

Pleasanton Weekly

Daylight Saving
Time begins

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this Sunday



VOL. XV, NUMBER 6 • MARCH 7, 2014

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Top of the charts

Mayor Jerry Thorne
cites Pleasanton's
achievements in
'State of the City'
address

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20 | **REAL ESTATE** State home sales show improvement

The RE/MAX Collection 925.584.6377

775 SILVERHILL DRIVE, BRYON • \$1,645,000

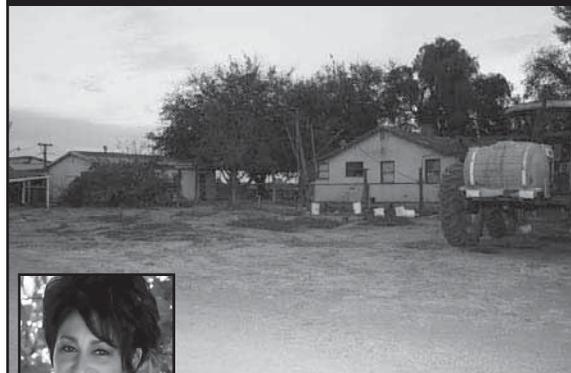
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1789 SANTORINO DRIVE, LIVERMORE • \$1,488,800



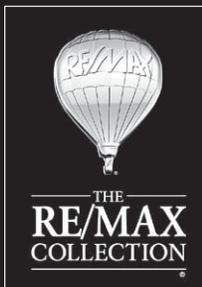
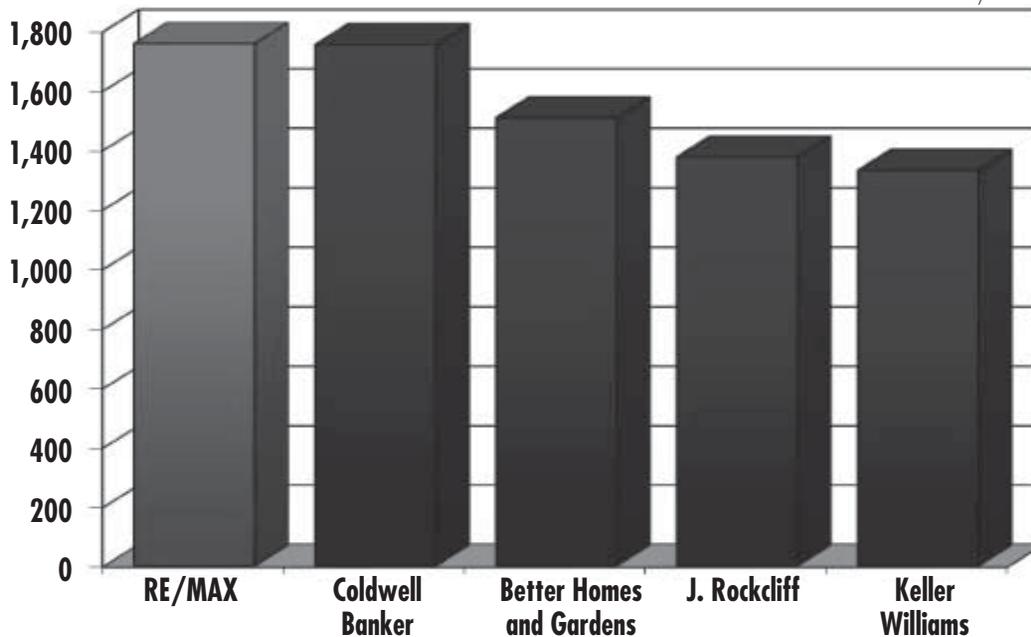
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Listings Sold by RE/MAX Offices
01/01/13 - 12/31/13

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Stark brings 'unique vibrations' to Chamber

Dave Stark, one of the best known Pleasanton pundits in town and an affable civic leader, has been selected as the chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for 2014.

Although the chamber shed its historic stodgy appearance years ago by choosing versatile, colorful leaders in tune with the city's progress, the guitar-playing vocalist Stark – who hangs out with the adult equivalent of a teenage garage band – brings unique vibrations to an organization that is becoming younger and more lively each year.



Dave Stark

Just last week, Stark joined an Indie rock band at Handles Gastropub in downtown Pleasanton for an alternative rock concert that raised thousands of dollars for the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, a Stark favorite.

Stark is public affairs director for the Bay East Association of Realtors and is a frequent speaker at organizations throughout the Valley in this surging buying and selling real estate field. His slideshows at some of the Friday morning meetings of the Valley Real Estate Network fill Tommy T's.

When he's not the speaker, he's often the interviewer with a "Meet the Press" probing-style that keeps police chiefs, school superintendents and city leaders on their toes. He's not afraid to ask Pleasanton Police Chief Dave Spiller the best way to get out of a ticket or Mayor Jerry Thorne how to add a home addition without the hassle of getting a building permit. Because of his day job at Bay East and his many volunteer and extra-curricular activities, Stark may be the best-wired leader the chamber has ever had, which will help the group's political foundation in making choices in this year's elections.

Stark, who is 44, knows the issues. He's worked in city governments and managed housing and community development projects here and in Southern California.

For years, he served on the Pleasanton Housing Commission at a time when the state, an affordable housing coalition and Alameda County Superior Court ordered Pleasanton to clean up its restricted housing policies and build more high density apartments affordable to the city's growing workforce. He also walks where he talks, tearing out the front yard at his Pleasanton home and installing drought-friendly plantings.

At the chamber's installation luncheon, Scott Raty, the chamber's president and chief executive, praised Stark for his many civic contributions to the community, including serving as head of the chamber's government affairs group for the past year. Stark serves on the city's Human Services Commission and has been a member of the Chamber's board of directors for the last three years. He also is the volunteer director of E-Soccer, a special needs sports program that emphasizes full inclusion in small group settings and one-on-one coaching.

At the ceremony, the real estate-focused Stark offered two comments of advice.

First, he said, if you want to know what the next high-tech trend or communication widget will be don't ask your teenager, ask a Realtor. "If there's a social media site, cell phone, laptop, tablet or Bluetooth, anything that helps you stay connected, a Realtor will have it first."

Second, anticipate change and adapt immediately to new conditions as Realtors do. No other profession has weathered the highs and lows of the last decade more than Realtors. Those who have survived have redefined themselves, adopted new business practices, kept some old-school ways of operating and jettisoned the rest. He's proud to represent a profession that isn't guaranteed success by keeping things "business as usual" but earns a living one transaction at a time in a highly challenging environment.

Stark said he will serve in his new leadership position "with these two lessons ringing loudly" as he works with others to maintain and increase the success of the city of Pleasanton and its Chamber of Commerce. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne generated loud applause during his "State of the City" address to a luncheon crowd of 225 as he talked about rising tax revenue, new business and municipal projects, and the final payoff of Callippe Preserve Golf Course bonds (shown on cover) that now makes the city construction debt free for the first time in 45 years. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

Vol. XV, Number 6

Mark the calendar!

VITAMIN, SUPPLEMENT & BODY CARE

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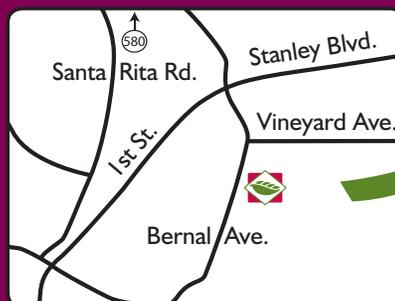


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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND MAIN STREET

Is there anything you would like to see in downtown Pleasanton that doesn't already exist?



Claude Denys

Owner, The Corner Creperie

I think fewer banks and more independently owned and operated stores would improve diversity in the downtown. Also, additional events and activities on weeknights — that would attract people to the downtown at night — would also be very good, and especially welcomed by the local business owners who are open late during the week.



Emily Lu

High school student

I'd really love to see a small movie theater. I think having a small theater downtown would be a great opportunity to bring our community together and provide a more intimate setting than the larger theaters in the nearby towns. In a small theater, everyone in the audience would feel like they were really sharing the experience with one another.



George Farrell

Engineering technician

I think a midweek farmers market once a month or so, during the evening, would be great. The farmers market is a very social event, so it would bring people downtown on a weeknight, after 6 p.m. And of course, the quality of the produce is fantastic.



Chloe Connolly

High school student

I think the downtown would benefit from a classic sports bar type of restaurant, one that is not just for adults and couples, but that is a family-friendly place that even families with young kids could go to.



Josh Small

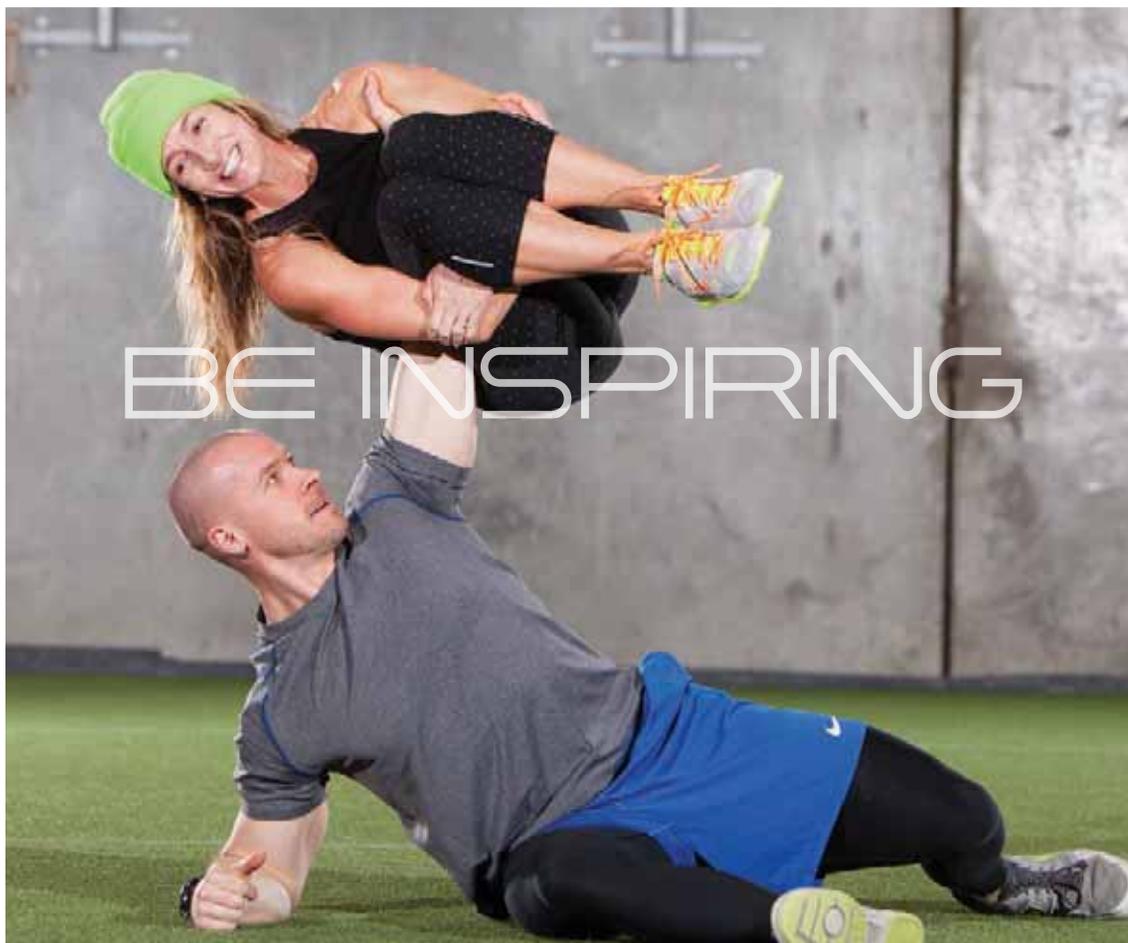
High school student

Art supplies! I think the new hardware store, which has such a great "we have everything" feeling to it, should start selling art supplies — like canvasses, watercolors, acrylics and clay — because right now we have to go all way to Dublin to buy art supplies.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Kohl's scholarships

The nomination window will close March 14 for the Kohl's Cares Scholarship program, which aims to reward young volunteers who have positively impacted their communities.

Through the program, Kohl's Department Stores will recognize more than 2,300 children and award nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and prizes at the national, regional and local store levels.

