

Pleasanton Weekly

Local athletes
take home
summer titles

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*Seniors
Living Well*

Exercise keeps minds
and bodies well-tuned

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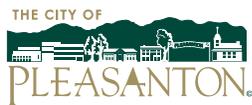
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



JEB BING

Augustine Bernal built this adobe house in 1850 on Foothill Road and lived there most of his life. In 2008, the city of Pleasanton restored this historical landmark, added a 7-acre park and small parking lot, and opened it for visual presentations about the Adobe's history.

More appeal for languishing Alviso Adobe

A new citizens' task force is being established to look at ways to spice up the Alviso Adobe, an historical landmark that the city of Pleasanton spent \$4.5 million to restore six years ago. The Alviso, which includes a 7-acre park and small parking lot, sits high above Foothill Road and across from Laguna Oaks.

Although it's never achieved the promises made at the time it was restored, it serves as a popular hands-on activities center for school children with walking tours of the Pleasanton Ridge and historical presentations by the city's naturalist Eric Nicholas and others about works of the Adobe's three time periods: Ohlone, Californio, and the Meadowlark Dairy. Children especially enjoy the visit with Fiona, the park's life-sized, fiberglass cow-in-residence.

When the Adobe was restored and opened to the public in 2008, there was an expectation that this unique site that tells the story of California from its earliest human history would be one of the Tri-Valley's, if not the Bay Area's, best interpretive parks. Sadly, that hasn't happened and the Adobe seems to be languishing.

That may change with the opening of the recently acquired 231 acres of ridgeland by the East Bay Regional Park District from Cas-

teridge Properties and a new eight-home development approved last Tuesday that will provide another 22 acres of permanent open space directly across Old Foothill Road from the Adobe. Together, with more parking and Ridgeland hikers, the Adobe will be at the center of what could be one of Pleasanton's best outdoor attractions.

Kurt Kummer, who helped plan the Adobe restoration, said the Castleridge trailhead to the Ridgeland hills will provide easier access for hundreds who find the trailhead farther south on the Sunol-Pleasanton road too difficult. But that will also require more parking than the Adobe now offers with the result that hikers can spend time in the Adobe and visitors to the historical site can find parking in a lot that now is often filled.

The new nine-member task force will address these concerns and opportunities with an eye for restoring the Adobe's public visibility just as planners did in 2008 in restoring the Adobe, itself. Task force members will come from the Museum on Main, the Youth, Parks and Recreation, and Civic Arts commissions, and Friends of the Adobe. If you're interested in serving, contact Julie Yuan-Miu, assistant city manager, at [www.jjuan-miu@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:jjuan-miu@cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

About the Cover

Local seniors stimulate their mind by memorizing the dance moves taught during the Pleasanton Senior Center's Zumba Gold class. Photo by Amanda Aguilar. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XV, Number 26

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Olga Busslinger

August 13, 1914-July 20, 2014

Olga Busslinger left her earthly life on July 20, 2014, after nearly 100 years charming everyone she met. She was born in Mellingen, Switzerland on August 13, 1914, the youngest of 10 children.



Olga came to the United States after World War II, having spent the war years in England. She worked as a domestic for many wealthy families throughout the United States in Chicago, New York, Florida and California. Her favorite part of her adopted country was Santa Barbara, where she spent many years before retiring and moving to Tracy, California to care for her older sister.

In recent years Olga lived at Eden Villa in Pleasanton, where she endeared herself to all who resided and worked there. Although Olga never married, she leaves behind many nieces and nephews in Switzerland and France, along with many friends in Tracy and Pleasanton who adopted her, thus becoming her family. Anyone who knew her will always remember her bright eyes, constant enormous smile, and ever present positive outlook. Her deep faith and convictions were the main constant in her life, along with her compassion for everyone. She never missed an opportunity to appreciate a flower, a new tree bud, or a bird in flight.

Olga found her joys in simple ways, loving deeply all animals, especially cats. She gave freely and often to many charities, with a soft spot for those less fortunate than herself.

We will all remember Olga's constant gems of wisdom. She taught us all. She taught us all very well.

Her "American Family" Janice and Doug Miller, Ashley and Keith Savageau, Reagan and Simon Maher, and Jared Miller wish to thank the caregivers at Eden Villa who loved and lived with her for the past 10 years, and took such good care of her. As they always are, Hope Hospice was wonderful and their angel Jose was God's final gift to her.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, July 24, 2014, at St. Bernard's Catholic Church, 163 W. Eaton Ave., Tracy. Visitation was observed Wednesday from 5-7 p.m. followed by a Vigil Service at Hotchkiss Mortuary, 5 W. Highland Ave., Tracy. Burial was at Tracy Public Cemetery, 501 E. Schulte Road, Tracy

PAID OBITUARY

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND MAIN STREET

If you ever decide to move away from Pleasanton, where do you think you would go?



Gary Sorensen

Retired

I think I would move to St. Helena in the Napa Valley. It's a beautiful area, the weather is great and so is the local wine.



Tamara Sorensen

Retired

I would move either to St. Helena, with my husband, or, if he wanted to move to Carmel, I'd move there, too. Carmel is beautiful and it would be great to live right by the ocean.



Laure Runkle

Clerk

I would move to Washington state. I really enjoy the rain. It speaks to me.



Stephanie Hall

Human resources specialist

I would move to Napa. It has great restaurants, great wine and a nice small-town feeling.



Bill Tsono and Linda

Retired

I don't care where I move to so long as my wife is by my side. Home is where the heart is, right? So since my heart belongs to Linda, my home is wherever she is.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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DIGEST

Blood drive set

To help prevent a summer blood shortage, the American Red Cross is holding blood drives throughout the Bay Area, including one tomorrow in Pleasanton.

Blood donations typically decline during the summer months, especially after Independence Day, a Red Cross spokesman said.

Local donations can be made from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6001 Paseo Santa Cruz, in Pleasanton.

Donors can drop in or register at www.redcrossblood.org (use donor code "Interfaith-Community") or call 1-800-REDCROSS to make an appointment.

PTSCA barbecue

The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association hosts its annual fundraiser and get-together barbecue on Aug. 16 from 5:30-11 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

It is the only fundraiser for the year and supports the summer student exchange program and the Tulancingo delegation visit in Pleasanton in September.

There will be a barbecue dinner, live and silent auctions with a range of items, dancing and a no-host bar.

Advanced registration is available at \$35 per person. Entry will cost \$40 at the door. Child tickets will cost \$12 and reserved sponsored tables for eight for \$280, before Aug. 9. For more information, visit www.ptsc.org or call 846-4134.

Animal welfare award

Pleasanton-based Safeway, Inc., recently received the Henry Spira Humane Corporate Progress Award from The Humane Society of the United States for its efforts to improve animal welfare conditions within the company.

The grocery chain — the second largest in the country — earned the national award for its work in 2013 "to end the extreme confinement of pigs in its supply chain," Humane Society officials said in a statement.

In the pork industry, most breeding pigs are confined for virtually their entire lives in immobilizing gestation crates.

"Safeway certainly deserves some (credit) for showing the pork industry that gestation crates have no future," said Matt Prescott, food policy director for the Humane Society.

Apartment complex without water for four days

Residents cope until crews fix breakage in main water pipe

BY AMANDA AGUILAR
After four consecutive days without water, residents of Pleasanton's Springhouse Apartments had their water supply restored on Tuesday.

Springhouse Apartments spokesman Philip Maes said the water was restored to over 300 apartment units located on 5505 Springhouse Drive at approximately 10:45 a.m. Tuesday. Water service had been out at the complex since the previous Friday afternoon.

"I feel fantastic now that I'm clean," said Springhouse resident Michael Todd, adding that he wasn't able to go to work Monday because he didn't have the ability to shower.

The apartment complex's water was shut off when the apartment's main high pressure water pipe

broke Friday, according to Springhouse management.

"It's like camping," Todd said on Monday, before the problem was fixed.

On Monday morning, apartment complex management declined to comment on the issue, saying they were trying to "focus on getting water back to the folks."

A contractor attempted to repair the pipe on Saturday, but the repair attempt resulted in another pipe section blowing out due to high pressure, according to Pleasanton's building official George Thomas.

After contacting several contractors, property management officials hired Cosco contractors Monday to repair the water pipe.

"Our crews have been available since Friday and provided all the necessary permitting to initiate re-

pair by private contractors," Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho said of the incident.

Portable toilets and sinks were placed throughout the complex Monday morning, and the leasing office provided bottled water to residents before the issue was resolved.

"I'm dealing with it, doing what I can," resident Chris DeAndre said Monday, adding he was planning to check into a hotel that day.

Another resident, who asked to remain anonymous, said she and some other residents were scooping water out of the swimming pool to fill their toilets.

According to Thomas, property owners paid for residents' hotel accommodations and offered compensation for July's rent as a result of the water outage. ■



AMANDA AGUILAR

Residents in the Springhouse Apartments spent four days without water service.



LARRY COY

Steps forward in fight against cancer

Pleasanton's annual Relay for Life event last weekend brought out 26 registered teams, 62 cancer survivors and 236 individual participants, equipped with walking shoes and water bottles to fight against cancer. The 24-hour fundraising walk went from 9 a.m. Saturday to 9 a.m. Sunday and included live musical and dance performances and booths that offered raffles, facilitated games, and sold food and merchandise. This year's relay raised \$83,508 in net funds to go toward cancer research and patient resources. The organizers' goal was \$125,000, and they are still accepting donations through Aug. 31. Donations can be made by going to www.relayforlife.org/pleasantonca.

Two school board seats up for grabs

Incumbents, challenger announce candidacy

Two Pleasanton Unified School District board seats are up for election this November, and both incumbents, plus one challenger, have declared their candidacy thus far.

Current officeholders Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen have said they will seek second terms while resident and substitute teacher Paige Wright has pulled nomination papers in search of a first term.

Bowser, first elected in Novem-

ber 2010, served as school board president from 2012-13. He took out nomination papers this week, according to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters' Office.

If re-elected, Bowser said he hopes to continue promoting strong fiscal stewardship, developing programs for at-risk student and keeping class sizes small. This would be Bowser's second regional election of the year. He lost out in his bid to become Alameda County superintendent of schools in

the June primary.

Laursen, also elected to a first term in November 2010, said she would like to continue working on improving resources for students, as well as increasing professional development for staff to help them integrate technological tools and project-based learning into their teaching.

"We have a lot of work to do, but together we can make a big difference for our students," she said.

Laursen pulled nomination papers Wednesday afternoon, according to election officials.

Wright was the only other person to take out nomination papers,

3 now in race for City Council

Mayor Jerry Thorne still unopposed

BY JEB BING

Three candidates are now in the race to fill two available seats on the Pleasanton City Council in next November's municipal election.

Mayor Jerry Thorne also is seeking re-election in the November contest. So far, he is unopposed.

The three seeking council seats are Councilwoman Kathy Narum, who was elected in a special ballot-by-mail election in May 2013, to fill Thorne's unexpired term on the council. She is seeking election to a full four-year term.

Besides Narum's council seat, another council position will open this year when Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio steps down after eight years of service, the maximum allowed under Pleasanton's term limits law.

Other candidates, in addition to Narum, are former Planning Commissioner and retired bank executive Arne Olson, who has pulled papers to seek election to the council.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Brad Hottle also has pulled papers for the council race. He is a member of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force.

The candidate filing period expires on Aug. 8. ■

See PUSD on Page 6

County earns 7 national awards

Departments praised for technology, imaginative approaches in serving public

By JEB BING

Thanks to its technology and imaginative approaches to addressing key challenges, Alameda County came away with seven Achievement Awards at the National Association of Counties (NACO) conference this month.

Five of the awards went to the county's Information Technology Department for its innovative use of technology to engage residents. Awards also went the District Attorney's Office and the Probation Department.

The winning Alameda County entries were:

- The Information Technology Department for its "ALCO Shuttle App," which provides county employees and the public instant access to information — including schedules and details about stop locations — about the weekday shuttle service that connects key county facilities to BART and other public transportation hubs.
- The IT Department for its "Canvassing App," a new mobile tool for county staff that reduced by 50% the effort involved in the annual canvassing of business properties, eliminated the use of paper forms, improved the quality of data collected and created the opportunity to increase tax revenue by canvassing more properties.

- The Alameda County Data Sharing Initiative, launched by the County Administrator's Office and spearheaded by the IT Department, which provides easy public access to records and information about county business and operations. The initiative has generated great new tools to enhance public access to government and com-

munity services.

- Several elections-related mobile apps developed by the IT Department that provide important time-sensitive information to voters, poll workers and candidates about local elections.

- The "My Property App" created by the IT Department that allows users to find out everything they need to know about properties in Alameda County. Users can use the app to pay property taxes, peruse County property maps and determine assessment information.

- The Alameda County Probation Department for its Youth Transition Center, a first-of-its kind project that leverages the resources of multiple county agencies to assist youth transitioning from the juvenile justice system. The center is a model for collaborative efforts that aim to decrease re-arrest rates and build community supports to help young people transform their lives.

- The Alameda County DA's Office for its Youth Empowerment Program, which offers a wide range of integrated services to children who have witnessed or who are victims of family violence. The program provides a safe and nurturing play space, access to a County library, on-site tutoring, an opportunity to attend summer camp and other services to ensure children of all ages have the chance to thrive.

