

# Pleasanton Weekly

Horse Faire:  
Ride 'em,  
lil cowboy

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1+1=2

ABC



$E=MC^2$

## PLEASANTON'S SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Incumbents, challengers highlight  
their platforms ahead of November election

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## West Nile virus and now Chikungunya?

West Nile virus activity is increasing and the Livermore area seems to be hardest hit with 75 of the area's 89 West Nile virus positive dead birds and two groups of positive mosquitoes found here recently. But while that's a concern locally, now there's a new mosquito-borne virus taking hold in Florida that can be much more debilitating.

Chindi Peavey, district manager of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, told the Pleasanton City Council last month that this year's case number is well over the 48 reported in 2005, up to now a record high. She urged residents here to be aware of the health risks and do what they can to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

Dead birds can be an indication that the virus is present in an area, particularly dead crows, jays and birds of prey. If you come across a dead bird, report it by calling (877) WNV-BIRD or online at [www.west-nile.ca.gov](http://www.west-nile.ca.gov), and Peavey will send a crew to remove the bird and check for any mosquito larvae.

West Nile virus is transmitted to people and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. There is no cure for the virus. Approximately one in five people who are infected will develop symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, joint pain, vomiting or rash. Less than 1% will develop a serious neurological illness such as encephalitis or meningitis. But adults over 50 years old and people with compromised immune systems are at increased risk of serious complications. Anyone who develops symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

Peavey said even though there's less standing water these days because of the drought, it takes only a tiny amount to breed mosquitoes. To reduce the risk of contracting mosquito-borne diseases, homeowners should:

- Dump or drain any standing water because that's where mosquitoes develop.
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk because these are the times mosquito activity peaks.
- When outdoors, particularly at those times, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts and apply insect repellent containing EPA-registered active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Make sure door and window screens are in good repair with no tears or holes.

Besides West Nile, now there's a mosquito-borne virus that causes debilitating joint pain lasting for years that has spread to Florida after infecting hundreds of thousands in the Caribbean and Central America. The virus is called Chikungunya, an African name meaning "to become contorted," and the disease has no vaccine or cure.

Kelly Gilblom of Bloomberg News reported this week that 11 cases have been confirmed in Florida. Patients have joint swelling, pain, fever, headache and rash for about a week, though some symptoms last months or years in some patients, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While the disease generally isn't fatal, more than 100 people have died in the Western Hemisphere since December, according to the Pan American Health Organization. Treatment includes hydration, rest and medicine that reduces fever or pain such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

Walter Tabachnick, the director of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, told Gilblom that Chikungunya could infect 10,000 people in that state alone. He said his estimate is based on the exponential growth of other outbreaks. More than 700,000 people, for instance, are suspected of being infected with the virus in South America, Central America and the Caribbean since it appeared there, according to the Pan American Health Organization.

"Ten thousand cases would be a disaster in the terms of people that are sick enough that they're reporting to their doctors in the hospital," he told Gilblom. "So even our medical facilities could be overwhelmed."

Sophisticated mosquito killing systems like those used by the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District might prevent Chikungunya's spread here, but it wouldn't be easy. The two types of mosquitoes that carry the virus tend to live among humans, inside people's houses, unlike the West Nile virus, which is spread by a mosquito that lives outside.

That means that crews would have to get inside houses to spray insecticides, a much more costly and complicated process than fogging a large area, as the district has done several times this year in the Livermore Valley. Although no one here sees Chikungunya as an imminent threat in California, Tabachnick warns that if it ever becomes one, it may be too late to stop it. ■

### About the Cover

In advance of the Nov. 4 election, the Weekly asked the Pleasanton school board candidates to share their campaign platforms. Their profiles start on page 12. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XV, Number 36

# Gina Piper

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## Public Notice

ValleyCare Health System (whose formal legal name is The Hospital Committee for the Livermore-Pleasanton Areas) is soliciting written ballots from its corporate members seeking approval for amendments to the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. These amendments are being proposed, and must be approved, as part of a potential affiliation between the Corporation and Stanford Hospitals and Clinics, dba Stanford Health Care ("Stanford").

Written ballots have been mailed to members. Ballots must be submitted to the Corporation by 5:00 pm on November 14, 2014 in order to be counted.

ValleyCare Health System will be holding the following informational meetings for the corporate members to discuss the proposed affiliation with Stanford Health Care and the proposed amendments to the Corporation's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

### At LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2014; 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Monday, October 20, 2014; 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

### At ValleyCare Medical Center Cafeteria, 5575 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton:

- Tuesday, October 14, 2014; 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 21, 2014; 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Voting is by ballot only. No formal action will be taken at the meetings, and you do not need to attend a meeting in order to vote.

If you have questions, please contact ValleyCare Marketing/Public Relations at 925-373-4563, or email the board of directors at [boardadmin@valleycare.com](mailto:boardadmin@valleycare.com)



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# Streetwise

ASKED AROUND DOWNTOWN

## How do you feel when you first wake up in the morning?



**Mitch Levinson**

CEO, medical device company

When I wake up, I feel a little stiff until after I do my morning stretches. By the time I'm done stretching, I've realized how behind I am at work, the adrenaline kicks in and the rest of the day is pretty much a big blur.



**Daniel Cruz**

Employee, ClubSport Pleasanton

It kind of depends on the day. When I know I have something fun and exciting to do, I wake up feeling great. When I have something other than that going on, not so much.



**Valerie Jonas**

Development officer, healthcare company

I feel very ready for a large cup of coffee, the newspaper and to be accosted by my cat, who is always hungry for breakfast.



**Karen Holtz**

Retired

I feel very hopeful and excited, because I know I have an entire day ahead of me to accomplish all I set my mind to.



**Evan Field**

Front desk clerk

Most of the time I feel really good. I'm almost afraid and embarrassed to admit it, but I actually look forward to waking up during the week in order to go to school.

—Compiled by Nancy, Jenny and Katie Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Fire Safety Expo

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is set to host a free Fire Safety Expo this Saturday in observance of Fire Prevention Week, scheduled from Oct. 5-11.

This year's fire prevention message is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives."

The expo will have giveaways, firefighter demonstrations, fire-escape planning and fire safety information. Attendees can also interact in the department's Fire Safety Trailer, learn how to use a fire extinguisher and obtain disaster preparedness information. There will also be a children's obstacle course, as well as other demonstrations and activities.

The event starts at 8 a.m. with a pancake breakfast by the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation. The Fire Safety Expo will continue until noon at the Fire Training Tower located at 3333 Busch Road.

### State water bond

The governing board of the Zone 7 Water Agency, which wholesales potable water to Pleasanton, last week endorsed a \$7.545 billion state water bond that will appear on the November ballot.

The bond — which will appear as Proposition 1 on the ballot — replaces an \$11.14 billion measure previously intended for this fall's election.

Funding areas include \$2.7 billion for surface and groundwater storage, \$810 million for regional water reliability, \$520 million for safe drinking water, \$725 million for water recycling, \$900 million for groundwater sustainability, \$395 million for statewide flood management, and \$1.495 billion for watershed protection, ecosystem restoration, and state settlements.

### Egypt revealed

The Pleasanton Library is set to host "Ancient Egypt Revealed," a presentation by Egypt historian and author W.J. "Bill" Churf this Sunday afternoon.

Churf holds degrees in anthropology and Egyptian archeology as well as a Ph.D. in ancient history. His academic publications have focused primarily on Roman Greece and Egyptology.

Churf lives in Denver and serves as secretary of the Egyptian Study Society. He is also author of the fiction series "Bow Tie: The First Manuscript of the Richards' Trust."

"Ancient Egypt Revealed" begins at 2 p.m. in the library meeting room. ■

## ValleyCare to become Stanford Health Care subsidiary

Merger vastly improves ability to care for Tri-Valley residents, executive says

BY JEB BING

Stanford Health Care and ValleyCare Health System have signed an affiliation agreement that calls for the Pleasanton-based medical facility to become a subsidiary of Stanford Health Care.

The terms of the agreement were approved by each organization's board of directors last week.

Stanford Health Care is a nationally recognized academic health system

and a part of Stanford Medicine, which includes the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford.

"The affiliation with Stanford Health Care strategically positions ValleyCare to address the current challenges in health care and it vastly improves our ability to care for Tri-Valley residents into the future," said John Sensiba, chairman of ValleyCare's board of directors.

The agreement calls for ValleyCare to retain its medical staff and employees and must still be approved by ValleyCare's corporate members before it undergoes regulatory review.

See **VALLEYCARE** on Page 9



John Sensiba, chairman of ValleyCare with its board of directors behind him, tells the health system's corporate members about plans to merge with Stanford University's health care system.



JAY GALVIN

### Key to the city

Mayor Jerry Thorne presents a key to the city of Pleasanton to Julio Soto, the mayor of Tulancingo, Mexico, Pleasanton's sister city. The mayors and City Manager Nelson Fialho met for lunch at Callippe Preserve Golf Course and discussed their cities' organization and operations.

Soto and his wife, Victoria Vera, accompanied the Sister City Delegation from Tulancingo for a week-long visit to Pleasanton. The two mayors met earlier this year when Thorne and wife Sandi visited Tulancingo.

## Albertsons, Safeway name leadership team for newly-merged company

Corporate offices to be in Pleasanton, Boise and Phoenix

AB Acquisition LLC (Albertsons) and Safeway Inc. have announced the new senior leadership team and division leaders for the combined company that will take effect upon the closing of the proposed merger transaction, which is pending customary regulatory approvals.

"We're drawing on the strong talent within both companies to build an innovative, customer-focused and growth-driven company," said Safeway president and CEO Robert Edwards, who will also serve in those top posts in the new combined company.

"We are confident in this team's ability to build a great company that's positioned to win over the

long term by earning the loyalty of grocery shoppers in every market we serve and delivering superior operational and financial results," Edwards said.

The company will keep the focus and financial responsibility at the division level, but take full advantage of the expertise, vision and core capabilities of the corporate team.

After regulatory approval and closing of the transaction, the new company will have the following leadership team:

- Bob Gordon, executive vice president & general counsel
- Shane Sampson, executive vice president, marketing & merchandising

- Andy Scoggin, executive vice president for human resources, labor relations, public affairs & government affairs
- Jerry Tidwell, executive vice president, supply chain & manufacturing
- Wayne Denningham, executive vice president & chief operating officer, South Region
- Justin Dye, executive vice president and chief operating officer, East Region
- Kelly Griffith, executive vice president and chief operating officer, North Region.

In addition, Lee Wilson has been named executive vice president and

See **SAFEWAY** on Page 8

See **CANDIDATES** on Page 7

## School board candidates debate

Calendar change, security, teacher tenure lead TV30 forum

BY AMANDA AGUILAR

The recent Pleasanton schools calendar change, security on school campuses and teacher tenure were some of the issues talked about by Pleasanton school board candidates on a Tri-Valley Community Television 2014 Election Special.

Taped Monday night for broadcast starting later in the week on Channel 30, the forum featured school board incumbents Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen, who are seeking re-election on Nov. 4, and challengers Mark Miller and Paige Wright, who want to replace them.

Hosted by TV30's Tom Morrison, the forum allowed candidates to provide opening statements, followed by one- to two-minute responses to various questions.

Bowser, currently serving his fourth year on the school board, stated that he voted in favor of the calendar change because it helps reduce student stress.

"It's very important that we provide an opportunity for families to come together, to have a true break so there's no homework or projects or students being stressed coming back after the holiday break," he said.

Laursen, also currently serving her fourth year on the school board, said she voted for the calendar change because it addresses students' summer learning loss.

"It affects our socio-economically disadvantaged students, but even our middle-class students," she added. "Our teachers spend two to three weeks each year reteaching

## Michael Joseph Donohue

Michael Joseph Donohue, 78, passed away peacefully at his home in La Quinta, CA on September 11, 2014 with his family by his side. Mike was born on May 4, 1936 in San Francisco, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents Leonard Stephen and Mary Eleanor Donohue, his brother James Donohue, niece Diane Russell and nephew Stephen Donohue. He is survived by his life partner Alan Christian Silvers; son Michael Freeman (Laura) Donohue; daughters Patricia Colleen Donohue (Robb) Carey and Erin Kathleen Donohue (Philip) Davis; beloved grandchildren Evan and Mary Donohue, Eamon and Clare Carey, Hadley, Madeline and Riley Davis; and brother Bill (Maureen) Donohue. Mike and Chris were residents of Pleasanton, CA for many years before moving to La Quinta, CA in 2005. Mike worked for Eimco Process Equipment as a Sr. Field Service Engineer and retired in 2000 after many years of service. He was kind and thoughtful and known for his great sense of humor. Mike loved his family dearly, and he will be missed greatly.

A Memorial/Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00pm at the San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA. In lieu of flowers, we suggest a donation in his name to Desert Cancer Foundation, 74091 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, CA 92260.



PAID OBITUARY

## School board receives update on Common Core

By AMANDA AGUILAR

The Pleasanton school board heard an update from district staff about the Common Core mathematics pathways and instructional material pilot process last week.

According to coordinator of special projects and program improvement Lisa Hague, staff saw the most changes to the math curriculum — especially in middle school. Staff presented three different math pathways for grades 6-12.

One pathway is Common Core 6, 7, and 8 with students taking algebra in high school. Another pathway leads to students completing algebra in eighth grade. The third pathway leads to students taking honors geometry in eighth grade.

All three pathways will offer high-performing students the option to take calculus in high school.

For example, in sixth grade, a student can take Math 6 and Math 7. The student can then take Math 8 and Algebra 1 in seventh grade, or Math 7 and Math 8 — depending on how well their math performance was in sixth grade. Seventh-graders who took Math 8 and Algebra then move on to Honors Geometry in the eighth grade; and seventh-graders who took Math 7 and Math 8 will move to Algebra 1

in the eighth grade.

Hague stated that each pathway is “tremendously challenging” and teachers are mindful that there will be students who will struggle.

Math instructional coach Duane Habecker also discussed how video tutorials will be available for parents, as well as support material online.

Those families that do not have Internet access or a device at home can contact the district.

Pleasanton schools superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said that the district’s parent liaisons has recently been helping families sign up for Internet access.