Two nominees from each Kohl's store, including Pleasanton, will win a \$50 gift card. Nearly 200 regional winners will receive \$1,000 education scholarships, and 10 national winners will get a \$10,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 donation to a nonprofit on their behalf, courtesy of Kohl's.

Candidates must be 6 to 18 years old. For nomination details, visit www.kohlskids.com.

Obama endorses Swalwell

U.S. Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-Dublin) received an endorsement from President Barack Obama this week in his bid to win a second straight term in Congress.

"Eric is a strong voice for creating good jobs, expanding economic opportunity and growing the middle class," Obama said in a statement. "Since day one, Eric has shown unwavering dedication to the needs of his constituents — helping veterans secure the benefits they've earned, protecting seniors, and ensuring women receive equal pay for equal work."

Swalwell, whose district includes Pleasanton, is being challenged by fellow Democrat and State Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro).

'Day of Giving'

Agents and other staff from the Better Homes and Gardens Tri-Valley Realty Pleasanton office will volunteer at Valley Humane Society for the real estate company's fifth annual "Day of Giving" this Saturday.

The team of volunteers will help the animal-welfare nonprofit from 7:30-11 a.m. by painting, refurbishing animal enclosures, gardening, filing documents and completing other office tasks at the Valley Humane Society facility, 3670 Nevada St.

The local event is part of a company-wide effort to donate time and resources on "Day of Giving" to 19 charities in communities throughout the Better Homes and Gardens network.



JEB BING

One developer is already marketing property in east Pleasanton, where a task force has been told to continue planning for mixed-use development.

Council votes to continue east side study

With state housing demands gone, more time will be taken for 'creative plan'

By JEB BING

The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday night to continue the planning process for developing a mostly vacant 1,100-acre tract of land called East Pleasanton, even though the need for additional housing there has gone away.

Councilwoman Karla Brown cast the only vote against the measure, saying the planning process should be stopped until Pleasanton needs to add more high-density housing.

The council's action came at the end of a two-hour public discussion on whether to continue the work of the city's East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force that has been meeting for the last 18 months to consider future development of the property.

The land, formerly mined for sand and gravel, is located east of Valley Avenue and north of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and Stanley Boulevard.

The task force was formed to consider a development with up to 2,700 high-density apartment units to meet more housing needs imposed by the state's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA). But a new report shows that Pleasanton has fulfilled those requirements for at least the rest of the decade and possibly well beyond.

As a result, city planners asked the council to weigh in on whether to continue the task force study, slow it down or mothball the work until new RHNA numbers are issued in 2022 and determine if more high-density housing is then required.

The majority of council members and most of the 13 speakers who addressed the issue Tuesday night favored continuing the task force work, including an environmental re-

port now being prepared. They noted that if the work stopped now, months of task force, consultant and city staff time and expenses would be wasted without ever looking at the possibilities an east-side development could bring to Pleasanton.

Mayor Jerry Thorne said previous councils and planning officials have wrestled with how to develop the east side property for years, "long before there were any RHNA numbers to deal with."

"Let's go ahead now with no pressure to meet state mandates and see what kind of development would work best on that land," Thorne said. "Once we have a plan, I'd even support taking it to voters to see if they'd support an east side development."

Dave Stark, chairman of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, agreed.

"Let's not walk away from this process," he urged the council. "Let's complete it so that residents can understand how the land could be utilized."

Former Councilwoman Sharrell Michelotti said that in her many years on the planning commission and council, there was never a time when city leaders turned back a process such as the east side study and discontinued it.

"A lot of people have invested time, money and energy on this planning process," she said. "We need to see it through and determine the impact."

To meet state-imposed housing requirements, some 70 acres of available properties in Pleasanton were rezoned over the past two years for high-density apartment buildings. That action not only satisfied court and state Housing Authority orders to provide more

'At the end of the day, we will have a better understanding of the impact of development on this site.'

Kathy Narum, city councilwoman

School board approves smaller classes for young students

Restores \$2.9 million in spending on jobs, programs

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Pleasanton School Board last week approved smaller class sizes for early elementary school students, drawing applause from about 20 supporters.

The board unanimously signed off on a plan that would cut class sizes to 25 students for grades 1-3 next year, and for kindergarten and transitional kindergarten classes the year after.

A core of supporters has been stumping for class-size reductions for nearly a year, and successfully fought for smaller classes in first grade this year. On Feb. 25, they were joined by a dozen kids, who held posters thanking the board for smaller classes, including one that read, "Thank you for unlocking our full potential."

The plan approved by the board would keep class sizes at 25 students until the 2020-21 school year, then drop to 24 students. A 24-1 student-to-teacher ratio is mandated by the state by that school year. Districts must show yearly progress toward that goal, and that could mean negotiating with state officials at some point in the future, according to Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

See **CLASS SIZE** on Page 8



COURTESY PLEASANTON POLICE

Detective Matthew Lengel (left) and CSO Shannon Revel-Whitaker are the police department's top two employees for 2013.

Police recognize department's best

PPD names 2013 Officer of the Year, Professional Staff Employee of the Year

The Pleasanton Police Department has announced its two top workers for 2013.

Detective Matthew Lengel has been named Officer of the Year and Community Service Officer Shannon Revel-Whitaker is Professional Staff Employee of the Year.

During 2013, Lengel was lead investigator, or otherwise involved, on every major investigation the department faced. He also contributed by participating as an instructor in the department's Citizens Police Academy, its Teen Academy and other community outreach programs.

See **POLICE DEPARTMENT** on Page 10

Livermore's Sandia employees give \$189,154 to charities

205 different organizations benefit from Caring Program campaign

By JEB BING

Employees and retirees at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore donated \$189,154 last year to the lab's Employee Caring Program, with all of it being disbursed to designated nonprofit organizations at the donors' requests.

Altogether, Sandia employees here and at its Albuquerque headquarters installation contributed \$6,050,426 to the program in 2013.

Although handled by United Way of Central New Mexico in Albuquerque, Sandia's local contributions were separated out and sent to organizations designated by Livermore employees. Most of those contributions were earmarked for Tri-Valley and East Bay organizations.

A report by Randy Woodcock, vice president and chief strategic officer of the United Way of Central

New Mexico, shows there were 205 different 501(c)(3) organizations that Sandia Livermore employees designated their gifts to in the fall 2013 campaign through the Sandia National Laboratories SHARE campaign. There were 80 employees who elected not to designate their gifts to a specific agency, and 100% of their undesignated contributions of \$26,420.28 went to the United Way of the Bay Area.

Through the SHARE campaign, donors may designate their gifts to any charity in the U.S. and those donations then go to the charities of their choice. The United Way of Central New Mexico processes the Livermore employees' contributions but does not deduct any administrative or fundraising expense.

In fact, Woodcock's report shows major contributions by Sandia's Livermore employees to a large

number of Tri-Valley charities, including \$16,251.76 to Shepherd's Gate in Livermore, \$7,465.72 to Open Heart Kitchen, \$5,765.84 to the Tri-Valley Haven for Women, \$5,890.08 to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue and \$4,005.90 to Hope Hospice.

Other major contributions went to the American Cancer Society (\$4,293.68), American Red Cross (\$3,777.92) and Children's Hospital and Research Center Foundation in Oakland (\$2,010.52).

Specifically designated contributions also went to St. Mary's Dining Room in Stockton (\$3,020.95), Congregation Beth Emek (\$3,199.86), Livermore Valley Educational Foundation (\$2,720.78), Axis Community Health (\$1,393.92) and Interfaith Sharing in Livermore (\$2,070).

Local employees also showed a wide range of choices for their donations, including \$50 or several

hundred dollars to such organizations as Livermore's Asbury United Methodist Church's homeless refuge fund, Valley Crisis Pregnancy Center, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Livermore Valley Opera and the Patriots Jet Team Foundation in Byron.

'This level of generosity is astounding.'

Kelly Westlake,
Sandia campaign
chairwoman

Overall, the Sandia National Laboratories 2013 Employee Caring Program saw an increase of 8.2% in donations over the previous year, according to Kelly Westlake, chairwoman of the Sandia campaign.

"This level of generosity is astounding," Westlake said. "Sandians (including those in Livermore) faced the prospect of a lab shutdown due to the federal budget crisis early in the campaign and still came through, setting new records. Everyone at Sandia should be extremely proud."

Deputy laboratories director and

executive vice president for mission support Kim Sawyer, chair-elect of the United Way of Central New Mexico board of directors and a past campaign chairwoman, said the response from Sandia staff and retirees this year demonstrated the strong culture of giving at the labs.

"Sandia has a rich history of supporting those who are most vulnerable," she said. "Every year we strive to do more to help the community."

Woodcock, who provided the Livermore list of contributions, has provided staff support to the Sandia Employee Caring Program since 1996.

"In the 18 years that I have supported the campaign, I am in awe how Sandia employees and retirees continue to surpass their aggressive goals each year," he said. "Last year we celebrated Sandia breaking the \$5 million mark, and now to raise \$6.05 million in a single campaign, especially in such a challenging economic climate, speaks volumes to how much Sandians care about helping their neighbors." ■

FUN STUFF FOR KIDS OVER THE SUMMER

Camp Connection

Summer 2014

East Bay SPCA Summer Animal Camp

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(925) 230-1302

www.eastbayspca.org/camp

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

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For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at PleasantonWeekly.com/Camps. To advertise in a weekly directory, call (925) 600-0840 or email sales@pleasantonweekly.com.

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Money-saving tips for seniors

10% here and 20% there can really add up, writer says

By JASON ALDERMAN

We all love a good bargain, no matter what our age. But if you're a senior citizen on a fixed income, finding discounted goods and services can mean the difference between making ends meet and going without.

The good news is that tons of senior discounts are available, often for people as young as 50. One caveat right up front:

Although many senior discounts are substantial, you sometimes can find better bargains, especially on travel-related expenses, such as airfare, hotels and rental cars. So always do your research first before requesting the senior rate.

Here's a roundup of some of the best senior discounts I've found:

An AARP membership costs only \$16 a year for anyone older than 50, including free membership for spouses or partners (www.aarp.org).

AARP's discount website features discounts on dozens of products and services including rental cars, hotels, restaurants, clothing and department store chains. AARP also offers an inexpensive driver safety course for drivers older than 50 (members and nonmembers alike) that can lower auto insurance premiums by up to 10% or more.

Popular AARP discounts include:

- 20% discount on installation or upgrades to ADT home security

systems.

- 45% off membership to Angie's List.
- 20% off purchases from 1-800-FLOWERS.com.
- Up to 25% off car rentals from Avis and Budget.
- Up to 20% discount at many hotel chains including Hyatt, Hilton, Wyndham, Best Western, Days Inn and Ramada.
- 10 to 20% off at many restaurant chains, including Claim Jumper, Denny's and Outback Steakhouse.
- 15% off many Geek Squad services from Best Buy.
- A free 45-minute consultation with an Allstate Legal Services Network attorney, as well as 20% off member attorneys' fees.



Jason Alderman

A quick Google search will uncover numerous other senior discount resources. One popular site is SeniorDiscounts.com, an online directory of more than 220,000 U.S. business locations that offer discounts to people over 50. Registration is free, although they also offer a \$12.95/year premium that offers members-only discounts and other perks.

Other good sites include Brad's Deals, Sciddy.com and Savvy Senior.

Other commonly available senior discounts include:

- A 15% discount on the lowest available rail fare on most Amtrak trains for travelers over age 62.
- Greyhound offers a 5% discount on

unrestricted fares (over 62).

Southwest Airlines offers senior fares (over 65). Although not necessarily their lowest available rates, Southwest's senior fares are fully refundable.

The U.S. Geologic Survey senior pass (over 62) provides free lifetime access to more than 2,000 government-managed recreational sites (including national parks) as well as discounts on camping and other amenities. Senior passes cost \$10 in person or \$20 by mail (<http://store.usgs.gov/pass/senior.html>).

Verizon Wireless offers discounted mobile phone service for subscribers over 65.

Both Walgreens and Rite Aid offer monthly senior discount days for members of their rewards programs when most non-prescription items are 15 to 20% off. Ask your neighborhood pharmacy if they offer similar programs.

In addition, many restaurants, department stores, movie theaters, museums, theme parks, banks, credit card issuers, utilities (including gas and electric, water, garbage, telephone and cable) and other businesses offer special discounts or promotions for seniors. Always ask before your purchase is rung up.

Bottom line: Abundant resources are available to help seniors save money on purchases large and small. You just have to do a little research and ask whether senior discounts are available.

Remember, 10% here and 20% there can really add up.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. ■

3rd Annual Parent, Baby, Toddler & Child Expo!