"We are extremely proud of the recognition Alameda County has received from colleagues from around the country," Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi said. ■

Governor signs bill aimed at easing sexual assault victims' access to counseling

Law allows hospitals to call rape crisis center without going through police

By AMANDA AGUILAR

A bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last Friday aims to ease the process for sexual assault victims to receive counseling services.

Senate Bill 978, authored by State Sen. Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord), allows medical providers to notify counseling centers when a victim is transported to a hospital for a medical evidentiary exam, if approved by the victim.

Currently, only law enforcement officers can contact counseling centers.

"We have an obligation to help victims as they recover both physically and emotionally," said DeSaulnier, who represents Pleasanton. "I thank

Governor Brown for signing SB 978 to help reduce the burdens faced by sexual assault victims, and ease the process for them to get needed counseling services."

Medical providers are victims' first point of contact, according to DeSaulnier. By allowing the hospitals to initiate counseling services for the victim, the bill reaffirms California's commitment to protecting victims' rights, he added.

SB 978 was sponsored by Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, and it had support from law enforcement groups including the California District Attorneys Association and California Police Chiefs Association. ■

POLICE BULLETIN

Thefts on back-to-back days in gym parking lot

A 24 Hour Fitness member's wallet with various credit cards and his driver's license were reported stolen from his Toyota Prius on the morning of July 16, according to police.

His car was parked in the gym parking lot when an unknown person gained access into the car by damaging the driver's window, police reports said.

Police were not able to identify the culprit on the security camera due to trees blocking the car.

The next day, on July 17, another gym member's vehicle was broken into while parked in the parking lot, police said.

Some of the items reported stolen in the second incident included a cooler, windbreaker and sweatshirt — all totaling \$80. According to police reports, the right rear window was smashed and the door handle was damaged. No arrests have been made.

In other police reports:

- A 25-year-old Vallejo woman was arrested on suspicion of petty theft and battery at J.C. Penney in Stoneridge Mall on July 16.

- A loss prevention officer attempted to take Myeshi Nicole Woodards into custody after allegedly seeing her steal \$518 worth of makeup, according to police.

- Woodards allegedly hit the security officer to escape but was caught soon after, police said.

- An officer arrested a 32-year-old Oakley man on suspicion of burglary after receiving calls on July 19 about a suspicious person looking into parked cars on the 8100 block of Regency Drive.

The officer went out to look for the man and saw a vehicle driving with no lights on, said police.

The officer stopped the car to see if it was the sus-

picious person, later identified as 32-year-old Lyle Joseph Horne.

After contacting Horne, the officer found out the man had a probation for auto theft and was on an "active no-bail felony warrant for post-release community supervision," according to police. Horne was arrested for suspected warrant violation, probation violation and possession of burglary tools.

In addition, police received information that Horne was not alone and the officer went to look for the potential associate. The officer found an unoccupied vehicle on the 8300 block of Regency Drive that had been reported stolen from Livermore.

- Jack in the Box on the 4200 block of Valley Avenue received a counterfeit \$20 bill by a drive-thru customer on July 16.

The cashier at the drive-thru window recognized the counterfeit bill, and when she told the customer she would call the police, the vehicle sped off, according to police reports.

The license plate could not be seen on the security camera. No arrests have been made.

- A Pleasanton resident was arrested for allegedly riding a bicycle under the influence in a parking lot on Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue.

The officer saw a bicycle weaving through the parking lot with no lights or reflectors on July 20, police reports said.

When the officer contacted the rider, identified as 31-year-old Brian James Goldberg, he allegedly refused to take any sobriety tests. Goldberg was taken to Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, where he was found to be intoxicated after taking a breathalyzer test, according to police.

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

—Amanda Aguilar

Shrieking sound keeps residents awake at night

By MARIA AKHTER

Distressing, unnerving and strange sounds have roused Pleasanton resident Keli Martinez in the middle of the night for several years, but she said she and her family finally solved the mystery while walking the dog earlier this month.

It all started about three years ago, after the first week of the family moving into a townhouse off Vineyard Avenue on Vine Street, she said.

Martinez said she and her husband have been awakened most nights by what she described as loud, blood-curdling shrieks that sounded seemingly painful and similar to a small child wailing.

"My husband and I were so unnerved and worried, we debated calling the police," Martinez said. "We walked onto our balcony and listened to the sound for another few minutes and determined that the sound was coming from the wooded area along the Arroyo del Valle creek."

According to Martinez, the family turned to neighbors for possible explanations. She said that neighbors



MARIA AKHTER

Keli Martinez, holding son Colin, points toward the direction of the fox cries the family has heard around Arroyo del Valle.

could not identify the sound either and suggested it was an animal such as a turkey, bird or bobcat.

"This horrible sound has woken us up a few nights a month for the past three years," Martinez said. "It comes and goes, some weeks it's nightly and then it will simply stop."

Then, on July 4, Martinez's husband Brian went to walk the dog in the morning and heard a rustle in the shrubbery behind the townhouse complex, Martinez said.

When he looked, he saw a family of foxes, and one made the shrieking sound at him.

Martinez said she thinks that the foxes are dispersed throughout the area and use the sound as a tool for communication, such as a mating or warning call.

The Martinezes said they are relieved to be able to put a face to the sound and think they may be able to get sleep knowing the source of the shriek. ■

PUSD

Continued from Page 5

as of press time.

She said she wants to focus on being prepared for any challenges the district may face, creating

open communication with parents and teachers, and continuing to make Pleasanton a highly desired school district.

"To do that we must continue to attract, develop, and retain the best talent for our schools," Wright said. "In order for the dis-

trict to attract good teachers, the district must be able to attract and keep good administrators."

No candidate had filed their completed nomination paperwork with election officials as of press time. The filing period ends Aug. 8. ■

—Amanda Aguilar

Tri-Valley Heroes returns

Honor an person, group or organization that makes this a great place to live and work

By GINA CHANNELL-ALLEN

The Pleasanton Weekly is seeking nominations and sponsorships for the Tri-Valley Heroes awards program, our salute to the individuals, groups or organizations that stand out because of their actions, integrity or honor.

They are all around us. Everyday heroes who deserve recognition but usually go unacknowledged.

A hero doesn't have to be someone who saves a child from a burning house, although it very well could be. A hero could be the little girl who is courageously battling leukemia but keeps smiling, the business that allows its employees to mentor teens, or the neighborhood group that cleans up the creek.

Our judges will bestow honors in eight categories: Arts and Culture; Community Spirit; Environmental Stewardship; Courage; Rising Star; Innovation; Role Model; and Lifetime Achievement.

We need sponsors

Anyone can sponsor. Sponsorship levels range from \$500 to \$5,000 and come with many benefits, including seats at the Oct. 20 presentation ceremony. Early responders at the Champion and Leader levels will have the opportunity to choose an award to sponsor. This is an opportunity for your organization to show its commitment to the unsung Tri-Valley Heroes.

Call for nominations

Individuals who live or work in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo or Livermore are eligible, as are organizations and businesses headquartered in these communities. If you know a person, organization or group deserving of recognition, complete the online nomination form.

Nominations can also be emailed directly to Gina Channell-Allen, but make sure all the information requested on the form is included. Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. Sept. 22.

Criteria for award consideration

For the individual component, nominees for the awards must be a resident of Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo or Livermore or the work/volunteering that they do must take place in one of these communities. The contribution for which they are being nominated must have made a significant impact to a cause, a person or a group in that market. Nominees must be at least 16 years of age during the active program year, except for the Rising Star award.

If a nominee is an organization, group or business, it must be currently based and operating in Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Alamo or Livermore and serve the residents of that area. The contribution for which the organization, group or business is being nominated must have a proven impact on one of these community.

National or international organizations with local offices or branches may apply, but they will be judged only on the work they do locally.

The work that a nominee does to inspire a nomination may be part of a nominee's job (a teacher, principal or social worker, for example) but volunteer work, or the work a nominee does above and beyond their professional role may hold more value during the judging process. By the same token, the work that an organization, group or business does elicit a nomination can be part of their organizational mandate, but the work they do selflessly for the sole benefit of a cause, person or group outside of their work may hold more value during the judging process.

The work for which a nominee is nominated must have taken place, at least in part, during the 12 months prior to nomination.

Nominators may remain anonymous to their nominee, but they must provide their contact information to Embarcadero Media for verification purposes.

If a nominee is selected as a semi-finalist, they will need to provide a digital head shot photo of themselves.

A committee of staff and community members will select recipients for each award category based on the criteria mentioned above. Where applicable, individual nominations will be evaluated in respect to other individual nominations within a category and organizations/groups/businesses will be evaluated in respect to other similar nominations within a category.

For more information, visit www.PleasantonWeekly.com. ■



JEB BING

DoubleTree reps (front) Teodoro Mayorquin, Kevin Goebel, Kelli Vlahos, Aqveda Angel and (back) Anna Maria Carter, Mitch Reeder and Ronald Raju.

Pleasanton Hilton takes the name DoubleTree

Major renovation underway at 292-room hotel

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Hilton Hotel has been renamed DoubleTree in a move by the hotel's parent company to increase the use of the DoubleTree name at its suburban facilities while keeping the Hilton name for its upscale hotels in larger cities.

Along with the name and senior management change, the DoubleTree in Pleasanton also has undertaken a comprehensive multimillion-dollar renovation of the 292-room hotel.

Officially renamed the "DoubleTree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club," signifying its continued business relationship with ClubSport of Pleasanton next door, the hotel is operated by Johnson Hotel Company and managed by Pacific Pearl Hotels.

"The ongoing growth of Northern California, including East Bay, provides an opportunity for DoubleTree by Hilton to broaden our presence in this popular destination for business and leisure travelers," said John Greenleaf, global head of the business. "Now, with the opening of our eighth property in the region, we are well positioned to serve even more guests seeking convenient, full-service amenities with all the comforts of home."

Greenleaf said the newly named DoubleTree offers guests small-town charm with big-city connections to San Francisco,

Oakland and San Jose. The makeover includes all new furnishings, 42-inch HDTV and the signature "SweetDreams" beds.

Offering 10,000 square feet of flexible meeting and event space, the hotel is also able to accommodate a range of business meetings and other events as well as large banquets and indoor wedding receptions for up to 370 guests. The meeting rooms will feature new, state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment. The hotel also offers a 24-hour business center to accommodate guest's needs.

The hotel's Players Restaurant & Lounge offers contemporary California cuisine and outdoor dining by the hotel's pool.

"We also are delighted to open our doors to guests under the renowned DoubleTree by Hilton name and provide all the features and amenities for which the brand is known, while continuing to deliver the popular benefits of our Hilton HHonors rewards program," said Kevin Goebel, the hotel's general manager.

Hilton HHonors members also will continue to earn and redeem points with their stay at the new DoubleTree, including double points on the best available rates for Friday through Sunday stays through Jan. 21, 2015.

For more details, call 463-8000 or visit the hotel, 7050 Johnson Drive. ■

Ellie Mae makes Pleasanton its corporate headquarters

Company takes top floors at California Center

Ellie Mae, a provider of on-demand software solutions and services for the residential mortgage industry, announced Monday that it has signed a long-term lease for more than 100,000 square feet of office space that will be the site of its new corporate headquarters in Pleasanton.

The company, which currently occupies two smaller buildings here, will nearly double its existing office space to accommodate the needs of its growing workforce, which also has about doubled in size in the last two years to more than 500. The company expects to move into its new headquarters next spring.

Ellie Mae will occupy the newly renovated top three floors of the building at 4420 Rosewood Drive in California Center, a corporate business park located at Owens and Rosewood drives in Hacienda.

Ellie Mae employees will have access to a state-of-the-art fitness center, a large cafe with numerous food options, multiple conference rooms, several auditoriums with webcasting capabilities and several new amenities to be added by the project's new owner, Swift

Real Estate Partners. Ellie Mae also plans to create a first-class Executive Briefing Center within its new headquarters as a demonstration of its strong commitment to its customers in the residential mortgage industry.

Sig Anderman, CEO and founder of Ellie Mae, said, "Our employees work hard and deserve the very

best working environment, which is why we are excited to bring our headquarters team together under one roof in a single location with so many great amenities."

"The additional space will enable us to continue to grow our staff to meet the needs of our expanding customer base," he added. ■

—Jeb Bing

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at "http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov to view information regarding this meeting.

Bicycle, Pedestrian & Trails Committee

Monday, July 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd

- Bicycle Friendly Communities Application
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (Nacto) Urban Street Design Guide
- Pedestrian Sidewalk Improvement Project
Bernal Avenue
Vineyard Trail

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE
REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENT ON
THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Public Comment Period
July 15, 2014 through August 15, 2014

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) announces a 30-day public comment period for the Draft Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration pertaining to the Sunol Fire Station, Sunol, California. The Site is located within on land currently owned by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The Draft Initial Study addressed the 16 resources as required in the CEQA document.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Based on an Initial Study, the ACFD has determined that no significant environmental impacts would result from the Sunol Fire Station Project, therefore, in compliance with the CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed. The Mitigated Negative Declaration, Initial Study, and all related documents are available for review and comment.

Go to www.groundzonees.com. Click on Project Experience. Then click on the report link below Project Reports. A hard copy of the report is also available at the Pleasanton Public Library at 400 Old Bernal Rd. and the Alameda County Library at 2400 Stevenson Blvd. in Fremont.

WHY THIS NOTICE?