Staff also provided an update on the instructional material pilot process.

According to the presentation, teachers have reported that students are discussing and engaging with the material more than ever.

Teachers will continue the pilot process, and staff is set to present recommended Mathematics Instructional Material to the board in February 2015. The district has posted more information about Common Core on the district website.

In other business, the school board recognized six students for their integrity with the Character Awards:

- Isaac Cisneros, Mohr Elementary, second grade
- Carlos Vicente, Valley View Elementary, second grade
- Payton Schuh, Hart Middle School, sixth grade
- Shanth Gopalswamy, Hart, eighth grade
- Melanie Woo, Hart, eighth grade
- Amanda Koobatian, Hart, eighth grade

The board also recognized Darian Shimy, who designed the new donation application “Future Fund” for the registration process. “He is an example of a community member whose efforts benefit every student,” said Katie Brunner, Pleasanton Parent Teacher Association council president.

In the community comment portion of the meeting, Pleasanton teacher Mary Jo Carreon addressed the board about how one school board candidate would not meet with the teacher’s union to seek its endorsement, as well as two current board members endorsing challengers Mark Miller and Paige Wright.

During closed session, the board appointed Janet Gates as the new vice principal at Hearst and Lydiksen elementary schools. Gates was previously a teacher at Harvest Park Middle School. ■

## Hearst principal named PUSD assessment coordinator

Mike Kuhfal, the longtime principal at Hearst Elementary School, has been appointed as the new coordinator of assessment in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

“I am excited about this new opportunity to be involved in district-wide curriculum and assessment work,” Kuhfal said. “Please also know that after 12 very gratifying years as the principal of (Hearst), it is obviously a difficult decision for me to leave.”

While the district is currently

looking for a new principal, Kuhfal will continue to serve as Hearst’s principal until Oct. 15.

In addition, Elias Muniz, a Pleasanton elementary school vice principal, assumed the role of interim principal at Hearst for the 2014-15 school year starting Wednesday.

“I am confident that Mr. Muniz will be an excellent match for our school community, and that he will work together with you to continue the great work being done

at Hearst,” Kuhfal said. “I will be providing ongoing support to both Mr. Muniz and Hearst during this transition period and throughout the school year.”

Kuhfal and Muniz are set to have an upcoming meeting during which parents can meet with both of them. The date and time will be announced in the Hearst eConnection, a school newsletter that is sent to parents by email. ■

—Amanda Aguilar

## New law changes California’s initiative process

New legislation governing the initiative process in California was signed into law last Saturday by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The legislation, authored by State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat representing the 6th Senate District encompassing the city of Sacramento and some of its suburbs, requires the Secretary of State’s office to post on the Internet and regularly update the top 10 donors of the committees in support and opposition of an initiative.

The measure also introduces a 30-day public review period at the beginning of the initiative process. Proponents can amend the initiative in response to public input during that review period. The signature gathering period is also being extended to 180 days instead of the current 150 days.

“California’s century-old initiative process is a hallmark of our

electoral system and today we’re taking an important step to modernize and strengthen direct democracy,” Brown said.

Supporters of the measure said it will increase public participation in the initiative process and provide better information to voters on ballot measures.

“SB 1253 improves the initiative process in a simple but profound way,” said Steinberg, who is Senate president pro tempore. “By allowing an initiative proponent to withdraw their measure closer to the election, it allows for the possibility of reasoned compromise and a better result between the people’s elected government and the people’s initiative alternative.”

Others joined in praising the new law.

“SB 1253 strengthens the integrity of the initiative process, which is uniquely influential in Califor-

nia political life,” said Think Long Committee for California chairman Nicolas Berggruen. “It introduces transparency of funding while also enabling broader debate and public review so that measures can be modified before they go to the ballot, avoiding unintended consequences.”

Helen Hutchison, president of the League of Women Voters of California, agreed.

“California’s initiative process leaves little room for alternatives and compromises in making public policy,” she said. “SB 1253 changes the timetable in a way that allows the Legislature to engage with proponents and find ways to implement legislative solutions. We look forward to participating in the new process and encouraging Californians to do so.” ■

—Jeb Bing

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## CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 5

material that students have forgotten over the summer.

Miller, an IT architect manager, disagreed with the two incumbents, saying that there is no data to support the benefits Bowser and Laursen suggested.

"There are a tremendous amount of negative impacts to moving the calendar to starting school at the beginning of August," Miller said, adding that many students will not have the opportunity to participate in extra curricular activities anymore.

When asked about security measures on school campuses, all candidates agreed that campuses need to increase or have stronger security measures in light of school shooting incidents elsewhere.

Both Bowser and Wright added that it's important to look at the mental health aspect also.

"In Sandy Hook, in Columbine, there were issues that caused these people to do what they did," Wright said. "So maybe if we start looking at mental health and start treating some of the problems, we can reduce the number of incidents."

"It's about understanding what struggling children are going through," Bowser said. "We do need to provide more mental health services and work in partnership with the county in order to help provide those services to students."

When asked about their views on teacher tenure in the Vergara v. California lawsuit, Laursen said the

current teacher tenure rules can also be a disservice to the teacher.

"It may just be somebody that needs a little more help working on classroom management or lesson planning to be an effective teacher," she explained. "I support a little bit longer time before granting permanent status."

Laursen also added how she supports employees' due process rights but struggles with the cost of how long it takes and the cumbersome issues.

In response to the Common Core debate, all the candidates expressed how Common Core is going to be a positive change for schools. However, challengers Miller and Wright stated the implementation of Common Core hasn't been the best.

"Especially with math, the implementation has been rocky," said Miller, who added that the district should have started implementing it in the elementary schools then gradually start working up towards the higher grade levels.

After five rounds of questions, each candidate gave a closing statement as to why voters should vote for them in the upcoming election.

"I literally have the credentials for this job," Bowser said. "I have deep roots within the educational community. For the last half of my career, I've worked in technology, helping bring technology to schools. This combination of an education background combined with a business background is a valuable asset to steer through some of the challenges we face while on the board."

Laursen said, "When it comes

to public education, it's a very complicated business. Experience matters. I have a deep understanding of the educational issues and a proven commitment over the years to always put students first."

In his closing remarks, Miller criticized both Bowser and Laursen.

"Unfortunately I think they have stopped listening to the community," he said. "It's no wonder why the community has lost trust in the district, which is so important to making the substantive improvement that we need in this district. I do believe it's time for a change. With me, you will be heard. I will be your voice on the board."

Wright said she wants to "bring our district back to where it should be."

"I will read all materials, listen to and evaluate comments and concerns of the community and work with other trustees to find consensus," she said. "Differing opinions are natural and beneficial, but when they occur we need to be respectful to the public, staff and other trustees. I will put our students first and restore PUSD to the level of esteem it once held in our community."

The candidates are set to participate in another forum this Monday (Oct. 6) co-sponsored by the Pleasanton Parent Teacher Association Council and the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley.

Audience members will have an opportunity to ask candidates questions. The forum begins at 7 p.m. in the district's boardroom, 4665 Bernal Ave. The event will be recorded with the schedule of telecasts and webcasts announced at the event. ■

## TAKE US ALONG



**A bite of the Big Apple:** The Faria and Traurig families jetted to New York with their daughters during the last winter break. Before heading out to the Rockettes show, they took time to catch up with the Pleasanton Weekly in Times Square. From left to right: Debbie, Hunter, Michael and Alexis Faria; Jenna, Lauren and Joel Traurig.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to [srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com). Be sure to identify who is in the photo (names listed from left to right), the location, the date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.

WHAT'S *YOUR* VISION FOR PLEASANTON?

## MY OPPONENTS' VISION:

**All other council candidates** support completing the current East Pleasanton Specific Plan which:

Zones for up to **2,279 new homes**<sup>(1)</sup>

Brings up to **1,174 new students**<sup>(2)</sup> to our schools

Adds up to **17,590 car trips**<sup>(3)</sup> daily on city streets

Demands more of our limited water resources

**THEIR PLAN ADDS UP TO 2,279 NEW HOMES  
IN ADDITION TO THE 1,961<sup>(4)</sup> NEW HOUSING UNITS  
ALREADY APPROVED FOR BUILDING  
PER STATE MANDATE**

1. Summary of East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force Meeting #17
2. According to PUSD 3/17/2014 Future Facility Needs Analysis
3. Using the City's formula of 10 trips/day/household per the City's traffic engineer
4. <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/community/housing/below-market-rental.html>

GEORGE BOWEN'S VISION

My vision is to protect our historic small town identity from over-development and strengthen the attributes of Pleasanton that make it uniquely great. I will:

EASE SCHOOL OVERCROWDING through slow growth policies

Work with local water agencies to ensure SUSTAINABLE CLEAN WATER

REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION by minimizing cut-through traffic and widening Highway 84

ATTRACT DESIRABLE BUSINESS to our city, especially downtown

**The current East Pleasanton Specific Plan - *is the wrong plan.***

It benefits out-of-state land owners and developers at the expense of the rest of us. I am against it because I am for you!

Vote **George Bowen** for City Council



George Bowen

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## SAFeway

Continued from Page 5

chief administrative officer of the new company.

Reporting to him will be Bob Diamond, executive vice president & chief financial officer; Justin Ewing, executive vice president, corporate development & real estate, and Barry Libenson, interim executive vice president & chief information officer.

Libenson is expected to be with the new company through next March, at which time a successor will be named.

The new company will be comprised of three regions and 14 retail divisions.

The 14 divisions will be supported by corporate offices in Pleasanton, Boise, Idaho, and Phoenix.

The division presidents for the new company, who will report to the chief operating officer for their respective regions, will be:

- Dennis Bassler, Portland Division, North Region
- Paul McTavish, Denver Division, North Region
- Susan Morris, Intermountain Division, North Region
- Tom Schwilke, Northern California Division, North Region
- Dan Valenzuela, Seattle Division, North Region
- Shane Dorcheus, Southwest Division, South Region
- Scott Hayes, Southern Division, South Region
- Sidney Hopper, Houston Division, South Region
- Lori Raya, Southern California Division, South Region
- Robert Taylor, United Division, South Region
- Steve Burnham, Eastern Division, East Region
- Jim Perkins, Acme Division, East Region
- Jim Rice, Shaw's Division, East Region
- Mike Withers, Jewel-Osco Division, East Region.

tion, East Region.

No banner changes are planned. "We know the best way to grow our business is to have the highest quality fresh departments, lower prices, clean, well-stocked stores and the best customer service in the market," said Bob Miller, Albertsons current CEO, who will become executive chairman of the combined company upon completion of the transaction.

"Our teams will focus on delivering what customers want locally, and we will give our store teams more flexibility to make decisions that are right for their neighborhoods," he added. "The division

teams will have the responsibility to have the right assortment for their markets."

Safeway shareholders approved the proposed merger agreement July 25 under which AB Acquisition LLC, an affiliate of Albertsons, will acquire all outstanding shares of Safeway. The transaction is under review by the Federal Trade Commission and is expected to close in the fourth quarter of this year, pending FTC approval.

Safeway Inc. operates Safeway, Vons, Pavilions, Randalls, Tom Thumb, and Carrs stores. It is a Fortune 100 company and one of the largest food and drug retailers in the U.S., with sales

of \$35.1 billion in 2013.

The company operates 1,331 stores in 20 states and the District of Columbia, 13 distribution centers and 19 manufacturing plants, and employs approximately 138,000 employees. The company's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol SWY.

AB Acquisition LLC (or Albertsons) was established in 2006. It operates ACME, Albertsons, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaws, Star Market and Super Saver, and stores under the United Family of stores, Amigos, Market Street and United Supermarkets.

The company is privately owned by Cerberus Capital Management, Kimco Realty Corporation, Klaff Realty, Lubert-Adler Partners and Schottenstein Stores Corporation. It operates 1,060 stores and 14 distribution centers in 29 states and employs approximately 115,000 associates. ■

—Jeb Bing

## Sycamore Grove Park trail system slated for completion

All-weather trails, access road to benefit Tri-Valley cyclists

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board of directors has agreed to seek a financial grant to complete the trail system and improvements in upper Sycamore Grove Park.

With enactment of the California Wildlife Protection Act, annual funding is available from the state under the Habitat Conservation Fund Program for competitive grants to local agencies to develop facilities for public recreation as well as fish and wildlife habitat protection.

The grant LARPD is seeking can

be used to construct two natural surface loop trails, all-weather gravel-paved access roads and interpretive and panoramic view panels at Vista Point.

If awarded, the grant requires a 50/50 match from the LARPD, which can include volunteer and in-house staff time, as well as resources donated or supplied by other agencies such as the East Bay Regional Park District. A notification of grant awards will be sent out by July 1, 2015. The project would have to be completed within five years.

The board also accepted completion of improvements by DPI General Contractors to the Robertson Park stadium railing and retaining wall. The work included installa-

tion of handrail along the accessible asphalt path and stairs as well as a retaining wall with drainage.

The project was completed in time for the annual Livermore Rodeo held last June.

The LARPD board also agreed to buy new recreation management software. The action came after a request for proposal was sent out last March seeking new software after new registration and reservation software purchased from eTrak-plus in 2011 failed to meet the district's requirements.

LARPD representative Lea Blevins said three bids were submitted, with the board accepting a \$16,000 proposal from Active Network. ■

—Jeb Bing

## Hart vice principal accepts similar job on the Peninsula

Hart Middle School's vice principal Tom Domer has resigned to accept a similar position in the San Carlos School District, which is closer to his San Francisco home.

Domer started Monday as an assistant principal at Central Middle School in San Carlos, according to San Carlos schools superintendent Craig Baker.

In the Hart website announcement, Hart principal Terry Conde said Domer worked tirelessly to help support students, staff and families of the Hart community.

"He has made many long-lasting connections and has had a positive impact on so many of our lives. He contributed to the growth of so many of our children," she added. "His love and commitment to our students has been admirable."

Domer has been a part of the Pleasanton school district for four years. He started as a teacher at Hart, then took on the role of vice principal for his remain-

ing years.