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Armed men hold up Express Liquors

Two men take cash, bolt in less than a minute

By **GLENN WOHLTMANN**

Pleasanton police are investigating an armed robbery Monday morning at Express Liquors in the 4300 block of First Street.

Two men brandishing handguns entered the store at about 6:58 a.m., according to police. The men, in their early to mid 20s, demanded money from the cash register.

The two got away with about \$200 cash from two registers and a safe, the clerk's \$200 designer wallet with less than \$100 inside and cell phone valued at \$200.

The holdup took less than a minute, police said, and the men fled west on foot, away from First Street. The pair vaulted a chain-link fence into the parking lot of the Firehouse Arts Center on Railroad Avenue, and police think the two got into a vehicle that left the scene.

Officers established a perimeter and searched the area with-

out locating the men. Police have released photos from the store's surveillance system and have been collecting evidence at the scene, including fingerprints.

No arrests have been made.

Both men are described as having been of average build and height.

The first suspect is thought to be a Caucasian or light-skinned Hispanic man, according to police. At the time of the robbery, he wore a light gray hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and carried a dark-colored handgun.

The second suspect is a Hispanic male, according to police. During the robbery, he wore a black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans and carried a silver handgun.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■

EAST SIDE

Continued from Page 5

affordable housing in the community, but provided more than enough rezoned land and apartment sites to meet the RHNA numbers of 2,067 housing units at least through 2022.

During this period, the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force has been meeting to consider future development of the east site. Although the site has 1,100 acres, much of it consists of lakes controlled by Zone 7, with roughly 400 acres suitable for development. Early planning has called for homes, apartment buildings, retail and commercial businesses, and a public elementary school to be part of the development.

An environmental review of the task force's preferred, or base plan, that calls for 2,279 new homes and apartments on the site, is now underway with the results expected to show the need for roads, sewers, water lines and other infrastructure as well as the economic feasibility for developers to pay for it, as required in the plan.

Going forward, now that the RHNA numbers have been met, any residential development on the east side will be subject to the city's new annual Growth Management allocation of 238 residential units citywide.

The options considered at Tuesday night's meeting included completing the task force's recommended specific plan for the east side, slowing it down with a "phasing" plan for the construction of infrastructure components (water, sewer, roads) that could also allow some commercial development there while retaining some areas for future high-density housing, or scuttling the task force work for

now and resuming it closer to 2022 if it is thought that additional sites for housing will be needed in the 2022-2030 RHNA cycle.

Brian Dolan, director of Community Development, said that a shut-down of the task force's work and the pending environmental study now would likely mean having to start all over again at the end of the decade.

"In another six to eight years, so many conditions will have changed that we'll have to have new traffic and environmental studies," he said.

Council members also worried that a step back in the planning process could mean losing the opportunity to extend El Charro Road from Stoneridge Drive to Stanley Boulevard, which has been part of the task force's considerations.

"El Charro will be needed in the future and it's important that we have a specific plan that includes funding for building out El Charro," said Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio. "I don't want to stop the process, although I would like now to re-look at the idea of what's to be built on the east side."

Councilman Jerry Pentin agreed, saying, "I see no reason to stop this planning process now."

Councilwoman Kathy Narum also voted to continue the task force planning process.

"We're 18 months into this process now," she said. "At the end of the day, we will have a better understanding of the impact of development on this site, including impacts on the city's traffic, water and sewer capacities. I have real concerns for how this might affect traffic at Valley and Bernal avenues at Stanley Boulevard where we have another housing development about to get underway."

But Brown disagreed. As a member of the east side task force early

on, she recalled that all of the concerns dealt with RHNA numbers. With those no longer a concern, she urged the council to stop the planning process for now.

"Let's stop and wait, and bring it back if needed at the next RHNA cycle," she said. "Maybe we should look at the area for trails and open space instead of high density housing."

Brown said that Pleasanton school board member Valerie Arkin also had conveyed her opposition to continuing the east side study.

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala also asked that the east side planning process be halted.

"The citizens of this community are not in favor of this," Ayala told the council. "This won't be a specific plan that sails through. There will be a lawsuit filed if the project moves forward."

But other speakers, including Arne Olson, Bob Silva and Pat Costanza, urged the council to keep the planning process going.

"This task force has been working on the east side plan for 18 months," said Olson, a member of the Pleasanton Planning Commission. "The draft specific plan is nearing completion, the draft EIR is underway. To stop the process now would be disrespectful to the people who have participated in this effort."

Thorne, in voting to continue the east side study, said that with the RHNA numbers issue off the table, the task force can now be "more creative" in its planning ideas and also now has the time to continue its efforts without pressure.

"I think that with all that the task force has accomplished so far and now with extra time to be more creative, we can have a plan that we can take to voters for approval," the mayor said. ■

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CLASS SIZE

Continued from Page 5

"We wouldn't necessarily be making the progress that we need to make," Ahmadi told board members.

But Deputy Superintendent Luz Cazares said the rules governing class-size reductions have yet to be written, and the district is using old rules as its guide.

The new rules, Cazares said, "should be out in the next month."

Kindergarten class sizes could drop to 28 students if enough money is raised by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, and parent Alice Cruce suggested an outreach program for parents of incoming kindergarteners.

Meanwhile, Ahmadi said kindergarten teachers would get extra support, equating to about 20 days for the upcoming school year, while their classes are still large.

Parent Tammy Jernigan asked if staggered reading programs for first- through third-grade students would be eliminated with smaller classes. The program was brought back after a long hiatus as class sizes grew. By staggering the schedule, students had smaller classes for 45 minutes a day, but lost 45 minutes in total class time.

Ahmadi said some teachers would like to continue the staggered start times, but nothing has been finalized.

"Teachers have said it's really important to me to continue staggered reading. We'll come back to you with some additional information in April," she said.

The next step for parents and some board members is for other classes to have fewer students.

"Thank you for coming up with this scenario, we appreciate it," said parent Emmeline Chen. "Knowing me, I'm going to continue to ask you to continue stretching more ... what's clear as I talk to everybody — everybody wants smaller class sizes."

She asked the board to consider smaller classes in fourth and fifth grade. Board President Jamie Hintzke said she'd like to see smaller class sizes in freshman English and math courses.

Smaller classes for early elementary grades will bring back about 20 teachers, according to Board Member Chris Grant. It will cost more than \$1.65 million next year, then jump to more than \$2.2 million per year when kindergarten and transitional kindergarten class sizes go down.

The board approved other new

jobs at its meeting on Feb. 25, adding back about \$2.9 million in spending. It made permanent some positions that were brought back for a single year this year and added others, some permanently and some on a one-time basis.

Those include counselors at elementary, middle and high schools at a cost of \$408,000, physical education specialists once a week for grades 1-5 at \$400,000 and \$322,500 for custodians. The spending plan also sets aside about \$550,000 for maintenance.

While the board is spending more, Hintzke asked that one area be cut, saying the district could save \$20,000 by eliminating district-paid cell phones for managers.

She suggested the district move to a plan where managers would buy their own phones and get a data plan stipend.

The board also approved a set of plans for student achievement. Each school was told to come up with its own set of measurable goals for the upcoming year, along with a way of achieving those goals.

"They provide a road map," said Lisa Hague, the district's program improvement coordinator.

Those goals include increasing test scores for minority students. ■



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POLICE DEPT.

Continued from Page 5

According to police, Lengel “possesses an impeccable work ethic and has an inquisitive mind” that make him an excellent investigator.

Revel-Whitaker has been crime prevention community service officer since January 2007.

She devoted much of her time in 2013 to advancing the police department’s community outreach efforts through social media, resulting in Facebook and Nixle followings of more than 4,000 people.

Revel-Whitaker was called a “standard bearer of integrity and character.” She’s helped create more enthusiastic participation in crime prevention activities and was instrumental in programs such as National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch and other community events.

Police department employees nominate peers each year for their contributions. Nominees are then reviewed by a committee, with the final selection made by the police chief as part of the department’s recognition program for superior performance.

— Glenn Wohltmann

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Primrose school opens in Pleasanton

Caters to children from birth to 5 years old

By JEB BING

Primrose Schools opened its Pleasanton campus last month in a midday reception that attracted scores of parents, many with their pre-kindergarten children who are eligible for the specialized school.

The Pleasanton school, located in an 8,000-square-foot facility at 7110 Koll Center Parkway, is the first California franchise and one of more than 275 Primrose Schools in 19 states. Founded in 1982 with headquarters in Atlanta, Primrose Schools provides early-years educational child care experience with each school independently owned and operated by franchise owners.

Nick Kurji, who owns and operates the Pleasanton campus with wife Samina and who hosted the Feb. 22 event, said they will partner with parents to help children build a foundation for future learning and life.

“Primrose offers an environment that allows children to have fun while nurturing active minds and healthy bodies,” he said. “As parents, we understand the importance of instilling a love of



JEB BING

learning during a child’s early years, and we believe this is essential to building a bright future for our world.”

Atlanta, at the festivities. “We’re pleased that you selected Pleasanton for the first of your California schools,” Thorne said. “We’re proud to have you here.”

For more information about Primrose Schools, visit the organization’s webpage at www.PrimroseSchools.com. ■

Atlanta, at the festivities. “We’re pleased that you selected Pleasanton for the first of your California schools,” Thorne said. “We’re proud to have you here.”

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Community Pulse

By Glenn Wohltmann, gwohltmann@pleasantonweekly.com

POLICE BULLETIN

Two busted for felony charges after traffic stop

A woman from Livermore and a man from Fremont face multiple felony counts after a Feb. 25 traffic stop near the intersection of Maywood Drive and Springdale Avenue, according to police reports.

Crystal Marie Brush, 29, of Livermore was arrested on several outstanding felony warrants: an Alameda County auto theft warrant, a grand theft warrant from Fremont, another grand theft warrant from Pleasanton and a misdemeanor warrant for possession of a switchblade from Dublin.

Brush was also arrested for felony possession of controlled substances, specifically methamphetamine and two narcotics, hydrocodone and Norco.

Doug Deacon Buffey, 53, of Fremont was originally arrested on a felony probation violation. However, during a search at the Pleasanton Police Department, 2.1 ounces of methamphetamine were discovered in his underwear, according to police reports. Buffey was then arrested for possession of methamphetamine for sale and smuggling a controlled substance into jail, both felonies.

The two were arrested at around 6:03 p.m. Brush is being held at the Santa Rita Jail with multiple bond amounts totaling \$135,000. Buffey remains at the jail in lieu of \$45,000 bond.

In other police reports:

- An Emeryville man was arrested March 1 on felony warrants for charges of human trafficking and probation violation.

James Earl Simmons, 27, was taken into custody a traffic stop at about 11:04 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road. He was wanted on a felony human trafficking warrant out of Sacramento in a 2010 case

in which authorities allege he sold a person for prostitution. Additional details were not available.

- Mikaela Jamaica Ang, 23, of Concord was arrested for felony theft at about 1:58 p.m. March 1 in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road in connection with the theft of clothing worth about \$1,532 from Macy's Women's.

- Garrett Forbes Boam, 32, of San Ramon was arrested at about 5:23 p.m. Feb. 26 in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue on a felony warrant for burglary out of Martinez.

- Nicholas Pope, 25, of Livermore was arrested at about 10:25 p.m. Feb. 27 in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road on a felony warrant for domestic violence and a drug charge, out of Livermore and Oakland, respectively.

- An employee at the Kaiser Permanente offices in the 5800 block of Owens Drive, reported at about 9:43 a.m. Feb. 27 that someone had stolen a \$2,000 laptop from his desk.

- Residents of the Civic Square Apartment complex in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue reported at about 9:49 a.m. March 1 that an undisclosed amount of cash was stolen from their home.

- A \$500 duffel bag, two suitcases worth \$220, a \$150 tool set and clothing valued at about \$750 were among the items stolen in an overnight auto burglary at Ridgeview Commons between 8 p.m. Feb. 27 and 8:45 a.m. Feb. 28.

- A bicycle, two helmets, a tent and a folding table with a total value of \$310 were stolen in a break-in to the garage of a home in the 600 block of Palomino Drive in an incident reported at about 11:15 a.m. March 1.

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

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made this information available.

