

Pleasanton Weekly

FALL HOME & GARDEN >> 13



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Come on in, *the water's fine*

Pleasanton's popular aquatic center reopens after renovation project
PG 18



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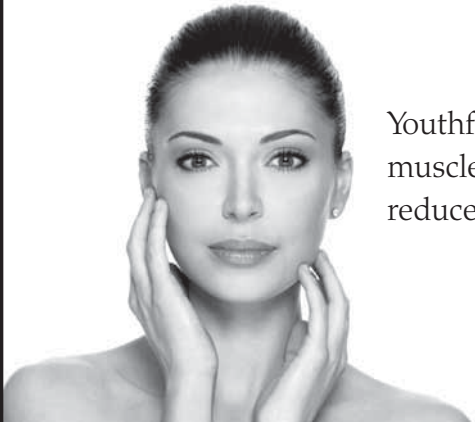
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Miley talks up taxes, regulations and still gets loud applause

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley told members of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton last week that they may have to pay more taxes later next year and may have to develop state-approved commuter plans for their employees. Even so, he still got a generous round of applause from the Rotarians who invited him to speak.

Hearing grumbling from his audience, Miley, whose 4th Supervisory district has included Pleasanton since 2010, says he doesn't look for controversy, but it has a way of finding him. Particularly upsetting to business owners and managers at the Hap's Restaurant luncheon meeting was the commuter plan. It's the result of the state Senate's passage of SB1339 last year which is only now being pressed. A statewide mandate, it requires employers with 50 or more full-time employees to provide commute "benefits," meaning that they may have to give up their cars and ride public transit if it's available. And with Wheels buses, ACE trains and BART serving Pleasanton, this could be ground zero for implementing the plan.

Miley did his best to distance himself from the legislation, which he said he didn't like, but next year he will take over the chair of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District board, which is the agency serving nine adjoining counties to stiffen compliance with climate action plans which California cities, including Pleasanton, had to place on their books. As yet, not much is known about what companies and their employees must do, but that's being spelled out this fall in a series of workshop held around the Bay. All of the workshops, by the way, are during the day when many of the business managers the law affects might have scheduling problems to attend. With about 1.5 million Bay Area workers employed by government agencies, private businesses and nonprofits with more than 50 employees, the commuter plan mandate hopes to "significantly"



JEB BING

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley

reduce driving-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. It will be Miley's job to make sure it works.

As for taxes, Miley said he will work with other county supervisors and agencies to place Measure B1 back on the ballot next November. The measure, which was defeated last year by a fraction of the two-thirds vote of approval it needed, will add another half-cent to a transportation sales tax we're now paying. The full penny tax, according to Miley, could raise \$8 billion for transportation projects over the 25-30 year period. It was the 2012 measure's "in perpetuity" rule that caused some to vote against it, including Mayor Jerry Thorne, who was one of the only mayors in the county to vote against the proposal because of the in perpetuity language.

On a brighter side, Miley said he is part of the Joint Powers Agreement team that is negotiating to keep the Oakland Warriors, Oakland Athletics and Oakland Raiders in Oakland. The teams' leases expire on the Coliseum and Arena starting at the end of this year for the A's, next year for the Raiders and in 2015 for the Warriors. Miley doubts that the Warriors will be able to move to a new arena in San Francisco by 2017, as planned, and that by keeping the welcome mat out, the team just might change its plans and stay in Oakland. Moving to San Jose, as the A's management wants the team to do, makes no sense in Miley's mind and he'll keep working to find funds for a ball park in Oakland. The Raiders want to stay in Oakland, but that team, too, needs its own stadium. Oakland is now the only city where a major league baseball and NFL football team share the same playing field. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton's popular aquatic center reopens after a \$3.8-million renovation project that kept much of it closed for nearly a year. Replastered pools, new decking, upgraded filtration systems add to the complex's safety, appearance, year-round swimming enjoyment. Cover photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Rosanna Leung.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

This week is National Newspaper Week. What is your preferred way of receiving news? In an actual newspaper, over the Internet, or in a television news broadcast?



Joan Carson
Retired

Well, I guess maybe I'm old fashioned, or maybe I'm just really old, but I like a real live newspaper. I like the physical sensations of holding a paper, and turning the pages.

Fazeel Raizen

President, Security Company

I really like getting my local news in the online version of the Pleasanton Weekly. Mostly because it's not just the news, but all sorts of other stuff also, like other people's posts and comments on news stories, which are often very interesting. For national and international news, I usually look to the Internet.



Hana Harrell
High School Student

I like to get my news on Facebook. It is a good way to see what people think is important.

Alyx Kozinski
Librarian

I most prefer getting my news over the Internet because my hands get full of newsprint and ink all day at work. Also, I am able to customize the news I receive when I get it online.



Gordon Chung
Hair Stylist

I really like to watch the news on television when I get home at the end of the day. It's relaxing and it helps me to unwind because all I have to do is sit there and listen.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

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

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DIGEST

Musical Knights

For those who can't get enough Monty Python, or for those new to the quirky British comedy, "Spamalot" is headed to the Bankhead Theater later this month.

"Spamalot" has everything a Monty Python junky would love: people hitting each other with fish, knights who say "Ni," killer rabbits and music from the original series.

The musical, "loving ripped off from the motion picture," is presented by the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. It runs Oct. 19 through Nov. 3, with Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$36 for seniors and \$28 for 17 and under.

Gotta dance?

The Tri-Valley Young Performers Academy is offering a workshop where young performers can learn musical theater dance styles ranging from "Oklahoma" to "Legally Blonde."

Classes begin with a warm-up including stretching, strengthening and technique. Throughout the course, students will work on flexibility, technique and choreography and classes will wrap up with everyone learning a musical theater dance number. If theater is in your blood, check out the class taught by Bay Area dancer, choreographer and performer Jenna Harris.

The first class, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14, is free. The entire course is \$135, with drop-ins at \$17 a class. Pick up registration forms at the first class at the Tri-Valley Y, 6693 Sierra Lane, Dublin.

Nightmare

The Bay Area's teen improv group, Creatures of Impulse, is gearing up for its annual Halloween show, "Nightmare," a live, improvised horror show.

"Nightmare" kicks off the seventh home-town season for the troupe. Audience suggestions will drive the characters and stories for an unscripted horror fest.

The teen troupe will be holding three shows, Oct. 24-26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center. General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, with early bird discounts for those who buy by Oct. 19. Tickets are available at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., at www.firehousearts.org or by calling 931-4848. ■

Corrections

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

Congress must 'find a bipartisan way out' of shutdown, Swalwell says

Congressman hosts town hall to discuss government shutdown

By GINA CHANNELL-ALLEN

According to Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin), Congress has been "taken hostage" by a handful of Republicans who want President Obama's signature healthcare program, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), defunded before a budget will be passed. The resulting shutdown of the government, he said, is harmful to the US economy and its citizens, and might keep the government from paying its bills on time.

About 125 people came out on relatively short notice to hear about what is happening in the nation's capital, and how Swalwell and his colleagues plan to end the shutdown. Swalwell decided to fly home for 24 hours because there were no votes Sunday and, "I wanted to update people on what is happening," he said. "We are getting so many calls, Facebook posts and tweets. I felt it was good to come home."

Addressing some of his 15th Congressional District constituents at a town hall meeting Sunday in the Dublin City Council Chambers, Swalwell said the shutdown is costing the country an estimated \$300 million a day and affecting more than just the federal workers

and people who want to visit national parks or monuments.

But, Swalwell stated, the Affordable Care Act has to be taken off the table because, "Tying the Affordable Care Act to how you budget the federal government can set a bad precedent."

Seats in council chambers were filled by people concerned about what will happen on Oct. 18 if there is no increase in the debt ceiling, which is dependent on a funding bill being passed, and by residents who stand behind the group of Republicans who are demanding defunding of the ACA.

Some of the affected federal workers were also in the audience. Swalwell said some of the 2.1 million federal employees who are furloughed or forced to work without pay are his constituents, and they are telling him they are filing for unemployment and asking debtors such as mortgage companies to delay payment.

"But payments don't get furloughed," Swalwell said. "It's a stressful time for federal employees."

Swalwell pointed out the shutdown is also affecting veterans, first-time homebuyers and

the realtors who represent them, because the federal offices that provide documents and services are not being staffed.

"This affects real people," the Congressman said. "Our goal is to end the shutdown."

Other government shutdowns have occurred over how money was budgeted, not whether a program that has been signed into law will be defunded, or eliminated, Swalwell added. Allowing the ACA into the equation this time will set an "awful, awful precedent."

"The president is standing firm and the Senate is standing firm," Swalwell said. "They will negotiate budget numbers, but the Affordable Care Act is off the table."

One audience member, who described himself as a Republican who believes in the Constitution, said Harry Reid has recently called him and people like him "anarchists" and extremists." He then questioned what the Founding Fathers would say about the Affordable Care Act, because to him it smacks of socialism.

"The Affordable Care Act is an overreach of the government," the audience member said.

See SHUTDOWN on Page 9



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Valley View students race each other during a "Fun Run" fundraiser that raised \$50,000 for a new art program and playground equipment.

Valley View PTA raises \$50,000 in 'Fun Run' event

Funds will go for new art program, playground equipment

By JEB BING

The recent second annual PTA "Fun Run" fundraiser at Valley View Elementary School raised more than \$50,000 to pay for a new school art program, new playground equipment and other materials not funded by the school district's current budget.

School representatives said the Valley View PTA launched the fundraiser last year in response to deep budget cuts affecting the Pleasanton school district.

Sponsors for this year's event provided T-shirts inscribed with the words "Work Hard, Play Hard" for Fun Run 2013 participants as well as water bottles for students in all grade

levels who joined in the event.

Highlights of the event included school principal Rafael Cruz dressed in a toga and carrying a torch as he ran, physical education teacher Brent Miller serving as the emcee while dressed as a character from "Duck Dynasty," and the entire Valley View staff doing a "mob" dance to "Dynamite" by Taio Cruz.

PTA leaders said the fundraiser was a wonderful community building event for the school, "bringing together teachers, staff, parents and all students, all working together for the same cause: Making our school a better place."

Coordinators of the event were Katlyn Haus and Sally Richards. ■

Long-awaited, much-needed Stoneridge Drive extension opens

Provides faster, direct access to shops, jobs and ValleyCare ER

The long-awaited extension of Stoneridge Drive will open Nov. 1, giving shoppers, workers and other motorists in Livermore and Pleasanton a direct, safer route to travel between the two cities.

Mid-morning ceremonies are planned to celebrate the project's completion, along with a 7-acre public park next to the new road. The ceremonies will include Pleasanton, Livermore and Alameda County representatives as well as those from Stoneridge Creek, the new retirement community, which will also celebrate its official opening.

A time for the ceremonies has yet to be announced, but it's expected it will take place at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Creek Drive, just east of the Arroyo Mocho bridge.

It's been bridge work that has delayed the opening of Stoneridge Drive, which was paved, striped and ready to open more than a month ago.

The plan to make Stoneridge Drive a through street between Pleasanton and Livermore dates back to 1989 after Pleasanton engineers shifted the long-considered thoroughfare from Las Positas Boulevard to Stoneridge. At the time, homes had already been constructed on Las Positas east of Santa Rita, with driveways extending into the street. Stoneridge, which was completed as a major street through Hacienda Business Park, had yet to be built east of Santa Rita.

Motorists will now be able to travel from the

See STONERIDGE on Page 9

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New state funding formula means more money to school district

Formula has fewer strings attached, but requires public input

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Pleasanton schools can anticipate some extra cash through a new state funding plan that restructures how districts are funded.

At a School Board work session on Tuesday, Deputy Superintendent Luz Cazares outlined what's known about the plan, known as the Local Control Funding Formula.

Details, Cazares said, are "still evolving," and state officials are being cooperative as districts across the state move to the new model.

"It's understood it's hard to follow a rule when you don't know what the rule is," Cazares told board members.

Money that had been designated to be spent in specific ways will now be paid in a lump sum, and local districts will allocate the

money to where they think it's needed.

"There are more than 40 categorical programs that are essentially going to be eliminated. For us, it is 26," Cazares said.

The new model will send about \$2.4 million in additional cash here for the current year, she said. State figures predict the district will get \$34 million for the 2014-15 school year and \$39 million for 2015-16, although that could change depending on the economy.

While there are no official strings for much of the state funding, the new model does come with some expectations, including reducing class sizes for students in transitional kindergarten through third grade.

LCFF was designed to help poorer districts, but a last minute

addition by state legislators offered help to those districts that might lose, rather than gain from it. Pleasanton is one of those districts, and it will receive \$750,000 to offset the loss this year, and an additional \$750,000 on top of the original for the next eight years, for a total of \$6 million the final year.

One big change is the local control, and the school board will be putting together an advisory committee to help decide where to spend LCFF money. The makeup of the group is still under discussion, but district officials hope to have an application ready soon.

Board Member Chris Grant said he'd like to see a charter for the committee, and said the board could take another look at the charter after the first year, to see if the group and the charter are ac-

complishing what they're meant to do.

"This is really a community advisory group," Board President Jeff Bowser said. "This is brand new so I get that this is something we're going to grow into."

Board members Valerie Arkin and Jamie Hintzke worried that the members of the group drawn from the public might find themselves pressured by others, which would include teachers and representatives from the district's two unions.