"This has not been an easy decision for me to make," Domer said. "I enjoy working with the entire Hart community, and I truly love our student body. Hart has provided me so many meaningful opportunities for growth during the last three years as vice principal and prior to that as a teacher."

"It is not an easy transition in becoming an administrator, and I express my appreciation for your patience and support while I learned my new position," he added.

According to Conde, the school has already started searching for his replacement.

"I am happy for him and know that he will be closer to home, but we will really miss him," said Pleasanton schools superintendent Parvin Ahmadi. "He is a wonderful administrator, and I am certain he will continue to be extremely successful in his new position." ■

—Amanda Aguilar

**RE-ELECT MAYOR THORNE**

Photo by Jerry Thorne for Mayor 2014, POC #1337409

*"We have accomplished so much together, but we must continue to focus on the future to improve and protect the great quality of life that we have and deserve."*

**jerrythorne.com**

**Mayor Jerry Thorne**  
City of Pleasanton

**Keeping Pleasanton Strong**

## Volunteers sought for Hometown Holiday parade

Holiday celebration on Dec. 6 to include downtown tree lighting

By JEB BING

Volunteers are needed to help manage the city's annual holiday parade, scheduled this year for Dec. 6 on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

The festive, community-based parade will start at 5 p.m., followed by the lighting of a holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main about 7 p.m.

Adult and youth volunteers are needed to serve as support with hospitality, stage decoration, pa-

rade check-in, parade formation, parade marshals, setup/tear-down crew, and the check-in that is managed by volunteers.

Scout troops and other youth groups are invited to volunteer with a designated number of adult volunteers to supervise these groups. Eligibility for the specific volunteer activities will be determined and assigned by the volunteer coordinator.

Those interested should sign on to the Hometown Holiday website at [www.hometownholiday.com](http://www.hometownholiday.com) both to register online and to download a volunteer application. For more information, call 931-3423 or email [hometownholiday@cityofpleasantonca.gov](mailto:hometownholiday@cityofpleasantonca.gov). ■

## Hedge funds? We don't need no stinkin' hedge funds!

By GARY ALT

After CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the U.S., announced last month that they're selling all 30 hedge funds in their portfolio — about \$4 billion — investors might be asking, "Should I sell my hedge fund?" The short answer: Yes.



Gary Alt

For many years hedge funds were boutique investments that attracted wealthy and institutional investors by promising higher returns, lower risk, or both, through active trading strategies.

A few funds had outstanding performance, though it's not clear if it was due to skill or luck.

For some hedge funds, their extraordinary performance may have been due to illegal insider trading, as in the case of Matthew Martoma, who was recently sentenced to nine years in prison for insider trading at SAC Capital Advisors.

But hedge fund investors have had to deal with some serious issues:

- Hedge funds are expensive. The

typical annual fee is 1.5% to 2.0% of the investment value plus 20% of the profits, significantly higher than the combined cost of paying a wealth manager and the cost of index funds.

- Hedge funds are often not liquid. Many times investors are required to keep their money in the investment for several years. With other funds, you might initially be able to withdraw money quarterly or annually, but if everyone wants their money at the same time, which is what happened in 2008-09, then liquidity could evaporate, leaving your money locked up indefinitely.

- Lack of transparency. Unlike mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETF), hedge funds aren't required to disclose their holdings. It's difficult to know what they're really doing with investor money.

- Some hedge funds are very risky since they use financial leverage, high-frequency trading and other high-risk techniques. Long-Term Capital Management, a firm started by Nobel Prize winners and Wall Street luminaries, crashed and was bailed out by the Federal Reserve in 1998, and subsequent-

ly shut its doors.

Not all hedge funds take high risk. Some of the more conservative strategies try to smooth out market extremes. That may sound attractive to some investors, but today there are a plethora of mutual fund and ETF choices to invest in these alternative strategies — so you don't need a hedge fund for that reason alone.

Morningstar Inc. currently tracks over 1,800 mutual funds and ETFs that use these alternative strategies, known as liquid alternatives, or "liquid alts." It's not surprising that liquid alt funds are one of the fastest growing categories of mutual funds.

With lower costs, daily liquidity and transparent reporting requirements, mutual funds and ETFs are a superior alternative to hedge funds. Replacing a hedge fund with a liquid alt fund and a portfolio of low-cost index funds will likely produce similar returns at a much lower cost, and without all the hedge fund headaches.

CalPERS found that the cost and complexity of hedge funds outweighed the benefits. If the largest public pension fund in the U.S. has figured this out, it's likely that other large investors will eventually follow suit. ■

*Editor's note: Gary Alt is an accredited investment fiduciary and co-founder of Monterey Private Wealth.*

## VALLEYCARE

Continued from Page 5

"The combination of ValleyCare and Stanford Health Care will support the delivery of preeminent health care to Tri-Valley residents, and will advance Stanford's mission to care, educate, and discover," said Amir Dan Rubin, president and CEO, Stanford Health Care.

"The affiliation with ValleyCare Health System will help further Stanford Medicine's three-part mis-

sion of research, teaching and clinical care which in turn, will benefit Tri-Valley residents," said Lloyd Minor, MD, Dean of the Stanford School of Medicine. "Stanford Medicine is leading the biomedical revolution and our discoveries will help transform patient care for the Tri-Valley and beyond."

ValleyCare Health System has provided high-quality, not-for-profit health care to the Tri-Valley and surrounding communities since 1961. Through highly skilled physicians, nurses and staff, and

state-of-the art technology, it has offered a wide range of health care services at its Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin medical facilities.

ValleyCare is not publicly owned or operated, nor is it supported by taxes. ValleyCare reinvests any profits it makes into new services, equipment and facilities.

Stanford Health Care delivers clinical innovation across its inpatient services, specialty health centers, physician offices, virtual care offerings and health plan programs. ■



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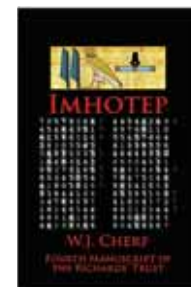
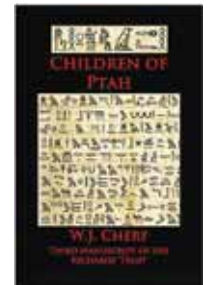
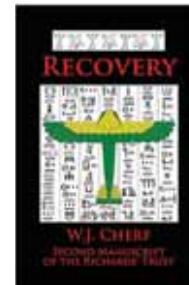
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Re-Elect

# BOWSER



## SCHOOL BOARD



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**VOTE TO RE-ELECT Jeff Bowser TO THE PLEASANTON SCHOOL BOARD IN 2014**

Paid for and authorized by Bowser for Pleasanton School Board 2014. FPPC#1367972.

### Jeff is:

- ✓ 43-year Pleasanton resident
- ✓ A product of our schools
- ✓ A successful businessman

### Jeff has demonstrated:

- ✓ Strong fiscal stewardship
- ✓ Leadership as Board President
- ✓ That he is a champion for struggling students

# Community Pulse

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Swiss couple's RV burglarized at Stoneridge

A couple from Switzerland had their rental recreational vehicle (RV) burglarized in the Stoneridge Mall parking lot on Sept. 28.

The husband parked the RV at 1:30 p.m., and when he returned at 3 p.m., he discovered someone had punched the right front passenger door lock, police said.

The man also discovered two suitcases and two backpacks missing from the RV.

The suitcases and backpacks had items inside including their passports, clothes, electronics, jewelry and shoes. According to police reports, the total loss estimated is almost \$5,000.

No arrests have been made.

In other police reports:

• Two Nordstrom employees were arrested Monday after allegedly using two stolen credit cards to make purchases from two different Nordstrom stores.

Police allege 22-year-old Keisha Simpson and 21-year-old Courtney Webb used stolen

credit cards to make a purchase at the Stoneridge Mall Nordstrom and the Nordstrom Rack in Fremont.

One credit card had a \$4,322 charge to it, and the second was charged \$800, according to police reports.

The case was originally an internal Nordstrom investigation, but was turned over to Pleasanton police.

• A 26-year-old Pleasanton man was arrested on suspicion of arson in connection with a small grass fire on Sept. 23, police said.

Police allege Christopher Tolentino Thurman lit grass on fire on the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue.

The grass lit on fire was a one-foot circle that was charred and smoldering, but had no flames.

When detained, Thurman also appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamine, police said.

Thurman was arrested on suspicion of arson and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

• Two 32-year-old men were arrested Sept. 24 for alcohol-related charges at the intersection of

Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road.

According to police, an officer stopped Jose Dominguez of Livermore for driving northbound in the southbound lanes of Santa Rita Road around 2 a.m.

While the officer was asking Dominguez questions, passenger Antonio Esteban-Flores of Livermore kept answering for Dominguez, according to police, who said the driver could only speak Spanish but understood very little English.

The officer continuously asked Esteban-Flores to stop speaking for Dominguez, said police.

It was later determined that both vehicle occupants were under the influence, and Dominguez had an active probation for possession of methamphetamine, according to police.

Dominguez was arrested for suspected probation violation and driving under the influence.

Esteban-Flores was arrested for suspected public intoxication and obstructing an officer.

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

—Amanda Aguilar



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and consider the Lions Wayside and Delucchi Parks Master Plan
- Review and consider appointments to the Alviso Adobe Task Force
- Review and consider a letter to Pleasanton's California Legislative Representatives regarding legislation to allow for extension of current Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) planning period in light of severe drought conditions

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- P14-1151, Dara A Youngdale & Quarry Lane School
- Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a tutoring facility at 5959 West Las Positas Boulevard.

### Civic Arts Commission

Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- Approve Appointments for Two (2) Teen Poet Laureate Positions

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Please visit our website at [www.cityofpleasantonca.gov](http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov) to view the agenda for this meeting.

### Library Commission

Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Implementation of SB751 (Brown Act)
- Commission Outreach Efforts
- Foundation Next Steps
- Director's Report

### Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion Regarding Concepts for a New Dog Park Proposed for the Bernal Property Adjacent to the Marilyn Murphy Kane Trail Staging Area
- Approve the Pioneer Cemetery Master Plan

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.

For complete information, please visit

[www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made this information available.

### Sept. 18

#### Commercial burglary

■ 6:19 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

#### Domestic battery

■ 11:42 p.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

### Sept. 19

#### Embezzlement

■ 2:35 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road

■ 4:30 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Sept. 20

#### Theft

■ 10:21 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

■ 1:26 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; bicycle theft

#### Commercial burglary

■ 5:48 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Battery

■ 6:06 p.m. in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

### Sept. 21

#### DUI

■ 1:58 a.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue

■ 4:12 a.m. Street information not disclosed.

#### Vandalism

■ 5:36 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vine Street

#### Shoplifting

■ 7:38 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### Sept. 22

#### Alcohol violation

■ 1:10 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens

#### Drive

■ 4:43 p.m. in the 100 block of Main Street

#### Theft

■ 5:07 a.m. in the 3000 block of Staples Ranch Drive; auto theft

■ 6:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

#### Embezzlement

■ 11:01 a.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Commercial burglary

■ 7:20 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

### Sept. 23

#### Theft

■ 12:33 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; auto theft

■ 1:02 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; theft from auto

■ 8:02 a.m. at the intersection of Marlboro Way and Brockton Drive; auto theft

■ 3:52 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road

#### Commercial burglary

■ 8:09 a.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

#### Arson

■ 2:26 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

### Sept. 24

#### DUI

■ 2:15 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

#### Theft

■ 3:57 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

■ 5:44 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 8:11 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

### Sept. 25

#### Theft

■ 9:09 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; theft of bicycle

■ 11:29 a.m. in the 3600 block of Old Santa Rita Road; theft from auto

#### Alcohol violation

■ 10:14 a.m. in the 2400 block of Crestline Road

■ 12:25 p.m. in the 4100 block of First Street

#### Vandalism

■ 12:53 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

#### Drug violation

■ 1:05 p.m. in the 400 block of Tawny Drive

### Sept. 26

#### Alcohol violation

■ 1:15 a.m. at the intersection of Main and W. Angela Streets; DUI

■ 7:59 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road

#### Residential burglary

■ 7:31 a.m. in the 8000 block of Rockford Place

■ 2:43 p.m. in the 3400 block of Pickens Lane

#### Auto theft

■ 7:57 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

#### Drug violation

■ 7:16 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive

■ 11:02 p.m. in the 3000 block of Badger Drive

### Sept. 27

#### Burglary

■ 6:46 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

#### Auto theft

■ 10:49 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

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## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Details of Stanford/ValleyCare merger

The proposed affiliation of Pleasanton-based ValleyCare Health System and Stanford Hospital and Clinics became clearer Wednesday with Stanford agreeing to maintain ValleyCare as an acute care hospital with an intensive care unit, obstetric services and an emergency department for at least five years following the affiliation, maintaining licensed facilities in both Livermore and Pleasanton.

Stanford also will provide a capital commitment of \$50 million during the first three years and will be co-obligated on, or guarantee, VCHS's \$85 million revenue bonds in order to resolve the current bond covenant compliance issues.

Although ValleyCare will remain in existence as a nonprofit, public benefit corporation with a separate board of directors, it will operate as a subsidiary of Stanford. ValleyCare's corporate members, including some still active who paid as little as \$50 to help build Valley Memorial Hospital in 1961, will be terminated as Stanford assumes full operating and management control over ValleyCare. Some corporate members will be offered membership in the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation, which will continue its philanthropic and fundraising efforts for the Pleasanton organization.

Stanford also will take control of the ValleyCare board of directors, with the new board to have 11 directors, consisting of three Class A directors who will be chosen by ValleyCare's current board from among its current members, and eight Class B directors. As vacancies occur, the Class A directors will select replacement directors, whose appointment will be subject to approval by Stanford. Class B directors will be selected by Stanford from a slate of candidates submitted by a nominating committee appointed by Stanford.

The agreement also gives the Charitable Foundation an oversight responsibility to protect the community's interests by monitoring Stanford's satisfaction of certain commitments under the affiliation agreement for a period of five years. The amended governing documents of the Charitable Foundation will give members the opportunity to elect the Charitable Foundation's board of directors from among nominees approved by the new VCHS Board.