Feb. 25

Theft

- 12:36 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 2:15 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; bicycle theft
- 4:54 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 5:22 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 11:49 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; fraud

Auto burglary

- 7:18 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- 7:30 p.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 8:27 p.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- 9:11 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

Drug violations

- 3:03 p.m. in the 6800 block of Calle Altamira; paraphernalia possession
- 4:54 p.m. at the intersection of Maywood Drive and Springdale Avenue; possession of methamphetamine for sale, possession of a controlled substance
- 7:40 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; confidential drug violation

Feb. 26

Theft

- 1:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive; fraud
- 2:14 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

Assault/battery

- 1:11 p.m. at Foothill High School in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

Graffiti

- 8:56 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Possession of methamphetamine

- 11:02 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue

Feb. 27

Theft

- 9:43 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; theft from structure
- 11:17 a.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road; auto theft
- 1:38 p.m. in the 8000 block of Mountain View Drive

Auto burglary

- 11:11 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- 8:20 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Graffiti

- 8:38 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

Feb. 28

Auto theft

- 10:20 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Auto burglary

- 9:14 a.m. in the 5200 block of Case Avenue
- 3:57 p.m. in the 7500 block of Ivy Court

Vandalism

- 9:46 a.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue
- 8:59 p.m. at the intersection of Tanager Drive and Mohr Avenue; graffiti

March 1

Theft

- 9:49 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from structure

- 4:17 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Residential burglary

- 11:15 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive

Vandalism

- 8:00 a.m. in the 3800 block of N. Yosemite Court

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:42 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Crestline Road; DUI
- 6:37 a.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; confidential drug violation

March 2

Shoplifting

- 3:37 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 4:05 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Assault/battery

- 1:13 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

March 3

Robbery

- 6:58 a.m. in the 4300 block of First Street

Theft

- 12:28 p.m. in the first block of Rocky Creek Place; fraud

Residential burglary

- 9:15 a.m. in the 4200 block of Lucero Court

Auto burglary

- 2:58 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue
- 3:26 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue
- 9:58 a.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue

Graffiti

- 9:11 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

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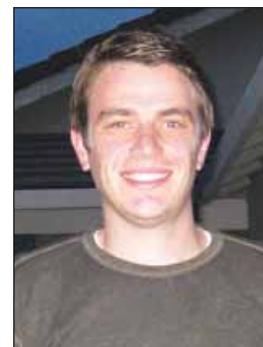
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Daniel Raymond Martin

August 26, 1985 – May 9, 2013

Daniel Martin; handsome, intelligent and witty, passed away unexpectedly on the evening of May 9, 2013 at his home in Folsom CA. Dan was born August 26, 1985 in Southern CA. Daniel grew up in Pleasanton, CA and attended Walnut Grove, Harvest Park, Amador Valley High School and Diablo Valley College. He also enjoyed his time in boy scout troop 998. Daniel had a passion for movie making, writing, acting and comic.



He loved playing online video games and communicating on Facebook with his large following of friends.

Daniel's life was cut short, his family is heartbroken. Daniel will be greatly missed by his friends and family. Daniel is survived by his father Harold Martin, mother Melinda Keim, step father Glenn Keim, step mother Debra Martin, brothers Matt and Mike, step brother Dustin Stedt, step sisters Leela Sherbon and Sonia Stedt, grandmother Nadine Martin and numerous other family and friends.

Daniel we love you and miss you beyond words. Dan you will forever be in our hearts.

PAID OBITUARY

Top of the charts

Mayor cites Pleasanton's achievements

By JEB BING

Declaring that the city of Pleasanton is now construction debt free for the first time in 45 years, Mayor Jerry Thorne told a crowd of 225 assembled to hear his "State of the City" address that the days ahead promise to be the best ever for Pleasanton.

New workforce-priced housing, award-winning schools, strong business growth, an AA+ financial rating and rising tax base that make Pleasanton the envy of many cities in California will continue to make the city "an ever-better place to live and work as we go forward," Thorne said to loud applause.

"Take a look around you," Thorne told those attending the luncheon forum hosted by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. "The state of our city is strong and getting stronger. Our future is as bright as our determination is strong, and your city leadership and staff are committed to that vision."

He said that by paying off the last \$20.7 million of bonds used to finance the construction and opening of Callippe Preserve Golf Course, the city not only saved \$10.7 million in interest that would have been paid through those certificates of participation maturity date of 2032, but also freed up all construction debt.

Thorne added, "Lee Iacocca, one of the great CEOs of our time, expressed our position beautifully when he once said: 'We at Chrysler borrow money the old-fashioned way: we pay it back!' I agree completely! Happily, unlike Chrysler, the city of Pleasanton will never have to worry about being owned by Fiat."

Thorne reported that the assets of the city exceeded its liabilities at the close of the most recent fiscal year by \$857.7 million in net assets. Of this amount, \$130.4 million in unrestricted net assets may be used to meet the city's on-



JEB BING

City, county and regional transportation leaders join Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne last Nov. 1 as he cut the ribbon to open Stoneridge Drive extension, connecting Livermore and Pleasanton at El Charro Road. The project had been in Pleasanton's roadway plans since 1989.

going obligations to its residents, businesses and creditors; the majority of the remaining amount is invested in capital assets of the city such as parks, the Firehouse Arts Center, sewer and water utilities, and infrastructure.

The General Fund unrestricted fund reserves are \$12.9 million, of which \$9.3 million is designated for economic uncertainties and \$3.6 million is undesignated.

The mayor talked about 2013 being a very busy year for Pleasanton.

During a year that unemployment rates nationally and in California hover in the double-digit to high single-digit range, Pleasanton's unemployment rate was 3.4% as of last November — when the most recent figures were tabulated. The city's rate of commercial office market vacancy was 11.8% at year's end and continues to improve, compared to 16.3% at the end of 2012 and 17.8% the year before.

This steadily improving market that included Farmers Insurance, Gap Inc., and Zenith moving into vacant offices at the California Center, Spigit Innovation Management expanding from downtown offices to Hacienda Business Park, and T and V Holdings Inc. acquiring 43,000 square feet at Diablo Center West on Hacienda Drive.

Strong demand in Pleasanton's

retail marketplace saw the vacancy rate drop below 7% last year, down nearly 2% from the end of 2012. Last year, New Leaf Community Markets moved into the Vintage Hills Shopping Center, and with other new businesses, revitalized an older shopping center that had been mostly empty for years.

The Pleasanton Gateway Shopping Center at Bernal and Valley avenues, where Safeway opened a new Lifestyle supermarket two years ago, was fully leased in 2013. Stoneridge Shopping Center added seven new stores and its owner, the Simon Property Group, renewed for five more years a development agreement for an additional 205,000 square feet of expansion.

New businesses also opened in downtown Pleasanton, where the vacancy rate has now fallen below 6%. These included Workbench True Value Hardware at the vacant former Domus site, Farmhouse Restaurant, Tara's and Mangia Mi. Most recently, a developer has submitted plans to tear down Past Time Pool on Main Street and build a two-story building with a restaurant, retailer and offices, as well as dedicating the corner for a public plaza.

Business license revenue was up last year by 10%, and more guests at city hotels and motels raised the tax revenue in that category by

13% last year to nearly \$4 million.

Thorne reported that last year, home values continued to climb with the price for a single-family home climbing by 9% to \$900,000. In fact, the combined assessed value of commercial and residential properties in Pleasanton reached just over \$17 billion, making it the third highest in Alameda County after Oakland and Fremont, which

are both much larger cities. Property tax revenues in fiscal year 2013 were approximately \$50 million.

Another big accomplishment of 2013 was the completion of the Stoneridge Drive extension, a project that Thorne pushed since being elected mayor.

"That effort has absorbed more than 20 years of our time and resources," Thorne said.

It now connects Livermore and Pleasanton at a junction where the Outlets shopping center and Stoneridge Creek Retirement Community are located, and also where CarMax plans to build a regional used-car center. The area also features a 5-acre public park and a trail extension that connects the Arroyo Mocho Trail to the Livermore trail system.

To fulfill court and state requirements to provide more affordable housing, Pleasanton also enacted a new housing plan that rezoned 73 acres for high-density apartment



JEB BING

Adding to this \$8 million lighted baseball field in Bernal Community Park, Pleasanton will build more fields starting this year for youth football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, and another two for baseball.

projects.

Those included the South Bay Development Corp. proposal for 210 apartment units and 97 single family homes near the Pleasanton Gateway Center, a plan by E.S. Ring Corp. for 345 apartment-style units and approximately 38,000 square feet of neighborhood retail space at the corner of Valley and Bernal avenues and Stanley Boulevard (across from McDonald's), the Nearon Company and Saint Anton Partners plan for an upscale 168-unit multi-family project in the Hacienda Business Park, which is now underway, and a 205-unit transit-oriented development and approximately 7,500 square feet of neighborhood retail at the California Center, across from Archstone Apartments and the Walmart shopping center.

Thorne said a task force worked through the year on preliminary plans for Pleasanton's east side, a largely undeveloped tract east of Valley Avenue at Busch Road. It's unlikely, though, that any development will actually get started there until well after 2020.

With Stoneridge Drive now open and thousands more moving to Pleasanton as major apartment centers are constructed, traffic will be a major concern in the city's future, Thorne said.

"One of our biggest challenges as we move forward will be to maintain the small town character of Pleasanton," Thorne said. "We will continue to implement neighborhood traffic-calming programs, promote the Ride-to-School program on Wheels buses, and work

on securing funding to widen State Route 84 to a four-lane roadway between Pigeon Pass and I-680."

Thorne said he will support a revised Measure B regional transportation tax measure if it is placed on the November ballot with a "sunset" clause that requires going back to the voters in the coming years for re-approval. It was the lack of a sunset and the intent to make the measure last in perpetuity that caused Thorne and others to oppose Measure B, which lost by a narrow margin.

"In the new version of the measure, there is a 30-year sunset clause," Thorne said. "I realize that 30 years is 'in perpetuity' for most of us, but that is how long it will take to collect the dollars required to complete all of the projects in the measure at the proposed tax rate."

This year will also mark the start of major improvements at Bernal Community Park. These will include more lighted sports fields for baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby, as well as a spacious oak woodland consisting of major tree plantings, lighted pathways and a rambling waterway.

Also ahead will be the redevelopment of Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens with new housing for low-income seniors. The buildings there now will be demolished in stages for the new two- and three-story homes and community center.

Thorne said California's drought also will be vigorously addressed this year, even with the recent rains. The City Council has asked residents to reduce their consump-

tion of water by 20%, and the city is moving forward quickly to extend pipes that carry recycled water to curb the use of potable water for park and landscape irrigation.

Thorne noted that the public, in recent surveys, gives high marks to Pleasanton for its parks, police services, schools and government.

"A whopping 97% of those polled considered Pleasanton an excellent or good place to raise children, and that is one of the most important results to us because deciding where to raise children is one of the top decisions a family will make," Thorne said.

He added, "So, with the combined results of the community survey and our new performance measures, we are going to take a quantifiable leap into the future. We'll be checking to see if the resources are properly allocated, and that we continue to maintain the high standard that Pleasanton residents expect.

"We won't be satisfied with just keeping the lights on. We want to keep the lights on and moving the needle forward." ■

Harley Riders



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I have 128,000 miles on my Dyna and know little to nothing about motorcycle repair and maintenance. But I know a motorcycle shop that does. So, if you're looking for a small shop run by a couple of knowledgeable guys who are easy to like and trust then you might consider calling Richard at **First Street Custom Cycle in Livermore (925-443-8574)**.

—Robert W. Byrd



DINO VOURNAS

Thorne wears a Navy captain's hat as he and his wife Sandi officially reopen the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center at a poolside dinner for community volunteers last fall.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• **P14-0010, P14-0011, and PUD-101, MidPen Housing**

Work Session to review and receive comments on applications for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) Rezoning and Development Plan to demolish the 90 existing senior apartments at Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place, demolish the Regalia House, and construct a 185-unit senior apartment project (Kottinger Gardens) on an approximately 6.43-acre site located at 240 and 251 Kottinger Drive, 4138 Vineyard Avenue, and 4133 Regalia Court

Youth Commission

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Operations Service Center – 3333 Busch Road

- Recommendation to Allocate Community Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2014/15

Library Commission

Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Library Foundation
- City Capital Project Financing Options

Parks & Recreation Commission

- Please visit our website at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov> regarding this meeting.