Bonnie Kassin of the California School Employees Association summed up LCFF in four short sentences.

"We're giving you the money. It's your responsibility to spend it. Don't be stupid. Spend it wisely," Kassin said. ■



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Teen driver remains held without bond in fatal crash

Cody Hall has yet to enter a plea in case, now continued until November

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

The young driver who ran down and killed a bicyclist in June remains in custody without bail and without entering a plea.

Cody Hall, 19, has been in the Santa Rita Jail without bond since August, when an initial charge of vehicular homicide was elevated to murder.

Hall was driving his 2004 Dodge Neon at an estimated 83 mph, more than twice the speed limit, and passing a car on a double yellow line when he lost control while pulling back into his lane, according to court documents. He struck and killed Diane Hersevoort, 58, and also struck her husband, Joe Hersevoort, who was left with a broken leg in the crash.

The teen still faces a charge of reckless driving causing bodily injury for striking Joe Hersevoort.

Hall, wearing a yellow jail outfit, was in court Monday morning, but the case was continued at the request of his attorney, Joe Cox.

"We are still going through the discovery on this matter and it appears there is more discovery," Cox told Judge Jacob Blea III, who agreed to continue the case.

Discovery is process of exchanging information between two parties in a court case.

About a dozen people showed up for Hall's appearance. The case has been continued until Nov. 14.

The crash occurred at about 1 p.m. June 9 near Golden Eagle Way.

Hall graduated from Foothill High later that month. He faces 15 years to life on the murder charge and an additional three years and eight months for the reckless driving charge, according to Alin Cinteau, a former Sacramento County prosecutor now in private practice. ■

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**Saturday,
October 19, 2013
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Hilton Pleasanton
at the Club
7050 Johnson Dr.,
Pleasanton, CA**

10:00 am – 11:00 am	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
<p>Arthritis of the Foot & Ankle Judianne Walker, DPM, Podiatric Surgeon</p> <p>Arthritis 101 Anthony Padula, M.D., F.A.C.R., Rheumatologist</p> <p>Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment Advances Rashmi Dixit, Ph.D., M.D., Rheumatologist</p> <p>Arthritis in the Neck & Spine Hieu Ball, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon & Spine Specialist</p> <p>Arthritis in the Hip & Knee Robert Sproul, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon</p>	<p>Arthritis in the Hands Gregory Horner, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon, Hand & Upper Extremity Specialist</p> <p>Arthritis in the Hip & Knee Ian Stine, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon</p> <p>How to Walk Away Your Pain & Walk with Ease Ida Hirst PT, Physical Therapist</p> <p>Golf and The Aging Athlete Charles Preston, M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon, Sports Medicine Specialist</p> <p>Fibromyalgia Treatment Advances Anthony Padula, M.D., F.A.C.R., Rheumatologist</p>	<p>How to Walk Away Your Pain & Walk with Ease Ida Hirst PT, Physical Therapist</p> <p>Heal Write: Writing for Wellness Deborah Steinberg, MA</p> <p>Traveling with Pain Liz Hamill, Travel Guide Author</p> <p>Naturopathic Approaches to Treating Arthritis Lena Kian, N.D., Naturopathic Doctor</p> <p>Osteoporosis: What You Don't Know Can Hurt You Lucille B. Andersen M.D.</p>	<p>Benefits of Acupressure and Therapeutic Massage Kathy Lorenz, CSTD, CMT and Pete Foldes, BA, CMT</p> <p>Manage Arthritis with Physical Therapy & Exercise Matthew Wollaston, PT, MS, Physical Therapist</p> <p>Gaining Access to the Best Possible Care Joanna Smith, LDSW, CHA, MPH, CHA</p> <p>Managing Arthritis Through Life's Transitions (Young Adults, 18-39) Erica Lawson, M.D., Pediatric Rheumatologist</p>

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School board looks at early start and end to calendar

Changes could mean shorter breaks, but more often

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Pleasanton School Board members seemed to embrace an idea that would start and end the school year earlier, and possibly add extra breaks during the year.

The idea came up in negotiations on school calendars with other districts, including Dublin, Livermore, Sunol Glen and the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program, which provides hands-on career training.

At the School Board meeting Tuesday night Human Resources Director Mark McCoy outlined two possible new calendars, explaining, "This is certainly not

intended to be an exhaustive exploration."

He said local districts work together to keep their calendars as closely matched as possible.

During those discussions, McCoy said, "the question has been raised: 'Are there adjustments to our calendar that would better serve the needs of our kids?'"

An early start calendar would have classes beginning in mid-August and ending in late May or early June. A modified calendar would start classes in late July or early August, also ending in late May or early June. McCoy said the main benefit to either would be

that the fall semester would end by winter break, so that students in high school wouldn't have to complete three more weeks of school in January before moving to the spring semester classes.

"Winter break symbolizes the end of the semester," he said, adding that under the current calendar, students "don't get a true respite. You have the specter of more school hanging over your head."

Neither calendar change would add instructional minutes to the year.

McCoy and others exploring the idea took a field trip to Brentwood, where the modified calendar has been in use for years.

While schools using that calendar start and end early, they also get several breaks during the year, generally one in October and in the spring, along with the traditional winter break.

In Brentwood, the additional breaks help those who are falling behind, provide more study time before AP tests, and "an expanded window for curriculum coverage."

McCoy said Brentwood also found fewer employee and student absences.

"When students' capacity is getting exhausted, they get a break," he said. "We found that fewer personal necessity and sick leave breaks were taken."

There are some drawbacks: changes in athletic schedules, making sure parents can arrange for child care, a shorter summer break the year the plan is put into effect and resistance to any shifts in the calendar.

"Certainly change is change," McCoy said. "The real big thing that's holding people back is teachers who live in other districts."

School board members were enthusiastic about the idea, although

they wanted hard data that would support a switch.

"I think it's something many of us have been hoping for for a while," Member Joan Laursen said.

Board Member Jamie Hintzke said she was excited, pointing out one concern about the current calendar, where students who go away on vacation leave group projects for those staying at home to complete, although they all share the grade.

Bowser said it's important to communicate any change well in advance.

"If we're going to make a change, let's do it right the first time," he said. In an aside to the Pleasanton Weekly, Bowser said, "Please don't call this year-round. That freaks the public out."

Board Member Chris Grant suggested the district take the lead role

See **CALENDAR** on Page 9

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SHUTDOWN

Continued from Page 5

“I want my freedom back.”

Swalwell replied: “My response is that our Founding Fathers would say that a candidate for presidential office told the American people what he wanted to do with healthcare and he was elected overwhelmingly. Then this candidate presented this plan to the Congress.

The House of Representatives and the Senate passed it, that same president signed it into law, the Supreme Court — with a majority opinion written by a Chief Justice appointed by a Republican — said it was Constitutional. And then the same person who ran on it ran for re-election and again was overwhelmingly elected. I would say whether we agree with the policy or not, it adheres to the Constitution.”

Addressing Congress last week, Swalwell asked House Speaker John Boehner to call for a vote. “The Speaker controls what you get to vote on,” Swalwell explained before he played a video of his statement to Congress. “He puts it on the floor.”

Boehner has not called for a vote citing the “Hastert Rule.” Named for former Speaker Dennis Hastert, this informal rule says that legislation should have the support of a “majority of the majority” for the Speaker to call for a vote.

“It is a dark day today in America,” Swalwell said in his statement to Congress. “Mr. Speaker, you can turn back on the lights. Turn on the lights Mr. Speaker.”

To the audience Swalwell explained, “We know we have the votes we need for a budget that does not include the Affordable Care Act.” However, he furthered, the Republicans led by Texas Senator Ted Cruz have dug in their heels and Boehner will not call for a vote.

“The Democrats see any attempt to change (the Affordable Care Act) as an attempt to unravel it, and Republicans just want to defund it,” the Congressman said. “At some point Speaker Boehner needs to answer ‘do you want to be Speaker of the Republican Caucus or Speaker of the whole House?’”

Easing the division among Republicans and Democrats is one goal Swalwell spoke about when he was campaigning less than a year ago. When he first took office he helped form the United Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group of 15 freshmen Republicans and 15 freshman Democrats. This group has been meeting regularly since the shutdown to discuss ways to bring it to an end.

“We need to find a bipartisan way out of this,” he said.

In addition to asking for bipartisanship, many members of this caucus, including Swalwell, are putting their money where their mouths are — literally — and refusing their paychecks until the shutdown ends.

“I just didn’t feel right taking my paycheck while others would be working and not getting theirs,” Swalwell said. ■

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 8

in pushing for the plan with other districts, and said the San Ramon Valley district should be included.

The school board also approved a contract with CSEA employees that would offer similar gains to the contract approved earlier by the teachers union.

Under the new contract, CSEA members would receive a one-time payment of 1% of their salaries, get a 1.1 percent raise and secure their pensions under Calpers, the state retirement system.

The board also heard an overview of changes in testing under the new Common Core State Standards. Under the plan being implemented this year, students would be assessed by computers that would test the limits of the students’ knowledge. Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed a

bill eliminating traditional STAR testing for the year so that districts could begin to incorporate the new tests.

The district plans field tests to see how the new testing would work and to help work out the bugs. Students in third through eighth grade will take the tests, along with 11th graders.

Hearst Elementary School Principal Michael Kuhfal told the board that his school has embraced the new concepts, which encourage less rote knowledge and memorization and more conceptual knowledge and strategic thinking.

“We’re all going to be taking it as a staff,” Kuhfal said.

He said a recent PTA meeting drew about 40 parents, who were given information on what the tests look like and a website where they could see tests questions for themselves. ■

STONERIDGE

Continued from Page 5

end of Livermore’s Jack London Boulevard at El Charro Road through Pleasanton to Foothill Road at the city’s west side where Stoneridge ends.

The new roadway gives Livermore residents faster access to medical care and emergencies at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton, where before those needing medical help and even ambulances had to follow a circuitous route along Stanley Boulevard or in traffic on Interstate 580.

Although it’s a direct route through the heart of Pleasanton, it won’t be non-stop. When it opens, Stoneridge will have 22 traffic signals in place, including five new ones added in just the past few weeks. Engineers will analyze traffic volumes on the road in the coming weeks to determine if the lights will be synchronized to allow a smooth flow, say at 35 mph, or if they’ll be timed like the traffic light at Ruby Hill Drive and Vineyard to control the number of cars on Stoneridge, especially during peak commute hours.

As Stoneridge was constructed east of Santa Rita, soundwalls were in-

stalled along the residential side of the street, which was built with a four-lane divided street in mind. It stopped at Staples Ranch, a 124-acre undeveloped parcel between Pleasanton and El Charro Road that was owned by the county. Years of debate followed over how to develop Staples, with environmental and traffic concerns also blocking the extension of Stoneridge.

That roadblock ended with the election of City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio in 2006, who campaigned on completing Stoneridge. Councilman and now-Mayor Jerry Thorne sided with her and the then-Mayor Jennifer Hosterman joined the two council members, enabling a majority vote to complete the Stoneridge extension.

Stoneridge from Santa Rita to El Charro is also the first street in Pleasanton to be paved with rubberized asphalt which is a noise attenuating (lessening) pavement.

“Rubberized asphalt provides unbelievable comfort in both a car’s riding performance and the noise pavement makes,” said City Manager Nelson Fialho. “It’s not only less expensive, but it lasts longer and is easier to repair.”

—Jeb Bing

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Maliha Qadir, M.D.
Sanie Zehra, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

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Nikhil M. Apte, M.D.
Vandana Boparai, M.D.
David Z. Chee, M.D.
Samata Kanagala, M.D.
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Stanley Ng, M.D.
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Betty M. Tam, M.D.
Deanna Ward, M.D.
Jerry Yen, M.D.
Kelly Wong, M.D.

OB/GYN*

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William H. Phillips, M.D.
Jennifer Salata, M.D.
Sonia Santana, M.D.
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Business News

Edited by Jeb Bing, jbing@pleasantonweekly.com

Safeway offering traditional, new High Dose flu vaccines

Company provides incentive to encourage shoppers to get shots

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. announced this week that it will offer traditional and High Dose (HD) flu vaccines at its retail stores nationwide. In addition, those who get a flu vaccine will receive a 10% off coupon to be used on an entire shopping trip.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the flu affects 5 to 20% of the U.S. population each year. Darren Singer, Safeway's senior vice president of Pharmacy, said receiving the vaccine is an important step to protect against the illness.

"We have always made the process of getting a flu vaccine affordable and convenient," Singer said. "Now, we're giving an extra incentive to protect against a very common, very infectious illness."

"We especially want to protect those most at risk," he added. "For seniors, the Fluzone HD offers a better immune response and better protection against flu."

Select Safeway locations also have the new Quadrivalent FluMist intranasal vaccine, which is suitable for healthy patients ages 5 through 49.

The CDC recommends that all people aged 6 months and older receive a flu vaccine. In addition, to avoid the risk of flu-related complications, the CDC stresses the importance of annual flu shots for people with chronic health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma, COPD, or immunosuppressive conditions.

Singer said Safeway is offering the flu shots at all Safeway Phar-

macy locations during normal business hours, seven days a week, on a walk-in basis. No appointment is required, and no prescription is necessary.