For its part, Stanford will provide fundraising expertise and a charitable contribution of \$3 million to the foundation. VCHS will continue to provide meeting space necessary for the foundation to carry on its fundraising functions. The sole purpose of the foundation going forward will be to support VCHS and further the charitable purposes it serves.

The ValleyCare Medical Foundation is a separate nonprofit corporation of which VCHS is the sole member. The foundation contracts with ValleyCare Physician Associates to provide medical services in the foundation's clinics. The new affiliation with Stanford will not initially affect this structure, with the medical staff remaining a part of ValleyCare. However, over time the ValleyCare Medical Foundation operations may be combined into Stanford's Bay Area physician network.

Stanford leadership also will assist and provide support to ValleyCare and its medical staff in clinical care currently offered at the ValleyCare hospital and medical facilities in Pleasanton and Livermore as well as support the development and operation of a broad geographic network of health care providers and facilities in collaboration with Stanford Health Care and the Stanford University and its School of Medicine. This effort will further the charitable, scientific and educational purposes of the university as well as develop, sponsor and advance services and programs that address the physical and mental needs of the community at large. ■

## LETTERS

### Support for Thorne

Dear Editor,

Two years ago I supported Jerry Thorne as mayor of Pleasanton. Today, I am even more determined to do so. Jerry is a doer, a careful listener, a thoughtful decision-maker. He exhibits a vision for Pleasanton focused upon improving the environment, sensible growth and fiscal responsibility.

Environmentally, he has planned and reserved funds for the 2015 Phase II construction of Bernal Community Park to include playing fields and 38 acres of oak woodlands, trails and open space. That is in addition to partnering with the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to secure Castleridge, 231 acres of open space along Pleasanton Ridge, not to mention his adoption of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which will include new dog parks, tennis courts, turf fields and a community center. He also adopted a Recycled Water Master Plan.

He has kept growth in Pleasanton sensible: He modified our "growth management policies" by limiting new housing permits to 235 annually. That is the lowest in Pleasanton's history.

Jerry is also fiscally wise. His "value for money" ensures Pleasanton receives the most for its investments. While sensitive to debt reduction (note the pay-off of the Callippe Preserve Golf Course debt, freeing the city of construction debt for the first time since 1970), Jerry supported the renovation of the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, the 185-unit Kottinger Gardens Senior Housing Project, and he continues to expand opportunities for business well-being, thus fostering job growth.

I ask every voter to support me in retaining Jerry Thorne as Mayor of Pleasanton.

—Dave Wright

### Museum fundraiser a success

Dear Editor,

This past Saturday evening, the Museum on Main held its major fall fundraiser, A Taste of the West: A Wild West Evening. The board of directors, our Special Events committee and staff of the Museum would like to thank all who made the evening a huge success with the largest

crowd ever to celebrate the Museum and its work in the community.

We were honored to have as part of the crowd that evening the Sister City delegation from Tulancingo, Mexico, which has been visiting Pleasanton this past week. Many members of the local host committee in Pleasanton were also in attendance, and we are thankful for being included in the itinerary for the week. The Mexican contingent actually had costumes made for this particular party and it added greatly to the evening.

We would also like to thank the Pleasanton Lions Club for doing an excellent job in providing the "gambling" portion of the evening. Brent Schwager and the staff at Handles Gastropub were nothing simply short of amazing in providing a fantastic venue, great food and hospitality. Extended Roots, a local bluegrass/folk band, provided the perfect music accompaniment in creating an awesome musical sound.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the merchants and services throughout Pleasanton and Livermore that provided items for our silent and live auctions. Your donation was a gift to us that helped us to raise a considerable amount of money for the Museum's programs. We are extremely grateful for the continuing growing support of the Museum on Main.

—Jim DeMersman, executive director

### Vote for Jerry Thorne

Dear Editor,

I recommend Jerry Thorne be re-elected mayor of Pleasanton this November. His first term of office has seen stability, sound economic growth and the maintenance of our "small town" reputation and image.

Recent national magazine articles have confirmed Pleasanton's reputation as one of the best cities in which to live. Jerry's leadership has forged this continued reputation. His leadership promotes our city's fine self-management rather than excessive state interference. His previous corporate work experience only helps his public service as our mayor. Vote for Jerry Thorne.

—Howard G. Seebach

## YOUR TURN

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com). Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Media to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.



# Pleasanton's school board candidates

Incumbents, challengers highlight  
their platforms ahead  
of November election

BY AMANDA AGUILAR

**V**oter information pamphlets have been mailed out to Pleasanton's 41,152 registered voters, followed by mail-in ballots on Oct. 6 for those opting to vote in the comfort of their own home instead of in person on Nov. 4.

Two incumbents and two challengers are seeking one of two seats on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees this upcoming election.

Incumbent Jeff Bowser was first elected to the school board in November 2010, and he served as board president from 2012-13.

Incumbent Joan Laursen was also elected November 2010 to serve her first term.

Challenger Mark Miller is a Pleasanton school parent and information technology manager seeking his first year on the board.

Also seeking a first term is challenger Paige Wright, a longtime volunteer in the school district as well as substitute teacher.

The Pleasanton Weekly asked each candidate about the state of the school district, transparency, growth in Pleasanton, and the relationship between the board and the community and the teacher's union, as well as accomplishments and challenges within the district.

## Jeff Bowser

My goal when re-elected is to continue the great work that we have done: lower class sizes, restore elementary music, restore counselors and vice principals, implement the facility master plan, manage one-time vs. ongoing expenses, support implementation of Common Core through ongoing training, fund and implement our technology plan, develop and implement a communication plan for both internal as well as external communications, and continue to review and revise our board policies.

The challenges we face are reduced funding and retaining the best and brightest employees while supporting our struggling students.

I'm motivated to maintain the balance in the Pleasanton ecosystem of businesses, parents, community members, school district and the city. As a 43-year resident of Pleasanton, I have the knowledge and experience to bridge between the generations, taking the best of the past with an eye for the future and balancing growth with conservation.

Pleasanton was ranked fourth in the nation from the

USA Today. We are in a solid financial position due to prudent fiscal management as well as the generosity of our employees. We have completed a facility master plan, a strategic plan with feedback from 62 constituent groups, implemented Project Lead the Way Career Pathway programs at Foothill, Amador, Hart and Mohr schools.

The school district should continue its positive outreach to community organizations. The challenge we face is that the way that community members and parents consume information is different than the past. The key next step is to develop and implement our communications plan.

There is confusion on how parents and community members gain access to information and our decision-making process. That will be addressed via our communication plan.

Teachers are represented by the Association of Pleasanton Teachers (APT) and provide a check point to ensure that the administration is providing teachers with the due process that they are entitled to. APT is our partner.

Differing opinions are how we work through difficult issues. Our first-ever Board Governance Protocols helps with the method.

The district has built a very close relationship with the city so that we may adequately plan for whatever growth the city approves. I also serve on the City Liaison Committee. We have completed our demographic study and combined it with our facility master plan.

## Joan Laursen

I care deeply about public education and our Pleasanton students, and focus full-time on education issues. I am extremely proud of our accomplishments in the four years I have been on the board, which include a return to positive financial standing and prudently managed budgets, instructional coaches for professional training

which improves student learning and engagement, and more science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) opportunities for our students. Many more accomplishments are listed at [votelaursen.com](http://votelaursen.com), and were made possible by our teachers, staff, parents, and students with the leadership, direction and encouragement from the Board of Trustees.

My goals include strengthening student learning and engagement, preparing all students for college and career, and having modern facilities equipped with resources students need to succeed. We do all this by partnering with our parents and our community.

In Pleasanton, we use Interest-based bargaining, which is less about presenting competing demands and more about working toward shared goals. Maintaining a good relationship with the unions, where everyone agrees on the numbers, allows us to have courageous conversations and still respect their role in ensuring the due process rights of their members.

We conduct all our regular business in public at our board meetings (properly agendaized, open to the public and televised) and often take the time to have topics on multiple meeting agendas before making a decision. Yet we find it increasingly difficult to ensure our community really hears our information and gets engaged at the outset of the process. To address this crucial issue, the board directed the superintendent to hire a communication coordinator and to develop a strategic communications plan to improve engagement.

Individual board members have our own opinions and questions, which are reflected in the reading and research we do ahead of meetings and in the discussion we have during the meetings. It is great when there is consensus. Once the vote is taken, however, we as individuals should support the board's decision, and the board then directs the superintendent.

PUSD has a legal duty to educate the children that come to us. It is up to the community to help us determine how best to accommodate additional students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeff Bowser, first elected to the school board in 2010, is seeking his second term during the Nov. 4 election.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joan Laursen is currently serving her fourth year on the Pleasanton school board.



AMANDA AGUILAR

Pleasanton voters will elect two candidates to fill school board seats during the Nov. 4 election. Candidates (from left) Mark Miller, Joan Laursen, Paige Wright and Jeff Bowser gather outside the school district offices before the Sept. 9 school board meeting.

given all the constraints, fiscal and otherwise. I expect the process to be lengthy as we work through all the issues using committees of parents, community members and staff given the projected need for a new school within five years.

### Mark Miller

Many families, including mine, move to Pleasanton to provide quality educational opportunities for our children. Recently, school performance was cited as one criteria used by the online website 24/7 Wall Street to choose Pleasanton as the fourth best city to live in the U.S.

As a longtime resident, community and school volunteer and a parent of an eighth-grader in the district, I wonder if they spoke to residents about our schools? I have, and have found there are wide-ranging concerns about district and school board leadership. These concerns include poor oversight and fiscal accountability, which has led to the community not passing funding mechanisms to improve facilities, technology and educational programs. Further, there are concerns about transparency and a lack of inclusiveness toward the community that has caused distrust and prevents us from working together for our students.

These concerns and my vested interest in the excellence of our schools has led me to run for the Pleasanton



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Mark Miller, an IT architect manager and Pleasanton parent, is seeking his first term on the school board.

school board. I will use my professional experience in process rigor and governance to ensure our district researches and makes the best decisions for students. I will leverage my openness and integrity to ensure parents, teachers and students are heard, responded to and welcomed to board meetings. I will use my experience in strategy development to set an ambitious, yet realistic, road-map for our district. I will work with my fellow board members to restore trust in our district and your school board.

My platform centers on re-establishing this trust and reconnecting the educational community to develop and implement the initiatives that position our students for success. For instance, we can improve and increase our STEM programs, support the arts, music and athletics, accommodate different learning styles and provide effective counseling services. Whatever initiatives we approve will be appropriately vetted throughout the community.

I am not a career politician. I am not backed by any political party or union. My dedication to our kids and their right to achieve their highest potential is the reason I seek election to the school board. I promise to research every issue and listen to all stakeholders before reaching a conclusion. Parents, teachers, and students must feel welcome, respected and listened to by their school board. I would appreciate your vote, and I will not let you down.

### Paige Wright

I am a parent, not a politician. My family came to Pleasanton for the schools, but our district has had some challenges in the last few years. Budgetary issues, changing class sizes and the implementation of Common Core all lead to significant upheaval. Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) has helped keep the district afloat. Because of PPIE, we have been able to restore library and

technology hours and reduce class sizes.

We need to be mindful of how our responses to these issues affect our children. We must be aware of any difficulties students may have with the changes and be ready to provide intervention so that no one is lost in the shuffle. We must also be aware of our budgetary constraints with respect to our facilities and class sizes, and how planned development will affect PUSD. We need to regain the trust of the community by increasing transparency and genuinely valuing the community's input. It is essential to balance community input with policies that are best for the district.

The district has not been open with the community, but because the school board is elected to represent the community, we must be transparent and responsive to the constituency we serve.

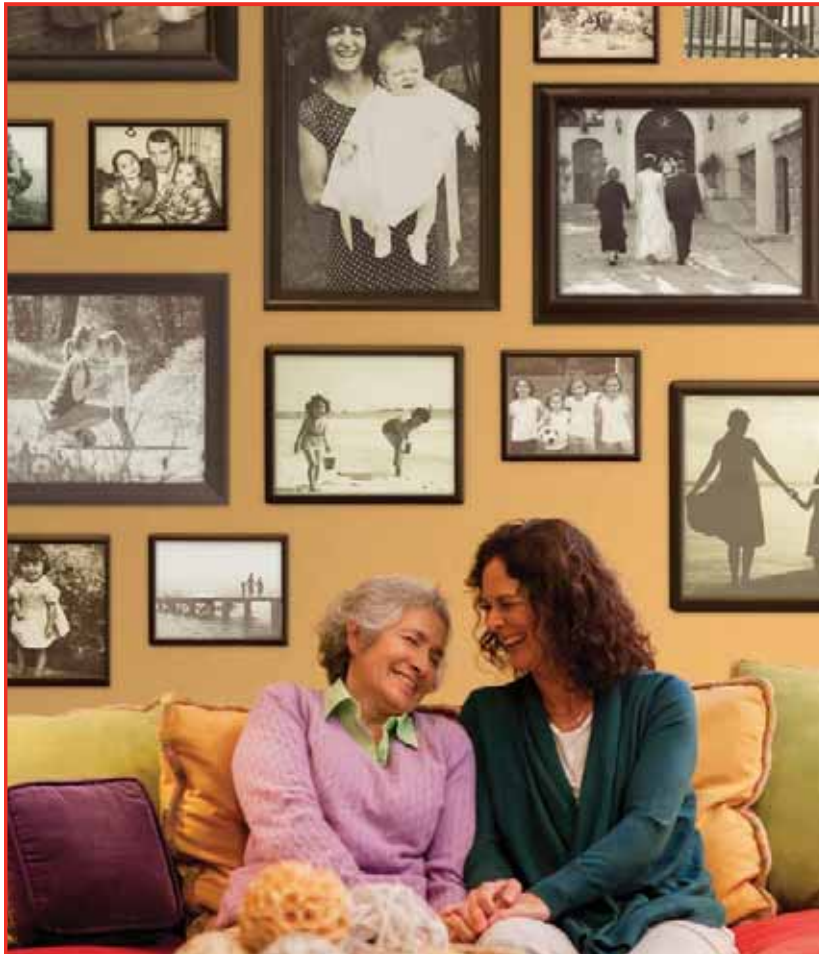
The school board must work with the district and the unions to ensure that our students remain our focus. While the unions' role is to advocate for their members, the school board must put the needs of our students first by respectfully challenging the cabinet and not simply rubber-stamping staff endorsements, as some trustees currently do.

