

Pleasanton Weekly

Holiday Stars
Page 14

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STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES



Tri-Valley YMCA
benefiting from Holiday
Fund contributions

Page 12



- 5 | **NEWS** Council moves forward on new civic center
- 11 | **SPORTS** Foothill's Huk wins milestone tennis title
- 18 | **TRI-VALLEY HEROES** Lifetime Achievement

Don Lewis

Pleasanton | Arts & Culture

Melanie Sadek

Pleasanton | Community Spirit

Kaitlin Gallagher

Pleasanton | Courage

Cristina Hill

San Ramon | Innovation

Connor Bruce

Blackhawk | Rising Star

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING



The Bing family kitchen is a busy place at Thanksgiving time, only not this year.

Thanksgiving goes to the dogs

For the first time in our more than 43 years of marriage, my wife Jan and I are spending Thanksgiving alone. That's not quite accurate since our children, who have moved on to different locations this week, left two of their dogs in our care along with Molly, our mostly Scottish Terrier that we adopted from a fairgrounds rescue group three years ago.

All three — with my daughter Kerry's Pluto, a 10-year-old pedigree Golden Retriever and Jenny's more rambunctious Bae, a black-and-white McNab — would probably woof-down much of a Thanksgiving turkey if we cooked one. But we won't as we head out to one of the many top-line restaurants offering holiday buffets and specialty cuisine.

Scouting around for a mid-afternoon reservation proved exhausting as many eateries said their bookings exceeded capacity weeks ago, which tells me that we're not the only Pleasanton couple dining out on Thanksgiving.

Nor is spending our first Thanksgiving without family sad. We actually had an early turkey day with our son Chris in his new Land Park home in Sacramento Wednesday with his wife Mary and their two sons. She's an emergency room doctor at UC Davis Medical Center who took the Thanksgiving Day 14-hour shift so that she'll be off Christmas Day. Of course, with our dog-sitting responsibilities, staying overnight was not an option.

For me, Thanksgiving Week got

off to a rough start. I took Kerry, her husband Arick and four of their six children to SFO last Friday as they left for 10 days in Sydney, Australia. I'm sure they were already at their plane-change destination in Los Angeles by the time I got back to Pleasanton, enduring a near-3-hour bumper-to-bumper peak hour return, reminiscent of the traffic I encountered daily in the 1980s and '90s when I commuted to a job in Sunnyvale.

Do that once or twice, and you appreciate the five minutes it takes to reach the Pleasanton Weekly office on Sunol Boulevard.

Saturday was better when I drove Jenny and her family, including 3-year-old twins Kate and Benjamin, to Oakland for the trip to her husband Jerry's hometown near Tulsa for Thanksgiving festivities there. Weather's always a concern this time of year in Oklahoma, which so far has escaped the early winter blizzards in the upper Midwest.

So here we are, probably a typical longtime Pleasanton family whose children and extended family are elsewhere, dining out together by ourselves for the first time, watching football where the roar of the crowd that once was in our family room comes only from those stadiums, closing out the holiday with none of the leftovers that also make Thanksgiving dinners a special treat.

But then we have the three dogs at our feet. So we're not really alone. ■

About the Cover

The Tri-Valley YMCA, a beneficiary of the 2016 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, offers a variety of services for youth and their families, including (as seen on cover, clockwise from top) an annual summer camp, the Pinewood Derby as a part of the Y-Guides and Y-Princesses programs, and after-school enrichment. Photos courtesy of the Tri-Valley YMCA. Cover design by Kristin Brown.

Vol. XVII, Number 44

'Tis the season of sharing

You are invited to share memories past and present.

Are your children or grandchildren going to see Santa this year?

Send us your Santa photos!

Have a memorable holiday experience or tradition?

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Pleasanton Weekly



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Embarcadero Media, producers of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac, Mountain View Voice, Pleasanton Weekly, PaloAltoOnline.com and several other community websites, is looking for a graphic designer to join its award-winning design team.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How are your spirits as we head into this year's holiday season?



Ellen Schakner
Receptionist

For the most part they are good. I am trying to not pay too much attention to all things political, and to just live my life and enjoy spending lots of time with my family over the holidays.



Brian Feiger
Endodontist

My spirits are quite good. I really appreciate how nice everyone is out in public at this time of year, trying to spread holiday cheer and goodwill toward man. I wish I could say the same for the drivers on the road.



Andrew Wilson
Sales and marketing

Well, I'm devastated about the election and what I think is going to happen to our country, and that is taking a toll on my spirits, for sure. But I'm going to try to put all of those emotions aside during the holiday season and just be merry and bright.



Shaila Ranganathan
Elementary school student

My spirits are high. I am looking forward to some time off from school and to giving many gifts to family and friends. And of course I'm looking forward to receiving gifts, too.



Gayle Furukawa
Retired

My spirits are great because my family will be visiting from Alaska for the Christmas holiday. I am also trying to stay positive after the election.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

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LAWRENCE LIVERMORE, 1950-1989*
LAWRENCE BERKELEY, 1942-1961
SANDIA LIVERMORE, 1956-1994

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DIGEST

No park fees

The East Bay Regional Park District is waiving admission and parking fees for everyone today for Black Friday.