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide the ACFD with your comments on the Draft Initial Study and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

You may participate by providing your written comments on the Draft Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. All comments will be carefully considered before a final decision is made on the Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration. Comments may be mailed, hand delivered, faxed, or emailed. All written comments must be delivered to:

Pete Pegadiotes, Manager

Alameda County Fire Department, 835 East 14th Street #200

E-mail: ppegadiotes@acgov.org, Phone: (510) 670-5880, Fax: (925) 875-9387

All comments must be in writing and must be postmarked no later than August 15, 2014. Faxed, hand-delivered, or emailed comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 15, 2014.

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Opinion

**Pleasanton
Weekly**

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Drought keeping the pressure on water cutbacks

Penalties will be imposed in the coming weeks on Pleasanton residential and business water customers who fail to reduce their consumption by at least 25% over the comparable billing period last year.

And well they should. There is nothing more aggravating to those of us who have already cut back than to see a neighbor's yard still a bright green while the rest of the street's lawns are woefully brown (see photos).

As the city's water czar and Operations Services Director Daniel Smith told the City Council last week in his monthly update, July is bringing good news with consumption so far down 36%, or 32.5 million gallons from the same period in 2013. That puts the city on track toward meeting

its mandated year-end goal of a 25% reduction. But we're not there yet and, as Smith points out, some of the summer's hottest days could come next month and even in September.

Smith's office is still getting complaints about neighbors washing their cars, hosing down their driveway and over-sprinkling their lawns. Unless that stops, all of us will find our water supplies continuing to dwindle.

The state has cut off supplies from the state waterway system. Zone 7, which provides water to Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and parts of San Ramon's Dougherty Valley, has yet to build the reservoirs needed to meet the shortages we're seeing today, while other cities and districts, served by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, San Francisco and Santa Clara, still have adequate supplies from reservoirs they built years ago.

The city of Pleasanton is also leading by example in reducing municipal irrigation by 56% since restrictions went into place last March, for a total savings of 1.2 million gallons from the same period a year ago. Recycled water is being trucked to Callippe Preserve Golf Course to keep the greens reasonably green; purple pipes are in place under Alisal Road to handle recycled water that Pleasanton hopes to pump next year to the site and to more of its parks and landscaped street medians.

Even so, if the drought continues, tougher restrictions will follow. That's why all of us must keep cutting back now until the rain comes again. ■

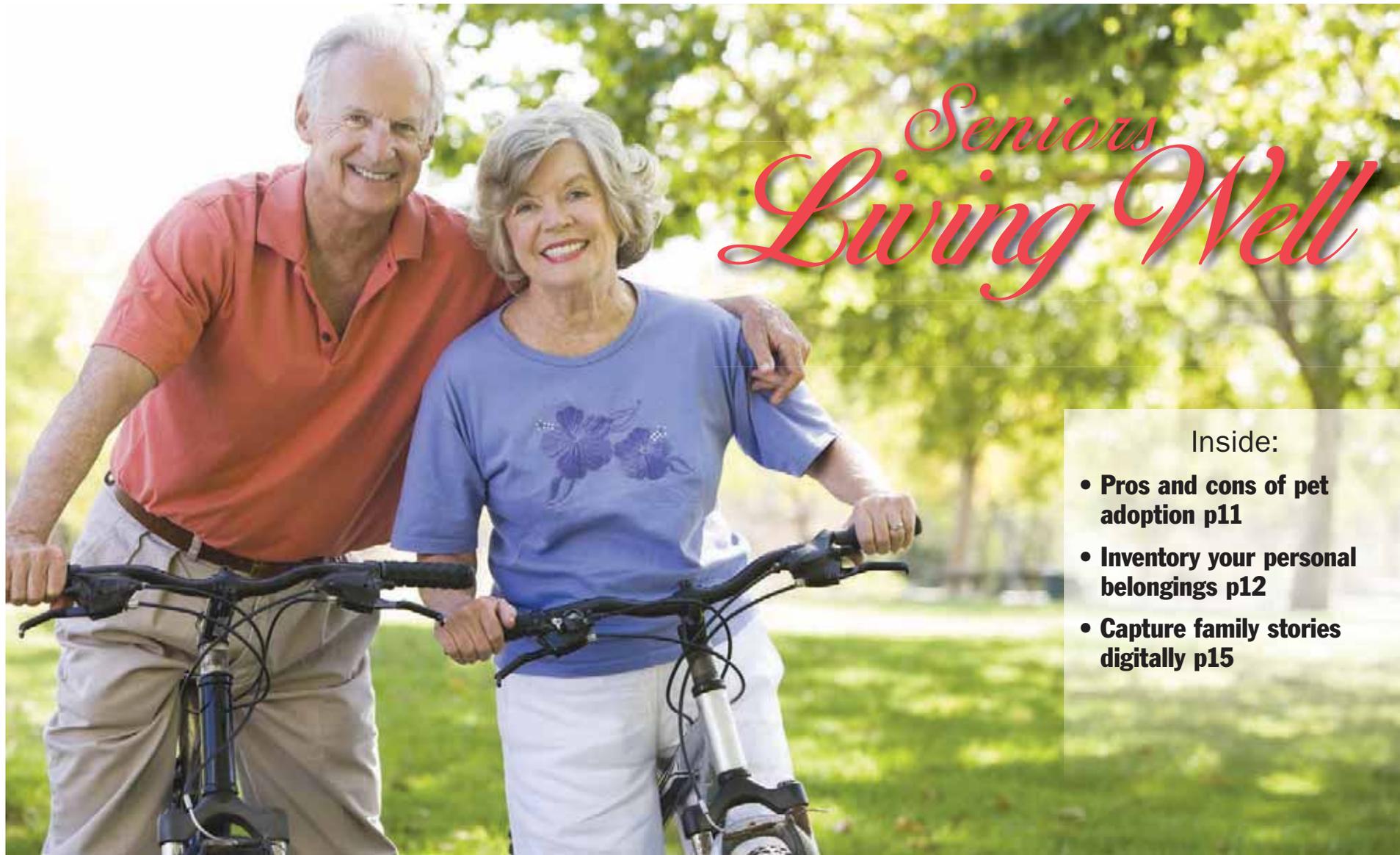


JEB BING

Brown lawn in front of home at 409 Mission Drive (above) contrasts sharply with the still-green lawn of a home nearby at 4918 Dolores Drive (below).



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



Seniors Living Well

Inside:

- **Pros and cons of pet adoption p11**
- **Inventory your personal belongings p12**
- **Capture family stories digitally p15**

Seniors can go online to improve cognitive skills **Brain games**

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Once over the hill, we pick up speed — so the joke goes. This may be so, but seniors today aim at slowing down the process, by eating right and exercising their brains as well as their bodies.

The Pleasanton Senior Center offers a drop-in program called Brain Matters from 10-11:30 a.m. the first and third Fridays of the month, with word games, puzzles and other challenging activities geared at “age-proofing” minds.

“It’s an opportunity to work on trivia with volunteer facilitators,” said recreation coordinator Raymond Figueroa.

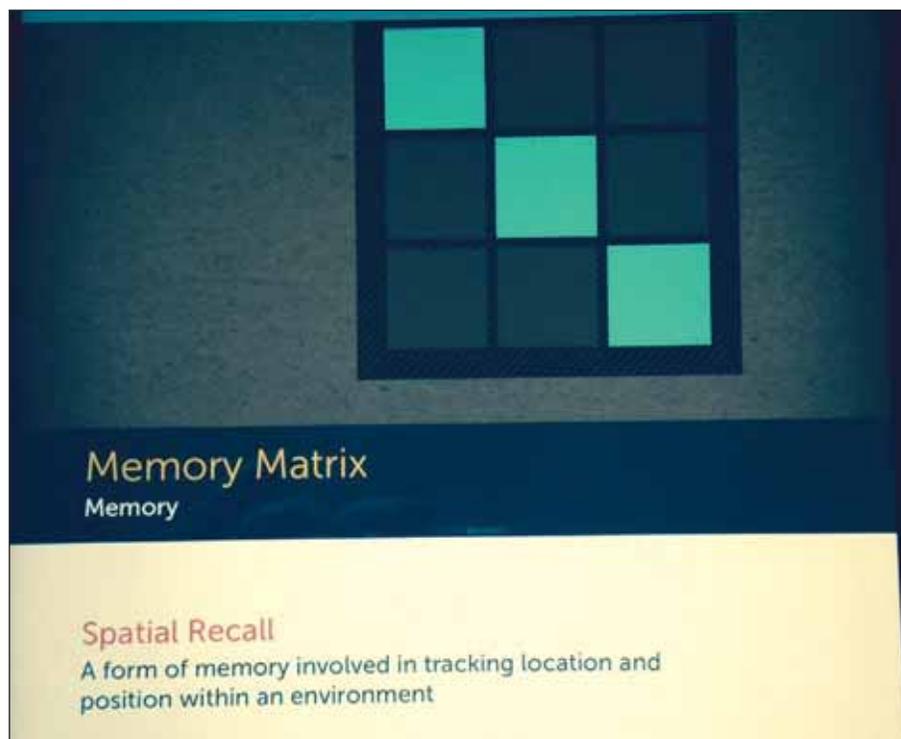
But he finds that seniors pursue physical as well as mental exercise.

“I’ve studied gerontology, and as the new baby boomers are entering their senior years, a lot are looking for fitness classes,” Figueroa said. “We have noticed the trend — all of our health and wellness classes are at capacity. Our fall prevention exercises, all are brimming. That’s sort of the buzz, to keep physically active.”

He pointed out that advanced classes, especially line dancing and Zumba, stimulate the mind, too, as participants memorize the intricate patterns.

The Internet has stepped up to improve our brain functions, with its unique capabilities to provide constantly increasing challenges.

Lumosity.com, perhaps the most well-known brain training website, features fun and stimulating games to improve



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Games on Lumosity.com include work on selective attention and memory involved in tracking locations within an environment. The tasks start off easy then quickly become challenging.

cognitive functions, such as memory and attention. It collaborates with researchers from 36 universities around the world on the Human Cognition Project, to develop and measure its training programs.

For free, Lumosity sends participants three brain games each day. For a fee, Lumosity provides five personalized workout

Brain power

- The best way to build your brain power is to stay healthy and actively use your mind.
- Limit alcohol intake, exercise regularly, and get plenty of rest.
- Minimize use of medications. Overuse of medication may be the single biggest cause of memory loss among older adults.
- Eat well and drink plenty of fluids, as dehydration can cause memory problems. A balanced, low-fat diet with ample sources of vitamin B12 and folate will help protect memory.
- Be social. Getting out and about and spending time with others can ward off depression, which has a powerful effect on memory and can cause other symptoms that mimic dementia.
- Try some small changes to help avoid the occasional memory lapse. For example, if you tend to misplace your eyeglasses, keep them on a cord around your neck, or when you have something on stove, use a timer with a loud ring.

—Kaiser Permanente/KP.org

See **BRAIN** on Page 11

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if you didn't know
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— Satchel Paige

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Adopting a new pet: pros and cons

Seniors need to look at facts before taking plunge

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

When Gail Ruvalcaba met Puddles at the Valley Humane Society, she knew he was the purrfect pet for her. She was seeking to provide a good life — and a good ending — for a cat, and Puddles, although less than 2 years old, has a limited life expectancy.

“Before, I had a lovely cat named Big Guy that was the love of my life,” said Ruvalcaba, 74. “He got lymphoma.”

Her veterinarian laid out various treatment options, which might buy a week or a few months.

“I said I’d like to take him home and spoil the hell out of him until he’s ready to go,” Ruvalcaba recalled.

And she did, showering Big Guy with special treats and affection.

“We ate more liver-flavored cat food than you could shake a stick at,” Ruvalcaba said with a laugh.

She’s owned cats since the family adopted one when her youngest child was 7 and “has been hooked ever since.” But she noted that she was less devastated than with her other cats when Big Guy died because she had a chance to say goodbye.

A few months later, to fill the “big hole in my life,” Ruvalcaba went to Valley Humane Society in Pleasanton. She was looking for a mature cat, rather than an active kitten, and Puddles caught her eye — and her heart, when she learned he had feline leu-

kemia as well as a heart condition.

“He’d been living in the shelter for about 15 months and he couldn’t go outside, and couldn’t talk to the other kitties,” she said. “He couldn’t even see the birds.”

“I thought, ‘Who will say goodbye to this little guy?’” she remembered.

Then she decided she would.

“I figured I went through it with Big Guy and it didn’t kill me. I felt glad I could do that for him. I figured I could do it for another cat,” Ruvalcaba said, and she brought Puddles to her home on Vineyard Avenue.

Melanie Sadek, executive director of Valley Humane Society, said although some shelters will not adopt out to seniors because they are afraid the animals will be returned, she loves to see seniors adopt.

“We have a whole program called Meet Your Match where people let us know what kind of cat would be best for their home environment,” Sadek explained. “For the first few days they are in our facility, we are gauging their personality.”

The staff talks to prospective owners about what is the right fit. In the case of seniors, this means considering their mobility and getting the right sized animal.

“An 80-pound dog needs to walk every day, probably run,” Sadek said. “We have those discussions with people.”

She likes people to consider what will happen to the animal if he outlives them,



SHOSHANNAH REED

Puddles appropriated Gail Ruvalcaba’s pink bathroom rug for his own use when he moved in with her in May.

perhaps arranging with another family member to adopt him. This is one reason she encourages seniors to adopt older animals, which are harder to place. Also, they are already trained.

“Another reason a senior animal is great is because they are more likely to want to lie in your lap and relax with you,” Sadek said.

Of course, she noted, newly retired seniors might find themselves with the freedom to travel for the first time and not want to be tied down by a dog or cat.