Differing opinions are natural and beneficial but when they occur, we need to be respectful to the public, staff and other trustees.

I will put our students first and restore PUSD to the level of esteem it once held in our community. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Paige Wright has been a longtime volunteer and substitute teacher in the Pleasanton school district.



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## Ride 'em, lil cowboy

Horse Faire comes to  
Livermore next weekend

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

**R**ound up your family and friends and head out to Robertson Park in Livermore from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Saturday, Oct. 11, to enjoy a day of everything horsey. It's the third annual free Horse Faire, presented by the Tri-Valley Trailblazers to benefit special needs equestrian programs and the East Bay Regional Park District Mounted Police.

"TVT's charter focuses on stimulating public interest in the safe use, enjoyment, care and improvement of horses and horsemanship as well as the preservation and enhancement of trails in the San Francisco East Bay Area," said Cleo Home, one of the Horse Faire's organizers. "One of the ways we do this is by identifying local nonprofit organizations that have horses as a key element, and we host fundraisers to directly support those organizations."

The first year the fair benefited the Reins in Motion Foundation, an adaptive riding program in Livermore.

"A number of us saw firsthand the value of this kind of program,"

Home said. "Reins uses horses to directly support, enrich and improve daily lives emotionally, physically and mentally for special needs individuals."

"Special needs' is really any individual with unique physical, mental and emotional needs," she continued. "Some of the needs are autism, stroke victims, burn victims, language disorders — and veteran participation is growing."

The fair is a lot of fun for everyone, Home said, with a Lil Cowpoke Rodeo Corral for young 'uns to enjoy, although it was specially designed for special needs children ages 5 to 15.

Free presentations throughout the day will include equine chiropractic and massage, horse camping and saddle fitting. A boutique will offer goods and services, many with a horsey theme, as well as equestrian products. And food will be provided by Tequila Taqueria.

"The chair of our boutique shopping is an artist herself, so she knows firsthand the importance of having a broad blend of complimentary vendors with products and services you won't find in retail stores," Home said. "The vendors also donate an item to the silent auction, and other local businesses donate products and services as well so our silent auction is a fun part of the fair while raising funds."

One major attraction, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a sensory and horsemanship clinic by Susan Dockter that people can observe. Horse owners have preregistered for the training for \$195.

"She will be working on desensitizing the horses," Home said.

Home explained that before and after a ride in one of the wilderness areas, horses usually have to go into a parking lot where they might encounter motorcycles and other sights and noises that might startle them. The sensory clinic will include a "tunnel of terror," different kinds of bridges, and a 20- to 30-foot blow-up man.

The Tri-Valley Trailblazers began as an employee group at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the 1960s, Home said, when people who enjoyed riding horses on weekends began to identify each other.

"In the '80s, they evolved that into a public nonprofit," she said. "We are extremely fortunate here



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Children in the Lil Cowpoke Rodeo Corral at last year's Horse Faire got to try out riding stick horses around barrels.

to have like 112,000 acres of East Bay Regional Park District, formal parks with beautiful multi-use trails all around us."

Home grew up with horses and cattle in Texas but as an adult moved away from it. When she relocated to Livermore 13 years ago she began to volunteer at Reins in Motion, where everyone works with the children directly to introduce them to the horses for a beneficial experience.

"If they weigh 50 pounds and can easily move around an animal that weighs 1,000 pounds, it builds confidence," she said.

Many of the people involved with Reins in Motion were also in Tri-Valley Trailblazers.

"This led me to a whole group of equestrians," Home said. "Tri-Valley Trailblazers is very welcoming. They want people to enjoy horses, and they care about the community."

Reins in Motion has helped design the Horse Faire to make it hospitable for families with special needs members. And Tri-Valley Trailblazers is also partnering with the Livermore Rodeo Foundation's Lil Partners Rodeo and Rowell Ranch Rodeo's Special Partners. The two organizations offer simulated rodeo events for special needs youngsters in conjunction with the Rowell Ranch rodeo in May and the Livermore Rodeo in June.

"This year our fair gives them the opportunity to come together and offer a second joint event, the Lil Cowpoke Rodeo Corral, that will be open throughout the day to enable more individuals to come and ride teeter-totter broncos, stick horses around barrels, rope practice steers and playground games like bean bag toss," Home said. "Individuals in a family can sign in for free 30-minute increments while parents and other family members choose to browse other fair activities, play in the corral, too, or even ride real ponies."

For more details, visit [trivalleytrailblazers.com](http://trivalleytrailblazers.com). To volunteer, call Home at 243-1317 or email [cleohome@yahoo.com](mailto:cleohome@yahoo.com). ■

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Manisha Shingate, M.D.  
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### OB/GYN\*

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William H. Phillips, M.D.  
Jennifer Salata, M.D.  
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### PEDIATRICS

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\*ValleyCare is the only hospital in the area to offer a highly skilled OB/GYN onsite 24-7.

**VALLEYCARE**  
MEDICAL FOUNDATION

ValleyCare Medical Foundation is affiliated with ValleyCare Health System.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Roping practice steers was another popular event in last year's Lil Cowpoke Rodeo Corral.

## TV30 to begin 2014 high school football broadcasts

Opening game airs this weekend, Cal High v. Granada

By JEREMY WALSH

Tri-Valley Community Television will be airing six local high school football games over the next six Saturdays at 7 p.m., including four featuring Pleasanton high schools.

The broadcasts begin this Saturday with San Ramon's California High School at Livermore's Granada High School.

Play-by-play and color commentary will include TV30 sports personalities Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich and Tim Sbranti, along with field reporting by Anna Kagarakis. Interviews during the game will include coaches, players, principals, students, mayors and others.

"This is our sixth year of televising local schools varsity football games," TV30 executive director Melissa Tench-Stevens said. "Only Tri-Valley TV covers all aspects of the experience. It is a great time in



COURTESY OF TV30

(Left to right) Local sports personalities Ian Bartholomew, Anna Kagarakis, Tim Sbranti and George "Dr. B" Baljevich provide commentary for high school varsity football games airing on TV30.

the lives of the students, and due to technology, it can be shared with relatives all over the world by clicking onto our station."

Games can be watched on TV30 or online at [www.tv30.org](http://www.tv30.org). DVDs of the games can be purchased by visiting the TV30 website.

The broadcast schedule, as announced by TV30, features:

- Oct. 4 - California at Granada
- Oct. 11 - Monte Vista at Foothill
- Oct. 18 - Alhambra at Dublin
- Oct. 25 - Amador at Livermore
- Nov. 1 - Foothill at Granada
- Nov. 8 - Foothill at Amador ■

## PREP LINE-UP

Oct. 3

- Football: 7 p.m., Foothill at Livermore
- Football: 7 p.m., Amador at Monte Vista

Oct. 4

- Amador and Foothill Cross Country: 9 a.m., Scott Bauhs Harrier Invitational at Shadow Cliffs Park

Oct. 7

- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., San Ramon Valley at Foothill
- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., Granada at Amador
- Girls Golf: 3:30 p.m., Carondelet at Amador
- Girls Tennis: 3:30 p.m., Amador at Monte Vista
- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Alhambra at Amador
- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Alhambra at Amador
- Girls Tennis: 3 p.m., Foothill at Livermore

Oct. 9

- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., Foothill at Livermore

- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., Amador at Monte Vista

- Girls Golf: 3:30 p.m., Granada at Amador

- Girls Tennis: 3:30 p.m., Foothill at Amador

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Amador at Granada

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Amador at Granada

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Foothill at San Ramon Valley

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Foothill at San Ramon Valley

Oct. 10

- Football: 7 p.m., Monte Vista at Foothill

- Football: 7 p.m., Amador at California

Oct. 11

- Foothill Cross Country: 9 a.m., Castro Valley Invitational at Canyon Middle School, Castro Valley

- Amador Cross Country: 9 a.m., Clovis Invitational at Woodward Park, Clovis

Oct. 14

- Girls Volleyball: 4 p.m., Foothill at Amador

- Girls Golf: 3:30 p.m., Monte Vista at Amador

- Girls Tennis: 3:30 p.m., California at Amador

- Girls Tennis: 3 p.m., Foothill at Monte Vista

Oct. 15

- Amador and Foothill Cross Country: 3:30 p.m., EBAL Center Meet at Oak Hill Park, Danville

- Girls Golf: 3:30 p.m., Amador vs. Foothill

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Washington at Foothill

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Washington at Foothill

Oct. 16

- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., Foothill at Monte Vista

- Girls Volleyball: 6 p.m., California at Amador

- Girls Tennis: 3:30 p.m., Amador at San Ramon Valley

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Monte Vista at Amador

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Monte Vista at Amador

- Girls Tennis: 3 p.m., Foothill at California

- Boys Water polo: 6 p.m., Livermore at Amador

- Girls Water polo: 5 p.m., Livermore at Amador



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Pleasanton teen fencer earns silver medal

Amador Valley High junior Jennifer Jia (left) finished second in the cadet (U17) division of the Academy of Fencing Masters' Bay Cup foil fencing competition Sept. 14.

Jia navigated her way through preliminary bouts and then advanced from the round of 32 all the way to the event final, including a 14-13 win in the semifinal. She lost to a San Francisco fencer in the final, 11-7.

Jia heads to Portland, Ore., later this month to compete in a national event.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Orange Pride dominate Walnut Creek tournament

The Pleasanton Rage U14 Orange Pride took first place in the 2014 Walnut Creek Fall Classic Tournament, outscoring opponents 15-1 over four games in the recent event.

Round-robin play saw the Orange Pride beat the Dublin Earthquakes 2-0, Walnut Creek Fusion 5-0 and Walnut Creek Wildcats 3-1. They then defeated the Pleasanton Rage Aftershock 5-0 in the championship game.

Shown are (back row) coaches Gary Brown and Ben Eo, (middle) Alexandra Greth, Jamison Gray, Mollie McKay, Summer Reeves, Jenna Brown, Lexie Freeland, Audrey Emmett, Erika Shinn, Caroline Field, Emma Tsztoo and coach Clifford Wu, and (front) Lindsey Schroeder, Alyssa Wu, Jielin Eo and Kristin Kye.

## PLEASANTON LACROSSE NEW PLAYER FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 26, 2014 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm at HART MS

Are you thinking about playing lacrosse? Not sure... Would you like to give it a try?

### GIRLS



Register NOW at  
[www.pleasantongirlslacrosseclub.com](http://www.pleasantongirlslacrosseclub.com)

Pleasanton Lacrosse is holding a **New Player Festival** for first time players and anyone interested in learning more about this great game! The New Player Festival is for boys and girls currently enrolled in 1st through 10th grade.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun! The Fall Festival is a great opportunity to try out one of the areas fastest growing sports. PLC

and High School coaches, from Amador and Foothill, as well as local players will be on hand to teach new players the fundamentals of lacrosse: passing, catching, cradling, shooting, ground balls and face-offs. For **\$45 registration**, all participants will receive a Lacrosse **stick and a ball** to take home and a discount code for 2015 Spring Registration.

### BOYS



Register NOW at  
[www.pleasantonlacrosse.com](http://www.pleasantonlacrosse.com)

# Calendar

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

## Book Clubs

**TOWNE CENTER BOOK CLUB** The club meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit [www.townecenterbooks.com](http://www.townecenterbooks.com) for the current selection.

## Civic Meetings

**CITY COUNCIL** The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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

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

## Clubs

**AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS MEETING** The Amador Valley Quilters meeting will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Pleasanton Middle School. The featured speaker will be Julie Silber. Julie does quilt exhibitions and organizes books about quilts. She knows the history of quilts and the people who make them. Contact AVQ.Publicity@gmail.com or go to [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.amadorvalleyquilters.org).

**LIONESS CLUB** The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. A \$2 to \$5 donation is requested. Participating in the many activities of the group is a great way to meet local people. Lioness is a service club which helps many worthy causes in our community. Call 443-4543.

**LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB** The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9 in the Cresta Blanca-North room at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Kate Frey of Kate Frey Sustainable and Organic Gardens will speak on how to create a pollinator garden and the importance of plant pollinators and bee-friendly gardens. Visitors welcome. Call Bev at 485-7812 or go to [www.lavgc.org](http://www.lavgc.org).

**PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB** This club is a great way for new and established residents to make new friends. It meets for coffee on the first Wednesday of every month and for lunch on the second Wednesday of every month. The group has activities like hiking, walking, Bunco and more. Visit [www.pleasantonnewcomers.com](http://www.pleasantonnewcomers.com). Contact Info@PleasantonNewcomers.com or 215-8405.

**TRI-VALLEY WRITERS MEETING** The Tri-Valley Writers Meeting will be from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Four Points by Sheraton. Guest Speakers D. Patrick Miller, a collaborator, ghostwriter, and principal editor, and Sari Friedman, poet, fiction and creative non-fiction writer, will present "The Golden Age of Self-Publishing is Now." Writers of all genres and experience levels are welcome. Cost is \$12 for members, \$17 for non-members. Contact 828-7687 or [publicity@trivalleywriters.org](mailto:publicity@trivalleywriters.org).

**TVRWF SPONSORS CANDIDATE'S NIGHT** Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will sponsor a Candidate's Night at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9 at Cattlemens Restaurant in Livermore. Meet state and local candidates, listen to their platforms, and enjoy a steak, salmon, or chicken dinner. Cost is \$30 for members, \$34 for guests. Make your reservations early; at the latest Oct. 6. Contact

Rebecca Potts at 294-4013 or [rebecca.potts@comcast.net](mailto:rebecca.potts@comcast.net).