“The Black Friday waiver — part of the national #optoutside movement — is meant to encourage the public to hit the trails, not the malls on the busiest shopping day of the year,” said Carolyn Jones, the district’s public information supervisor. “Benefits of hiking include exercise, fresh air and time with family and friends in a beautiful natural setting.”

The fee waivers do not apply to California state fees such as watercraft inspections and fishing licenses, or to concessions such as the Tilden steam trains.

The park district offers a range of public parks and trails in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For more information, visit www.ebparks.org.

Handling holidays

The holiday season is typically filled with merriment, celebrations and longstanding traditions, but many people and families who have lost a loved one feel lost, alone and overcome with sadness and anxiety, according to Hope Hospice.

That’s why the local nonprofit is hosting a “Handling the Holidays” workshop next month to help residents who have experienced a loss take care of themselves during the sometimes-difficult holiday season.

The free workshop will provide practical ideas, strategies and helpful tips that can make a difference this time of year, officials said. The session will run 2-4 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Hope Hospice Grief Support Center at 6377 Clark Ave. in Dublin.

Advanced registration required. Visit www.HopeHospice.com or call 829-8770.

Giving Tuesday

As part of the nationwide Giving Tuesday effort (designed to focus attention on contributions to charities in the wake of commercial spending on Black Friday and Cyber Monday), Pleasanton’s Valley Humane Society is hoping to raise vital funds for local dogs and cats next Tuesday.

VHS said the money would help animals like Ralphie, a spirited kitten who’s learning to get along again after a leg amputation, and Myles, an affectionate Retriever puppy who was found as a stray with a severe but treatable skin condition.

VHS relies on contributions from residents, small businesses and local companies for its funding. ■

City Council moves forward on new library/civic center complex

Approves draft master plan, considers going to voters in 2018

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton City Council has approved a draft master plan for a new civic center complex in Bernal Community Park that could go on the ballot in November 2018 for voter approval.

The proposed complex would include a new city hall, library, police headquarters and a community center on a 27-acre site between Bernal and Valley avenues and backing onto the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

The current 10-acre site bordered by Main Street and Old Bernal and Bernal avenues would be redeveloped in accordance with the

recommendations of a Downtown Specific Plan. A task force has been established to consider that plan, with an expected completion date of late next year.

Although no cost estimates have been made nor funding sources identified for building the new complex, its cost is estimated at up to \$200 million.

“We don’t know what we’re going to do yet,” Mayor Jerry Thorne said. “That decision is at least 18 months out, with a number of commission and committee meetings needed to review proposals first.”

The council’s action in a 4-0 vote

approved a draft master plan developed by a Civic Center/Library Task Force. The group was formed in February 2015 to consider municipal office and operational needs.

The Pleasanton City Hall, the group noted, is now the oldest of the 13 cities in Alameda County. The public library, built as a county branch library, is overcrowded in a glass-and-brick structure that won’t allow a second floor. Some of the buildings on the current city site are temporary structures that the city likely would have ordered removed if they were privately owned.

The primary issues raised and

addressed during the task force deliberations included site selection for upgrading or rebuilding civic center and city hall buildings and parking. During after-school hours, patrons find it difficult to park at the current library and parking is especially tight during City Council and other community meetings at the current civic center.

The task force is proposing 250 additional spaces at the Bernal park site along with a two- to three-story parking garage. The police department would have its own dedicated

See **COMPLEX** on Page 8



JEB BING

Happy holidays

Continuing a decades-old tradition, holiday wreaths have been placed on the arches leading into the Hacienda community. Each year, Hacienda’s distinctive wreaths are hung from the arches at Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive and at Hacienda Drive and I-580, and decorative accents are included in all four of Hacienda’s feature intersections.

“Hacienda always looks forward to contributing to the spirit of the season with our annual decorative installations in North Pleasanton,” said James Paxson, Hacienda’s general manager. “From all of us at Hacienda, we wish everyone the full enjoyment of this time of year with family, friends and the community.”

Small Business Saturday to follow Black Friday

Day designated for supporting 3,400 small businesses here

The Pleasanton City Council has proclaimed Saturday as “Small Business Saturday,” a day set aside as a counterpart to Black Friday the day after Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday, both of which feature big-box retail and e-commerce operations.

By contrast, Small Business Saturday in Pleasanton encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick-and-mortar businesses that are small and local, whether located downtown, in neighborhood shopping centers or at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Pleasanton has over 3,400 small business proprietors employing

more than 29,000 people and fostering economic growth through the creation of jobs and the production of goods and services for the community and country. Small businesses having between one and 100 employees comprise half of all licensed businesses in the city.

In its proclamation, the council stated:

Whereas, the city of Pleasanton supports these businesses as a critical component of restoring and rebuilding a healthy economy; and with the 2016 holiday shopping season upon us, the city proclaims

Nov. 26 as Small Business Saturday and calls upon all residents to support our small business community by shopping, dining or accessing the services of a small business in Pleasanton.