Or they may be relocating to a place that does not allow pets, although Sadek noted that more and more places are taking small dogs and cats.

Another thing to consider is whether having a dog or cat underfoot can be dangerous for an older senior so a larger animal or one that does not blend in with the flooring might be safer.

Some seniors who have cared for pets all their lives might be ready to toss out the

See PET on Page 13

BRAIN

Continued from Page 9

games a day, more than 40 games on computers, more than 10 games on iPhones and iPads, and a full training history.

Alison Beggs, 66, a retired math teacher at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon, said her son-in-law, who uses Lumosity while waiting at airports, told her about it. She also sees a lot of ads for it, she noted.

“I thought it looked like something that could be entertaining and challenging, and good for the neurological health of the soon-to-be-elderly,” Beggs said.

“First I used the free app on my phone,” she recalled. “Now I pay for it and do it on the computer. It’s a huge entertainment source, but the motivation was to keep myself sharp.”

She was also interested in the ability to compare her performance with other people the same age.

“I waited for a while until I reached that point and was brave enough to compare myself,” Beggs said with a laugh. “When it works out well, it is very empowering.”

Each game starts out slowly then becomes increasingly complex and speedier.

“It is every bit as demanding as being engaged in a conversation where you have to be concerned with what you say,” Beggs remarked. “And there are areas you don’t exercise normally.”

Beggs, who started out her career as an educational psychologist, had previously played Words with Friends on her iPhone, a Scrabble-type game that can be engaged in with acquaintances or strangers.

“I don’t like video games,” Beggs said. “I like educational games that clearly have a purpose and if you practice, you can get better.”

She engages in Lumosity daily and doesn’t let herself stop until she’s bettered her previous score in at least one category.

“I like the fact that there is always a goal.

I’ve always been goal-oriented,” Beggs said. “This is what I did last time — I wonder if I will be able to match that.”

She finds the enhanced Lumosity is well worth its cost of \$65 per year.

“I wanted to make sure my brain wouldn’t rot,” she said. “It’s available to you, so why wouldn’t you do this?”

Suzanne Gorham, a counselor at Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, noted that UC San Francisco studies are showing that a video game designed to improve cognitive control can reverse some of the negative effects of aging.

The researchers were looking for scientific support to the burgeoning field of brain fitness, which is sometimes faulted for lack of proof that brain games result in lasting or meaningful changes, according to an article by Laura Kurtzman posted in September at www.ucsf.edu.

In the video game, called NeuroRacer, participants race a car around a track; road signs keep popping up, and “drivers” must respond to them by pushing buttons, which requires multitasking. Kurtzman reported that after 12 hours of playing the game over a month’s time, the participants, ages 60 to 85, improved dramatically and were able to perform better than subjects in their 20s playing for the first time.

NeuroRacer also improves the working memory and sustained attention of those who played regularly.

The game, like those on Lumosity, continues to challenge the brain, stepping up the exercises so users can never go on autopilot.

“I have heard that the most important thing to take care of the brain is to try new things,” Gorham said. “Crossword puzzles are fine but will not help as much if it is the only thing you do. Learning new things and using different parts of the brain is important.”

“The other thing about the brain is to feed and nurture it well with good nutrition, water, exercise, etc.,” she added. ■



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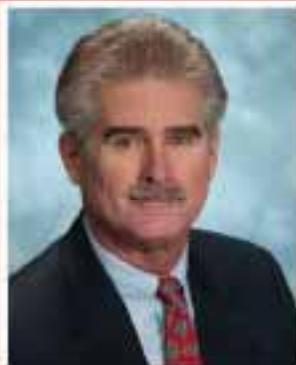




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SENIORS LIVING WELL



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Taking pictures of your belongings, even everyday items, will help jog your memory after a disaster in order to file an insurance claim.

What's in your house?

Inventory belongings — you won't regret it

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tricia Hoekwater returned home from work one day in 2000 to find that her house had been robbed.

"Besides the violation was the difficulty of filing an insurance claim," she recalled during a presentation at the Pleasanton Senior Center. "It took weeks. I had to figure out what was missing, creating a list with the current value. It was a painful learning experience."

Hoekwater remembered the distressing incident years later when she decided to start her own business, and she has been working since 2008 as a home inventory specialist. Her company, Uniquely Yours Digital Solutions, does home inventories for people so they will be prepared for a disaster.

"We're in a drought and there are lots of brush fires — it can happen," Hoekwater said.

She currently works with a woman in San Mateo who had a fire that resulted in extensive smoke damage. Someone else she knows had a washing machine flood, causing damage to the floor and the things on the floor.

"If you were asked to list everything in your living room, could you?" Hoekwater asked. "Especially if you have a loss, you are really stressed."

"Proper documentation produces faster insurance claim settlements and maximum reimbursements," she said.

It also verifies losses for tax returns, she noted.

Complete inventories are helpful for estate planning or in case of a divorce or combining households in a new marriage, Hoekwater explained, plus knowing the value of belongings helps people get the proper amount of insurance.

"Seventy percent of American homes are underinsured by 30% or more," Hoekwater said.

At the very least, Hoekwater urges folks to take photographs of every room, nook and cranny of their homes. She also emphasizes the importance of writing down information from purchases, including the make, model, serial number, date of purchase, description and purchase price.

It can be an overwhelming task to attend to every detail, she said, which is where her company can help. She prepares a comprehensive catalog of the entire contents of a home with supporting documentation, photos and a video, including scanning and

organizing family photos, critical documents and receipts and warranties. The client receives three copies of the inventory, as well as a LifeFolio with data, vital records and key contacts. Family photos are archived at Time-shaker.com.

"You can do it yourself but it is very time-intensive," Hoekwater said.

"You may never need it, I hope you never need it," she added.

Contact Hoekwater at uniquelyyours@outlook.com or call 206-0103. ■

What to inventory

- Family photos
- Rental or vacation properties
- Appliances
- Art work
- Collections/memorabilia
- Electronics
- Heirloom items/antiques
- Individual household rooms and contents
- Jewelry
- Receipts/warranties
- Vehicles

Commonly overlooked items

- AC and furnace
- Alarm systems
- Appliances
- Batteries (rechargeable, bulk purchases)
- Books
- Ceiling fans
- Cleaning products
- Clothing
- Craft items
- Daily-use items
- Disposable items (toiletries, etc.)
- Draperies
- Drawer pulls
- Electronics chargers
- Food
- Glasses and contacts
- Handbags
- Home-based business items
- Items you don't use regularly: holiday decorations, sports equipment
- Junk drawer
- Lighting
- Linens
- Medications
- Non-standard upgraded items
- Granite countertops
- Office supplies and equipment
- Pet items
- Photos and the history behind them
- Software license information
- Storage boxes
- Thermostats
- Toys

—Tricia Hoekwater

PET

Continued from Page 11

pooper scooper and save money on the vet visits and pet food. But Ruvalcaba says Puddles is no trouble at all. Due to his health problems she checked potential expenses with her veterinarian ahead of time so she won't have any surprises. Also, Valley Humane Society will pay his medical bills for the first year.

Puddles has settled into the Ruvalcaba household since he moved in May 31.

"He lays in this little kitty condo thing — he scratches on it and will reach over and put arms out and over the side," Ruvalcaba said. "We'll sit there at night, I'm watching TV and can look over at him. He's just looking at me. He's a sweet little thing."

She also feeds a stray cat, who is skittish but shows up each morning for a meal. Ruvalcaba calls her Dinette because she only shows up to dine.

"First thing I do in the morning is go feed my outside cat, then feed the Puds, then clean out his box," Ruvalcaba said. "Cats are wonderful company and they're not so much trouble." ■

Seniors: Ready for a new pet?

- Pros:
- Pets provide unconditional love and companionship.
 - Feeding, grooming and exercis-

ing a pet — either indoors or outdoors — keeps a person active and moving. Taking the dog out for a walk offers the opportunity to meet others while getting much-needed sunshine and exercise.

- Person takes better care of self, out of responsibility for pet.
- Person feels productive, useful and needed.
- Person has someone to talk to; pets will listen, no matter how repetitive people are.
- Studies have shown that simply touching or holding a pet can reduce blood pressure and create a sense of well-being in the elderly. The company of a beloved pet has been proven to reduce depression.
- Pets offer sense of security and safety.
- Pets offer fun and entertainment.
- Pets ease the loss of a loved one.

Cons:

- Pets are an additional expense: food, kitty litter, vet bills.
- Pets mean work, such as feeding and cleaning up after them and perhaps training them. Also, some can be destructive.
- Pets can tie you down; pet sitters or boarding are expensive.
- Seniors may worry about a pet's future.
- Seniors may have poor eyesight and could trip over them.
- Commitment could last many years as senior's health declines.
- Pets will die.

Seniors out & about

BROADWAY MELODIES LUNCHEON Enjoy lunch and a show from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14 at the Dublin Senior center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Menu by Eddie Papa's American Hangout, entertainment by LaDiDa, a women's a cappella group. Register by Aug. 4. Cost is \$10-\$12. Contact 556-4511 or seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov.

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.

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

DUBLIN SENIOR CENTER OFFERS MUSIC CLASSES Dublin Senior Center offers two music classes including Sing-a-longs with Judy Kufin and Merrill Ito at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays; and Ukulele Beginning Instruction with Judy Kufin 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, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin.

FRESH BITES Join nutrition educators for a fun and interactive cooking class at 2 p.m. on the third

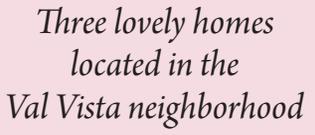
Thursday of the month, now through October, at the Pleasanton Senior Center. This class will focus on tasty, easy, and fast recipes that require minimal ingredients and are adapted for 1-2 people. To register call 931-5383. Space is limited. Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

HYPERTENSION CLASSES Hypertension is also known as "the silent killer" because symptoms usually don't show up until they cause a heart attack, stroke or organ damage. This free 4 week series will cover basic education on blood pressure, nutrition, physical activity, and medications. Classes will be from 10 a.m.-noon every Friday, from through Aug. 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Registration required. Call 931-5365 or go to pleasantonseniorcenter.org. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton.

MILLS LINE DANCE SOCIAL DJ Millie Dusha will play tunes from the classic oldies at the Mills Line Dance Social from 2-4 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. All levels of dancers are welcome. Cost is \$3. Call 556-4511. Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin.

VFW-AL COFFEE AND DONUTS Every Saturday morning from 7:30-9 a.m., the VFW and American Legion host coffee and donuts for all veterans at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. All veterans are welcome. Visit www.vfwpost6298.com.

WORLD WALK TO WELLNESS Pleasanton's World Walk to Wellness group meets at 8:30 a.m. each Saturday to chat and explore while getting exercise. Most walks last 90 minutes; all are free. To be on the list to receive informaton each Thursday about that week's walk, email walks@worldwalktowellness.org.



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What: FREE Presentation and Discussion
When: Wednesday - September 3rd, 2014
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Where: La Quinta Inn
 6275 Dublin Rd, Dublin, CA 94568

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SENIORS LIVING WELL



BRANDPOINT

Some recent studies have found seniors are willing to talk about their driving abilities, but many younger people in their lives rarely initiate the conversations.

Skills behind the wheel

Seniors willing to discuss driving abilities, yet conversations rarely happen

There are currently more than 23 million licensed drivers aged 70 and older, and with baby boomers beginning to reach 70 years of age, the number of seniors on the road will rise steadily over the next two decades.

A new survey released by Liberty Mutual Insurance finds that the majority of senior drivers are behind the wheel regularly, even with reported limited physical abilities.

Though many seniors drive safely well into their later years, it's likely that they will eventually have to face the difficult decision to stop driving. While the majority of senior drivers surveyed are open to conversations about limiting or stopping their driving, only 6% have spoken with someone about their driving abilities.

"These are difficult conversations but important to have early and often, because everyone ages differently," said David Melton, driving safety expert with Liberty Mutual Insurance and managing director of global safety. "Too often, these discussions are avoided until warning signs appear or, worse, there is an accident. It's a step we all need to take to ensure the safety of our loved ones and the community."

The report reveals that despite declining physical abilities, many seniors still drive several times a week or even every day. In the past six months, the majority surveyed reported driving regularly despite slow reaction times, difficulty seeing or hearing, getting lost or feeling confused while driving.

While nearly all senior drivers would consider limiting or stopping their driving if presented with the right reason, most are hesitant about transitioning to the passenger seat.

Top concerns among seniors about limiting or stopping driving include losing independence, becoming less active, diffi-

culty finding alternative forms of transportation and feeling isolated.

In 2013, Liberty Mutual Insurance conducted a survey of children of elderly drivers to determine if they were having conversations about driving with their aging parents, and if not, what was preventing them.

The survey found that more than half of children with senior parents were concerned about their parents' driving abilities and safety, yet nearly one-third avoided initiating the conversation.

However, this new report reveals that people may be avoiding conversations with aging drivers more than self-reported, while more seniors are actually open to talking:

- Only 6% of senior drivers report having had a discussion about their driving abilities, despite 84% saying that they would be open to talking about the issue.

- The majority of seniors who have not yet had a conversation said they would feel most comfortable being approached by their children or doctor.

- Seniors cite a doctor's recommendation and recognition of their own declining physical abilities as top reasons to limit or stop driving.

"In reality, seniors are usually so receptive to these conversations that many stop driving within six months of talking about it with their loved ones," Melton said. "These are tough conversations, but caregivers should take comfort knowing that these discussions are typically easier than expected and usually have positive outcomes."