Commissions and Committees Recruitment

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

Civic Arts Commission

Economic Vitality Committee

1 Member from each of the following categories:

- Green Economy/Environmental Industry
- Medical Technology
- Residential Real Estate Developer

Housing Commission

Library Commission

Youth Commission

2 Middle School Representatives

1 High School Representatives

3 At-Large Representatives

2 Alternate Representatives

1 Alternate Adult Representative

APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

(Supplemental Questionnaire Required)

<http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/pdf/PlanningCommissionSupplementalQuestionnaire.pdf>

APPLICATION DEADLINE

MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>

For additional information, Contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

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

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

Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



JEB BING

Mayors Tim Sbranti of Dublin (left to right), Jerry Thorne of Pleasanton and John Marchand of Livermore leave for Washington, D.C. Sunday to seek help in loosening restrictions on the 1% cable TV subscriber fees that go to community television stations. The mayors comprise the board of TV30, which serves the Tri-Valley.

Mayors go to Washington to boost TV30 funding

Mayors Jerry Thorne of Pleasanton, Tim Sbranti of Dublin and John Marchand of Livermore will be in Washington, D.C. next week to push for federal support of efforts to allow cable television system fees to be used as needed for TV30, the Tri-Valley's community broadcast system.

The mayors also serve as board members of TV30 and are seeking legislative action in Sacramento to relax constraints now on public, educational and government (PEG) fees that are assessed to each cable subscriber. According to state law, these funds must be used only for equipment and facilities required for PEG channel programming.

The mayors and TV30 Executive Director Melissa Tench-Stevens want the rules changed to allow those funds for operating expenses, a change that would be especially helpful to TV30, where operating costs and programming far exceed the need for new equipment.

Historically, operating and capital funding for Tri-Valley Community Television (TVCTV) had been provided by PEG funds collected from viewers through their Comcast and AT&T subscriptions. But in 2012, a new State Assembly bill called DIVCA stripped operating costs from the funding. The three cities have been making up the difference ever since.

TVCTV has been broadcasting since 1976. It now broadcasts seven days a week, 24 hours a day, to a population well over 300,000 people who have access to its signal locally. Today, the system's broadcast channels 28 (education), 29 (government meetings) and 30 (diversified programs of interest to the Tri-Valley) can be seen on any computer or mobile device, with video-on-demand also available at the station's website, www.tv30.org.

Although TV30 does not receive A.C. Nielsen rating results, between Jan. 1, 2013 and this past Jan. 31, the station had more than 266,000 views on its website. The system's coverage of City Council and school board meetings in the three Tri-Valley cities has brought increasingly wide acclaim from viewers. Former Pleasanton Mayor Tom Pico used to talk about phone calls and messages he received after council meetings from many who didn't live here but regularly watched those broadcasts.

Tench-Stevens wants to boost the system's outreach and programming. Her staff regularly produces a minimum of 30 original local programs a month. TV30's sportscasters covered football and basketball games at Amador Valley, Dublin, Foothill, Granada and Livermore high schools and this year will be producing numerous election specials, all at substantial operating costs. This programming is not available anywhere else. That's why freeing up the 1% of cable subscriber fee revenue is so important to the continued growth of TVCTV.

Since the 1% fee, which brings in more revenue than the old 50-cent fee once charged by cable subscribers to support community television systems, is so vital to sustain these quasi-public operations across the country, religious groups that also operate these types of stations have joined in freeing up the funds. Catholic bishops, Baptists in the south, Mormons and others are backing revenue-distribution changes because many of the ways they speak to their constituents is through public access television.

The hope is that when the Tri-Valley mayors — who also govern TV30 — make their rounds on Capitol Hill starting Monday, their cohesive support for unrestricted community television funding will gain action in Congress and also in state legislatures, including ours in Sacramento. ■

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Mrs. Firpo's garden

Artists create whimsical wall
for kindergarten at Alisal

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli | Photo by Melinda Firpo

Spring has come early outside the kindergarten at Alisal Elementary School as the wall blossoms with good-natured wildlife and happy-faced flowers. The whimsical addition to the class garden was created by two artists, Patti Balch and Laurie Nowak, who is the grandmother of kindergartner Thoren Bostrom.

Nowak is a docent at Camp Arroyo in Livermore, said kindergarten teacher Melinda Firpo, where she volunteers her time to help the campers and to work in its garden.

"She also takes care of her grandson and picks him up from school, and she saw I had a garden and wanted to help the kids with it," Firpo said. "She spent endless hours

helping us plant seeds and building cages to keep the birds out."

"After we got the garden done, she had the idea of doing something with this ugly peach-colored wall," Firpo added. "I said I'd always wanted to do a mural back here."

Both Firpo and Nowak were captivated by the book "Mrs. Spitzer's Garden," written by Edith Pattou and illustrated by Tricia Tusa.

"The author wrote the story in honor of her daughter's kindergarten teacher, who gets a packet of 'seeds' from her principal every September, plants them, nurtures and tends to them, and watches them bloom and grow," Firpo explained. "It's a delightful story with whimsical illustrations."



Artist Patti Balch contributes her time and talents to paint colorful characters.

Inspired, Nowak enlisted the help of friend Balch, solicited contributions of paint and supplies from Kelly-Moore Paints, and went to work.

"They painted from 8 in the morning until 5 at night," Firpo recalled. "I went and got them lunches and Starbucks. They did it all out of the good of their hearts."

The children love the new gar-

den artwork, especially the fanciful frog, Firpo said. As a matter of fact, everyone on campus is enjoying it.

"The whole staff sees it as they walk into the staff room," Firpo said, "and they've said they can't help but be happy. It's such an adorable part of our school now – the beauty of the garden and the whimsicalness of it."

Nowak continues to use her gar-

dening talents at Alisal.

"Every once in a while, I will open the door and she's out there making sure the garden is beautiful," Firpo said.

Firpo is impressed that these two artists donated their talents to give back to the school. She said it teaches an important lesson: "You can always make an impact in the schools, even if you're a grandparent." ■

Rossini's 'Cinderella' opens March 15

Tri-Valley opera presents classic romantic comedy

The Livermore Valley Opera is presenting Gioachino Rossini's take on a timeless fairy tale, "Cinderella," a romantic comedy to be enjoyed by families and people of all ages, opening at 8 p.m. March 15 at the Bankhead Theater.

This well-known fairy tale appears in many cultures, with between 350 and 1,500 different versions, according to an LVO press release. The earliest may have originated in Egypt and China, yet the most familiar Cinderella tale is the one published by Charles Perrault in "Histoires ou contes du temps passé" in 1697. This version is the one immortalized by Walt Disney, with the fairy godmother, pumpkin carriage and the glass slipper.

Rossini's "Cinderella," which is actually titled "La Cenerentola," is also based on Perrault's rendition. But because Rossini's librettist, Jacopo Ferretti, realized that a fairy tale would be risky for an opera audience, he made several changes, taking out the fairy godmother and the wicked stepmother, and instead creating a wicked stepfather.

Rossini completed this opera in just three weeks, and it is consid-

ered to have some of his finest writing for solo voice and ensembles, something that mezzo soprano Shirin Eskandani knows very well.

"The role of Angelina, aka Cinderella, is a role I've always wanted to sing," said Eskandani. "It is unusual for Rossini to write music for a mezzo. I'm excited to have the opportunity to perform his beautiful music."

She has performed in the opera before, but in the role of the evil stepsister.

"This time I have a principal role but also get to be a princess for a night and wear a beautiful gown. What girl has not dreamed of that?" she said.

LVO's artistic and music director Alexander Katsman has his own reasons for being excited about sharing Cinderella with the community.

"I love Rossini, and Cinderella is one of my favorite operas," he said. "It is comedic, really funny at times, and I think that is why it will appeal to so many people, including families."

Joining Eskandani on stage is Pleasanton native, tenor Marco Stefani, as Prince Ramiro; bass-



LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA
Marco Stefani, a Pleasanton native, plays Prince Ramiro.

baritone Bojan Knezevic as Don Magnifico, the stepfather; and soprano Emma McNairy as Clorinda, the oldest stepdaughter.

"Stage director Bruce Donnell, a two-time Emmy Award winner with



LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA
Shirin Eskandani portrays Angelina, aka Cinderella.

over 20 years as a director with the New York Metropolitan Opera, has very specific ideas for the production," said Katsman. "Working with our cast of talented artists, this excellent director will give the audience a memorable experience."

Special events for the opera week include an Opening Night Gala at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard for \$85; Ice Cream & Opera Sunday matinees; and pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain. ■

Fairy tale with a Twist

What: Rossini's "Cinderella"

Who: Livermore Valley Opera

When: March 15-23

Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore

Tickets: Adults \$39-\$74; students 18 and younger \$10 off; call 373-6800 or go to www.livermoreperformingarts.com

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Allison Wang (left) and Imani Wilson practice for the upcoming Youth Music Festival Concert, being held March 15

'80s musical romp onstage

Youth fest takes us back to that eclectic decade

Young musicians are coming together at the Firehouse Arts Center next Saturday to regale the audience with action from the '80s at the 12th annual Youth Music Festival Concert, beginning at 7:30 p.m. March 15. The festival will have musicians ages 6 to 18, with representatives from Foothill High School, Amador Valley High, Dublin High and Oakland School for the Arts.

The Youth Music Festival started 12 years ago as a way for young area musicians to share their love of music in a supportive and non-competitive way, according to festival director Mark Duncanson. "Battle of the bands" were popular during that time, he said, and the festival was an alternative to the heavy competitive environment young musicians were experiencing.

The selection for the Youth Music Festival Concert began in December, with the call for '80s-themed web-based video submissions, which were reviewed by the selection committee.

This year the festival has two teen hosts who will be guiding the audience through the romp: Sabrina Finke, a 17-year-old junior at Amador, who is a member of the award-winning teen improv troupe, Creatures of Impulse; and Will Mattingly, 16, a freshman at Foothill who was most recently seen in Civic Arts Stage Company's productions of "Willy Wonka Jr." and "The Secret Garden."

The Youth Music Festival is mentored by Duncanson and his team, which includes festival assistant director and writer Jeff Zavattero, choreographer Skylar Schock, and vocal and music director Leah Schaefer. The festival is produced by students, who learn all phases of creating and delivering a full-blown, multifaceted show.

Duncanson said the festival is important because the students are learning to collaborate creatively.

"Our creative team is so mindful to leave room for youth input and feedback. After all, it is a youth music festival; this show is all about them and their talent," he said.

"Another fun key element to this show is the collaborative writing efforts of head writers Jeff Zavattero, Sabrina Finke and Will Mattingly," Duncanson added. "There will be some nostalgic references to '80s pop culture even in the host sketches."

Also, he noted, all music played and sung during the acts is live and generated from the youth performers.

Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$8 students. Early bird tickets may be purchased by March 8 for \$7 general admission, \$5 students. Tickets are available online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 931-4848 or at the Firehouse box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at
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Saturday, March 15 – 5pm - 8pm

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Tickets must be redeemed by 7 p.m. at Firehouse Arts Center - 4444 Railroad Ave.

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Book Clubs

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

Civic Meetings

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

SCHOOL BOARD The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

YOUTH COMMISSION The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Clubs

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS Amador Valley Quilters member and speaker, Liz Berg, is a fiber artist who explores color and composition in abstract works. She paints and dyes fabric and explores all the variations of working on and with fiber. Come and enjoy her presentation from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 at Pleasanton Middle School. Go to www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

BECOME A REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED MEMBER Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated is now accepting new members. The objective is to promote an informed public through political education and more knowledge of the principles of the Republican Party, increase effectiveness of women in the cause of good government and encourage active citizenship. Contact Karen Healy at kajore@aol.com.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION The Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, NSDAR, meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month Sept.-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.

GARDEN CLUB MEETING The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 13 at Alisal School's multipurpose room. Bill Mann, president of Star Roses, will discuss the current catalog of rose offerings, and preparations will be made for the annual Plant Sale on April 5. Go to www.lavgc.org.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB The Pleasanton Lions Club meets for dinner at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at The Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Court. The dinner fee is \$10. For more information please visit <http://pleasantonlionsclub.org>.

PLEASANTON VIP CLUB WITH AUTHOR ANNETTE LANGER The Pleasanton VIP Club will have a lunch with guest speaker, author Annette Langer from 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. on Monday, March 10 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Everyone is Welcome. Cost is \$3.75 seniors, \$6 adults. Reservations for lunch required by 1 p.m. on Friday, March 7. Call 931-5385.

TRI-VALLEY SUCCESSFUL THINKERS Business networking doesn't have to cost a fortune. In the past five years Successful Thinkers networking groups have become commonplace with the emphasis is getting to know, like and trust the person you are referring. Join this group for lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. every Tuesday at On the Border, 4940 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$15. Contact David at david@WealthByStrategy.com. Reservations required. Go to <http://www.meetup.com/Tri-Valley-Successful-Thinkers/events/167625022/>.