Immunizations are administered by Safeway pharmacists who collectively have given more than 5 million vaccines over the past decade, Singer said. The pharmacy has a full range of flu vaccines available, including a high dose that is targeted to ages 65 and older. Patients should consult their pharmacist to determine the best type of vaccine for them.

For more information on Tri-Valley stores offering the flu vaccine, customers can go to www.safeway.com/flu or contact their local Safeway store. ■

Adept Technology names new CFO

Seth Halio has 30 years experience in financial management

Pleasanton-based Adept Technology, Inc., a provider of intelligent robots and autonomous mobile solutions and services, has named Seth Halio as its new chief financial officer.

Halio, whose appointment was effective Oct. 3, has nearly 30 years of senior financial management experience in public accounting in both public and private venture-backed companies, including 12 years when he served as a CFO.

In his new role at Adept, Halio will be responsible for accelerating the company turnaround from a financial perspective and a key leader managing the company's global finance and IT organizations.

"We are excited to welcome Seth to the Adept team," said Rob Cain, Adept president and CEO. "After a thorough search, few candidates had the experience and track record improving the bottom and top line that Seth does. He is a

strong leader with significant industry experience within the markets that we serve and fits into our culture of results and execution well."

Prior to joining Adept, Seth held senior level finance positions including CFO at LED Engin, Inc., Novariant, Inc., Diamond Foods, Inc., and Spectra-Physics, Inc. He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. ■

Local businesses vie for Superbowl screen time

Voting open in Small Business Big Game competition

By JESSICA LIPSKY

For some, the Superbowl is as much about commercials as it is about football. This couldn't be truer for a handful of local businesses who are in the running for a spot during the Feb. 2, 2014 game.

"Every year, some of the world's biggest brands pay top dollar to feature their brand during the Big Game. Getting a commercial is highly competitive, and for good reason. The live TV audience on game day has reached upwards of 121 million viewers," the website for Small Business Big Game says.

To even the playing field, Intuit's Small Business Big Game competition will give a small business a 30-second Superbowl commercial. Intuit will cover the cost of developing and producing the commercial as well as the cost of purchasing 30 seconds' worth of advertising time during the game.

"Small businesses drive our economy, but rarely stand in the national spotlight. Small Business Big Game is one way Intuit is giving small businesses a voice and a chance to be admired as much as they deserve," Intuit stated.

Four Pleasanton businesses are in the running for screen time: Bay Home and Window, Pacific Dental Care, Tender Loving Care Massage Therapy, audiobook narrator/voiceover artist Ann M. Richardson and Elegant Brie, creators of a gourmet bake-at-home appetizer.

Two businesses from Dublin — Denica's Real Food Kitchen and rawOrigins — are also in the running. San Ramon dentist Guri S Dhaliwal and jeweler Icetime are also seeking votes.

Five Danville businesses have also entered the competition: My Friend Paris, Postal Annex, Lifestyle Chiropractic, Gr8nola and Steve Hom Insurance Services.



Small Business Big Game runs over several months and is largely based on votes. Voting is open through Saturday, Oct. 13. During the following 12 days, 8,000 Intuit employees will review 20 semi-finalists to determine the final four businesses. The contest winner will be chosen in November, with a final round of public voting commencing Nov. 11.

For more information on the competition and to vote for your favorite local business, visit www.smallbusinessbiggame.com. ■



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: P13-1858, City of Pleasanton – Selection of a Preferred Plan and Plan Options for Preparation of a Draft Specific Plan and Environmental Impact Report for East Pleasanton
- Determination of Growth Management Program Annual Unit Allocation
- Continued from October 1, 2013 - Public Hearing: Introduction of an Ordinance to amending Title 20 and relevant sections of the Pleasanton Municipal Code concerning the adoption of the 2013 Edition of the California Code of Regulations Title 24, including by reference the 2012 International Building, Fire, Property and Maintenance Codes; the 2012 Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Codes and the 2011 National Electrical Code

LED Street Light Retrofit Project

Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 6:30pm
Operation Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Please join us for a presentation to learn about the City's new LED Street Light Retrofit Project. Over the next several months 5,464 High Pressure Sodium Vapor "cobra head" street light fixtures will be replaced with new Light Emitting Diode (LED) energy efficient street fixtures within the City of Pleasanton

For more information, please contact Craig Higgins, Assistant Director of Operations at 925.931.5582, or visit www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

The City Council is currently recruiting for an At-Large member for the Pioneer Cemetery Master Plan Oversight Committee

The Pioneer Master Plan Oversight Committee is a seven (7) member ad hoc community committee who will provide ongoing dialogue and direction for the master planning process.

The Committee will work with City staff and a consultant to help direct the process. The role and expectations of the Committee members are:

- Be informed, collaborative and solution oriented
- Provide a forum for community discussion
- Provide input on draft products
- Keep commission and/or agency informed and up to date regarding Committee activity
- Provide recommendations as requested by City staff

The deadline for filing an application is Friday, November 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street. For additional information, contact Kathleen Yurchak, Assistant Director of Operations Services at (925) 931

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

Pleasanton Weekly

PUBLISHER

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Dolores Fox Ciardelli, Ext. 111

Online/Community Editor

Jessica Lipsky, Ext. 229

Reporter

Glenn Wohltmann, Ext. 121

Contributors

Jay Flachsbarth

Cathy Jetter

Jerri Pantages Long

Mike Sedlak

Nancy Lyness

Jenn Teitell

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

Rosanna Leung, Ext. 120

ADVERTISING

Multimedia Account Manager

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BUSINESS

Business Associate

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Circulation Director

Zachary Allen, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Sierra Rhodes, Ext. 124

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Major changes underway for health insurance

If you're among the thousands in Pleasanton who receive health insurance through an employer-provided plan, you'll probably receive your 2014 open enrollment materials shortly. Be sure to wade through all that information carefully. You may be delighted if you're among a select group of beneficiaries that has had difficulty paying for or qualifying for health insurance because of age or pre-existing conditions and now can obtain coverage. Or you may be shocked to find that your monthly premiums have just risen by 30%, 50% or, in the case of one Pleasanton executive, by 150%.

Health insurance has undergone major changes since the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, was rolled out. The new law eliminates annual and lifetime coverage limits and preexisting conditions exclusions. Free preventative care has been expanded and college students who once could stay on a parent's policy to the age of 24, can now be covered until they're 26, whether they're in school or not or even if they no longer live at home.

As generous as these benefits are, the sharp rise in employer and employee-covered costs shows who is paying for them. In response, many employers are altering their benefit plans. Some, including McDonald's and IBM, are simply dropping coverage for part-time workers or, in IBM's case, moving retirees to Obamacare-friendly plans that take those health care liabilities off the corporate books.

For some businesses, the numbers 50 and 29 become important. Firms with 49 or fewer employees, are off the regulatory hook for Affordable Care Act requirements, and in 2015, that number moves to 100. Firms whose part time employees work 29 or fewer hours, don't have to provide health care benefits. Firms above those two numbers do.

In looking at your 2014 open enrollment options, compare the costs and features of the different plans offered. Kaiser, for example, may not be the low-cost leader. Look for dropped or replaced medical plans. Your long-time pediatrician, internist or gynecologist may no longer be on the new list. The changed plans being offered may also have revised drug formularies. Asthma inhalers, other specialty drugs may have been dropped. Dependent care is all changed. Signing up for a family plan with two or more dependents at the same cost has now switched to counting each dependent, regardless of age, to determine your plan's cost.

Ever since the controversial Affordable Care Act law was enacted, critics have feared the worst, wrongfully labeling it as "government-run health care" or socialized medicine and jumping to many unfounded conclusions. Now that it's gradually being rolled out, parts of the act seem rather good. Much of it hasn't been implemented yet. Unfortunately, the new law is being put to the test in confusing, inadequately staffed health-care exchanges which are giving the law a bad name from the start. It may be that as employer response and individual coverage is fully understood, along with the apparent huge costs of the program, that we'll want major changes in 2014. We'll wait and see. ■



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

LETTERS

Thanks to the Pleasanton Weekly

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much to Pleasanton Weekly for the great honor as "Couple of the Year" (Cover story, Oct. 4, 2013) and the really nice article. We were overwhelmed by the recognition and have received a ton of great comments from so many in the community. And the special needs community appreciates the recognition as well.

Brock Roby

Focus on pet safety on Halloween

Dear Editor,

Halloween delights us with its sights, frights, tricks and treats, but this spooky holiday can be truly terrifying for pets. Fortunately, it is easy to create a Halloween experience that keeps all family members free from harm.

Make sure all candy is out of your pet's reach. Though it's tempting to keep the treats at hand, sugary snacks and chocolates contain ingredients that can send your four-legged friend to the emergency room. Likewise, candy wrappers can suffocate sweet-seeking pets.

Craft costumes with care. Don't leave pets unattended while they are dressed up. Beware of choking hazards, such as loose trim or tight straps around the neck, and make sure your animal companion isn't chewing its getup. Watch that pets don't get hung up in their costumes while walking or jumping onto furniture.

Minimize fright or flight. Though having a scary sidekick might enhance your home's ghoulish glamor, it's best to keep pets away from the front door to en-

sure they don't get spooked and run or worse, bite a child. Secure pets in a back room, with a low-volume radio or television running to mask noises and soothe. Make sure all pets wear collars with current ID tags so they can be easily identified (and quickly returned) if they do get out.

With just a few precautions, you and your pet will be sure to enjoy a holiday that's simply hair-raising and not horrifying. iBeast wishes for a safe Halloween from the Valley Humane Society family to yours!

Melanie Sadek

**Executive Director
Valley Humane Society**

Unfairness of Social Security

Dear Editor,

As a retired teacher with 20 years of experience, may I please offer a suggestion with regard to the WEP/GPO regulations? Please know that my teaching career did not begin until I was 40. I had worked and helped my husband through school and had two children and by the time I began teaching I had acquired enough quarters to qualify for Social Security.

What a shock I had when, upon my retirement, I discovered that I would receive only a third of my Social Security and nothing at all if my husband preceded me in death. The way the laws are now set up for Social Security of retired teachers in California and 14 other states is just plain unfair; we paid in as much as others but are not allowed to collect what we would if we had not taught at all. Please help to correct this unfair practice.

**Cathe Norman
Pleasanton**

What's your opinion?

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Community Pulse

By Glenn Wohltmann, gwohltmann@pleasantonweekly.com

POLICE BULLETIN

\$26k in copper and tools stolen from construction site

Two businesses and two homes were hit by burglars in recent days, with more than \$26,000 worth of items — largely copper — taken from one, police reports show.

Nearly \$11,000 in copper piping was stolen in a burglary at the construction site of Sunol Memory Care in the 5900 block of Sunol Boulevard between 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2 and 5:30 a.m. Oct. 3.

In all, \$10,750 in pipe was taken, along with \$6,864 in copper wire and tools worth an estimated \$8,468. The window was smashed to gain entry.

Terra Wholesale North America in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive was also hit in a commercial burglary, reported at about 9:15 a.m. on Oct. 6. Police have potential suspects in that case, which remains under investigation. Additional details were unavailable.

Nothing was taken in either of two Oct. 4 residential

burglary attempts. One occurred between 8:45 and 9:30 a.m. and a rear window of the home, in the 1300 block of Safreno Way, was pried open with a window valued at \$500 broken. In the other, the bedroom window valued at \$250 was broken at a home in the 6500 block of Arlington Drive between 10:45 and 10:51 a.m.

In other police reports:

- Tuyen Dinh Nguyen, 49, a transient, was arrested Oct. 2 at about 6:01 p.m. at Safeway in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue for identity theft and a counterfeit registration tag. Nguyen was arrested after a call about solicitors; although he was not soliciting, police watched him enter the car with the fake tag, and a search turned up a counterfeit license.

- A resident of the 2000 block of Eilene Drive reported finding five fraudulent charges on her credit card, all of which were made in southern California.

Two charges for \$300 a piece were made at Victoria's Secret, two others, also for \$300 each were made at Abercrombie & Fitch, and one charge for \$300 was made at a children's store in Brea.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Oct. 1

Theft

- 9:56 a.m. in the 2700 block of Wheatman Court
- 11:18 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue
- 1:53 p.m. in the 3800 block of Hopyard Road
- 6:30 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Graffiti

- 3:30 p.m. in the 400 block of Pine Hill Rd

Oct. 2

Theft

- 8:10 a.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; shoplifting
- 9:43 a.m. at the intersection of Rose Ave and Anderson St; bicycle theft
- 3:29 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal

Avenue; bicycle theft

Auto burglary

- 6:51 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

- 3:44 p.m. in the 1000 block of Kottinger Drive
- 4:27 p.m. in the 200 block of Kottinger Drive

Oct. 3

Sex offense

- 10:34 p.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road

Fraud

- 4:41 p.m. in the 2000 block of Eilene Drive

Commercial burglary

- 7:13 a.m. in the 5900 block of Sunol Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:59 p.m. in the 7600 block of

Stoneridge Drive; paraphernalia possession

- 11:27 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness

Oct. 4

Theft from structure

- 12:03 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Burglary

- 9:01 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 10:53 a.m. in the 6500 block of Arlington Drive

Oct. 5

Theft

- 11:01 a.m. in the 2100 block of Raven Road; bicycle theft
- 12:18 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 7:13 p.m. in the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive; fraud

Residential burglary

- 9:45 a.m. in the 1300 block of Safreno Way

Alcohol violations

- 3:07 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Deodar Way; DUI
- 10:24 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness

Oct. 6

Theft

- 2:17 p.m. in the 6900 block of Koll Center Parkway

Commercial burglary

- 9:15 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Graffiti

- 7:10 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Public drunkenness

- 1:40 a.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Division Street

Oct. 7

Theft

- 9:00 a.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue
- 10:29 a.m. in the 400 block of Tioga Ct
- 3:08 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; theft from structure

Vandalism

- 11:56 a.m. in the 5900 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

DUI

- 2:38 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

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Garbage disposals are not trash cans

Recognize their limitations before using

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When garbage disposals began to appear in home kitchens in the 1970s and '80s, many people heralded them as an easy way to get rid of stinky and sticky things.