## Concerts

**QUATTRO** Latin Grammy nominee for Best New Artist last year, QUATTRO will play at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Firehouse Arts Center with their hot Latin Pop, Jazz, and Classical sounds. One performance only, no opener. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

**ROY BOGAS AND PETER WYRICK** Two of the Bay Area's most celebrated musicians, pianist Roy Bogas and cellist Peter Wyrick, will perform Beethoven's Cello Sonata, Op. 102; Fantasy Pieces by Robert Schumann; Bloch's Three Pictures of Jewish Life; and Grieg's Sonata in A Minor, Op 36. The performance will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$28-\$42. Call 373-6800 or go to [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

## Events

**13TH ANNUAL ARTWALK LIVERMORE** See over 150 artists in a festival where the streets stay open, bringing thousands to a day of art, music and shopping in downtown Livermore. The ArtWalk will be from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 and is free to the public. Call 447-2787 or go to <http://artwalklivermore.com>.

**FREE FALL FESTIVAL AT ALVISO ADOBE COMMUNITY PARK** The City of Pleasanton will host a Free Fall Festival from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Alviso Adobe Community Park. There will be a presentation by Meadowlark Dairy, a visit with Fiona, the life sized, fiberglass milking cow, site tours, a live animal display by the local 4-H, authentic Californios music and dance by California Fandango Project, and games and crafts for children. Call 931-3439.

**FREE TOUR: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING PLANTS** Learn how 10 million gallons of Tri-Valley wastewater is treated every day, from 1:30-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at the DSRSD Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Find out about rewarding careers in the water industry. Free and open to adults and children 7+ years and up. Call 875-2282.

**GEM FAIRE** The West Coast's Premier Jewelry and Bead Show will be noon-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10-12, at Alameda County Fairgrounds. Over 50 importers, exporters and wholesalers from around the world will be on site Admission is \$7, valid for the entire weekend. Call (503) 252-8300 or go to [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com).

**LIVERMORE-PLEASANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE SAFETY EXPO** The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department joins the National

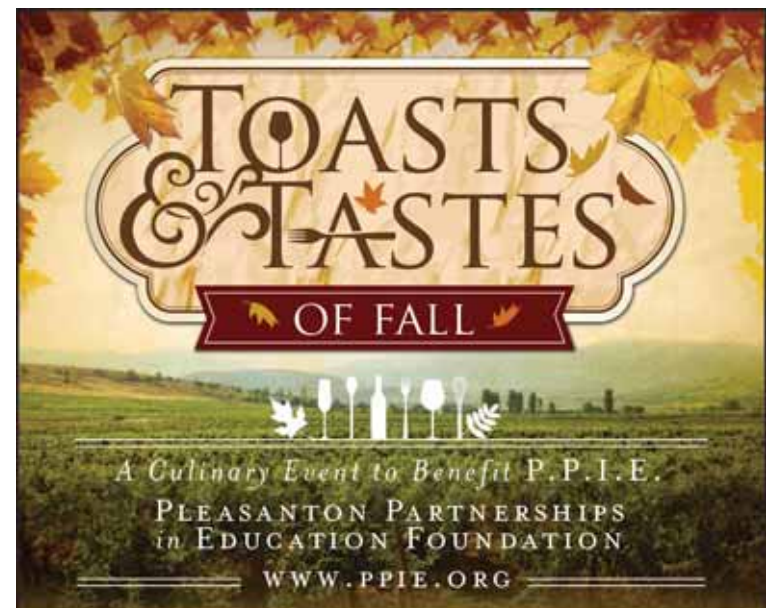
Fire Protection Association to recognize Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 5-11. LPFD will host a free Fire Safety Expo from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Fire Training Tower, 3333 Busch Road. A pancake breakfast will be from 8-11 a.m. Donations will be accepted in support of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. LPFD personnel will be on hand throughout the event to answer questions and assist the community in protecting their loved ones from fire. Call 454-2361 or go to [www.lpfire.org](http://www.lpfire.org).

**PLEASANTON ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES FAIR** Come to the Pleasanton Antiques & Collectibles Fair from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12 in downtown Pleasanton. Shop from 200+ vendors, find vintage and antique jewelry, clothing, furniture, art and so much more! Free admission and parking. Go to <http://www.pleasantonantiquefair.com/>.

**SUNOL AGPARK HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**AND PUMPKIN PATCH!** Sustainable Agriculture Education invites you to celebrate the Harvest season with farm tours, pumpkins and produce for sale, family farm activities, local wines and craft beer, live music and food from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Sunol AgPark, 505 Paloma Way, Sunol. Call (510) 526-1793 ext. 5 or go to [www.sagecenter.org/news-events/harvest-festival/](http://www.sagecenter.org/news-events/harvest-festival/).

**TRI-VALLEY TRAILBLAZERS PRESENT 3RD ANNUAL HORSE FAIRE** The 3rd Annual Horse Faire raises funds for Special Needs programs and EBRPD Mounted Police, and will be from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 at Robertson Park in Livermore. With food, shopping, music, pony rides, "Li'l Cowpoke Rodeo Corral" for special needs children 5-15, adaptive riding demonstration, horse chiropractic, saddle fitting, tack sale, jewelry, and more. Special 6 hour Sensory Clinic with Susan Docker



The One Night Each Year When the Community Gathers to Celebrate Education

11TH ANNUAL

Friday, October 17, 2014 • 6:30pm to 10pm

-NEW LOCATION-  
CASTLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB  
707 COUNTRY CLUB CIRCLE, PLEASANTON  
\$75 PER PERSON

GUESTS WILL ENJOY FOOD AND WINE PAIRINGS FROM THE CULINARY COMPETITION AND SILENT AUCTION • NO-HOST BAR • LIVE MUSIC

CULINARY COMPETITION INCLUDES

A TASTEFUL AFFAIR	FAZ
ALMOND'S KITCHEN	PANS ON FIRE
BLUE AGAVE CLUB	PRIMROSE BAKERY
CASTLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB	SWEET FREEDOM BAKE SHOP
EDDIE PAPA'S AMERICAN HANGOUT	VALLEY CATERING

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT [WWW.PPIE.ORG](http://WWW.PPIE.ORG)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Balloons & Beyond, Black Tie Transportation, ClubSport, Fremont Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Pleasanton Police Officers Charitable Foundation, Pleasanton Rentals, Pleasanton Weekly, Vulcan Materials

## PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

### A rare find

Sweet and gentle, 2-year-old mother Pearl is a petite polydactyl cat with lobster-claw paws who loves belly rubs. Don't be shellfish — open up your heart to Pearl. Dive in to Valley Humane Society today: 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) or call 426-8656.

for \$195, reservations required (www.proactivehorsemanship.com). Vendors and sponsors still needed. For vendor info contact Barbara Hoffman at (510) 589-2572 or birdhousesbybarb@aol.com; sponsor info contact Diane Wishart at 895-8445 or diwish-cpa@gmail.com; for more info and registration forms go to www.trivalleytrailblazers.com.

## Fundraisers

### '2014 STEP UP FOR DOWN

**SYNDROME WALK** Gather up a team and walk a mile for Down syndrome during National Down Syndrome Awareness Month! The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area expects over 1000

people in attendance this year, enjoying a bbq lunch, karaoke, fishing, rock climbing, bouncy houses and more! Come Celebrate Acceptance from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5 at Little Hills Ranch, 18013 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Cost is \$30. Call 362-8660 or go to www.dsconnection.org/stepup.

### CHARITY WEDDING GOWN SALE

**AND BRIDAL FAIR** East Bay Bridal will partner with the Women's Cancer Resource Center to offer a gown sale and bridal fair, from 11a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel. Hundreds of gowns starting at \$49, and 100% of the proceeds will go to the Women's Cancer Resource Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. To donate a wedding gown, contact Cathy Lonsdale at (510) 886-1317 or visit [urlocalbride.com/eastbaybridal](http://urlocalbride.com/eastbaybridal).

**COME-IN-UNITY CARNIVAL** You are cordially invited to join for the 4th Annual Come-in-Unity Carnival from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4-5 at St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church. Enjoy authentic Egyptian

food, fun games, and live music. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation. Call 216-9298.

### HART MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** A Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair will be held from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 11 on the quad at Hart Middle School. Hart instrumental music groups will perform throughout the morning. Tickets are \$8, kids under four are free. Tickets are available at [www.thom-ashartmusic.org](http://www.thom-ashartmusic.org).

### PACE FOR PEACE 5K AND 10K RUN/

**WALK FOR TRI-VALLEY HAVEN** Join a walk/run for athletes and non-athletes alike at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11 in Livermore wine country. Event tee, post race awards and snacks for all participants. All proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Haven. To register or for more info call Lisa at 449-5845 or go to [trivalleyhaven.org](http://trivalleyhaven.org).

### T&J EXTRAVAGANZA APRON

**FASHION SHOW** Join for the Extravaganza Apron Fashion Show from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct.

5 at the Memorial Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., to spice up your apron fashion and benefit the hungry. Call 408-2985.

### TRAINS FOR AUTISM

Join this benefit for Autism Speaks from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Paullin residence, 1664 Lodestone Road, Livermore. Enjoy private garden railroad display, 1100 ft of track, 16 trains, 100 buildings, 4 towns, 100 cars and 300 people; incredible details! \$25 family donation includes lunch and kids treasure hunt. Raffle prizes include 2 TV's, 2 train sets, \$100 to Vine Cinema and more! Contact Phyllis Catania at 200-7877 or [catania2@aol.com](mailto:catania2@aol.com).

[BringingBackTheNatives.net](http://BringingBackTheNatives.net).

### MICHAEL KRASNEY, KQED RADIO

**HOST** Fans of KQED'S Forum and lovers of literature will enjoy Michael Krasney's insights and amusing behind-the-scenes accounts as this admired Bay Area radio host discusses his biography, "Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life," on Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for students. Call 373-6800 or go to [www.mylvpac.org](http://www.mylvpac.org).

## On Stage

**'DR. DOLITTLE JR.'** Presented by Civic Arts Stage Company and Bay Area Children's Theater, see "Dr. Dolittle Jr." Based on the classic stories by Hugh Lofting about the doctor who can talk with the animals, performed by local youth at 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 26-Oct 5 at Firehouse Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$12-\$18. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

### 'THE WORLD OF WEBBER!' A

**CABARET TRIBUTE TO ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER** The promised return of the hit revue "A World of Webber!" will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10; and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Featuring songs from "Evita," "Phantom," "Cats," and many more starring Broadway and stage veterans. Tickets are \$13.50-\$25. Call 931-4848 or go to [www.firehousearts.org](http://www.firehousearts.org).

### RIGOLETTO

See Verdi's "Rigoletto," a social commentary on a corrupt and abusive nobility, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays, Sept. 27-Oct. 5 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$39-\$84. Call 230-8385 or go to <http://www.livermorevalleyopera.com/seasons/2014/rigoletto.php>.

## Seniors

**SENIOR INFO FAIR** Get valuable information and services from a variety of government, non-profit and commercial organizations at this free event, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Dublin Senior Center. Contact 556-4511 or [seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov](mailto:seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov) for more details.

## Holiday

### TRI-VALLEY CULTURAL JEWS YOM

**KIPPUR OBSERVANCE** Dr. Amer Araim will be the featured speaker at TVCJ's Yom Kippur observance which runs from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. The observance consists of readings and music, the speaker, and a memorial ceremony. Dr. Araim will discuss the history of the middle east. Free to TVCJ members, \$15 for non-members. Contact 485-1049 or [trivalleyculturaljews@aol.com](mailto:trivalleyculturaljews@aol.com).

## Kids & Teens

### M.O.M.'S READING TIME:

**CELEBRATE SUKKOT** Preschoolers and their families are invited to meet at the Museum on Main for a free monthly reading program with books and crafts! This month's theme is Celebrate Sukkot at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 8. Free Admission, donations are always appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or play-groups please contact Museum on Main in advance. Call 462-2766.

## Lectures/ Workshops

### GARDENING FOR NATIVE BEES

Would you like to learn how to attract native bees to your garden? Learn about, and be able to purchase, bee-attracting plants from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4. Cost is \$30. Address upon RSVP. Call (510) 236-9558 or go to



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Guaranteed Great Taste Nutrition

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**\$69.99**  
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**Ask Us About:**  
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Phone (925) 846-0660  
652 Main Street, Pleasanton  
Phone (925) 846-0727  
Now Open  
[www.truevalue.com/pleasanton](http://www.truevalue.com/pleasanton)

**3rd Annual Fire Safety Expo**  
Come See Your Local Fire Department in Action!

**SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2014**  
8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Training Tower,  
3333 Busch Road, Pleasanton

**This FREE event will feature:**

- Guided Tours of Training Facility
- Vehicle Fire & Extrication
- Ladder Truck Demonstration
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Kids Firefighter Obstacle Course and Child ID
- Tour our Fire Safety Trailer
- Information Booths
- Raffle & Prizes

**Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
to raise money for local charities and the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Donations greatly appreciated.

For more information visit [www.lpfire.org](http://www.lpfire.org) or call (925) 454-2361

**BUSC**  
Pleasanton  
Hall of Fame  
Celebrating the Past  
Planning for Our Future

**HALL OF FAME DINNER AND DANCE**

**Saturday, October 11th, 2014 6pm - 11pm**  
**Pleasanton Senior Center - 5353 Sunol Blvd**

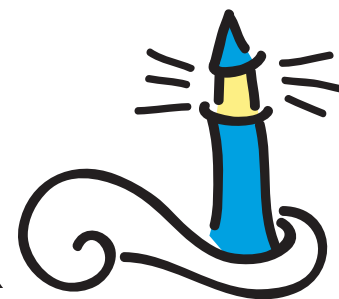
**Buy Tickets ONLINE**  
<http://BUSC.org/HOF>

**\$50 per person**  
Includes dinner, dancing and 1 drink  
10% discount for groups of 6 or more

**Ballistic United will induct 3 deserving individuals into the 2014 Hall of Fame**  
**Brad Boldrini \* Kevin Crow \* Art Dawe**

# fogster.com THE TRI-VALLEY'S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEB SITE

Fogster.com offers **FREE** • postings online and the opportunity for your ad to appear in print to more than 80,000 readers. You can log on to fogster.com 24/7, and your online ad starts immediately. Some ads require payment.