Concerts

FAITH PRINCE AT FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER Tony Award-winning Broadway, concert, movie, and television star Faith Prince brings her smash hit one-woman show "Have a Little Faith" to the Firehouse Arts Center at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 16. Tickets are \$20-\$30. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT Young musicians come together in the 12th Annual Youth Music Festival Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 general admission, \$8 students. Special discount tickets available through March 8: \$7 general, \$5 student. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Events

2ND SATURDAY PUBLIC ART WALK Nancy and Gary Harrington will lead a free Pleasanton 2nd Saturday Public Art Walk at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 8 leaving from the City Council Chamber's parking lot at 200 Old Bernal Ave. This "Northern Walk" features Pleasanton's newest public art piece, "Pioneer Founders" mural.

9TH ANNUAL TRANSIT FAIR AT PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER The Transit Fair will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday, March 17 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and will feature representatives from local transit agencies to share information on transportation options. A St. Patrick's Day meal will also be offered for \$6 adults, \$3.75 seniors. Reservations must be made by 1 p.m. on Friday, March 14. For reservations or details call 931-5365.

AN EVENING WITH AUTHOR STEVE MINNIEAR Join an evening with Steve Minnear, author of "Dublin and The Tri-Valley, The WWII Years," on Tuesday, March 11 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Minnear's book is about the military base and hospital activities in Camp Parks and Camp Shoemakers of Dublin during WWII. Books will be available for purchase and signature. Admission is \$10. Call 462-2766.

EAST BAY SINGLES CONVENTION Meet new friends at the East Bay Singles Convention, from 7:30-11:45 p.m. on Saturday, March 22 at the Pleasanton Marriott, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For adults of all ages. Dressy attire. Call (415) 507-9962 or go to www.thepartyhotline.com.

FRIENDS OF THE DUBLIN LIBRARY SPRING USED BOOK SALE Come to the Spring Used Book Sale, from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7; 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8; and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Friday is members only night; memberships available at 5:30 p.m. Sunday features the Bag Day special! Call 828-1315 for more information.

OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH MY FRIENDS Share your latest poem or an excerpt from your novel, or perform your acoustic composition with a supportive audience from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, March 10 at the Pleasanton Library. Presented by Pleasanton Library & Tri-Valley Writers. Sign up at 6 p.m. for your 5 minute slot. Call 931-3400 ext. 4.

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE SPRING SHOW Pleasanton Art League will hold their Spring Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8; and from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at the Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. A reception and awards will be held from 12:30-2 p.m. on Sunday, March 9.

PLEASANTON GEM FAIRE Come see

TAKE US ALONG



Land of smiles: Don and Lorna Kruse and their daughter, Alissa, checked the latest news from Pleasanton on Christmas morning in Thailand. They rode bicycles from Bangkok to Krabi, Thailand during the Christmas holidays.

fine jewelry, precious and semi-precious gemstones, millions of beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals and much more at manufacturer's prices. Over 70 exhibitors from around the world will be on site, from noon-6 p.m. on Friday, March 7; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, March 8; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$7 for weekend pass. Go to <http://www.gemfaire.com>.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREW CRAWL Downtown merchants and local breweries will come together for the St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. Sample beer from Altamont Beer Works, Eight Bridges Brewing, Main Street Brewery and so many more! Pre-sale tickets available for \$30 at PleasantonDowntown.net; Redcoats Pub, 336 St. Mary St.; and at Studio Seven Arts, 400 Main St. The week before, tickets are \$35. Day of, remaining tickets for \$40 at Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets include beer tasting at 26 locations, commemorative beer glass and tasting map. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and sponsored by Goodguys Rod & Custom Association. Call 484-2199.

TEAM DELANEY BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from noon-6 p.m. on Friday, March 14; and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at Purple Orchid Wine Country Spa & Resort, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to redcrossblood.org (Sponsor Code: DELANEY) to schedule an appointment.

THINGS WILL BE BUZZING AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY! "Uncle Jer's Traveling Bee Show" returns to the Pleasanton Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 8. Learn about the fascinating world of bees and bee keeping, taste honey samples, and see live bees at work! Fresh raw honey will be available for purchase after the event. Best for ages 5 and up. Call 931-3400 ext. 3.

Exhibits

'1000 WORDS' AT HARRINGTON ART GALLERY This new installation focuses on story-telling through a variety of media, including print-making, mixed media, photography, painting, and assemblage sculpture, featuring 7 diverse artists. The exhibit runs March 8-April 19. A free reception with the artists will be 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12. A special "1000 Words Response Event" will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27. Visitors are invited to view the installation during the first two weeks and select an artwork to respond to with music, poetry, drama, prose or improv. Interested participants sign up at Gallery Desk. Suggested donation for the performance is \$7. Call 931-4849.

Film

JEWISH MOVIE NIGHT: 'WHAT DO WE EAT?' See the 2005 comedy "When Do We Eat," in which an old-fashioned Jewish father vows to bring his stubborn family together after being slipped a dose of ecstasy during the annual Passover celebration, on Saturday, March 8. Potluck dinner follows. Separate movie for kids. \$5 suggested donation for non-member adults. Contact (510) 888-1404 or reservations@Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org. Go to <http://trivalleyculturaljews.wordpress.com/>.

Kids & Teens

M.O.M.'s READING TIME: HERE COMES HOLI Preschoolers and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main for a free monthly program with books and crafts! This month's theme is Here Comes Holi at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12. Free Admission, donations are always appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or play-groups please contact Museum on Main in advance. Call 462-2766.

SPIDER DISCOVERIES Do you think spiders are scary? Find out why spiders are what we call beneficial

PET OF THE WEEK



Knight needs new kingdom

How about some tail-wagging fun with this regal little terrier mix? Just a bit over 1 year old, Sir Henry is an adorable fellow, ready to be your knight in shining armor. He may be small, but he is big on love and anxiously awaits that special someone to take him to his new kingdom. Visit him at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

arthropods, not to be feared at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 8 at Alviso Adobe Community Park. Ages 5-11. Cost is \$3 for residents, \$5 for non-residents. Register at www.pleasantonfun.com using code 56841. Call 931-3485.

Lectures/ Workshops

GRIEF WORKSHOP The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Each person's grief journey has its own path and its own time. Join this workshop at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evenings, March 13-May 8 at St Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Mary Hagerty at 846-5377.

On Stage

'THE SECRET GARDEN' AT FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER The beloved childhood classic is brought to life on stage as an enchanting musical production. "The Secret Garden" will show

at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays from Feb. 28-March 9 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$12-\$18. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

ROSSINI'S CINDERELLA See Rossini's take on the timeless fairy tale "Cinderella," a romantic comedy to be enjoyed by families and people of all ages. The show runs at 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, March 15-23 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$39-\$74. Call 960-9210 or go to <http://livermorevalleyopera.com>.

Seniors

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER MINI-LIBRARY The Dublin Senior Center Mini-Library is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday at the senior center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The library gladly accepts donations of like-new used books published in the last five years, puzzles, magazines within three months of distribution, and videotapes. Unused books are donated to Friends of the Dublin

Library. Bring donations to the office for processing. Call 556-4511.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER OFFERS MUSIC CLASSES Dublin Senior Center offers two music classes including Sing-a-longs with Judy Kuffin and Merrill Ito at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays; and Ukulele Beginning Instruction with Judy Kuffin and Merrill Ito at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, both at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$1.25 for each class. Call 556-4511.

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS Dublin Senior Center offers different programs and activities including "ESL" which helps seniors practice their English conversational skills from 1-2:30 p.m. every Friday; a Reading Group that discusses new books every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month; the Needle Arts Group that enjoys quilting, sewing and knitting from 1-4 p.m. every Monday; all at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$1.25 for each activity. Call 556-4511.

TRANSCRIBING FOR YOU Transcribing for You has volunteers that will transcribe and print your letters to be sent. The service is located at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd, Dublin, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$1.50. Call 556-4511 for an appointment or email seniorctr@ci.dublin.us.

Spiritual

SIMPSONS PURIM CELEBRATION AND MEGILLAH READING What do Homer, Bart, Mordechai and Esther have in common? Come to this year's mega-Megillah reading and find out from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. If you find the Simpsons a bit off-color, that's okay, so is the Megillah! Come enjoy Hamentashen and "Hamentinis." Call 931-1055.

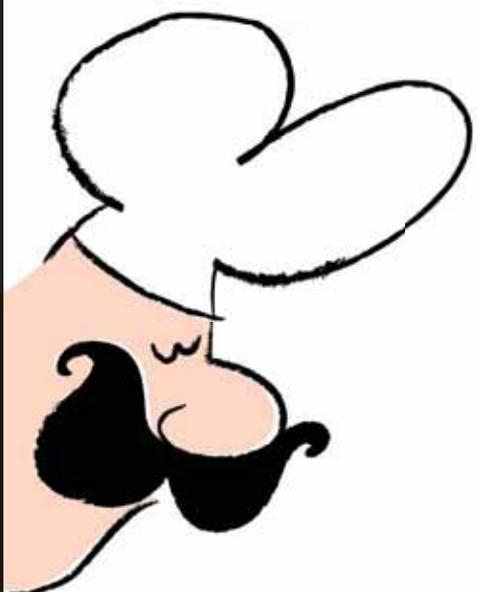
SUNDAY SERMON AT UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY The Sunday sermon theme for the upcoming weeks will be based on the book "The Untethered

Soul" by Michael Singer. Rev. Karen Epps will present "Life Without Fear" on Sunday, March 9 at Unity of Tri-Valley, 9875 Dublin Canyon Road, Castro Valley. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or go to www.trivalleyunity.com.

Support Groups

BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP The American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Support group meets from 7:30-9 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at LifeStyleRx, 1111 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. Call 833-2784 or visit www.valleycare.com.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.



Let's Eat

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BULLETIN BOARD

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Embarcadero Media Group's East Bay Division - The Pleasanton Weekly, San Ramon Express and Danville Express - is looking for a talented and motivated Staff Reporter. The division is headquartered in Pleasanton, CA. The right candidate is interested in being involved in a variety of functions from talking to members of the community about story ideas, to writing headlines to ensuring our website is fresh. Local candidates or candidates able to self relocate only.

Requirements
•Bachelor's degree in Journalism or equivalent
•2 - 3 years journalism experience (at a community news organization preferred)
•Strong writing skills and excellent attention to detail.
•Experience in hard news, meeting coverage and features is ideal.
•Photo and social media skills are a plus.
•Must have excellent communication skills and the confidence to talk to members of the community about story ideas, concerns, and comments.
•Self-motivated, innovative and creative.
•Must be able to manage multiple daily deadlines and multiple priorities while maintaining professionalism in the workplace.
•Must possess reliable transportation and be able to travel throughout the local community.
•Must be able to work the required hours.

This is a part-time position, 25 to 30 hours a week, which allows a flexible schedule.

Send resume, clips showing meeting coverage and feature writing ability and your salary requirements to Gina Channell-Allen, gallen@embarcadero-mediagroup.com, by March 14.