The garbage disposal was invented by architect John W. Hammes in 1927. He started his own company, InSinkErator, and the first units were made available for sale in 1938 after 11 years of development.

New York City did not allow garbage disposal until 1997 because officials didn't want the food waste to enter their sewage systems. Disposals are used less in Europe for the same reason.

However, those who like using — or selling — garbage disposals point out that food scraps that don't go down the drain often go to the landfill.

In Pleasanton, we have the best of both worlds. Green waste and scraps are picked up and delivered to the transfer station, where they are processed and turned into compost. Plus the food particles that go down the sink are separated from the water then put into a digester that produces methane, which is mixed with natural gas that fuels big engines to make electricity that powers the plant.

Waste stream water is recycled for use on golf courses and playgrounds, said Sue Stevenson of the Dublin San Ramon Services Water District, and the first time it was done DSRSD discovered that small produce labels were clogging sprinkler heads.

"You should take those off and put them in the trash," Stevenson said, adding that she can see why people would think they were paper but plastic holds up on moist fruit better.

She also cautioned folks to keep fats, oils and grease from going down the drain where they might clog up the drain or even the sewer pipes.

"People don't realize they are responsible for the part of the sewer pipe that goes from their home to the sewer main," she said. "Garbage disposals are not trash cans."

Only small amounts of table scraps should go into the disposal at a time, and some things should go into the garbage can, never into the disposal unit (see sidebar).

The greenest way to deal with food scraps, of course, is to compost them at home and nourish your plants with the nutrient-rich results, but ah, the convenience of the garbage disposal. ■



Do NOT put in garbage disposal

- Rice and pasta. Babies eat them just fine but garbage disposals have trouble digesting them since they swell when they come in contact with water. The small bits gather in the trap and swell until it is jammed.
- Egg shells. Who knew? They do not sharpen the blades, as we heard for years. They break into teeny pieces that may end up clogging the line.
- Any type of stringy vegetable, including onion peels, asparagus, lettuce or celery. Fibers can tangle and jam the motor and block drains.
- Fat, oil and grease, which can clog the drain and the sewer pipes.
- Large animal bones (beef, pork, etc.).
- Coffee grounds, which can accumulate in drains and pipes, causing clogs.
- Glass, plastic, metal or even paper.
- Anything combustible.
- Cigarette butts.
- Don't put too many potato peels down the garbage disposal. The starches will turn into a thick paste and may cause blades to stick.
- Harsh chemicals like bleach or drain cleaners. They can damage blades and pipes.
- Feed food into the garbage disposal a little at a time with the cold water running. (Hot water can cause grease to liquefy and accumulate.)
- When grinding is complete, turn off the the garbage disposal but let the cold water run at least another 15 seconds to flush out any remaining particles.

On the cover:

Adding decorations such as towels and plants can give a home a "friendlier and happier" feel, according to Simone van der Waart van Gulik, owner of Living Classy Staging & Redesign in San Ramon.

—Courtesy of Living Classy Staging & Redesign



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"The Son that Brightens Your Day"

Stash your 'stage' fright

Decorating boosts pay off in good and bad markets

By SUSAN C. SCHENA

Business was brisk for area home stagers during the recent real estate slump as sellers relied on professionally finessed interiors to make their properties shine.

And now that the market has regained gusto, business is still booming for these niche decorators whose tricks of the trade typically translate to faster sales at higher prices.

"It has not slowed down for the last four years. Everybody is staging," said Jill Copeland, owner of M Design Staging of Pleasanton. "If the home is staged right, you can sell it in the first weekend."

"When there were more homes on the market, staging was ever so important to make your listings stand out," said Realtor Janice Habluetzel of RE/MAX Accord in Pleasanton. "In this market, you stage to get top dollar."

Habluetzel offered up a recent example: Her central-Dublin, ranch-style listing with a white interior. Too white, she said. "It was all white walls, and even a white leather couch."

Habluetzel brought in her stager, who added color splashes of putty, tangerine, reds and greens through art, pillows and accessories.

"The whole house felt different," she said. "We received 12 offers, and

it sold for more than \$60,000 over the asking price. So many people wanted the home — it felt clean, contemporary and very hip."

And 'clean, contemporary and hip' are precisely what stagers aim to present. While traditional interior designers labor to capture individual clients' styles, stagers decorate for the mass market.

"Stagers make houses appeal to other people," said Simone van der Waart van Gulik of San Ramon-based Living Classy Staging & Redesign. "We change decor and color schemes. Most houses are too neutral. We add colors, and make the houses friendlier and happier."

"People will buy a house — or not buy a house — in 15 seconds," said Realtor Shane Bohlen of Ruby Hill Sales/Better Homes and Gardens. "If it doesn't look good, they're not going to buy it. You want to make it look like a high-end hotel. You want to make it look current."

Agent Habluetzel estimates that at least half of her listings need some level of staging, a practice dating back to the 1970s. Thinning out knickknacks or rearranging owners' belongings dubbed "fluffing" in the stage trade is sometimes all that is needed, she said.

"Fluffing is fine if you have the

right stuff," she said. "But 90 percent of the homes need more than fluffing. Sometimes you have to move out the 30-year-old, outdated furniture with spots and stains." And Copeland, like most established stagers, then taps her stash of art, headboards, tables, sofas, chairs, bed linens, throws, towels and even dishes to complete the room overhauls. "You make the sellers look like hip, happening people," she added.

Stager Van der Waart van Gulik agrees: "Most people have dark or heavy furniture and or too much furniture." Lamps and artwork are often out of scale to room spaces. "Sometimes people are not very visual, so staging helps," she said. "And it helps in vacant homes. Buyers imagine themselves living there."

So who picks up the tab for these 'prop' re-dos? Typically the sellers, say industry experts, although that is sometimes negotiable between agents and clients. Major jobs, which involve substituting owners' furnishings with more modern rented decor, can add up to several thousand dollars. Expect to pay about \$6,000 to dress a 5,000-square-foot for two to three months. Basic color or "clutter" consultations can start at about



COURTESY OF M DESIGN STAGING

Staging a vacant home like this one in Pleasanton can help the property sell because potential buyers can better imagine themselves living there. Jill Copeland of M Design Staging in Pleasanton says if a home is staged correctly, it can sell in the first weekend.



See **STAGING** on Page 17



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STAGING

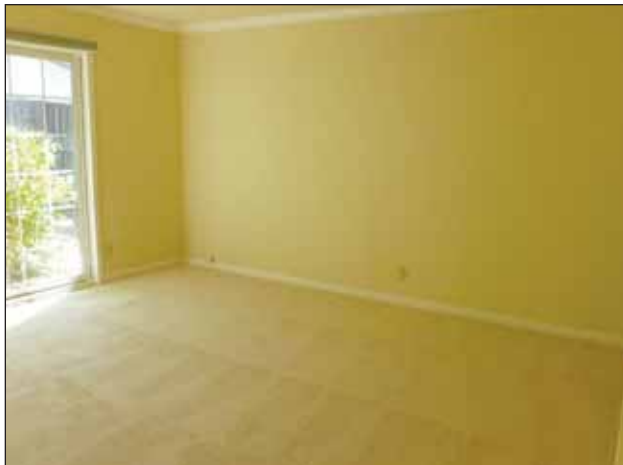
Continued from Page 16

\$150. But in Bohlen's experience, the return is 10 times the investment. Spending, say, \$2,000 to stage a property, he said, usually nets an additional \$20,000. "It's always worth it."

Realtors typically introduce stagers to clients, so those relationships are key, Copeland said. Anybody can come in and say they're a stager, she said. "You don't want someone who just moves your outdated stuff around. You want to see their most recent projects." And if homeowners need nudging to stage before hitting the market, that delicate task falls to the brokers.

"On occasion, I get resistance from the sellers and they don't want to have much done," Habluetzel said. "But that's the rare case. Staging will get positive results and it's worth the investment."

"Stagers don't sell the houses," Copeland summed, "but we make them sell."



COURTESY OF M DESIGN STAGING

Modern décor makes the home look "hip and happening," so stager Jill Copeland of M Design Staging in Pleasanton keeps a stash of art, headboards, bed linens and throws.



The 'forgotten' areas

Common household items can last longer with regular cleaning

Common household items can suffer from the wear and tear of everyday use, but a few simple cleaning tricks will help keep them in good condition and extend their lifespan, saving money and angst in the long run. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

Dryer: Make sure to empty the dryer's lint trap on a regular basis. Keeping this often forgotten area lint-free will increase the efficiency of a standard tumble dryer by allowing warm, moist air to flow freely out of the appliance as clothing dries.

Additionally, keep in mind that some brands of dryer sheets can leave an invisible film on the lint trap. To test yours, run water through it — if it holds water, it's suffering from build-up. If this is the case, scrub it with a stiff brush and soapy water every six months.

Carpet: Vacuum at least once a week to remove the dust and debris that settles in carpet fibers on a regular basis. If you have shedding pets, or family members who suffer from allergies, you may need to vacuum more frequently.

Floor care experts recommend deep cleaning carpets at least twice per year to remove the dirt, stains and allergens vacuums can leave behind.

Shower Head: If the water pressure in your shower is less than ideal, chances are your shower head is suffering from mineral deposits that inevitably accumulate over time. To promote better water flow, remove the shower head from the wall,

if possible, and soak in white vinegar for 15 to 20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly in the sink, reattach to wall and turn on the water to observe your shower head working at its best again. If you can't remove the shower head from the wall, bring the solution directly to the problem: slip a rubber band tightly over the shower head, fill a plastic bag with white vinegar and submerge the shower head until all holes are covered. Secure in place with the rubber band and soak 15 to 20 minutes before removing.

Refrigerator: Commonly overlooked, the refrigerator's condenser coils — often located in the back on older units and beneath the doors on newer models — are instrumental in allowing the appliance to cool properly. Since dust, grime and pet hair can build up on the coils, it's important to clean them twice a year to ensure your refrigerator is running as efficiently as possible. To do this, unplug the unit for safety, then locate the condenser coils. Vacuum them with the wand attachment of your vacuum, going back over any stubborn areas with a stiff brush if needed. If there's still grime left, you can use a rag and warm, soapy water, but make sure to let the coils dry completely before plugging the unit in again.

Once they're on your radar, these simple cleaning tips are easy to incorporate into your routine. With a little time and upkeep, you'll find the items you use on a daily basis are in better shape than ever before.

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DINO VOURNAS (DINO.V@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

Mayor Jerry Thorne (second from right) cuts the ribbon officially reopening the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center at a poolside dinner for community volunteers. Joining Thorne are (from left) Council members Karla Brown, Jerry Pentin, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Kathy Narum. Dolores Bengtson, for whom the swimming complex is named, is in the white blouse behind Cook-Kallio.



MIKE SEDLAK (MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM)

Michelle Stearns, Pleasanton's event administrator, manages the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center.



MIKE SEDLAK (MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM)

Renovations at Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center cost \$3.8 million and included new decking, filtration system.

Come on in, *the water's fine*

Pleasanton's popular aquatic center reopens
after renovation project

BY JEB BING

Pleasanton reopened its popular, multi-million dollar swimming complex this month with the obligatory ribbon-cutting and a poolside dinner for several hundred community volunteers.

Mayor Jerry Thorne, wearing a Navy officer's cap in keeping with the evening's theme and dress code, cut the ribbon to loud applause with the City Council and many on the city staff behind him. Also in the ceremony was Dolores Bengtson, the aquatic center's namesake and retired director of Parks and Community Services, who led the campaign to build the city's two original pools in 1968.

In a big-screen video shown at the ceremony, Bengtson jested that she's very much alive even though she frequently hears people talking about the Dolores Bengtson "Memorial" Aquatic Center.

Bengtson, who took the first swim in the newly renovated pool complex (see photo), is still a civic leader active in maintaining quality housing, parks, sports facilities and open space in Pleasanton.

Once Bengtson managed the opening of the first two pools, she began pressing for a competitive diving pool, which was added in 1976. Later Thorne, whose daughter was active on the rapidly expanding Pleasanton Seahawks swim team, persuaded the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council to fund a 50-meter Olympic size pool, which opened in 1996. That gave both the Seahawks and its 273 current swimmers and the Tri-Valley Masters, with 200 swimmers, home pool advantage to hold numerous invitational competitive meets in their California and Western states leagues.

All good things age with wear.

Deteriorating concrete decks and a need to replace and upgrade what had become an inadequate filtration system caused the City Council to approve the \$3.8-million renovation project just completed. The cost for Pleasanton was considerably offset through an agreement by the East Bay Parks District to allocate \$3,171,377 in voter-approved bond funds for the aquatic center project.