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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Did You Know**  
7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Did You Know**  
144 million U.S. Adults read a Newspaper print copy each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Did You Know**  
Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Did You Know**  
that not only does newspaper media reach a HUGE Audience, they also reach an ENGAGED AUDIENCE. Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (Cal-SCAN)

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

**Livermore Quakers**  
New unprogrammed worship group 2nd & 4th Mondays each month 7pm, UU Church 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore [LivermoreQuakers@gmail.com](mailto:LivermoreQuakers@gmail.com) (925) 315-7170

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airbrush Makeup Artist**  
Course for: Ads, TV, Film, Fashion. 40% off tuition. Special \$1990. Train & Build Portfolio. One Week Course Details at: [AwardMakeupSchool.com](http://AwardMakeupSchool.com) 818-980-2119 (AAN CAN)

**Airline Careers**  
Begin Here æ Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Job placement and Financial assistance for qualified students. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 888-242-3382 (Cal-SCAN)

## For Sale

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

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

**Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat**  
to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 800-731-5042. (Cal-SCAN)

### 245 Miscellaneous

**DirecTV**  
starting at \$24.95/mo. Æ Free 3-Months of HBO, starz, SHOWTIME and CINEMAX. FREE RECEIVER Upgrade! 2014 NFL Sunday Ticket Included with Select Packages. Some exclusions apply - Call for details 1-800-385-9017. (Cal-SCAN)

### DISH TV Retailer

Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) and High Speed Internet starting at \$14.95/month (where available.) SAVE! Ask About SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

### Kill Roaches!

Buy Harris Roach Tablets. Eliminate Roaches-Guaranteed. No Mess, Odorless, Long Lasting. Available at ACE Hardware, The Home Depot, homedepot.com (AAN CAN)

## Mind & Body

### 425 Health Services

**Safe Step Walk-in Tub**  
Alert for Seniors. Bathroom falls can be fatal. Approved by Arthritis Foundation. Therapeutic Jets. Less Than 4 Inch Step-In. Wide Door. Anti-Slip Floors. American Made. Installation Included. Call 800-799-4811 for \$750 Off. (Cal-SCAN)

## Jobs

### 500 Help Wanted

**Drivers: Local-Home Nightly!**  
Fremont Flatbed Openings. Great Pay, Benefits! CDL-A, 1yr Exp. Req. Estenson Logistics Apply [www.goelc.com](http://www.goelc.com) 1-866-336-9642

### 550 Business Opportunities

**Avon: Earn Extra Income**  
with a new career! Sell from home, work, online. \$15 startup. Æ For information, call: 877-830-2916. Æ (Cal-SCAN)

**Medical Alert Company**  
OWN YOUR own Medical Alert Company. Be the 1st and only Distributor in your area! Unlimited \$ return. Small investment required. Call toll free 1-844-225-1200. CalSCAN)

### 560 Employment Information

**\$1,000 Weekly!!**  
Mailing brochures from home. Helping home workers since 2001. Genuine Opportunity. No Experience required. Start Immediately [www.mailingmembers.com](http://www.mailingmembers.com) (AAN CAN)

**Africa, Brazil Work/Study!**  
Change the lives of others and create a sustainable future. 1, 6, 9, 18 month programs available. Apply now! [www.OneWorldCenter.org](http://www.OneWorldCenter.org) 269.591.0518 [info@OneWorldCenter.org](mailto:info@OneWorldCenter.org) (AAN CAN)

**Drivers: Start With Our**  
training or continue your solid career. You Have Options! Company Drivers, Lease Purchase or Owner Operators Needed. 888-891-2195 [www.CentralTruckDrivingJobs.com](http://www.CentralTruckDrivingJobs.com) (CalSCAN)

**Drivers: Truck Drivers**  
Obtain Class A CDL in 2 1/2 weeks. Company Sponsored Training. Also Hiring Recent Truck School Graduates, Experienced Drivers. Must be 21 or Older. Call: (866) 275-2349. (Cal-SCAN)

## Business Services

### 605 Antiques & Art Restoration

**"A Labor of Love" ANTIQUE RESTORATION**  
Preserve special memories... Recycle the past into the future  
Impeccable Quality  
Integrity of Workmanship  
Conveniently located in Pleasanton For 14 Years  
**925-216-7976** License #042392

### 624 Financial

**Do You Owe \$10,000**  
to the IRS or State in back taxes? Get tax relief now! Call BlueTax, the nation's full service tax solution firm. 800-393-6403. (Cal-SCAN)

### Identity Protected?

Is Your Identity Protected? It is our promise to provide the most comprehensive identity theft prevention and response products available! Æ Call Today for 30-Day FREE TRIAL 1-800-908-5194. (Cal-SCAN)

### Reduce Your Past Tax Bill

Reduce Your Past Tax Bill by as much as 75 Percent. Stop Levies, Liens and Wage Garnishments. Call The Tax DR Now to see if you Qualify. 1-800-498-1067. (Cal-SCAN)

### Trouble with IRS?

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## Home Services

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

## Real Estate

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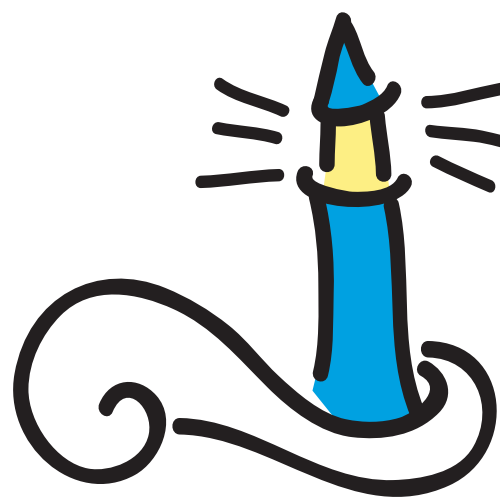
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## Home prices rise as sales soften

Lower-than-expected interest rates allowing room for pricing growth

By JEB BING

California home sales pulled back in August, reversing two months of increases, as the median home price rose from the previous month and year.

In a report on August sales, the California Association of Realtors said this week that closed escrow sales of existing, single-family homes in the state totaled a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of 394,280 units in August. The report was based on information collected by CAR from more than 90 local Realtor associations and MLSs statewide.

August marked the 10th straight month that sales were below the 400,000 level and the 13th straight month that sales have declined on a year-over-year basis.

Sales in August decreased 1.2% from 398,940 in July and were down 9.3% from 434,910 in August 2013. Still, the August 2014 sales level was the second highest for the year so far.

The statewide sales figure represents what would be the total number of homes sold during 2014 if sales maintained the August pace throughout the year. It is adjusted to account for season-

al factors that typically influence home sales.

"With more homeowners in a position to list their homes for sale following rising home prices, the housing supply is improving across all price ranges as would-be sellers may be seeing this as an opportunity to list their homes for sale," said CAR president Kevin Brown.

"While lower-than-expected interest rates are allowing more room for home prices to grow, the appreciation is also creating a housing affordability challenge for prospective home buyers and hindering them from taking advantage of the low rates," he added.

The median price of an existing, single-family detached California home rose 3.3% from July's median price of \$464,750 to \$480,280 in August and up 8.9% from the revised \$441,010 recorded in August 2013. The August 2014 price was the highest observed since 2007.

The statewide median home price has increased year over year for the previous 30 months, marking more than two full years of consecutive year-over-year price increases. The median sales

price is the point at which half of homes sold for more and half sold for less; it is influenced by the types of homes selling as well as a general change in values.

"California's housing market continues to be bifurcated both geographically and demographically, with the San Francisco Bay Area and high-end housing markets outperforming other regions and market segments," said CAR vice president and chief economist Leslie Appleton-Young.

"A strong job market and barriers to building new housing are creating an imbalance between supply and demand in some housing markets," she added. "Buyers who are not impacted by affordability issues are fueling sales in the high-end market, which is putting upward pressure on home prices."

Other key facts from CAR's August 2014 resale housing report include:

- Housing inventory inched up higher in August, with the available supply of existing, single-family detached homes for sale increasing from 3.8 months in July

See HOME on Page 22

## East Bay luxury home sales, prices continue to rise

Sellers receiving average of 104% of asking prices

Luxury home sales and the median sale price in the East Bay continued to rise in August with sales jumping more than 29% from a year ago, according to a new report by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

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

A total of 360 luxury homes changed hands in August, up 29.5% from the 278 transactions in August 2013. Million-dollar sales were off from July's 393 transactions, but a seasonal decline isn't unusual. The upper end of the luxury market was particularly robust last month with 36 sales over \$2 million, up sharply from the 21 sales at that level a year ago.

Meanwhile, the median sale price of a luxury home in August rose 4.3% from a year ago to reach \$1,309,000. It was also up fractionally from July's median sale price of \$1.3 million.

"The East Bay's luxury housing market is closing out the summer much as it started with strong

sales numbers and improving prices," said Mike James, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "Demand from buyers remains robust, but we're still challenged by limited inventory to meet that demand."

Some key findings from this month's report:

- The most expensive sale in the East Bay last month was a seven-bedroom, 10-bath approximately 6,900-square-foot home in Piedmont that sold for \$5.45 million
- Danville boasted the most luxury sales with 50, followed by Oakland with 38, Fremont with 36, Alamo with 31, Orinda and Pleasanton with 25 each, Lafayette with 23 and Berkeley with 20
- Homes sold in an average of 26.9 days on the market, down from 29 days a year ago but up from 24.5 days the previous month.
- Sellers received an average of 104% of their asking price, up from 103% a year ago but down from 105% the previous month. ■

—Jeb Bing



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with Granite and New Appliances. Large Back Deck with BBQ/Entertainment Area. Generous Three Car Garage. Come and See this Beautiful Home! Visit [www.3806orioncourt.com](http://www.3806orioncourt.com) for More Information or Call Blaise Lofland for a Private showing at 925.846.6500.

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floors and matching cabinets in the kitchen. Stainless Steel Appliances in the Kitchen, Recently Replaced two and a half years ago. Newer Carpet, walk in closets and upgraded baseboards in Bedrooms and walk in closets. Crown Molding in Kitchen and upgraded baseboards in Living Room and entry. Balcony off Living room with beautiful views!

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A world of small town living where the pace is little slower, but the adventure is right out of your back door. Take a deep breath, smile, and feel your body decompress as you arrive in this family community where you can live where you play. Enjoy water sports and country club living minutes from the Bay Area. Let us share the Bay Area's best kept

secret and this quality-built custom estate home, and we are sure you will make both your own. Call Blaise Lofland or the Prince Team for a private showing of this approximately 10,000 sq.ft. custom home with 250 feet of waterfront, built on .55 acres over three lots, and only 3 minutes to fast water!

OFFERED AT \$4,995,000

### 303 NEAL STREET, PLEASANTON



Charming Queen Anne Victorian Home in Downtown Pleasanton. This Hilltop Location Overlooks Downtown and is Located at the Historic Corner of Neal and 3rd Streets. Enjoy the Space, Quiet, Family Fun and Privacy Provided by this over One Half-Acre Beautiful Downtown Estate. It's

Conveniently Located Just 3 blocks from Main Street. It's a Great Place to Raise Your Family and Perfect for Entertaining. Many Pool Parties, Celebrations & Weddings Have Taken Place Here, Over the Years. Plus, Enjoy All the Nearby Downtown Amenities Anytime You Want!

OFFERED AT \$1,995,000

### 863 SUNSET CREEK LANE, PLEASANTON



Desirable Upgraded Single Level on Private Lot with expansive views and In-Ground Pool/Spa. Great location! Gourmet Kitchen with Granite and Stainless Steel Appliances. Crown Molding, Great Room. Includes: Five Bedrooms (Generous Master Suite), Four Bathrooms, and approximately 3246 Square Feet. Walk to Main

Street, Neighborhood Park & Oak Hills Shopping Center. Don't Miss it! Go To: [863sunsetcreeklane.com](http://863sunsetcreeklane.com). Call Blaise for a Private showing at 925.846.6500.

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### 4045 SHERRY COURT, PLEASANTON



Upgraded Home in Downtown Area! This Four Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Home has approximately 2125 Square Feet and is Located on Sherry Court Adjacent to Kottinger Park. The Expanded/ Remodeled Spacious Kitchen is Bright and has Upgraded Newer Appliances. Also Included are Remodeled Full

Bathrooms, Hardwood Floors, Central Air Conditioning, Newer Roof and Fencing. Private Park-Like Backyard with surrounding Views, Beautiful Landscaping (Award Winning, Rose Bushes), In-Ground Pool, Lawn Area, Patios and Pool Cabana/Bar Area. Walk to and Enjoy the Many Amenities of Downtown Pleasanton!

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**5428 Pleasant Hill Road, Pleasanton**

Beautiful single story next to neighborhood park. 4 BR, 2 BA among 2208 +/- sq. ft. Open floor plan with spacious kitchen/family room. Formal Living and dining rooms. Large Master Suite with remodeled bathroom. New carpet, gas fireplace. Huge 9350 +/- sq. ft lot features private backyard, stamped concrete patio.

**Offered at \$899,000**



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**1081 Heinz Ranch Ct, Pleasanton**

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**New Price! \$1,798,000**



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**NEW LISTING OPEN SATURDAY 1-3 PM**



**862 Gray Fox Circle, Pleasanton**

Tucked away in the hills, this stunning custom estate is simply magical. 7 bedrooms, 7 baths and unparalleled upgrades. Situated on over an acre with sparkling pool, waterfall covered grotto, slide and a stone fireplace.