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HOME SERVICES

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LEGALS

995 Fictitious Name Statement

HOWELL SUPPORT SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 487647

The following person(s) doing business as: HOWELL SUPPORT SERVICES, 1940 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Timothy Howell, 1940 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Tim Howell. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 02/05/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7; 2014)

MORGENROTH DEVELOPMENT FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 487656

The following person(s) doing business as: MORGENROTH DEVELOPMENT, 157 W. ANGELA ST. UNIT #1, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): James Morgenroth, 157 W. Angela St. Unit #3, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 01/05/1995. Signature of Registrant: James Morgenroth. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 02/06/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21; 2014)

INTELLIGENT'S LIMO SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 488412

The following person(s) doing business as: INTELLIGENT'S LIMO SERVICE,

1139 CONCANNON BLVD. APT. #27, LIVERMORE, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Najib Asef, 1139 Concannon Blvd. Apt. #27, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Najib Asef. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 02/25/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 7, 14, 21, 28; 2014)

ENTITLEMENT URETHANE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 488135

The following person(s) doing business as: ENTITLEMENT URETHANE, 2595 TANAGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bentley Anderson, 2595 Tanager Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Bentley Anderson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 02/20/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, March 7, 14, 21, 28; 2014)

997 All Other Legals

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Aviso al Demandado): ANNETTE JORDAN You are being sued. Lo estan demandando. PETITIONER'S NAME IS: (El nombre del demandante es): JORIO AMARAL

Case Number: D09-04956 (Numero del Caso)
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120 or FL-123) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter or phone call will not protect you. If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. You can get information about finding lawyers at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), or by contacting your local county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS CORRIDOS despues de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citacion y Peticion, para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120 o FL-123) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefonica no basta para protegerlo. Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar ordenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte tambien le puede ordenar que pague manutencion, y honorarios y costos legales. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario un formulario de exencion de cuotas. Si desea obtener asesoramiento legal, pongase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener informacion para encontrar a un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en el sitio Web de los Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) o poniendose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado. NOTICE: The restraining orders on page 2 are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. These orders are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them. AVISO: Las ordenes de restriccion que figuran en la pagina 2 valen para ambos conyuges o pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la peticion, se emita un fallo o la corte de otras ordenes. Cualquier autoridad de la ley que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas ordenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California. 1. The name and address of the court are: (El nombre y direccion de la corte son): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, 751 PINE STREET, MARTINEZ, CA 94553. 2. The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, direccion y numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): JORIO AMARAL, 1065 QUAIL VALLEY RUN, OAKLEY, CA 94561. (925) 420-5885. Date (Fecha): Feb. 11, 2014. Clerk, by (secretario, por) L. VO, Deputy (Asistente) Susanne M. Fenstermacher, Judicial Officer (seal) NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: AVISO A LA PERSONA QUE RECIBIO LA ENTREGA: Esta entrega se realiza. You are served as an individual. (Pleasanton Weekly, Feb. 14, 21, 28; March 7, 2014)

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

State's home sales improving

Spring home-buying season starts early

By JEB BING

With the statewide housing inventory slowly improving, California pending home sales picked up steam in January and reversed a two-month decline, but pending sales were still down from a year ago, the California Association of Realtors reported this week.

"We're starting to see a turning point in the market as we approach the spring home-buying season," said CAR President Kevin Brown.

"Home sellers realize that home prices are holding steady and are gearing up for the upcoming season by listing their homes for sale, while prospective home buyers are getting more comfortable with stabilizing home prices and interest rates and are entering the market," he added.

California pending home sales posted higher in January, with the Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI) jumping 22.9% in January to reach 84.8, up from a revised index of 68.9 in December, based on signed contracts. Pending sales were down 17.5% from the revised

102.8 index recorded in January 2013. The year-over-year decline was the fifth straight annual double-digit drop in the PHSI.

Pending home sales are forward-looking indicators of future home sales activity, providing information on the future direction of the market.

After reaching a recent high in November, the share of equity sales, or non-distressed property sales, was essentially unchanged in January, but still marked the seventh straight month that equity sales have been more than 80% of total sales.

The share of equity sales in January dipped to 84.4%, down from 84.5% in December. Equity sales made up 64.2% of sales in January 2013.

Conversely, the combined share of all distressed property sales also was essentially unchanged in January. The share of distressed property sales edged up from 15.5% in December to 15.6% in January.

Still, distressed sales were down by more than a half from a year ago, when the share was 35.8%. About half

of the 37 reported counties showed a month-to-month decrease in the share of distressed sales, with San Diego County having the smallest share at 4%.

Of the distressed properties, the share of short sales was 9.2% in January, down from 10% in December. January's figure was nearly half of the 21.2% recorded in January 2013 and remained at the lowest levels since January 2009.

The share of real estate owned (REO) sales inched up in January to 5.9% from 5% in December. REOs made up 14.2% of all sales in January 2013.

January saw an increase in active listings across all property types, especially in equity properties, which helped to improve housing supply conditions. The Unsold Inventory Index for equity sales climbed from 3 months in December to 4.4 months in January.

The supply of REOs rose from 2.8 months in December to 3.2 months in January, and the supply of short sales increased from 3.2 months in December to 4.6 months in January. ■

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210 E. Angela, Pleasanton

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Open Floorplan, hardwood and imported travertine floors throughout! Newer cobblestone driveway, roof, doors, fixtures, rec. lights, gorgeous custom millwork, new master bath. Walk just 2 blocks to Farmers Market, Downtown dining, shopping and entertainment! \$889,000



753 Kilkare, Sunol

NEW CONSTRUCTION

1-STORY ON 5 ACRES!

Brand-New approx. 2550 sq. ft. 4br, 3ba top-quality construction home with 3 car attached garage, side access, and giant covered deck in private, peaceful Kilkare Canyon location. Minutes to Hwy 680. \$1,396,000

COMING SOON

5598 Legendary Ct, Pleasanton

WESTSIDE NEW CONSTRUCTION!

Approx. 4700 sq. ft. 5br, 4ba home on prime 1 acre lot. Top quality construction and high-end finishes. Call for more info. Estimated completion 4/1/14 \$1,948,000

Ruby Hill, Pleasanton

6500+ sq. ft. private cul-de-sac home with golf course views! 6br, 4.5b a + giant bonus room. 22,000+ sq. ft. premium lot with pool and spa. Call for more info. \$2,648,000

MIKE CAREY, Broker

925.963.0569 Cell
925.846.0506 Office

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

For an online version with mapping or to list your open home go to: www.PleasantonWeekly.com/real_estate

Dublin

2 BEDROOMS

3420 Finnian Way \$422,000
Sat 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3 BEDROOMS

4835 Swinford Court \$610,000
Sat 1-4 Investment Real Estate 846-0506

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS

322 Garden Common \$419,500
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel, Realtors 251-1111

890 Jefferson Avenue \$564,500
Sat 1-4 Prudential 216-6496

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

1540 Whispering Oak Way \$1,225,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

7 Twelve Oaks Drive \$1,650,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

3621 Virgin Islands Court Call for price
Sun 1-3 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

210 E. Angela St. \$889,000
Sun 1-4 Investment Real Estate 846-0506

4 BEDROOMS

4374 Douglas Court \$750,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

4934 Monaco Drive Call for price
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

565 Sycamore Creek Way \$1,049,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

1288 Concord Ave. \$1,190,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

5 BEDROOMS

1006 Zinfandel Ct \$1,295,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-valley 397-4200

12 Deer Oaks Dr \$1,753,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

3750 Smallwood Court \$1,829,000
Sat 2-5/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

7666 Flagstone Drive \$1,298,000
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 251-2500

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

9632 Camassia Way \$659,950
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

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Real Estate Mortgage Advisor
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To advertise in the Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory call (925) 600-0840. Ask about online and email advertising.

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan. 30-Feb. 13

Dublin

- 3267 Cranbrook Place** E. & L. Ganda to C. Park for \$1,050,000
- 7920 Creekside Drive** Hart Trust to L. Mangal for \$1,550,000
- 3275 Dublin Boulevard #104** Killus Trust to Y. He for \$415,000
- 3703 Dublin Boulevard** A. Chin to N. & D. Raisurana for \$405,000
- 3657 Finnian Way** A. & T. Cleary to F. Guo for \$640,000
- 7772 Gardella Drive** Van Trust to C. & D. Koepin for \$645,000
- 3240 Maguire Way #202** G. Gu to Y. Huang for \$415,000
- 3240 Maguire Way #300** RRS Ventures to KCMC Properties for \$467,000
- 1691 North Terracina Drive** D R Horton to Y. Liu for \$1,218,500
- 3584 Rocking Horse Court** M. Vedula to P. Akkaraju for \$740,000
- 7026 Stagecoach Road #F** Federal National

Mortgage to R. Siritanumart for \$305,000
6531 Tralee Village Drive Shea Homes to T. Riad for \$733,000

Livermore

- 2352 8th Street** VIK Capital Investments to J. & J. Olsen for \$785,000
- 613 Catalina Drive** J. Connor to Newport Murietta Land Company for \$456,000
- 498 Colusa Way** Schall Trust to D. & L. McLaughlin for \$510,000
- 1272 Deep Creek Road** I. & J. Barnes to K. King for \$770,000
- 762 Hanover Street** H. Golakiea to N. Childers for \$565,000
- 4671 Laurie Common #105** Tri-Valley Golden Investments to M. Crume for \$285,000
- 1476 Maplewood Drive** Jiamao Enterprises to A. Afra for \$585,000
- 1798 Mira Loma Street** J. & C. Nyberg to S. Gaur for \$465,000
- 1699 Peachtree Common** R. Princevalle to P. La for \$325,000
- 231 Prato Way** R. & K. Crandall to A. & K. Jafri for \$1,135,000

187 Selby Lane #3 Y. & F. Reynado to N. Hirkenessy for \$483,000

Pleasanton

- 4672 Carson Court** Maggini Trust to M. & D. Smith for \$650,000
- 2356 Goldcrest Circle** J. Young to H. Singh for \$543,000
- 4558 Lakewood Street** Ware Trust to M. Trunfio for \$755,000
- 3311 Prairie Drive** Glossup Trust to G. Piper for \$989,000
- 7930 Raccoon Hollow Court** Lee Trust to J. Maya for \$1,512,000
- 1124 Vintner Way** R. & D. Serafin to M. & V. Markovic for \$805,000

San Ramon

- 9085 Alcosta Boulevard #321** T. Millner to C. Law for \$250,000
- 1926 Barossa Drive** W. Fong to M. & S. Baig for \$1,000,000
- 3309 Burning Tree Drive** K. Gerges to U. Jung for \$1,115,000
- 4035 Canyon Crest Road #W** F. & P. Wiegert to

- Q. Truong for \$963,000
- 420 Canyon Woods Place #D** Klebanov Trust to M. Ghomi for \$440,000
- 112 Coralflower Lane** Dodson Trust to L. Sampathkumar for \$640,000
- 701 Destiny Lane #49** E. Jaronczyk to E. Schembri for \$444,000
- 2504 Fountainhead Drive** Rennard Trust to D. Winslow for \$345,000
- 6036 Hedgecrest Circle** A. & L. Leong to BY Investment & Management for \$1,275,000
- 1893 Hollyview Drive** L. Panahinia to H. Arumugam for \$890,000
- 3363 Middlebrook Way** B. Luu to C. & P. Sara for \$989,000
- 7595 Northland Place** M. Phan to S. Wang for \$810,000
- 516 Van Buren Place** R. Boitano to G. & M. Kumar for \$505,000
- 324 Winterwind Circle** A. & N. Stefani to C. Farleigh for \$722,000
- 195 Woodview Terrace Drive** G. & N. Denny to C. & N. Horder for \$970,000
- 6182 Yardley Lane** L. Heinig to Bize Trust for \$712,000

Source: California REsource

SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Jan. 30-Feb. 13

Dublin (Jan. 30-Feb. 4)

Total sales reported: 12
Lowest sale reported: \$305,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000
Average sales reported: \$715,292

Livermore (Jan. 30-Feb. 4)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$285,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,135,000
Average sales reported: \$578,545

Pleasanton (Jan. 30-Feb. 4)

Total sales reported: 6
Lowest sale reported: \$543,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,512,000
Average sales reported: \$875,667

San Ramon (Feb. 6-13)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$250,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,275,000
Average sales reported: \$754,375

Source: California REsource

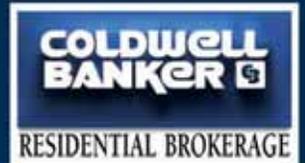


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DUBLIN
 Open SAT 1 - 4 **3420 FINNIAN WAY #335**
PRICE REDUCED! \$422,000
 2 BR 2 BA Upgraded granite counters, crown molding, courtyard view, no neighbors on either side
 925.847.2200 John/Daisy Ng CalBRE#00917356/01311067



PLEASANTON
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **12 DEER OAKS DR**
STUNNING HOME! \$1,753,000
 5 BR 3.5 BA 2 Mstr Suites. Upg Kit. Granite Counters w/SS Appl, waterfall & gazebo, approx 4242 sq ft
 925.367.7414 Nancy Sutorius CalBRE#00628232



SAN RAMON
COMING SOON! \$999,988
 5 BR 3 BA Beautiful, large Windemere home, approx 3231 sq ft, walking distance to top rated schools
 925.353.8099 Lucy Luo CalBRE#01816677



SAN RAMON
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **9632 CAMASSIA WAY**
MUST SEE! \$659,950
 3 BR 2.5 BA Gorgeous home w/hardwood floors, Berber carpet in ea BR, near parks, top schools, shopping
 925.775.8905 Maria Sun CalBRE#01938055

DUBLIN

3275 DUBLIN BLVD. #330
SIMPLY GORGEOUS! \$489,000
 3 BR 2 BA Highly upgraded w/hardwood floors, designer paint, stainless steel appliances, large balcony
 925.847.2200 Romar De Claro CalBRE#01341138