The day was first observed in Roslindale Village, Mass. on Nov. 27, 2010, and was sponsored by American Express, in partnership with the nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Small Business Saturday is a registered trademark of the American Express corporation. ■

—Jeb Bing

School district enrollment declines

Recently released data aligns with projection

By JULIA REIS

Compared with the 2011-12 school year, student enrollment has declined in the Pleasanton Unified School District from 14,873 children then to 14,768 this school year, according to data recently released by the district.

Total enrollment did increase by 27 students this year compared with last year, with roughly 80 more students each at the middle and high school levels. But there are 145 fewer children enrolled in the district’s elementary schools this year compared with last, PUSD senior director of student services Kevin Johnson said during a presentation on enrollment at the Nov. 9 school board meeting.

The slight rise in middle school enrollment marked a continuing pattern of growth at that level, while a similar increase at the high school level comes after four years of decline, according to Johnson.

Looking at enrollment numbers recorded on the first Monday in October for each of the last six school years, the district also found that the largest year-to-year increase in total student enrollment was 45.

“We have seen very consistent enrollment compared to most districts,” Johnson said at the school board meeting.

Johnson also highlighted data that showed how student enrollment has

See **ENROLLMENT** on Page 8

Alisal students pack 16,000+ meal kits for those in need

Partnership with Kids Against Hunger benefits families in Haiti

Hundreds of students from Alisal Elementary School joined parent and nonprofit volunteers earlier this month to pack 16,200 meal kits for families in need in hurricane-ravaged Haiti.

Alisal students in second through fifth grades gathered in the multipurpose room Nov. 10, with classes packing in 30-minute shifts, to fill containers with rice and dehydrated vegetables

to send to the Caribbean nation. The elementary school went on to exceed its original goal of 15,000 meal kits.

"We were looking for opportunities to give back," Alisal principal Karen Johnson said in a statement. "It's allowed them to understand that there are children with different circumstances than they have in the world and feel really good about giving back and do

something to help those children."

Each meal kit provides food for five to six people, so the kits packed by Alisal could feed up to nearly 100,000 people in need in Haiti, according to school officials.

The volunteer effort was a collaboration with Kids Against Hunger, a national nonprofit humanitarian organization. ■

—Jeremy Walsh



COURTESY OF PUSD

Alisal Elementary School students and adult volunteers work to pack meals for those in need in Haiti earlier this month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Vineyards of the Valley'

Las Positas College is exhibiting "Vineyards of the Valley," photographs by Virginia George, through Dec. 2 in the lobby of the Barbara Mertes Theater Building with a reception from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday. George began taking photography classes in 2011, has received several awards and now mentors new photography students. Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

TAKE US ALONG



The Grand Palace: Ken and Ellen Cuozzo traveled to Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden on the Norwegian Star cruise ship. They took the Pleasanton Weekly to visit the fountains at The Grand Palace at Peterhof in Russia.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photo to srhodes@pleasantonweekly.com. Be sure to identify people (names listed from left to right), location, date and any relevant details about where you took your Weekly.



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Pleasanton boy dies after battle with cancer

Residents rallied around Dillon O'Leary, inspiration for 'Dillon Strong' movement

By JULIA REIS

Tri-Valley residents who spent the past year and a half rallying around a Pleasanton boy with cancer are now mourning his untimely death.

Dillon O'Leary died Sunday after battling ependymoma, a rare form of brain and spinal cord tumors. He was 12.

A celebration of life is being planned, but specific details have not yet been announced.

"With a very heavy heart Dillon has been called home," supporters wrote this weekend on the Dillon Strong Foundation Facebook page. "May we all keep the O'Leary family in our thoughts and prayers ... may

we continue to make Dillon proud."

Dillon was an 11-year-old attending Sunol Glen Elementary School when he collapsed with a major brain hemorrhage before walking onto a baseball field in May 2015. He was airlifted to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, where he would undergo medical procedures for months as doctors attempted to diagnose his condition.

Friends, relatives and community members at-large quickly came together to support the O'Leary family through the "Dillon Strong" campaign. They collected donations for the boy's medical care through GoFundMe and partnered with local businesses on multiple fundraising efforts.

Dillon's cancer diagnosis also spurred the creation of the Dillon Strong Foundation to help children with life-threatening medical conditions as well as their families.

His family and friends kept supporters and the community updated on Dillon's treatment and activities via social media, including posting photos of their trip to Hawaii this summer through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, an on-the-field experience at a San Francisco Giants game and showing Dillon taking part in the Sunol Glen Elementary Halloween parade last month.

Dillon O'Leary is survived by his mother Karina, father Patrick and sister Ireland. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dillon O'Leary's battle with a rare form of cancer inspired residents in and around Pleasanton, leading to the "Dillon Strong" campaign and a new foundation to benefit others.

BART to pay \$3.1M to settle suit with family of slain local officer

Agency makes no admission of fault, changes training policies, family's lawyer says

BART directors have agreed to pay \$3.1 million to settle a wrongful death lawsuit that was filed by the family of BART police Sgt. Thomas "Tommy" Smith, who was inadvertently shot dead by a colleague in a search of a suspect's home in Dublin in 2014.