The renovation work included the relocation of the diving pool into the 25 meter pool by way of an L-shaped design, replastering of the pools, installation of access areas in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), deepening the 25-meter pool for future competitive uses, replacing the pool decking and the acquisition and installation of new plumbing, electrical, heating and filtration systems for the pools.

The entry way to the aquatic center on Black Avenue also had to be extended to house the large filtration tanks that now serve the pools.

"The Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center is one of my favorite spots in Pleasanton," Mayor Thorne told celebrants at the reopening ceremony. "This is where I spent many happy hours as a proud parent watching my daughter swim her way in Seahawks competitions

to what became a room-full of trophies and ribbons."

"Consider that in 2010, more than 2,500 children participated in learn-to-swim classes here, and another 150 signed up for classes to become lifeguards and water safety instructors," Thorne added. "That happens every year, children, and adults, too, learn how to swim here or join a swim team and learn invaluable life skills that contribute to their overall well-being."

Michelle Stearns, Pleasanton's event administrator, said the aquatic center is open every day for lap swimming, including most holidays, except Christmas day and Easter Sunday. Water exercise is offered Monday through Friday. Programs start as early as 5 a.m. and go until 9 p.m.

As Thorne pointed out, 150 American Red Cross Lifeguards and Junior Lifeguards are trained at the center. Lifeguards must be able to recognize hazardous situations to prevent injury, supervise swimmers, minimize dangers, educate facility users about safety, enforce rules and regulations, provide assistance and perform rescues.

"Being a lifeguard carries significant professional responsibility and offers opportunities for both professional and personal growth," Stearns said.

Each year, another 50 are trained to be Red Cross Water Safety Instructors. Their job is to teach people to be safe in, on, and around water through water safety courses, and to conduct water-orientation classes for infants and toddlers, as well as handling the comprehensive Learn-to-Swim program.

In addition to the Pleasanton Seahawks and Tri-Valley Masters, the aquatic center also is the home of the DBAC Piranhas, a 173-member summer recreational swim team for those 4 to 18 years old.

Stearns said that more than 35,000 go to the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center each year for recreational and lap swimming and to attend water exercise classes. ■



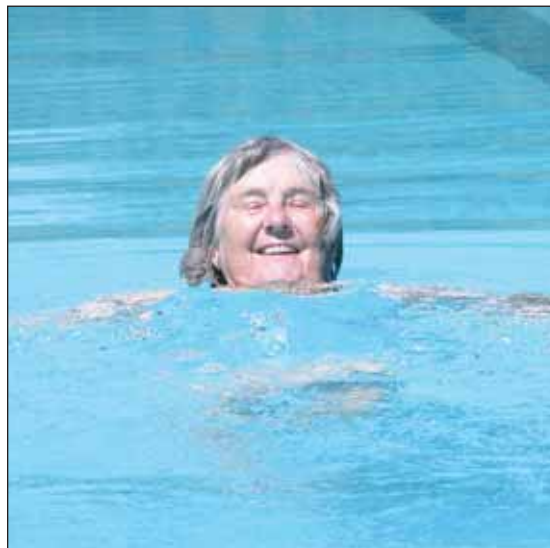
MIKE SEDLAK (MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM)

Swimming pool engineer Steve Blenio checks filtration tanks used to keep water properly treated.



MIKE SEDLAK (MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM)

Steve Blenio tests water samples regularly.



Dolores Bengtson, the aquatic center's namesake and retired director of Parks and Community Services, who led the campaign to build the city's two original pools in 1968, takes a first dip in one of the newly renovated pools.



MIKE SEDLAK (MIKE@DIGITALSIGHT.COM)

Pleasanton Seahawks swim team practices in newly renovated pools at Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center where it holds championship Western states meets, including one set for Oct. 19-20.

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SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 2013
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| Fire Extinguisher Training | Raffle & Prizes |

Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

to raise money for local charities and the Fallen Firefighters Foundation.
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For more information visit www.lpfire.org
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Local gymnasts place in Pleasanton meet

By JESSICA LIPSKY

All three levels of athletes finished well at Pleasanton's West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy at their host meet on Oct. 5. The level three team finished third, level four placed second and level five took first place. Level 3 individual results:

(Younger) Anne Sophie Laliberte placed fifth on vault and floor. Ainsley Wade placed fourth on vault, tied for third on uneven bars, placed second on balance beam and floor, and tied for third in all around. Keira Howard placed fourth on vault, first on balance beam, first on floor, third on uneven bars, and first in all around.

(Middle A) Nitika Chand tied for second on floor, fifth on uneven bars, fourth on balance beam, second on vault and third in all around.

Middle B) Isabel McGaughy placed first on vault, sixth on uneven bars, sixth on floor, tied for first on beam and placed third in all around. Mia Reeve placed fourth on uneven bars, fourth on beam, fifth on floor and fourth in all around. Aria Spaulding tied for fifth on vault, took first



(Left) Gymnasts from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy, Level 4 team pose in a second place team award. (Right) Level 5 gymnasts in the first place team award.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

on uneven bars, second on floor, third on balance beam and second all around.

(Older) Zoe White placed fifth on vault, tied for fourth place on beam and took fifth place in all around competition.

Among the Level 4 participants, younger athlete McKenzie Meyn placed third on floor routine, second on vault and took seventh place in all around. Middle participants Naomi Evans tied for sixth on vault while Amelia Liao tied for second on vault, placed

sixth on floor and seventh in all around. Older group's Amanda Kim placed third on vault, tied for second on bars, placed sixth on beam and came in sixth for all around.

Younger Level 5 participants also did well. Lauren Swenson-Lennox took first place on all around, vault, uneven bars and balance beam, and tied for fourth on floor. Megan Brennan placed second on uneven bars, second on floor routine and third in all around. Lydia Muentz placed third on uneven bars,

second on balance beam and all around, third on floor, fifth on vault. Kamryn O'Reilly tied for fourth on uneven bars, took first on floor and fourth in all around. Allison Reilly tied for fourth place on floor.

Older group participant Audrey Ong placed first on uneven bars, balance beam, floor and all around.

West Coast Beach Blast, the academy's annual invitational meet is held in Pleasanton. ■

Rage beats Benicia Arsenal in first league win

The under-13 Rage White earned its first league win in a 2-0 game against the Benicia Arsenal at the Pleasanton Sports Park on Oct. 5.

In the first half, Rage offensive players Ashley Lopez, Brooke Delaney, Lucia Castenada and Isabella Clark took multiple shots on goal. Arsenal responded with strong shots of its own, stopped by Rage's first-half goalie, Cierra Lofthouse-Wolf. Minutes before the half, the Rage offensive unit took five shots, including two which were off corners, but all were denied by the Arsenal defense.

The second half started off with ball movement up and down the field by Rage mid-fielders Allison DeFazio and Lauren Londono. In the 57th minute, Rage defender Ariyana Walling kicked a long ball to Clark, who sprinted past the Arsenal defensive line to face its keeper, one-on-one. Clark's shot was straight and low, scoring the game's first goal.

This fired up the Arsenal offense, who looked to convert a corner into a goal in the 59th minute. These efforts were anticipated and denied by Rage's Walling and her defensive teammates, Sarah McKeever, Emma Monsen, Julianna Pereira and second-half goalkeeper Delaney.

Rage mid-fielders Jessica Stubbs and Hunter Faria couriered the ball back into Arsenal territory, where it remained for much of the second half. A solid kick to the upper corner by Rage forward Gabby Smith in the 67th minute gave Rage its second goal for a final score, 2-0. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARGARET PEREIRA
Defender Ariyana Walling dribbles the ball past two Arsenal players in a 2-0 Rage U-13 White win.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENA DOWNUM
Terrence Yu of team Deportivo fighting for the ball in an Oct. 5 game against RCD Malorca. The under-9 team also had great performances by Joshua Young, who made a fantastic header towards goal, and Ethan Jackson, who scored with a power house kick from the 18 yard line.

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

Author Visits

MARGARET ZHAO AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY Meet Margaret Zhao, author of "Really Enough, A True Story of Tyranny, Courage and Comedy," at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Pleasanton Library. Learn of her struggle for survival as an Enemy of the State under Chairman Mao, and her cultural clash with the "American Dream." Call 931-3405.

Classes

MICROSOFT EXCEL CLASSES AT THE LIBRARY Microsoft Excel is one of the main skills needed for job advancement. The Pleasanton Library will have Excel classes. Sign

up for one or two sessions, both from 6-7 p.m. Beginners Excel will be on Wednesday, Oct. 21, and Intermediate Excel will be on Thursday, Oct. 31. Call 931-3400 ext. 4.

MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP CLASS Join for a free introductory class in musical theater from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 14 at the Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Dublin. The full workshop runs 10 weeks. Contact 413-8161 or TVYPA@TriValleyYPA.org. Go to www.TriValleyYPA.org.

Clubs

1776-ERA KIDS MARCHING BAND YAPs The Young American Patriots Fife and Drum Corps, a 1776-era band, meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Friday for rehearsal. Kids learn instrumental music, fife and drum with a Berkeley-trained drum instructor and 3-time US National Champion fife instructor. Free to try, \$7 per hour after. Contact Jason Giaimo at 484-0265 or yaps1776@aol.com. Go to www.YoungAmericanPatriots.com.

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS The Amador Valley Quilters monthly meeting is open to all interested in the culture, history and artistry of quilting. Guest speaker Cathie Hoover is noted for her humorous, colorful quilts and wearable art pieces. From 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Go to www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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

DBE (DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE) Welcome to ladies of British or British Commonwealth Heritage. DBE holds monthly meetings at 11 a.m. on the third Thursday at Castlewood Country Club. Members focus on philanthropy, enjoy social interaction and form long-lasting friendships while contributing to local charities and supporting retirement homes in the USA. Call Edith at 998-3500.

CONGRESSMAN SWALWELL AT TRI-VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB The Tri-Valley Democratic Club will host Congressman Eric Swalwell CD 15. He will tell the club why he should be endorsed in the Democratic Party Pre-Primary endorsement process from 7-9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 21 at IBEW 595, 6250 Village Plkwy., Dublin. Call 451-4303 or go to <http://trivalleydems.com/Calendar.htm>.

UKULELE CIRCLE Come play ukulele with others and bring friends, noon-1 p.m., the second and last Saturday of the month, at Galina's Music Studio, 2222 Second St., Suite 2, Livermore. All ages and skill levels welcome. Please bring in some music to share with the group. Cost is \$5. Call 960-1194.

Concerts

ALEXANDER GHINDIN ON PIANO Del Valle Fine Arts presents Russian pianist Alexander Ghindin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Program includes works by Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Brahms, Vivaldi and Bach. Cost is \$23-\$35. Call 373-6800 or go to <http://www.bankheadtheater.org>.

JONATHAN BATISTE AND THE STAY HUMAN BAND With his unique voice, musical virtuosity, uplifting spirit and high energy style, Batiste transcends musical genres to share the joy of jazz at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the Bankhead

Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$15-\$45. Call 373-6800 or go to <http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org>.

Events

'THE SOUND OF MUSIC' SING-ALONG Livermore Cultural Arts Council presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound Of Music," a sing-along at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Vine Theatre in Livermore. Everyone can sing along to each musical number in this beautiful movie. Cost is \$10. Contact n.mulligan@comcast.net.

BALLISTIC UNITED HALL OF FAME DINNER AND DANCE Enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing as the Ballistic United Soccer Club community celebrates its newest members to the Hall of Fame, Jay Clifton and Erik Lemoine. From 6-11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$50. Proceeds benefit the Field and Scholarship Funds. Call 426-6313 or go to busc.org/HOF.

BRING IN THE FALL AT GNON! Come for the fun of meeting and chatting with other women at Girls Night Out Networking, from 5-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17 at Barons Jewelers, 4870 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. RSVP to <http://gnontrivalley.com/rsvp.html> by Oct. 15. Call 487-4748.

FIRE SAFETY EXPO Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will host a free Fire Safety Expo from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Fire Training Tower, 3301 Busch Road. There will be a pancake breakfast, giveaways, demonstrations and more. Call 454-2361 or go to www.lpfire.org.

GHOST WALK Meet the ghosts of Pleasanton's past. Let the spirits guide you on this haunted tour, from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25

at Museum on Main. Costumes encouraged! Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for 12 and under. Contact 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

HALLOWEEN FUN NIGHT Come in costume for this annual trick-or-treat evening! This free event features the Haunted Hallway of Horror, games and activities for kids and adults, and yummy treats for all. From 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25 at Pleasanton Tennis and Community Park, 5801 Valley Ave. Call 931-3449.

HARVEST CELEBRATION Celebrate the harvest season for fun, games, prizes, face painting, puppet shows, music and more! The celebration will be on Friday, Oct. 25 at 3200 Hopyard Road. Event is free, food available for purchase. Contact Valerie Fleming at 484-2482 or valerie@harvestvalley.org.

PLEASANTON GEM FAIRE Over 60 exhibitors from all over the world will be on site for the Pleasanton Gem Faire, from noon-6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$7 for a weekend pass. Contact 503-252-8300 or info@gemfaire.com. Go to www.gemfaire.com.

Exhibits

12TH ANNUAL ARTWALK LIVERMORE Over 150 artists will be in this festival where the streets stay open for a day of art, music, wine and shopping. From 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 in downtown Livermore. Contact 447-2787 or info@bothwellartscenter.org. Go to <http://artwalklivermore.com>.