HAYWARD

22678 WILDWOOD ST
FANTASTIC LOCATION! \$320,000
 2 BR 1.5 BA Great floor plan, remodeled bath, new vanity w/granite, large bedrooms, fireplace, big patio
 925.784.6815 Lauren Searfus CalBRE#00970433

LIVERMORE

46200 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 Delwyn Lounsbury CalBRE#00330978

542 ST. GEORGE CT.
\$699,000

BEAUTIFUL VIEWS!
 3 BR 2 BA HUGE lot, hill views, country kitchen w/ breakfast bar, updated bths, basement for wine storage
 925.847.2200 Mary Anne Rozsa CalBRE#00783003

20850 MINES ROAD
FABULOUS PIECE OF PROPERTY \$617,000
 Views to rolling hills, trees and distant vistas. Several lovely spots for home site.
 925.847.2200 Mary Anne Rozsa CalBRE#00783003

OAKLAND

928 W. MACARTHUR BLVD.
COMING SOON \$460,000
 2 BR 1 BA Completely remodeled, NEW kitchen, baths, floors, paint inside & out, SS applncs, close to freeway
 925.847.2200 Shivani Yadav CalBRE#01852900

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

11000 DEL PUERTO CANYON ROAD
PRICE REDUCED! \$1,249,950
 4 BR 2 BA Lots of trees. 2 bass ponds. Well & Spring water systems. Has separate artist/craft cottage.
 925.847.2200 Delwyn Lounsbury CalBRE#00330978

SAN LEANDRO

1789 VIEW DR
NEW LISTING! \$699,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Bay views in Bayovista, hardwood floors, dual paned windows, granite counters, bonus rm, side access
 510.851.3551 Laurie Pfohl CalBRE#00866660

SAN RAMON

381 BRIDLE COURT
GREAT CITY AND HILL VIEWS! \$1,699,000
 4 BR 3.5 BA Upgraded home w/detached casita. Single story w/views, stone frplces & gorgeous cabinetry
 510.299.6844 Tae Terry Kim CalBRE#01363454

5935 LANTANA WAY
\$1,199,000

VICTORIA MODEL HOME!
 4 BR 3 BA 3 car grge, formal living, dine & fmly rms, office w/ french doors, walk to Elementary School
 510.299.6844 Tae Terry Kim CalBRE#01363454

SUNOL

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

Close in Location across from Ruby Hills 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. No utility bills, no water bills.

4 Bed 3.5 Bath +/-4,000 square feet +/-20.36 Acres

Listed At \$2,885,800

COMING SOON
Open House Sun 1-4

7666 Flagstone Dr, Pleasanton
Walking distance from Muirwood Park and short distance to Lydiksen Elementary, shopping and restaurants.
6 Bed 2.5 Bath +/-3,400 square feet
Listed At \$1,298,000

CALBRE # 00315981 / #0458199 5075 Hopyard Road, Suite 110, Pleasanton, CA. 94588

SMattos@rockcliff.com and LMattos@rockcliff.com



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DRE# 00790463, 01412130



900 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566

MOXLEY REAL ESTATE TEAM



1124 DONAHUE DR.
PLEASANTON

Located in the Ironwood Classics. 4bd+loft, bedroom & full bath on main level, upgraded throughout, large kitchen overlooking great room, custom cabinetry, master with retreat, private backyard, large patio, arbor & BBQ area.
OFFERED AT \$1,130,000



575 DEL SOL AVE.
PLEASANTON

Best un-obstructed view in Downtown Pleasanton - 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, 2,266+/-sf. Updated kitchen w/ custom cherry cabinets, island and nook. This home offers privacy, relaxation & more.
OFFERED AT \$930,000



3583 BALLANTYNE DR.
PLEASANTON

Located in Pleasanton Meadows. 4bd,2.5ba, 2,126+/-sf home. Updated throughout, granite & cherry kitchen, tile floors, generous storage. Opens to family room, access to rear yard, spa, garden areas and more!
OFFERED AT \$829,000



4701 SANDALWOOD DR.
PLEASANTON

Located in Highland Oaks - Charming single level, updated throughout, 4bd/2ba, formal living, fireplace, corner lot next to Lydiksen elementary, park & community pool. Side yard access, sheds, covered patio and more!
OFFERED AT \$699,000



2487 TANAGER DR.
PLEASANTON

Located in Willow West neighborhood. 4 BD 2 BA, 1,909sf. on an 8,040sf. lot. Updated throughout and an open floor plan. Master suite with his/hers closets. Located next to park and offering side yard access. Private back yard with large patio and pool. Move in ready!
SOLD AT \$855,000

Coming Soon:

Single level custom home w/ 5bd & 4,000sf.
Built in 2005

Ironwood Estates - Single level, 4 BD, 3 Car Garage, court location.



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KOTTINGER RANCH

3750 SMALLWOOD COURT, PLEASANTON

Beautiful panoramic views of Mt. Diablo & the Pleasanton Valley! This custom home built by Westbrook Homes is located on an 18,084 square foot private, elevated lot. This well designed, open floor plan offers a formal Dining Room, formal Living Room, as well as a full bedroom, adjacent bathroom & bonus room on the first floor. The remodeled gourmet kitchen offers stainless steel appliances, granite counters & a custom tile backsplash. 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms total, this 4,748 square foot home also has 3 remodeled bathrooms & other upgrades throughout including crown molding & new carpet! The expansive rear yard includes an in-group pool/spa, outdoor BBQ entertainment area & large patio & lawn area. Great home for entertaining! Neighborhood Community Center! Walk to Vintage Hills Elementary & Downtown!

OFFERED AT 1,829,000



BRIDLE CREEK



5718 DALTON CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON

Highly Upgraded 4,434 Square Foot Home in Like-New Excellent Condition! The elegant foyer offers custom tile flooring with marble inlay and the high plate ceilings. The gourmet kitchen includes stainless steel appliances, granite slab counters, generous cabinets and a spacious eating area. Each of the five bedrooms offers a private adjoining full bathroom; one of which is large and located on the first floor and can be used as a bonus/game room or Au Pair/Guest Suite. There is also a downstairs powder room. An optional office/sixth bedroom has been converted into a wine tasting room with beautiful custom built-in cherry cabinets. This 12,400 square foot professionally landscaped lot includes a private back yard, Pebble Tec Pool, outdoor BBQ/Entertainment area and generous lawn area. Premium location near downtown, neighborhood park and easy access to south bound 680 commute!

OFFERED AT \$1,799,000

WEST LIVERMORE



322 GARDEN COMMON, LIVERMORE

Charming Townhouse in West Livermore! This three bedroom, two and a half bath, 1,519 square foot townhome offers an open floor plan and a living room with vaulted ceilings and high windows for natural light. The updated kitchen has stainless steel appliances, solid surface countertops and oak cabinets. Brand new carpet and new interior door hardware throughout. New private cement patio with storage closet and shed. There is a one car attached garage and addition reserved parking spot. Great location!

OFFERED AT \$419,500

PENDING!



255 RACHAEL PLACE, PLEASANTON

Single Level condo, ground floor unit (no stairs) with attached one car garage and spacious rear yard! This two bedroom, two bath condo is 937 square feet home with a large back yard including patio, deck and garden area. The kitchen offers brand new stainless steel appliances. Central air and heat, fireplace, newer carpet, upgraded baseboards, dual pane windows. Desirable Downtown Pleasanton!

OFFERED AT \$419,500

SOLD!



897 SUNSET CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON

Gorgeous, highly upgraded, sought after single level in Bridle Creek! Premium location, Panoramic views, solar heated in-ground pool, beautifully landscaped with private brick patio areas. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms, 3,246 square feet on a 12,464 square foot lot. Gourmet kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Great Room concept with spacious Family Room. Many upgrades throughout! Don't miss this one!

OFFERED AT \$1,569,000 AND SOLD FOR \$1,540,000



1185 LAGUNA CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON

With unobstructed views of the Pleasanton Ridge, this five bedroom, five and a half bathroom, 5,329 square foot home sits on a premium 16,321 square foot lot. The gourmet kitchen boasts a large island, granite counters, stainless steel appliances and a six-burner gas range. Grand entrance with large foyer, vaulted ceilings, formal dining room, spacious master suite, laundry room, three car and so much more. The resort-like back yard offers a pool, spa, pool house, outdoor kitchen, and gazebo. Easy access to I-680 and close to schools!

OFFERED AT \$1,897,500 AND SOLD FOR \$1,897,500





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Priced Reduction \$1,650,000
Framed by mature oaks, and surrounded by 62 acres of open space. Breath taking views of the valley and hills. Totally private setting in gated home community. Contemporary architecture, 3457 sq ft, 3 fireplaces, casita, decks, pool, RV garage, truly a custom design.

COMING SOON

Town home, Livermore, 1350 sq ft, one car garage attached, new carpeting, paint, end unit.

Large single family home. Pleasanton. 3500 sq ft, semi custom, 5 car garage, side yd access

Louise Davis

REALTOR® LIC # 00551850
925.200.2457
www.LouiseDavis.com



4034 Alvarado Street Pleasanton
3bd, 2ba, 1236 sq ft. Great Location & w/Pool!
Rent \$2800



6569 Inglewood Drive Pleasanton
Located in Val Vista!
4BD, 2BA, 1490 Sq. ft. Recently Remodeled
Rent \$2900



3551 Norton Way Vintage Hills Apartments Pleasanton
Unit 5 & 7, 2BD, 1.5BA
900 sq. ft.
Rent \$1395

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LIC # 01482226 & 01465272

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OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4PM!

4934 Monaco Drive, Pleasanton
This Pleasanton Hills custom home that sits on an almost half acre lot. 4 beds, 2 1/2 baths, 3396 sq.ft. Views of Mt Diablo and the Valley.



COMING SOON!

6929 Corte Mateo, Pleasanton
Court location. 4 beds, 3 baths, and a large upstairs bonus room with fireplace 2422 sq.ft. pie-shaped rear yard with pool and waterfall for those nice warm days.



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carolynn@carolynnmachi.com

CalBRE #01021716



5501 DeMarcus Blvd #504
Classy, urban style 2bed/2 bath condo-pristine condition! Secure building and parking. BART, shopping nearby!

Offered at \$437,000



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Pending with multiple offers!

3083 Sandstone Rd, Alamo
Main home 4959 sq. ft. 6 beds, 4.5 baths. Complete with 1100 sq. ft. guest home with 2 beds, 2 baths. Resort style backyard!



SOLD! Represented Buyer

1001 Tesla Road, Livermore
5 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,450 sqft home. 3 1/2 acres of Petite Sirah, 1 1/2 Acres of Cabernet, 2 1/2 acres of Merlot. Sold for \$1,930,000

If you are thinking of buying or selling, call today to find out how we can help!



Mike Chandler

REALTOR®

LIC #01039712

925.426.3858

MikeChandler.kwrealty.com

Joe Davis

REALTOR®

LIC #01707657

510.926.0571

davis.joe6@gmail.com



1ST TIME OPEN SUN 1 - 3PM!

3621 Virgin Islands Court Stunning Valley Trails Home!
Gourmet kitchen, plank hardwood floors and remodeled baths. 3 bdms, small den & 2.5 baths. 1744 sq ft. Beautiful yard with fire pit!
\$775,000



COMING SOON!

6231 Ruxton Court, Pleasanton
Beautiful one level home with 4 bdms, 2 baths and over 1700 sq ft. Sunny granite kitchen, cozy family room and private backyard
Priced in the mid \$700's

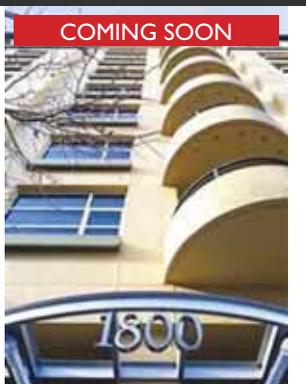


Dave & Sue Flashberger

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1800 Washington Street #218 San Francisco
City Living in Style! Gorgeous Pacific Heights Condo! 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms among 1,068+/- sq. ft. Built in 2001. Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, granite counters, 2 balconies overlooking the pool, and so much more!
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COMING SOON



DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema

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925.260.2220 925.413.6544

DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com Liz@VenemaHomes.com

ArmarioHomes.com



OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

4374 Douglas Court, Val Vista, Pleasanton
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