It's more important than ever for children and loved ones of senior drivers to have conversations about driving early and often, before it's time to stop, according to Melton. ■

—Brandpoint

Don't let family stories disappear

Website captures memories, preserves your legacy

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Bill Levesque, 51, has a family photo taken when his oldest brother was about to start college and the four younger children were moving to Seoul, South Korea with their parents. His father was in the Army.

What interests Levesque about the photo is the realization that each of its subjects had different emotions at the moment the picture was shot: Bill was an adolescent, excited about the move; his brother was looking forward to college; their mother was harried by her responsibilities for the move plus was sad at leaving her oldest son.

To record family photographs and the stories behind them, Levesque has launched Timeshaker.com. Photos can be uploaded to the site, then other family members can pitch in with their memories and background information.

"Everybody can contribute stories and photos into the timeline. It's really easy to add information," Levesque explained at a recent Coffee and Conversation morning at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

"The big thing Timeshaker provides is context," he added. "It sheds a different kind of light on those pictures."

As family members and friends visit the site, it will trigger other memories, which can then be added.

Levesque emphasized the importance of capturing our stories for posterity.

"The basic idea is that everybody has stories," he said. "They seem concrete, but



Bill Levesque, founder of Timeshaker, explains at the Pleasanton Senior Center how the website works to preserve photos and gather information to give them context.

DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

they only exist in our heads."

Which means, of course, that unless they are recorded somewhere, our stories may disappear.

"The photos all have stories but if I'm not there to tell the story, it's just a picture," he said.

The site includes a historical element of events, popular music, TV shows and more from the last century. Users can import these to the timelines of family members.

"You click on the music and it plays," Levesque said, so you can look at grandpa's photo while listening to the music she

probably enjoyed at the time.

"The context sheds a different kind of light on those pictures. It allows me to understand their perspective on the world a little," Levesque said.

He has three local museums onboard, including the Niles Film Museum and the Museum of the San Ramon Valley with their photos and events. Users can import a photo of the opening of Interstate 680 in the 1960s, which surely impacted lives around here.

Levesque always saw the importance of preserving his own legacy.

"Before grandpa died, I set up a video camera and he told stories," Levesque said. "I will play it for my children."

"Timeshaker is a way to bring it all together," he continued. "I can combine the story of my life and my parents' life with history."

"You put in the personal information and then you can grab the public information."

Also, siblings who may have been separated when one moved away can become reacquainted online as they contribute to the timeline.

"It's a way to bring family members back together," Levesque said.

The website is free to users, and Levesque offered his help setting up a timeline.

"The website is financed through advertising but no information is shared," he said. "We are doing everything with sponsors."

Contact Levesque at (415) 816-9661 or email BillLevesque@timeshaker.com. ■



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COURTESY TZU CHI VOLUNTEERS

A day at the fair

A procession of 15 residents of Pleasanton Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, helped by nearly two dozen volunteers and a Pleasanton police escort, made the 0.6-mile trip from the Neal Street facility to the Alameda County Fairgrounds for a day at the fair July 3. Fair officials provided entry tickets for the residents and volunteers.



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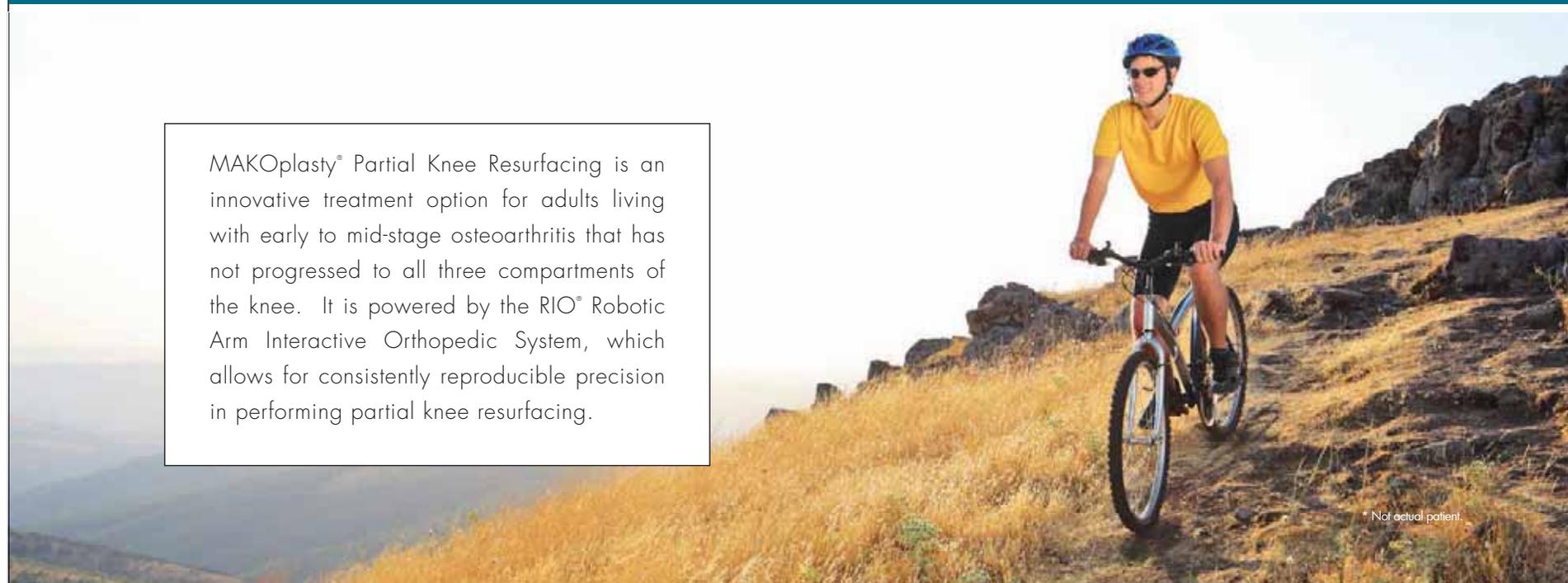


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SPEAKER _____

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Sports

FAST Dolphins top Briarhill

By JEREMY WALSH

The FAST Dolphins swim team, consisting of swimmers from Pleasanton's Foothill area, defeated the Briarhill Barracudas 467-456 during a meet late last month.

Top Dolphin swimmers included:

- Landon Kenney (6 years old) 25 freestyle, 25 butterfly, 25 backstroke
- Katie Salonga (8 years old) 25 freestyle, 25 backstroke
- Darragh Kennedy (9 years old) 25 butterfly, 100 individual medley (IM)
- Katrina Terpstra (10 years old)

50 freestyle, 100 IM

- McKenna Moura (15 years old) 50 IM, 50 backstroke.

Top Barracudas included:

- Matteo Naderi (8 years old) 25 butterfly, 25 backstroke
- Bella Dugorepec (11 years old) 50 freestyle, 50 butterfly
- Joshua Ko (12 years old) 50 butterfly, 100 IM
- Isabelle Townsend (14 years old) 50 freestyle, 50 butterfly, 100 IM
- Andrew Voit (14 years old) 50 freestyle, 100 IM
- Cole Melloch (17 years old) 50 freestyle, 50 butterfly, 100 IM.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fencing bronze

Pleasanton resident Jennifer Jia, an incoming sophomore at Amador Valley High, earned a bronze medal in the youth 14 female foil division during the Bay Cup fencing competition in San Francisco last month. Shown: Jia (left) is on the counterattack during her semifinal match against Fresno Fencing Academy's Madeline Liao, who won the bout and later captured first place in the tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Phantom 12B takes tourney title

The Pleasanton Phantom 12B girls softball team dominated a weekend tournament in Fremont last month, beating teams from San Jose and Tracy twice (each) and a squad from Lodi once en route to an undefeated performance and a tourney title. Phantom 12B members are shown celebrating their championship.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seahawks score Junior Olympics victory

The Pleasanton Seahawks 11-12 girls relay team of Emily Claridge, Claire Suen, Kyra Black and Mackenzie Lee (shown left to right) took first place in the 200-meter freestyle relay at the Speedo Long Course Junior Olympics held in San Jose on July 11-13. The quartet's time of 1:56.28 set a new Seahawks team record. The girls also finished third in the 200 medley relay with a time of 2:13.10 — also a team record.



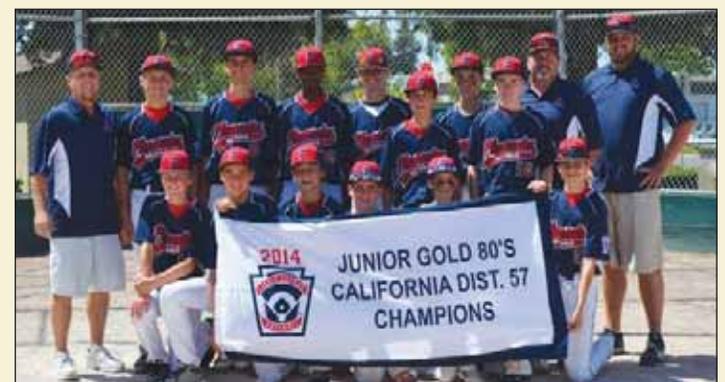
JOHN HOUSTON

Young Pleasanton cyclist finishes first

Euan Houston, 10, of Pleasanton took first place in his division during the recent Dash for Cash bicycle competition around the Hacienda Business Park.

The annual event is organized by the International Christian Cycling Club.

Houston is heading to middle school later this summer after completing fifth grade at Valley View Elementary this June.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Claiming the gold

The Pleasanton Junior Gold 80's team, comprised of 13-year-olds from the city's three Little Leagues, recently took home the California District 57 championship, ending their run on a 10-game winning streak.

Shown (back row, left to right): coach Paul Rasmussen, Nate Samuli, Jack Durham, Jaden Sheppard, Ben Perkins, Tyson Payne, Jack Snook, Connor Murphy, coach Eric Samuli and manager Dan Lewis, and (front, left to right) Justin Rasmussen, Carter Smith, Sawyer Skerl, Connor McKean, Josh Robinson and Brayden Mahdavi.

Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Book Clubs

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON

The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Classes

COMPUTER TUTORING Need help with downloading E-books from the library to your E-Reader, sending e-mail attachments, social networking, blogging, general Internet questions? Drop-in classes are from 5-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Mary Luskin at 931-3400, ext. 7. Free and open to all.

FREE COUNSELING JOB SEARCH SKILLS AND RESUME WRITING Get a free consultation with an experienced Employment Recruiter on select Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons at the Pleasanton Library. Receive help with resume writing, employment web sites, search for a job on the web, and get help with online applications. Make a 20-minute appointment at the Reference Desk by calling 931-3400, ext. 4.

Clubs

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY

TOASTMASTERS Learn the art of public speaking in a fun-filled and supporting environment. Meetings from 7:30-9 p.m. every Tuesday at The Clubhouse, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Attend meetings as a guest at no cost. Call 395-1234 or go to www.pleasantontostmasters.com.

PLEASANTON MOTHERS CLUB The mission of the Pleasanton Mothers Club is to provide a social, supportive, and educational outlet for moms and their families in the local community. They offer a variety of activities, children's playgroups, special interest groups, and more. For information visit pleasantonmothersclub.org. Contact membership@pleasantonmothersclub.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. It has a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business

owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main St. Call 556-2333 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

TRI-VALLEY SUCCESSFUL THINKERS NETWORK Successful Thinkers is a nationwide networking group for business leaders who understand the value of knowing, liking and trusting the people you are referring so that the referral is appropriate and more likely to work for the person. Join for lunch every Tuesday. Cost is only your meal. Contact David Walden at david@wealthconcepts.guru for more information.

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

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters club meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Events

17TH ANNUAL POOCH PARADE The 17th Annual Pooch Parade will be on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at Lions Wayside Park. Registration/judging begin at 5:30 p.m., dog tricks at 6:30 p.m., parade at 7 p.m. Winners and raffle numbers will be announced at 7:45 p.m. Enter your pooch, any size, 4 months or older! Entry fee is \$10 per category. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. For more information or to download a registration form go to www.tri-valleyguidedogs.org.

4TH ANNUAL TERRY PATTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Join this golf tournament being held in memory of Terry Patters who passed away too soon from noon-7 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 4 at Poppy Ridge Golf Course, 4280 Greenville Road, Livermore. Tickets are \$160 per player, \$55 for dinner-only option. Visit <http://events.melanoma.org/TerryPattersGolf2014> to buy tickets or make a donation. Call 640-0042.

ADULT & TEEN SUMMER READING Pleasanton Public Library's Adult & Teen summer reading program, "It's a Mystery @ the Library," begins Saturday, June 14. Win prizes while you enjoy your summer reading! More information at www.adultsummerreading.wordpress.com.

BUNJO'S COMEDY ALL STAR SHOW See the hilarious show featuring some of the best comedians from the Bay Area and Beyond, from 8:30-10 p.m. on Saturday, July 26 at Vito's Express, 4060 Grafton St.,

PET OF THE WEEK



MADDIE'S FUND

Young Milo

Milo is a 4-month-old kitten available for adoption through Maddie's Fund Adoption Program. Milo gets along well with cats, dogs and children. Check him out on his kitten cam at the program's website, www.maddiesfund.org. For more information, email pets@maddiesfund.org or call 310-5450.

Dublin. Cost is \$10. Call 264-4413 or go to www.bunjoscmedy.com.