COURAGE UNDER FIRE Come to Museum on Main's Courage Under Fire, Fighting Fire in Pleasanton since 1880. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., now through Oct. 13, at 603 Main St. Contact the



GARY HARRINGTON

Public art walk tomorrow

Public art contributors Nancy and Gary Harrington will lead a free public art walk of the south end of downtown Pleasanton starting at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow. The walking tour will start at the Pleasanton Civic Center parking lot, 200 Old Bernal Ave., and proceed through the public library plaza, Civic Park, Centennial Park and into downtown Pleasanton south of Neal Street. Free art walk brochures will be given. Along the way, the walking group will view some 15 public art pieces, including three new works, and hear fascinating, sometimes funny stories about them. The Harringtons also will discuss the history of their Harrington Art Partnership and how the public, businesses, and organizations can assist in bringing more public art to Pleasanton. For more information, call (925) 846-9757.

The proverbial unsung hero: We all know one or two



The Pleasanton Weekly will honor eight groups or individuals this holiday season who have been selected as 2013 Tri-Valley Heroes.

The award recipients are "unsung heroes," the ones who keep doing what they do to make our community and lives better, but very rarely get the recognition they so richly deserve. Two Heroes will be profiled each week for four weeks, Nov. 22 to Dec. 13.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- ▲ Arts and Culture
- ▲ Community Spirit
- ▲ Courage
- ▲ Environmental Stewardship
- ▲ Innovation
- ▲ Rising Star
- ▲ Role Model
- ▲ Lifetime Achievement

We are still seeking sponsors for the program and for the individual awards.

Please contact Gina Channell-Allen at gallen@PleasantonWeekly.com or 925-600-0840 for information.

Thank you to Tri-Valley Heroes sponsors



Museum at 462-2761 or curator@museumonmain.org.

OPENING RECEPTION FOR PERSPECTIVES: LIFE IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM This exhibit is a compelling look at life in Cambodia and Vietnam through the eyes of 11 Athenian High School students. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the trip from the students themselves during the opening reception, from 5-8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11 at the Village Theatre Art Gallery in Danville. The exhibit runs through Nov. 8. Call 314-3400.

Film

'GASLAND 2' "Gasland 2" is the explosive, dark humored Josh Fox sequel to his "Gasland" film. An optional meet and greet potluck starts at 6:30 p.m., with the film following at 7 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 12 at IBEW Hall, 5250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Free, \$3 donation suggested. Contact 462-3459 or flickknight@gmail.com.

Fundraisers

BOO!...BIE SCARE Come to a Halloween dinner to scare Breast Cancer away at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18 at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. All proceeds will go to Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call 819-6263 or 640-1558.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND CRAFT FAIR A Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair will be held from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. on the outdoor lunch quad. Hart instrumental music groups will perform. Cost is \$7. Contact hartpancakefeed@gmail.com.

PAWS IN NEED HALLOWEEN PHOTO SHOOT Bring your pet in costume or bring your children in their Halloween costumes for face painting and photography, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Milfleur, 200 Ray St. Photographs are \$15 each, face painting is \$4 per child. Benefits

local animal nonprofit medical fund. Contact csmead@me.com or go to Paws-In-Need.org.

Health

BE PROACTIVE WITH YOUR HEALTH Seize this opportunity to be proactive in detecting breast cancer by having a breast-testing option called Total Thermal Imaging. From 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 11 and 9 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 12 at Lifetime Wellness Holistic Health Center, 4125 Mohr Ave. Call 484-3955 for an appointment. Pleasanton.

BLOOD SUGAR REGULATION WORKSHOP Dr. Brian E. Thomason, Chiropractor, Nutritionist, and Neurologist will give a life-changing workshop on the causes of blood sugar imbalance, including type II diabetes, and how to regain control over your health. From 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17 at New Leaf Market, 3550 Bernal Ave. Preregister at www.newleafpleasanton.eventbrite.com or call 621-7660 ext. 120.

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

Kids & Teens

2013 POKÉMON AUTUMN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG) and video game players, and fans from around the Northwest are invited the 2013 Pokémon Autumn Regional Championships, at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12-13 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Contact events@secondcitygym.com or www.pokemon.com/play.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY BOOK DRIVE Assistance League of Amador Valley will hold a children's book drive in support of Oct. 26, Make a Difference Day. Books for K-5 will be collected now through Oct. 26. Go to www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org. or www.handson-network.org/MakeADifferenceDay for details.

Miscellaneous

LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday of each month to give free 15 to 20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30-5:45 p.m.; names will be selected at 5:50 p.m. and people must be present when names are drawn. Appointments begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

DISCOVER GENEALOGY AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY Have you wanted to discover your heritage but don't know where to start? Volunteer docents from the

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will assist you in beginning your research from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12 and Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Library. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

FREE JOB SEARCH COUNSELING The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers free, 20-minute consultations with an employment recruiter. To make an appointment, call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7.

VETERANS FOR PEACE The new East Bay Chapter, No. 162, of Veterans for Peace meets at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at 6501 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. All veterans are welcome. To learn more about the monthly meetings, call Fred at 462-7495.

On Stage

'SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE! JR.' The Emmy Award winning cartoon series is brought to life in one of the most fun and energetic musicals ever to hit the stage! "School House Rock Live! Jr." runs at 7 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from Oct. 11-20 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Cost is \$6-\$18. Contact 956-3956 or Civicarts@bactheatre.org. Go to www.bactheatre.org.

Seniors

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



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Real Estate Home & garden

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
PLEASANTON WEEKLY • FALL 2013

BEING *appealing*

Local Realtors share tips for making a home's exterior attractive all year

The Tri-Valley is such a beautiful area, particularly during the spring and summer months when the trees are full of green leaves and the flowers are in bloom. But “curb appeal,” the attractiveness of the exterior of a property, can be challenging in the gray, rainy days of fall and winter in Northern California. A few local Realtors have weighed in on how to spruce up the exterior of a home to make it attractive during any season.

Julia Murtagh with Alain Pinel Realtors in Pleasanton said:

- Try fresh paint, new hardware and fresh weather stripping on the front door. We all know that first impressions can make or break a deal, and nothing is more true with a front door. This is such an easy way to make a good impression on potential buyers. And don't forget the doormat. What an easy way to say “Hello” and “Welcome to our home!”
- Spread new mulch and plant flowers. Spreading new mulch in your yard is one of the easiest ways to add some pop. It offers such a fresh, clean look to a yard, for very little costs. My favorite is the

black “Mini-bark,” but don't mix and match. If you already have one style, stick with that and spread generously. Then pop in some bright-colored annuals in the front yard to finish up.

- Check the lighting. Change out those old light fixtures covered in cobwebs. Pick up a few new light fixtures for the front of the home (make sure they all match) and put fresh, clean, bright light bulbs in these. During our winter months, many buyers are looking at homes in the late afternoon when it is dark, so lighting is extra important.

Gina Piper, from Better Homes and Gardens Tri-Valley Realty in Pleasanton, gives this advice:

- Put down new bark in the planting areas. “Re-barking” makes a tremendous difference to the look of the whole front yard.
- Repaint or re-stain the front door. This always spruces up the front of the house and makes it look fresh.
- Trim the hedges and keep the landscape clean, sharp and short.
- Power wash the house and driveway.

Phyllis Weiner and Peter McDowell, J. Rockcliff Realtors in Pleasanton, have these tips:

- Plant flowers to add color. This is a great time to plant fall and winter flowers that will add great color to your home. Cyclamen, both red and white are available, and look gorgeous during the holidays! Other good choices are snapdragons, pansies and winter jasmine. When we have a home coming on the market, our advice usually includes flowers and putting black bark around planting areas.
- Spruce up the front door. Painting the front door will to make a great first impression.
- Change filters and smoke detector batteries, and clean the gutters. ■

ABOUT THE COVER

Trimming hedges, power washing the house and driveway and planting bright flowers are a few ways sellers can boost “curb appeal” regardless of the season. (Photo of 1124 Donahue Dr., Pleasanton, courtesy of the Moxley Real Estate Team of Alain Pinel Realtors.)



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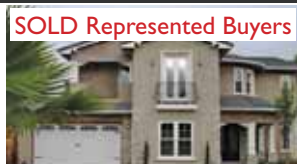


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3736 Selvante Street, Ruby Hill
4 bedrooms - 5 full and 1 half bath - 7,693 sq. ft. on 21,208 sq. ft. lot - Built in 2005
Offered for \$3,100,000

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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

848 Old Oak Road, Livermore
Simply stunning! 4 bdrm, 3 bath home with a bonus room which could also be a fabulous in law set up. Nestled in South Livermore on a 13,000+ sq ft lot. Gourmet slate kitchen with hickory plank floors. **\$1,125,000**



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— Janice & Ryan Spuller





6BD, 6BA 5,096 sf. on a 15,159sf. lot. High end upgrades throughout including hardwood floors, custom woodworking and built in cabinetry. Open floor plan w/ bedroom and full bath on main level. Back yard offers covered patio, outdoor BBQ/kitchen and pool w/ spa. Large open grass area and 3-car garage. **SOLD FOR \$1,800,000**



5BD plus bonus room, 4.5BA 3,805sf. and a bedroom plus full bath on main level. Chef's kitchen w/ granite, SS appliances, double oven and breakfast nook. Hardwood flooring throughout and built in cabinetry. Huge yard with patios, spa and private setting. Represented buyers. **SOLD FOR \$1,400,000**



Located in Stoneridge Park Estates. 5BD, 3BA 2,913sf. on a 5,612sf. lot. Bedroom and full bath on main level. Open kitchen design with island and granite counters. Large upstairs bonus/media room. Court location with pool, patio and a private setting. **OFFERED AT \$1,200,000**



4BD + loft, 3.5BA 2,922sf. on a 5,500sf. lot. Bedroom & full bath on main level, 3 car garage. Large kitchen with breakfast nook, island and workstation overlooking great room with surround sound and custom cabinetry. Master with retreat, separate vanity, walk-in closet. Private backyard with large patio, arbor & BBQ area. **OFFERED AT \$1,130,000**



5BD, 3BA 2,253sf. on a 7,346sf. lot. One of a kind custom home with incredible views of Pleasanton. Open beam/cathedral ceiling with a modern open floor plan. Offering an optional in-law unit with large covered patio for all weather use. Located a few blocks from schools, McKinley Park and Downtown. Represented buyers. **SOLD FOR \$840,000**



Single story 3BD, 2BA with 1,722sf., with a formal dining room, vaulted ceilings, spacious bedrooms and a gated side yard access on a 8,204sf. lot. Located in the heart of Pleasanton in the Birdland neighborhood. **SOLD FOR \$800,000**



5BD, 2BA, 1,997sf. on an 8,366 sf lot. Updated throughout with an open floor plan, indoor laundry, vaulted ceiling, newer appliances, roof and HVAC. Corner lot with 2 side yards, pool, spa and a private setting. **OFFERED AT \$795,000**



Single story home has it all. 5BD 2,300sf. of living space offering a spacious and open floor plan with vaulted ceiling, wood floors, pool/spa nestled in a private yard, side yard access and a 8,164sf. corner lot. Located close to schools and shopping. **SOLD FOR \$750,000**



2BD, 2.5BA condo with 1,401sf. with 9' ceilings, attached garage and indoor laundry room. Upstairs offers a large open kitchen with granite counters, gas cooking range, recessed and pendant lighting. Located close to 580/680, BART & shopping. Low HOA fee. **SOLD FOR \$469,000**



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818 Kalthoff Common, Livermore



Close in location across from Ruby Hill Country Club. 20 acre vineyard with custom 4,000 sqft single story 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bath, formal dining, large gourmet kitchen with all amenities & 4-car garage. Lovely pool, grape arbor covered bocce ball court. Mount Diablo views. \$25k to \$55k net income from grape harvest. No utility bills, no water bills.



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CA BRE# 00315981 / 458199

Six steps to a beautiful landscape next season

Don't let a busy schedule stop you from creating a beautiful landscape. Incorporate a few of these changes in your fall landscape care. You'll create beautiful results with a limited investment of time and effort.

Cut the grass, recycle fall leaves, and improve the soil with a pass of the lawn mower. Shred leaves and leave them on the lawn as you mow this fall. As long as you can see the grass through the leaf pieces, the lawn will be fine. As the leaves break down they add organic matter to the soil, improving drainage in clay soil and water holding ability in sandy soils.

Or, as an alternative, use excess leaves as a soil mulch. Shred the leaves with your mower and spread a layer over the soil to conserve moisture and insulate the roots of perennials. Fall mulching gives you a jump on next spring's landscape chores.

Improve your lawn's health by fertilizing this fall with a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer. You'll reduce the risk of disease problems and with slower weed growth in fall, your lawn, not the weeds, will benefit from the nutrients. Fall fertilization also helps lawns recover from the stresses of summer by encouraging deep roots and denser growth that can better compete with weeds and tolerate disease and insects. Gardeners can follow the holiday schedule and fertilize Labor Day and Halloween.

Do a bit of planting. Cool season annuals brighten up the garden in fall and winter. Consider adding cold hardy pansies. They provide color in the fall garden, survive most winters, and are back blooming in the spring. Fall is also a good time to plant perennials, trees and

shrubs. The soil is warm and the air cooler, so the plants are less stressed and establish more quickly. Select plants suited to the growing conditions and be sure to give them plenty of room to reach their mature size.