Sgt. Thomas Smith

The suit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco alleged that BART's Police Department repeatedly denied Smith's requests for additional training or use of its SWAT team during high-risk searches such as the incident that claimed his life at 6450 Dougherty Road in Dublin at about 2 p.m. on Jan. 21, 2014.

The suit also alleged that the transit agency's Police Department, under Chief Kenton Rainey and Deputy Chief Benson Fairrow, has a practice of denying the use of trained SWAT officers for potentially high-risk building and probation searches.

Smith, 42, of San Ramon, a

23-year veteran at BART, was fatally shot when he led a team of eight officers in a search of a robbery suspect's apartment.

He was killed by Detective Michael Maes, a law enforcement veteran with 26 years of experience who said he mistook Smith for an armed suspect during the search.

Eustace de Saint Phalle, the lawyer for Smith's family, said the family and BART "reached this mutual settlement to conclude this litigation without a finding of fault or an admission of liability."

But de Saint Phalle said that as part of the settlement, the BART Police Department, working in collaboration with attorneys for Smith's family, has revised existing training policies to provide that any officer can contact their immediate supervisor and request remedial training on any basic law enforcement practice and that their supervisor will provide and document it.

De Saint Phalle said the BART Police Department's training policy now says, "In the event any employee feels they need immediate refresher

training in order to perform any basic law enforcement function they are encouraged to seek out their immediate supervisor to assist them with facilitating the remedial training they are seeking out."

The updated policy also says, "Any supervisor contacted by an employee seeking remedial training to perform any basic law enforcement function will provide said training to the employee, or contact another supervisor or an appropriate qualified on-duty trainer and see to it that the remedial training is immediately provided."

In the area of continued professional training, de Saint Phalle said the new policy says, "If any officer feels that they need or want additional training during the field training officer program or advanced officer training program, or while assigned to a specialized assignment, the department will assess that officer's knowledge, skills, and abilities to determine what deficiencies, if any, exist in order to develop a proper in-house remedial training program for the officer."

She said if the department isn't

able to provide an in-house training regimen to address any perceived or identified deficiencies, officers will be sent to an outside approved training provider to address them.

Smith's widow, Kellie Smith, a former BART police officer, said in a statement, "I am very hopeful that these policy changes will avoid another tragedy like this from happening in the future. I wish more than anything that none of my fellow officers' families from the BART Police Department will ever have to suffer through what our family has over the past three years."

Joseph R. Lucia, another attorney for Smith's family, said, "Kellie and her daughter will never get Tommy

back. They will continue to struggle every day and this settlement will only help close one long, tough chapter in their lives."

Lucia added, "This settlement will help to protect Tommy and Kellie's daughter as she grows up without a father."

Rainey said, "Our deepest sympathies go out to Kellie, her daughter, and the other members of the Smith family. The BART Police Department continues to mourn the loss of Tommy."

Rainey said, "He will not be forgotten as we strive to ensure that the BART Police Department is a 21st century police department." ■

—Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News

Mancieri elected to Hope Hospice board of directors

Serves as group leader at Livermore Lab

Sav Mancieri, a group leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, has been elected to the Hope Hospice board of directors.

Mancieri has been with the lab since 1992. Currently, he heads up the lab's Environmental Support and Programmatic Outreach Group, and oversees air, water and

waste permissions and compliance. He is also responsible for environment, safety, health and emergency management.

In addition, he supports several Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

"We are fortunate to have Sav as part of the Hope Hospice family,"

said Craig Eicher, Hope Hospice's board president. "He is deeply rooted in this community and feels very passionate about the special kind of care Hope Hospice provides."

He joins a 15-member board, each of whom is elected to a two-year term, with up to three consecutive terms. ■

—Jeb Bing

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How a little work could lead to over \$1,000 in savings

Key is to cut down on unnecessary recurring expenses

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

How long would it take you to earn an extra \$1,000?

Contrary to what spam and internet ads tell us, after taking taxes and deductions into account, it's not an easy task. But you might be able to save over \$1,000 with a little work. The key is to decrease or eliminate unnecessary recurring expenses.

You can use the savings to build up an emergency fund or invest them for important long-term goals, such as travel or retirement. Additionally, a savings safety cushion can help keep an unexpected setback from ballooning into a financial crisis, such as a broken down car or the loss of a job leading to debt.

First, identify savings opportunities.

You may want to start by connecting your bank and credit card accounts to budgeting software, or uploading previous months' statements

and categorize purchases. You'll get a quick snapshot of your finances, which can help you identify savings opportunities and get a sense of how much money is on the line.

Cancel services and regularly negotiate rates: save over \$100 a month. "Cord cutting" is a popular and simple way to save money. Rather than pay for cable or satellite TV, you might choose to cancel your service and opt for lower-cost entertainment options.

If you don't want to eliminate services entirely, you could try to negotiate rates with your cable or internet providers. A successful call could lower your bill by \$20 a month or more, saving you a couple hundred dollars a year.