FARMERS MARKET Visit the Pleasanton Farmers Market from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday, on East Angela Street between Main and First streets. The Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine, to provide the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, sold by the very farmers that planted, nurtured and harvested the crop.

GNON AND COCO CABANA CALLING FOR ALL WOMEN! Girls Night Out Networking and the Coco Cabana Restaurant would love you to join at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 7 at Coco Cabana Restaurant, 4500 Tassajara Road, Dublin. Enjoy fabulous networking opportunities, tons of raffle prizes, socializing, great food and fun! Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers. RSVP and prepay by Aug. 4. Call 487-4748 or go to <http://www.gnon.org/rsvp.html>.

QUILTS OF VALOR: ROOKIE QUILT PROJECT Amador Valley Quilters invites you to help make a Quilt of Valor or fleece scarves and neck coolers for 400 homeless veterans expected at East Bay Stand Down held Sept. 11-14 at Alameda County Fairgrounds. Bring a yard of fleece or cotton from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 20 and Sunday, Aug. 17 at Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Call 484-1641 or go to www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

RED CROSS INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE The Annual Red Cross Interfaith Blood Drive will be held from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, July 26 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6001 Paseo Santa Cruz. The need for blood is great, please donate "The Gift of Life." Go to www.redcross-blood.org and use Donor Code: InterfaithCommunity.

THE 7TH ANNUAL KILLER LAUGHS COMEDY COMPETITION Killer Laughs features some of the best and brightest comics in the Bay Area. Many who have participated in the past have moved on to do television, movies and more. Audience votes will determine who moves on and will be crowned the Killer Laughs Champion. The competition will take place from 8:30-10 p.m. every Friday, now through Oct. 24 at Vito's Express in Dublin. Call 264-4413 or go to www.bunjoscmedy.com.

Exhibits

BRANCHING OUT: THE TREE IN ART Trees breathe life into our atmosphere and into our art. See this inspired exhibit now through Aug. 31 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Works include contemporary, re-visioned and traditional art in multiple media. A reception for the artists will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6. Go to mylvpac.com.

SUMMER EXHIBITS: LYNDA BRIGGS AND JEFF SNELL See the works of two outstanding artists from June 5-Aug. 13 in the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center. Lynda Briggs' paintings are colorful, lively, and busy; Jeff Snell unites traditional landscape and popular culture in vigorous abstracts full of movement and energy. Call 931-4849.

Film

'CHASING ICE' National Geographic enlists a climate skeptic photographer to capture visual evidence of climate change. This film shows in stunning photography the evidence and the extraordinary challenges of this mission. Meet and greet potluck at 6:30 p.m., film at 7 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 2 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin.

IN THE SPOT LIGHT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Get all jazzed up

Tuesday Tunes with a Twist continues in front of the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore at 6:45 p.m. July 29 with Cool Jazz for a Hot Summer Night with Secret Tattoo — six seasoned musicians, including Tom Bennett on drums, Dave Villa and Tom Renner on saxophones, Dave Cardoza on piano, Nick James on bass and featuring Miguel Gardel on guitar. Secret Tattoo will perform jazz blues, swing, bossa nova, Dixie, samba and romantic ballads from "The Great American Song Book." The concert is produced by the Livermore Cultural Arts Council and the Bankhead Theater.

Free, \$3 donation accepted. Call 462-3459.

FREE MOVIES IN THE PARK:

'ENDER'S GAME' Pleasanton residents are invited to enjoy a free movie at dusk on Thursday, July 31 at Amador Valley Community Park. See "Ender's Game," the fast-paced sci-fi adventure based on the best-selling novel of the same name. Call 931-5340. Contests, games and sing-alongs before the show!

Fundraisers

BINGO NIGHT Dublin High School Music Boosters Presents Bingo from 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday at Dublin High School, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin. Must be 21 and over to play. Cost is 3 cards for \$3, 6 cards for \$6, 10 cards for \$9. Join the fun!

MUSIC IN THE ORCHARD

Nottingham Cellars, Altamont Beerworks and Ken's Woodfired Pizza come together to support the Pedrozzi Foundation and Team Delaney. See Ten Tuesdays in concert from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, July 31 at Purple Orchid Resort and Spa in Livermore. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at www.purpleorchid.com or Nottingham Cellars tasting room.

PLEASANTON/TULANCINGO SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION 23RD ANNUAL BBQ AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Join and fun and help a good cause! The BBQ and auction will be from 5:30-11 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Advance reservations suggested at \$35, \$40 at the door; children \$12 and reserved sponsored tables for 8 for \$280 before Aug. 9. Sign up online at www.ptasca.org or credit cards accepted at 846-4134 after 7 p.m.

REACH 8TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER BANQUET

REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing) will hold its 8th Annual Fundraising Golf tournament on Monday, July 28. REACH is a non-profit organization that provides resources and housing for adults with developmental challenges to approximate the pattern of everyday living. Tickets are \$150. Contact Kay King at skkbking@comcast.net for details and tickets.

Support Groups

CLUTTERLESS SELF HELP GROUP

Overwhelmed? Clutter stressing you out? ClutterLess is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings are 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 922-1467 or 525-3992. Go to www.ClutterLess.org.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS Gamblers Anonymous helps people who have a gambling problem to return to happy and productive lives. If you want help for you or someone you love, meetings are 7:30-9 p.m. every Friday

at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. in Room 8. Call the helpline at 1-(855)-222-5542 or visit the website at www.gamblersanonymous.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS This 12-step support group for people with eating behavior problems meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore; and at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays in the Middle School Room at The Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. Free with donations accepted toward room rent. No weigh-ins. Call Nora at 337-9118.

PLEASANTON MILITARY FAMILIES

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

taryfamilies.org.

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS

This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

Volunteering

EAST BAY STAND DOWN 2014 East Bay Stand Down 2014 (EBSD) is

scheduled for Sept. 11-14 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for the homeless and needy veterans and their families. Volunteer Registration is now open online at www.EastBayStandDown.org. Call 743-8850.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley seeks adult volunteers to drive seniors to their medical appointments. Hours are flexible. Program hours are between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call Jennifer Cullen at 931-5387 for more info. Funding for this program is provided by ACTC and Measure B Funds.



ROBERTY SHOLTY

Life isn't easy for ogre Shrek, played by Dane Lentz, as the townspeople prepare to burn him at the stake.

Review: 'Shrek' has audience shrieking with laughter

Tri-Valley Rep stages clever, catchy musical

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

All the fairy tale characters you've forgotten you know come back to entertain you in "Shrek The Musical," being presented by Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre at the Bankhead Theater through Aug. 3.

The TVRT production, which opened Saturday night, engages the audience before the action begins when the sassy, fancy Fairy Godmother takes the stage to share the titles of next season's offerings and to remind everyone to turn off their cellphones. Then it's strike up the band and nonstop, toe-tapping action.

The story begins with two 7-year-olds: little ogre Shrek, whose parents are sending him off into the world to make it on his own, and young Princess Fiona, saying farewell to her mother and father as she leaves to be locked in a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon and surrounded by a moat of molten lava.

Fast forward 20 years and Shrek's home in a swamp is being invaded by fanciful misfits from fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

They have been ousted from the kingdom of Duloc by Lord Farquaad, who hatches a plot to rescue Princess Fiona from the tower and marry her, thereby becoming a real king. The only drawback is that Farquaad has neither the stature nor the courage to save her himself.

Enter Shrek and Donkey, a flamboyant character who has attached himself to the ogre as his guide. Farquaad agrees to return the swamp to Shrek if he will liberate the princess from her tower so she can marry him. But this is no fairy tale, and the plot twists and turns as frequently as the trail to the tower.

This stage adaption of the popular DreamWorks animation motion picture features four strong lead characters, with clear resonating voices. Then there is the femme fatale Dragon (Danielle Pierce), who belts out a Travel Song that proves seductive to Donkey.

Dane Lentz as Shrek is sympathetic as he laments his life of maltreatment and notes that he is also a "crackpot magnet." Feisty Princess Fiona (Catherine

Williamson) is no sweet young royal but loudly outspoken as she fluctuates between frustration that her life isn't following the "saved by the handsome prince" storyline and determination to end a curse placed on her. Donkey (Aaron Porchia) is a dynamic sidekick for the serious ogre and keeps the audience laughing.

Lord Farquaad (Chris Olson) steals the show every time he is on stage, including when he tortures the Gingerbread Man while he's still on the cookie sheet, a cleverly staged incident. Farquaad's shortness is derived in a clever costuming trick that has Olson on his knees with shapely little fake legs dangling in front of him; it's amazing the variety of contortions he manages with this device. His exaggerated delivery makes the evil little villain fun to hate.

As always with TVRT productions, the choreography, by Kevin Hammond, has surprises in every scene. When things start to get quiet, the Three Blind Mice — comely women in big frilly skirts — come tap tap tapping their canes onto the stage, dancing in unison.

"Shrek The Musical" is directed by Carol W. Hovey; vocal direction/accompanist, Sierra Dee; musical director, Jo Anne Fosselman; general manager/producer, Kathleen Breedveld.

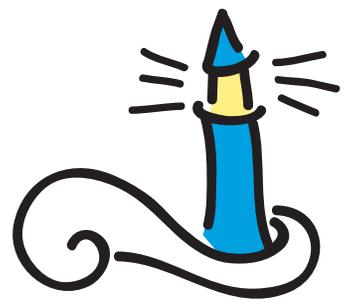
This charming spoof is entertaining on many levels for all members of the family to enjoy. The cast seems to have such fun with the resounding melodies, clever lyrics and imaginative dance steps that their good humor is contagious to all. ■

Once upon a time

What: "Shrek The Musical"
Who: Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre
Where: Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore
When: 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 3
Tickets: \$23-\$38; call 373-6800 or visit www.mylvpac.com/
More information: www.trivalleyrep.com

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995 Fictitious Name Statement

TRADE SILK ROUTE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: 493270
The following person(s) doing business as: TRADE SILK ROUTE, 5320 CASE AVENUE, APT. #226, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chandana Banerjee, 5320 Case Avenue, Apt. #226, 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: Chandana Banerjee. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 06/25/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1; 2014)

OPEN MIND HEALING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 493777
The following person(s) doing business as: OPEN MIND HEALING, 6690 AMADOR PLAZA ROAD #235, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Virginia Ann Holmes, 16 Chapparral Court, San Ramon, CA 94583. 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: Virginia Holmes. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 07/11/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8; 2014)

YE ASSOCIATE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 493831
The following person(s) doing business as: YE ASSOCIATE, 4742 ARLENE PLACE, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rong Ye, 4742 Arlene Place, Pleasanton, CA 94566; Christine Q. Wang, 4742 Arlene Place, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a General partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Rong Ye (General Partnership). This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 07/14/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8; 2014)

BUSINESS BABES; BUSINESS-BABES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 493883-4
The following person(s) doing business as: BUSINESS BABES; BUSINESS-BABES, 2269 ST. CHARLES COURT, LIVERMORE, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Business-Babes LLC, 2269 St. Charles Court, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Mandana Moshiri, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 07/15/2014. (Pleasanton Weekly, July 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15; 2014)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JOHNNY LEE JARVIS Case No.: RP14724510 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of JOHNNY LEE JARVIS. A Petition for Probate has been filed by: JOHN L. JARVIS in the Superior Court of California, County of ALAMEDA. The Petition for Probate requests that: JOHN L. JARVIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on September 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in Dept.: 201 of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, located at 2120 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ C. Bruce Hamilton, 260 Sheridan Ave., #200, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650)329-5992 (Pleasanton Weekly, July 11, 18, 25; 2014)

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Foreign buyers claiming 14% of home sales in California

Now account for \$92.2 billion in U.S. sales, up from \$68.2 billion year ago

By JEB BING

Favorable exchange rates, affordable home prices and rising affluence abroad continue to drive international buyers to the U.S. to purchase properties and make real estate investments.

According to the National Association of Realtors 2014 Profile of International Home Buying Activity, for the period April 2013 through March 2014, total international sales have been estimated at \$92.2 billion — an increase from the previous period's level of \$68.2 billion.

"We live in an international marketplace; so while all real estate is local, that does not mean that all property buyers are," said NAR president Steve Brown, co-owner of Irongate, Inc. Realtors in Dayton, Ohio.

"Foreign buyers are being enticed to U.S. real estate because of what they recognize as attractive prices, economic stability and an incredible opportunity for investment in their future," Brown said.

International buyers and recent immigrants purchased homes throughout the country, but four states accounted for 55% of the total reported purchases: Florida, California, Arizona and Texas. Florida remains the destination of choice, claiming a 23% share of all foreign purchases. California comes in second with 14%, Texas

with 12% and Arizona with 6%.

According to one real estate website, the top five cities searched online by international buyers in 2014 were Los Angeles, Miami, Las Vegas, Orlando and New York City.

Foreign buyers take many factors into consideration when deciding where to purchase abroad, such as proximity to their home country, the presence of relatives and friends, job and educational opportunities, and climate and location.

European buyers are generally attracted to states with warmer climates such as Florida and Arizona while the West Coast tends to attract Asian purchasers. Indian buyers tend to gravitate towards states that are home to large information technology companies, such as California, New York and North Carolina.

Within markets in an individual state, it is not unusual to find concentrations of people grouped by nationality, possibly indicating that word-of-mouth and shared experiences influence purchases.