Plant daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs in fall for extra color next spring. Set the bulbs at a depth of two to three times their height deep. Then cover them with soil and sprinkle on a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer. This type of fertilizer promotes rooting without stimulating fall growth subject to winter kill.

Base your bulb planting time on the weather not the calendar. Start planting after the night-time temperatures hover between 40 and 50 degrees. Be patient, waiting until the soil cools reduces the risk of early sprouting that often occurs during a warm fall.

Leave healthy perennials stand for winter. This increases hardiness and adds beauty to the winter landscape with their seed heads, dried foliage and the birds they attract. Plus, it will delay cleanup until spring when gardeners are anxious to get outdoors and start gardening. However, be sure to remove any diseased or insect-infested plants to reduce the source of pest problems in next year's garden.

Start composting or add shredded leaves and other plant debris to an existing compost pile. Combine fall leaves with other plant waste, a bit of soil or compost, and sprinkle with fertilizer to create compost. Recycling yard waste saves time bagging, hauling and

See **LANDSCAPE** on Page **28**



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Open Sun 1-5

858 Castlewood Place, Pleasanton

Now Available

Castlewoods CCs Street of Dreams Finest. Don't miss a chance to see this magnificent dream home on Oak Studded 1 acre parcel with water falls, Ponds, out door entertainment area. Panoramic Views from all windows, large deck overlooks 18th Green CC and Valley beyond. Priced for immediate sale.

5 Bed 4.5 Bath +/-6,000 square feet

\$2,395,000



Open Sat/Sun 1-5

4115 Tessa Place, Pleasanton

Now Available

Location, Location, Location, Walk to down town Pleasanton. Just under 1800 Sq. Ft. of Luxury Living. 9 Ft. Ceilings throughout. Large M Bedroom, Double sinks in bthrm, stall shower + tub, spacious kitchen, Breakfast Bar, Dining area with access to low maintenance yard loaded with pavers.

3 Bed 2.5 Bath +/-1,789 square feet

\$719,000



938 Sycamore Creek, Pleasanton

Now Available

Designer home has it all. SS Appliances, Sub Zero, Large Kitchen. Island Bar, Granite Tops/splash, Eat in Kitchen Formal Dining. Butler Pantry, Marble/Hardwd Flrs, carpets, Crown Molding, Surround Sound. Lg Spa spills into 25 yard Solar Pool w. water falls, Paver Decking, Lawn area. Seperate Gym/Game Rm.

6 Bed 5 Bath +/-4,455 square feet

\$1,795,000



Livermore Estate and Vineyard

Close in Location across from Ruby Hills Country Club. 20 Acre Vineyard with custom 4,000 Sq Ft single story 4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bath, Formal Dining, large Gourmet Kitchen with all amenities & 4-car garage. Lovely pool, Grape Arbor covered Bocce Ball Court. Mount Diablo views. \$25K to \$55K net income from grape harvest. No Utility Bills, No Water Bills.

Show by Appointment Only.

4 Bed 4 Bath +/-4,000 square feet +/- 20.36 Acres

First Time Offered

\$2,885,800



7402 Foothill Road, Pleasanton

Now Available

Zoning allows up to 4 half acre Lots. Show by Appointment Only.

+/-2,300 square feet +/-2.21 Acres

Listed At \$1,750,000

Open Sunday 1 - 4



1532 Whispering Oaks Way, Pleasanton

First time on the market, this home was featured on HGTV, decorated by David Bronstad on Color Splash. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus office and loft, approx 2988 sqft, open and bright floor plan, shutters throughout, nice backyard with custom fireplace, simply gorgeous!
Offered at \$1,125,000



2365 Foothill Rd Unit 3

Laguna Vista townhome, Nicely updated 2 bedroom town home with new carpet and new paint, Gas range, updated bath. Pool and Play area, Great for investors! Excellent location!
Offered at \$299,950

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Gina Piper

6832 Corte Sonada - Pleasanton - \$ 700,000
Newer windows. This is a great home in need of a remodel. Price is reflective of need for remodel & tenant remaining in possession for duration of lease (Nov. 2014). Awesome neighborhood, large backyard, court location, great schools & easy access for commuters. Walk or bike to downtown or to shopping.



Linda Slagle

152 Eastridge Dr. - San Ramon - \$ 370,000
Gorgeous upgraded upstairs unit in desirable gated Crestview at Canyon Lakes! Great location, excellent HOA amenities, San Ramon schools! Vaulted ceilings, crown molding, granite counters, SS appliances, stone tile, new carpet, fp, patio w/storage & tree views, in-unit laundry, covered parking!



Kelly Franco

4337 Krause St. - Pleasanton - \$ 724,950
METICULOUSLY maintained & shows like a MODEL!! Charming family home near parks & top rated MOHR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Home boasts 4 Bedrooms, 2-1/2 Baths, soaring ceilings, cozy fireplace, formal dining, granite kitchen counters, newer appliances & finished garage. Great location w/ no rear neighbors.



Jennifer Branchini

3263 Vineyard Ave. - Pleasanton - \$ 225,000
Welcome home! So many wonderful features about this home that you will love! Open floor plan w/ loads of windows, high ceilings & room for nice gatherings. 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 full baths. Master bathroom features spacious walk in shower and separate soaking tub. Extra deep carport w/storage shed.



Linda Newton

4043 Rennellwood Wy. - Pleasanton - \$ 535,000
Great maintained 3 bedroom home in a wonderful neighborhood! Hardwood floors in kitchen & dining room combo. Granite kitchen counters with new large deep sink. New carpet in bedrooms & living room. New neutral interior paint. Master suite with bathroom & walk-in closet. Great home and move in ready!



Open Sun 1-4

Carol Beck

995 Scenic Place - Pleasant Hill - \$ 479,900
This floor plan is seldom available. This end unit has a private backyard with lawn and planting areas. bright and light inside with formal dining and eat-in kitchen with bay window. White cabinets, stainless appliances. Neutral decor with lots of storage.



Open Sat & Sun 1-4

Sandy Parkins

1284 Via Lucas - San Lorenzo - \$ 412,000
This lovely home features a large family room & full bath added with permits. The updated kitchen features granite counter tops, & opens to the spacious family room. It is the perfect family home with two updated baths, a large back yard & an attached 2 car garage.

Agents: Looking for a dynamic environment in a brand new gorgeous office setting? Call to schedule an appointment with me.

Earl Rozran
Pleasanton Branch Manager
925-463-6158
Earl.Rozran@bhghome.com



OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Alamo

3 BEDROOMS
2455 Roundhill Drive \$1,250,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

4 BEDROOMS
23 Ranger Court \$1,698,500
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Danville

3 BEDROOMS
40 Summer Hill Court \$750,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Dublin

2 BEDROOMS
5501 Demarcus Blvd. #431 \$499,955
 Sat 12:30-2:30 Richard Lee 519-1815

5 BEDROOMS
7831 Bloomfield Terrace \$1,299,000
 Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS
4142 Florida Court \$474,900
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

3954 Fordham Way \$495,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

4 BEDROOMS
848 Old Oak Road \$1,125,000
 Sun 2-4 Dave and Sue Flashberger 463-0436

Mountain House

4 BEDROOMS
428 Steven St. \$402,000
 Sun 1-4 Cindy Engel 580-5107

155 East Heritage Drive \$470,000
 Sun 12-3 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS
4349 Second St. \$789,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Mike Carey 963-0569

3 BEDROOMS
6399 Alford Way \$699,999
 Sat/Sun 1:30-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 314-1111

3511 Touriga Drive \$669,950
 Sun 1-4 Jim Lavey 846-3755

4115 Tessa Place \$719,000
 Sat/Sun 1-5 Steve and Lorraine Mattos 980-8844

4 BEDROOMS
5214 Zaro Court \$783,500
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2027 Greenwood Road \$859,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 462-7653

2818 Tudor Court \$1,600,000
 Sun 1-4 Doug Buenz 463-2000

1002 Zinfandel Court \$1,399,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Louise Davis 200-2457

2303 Sandpiper Way \$780,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Emily Barraclough 621-4097

4920 Treewood Court \$869,000
 Sat 12-3/Sun 1-4 Julia Murtagh 997-2411

1532 Whispering Oak Way \$1,125,000
 Sun 1-4 Delores Gragg 989-6500

5 BEDROOMS
858 Castlewood Place \$2,395,000
 Sun 1-5 Steve and Lorraine Mattos 980-8844

San Lorenzo

3 BEDROOMS
1284 Via Lucas \$412,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Sandy Parkins 218-1244

Sunol

3 BEDROOMS
11797 Foothill Road \$719,000
 Sat 1-4 Jim Lavey 846-3755

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

5004 HILLCREST WAY, PLEASANTON, \$865,000



This gorgeous 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home has been tastefully remodeled and sits on a large corner lot in a quiet neighborhood. The resort-like backyard features an outdoor kitchen, large covered patio, 2 fire pits and a sport court. It is truly an entertainer's dream home!
Listed by Gina Piper at Better Homes and Gardens Tri-Valley Realty (925) 200-0202

LANDSCAPE

Continued from Page 26

disposing of green debris. You also reduce or eliminate the need to buy soil amendments to improve your existing garden soil.

Incorporate one or all six of these practices to increase the health and beauty of your landscape now and for years to come.

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including "Can't Miss Small Space Gardening."



Are you buying or selling a home?

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com and click on the **Real Estate** link for sales information, current listings and virtual tours.

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reviews of
Julia on



JUST LISTED

4920 Treewood Ct

Highland Oaks

Stunning 4 bed and 2.5 bath has been remodeled from top to bottom. The home has wide plank flooring, gorgeous kitchen, with a great room. The home has 4 bedrooms upstairs, with a den or office downstairs. Situated at the end of a court, walking distance to schools. Offered at \$869,000

OPEN SAT 12-3
AND SUN 1-4



COMING SOON

Pleasanton Hills

This Harrington model has 4 beds and 3 full baths, 3180 sq. ft. with vaulted ceilings and great natural light. There is a full bedroom downstairs, with a full bathroom.

Enjoy a great back yard, with a pool and spa and view of the Pleasanton Ridge. Call Julia for more information.



RECENTLY SOLD

SOLD OVER ASKING
W/ MULTIPLE OFFERS



4457 Arbutus Ct, Pleasanton

Great home on the west side, close to schools. 4 beds, 2.5 baths, 2267 sq. ft. on a court. Sold 11K over asking price. **SOLD FOR \$860,000**

MULTIPLE OFFERS



7988 Applewood Ct, Pleasanton

This must see family home is 2243 sq. ft., with 4 beds, 2.5 baths on just under .5 acre. Court location, walk to schools. **SOLD FOR \$865,000**

SOLD OVER ASKING
PRICE IN 5 DAYS



2761 Sanderling Wy, Pleasanton

Birdland home with 5 beds, 3.5 baths with a full downstairs suite. Features a beautiful pool and large backyard. **SOLD FOR \$1,072,000**

Providing leadership, knowledge and support every step of the way



RECENT SELLER REVIEW

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, 2013

Watch video reviews from happy buyers and sellers at juliamurtagh.com

Just Listed & Sold by Emily Barraclough

Just Listed! Open Sat & Sun 1-4



2303 Sandpiper Way, Pleasanton

Wonderful home in the desirable Birdland neighborhood close to schools, parks & shopping. Fabulous single story floor plan with a sunny open kitchen with a breakfast nook. Home has approx. 1904 sq ft of living space with an approx. 7100 sq ft lot. Upgrades include hardwood floors, upgraded guest bathroom, dual pane windows & plantation shutters. Fantastic yard for entertaining! Offered at \$780,000



Just Listed at \$449,000

1923 Cedar Falls
Brentwood



PENDING
REPRESENTED BUYERS

Offered at \$569,500

7441 Maywood Drive
Pleasanton



PENDING
REPRESENTED BUYERS

Offered at \$465,000

4205 Sheldon Circle
Pleasanton



Emily Barraclough

DIRECT: (925) 621-4097

FAX: (925) 251-1199

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DANVILLE
7979 CAMINO TASSAJARA
GORGEOUS PROPERTY WITH VIEWS \$949,900
 3 BR 2.5 BA kitchen w/Granite counters Nearly 3 acres of fenced pastures and barn,close to fwy. 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
486 KENT CT
BEAUTIFUL EXPANDED HOME! \$629,000
 4 BR 3 BA Upgraded baths & Kit.New roof & shed. Backyard is an "Entertainers Delight" w/improvements! 925.847.2200



LIVERMORE
1182 SHERRY WAY
CUSTOM HOME.VERY PRIVATE \$849,000
 4 BR 3 BA Updated Kit.& Bath.Hrdwd Flrs.Formal Liv/Din.Family Rm w/Fireplace.Lushly landscaped. 925.847.2200



WALNUT CREEK
1828 POMAR WAY
STUNNING & ELEGANT \$389,000
 2 BR 1 BA End unit.Kit/Granite,Maple Cab,Tile & Marble.BA w/Tile, new Cab w/Glass Top.Hrdwd Flrs. 925.847.2200

FREMONT

39287 MARBELLA TERRAZA
TERRIFIC LOCATION-CENTRAL FREMONT \$469,000
 2 BR 2 BA Mstr Ste.Laminate Flrs.Formal Din.Liv w/ Fireplace.Kit.w/SS Appl.Newer Carpet.Fresh Paint. 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