A few tips: Ask for the cancellation department and request the business match a competitor's lower price or give you the current

promotional rate. Don't be afraid to try again if you're not successful — it can take several attempts to connect with a representative who will work with you.

Avoid bank fees: save over \$10 a month. Occasionally paying to withdraw money from an ATM or paying fees for a low-balance checking account might not seem like a big deal, but the money adds up. Two ATM fees and a checking-account fee could cost you over \$10.

Some accounts waive fees as long as you maintain a minimum balance, and there often isn't an ATM fee for withdrawing money from an in-network ATM or getting cash back when making a purchase.

There are also checking accounts that refund ATM fees at the end of each month. There can be advantages and disadvantages to any account, read the terms of your checking and saving account agreements to

understand when, and why, you may need to pay a fee.

Shop for insurance discounts: you might be able to save over 20% on your premiums each month. Use online comparison tools to quickly and easily get quotes on auto, renters, homeowners and other types of insurance. Compare the rates, coverage and insurance companies to see if switching makes sense for you.

Ask your agent about potential savings if you decide to stick with your current insurer. You might be eligible for discounts you aren't receiving because the information on file doesn't reflect your current situation. If not, there are usually discounts for simple purchases, such as a fire extinguisher for your home or an anti-theft device for your car.

Buy products that more than pay for themselves: save hundreds each year. Sometimes you need to spend money to save money. Buying a coffee maker for your home is the cliché example, but that doesn't

mean it's without merit. Purchasing a water pitcher with a filter rather than bottled water can also lead to immediate savings.

Other purchases are long-term investments. It might take months to break even after buying LED bulbs or upgrading your appliances to energy-efficient models, but after that you could save money on your utility bill each month.

Bottom line: Start your savings effort as soon as possible and you can build your emergency fund, a safety net that can help you avoid stressing about potential financial setbacks.

Lowering your monthly cable bill will lead to almost instant savings, while making an investment in energy-efficient appliances will pay off after months or years. Add it all up and in the end you could find that just a bit of effort leads to over \$1,000 in annual savings. It's a great start. ■

Editor's note: Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. Follow him on Twitter, @PracticalMoney.

ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 5

changed by ethnicity over the last six years. The most notable changes were a nearly 11% rise in enrollment of Asian students and a nearly 9% decrease in enrollment of white students since 2011-12.

A demographer's report released in the spring stated that PUSD would see declining enrollment in the next decade due to falling birth rates and the elimination of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan from the unit forecast. The district is projected to have 13,977 students enrolled by fall 2025, according to that report. ■

COMPLEX

Continued from Page 5

parking area.

The new complex also would allow city functions to operate more smoothly, proponents said, with all major departments and operations under one roof. Because of multiple buildings in the current city complex, departments and the services they offer are not connected.

A highlight of the proposed new complex is the addition of a 25,000-square-foot community center adjacent to the new library. It would have a number of different-size meeting rooms, some small enough to serve two or three people in a study mode and others larger for community meetings. At least one room would be large enough to hold bar and bat mitzvahs, wedding receptions and other events.

The new library would have 70,000 square feet of floor space, up from 30,180 square feet now. Police headquarters would occupy a 35,000 square foot building, compared to 21,130 square feet now. Only City



CITY OF PLEASANTON

Artist's sketch of proposed complex in Bernal Community Park that would house a new library, city hall, community center and police headquarters.

Hall would be downsized, becoming a 40,000-square-foot building compared to 45,550 now.

Brian Dolan, assistant city manager, said that while all of the committees and commissions briefed by the task force agreed with the plan to relocate city operations to Bernal Park, a few individuals favored keeping City Hall closer to downtown, where it is now.

The Civic Arts Commission expressed disappointment that a performing arts center once planned for Bernal Community Park was being

axed and asked that funds be appropriated to upgrade the Amador Theater on the grounds of Amador Valley High School.

Only one speaker criticized the plan. Julie Testa, a candidate for mayor in the Nov. 8 election, said the suggested architecture of the new city and library buildings "is too stark, too modern, almost industrial."

She said the original vision for Bernal Community Park did not include a civic center or police station.

"It was supposed to have only civic-oriented facilities," she added. ■



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COURTESY OF WELLS FARGO

Stepping up for education

San Francisco Giants shortstop and Foothill High graduate Brandon Crawford, along with Wells Fargo, recently awarded \$100,000 in grants to 25 Bay Area schools, including two in Pleasanton, as part of the KNBR Step Up to the Plate for Education program. Foothill received \$3,500 for its peer advocate program, and Crawford's alma mater Vintage Hills Elementary received \$5,000 for day-to-day classroom needs. Crawford presented a check to Vintage Hills staff, including (from left) his mother and teacher Lynn Crawford, Amy Delema, Sharon McPherson, Cyndee Milam and Keri McArthur.

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Police seeking information on local stabbing

Police are investigating after a young man was found with a stab wound in Pleasanton Sunday evening.

The victim, a Hispanic man in his mid-20s, had a stab wound to his leg when Pleasanton police found him before 7 p.m. Sunday on Gerard Court, according to Livermore police Sgt. Ryan Sanchez.