Twenty-eight percent of Realtors reported working with international clients this year. International sales tend to be handled by specialists and only 4% of those who reported having an international client saw 11 or more international transactions in a year. Of those who reported having an

international client, approximately 54% reported that international transactions accounted for one to 10% of their total transactions, a decrease from 2013 but still in line with past years' levels.

International buyers are more likely to make all-cash purchases when compared to domestic buyers. In 2014, nearly 60% of reported international transactions were all cash, compared to only one-third of domestic purchases.

Mortgage financing tends to be a major problem for international clients due to a lack of a U.S.-based credit history, lack of a Social Security number, difficulties in documenting mortgage requirements and financial profiles that differ from those normally received by financial institutions from domestic residents.

Most homes purchased by foreign buyers, about 42%, are used as a primary residence. Non-resident foreigners are limited to six-month stays in the U.S., so these buyers largely use the property for vacation or rental purposes or as an investment. Approximately 65% of purchases involved a single-family home.

Nearly half of international clients preferred properties in a suburban area, about a quarter preferred a central city or urban area, and about 13% choose to purchase in a resort area.

International buyers come from all over the world, but those from Canada, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mexico, India and the United Kingdom accounted for approximately 54% of all reported international transactions. Canada maintained the largest share of purchases, although dropping from 23% in 2013 to 19% in 2014.

However, China held the lead in dollar volume, purchasing an estimated \$22 billion with an average sale cost of \$590,826. China was also the fastest growing source of transactions, now accounting for 16% of all purchases, up 4% from last year. Mexico ranked third with 9% of sales and India and the U.K. both accounted for 5%.

"Foreign buyers who choose to work with a Realtor have a substantial advantage," said Brown. "Realtors who have completed the Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) designation have received specialized training and are prepared to help clients with the unique difficulties of being an international buyer."

"CIPS designees understand the challenges buyers face when purchasing property in the U.S., and have the experience and expertise to help them navigate the complex, time-consuming and overwhelming world of international real estate," Brown added. ■

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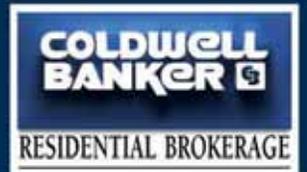
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5411 ASTERWOOD DR
JUST LISTED! \$880,000
4 BR 3 BA Granite, lrg isl & SS appl in kit. Upstrs Indry & Master BD w/off retreat. New carpet & paint!
Karen T, CalBRE #009628800 925.847.2200



FREMONT
SOUTHERN FREMONT 5472 BUTANO PARK DR
JUST LISTED! \$645,000
4 BR 2 BA Southern Fremont! Updated & remodeled. Fresh paint, new carpet, dual-pane windows, copper plumbing, Pergo flrs.
Elaine Arnt, CalBRE #01046497 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 3205 E RUBY HILL DR
GOLF COURSE VIEWS! \$2,199,000
5 BR 4.5 BA Approx 5100 SF Large 28,765 SF lot with Beautiful Pool & Spa! 2 First Floor Bedrooms!
Kathleen Waelde, CalBRE #00885285 925.847.2200



SAN LEANDRO 1332 SCENICVIEW DR
Open SUN 1 - 4 \$799,000
Bayovista with bay views! Dual paned windows. Parquet floors. Updated bathrooms. Versatile floorplan. In-law with separate entrance.
Laurie Pfohl, CalBRE #00866660 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

2357 CAPISTRELLO ST
NICELY UPGRADED! \$889,927
4 BR 3 BA Bright & Open, granite, SS appl, Walnut cabinets, arched doorways, 2 car attached garage
Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 925.847.2200

2037 HAGGERTY DR
GORGEOUS POSITANO HOME! \$888,800
2 Story. Open floor plan. Gourmet kitchen w/ SS Appl overlooks family & dining room. Hardwood floors.
Wendy Ma, CalBRE #01944039 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 1:30 - 4:30 4663 BRANNIGAN ST
BEAUTY IN DUBLIN RANCH! \$698,800
3 BR 2 full BA + 2 half Upgraded Kitchen with SS appliance, granite, hardwood cabinets, built-in fridge, tile, balcony, fireplace.
Ric Cruz, CalBRE #01466114 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 994 LISBON AVE
JUST LISTED! \$567,000
3 BR 2 BA Newer paint, Oak flrs, kit w/maple and granite counters. Remodeled BAs. Lrg bcktyrd & patio.
Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003 925.847.2200

6187 SAINT ANDREWS WY
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS! \$527,950
3 BR 2.5 BA Hardwood floors, crown molding, remodeled Master BA with fireplace & Jacuzzi tub, large kitchen, a MUST SEE
Shannon Shepherd, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2200

NEWARK

6448 NARCISSUS AVE
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED! \$615,000
3 BR 2 BA Lrg fmlly rm, plantation shutters, bar, fireplace, updated windows, piping, heating, lighting.
Shannon Shepherd, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

2015 VALLEY OAK RD
STUNNING PROPERTY! \$1,975,000
Guard-Gated Community, skylights. Wet bar, tall ceilings and windows, wine closet, 4-car garage. Commute location.
Suzanne Bieser, CalBRE #01355940 925.847.2200

4386 DIAVILA AVE
BEAUTIFUL BELVEDERE HOME! \$835,000
4 BR 3 BA In Cul-De-Sac. Fireplace. Kitchen with island. High ceilings. Inside laundry. Landscaped backyard with large patio.
Nancy Sutorius, CalBRE #00628232 925.847.2200

Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 5178 SPRINGDALE AVE
COMING SOON! CALL FOR PRICE
4 BR 3 BA Beautiful Forest Hill home, exquisite hardwood flooring, gourmet kitchen, large Master Suite
Mike Riley, CalBRE #00374197 925.847.2200

SAN LEANDRO

1430 142ND AVE
WALK TO DOWNTOWN! \$429,000
3 BR 2.5 BA Updated kitchen. Detached garage. Close to shopping, transportation and BART
Laurie Pfohl, CalBRE #00866660 925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

5935 LANTANA WY
VICTORIA MODEL HOME! \$1,120,000
5 BR 3 BA 3 car grge, formal living, dine & family rms, office w/french doors, walk to Elementary School
Terry Kim, CalBRE #01363454 925.847.2200

TRACY

302 W. MOUNT DIABLO AVE
NICE 1-ACRE LOT! \$289,000
Could be subdivided into 2 lots. Live on one & sell the other! Close to elementary school.
Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2200

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PLEASANTON

925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

CaliforniaMoves.com

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

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

Danville

3 BEDROOMS
93 Amberfield Lane \$649,990
 Sat/Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Dublin

2 BEDROOMS
7707 Chantilly Drive \$449,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 DeAnne Armario and Liz Venema 260-2220

3 BEDROOMS
4276 Fitzwilliam St. \$575,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS
4916 Piper Glen Terrace \$973,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 BHG Tri-Valley Realty 463-9500

3335 Araldi Lane \$749,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5498 Springvale Drive Call for price
 Fri 10-1/Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

5 BEDROOMS
8680 Fenwick Way \$849,000
 Sun 1-4 Louise Davis 200-2457

Livermore

2 BEDROOMS
6518 Forget Me Not \$400,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 BHG Tri-Valley Realty 463-9500

3 BEDROOMS
556 Heligan Lane, Unit #4 \$629,000
 Sun 1-4 Tim McGuire 462-7653

2801 Mint Common \$732,950
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Lois Cox 200-8495

6408 Forget Me Not \$449,900
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Patti Norris (510) 406-2306

5556 Oakmont Circle \$600,000
 Sun 1-4 Kathy Westernoff 577-2600

Pleasanton
2 BEDROOMS
8145 Mountain View Drive \$395,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

2465 Heatherlark Circle \$549,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Denise Ivaldi 251-2532

3 BEDROOMS
1496 Calle Enrique \$565,000
 Fri 10-1/Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273

4 BEDROOMS
839 Angela St. \$1,450,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200

8031 Bethel Lane \$1,790,000
 Sun 2-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

5178 Springdale Ave. Call for price
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

1236 Chianti Court \$1,079,900
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Melissa Pederson 397-4326

5 BEDROOMS
5540 Calico Lane \$1,528,000
 Sun 1:30-4:30 Kelly Patterson 200-2525

1081 Heinz Ranch Court \$1,849,000
 Sun 2-4 Gail Boal 577-5787

3205 E. Ruby Hill Drive \$2,199,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during June 25-July 2

Pleasanton

6473 Alford Way L. Boswell to M. Gunampally for \$725,000
7595 Canyon Meadow Circle #H F. Shaikh to W. & L. Lazar for \$445,000
7655 Chestnut Way Clanin Trust to M. Karatepe for \$905,000
12 Deer Oaks Drive Mitchell Trust to H. & A. Green for \$1,554,000
630 East Angela Street D. & K. Banks to D. Smario for \$1,049,000
1142 Germano Way L. & V. Heaton to S. & N. Sangha for \$2,140,000
3435 Gravana Place A. & C. Schwartz to B. Li for \$1,350,000
2307 Greenwood Road L. & R. Cibulka to J. & C. Hodge for \$940,000
6264 Guyson Court A. & U. Beck to N. & S. Gergeo for \$660,000
7589 Highland Oaks Drive H. & J. Ertle to B. Mikolaitis for \$839,000
3291 Melanie Circle Orr Trust to G. & C. Murphey for \$1,025,000
4250 Muirwood Drive M. Stull to J. & C. Wilcock for \$645,000
3375 Norton Way #6 Priebe Trust to C. Shaw for \$315,000
4105 Parma Court J. Lee to S. & R. Sanghera for \$2,280,000
3392 Rosada Court C. Cheng to S. Gundogdu for \$512,000
2590 Skylark Way Donlon Trust to B. & H. Rogers for \$910,000
4587 Winter Court S. Geller to R. Stifter for \$855,000
1006 Zinfandel Court J. Sanchez to S. Chang for \$1,250,000

Livermore

1415 4th Street A. & J. Leafblad to E. & A. Delatorre for \$570,000
4625 Apple Tree Common J. & N. Hodges to

Suri-Oberoi Trust for \$470,000
1246 Bordeaux Street Murphy Trust to P. & R. Sutter for \$455,000
2629 Briarwood Drive A. & T. Alvarez to P. & H. Wong for \$830,000
6845 Brookview Court M. & J. Watson to R. & A. Bateman for \$875,000
5749 Cherry Way D. & S. Barnes to V. Roth for \$717,000
822 Cortez Court Nielson Trust to M. Briones for \$530,000
5011 Erica Way K. Baca to M. & J. Pfeiffer for \$696,000
5524 Goldenrod Drive American International Relocation to A. & C. Vanbuuren for \$810,000
185 Heligan Lane #3 P. Rosa to M. Herzstein for \$445,000
883 Keystone Way W. & G. Foster to C. & D. Holmes for \$650,000
1038 Larkspur Drive R. Gomez to L. Du for \$568,000
1077 Marigold Road C. & T. Pentecost to J. & C. Colburn for \$518,000
4771 Mulqueeny Common Wu Trust to E. Kilner for \$450,000
4687 Nicol Common #111 W. Holman to M. & T. Zabaneh for \$326,000
6403 Pheasant Court Takeshita Trust to C. & A. Harr for \$715,000
203 Quartz Circle J. & A. Ornelas to P. & J. Olla for \$575,000
1224 Spruce Street Strasburg Trust to D. & E. Hoover for \$467,000
463 Sumal Common Shea Homes to G. Singh for \$785,000
852 Trinity Hills Lane Kaatz Trust to Dp & Kp Trust for \$1,180,000
982 Ventura Avenue D. Sarfaty to J. Genroy for \$455,000
2720 White Crane Circle C. & K. Ayers to M. & P. Brubaker for \$1,205,000
5326 Windflower Drive B. Rollins to M. Langford for \$400,000

Source: California REsource

The RE/MAX Collection



Lana Battagello
 925.389.2040
lanadora@comcast.net

959 Mingoia Street, Pleasanton
 A Little Castle! Upgrades Galore. Wolf Appliances, large Door Sub-Zero with glass front. Granite counters, Custom drapes & window coverings. Three car garage with paver driveway. Beautifully Landscaped front and back yard. Built in vacuum system. Campo Di Bocci & Ruby Hills & Rubino Winery in walking distance.

Offered at \$1,896,977



Marina Guevorkian
 925.640.8824
www.SellingPleasanton.com

4077 Fairlands Dr, Pleasanton
 Welcome to Pleasanton! Spacious floor plan, ~2000 sq ft, 4bed/3baths home with a bedroom and full bath downstairs, on ~7000 sq ft private lot. Phenomenal location close to great schools, shopping, commute routes, BART, parks. Recently updated roof, plumbing, WH, windows, exterior doors, garage door, front porch, and insulation.

Offered at \$750,000



Diane Sass
 925.699.9508
www.dianesass.com

7768 Creekside Drive, Pleasanton
 Fabulously updated 3 bed/2.5 bath end unit townhome with hardwood, remodeled granite kit & baths, new carpet & baseboards! 2 car garage! Vaulted ceilings, inviting courtyard, back porch & balcony. Backs to creek with no rear neighbors!

Offered at \$599,000.



Diane Sass
 925.699.9508
www.dianesass.com

3650 Fairlands Drive, Pleasanton
 Wow! New paint inside/out, new carpet/tile/vinyl, new lights! Gorgeous 4 bed/2 bath 1,764 sq ft. single story in great location! Remodeled kit & bath. Side yard access & 2 car garage. Private deck/hot tub-low maintenance yard.

Offered at \$749,000.