2246 EAST AVE.
REMODELED HOME \$685,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Separate family & dining rm.Plantation shutters.Updated kitchen.Hardwood floors.Views. 925.847.2200

23723 FAIRLANDS RD
REMODELED SINGLE STORY HOME \$599,000
 3 BR 2 BA Bright and open floor plan.Upgraded kit w/ Granite countertops.Custom paint & crown Molding 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

SAN ANTONIO VALLEY
WOW! 423 ACRES \$1,199,950
 2 BR 2 BA 2 cabins, 2 barns 4 bass ponds. Swimming pool his/her cabana. Road frontage on paved road. 925.847.2200

48400 MINES ROAD
WANT ELBOW ROOM? \$399,950
 Some Road grading done.Power & Phone ac-tive.8 Separate parcels.-ATV,Jeep, & Dirt Bike use 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

3240 MAGUIRE WAY, # 202
GORGEOUS HOME \$420,000
 2 BR 2 BA Designer paint throughout, granite slab counters, SS & black appliances, crown molding

STANISLAUS COUNTY

2017 LANDING COURT
LOVELY 2 STORY \$310,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Grt room, lg kitchen, butlers pantry, granite cntrs, wood floors.Fm Rm w/stone fireplace. 925.847.2200

MOUNTAIN HOUSE

OPEN SUN 12 - 3 **155 E HERITAGE DR**
GREAT FLOOR PLAN W/LOTS OF SPACE \$470,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Lrge formal Liv/Din.rm.Kit opens to Fam. rm & breakfast nook.Office 1st flr.Great Condition 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

6609 AMBER LN
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS \$1,575,000
 4 BR 3 BA Plus-office.3 remodeled baths.Gourmet kit.3-car garage.Pebble Tech pool & spa. 925.847.2200

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

11000 DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD
GOT HORSES, DIRT BIKES, ATV'S \$1,499,950
 4 BR 2 BA Lots of trees.2 bass ponds.Well & Spring water systems.Has separate artist/craft cottage. 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

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

SUNOL

900 KILKARE RD
FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY! \$399,000
 Lot/Land. Rarely available 3.2 acre (approx).Lot close to Downtown Sunol. 925.847.2200

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PLEASANTON

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CaliforniaMoves.com

Pleasanton Market Update - Sales Down in September

Sales of single family detached homes that went pending in Pleasanton fell 20% from August to September, led by a 27% decline in the market for homes sold for less than \$2 million. Inventory, on the other hand, increased 8% during September, led again by homes priced under \$2 million.

Overall, 70 sales went pending during September, down 14 from 56 during August. Four fewer sales went pending during September than did a year ago (56 versus 60). Inventory increased 8%, from 76 at the end of August to 82 at the end of September. 65 properties were actively listed at the end of September 2012. There were 1.5 months of inventory available at the end of September (relative to sales that went pending during September), up from 1.1 months at the end of August.

In the market for homes priced under \$1 million, 38 sales went pending during September, a decline of 14 homes or 27% from 52 during August. 43 homes were actively listed in this segment at the end of September, up five units or 13% from 38 at the end of August. 1.1 months of inventory was on the market at the end of September (relative to sales that went pending during September), up from 0.7 months at the end of August. This segment accounted for 68% of Pleasanton's sales during September and 52% of its inventory at the end of the month.

14 sales of homes priced between \$1 and \$2 million went pending during September, four less (22%) than went pending during August. 23 homes were for sale in this price range at the end of September, three more than at the end of August. 28% of the sales that went pending in Pleasanton were in this segment, as was 25% of inventory at the end of the month. There was 1.6 months of inventory in this segment at the end of September, relative to sales that went pending during the month. That is up from 1.1 months at the end of August. Homes priced at \$2 million and up buck the trend in September, with inventory >> [Go to www.680homes.com](http://www.680homes.com) to read the rest of this article.



ALAIN PINEL
 REALTORS

Doug Buenz

The 680 Group

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



OPEN SUN 1-4

2818 Tudor Court
 Fabulous Laguna Oaks home w/ 4 BR plus office & bonus room, 3 1/2 BTHS, vaulted ceilings, 4 car garage, & a private .29 Acre cul-de-sac lot with sparkling pool & spa! **\$1,600,000**



GOLF COURSE!

Elegant custom home with 5 BR plus office & loft, 5 1/2 BTHS, hardwood floors, granite & marble, hand painted murals, and private .47 Acre lot backing to open space! **\$1,879,000**



PENDING SALE!

Exquisite Bridle Creek home with 4 BR plus office & bonus room, 4 BTHS, 4 car garage, hardwood floors, and .28 Acre private lot with pool, spa, & views! **\$1,629,000**



PENDING SALE!

Fabulous Sycamore area luxury home with 6 BR plus office & bonus room, 5 BTHs, over 6700 sq ft, featuring hardwood floors, huge granite & stainless kitchen, luxurious master suite, and a flat .94 Acre lot with pool! **\$2,275,000**



JUST SOLD!

Fabulous Ruby Hill Custom with 5 bedrooms plus office, 4 1/2 baths, bonus room, hardwood floors, custom granite kitchen, and private 2/3 Acre lot with pool, spa, and BBQ backs to open space! **\$2,250,000**



JUST SOLD!

Luxurious single story home in the Castlewood area featuring 4 BR, 4 BTHs, gourmet kitchen, 7+ car garage, and a private almost 3 acre lot with sweeping views! **\$2,450,000**



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115 Announcements

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that Ten Million adults tweeted in the past month, while 164 million read a newspaper in print or online in the past week? Advertise in 240 California newspapers for one low cost. Your 25 word classified ad will reach over 6 million+ Californians. For brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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Thinking of adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 AbbyA&S One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/ Indiana (AAN CAN)

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begin here. Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Housing and Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance, 877-492-3059 (AAN CAN)

Airline Careers
begin here. Get FAA approved Maintenance training. Financial aid for qualified students. Housing available. Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-804-5293 (Cal-SCAN)

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Be an Immigrant or Bankruptcy Paralegal. \$395 includes Certificate, Resume and 94% placement in all 58 CA counties. For more information www.mdsassociates.com or Call 626-552-2885 and 626-918-3599 (Cal-SCAN)



202 Vehicles Wanted

Cash for Cars
Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

Cash for Cars
Vintage Mercedes convertibles, Porsche, Jaguar, Alfa, Lancia, Ferrari, Corvettes, Mustangs. Early Japanese Cars, Other collector cars of significant value desired. 714-267-3436 michaelcanfield204@gmail.com

Donate Your Car
Fast Free Towing 24 hr. Response - Tax Deduction. United Breast Cancer Foundation. Providing Free Mammograms and Breast Cancer Info 888-792-1675 (Cal-SCAN)

Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat
to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

235 Wanted to Buy

Cash for Diabetic Test Strips
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245 Miscellaneous

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Cut your student loan payments in HALF or more even if you are Late or in Default. Get Relief FAST Much LOWER payments. Call Student Hotline 855-589-8607 (Cal-SCAN)

636 Insurance

Auto Insurance
SAVE from the major names you know and trust. No forms. No hassle. No obligation. Call Ready for My Quote now! Call 1-888-706-8325. (Cal-SCAN)

645 Office/Home Business Services

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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:

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855 Real Estate Services

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Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: http://www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)



995 Fictitious Name Statement

CALIFORNIA BAGELS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 482607
The following person(s) doing business as: CALIFORNIA BAGELS, 6700 SANTA RITA ROAD SUITE I, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Heang Terranova, 1448 Benton Street, Alameda, CA 94501. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 09/10/2013. Signature of Registrant: Heang Terranova. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 09/10/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11; 2013)

FARMHOUSE EATERY AND BAR FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 482132
The following person(s) doing business as: FARMHOUSE EATERY AND BAR, 600 MAIN STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): LAMSHANKS INC., 1889 Mill Springs Common #313, Livermore, CA 94550. 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: Jules Shanker, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 08/28/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18; 2013)

EAST BAY HEALTH LLC DBA SMART BODY INSTITUTE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 482748
The following person(s) doing business as: EAST BAY HEALTH LLC DBA SMART BODY INSTITUTE, 5820 STONERIDGE MALL ROAD SUITE 101, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): East Bay Health LLC, 5820 Stoneridge Mall Road Suite 101, PLEASANTON, CA 94588. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/03/2012. Signature of Registrant: Stephen Massaro, Managing Member/Principal Manager. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 09/13/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18; 2013)

REALTY WORLD YOUR HOME EXPERT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 482610
The following person(s) doing business as: REALTY WORLD YOUR

HOME EXPERT, 309 RAY STREET, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Juan Ramirez Lozano, 3693 Mohr Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 08/01/2013. Signature of Registrant: Juan Ramirez Lozano. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 09/10/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18; 2013)

1) HYB BATTERY; 2) SHENZHEN ELITE ELECTRONIC FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 4831789
The following person(s) doing business as: 1) HYB BATTERY; 2) SHENZHEN ELITE ELECTRONIC, 5424 SUNOL BLVD. SUITE 10-209, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): TECKQUEST, 5424 SUNOL BLVD. SUITE 10-209, PLEASANTON, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Akar Patel, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 09/27/2013. (Pleasanton Weekly, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; 2013)

997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS (Citacion Judicial) Case Number: RG12640691 (Numero del Caso) NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (Aviso al Demandado): JAMES RIVERA and TIFFANY CARR AND DOES 1 TO 22, INCLUSIVE: YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): MARY KATE CUNNIFF, MITCHELL EASON, KATIE EASON, BRYAN EVANS, GREGORY HENRY, TOBIAN HENRY, DAVID LIM, JANICE YEE, WEBSTER D. LOUDD, KATHERINE LOUDD, DEBORAH MCLARTY, RICKIE MCLARTY, DARLENE MCLARTY, JANICE NELSON, TOMMY NESS, DEBORAH NESS, BENJAMIN OSTROFF, MARY OSTROFF, ERNESTO SAYO, JOJI SAYO, KAZUO SEMITSU, and KAREN THUMM. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelp-california.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court of country bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta pro escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al damandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por exrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion el el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le queda mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le pdrea quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales raltulos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal

Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help/espanol/) o poniendose en contacto con la corte a el colegio de abogados locales. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de las corte es) Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado es): John S. Richards, 4695 Chabot Drive, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Date (Fecha): March 27, 2013 /s/ Molly Kantz, Deputy Clerk (Adjunto Delegado) (Pleasanton Weekly, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18; 2013)

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LINDA GOVEIA

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$2,895,000
Elegant Craftsman Style home built by Matken Pacific. The finish work is extraordinary. 5 Bedrooms/5.5 Baths. Formal Library/Office. Bonus Room with large alcove, court location, private lot and views. 3654 PONTINA CT

DOUG BUENZ

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,879,000
Newer 5bd+bonus+office, 5.5ba custom home situated on private .50+/-acre lot backs to open space, gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, designer touches and finishes throughout. 7230 CLUBHOUSE DR

DOUG BUENZ

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,600,000
Fabulous 5bd/3.5ba + office, Laguna Model situated .29 +/-acre flat lot on cul-de-sac, sunny gourmet kitchen kitchen, sparkling pool, spa, BBQ & much more. 2818 TUDOR COURT

TIM MCGUIRE

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$969,900
Situating on a quiet court includes beautiful detached 1bd/1ba in-law unit, new concrete driveway, corian kitchen, inside laundry, large private backyard, fruit trees and more! 4876 MERGANSER CT

TIM MCGUIRE

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$889,000
4bd/2.5ba, 2147 +/-sq.ft. Updated "Heatherspring" model. Granite kitchen with stainless steel appliances, remodeled bathrooms, dual pane windows, plantation shutters, new fireplace, private backyard. 5027 WOODTHRUSH RD

TIM MCGUIRE

SAT&SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$859,000
4bd/2ba, 1808 +/-sq.ft. Updated "Woodhaven" model in Birdland, new granite kitchen, new bathrooms, hardwood floors, large backyard, walking distance to all schools. 2027 GREENWOOD ROAD

MARK KOTCH

BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$783,500
Great Pleasanton family home. 3 bds, 1 office, 2.5 bths, 1929 +/- sq ft. Updated kitchen and baths, dual zone A/C, plantation shutters. Lot 3,386. Close to everything Pleasanton offers. 5214 ZARO CT

EMILY BARRACLOUGH

SAT&SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$780,000
Fabulous floor plan with a sunny open kitchen with a breakfast nook. Upgrades include hardwood floors, upgraded master bathroom & plantation shutters. 2303 SANDPIPER WAY

BLAISE LOFLAND

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$479,000
Move in ready! This 4BD, 2.5BA, 1,677sqft. detached home is upgraded throughout & sits on a 3,079sqft lot. Remodeled kitchen, new carpets, tile floors, gas fireplace, 9ft & vaulted ceilings! 6191 SAINT ANDREWS WAY

DANIEL ALPHER

BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$465,000
Lovely Gated Community with Views of Vineyards & Rolling Hills! 3 bed, 2.5 bath, Bonus Room, 1322 Sq Ft, Plantation Shutters, Wood Laminite/Tile & New Carpet & Paint! Community Pool, Tennis & More! 95 WINDWARD CMN #4



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