Livermore police are lead investigative agency at this time, Sanchez said. "We don't even know for certain it happened in our jurisdiction," the sergeant said.

The victim was transported to Eden Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. Due to his level of intoxication, he could not provide police with any information on what happened or who was responsible, Sanchez said.

As of Tuesday morning, the victim had still not given a statement

to police, according to the sergeant.

Anyone with information on the stabbing is encouraged to contact Livermore police, 371-4900.

In other police news

• A Livermore man who's been diagnosed as a delusional schizophrenic has been charged with murder and assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly killing his 85-year-old grandmother and wounding his mother in a recent knife attack.

Tyler Haskell, 35, was arraigned on the charges in Alameda County Superior Court in Pleasanton Nov. 14 and is scheduled to return to court on Monday to enter a plea.

Livermore police allege Tyler Haskell stabbed his grandmother Joan Lininger and his mother, 62-year-old Karla Haskell, with a kitchen knife at their house in the 5300 block of Hillflower Drive at 7:38 p.m. on Nov. 9.

Lininger succumbed to her injuries at the scene. Karla Haskell was treated for a laceration to her arm at a hospital and was later released, according to police.

Police said Tyler Haskell left the residence before officers arrived, but a short time later officers found him a mile away in the 1300 block of North Vasco Road, where he was arrested without incident.

Livermore police Officer Sean Mariconi said Karla Haskell reported the incident by calling 9-1-1 and saying, "My son stabbed my mom and me."

Karla Haskell told police that she had been eating dinner with Lininger at the kitchen table just before the incident, according to Mariconi.

Karla Haskell also told police that her son was diagnosed as a delusional schizophrenic and was acting "off," Mariconi said. Karla Haskell didn't elaborate but told officers that her son hadn't been taking his medication, according to Mariconi.

Karla Haskell said her son walked down the stairs holding a knife, stabbed Lininger in the throat and then stabbed her once in her arm, Mariconi said. Karla Haskell said her son then dropped the knife, stared at his grandmother and her

and then fled out the house's front door, according to Mariconi.

The officers who arrested Tyler Haskell noticed a red substance on his right hand that appeared to be blood, but he didn't have any visible injuries, Mariconi said.

• A 16-year-old San Ramon boy was arrested on suspicion of felony DUI causing great bodily injury after a solo-vehicle crash in the Dougherty Valley that left another teen in critical condition, according to San Ramon police.

The incident occurred just before 4 p.m. Monday, with police soon receiving a report of a crash on Windemere Parkway near Longleaf Circle, according to Lt. Denton Carlson.

Officers arrived on scene and found a teen passenger trapped in the vehicle suffering significant injuries, Carlson said. Witnesses reported seeing another male — later identified as the driver — running from the scene before officers arrived, according to the lieutenant.

The passenger, also a 16-year-old boy from San Ramon, was extricated from the vehicle by San Ramon Valley Fire personnel and

later airlifted to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, according to Carlson. The injured teen was listed in critical condition as of Monday night.

During the initial investigation, a 16-year-old boy came to the scene and told police he was the driver involved in the crash, according to Carlson.

The lieutenant alleged the teen admitted to consuming alcohol before the crash and witnesses positively identified him as the driver they saw running from the scene. The teen driver began complaining of pain from the crash and was taken by ambulance to John Muir Medical Center for treatment, Carlson said.

San Ramon police detectives obtained a search warrant, signed by the on-call judge, to receive a sample of the driver's blood for evidentiary purposes, Carlson said. The teen, whose name was not released, was placed under arrest on suspicion of felony DUI causing great bodily injury. ■

—Pleasanton Weekly staff and Bay City News

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Nov. 19

Battery

■ 2:23 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

■ 6:19 a.m. in the 7400 block of Palm Court

■ 1:11 p.m., 4700 block of First Street; theft from auto

■ 2:59 p.m., 8000 block of Mountain View Drive; theft from auto

■ 8:20 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

■ 3:01 p.m. in the 7300 block of Tulipwood Circle

Commercial burglary

■ 3:17 p.m. in the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

■ 4:47 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 6:30 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue

Sex offenses

■ 6:30 p.m. on Torino Court

Nov. 18

Shoplifting

■ 2:09 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug violation

■ 9:21 p.m. Street information not disclosed.

Nov. 17

Residential burglary

■ 2:21 p.m. in the 3800 block of Picard Avenue

Child abuse

■ 7:29 p.m. on Wenig Court

Theft from auto

■ 9:48 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

Nov. 16

Theft

■ 7:45 a.m., 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 11:45 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

■ 3:03 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

■ 3:30 p.m., 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; theft from auto

Vandalism

■ 9:44 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

■ 2:47 p.m. in the 6800 block of Koll Center Parkway

Fraud

■ 3:39 p.m. in the 800 block of Chateau Heights Court

Child abuse

■ 4:42 p.m. on Villero Court

■ 4:59 p.m. on Bernal Avenue

■ 5:08 p.m. on Owens Drive

Drug violation

■ 7:42 p.m. in the 1100 block of Wenig Court

Nov. 15

Theft

■ 10:10 a.m. in the 9400 block of Blessing Drive

■ 7:33 p.m., 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 8:22 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting