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Julia Murtagh

925.997.2411

Email: jmurtagh@apr.com

DRE #01751854

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Please see
reviews of
Julia on



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COMING SOON



7538 Stonedale Drive

- Largest Model – 2000+ Sq.Ft.
- Beautiful Hardwood Floors
- Gorgeous Kitchen with Granite
- Four Bedrooms
- Two and ½ Bathrooms
- Quiet and Peaceful
- Close to Award Winning Schools
- Great Patio and Steps from Pool
- Walk to Bart / Mall
- Laundry Room Inside
- 3 Pools and 2 Tennis Courts

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"We used Julia's expert services for both the purchase of a new home and the sale of our existing house. She was a top-notch negotiator in both transactions, . . . exceptionally personable, professional, and patient. Julia knows her stuff, and she knows the market very, very well, whether you are selling or buying. Her attention to detail is reassuring, and she takes care of EVERYTHING. We especially liked that she took great care to understand our needs and desires at the outset and that she always represented our best interests. She invested generously with time and effort and advertising to ensure the successful showing of our home during the open house. We would recommend Julia without reservation for any real estate need: She's a first class agent with incredible local experience."

—The Howards, 4393 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton

JUST SOLD



7122 W. Woodbury Ct, Pleasanton
5 bed, 4.5 bath in 4792 sq ft. of upgraded luxurious living space on .31 acres. Spectacular garden.
SOLD FOR \$1,800,000



4875 Dolores Drive, Pleasanton
4 bed, 3 bath, 2985 sq ft. of living space
SOLD FOR \$1,325,000 WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS OVER ASKING PRICE



4393 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton
4 bed, 2 bath in 2051 sq ft. of living space
SOLD FOR \$1,025,000 WITH MULTIPLE OFFERS OVER ASKING PRICE



DOUG BUENZ
& THE 680 GROUP

Alain Pinel Realtors

680Homes.com

925.463.2000

Doug@680Homes.com

BRE #00843458

OPEN SUN 1-4



1331 Valley Ave
Gorgeous 4 BR, 2 1/2 BTH home with granite kitchen, 3 car garage, and more!
\$1,075,000

PENDING SALE



West Side
3 BR, 2 BTH, remodeled granite kitchen, private cul-de-sac lot near park!
\$850,000

PENDING SALE



Bridle Creek
4 BR, 2 Bonus Room, 3 BTHS Designer upgrades throughout!
\$1588,000

PENDING SALE



Carlton Oaks
5 BR, 4 BTHS, new paint & carpeting, granite & stainless kitchen, private yard.
\$1,290,000

PENDING SALE



8008 Rockford Place
5 BR + office & game room Remodeled throughout with private 1.1 Acre lot
\$1,995,000

JUST SOLD



1023 Sycamore Creek Way
5 BR, 5 1/2 BTHS, Gorgeous Cape Cod style home with designer upgrades throughout
\$1,710,000

5 strategies that will make you | a better buyer in today's market

Now that the great real estate recovery seems to be in full force, barring some unforeseen economic setback, buyers are discovering that the market is active, or hot, or downright ridiculous depending on the price range. It seems that there are multiple offers on everything. And the frustration level of the buyers is rising faster than the default rate on the Greek National debt. If you have been in the market, or are contemplating buying a house in the next few months, you need to adjust your strategy if you want to be successful in winning the auction... er, getting your offer accepted. So, with this in mind, here are 5 strategies that will make you a better buyer, and increase the odds of getting your offer accepted.

1. Strong pre-approval letter. Before you even start looking at property, you should get fully pre-approved with a local, reputable lender. Get the lender all documentation they need up front, and get credit approved so that all the lender needs is the appraisal, the contract, and the preliminary title report. And have the lender draft a iron-clad, bullet proof pre-approval letter that states you have excellent credit (hopefully), stable employment, excellent income, and the funds to close escrow. In fact, if you qualify for more than the asking price of the property, go ahead and put the maximum amount you qualify for in the letter. It does not hurt you if you are over-qualified to buy a given property.
2. Meet the sellers. If possible, try to arrange to see the house when the seller is home, especially if there are going to be multiple offers. A nice, friendly visit to the property giving you a chance to bond with the sellers can have an impact, especially if the seller has strong emotional ties to the house. Be complimentary, gracious, and charming. Yes, tell the seller you absolutely love their dark paneling and the shag green carpeting, even if it you plan to rip it out within 10 minutes of owning the house.
3. Solve the Seller's Problem. If the seller needs a rent back, or needs to close by a certain date, or wants to take the hot tub, or only wants to close in months starting with the letter "J", try to accommodate them. The more you solve their problems and make their life easier, the better chance you have of getting your offer accepted.
4. Be willing to shorten or waive contingencies. In most circumstances, uncertainty in a real estate contract is not desirable for sellers. And contingencies by their nature add uncertainty. So if you are competing with other offers, consider shortening the inspection contingency time frame, so the seller is not left hanging for a long period of time. Decisive action on your part conveys strength and seriousness to the seller. Likewise, if you have absolutely no doubt that you can get a loan, consider shortening or even waiving your loan contingency. Be careful though that you are absolutely certain you will be able to get a loan, and discuss it with your loan officer. Also, if you are putting a significant amount of money down, or have other assets you can use to put more money down, consider waiving your appraisal contingency. Again, you need to run numbers to take a look at the risks associated with this strategy in the event the appraisal does not come in at the purchase price, but if you have the ability and are willing to take the risk this will significantly strengthen your offer when there are multiple offers you are competing against.
5. Understand and accept market conditions. When the market is over-heated, and multiple offers are driving up prices over the asking price, it becomes very difficult to determine a fair price. In normal market conditions, we would look at comparable sales in the neighborhood to help determine a fair offer for any given home. When the market is hot this is still important, but you also have to be aware of the demand component for value. If there are 10 people bidding on a home, and it sells for \$20,000 over the asking price, and \$30,000 over the last comparable sales, it is clear that the market value of the property is higher than the comparable sales would dictate. This is happening now, and it can be disconcerting to buyers. But the definition of market value is what a buyer is willing to pay for the house, so in that sense it is a free market. Just understand as a buyer that the market value today is not necessarily equal to the value dictated by comparable sales, or even by the appraised value. Buyers in Palo Alto and the Peninsula have been dealing with this phenomenon for a very long time. It still gets back to supply and demand, and when demand exceeds supply, many of the normal rules go out the window.

Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these and other homes, along with market trends, tips & advice, and advanced home search



Pheasant Ridge, 7276 Huntswood Court Pleasanton

This lovely home has fabulous floor plan that features 5 bedrooms 4.5 Baths Bonus Room and Separate Office. Approx. 4792 Sqft, on a great court location with a large spacious lot. Close to award winning Pleasanton schools and easy commute access. Call today for private showing or log onto www.deloresgragg.com for more information.

Offered at 1,799,000

Delores Gragg
 925-989-6500
www.deloresgragg.com
 DRE# 1206964



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www.darlene-crane.com
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 340 Main Street #203, Pleasanton



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JUST LISTED • COMING SOON



NEWLY LISTED \$699,000
5890 Woodrose Way, Livermore

Outstanding, like new, 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath plus Loft, 2022 sq.ft. on beautifully landscaped extra large backyard.



COMING SOON \$1,450,000
3531 Rosincress Dr, The Bridges, San Ramon

Exceptional home in the desirable Bridges golf course community! Five bedroom floor plan with beautiful interior courtyard and huge lot. Call us for a sneak peak.

NEW LISTING • OPEN HOUSE ON SUNDAY 12:30-3:30PM!



3210 Westbridge Ln, Callippe Golf Course, Pleasanton
 5 bdrms, 5 1/2 baths, 3647 sq.ft. on .63 acre view lot. Extraordinary custom home overlooking Callippe Golf Course, backs to open space. Exceptional features throughout. **\$1,798,000**



Phyllis Weiner
 REALTOR®
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pweiner@rockcliff.com
Peter McDowell
 REALTOR®
 (925) 251.2550
pmcdowell@rockcliff.com



REAL PEOPLE... REAL REVIEWS...

"Phyllis and Peter made our dream a reality! They assisted us both in our sale and our purchase and both transactions were smooth and pleasant from beginning to end. They went above and beyond our expectations." -*Bill and Judy Sherry, Seller's 910 Sherman Way.*



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KELLER WILLIAMS

TRI - VALLEY REALTY

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4 PM



7707 Chantilly Drive, Dublin

Beautifully updated and upgraded 2 BR, 2 BA upper unit. 1285 +/- sq. ft. Granite counters, maple cabinets. Newly remodeled Master Bath, loft, 2 fireplaces, custom paint, new carpet, balcony, inside laundry, attached garage, and more! **Offered at \$499,000**



DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema
REALTORS® LIC # 01363180 and 01922957

925.260.2220 925.413.6544

DeAnna@ArmarioHomes.com Liz@VenemaHomes.com
ArmarioHomes.com

OPEN SUN 2-4PM



8031 Bethel Lane, Pleasanton

RARE Gorgeous single level custom with breath taking panoramic views! Approx 4000 sq ft., 4 bedroom, 3 baths. 3/4 acres with magnificent backyard- perfect for entertaining

Offered at \$1,790,000



Gail Boal

REALTOR® LIC # 01276455

925.577.5787

www.gailboal.com

OPEN SUN 2-4PM



1081 Heinz Ranch Ct, Pleasanton

Gorgeous home in the Vineyards! Backs to open space! 5 bed, 4 bath plus a bonus room. Entertainers backyard with pool, spa, cascading waterfall.

Offered at \$1,849,000



Just Sold! 5196 Hummingbird Road
We still have 2 buyers looking for a home in the Pleasanton Valley-Birdland Area.

If you own a home and you were thinking about selling, please give us a call!



Mike Chandler & Joe Davis

Keller Williams/Tri-Valley Realty

Lic #s 01039712 & 01707057

925.426.3858, 510.926.0571

mikechandler2004@yahoo.com, joe@joedavis.com

"The Chandler Davis Team"



OPEN FRIDAY 10 - 1 & SUNDAY 1 - 4 pm



5498 Springvale Drive, Dublin

Dublin Ranch Beauty in a Great Location Beautiful 4 bedroom/2 1/2 bath home, 2,192 sq. feet

Call for pricing.

OPEN FRIDAY 10 - 1 & SUNDAY 1 - 4 pm



1496 Calle Enrique, Pleasanton

Walk or bike to downtown from this centrally located townhome with new carpet, laminate floors, spacious master, lovely patio and attached 2 car garage. Newly refreshed and ready for quick close. 1,224 sq. feet with 3 Bed/2 Baths

Offered at \$565,000

FABULOUS PROPERTIES



Donna Garrison, REALTOR®

925-980-0273

Susan Schall, REALTOR®

925-519-8226

www.FabulousProperties.net CA Lic#s 01735040, 01713497, 01395362

1ST TIME OPEN SAT 1-3



6075 Audrey Court, Pleasanton

Cute as a button! Beautiful one level home with 3 bdrms and 2 remodeled baths! Stunning wood laminate floors, crown molding, carpet and dual pane windows. Beautifully remodeled kitchen with white cabinetry and stainless steel appliances.

Soon to be priced in the lows 700's.



Dave & Sue Flashberger

REALTORS®, GRI, CRS, SRES

925.463.0436 | www.SoldinaFlash.com

NEW LISTING! OPEN SUNDAY 1 TO 3PM



6370 Alvord Way, Pleasanton

Stunning Kitchen remodel with cherrywood cabinetry, granite counters and tile floors. New carpeting throughout. Beautifully remodeled granite and cherry bathrooms. 4 bdrms, 2 baths and over 1800 sq ft...large yard.

Priced in the mid \$700,000's

Open Sat & Sun 1-4



Serenity in Vintage Hills

1236 Chianti Ct, Pleasanton

Remodeled 4 BR/2.5 BA home on 11,820 sq ft lot. One of a kind backyard boasts total privacy backing to open space w/ redwood deck, view deck, stone patio, side yard access & beautiful landscaping. Approx. 2,000 square feet of living space includes hardwood floors, granite kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances & so much more. Cul-de-sac location.

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Melissa Pederson

REALTOR®

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925.397.4326

melpedersonhome@gmail.com



Paal Salvesen

REALTOR®

LIC # 01928222

925.520.5630

paal@paalsalvesen.com

www.melissapederson.com



4086 Stanley Blvd, Pleasanton

Downtown Pleasanton 2BD + Office, 1.5BA, 1720 Sq. Ft. Spacious Yard
\$3200



4611 Heltport Court, Pleasanton

Val Vista Neighborhood 3BD, 2BA 1555 Sq. Ft.
\$3200



1533 Calle Santa Anna, Pleasanton

Park Villa Community 3BD, 2BA 1300 Sq. Ft.
\$2700

GREAT HOME! 1521 Cielo Court, Livermore

5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage, 3,328sf, 9,820sf lot. Beautiful corner lot location. Master bath with roman tub and shower. Large kitchen/family room combo. Formal dining room with living room, fireplace. Lots of upgrades inside and out. Private patio.
\$1,129,000



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Delightful Two Story 5 Bedroom Home!

Remodeled Kitchen with granite counters, kitchen nook, cozy fireplace with family room looking out to large, private yard, deck and relaxing hot tub. Warm, inviting Brazilian hardwood floors, new carpets and new paint throughout. Private large master plus 3 additional bedrooms upstairs. New garage door, Side yard access and view of beautiful Dublin Hills. **\$849,900.**



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REALTOR®

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