activity/hobby room, 4,021 sq. ft. Lots of custom woodwork, including fully wrapped windows, wainscoting and built-ins. Gourmet kitchen open to large family room includes granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Large master suite, spacious bathroom with large tub and separate shower. Great location, walk to downtown and neighborhood park! Less than 5 minutes to Castlewood Country Club. Don't miss this one! **OFFERED AT \$1,729,000**

DANVILLE

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



752 TURRINI DRIVE, DANVILLE

Remodeled, upgraded single level on a premium .35 acre lot with in-ground pool and outdoor kitchen. Four bedrooms, three baths, 3,114 square feet, side yard access and three car garage with extra workshop area. Upgraded gourmet kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Remodeled bathrooms with custom tile flooring. Spacious family room, living room and master suite. Separate studio in rear yard with sink. Beautiful views of the ridge and a ten minute walk to Downtown. Great schools!

OFFERED AT \$1,169,000

STONERIDGE PARK

SOLD!



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.

SOLD FOR \$712,000

RUBY HILL

SOLD!



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. **SOLD AT \$1,450,000**

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**

SOUTH LIVERMORE

SOLD!



1210 SANTORINO COURT, LIVERMORE

Blaise represented the Buyer in the purchase of this beautiful South Livermore home located next to Independence Park. Large five bedroom, four and a half bath, 4,149sf. house with Brazilian wood, tile and carpeted floors. Large kitchen with granite, cherry cabinets and Wolf appliances. Spacious family room, full bath/bed 1st floor, large master suite with sitting area. Three car garage all on a spacious 12,686sf. lot located in a small private court location.

SOLD FOR \$1,055,000

CUSTOM HOME

SOLD!



6513 ARLINGTON DRIVE, PLEASANTON

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

BRIDLE CREEK

SOLD!



5206 SELENA COURT, PLEASANTON

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

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**





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Jill Denton
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1142 Mataro Ct, Pleasanton
Beautiful Vintage Hills home backing to open space. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2673+/- sq. ft. Updated kitchen with granite counters, updated bathrooms, main floor bedroom and bath, master suite with balcony, new carpet, indoor laundry, pool with waterfall, 3 car garage. **Call for pricing**

Coming Soon



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REALTOR®
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925.260.2220
www.armariohomes.com



Liz Venema
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925.413.6544
liz.venema@comcast.net



SOLD - Represented Buyers!

Charming, totally upgraded single story in Highland Oaks! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, wide plank hardwood flooring, gourmet granite & stainless kitchen with Bosch appliances, stone fireplace, remodeled baths, and large private yard with side access. **Listed at \$649,500**



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

1520 Via Di Salerno, Pleasanton (Ruby Hill)
6 bed, 6.5 bath, 7,053 SF on .47 acre lot. Gorgeous Mediterranean home with dramatic features.

Offered at **\$2,890,000**



Open Sun 1-4

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Coming Soon! Beautifully remodeled Tuscan style 4 bed/3 bath. Resort style backyard! Call for more details.



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Open Sun 1-4

New on the Market — 3710 Smallwood Court, Pleasanton

4 Bedrooms • Bonus Room • Office • 4.5 Bathrooms
4,026 Square Feet of Living Space • 17,706 Square Foot Lot
Gourmet Kitchen • Remodeled Baths • New Carpets
Professionally Designed and Landscaped Yards
Offered at \$1,525,000



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Homes are selling **OVER** asking
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3/2 Hayward SFR	List Price \$450,00	Sold for \$500,00
4/2 Livermore SFR	List Price \$524,888	Sold for \$540,000
3/2 Livermore SFR	List Price \$489,000	Sold for \$590,000
2/2 Livermore Condo	List Price \$199,000	Sold for \$230,000

WHAT WILL YOUR HOME SELL FOR??

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SERENITY REAL ESTATE TEAM
Pamela Ann Northup REALTOR® DRE #01517489
Anthony Arsondi REALTOR® DRE #01739552
info@theserenityteam.com
kw KELLER WILLIAMS



JUST LISTED!

3298 Monmouth Ct., Pleasanton
Just listed! Beautiful 4 bdrm, 3 bath home in Pleasanton Meadows. Energy efficient home with solar panels to eliminate your electric bill! Beautifully updated, quiet court location, walking distance to school, parks and community pool! Priced in the mid \$700's



NEW LISTING!

Cute as a button! 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on a rare 10,000 sq ft lot with side access! Build a detached garage...the possibilities are endless. Beautifully remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, cozy family room with fireplace Priced in the low \$600's



Dave & Sue Flashberger
REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES
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Open Sun 1-4

5102 Bianca Way, Livermore
1775 sq ft, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bathrooms. Great backyard with spa and firepit, 13,000+ sq ft lot. Work in progress. **Offered at \$620,000**



Call us for New Listings COMING SOON!
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