■ 8:22 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue

■ 8:51 p.m., 6700 block of Bernal Avenue; theft from auto

■ 11:34 p.m., 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard; theft from auto

Domestic battery

■ 11:38 a.m. on Bernal Avenue

■ 12:33 p.m. on Chatham Court

■ 4:24 p.m. on Springhouse Drive

DUI

■ 9:39 p.m. at Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue

Nov. 14

Theft

■ 2:13 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

■ 7:21 a.m., 2700 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from auto

■ 10:55 a.m. in the 5300 block of Piazza Court

Vandalism

■ 1:48 p.m. at Happy Valley Road and Sunol Boulevard; graffiti

■ 1:53 p.m. in the 3400 block of Dennis Drive

Drug violation

■ 9:57 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Nov. 13

Drug violation

■ 11:47 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 3:40 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Theft

■ 2:11 p.m., 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; auto theft

■ 3:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

■ 5:05 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; bicycle theft

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Council commendations honor community contributors

Michelle Michelotti-Gable, daughter of former City Councilwoman Sharrell Michelotti, has won the commendation of the current council for her contribution of defibrillators to be placed in city parks. The defibrillators can be used in the event someone in the parks suffers a sudden heart attack.

Gable, whose husband Michael died in September 2009 at the age of 38 from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, an excessive thickening of the heart muscle, established the Gable Heart Beats Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization to support families suffering from the effects of sudden cardiac arrest.

"Michael loved this city," Gable told the council, with their children Matteo and Grace at her side. Grace also was detected with cardiomyopathy at the age of 11 months and is a survivor. The family will partner with the Rage girls soccer organization in February to celebrate the installation of the automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in a sports park.

The council has presented special commendations to three others for their service to the community.

Aidan Husejnovic, a dog lover, was thanked for coming up with the name Cubby for the city's newest off-leash dog park. Cubby was the city's first police canine, whose performance Aidan

learned was exemplary in the line of duty. Aidan, who just turned 11, submitted the winning name after seeing another canine in a patrol car cruising the streets of Pleasanton.

In its letter of commendation, the council praised Aidan for suggesting the name Cubby, "who will now live on in perpetuity."

Also commended was the Play Bernal fundraising committee, which is raising \$2 million to help fund the development of Pleasanton's newest state-of-the-art multipurpose sports fields at Bernal Community Park.

The committee, representing the more than 8,000 youths participating in field sports in Pleasanton, found support amongst the many individuals, families and businesses that support a healthy lifestyle and physical activity for people of all ages, especially youth. As a result, the newly opened sports complex has become a magnet for sports activities and tournaments.

Jon Asmussen, who chaired the Play Bernal Committee, said the results of these efforts speak for themselves: "Drive by and see the fields. They're filled, and that's what it's all about," he told the council.

Also earning a special council commendation was the Veterans Memorial Committee, which raised funds to build the memorial dedicated Nov. 12 atop the hill at Pioneer



TRACY DUNNE

Presenting a special commendation for the work of the Gable Heart Beats Foundation are (from left) Pleasanton Councilman Jerry Pentin, Mayor Jerry Thorne, Councilwoman Kathy Narum, Michelle Michelotti-Gable, the founder of Gable Heart Beats and her two children Matteo and Grace, and Councilwoman Karla Brown.

Cemetery on Sunol Boulevard.

The council letter of commendation cited the "dedicated" group of local veterans organizations that joined forces in partnership with the city to raise funds for the needed memorial to recognize and honor veterans, past and present.

The commendation reads:

"Whereas the group, having had a vision for some time about how best to honor those who served, decided on the tranquility and serenity of the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery for its setting; and whereas the Veterans Memorial Committee, having secured the location, worked quickly

to raise the needed resources, spurred by the generous seed money by the (Gary and Nancy) Harrington family;

"And whereas, in a fitting tribute to all who served and sacrificed, the committee commissioned the bronze soldier as the memorial's centerpiece, a one-of-a-kind statue created by a Vietnam veteran, now, therefore, be it resolved that the Pleasanton City Council hereby commends the Veterans Memorial Committee to realize this memorial project as an essential reflection of ongoing commitment of support and honor of those who serve." ■

LETTERS

Dog park's poor design

Dear Editor,

Some corrections/comments to your Nov. 11, 2016 article, "Pleasanton's \$300,000 Cubby's dog park now open."

The two dog areas include one for small dogs only and one for both large and small dogs. (An accident waiting to happen). The agility structures, which are in the large/small dog area are for small dogs, as they are too small for medium and large size dogs.

The drinking fountains with the metal nipples are not user-friendly. Dog owners have provided four bowls for water. The EWF (engineered wood fiber) surface material might be fine for dogs who just want to lie down, but it is not welcoming to puppies and dogs who like to run.

The trees planted in the center of the park, as well as the circular bench, are in the way of the dogs. The cement around the huge picnic area for humans is slippery for dogs. Some of the people who were there were more interested in socializing than watching their pets, whether the pets were exhibiting behavior that needed correction or were pooping. Lots of poop that was not picked up.