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**4161 Georgis Place, Pleasanton**  
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1,503 Sq. Ft.  
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**\$2850**

**FOR RENT**



**2740 Chocolate Street, Pleasanton**  
Desirable Stoneridge Square  
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**FOR SALE**



**574 Selby Lane, Livermore**  
Beautiful Three Story Shea Built Home  
3BD, 3BA 1700 Sq. Ft.  
**\$659,000**

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**1455 Kolln Street, Pleasanton**  
**Upgraded Pleasanton Charming**  
Walk to Downtown and enjoy this move in ready home. Updated Kitchen, Granite counters, appliances. Updated Baths, Hardwood Floors, New exterior stucco, and newer roof, Dual pane windows, wood burning fireplace, large private backyard with no rear neighbors. Walking distance to schools, shopping, aquatic center. 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage. **\$688,000**



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**1046 Harvest Circle, Pleasanton**  
**Fabulous Downtown Location!**  
Quiet street, across from Arroyo, walking trails, peaceful setting. Walking distance to schools, Aquatic Center, Shopping. Enjoy all that Pleasanton has to offer in this 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, New carpet, New interior paint. Granite counters, inside laundry. **\$895,000**

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**SALE PENDING!**



**5143 Hummingbird Road:**  
4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths,  
Monterey Model

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**5196 Hummingbird Road**  
6 bedrooms, 3 baths,  
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**3263 Vineyard Ave #25, Pleasanton**

- 2 Bedrooms
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- 1,344 Sq Ft
- Built in 1976
- Spacious Open Floor Plan
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**2068 Pinot Ct., Livermore, Ca 94550**

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**\$1,375,000**



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Team Leader/Manager

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Aug. 20-Sept. 16

Pleasanton

- 4681 3rd Street** Brandes Trust to Toole Trust for \$1,906,000
- 7961 Applewood Court** M. Tasker to O. Vorobiev for \$1,095,000
- 8169 Arroyo Drive #4** T. & G. Allen to S. & M. Grobelny for \$268,000
- 3573 Ballantyne Drive** R. & M. Gutierrez to J. & S. Dreyfus for \$810,000
- 230 Birch Creek Drive** S. Pheley to B. & A. Lewis for \$430,000
- 2706 Corte Bandera** Daniels Trust to M. Guerrero for \$841,000
- 6802 Corte Nuevo** J. & B. Cruz to P. & Y. Desisto for \$915,000
- 4226 Echo Court** H. Bhutani to J. Wu for \$660,000
- 3650 Fairlands Drive** Alexander Trust to M. Arumugam for \$780,000
- 4277 Garibaldi Place** S. Venkatesh to R. Katdare for \$730,000
- 2465 Heatherlark Circle** S. & L. Mitchell to K. Sonobe for \$520,000
- 7261 Huntswood Court** A. Singh to M. & L. Moone for \$1,790,000
- 5178 Springdale Avenue** I. Kim to M. Kim for \$1,030,000
- 7538 Stonedale Drive** H. & A. Mudaliar to A. & M. Strider for \$670,000
- 3434 Vermont Place** T. & E. Hanrahan to N. Zhu for \$865,000
- 2943 Victoria Meadow Court** Smith Trust to S. Subramaniam for \$1,401,500
- 641 Windmill Lane** K. Palmer to R. & L. Purvis for \$1,240,000

San Ramon

- 9519 Alcosta Boulevard** L. Whitley to D. & M. Bravo for \$775,000
- 2748 Ashwell Lane** Q. Liu to D. & A. Chakraborty for \$735,000
- 101 Barberrry Lane** G. & G. Fish to A. Subramanian for \$1,145,000
- 212 Blue Mound Court** Allen Trust to G. & J.

- Campbell for \$947,000
- 7271 Briza Loop** P. & S. Vuppu to J. Kuruvilla for \$683,000
- 9752 Broadmoor Drive** D. Ghan to H. Chava for \$585,000
- 9828 Broadmoor Drive** K. Dick to S. Nutakki for \$700,000
- 453 Calico Court** J. & K. Haas to Ritenour Trust for \$1,623,000
- 2778 Canyon Creek Drive** P. Fernandes to L. & M. Paolino for \$878,000
- 5160 Canyon Crest Drive** Fried Trust to R. & S. Shalon for \$900,000
- 7521 Corrinne Street** Cartus Financial to A. & N. Celebi for \$740,000
- 381 Eastridge Drive** B. Neely to R. & J. Gregory for \$445,000
- 5351 Fioli Loop** B. Yuan to J. Yuan for \$480,000
- 18 Galicia Court** D. & C. Heisel to C. Zhen for \$965,000
- 4032 Greenwich Drive** Campbell Trust to H. Irgang for \$1,350,000
- 51 Hazelnut Court** L. & L. Inman-Semerau to J. & M. Dobrinski for \$700,000
- 2356 Keats Lane** J. Ng to Mayetani Trust for \$1,303,500
- 3079 Kittery Avenue** D. Kagan to P. & C. Burnside for \$745,000
- 2522 Marsh Drive** Keen Trust to N. & N. Manglik for \$936,000
- 103 Metairie Place** T. Pleschet to R. Chutturri for \$804,000
- 112 Norris Canyon Place #C** Stow Partners to M. Rad for \$428,000
- 4704 Norris Canyon Road #101** KB Home to A. Subramanian for \$552,000
- 4704 Norris Road #202** KB Home to K. & M. Aguiar for \$431,500
- 2212 Rosemount Lane** Lewis Trust to S. Schillinger for \$1,315,000
- 12215 Santa Teresa Drive** Barnes-Nguyen Trust to M. Ngo for \$900,000
- 2988 Sombrero Circle** D. Furtado to B. & G. Acharya for \$740,000
- 330 Sutter Creek Lane** H. Moy to L. Clutts for \$610,000

Source: California REsource

HOME

Continued from Page 20

to four months in August. The index was a revised three months in August 2013. The index indicates the number of months needed to sell the supply of homes on the market at the current sales rate. A six- to seven-month supply

is considered typical in a normal market.

- The median number of days it took to sell a single-family home lengthened in August, up from 35.7 days in July to 39.2 days in August and up from a revised 29.3 days in August 2013.
- Mortgage rates were down for the second straight month in August, with the

30-year, fixed-mortgage interest rate averaging 4.12%, down from 4.13% in July and down from 4.46% in August 2013, according to Freddie Mac.

- Adjustable-mortgage interest rates in August were also down, averaging 2.37%, down from 2.39% in July and down from 2.65% in August 2013. ■

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Brentwood

- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 147 Canfield Court** **\$395,000**  
Sat 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 934-1111

Danville

- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 1003 Phoenix St.** **\$579,888**  
Sun 1:30-4 Coldwell Banker 837-4100

Dublin

- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 4912 Winterbrook Ave.** **\$840,500**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

- 3700 Silvera Ranch Drive** **\$979,900**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

Livermore

- 3 BEDROOMS**
- 1001 Victorine Road** **Call for price**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

4 BEDROOMS

- 583 Swan Drive** **\$599,950**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

- 2974 Picholine Court** **\$1,300,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

Pleasanton

- 2 BEDROOMS**
- 3263 Vineyard Ave. #25** **\$87,500**  
Sun 1-4 Melissa Pederson 397-4326

4 BEDROOMS

- 6304 Singletree Way** **\$779,000**  
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

- 1046 Harvest Circle** **\$895,000**  
Sat/Sun 1-4 Louise Davis 200-2457

- 3806 Orion Court** **\$1,195,000**  
Sat 1-4 Blaise Lofland 846-6500

- 1125 Autumn Court** **\$1,149,000**  
Sat 11-3/Sun 1-4 Julia Murtagh 997-2411

5 BEDROOMS

- 3205 E. Ruby Hill Drive** **\$2,150,000**  
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

7 BEDROOMS

- 862 Gray Fox Circle** **\$2,750,000**  
Sat 1-3 Dave and Sue Flashberger 463-0436

San Ramon

- 2 BEDROOMS**
- 120 Reflections Drive** **\$339,000**  
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley 397-4200



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1125 Autumn Court, Pleasanton

Fabulous downtown location in one of Pleasanton's favorite neighborhoods. Enjoy this great family home on a nice quiet cul-de-sac. This 4-bedroom/2-bath home has 2150 sq. ft. of living space, with a very functional floor plan. Beautiful hardwood floors installed throughout the entire home. The backyard features a "resort like" pool with spa. Enjoy entertaining with the built-in barbeque, a fire pit with seating, and a nice sized patio. Walk to downtown Pleasanton, Stores and Amador High School in minutes. This won't last long!

JUST LISTED AT \$389,000



673 Palomino Dr, # D

Great Townhome in Oak Tree Villas in one of the most private locations. This home has 2 beds & 2 baths, with 1198 Sq. Ft of Living space. One Bed and Bath On each floor ~ Call Julia for more details.

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**



**7863 Foothill Knolls, Pleasanton**  
4 bed, 2 bath, .34 acre. Upgrades w/pool, spa & outdoor kitchen.  
**SOLD FOR \$1,300,000 REPRESENTED BUYERS**

# Tri-Valley Real Estate Directory



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\*BY THE SAN FRANCISCO BUSINESS TIMES BASED ON TOTAL SALES VOLUME

# Coldwell Banker #1 IN CALIFORNIA



**DUBLIN**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 3700 SILVERA RANCH DR  
JUST LISTED! \$979,900  
4 BR 3.5 BA Jr Master Ste, 3 car tandem grg, kitch with granite, SS, island. No rear neighbors. Near top schls Azita Mowlavi, CalBRE #01074630 925.847.2200



**DUBLIN**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 4912 WINTERBROOK AVE  
JUST LISTED! \$840,500  
3 BR 3 BA Frplace, built-in ent cntr. Fresh paint. Near dining, shop, movie, frwy. Com pool, near top schls. Kimberly Roesler, CalBRE #01950785 925.847.2200



**LIVERMORE**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 1001 VICTORINE RD  
JUST LISTED! \$1,149,000  
3 BR 2 BA Almost 24 acres. Creekside loc. Min to frwy. HUGE shop. Awesome views. In Williamson ACT! Kay Stromgren, CalBRE #00890085 925.847.2200



**MOUNTAIN HOUSE**  
Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 761 ANTIGUA TER  
JUST LISTED! \$615,000  
5 BR 4.5 BA Plus large office & bonus room. Gourmet kitch with granite & built-ins. 1 BD & full BA down. Suzan Gladieux, CalBRE #01245705 925.847.2200

### DUBLIN

3240 MAGUIRE WAY #414

JUST LISTED! \$449,900  
2 BR 2.5 BA Top unit faces park. SS appls, recessed lighting, granite. Close to shopping & transport! Romar De Claro, CalBRE #01341138 925.847.2200

Open SUN 1 - 4 8431 DEERVALE RD  
JUST LISTED! \$575,000  
3 BR 2 BA Updated kitchen and bathrooms. Landscaped backyard with covered patio. Wood floors. Dual pane windows. Suzanne Bieser, CalBRE #01355940 925.847.2200

### LIVERMORE

3103 BELMONT CT

WELCOME HOME! \$1,599,950  
4 BR 4.5 BA Cul-de-sac location. In-law unit above garage huge kitchen perfect home for entertaining. David Beville Jr., CalBRE #01954597 925.847.2200

5975 COLLIER CANYON RD  
IN LOVELY COLLIER CANYON \$1,295,000  
3 BR 2.5 BA 3-car garage. 9.86 acre lot. Pool with diving board. Solar panels. Large barn. Caretaker Unit. Kay Stromgren, CalBRE #00890085 925.847.2200

JUST LISTED! 137 TOIYABE CT \$685,000  
3 BR 2 BA Open flrplan, lrg corner lot. Stucco exterior, updated HVAC, floors and baths, brand New Pergola! Sean Leggat, CalBRE #01280186 925.847.2200

BEAUTIFUL TRI-LEVEL! 5450 BETTY CIR \$629,000  
4 BR 2.5 BA Located in quiet neighborhood. Cathedral ceilings, master suite with sitting area, side yard access. Drew Holscher/Tommy Sinclair, CalBRE #01936944/01928160 925.847.2200

261 NORTHWOOD CMNS  
CHARMING TOWNHOME! \$519,950  
3 BR 2.5 BA Kitch with granite, breakfast bar. Many upgrades. Private yard with deck, garden & grass. Mary Anne Rozsa, CalBRE #00783003 925.847.2200

812 VIA GRANADA \$500,000  
JUST LISTED!  
3 BR 2 BA Single story home. Centrally located. Easy access to shopping, freeways, walk to downtown. Sean Leggat, CalBRE #01280186 925.847.2200

### PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 4 3205 E RUBY HILL DR  
GOLF COURSE VIEWS! \$2,150,000  
5 BR 4.5 BA Expert craftsmanship. Library and 2 bedrooms on first level. Pool, spa, outdoor kitchen and Rose Arbor. Kathleen Waelde, CalBRE #00885285 925.847.2200

5342 ELMRIDGE CT \$939,000  
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!  
4 BR 2.5 BA Gorgeous upgraded home with hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, huge lot and a sports court! Shannon Shepherd, CalBRE #01350212 925.847.2200

### SAN RAMON

527 WYCOMBE COURT  
MAGNIFICENT HOME ON PREMIUM LOT \$2,968,000

6 BR 7.5 BA Loaded with upgrades-Mahogany flooring, Solid cherry cabinets, Library, Wine cellar and much more!  
Sharon He, CalBRE #01810593 925.847.2200

1215 NANCY LN \$525,000  
BEAUTIFUL CONDO!  
2 BR 2 BA Open floor. Built-in media and surround. Master with walk-in closet. Upgraded kitchen. Large 2car attached garage.  
Karen T, CalBRE #009628800 925.847.2200

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PLEASANTON

925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122

CaliforniaMoves.com

# WELCOME HOME



**PLEASANTON \$1,195,000**

3806 Orion Court | 4bd 2(1)ba  
Blaise Lofland | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$840,000**

7052 Via Quito | 4bd 3ba  
Moxley Team | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$839,000**

3602 Dunsmuir Cir. | 4bd 2ba  
Moxley Team | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**LIVERMORE \$799,000**

1657 PLACER CIR | 4bd 2(1)ba  
Anni Hagfeldt | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$779,000**

6304 SINGLETREE WAY | 4bd 3ba  
Doug Buenz | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$749,000**

4255 KATIE LN | 3bd 2(1)ba  
Tim McGuire | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$709,000**

3268 FLEMINGTON CT | 3bd 2ba  
Tim McGuire | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**LIVERMORE \$619,000**

556 Heligan Lane #4 | 3bd 2ba  
Tim McGuire | 925.251.1111  
By Appt



**PLEASANTON \$589,000**

2022 ALEXANDER CT | 2bd 2ba  
Tim McGuire | 925.251.1111  
By Appt

See it all at  
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Pleasanton/Livermore Valley Office 925.251.1111