To me, it seems that Pleasanton spent \$300,000 on a "dog park" with a view of the ridge and amenities for people, not dogs. In fact, when I questioned the appropriateness of the EWF surface, I was told that wheelchairs could navigate on it and that Pleasanton has used it in children's play areas for years. And dogs who like to run? Oh, well.

—C. Fasulo

What's your opinion?

Write a Letter to the Editor at Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com or put your opinion on Town Square at www.PleasantonWeekly.com.

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

2017 TRI-VALLEY GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton are co-sponsoring application workshops for the following programs for Fiscal Year 2017-2018: **Livermore** Housing and Human Services Grant, Pleasanton Housing and Human Services Grant, and **Pleasanton** Community Grant/Youth/Civic Arts program. Staff will discuss each program requirement and review the application and how to submit a request online. The workshops are designed for non-profit organizations that serve Tri-Valley residents. The grant programs offered by the two cities provide funding for a wide variety of human services, community development, housing, youth, and civic arts projects and programs in the Tri-Valley. Most of the grants are focused on activities that benefit lower income residents.

If you are applying to Livermore, or the City of Pleasanton Community Grant/Youth/Civic Arts Program, attendance at one of the meetings listed below is mandatory. Attendance is strongly encouraged to apply for the City of Pleasanton funding. **Attendees are asked to RSVP.** To RSVP for attendance at one of the workshops, please contact Judy Xavier, City of Livermore, at (925) 960-4589, or email: jlxavier@cityoflivermore.net.

Date:	Friday, December 9, 2016
Time:	10:00am – 12:00pm
Location:	Pleasanton City Council Chambers 200 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton
Date:	Wednesday, December 14, 2016
Time:	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Location:	Livermore City Council Chambers 3575 Pacific Ave., Livermore

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Foothill's Huk becomes first EBAL girls player to win NCS singles title

Tennis star caps undefeated tournament with 7-6, 6-4 victory in final

Amber Huk entered the North Coast Section tennis championships seeded fourth and wasn't even the East Bay Athletic League champion, as that honor went to the top-seeded Kaitlyn Nguyen of Dougherty Valley.

For Huk to become the first Foothill or EBAL girls player to win the NCS singles title, there was going to be some work to do, including facing Nguyen in the semifinals — and all this as an at-large entry into the tournament.

Tall order? No problem as Huk won four straight matches on Nov. 15-16 to bring home the championship banner.

In the first round, Huk disposed of Elena Lottich of Castro Valley 6-0, 6-1, then followed with a perfect 6-0, 6-0 win over Disha Sivakumar of American to advance to the semifinals and a meeting with Nguyen.

In an intense battle, Huk came away with the 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 win to move on and take a spot in the final.

Standing in the way of the banner was the No. 3 seed Jenna Dorian of Novato. Huk was not going to be denied, and she made history with a 7-6, 6-4 win to bring

home the championship.

It was the first NCS girls singles title for Foothill or the EBAL in the 40-year history of NCS tennis play.

Foothill has won five NCS doubles titles, the most recent coming in 2008 when Taylor Hoppe and Madison Shoemaker won the title.

Volleyball

The Foothill girls volleyball team ended its season Nov. 16 with a tough 3-1 loss in the CIF Northern California playoffs to San Benito of Hollister.

The Falcons had a terrific season, finishing first in the Valley Division of the EBAL and tying the Monte Vista Mustangs for first overall in the EBAL with a 12-1 record.

They also had their first tournament championship in Southern California, winning the Royal Classic in Simi Valley and finished the season with a record of 32-8.

The All-EBAL selections for the Falcons were Kellie Hughes (MVP), Kate Goto (first team), Andreea Paduraru (first team), Amal Peermohammed (second team), Diana Guerrero (honorable mention) and Amaya Wilson (honorable mention).

Water polo

Three Foothill boys water polo players were honored by opposing coaches with All-EBAL selections this season.

Matthew Dotson, a junior, was selected as All-EBAL first team. Nathan Williams, a sophomore, and Aaron Li, a senior, were selected as honorable mention.

In addition to these honors, Dotson was named MVP for the Foothill boys varsity squad; Fabio Salvioni, a senior, was the Defensive Player of the Year; Li was the Falcon Award winner; and junior Dylan Pottgieser was Most Improved.

Winter sports

The days are shorter and the nights are about to get chilly — at least in a California way — which can only mean one thing: It's soccer season!

It's time for winter sports, and we want to make sure you get all your athletes the recognition they deserve. The athletes are working hard every week and we want to share their athletic accomplishments with the community.

Please send your team's weekly results by Sunday afternoon and we will make sure to get it in the



KENDRA ZIERAU

Amber Huk celebrates after winning the Foothill Falcons' first-ever NCS tennis girls singles title.

paper each week. We also welcome pictures each week, and we need is an identification of the

athletes and who took the picture. Send your information to me at acesmag@aol.com. ■

TAKE US ALONG



World Championships: The Amador Valley varsity winter guard went to Dayton, Ohio to compete in the 2016 Winter Guard World Championships. This was the first time Amador Valley attended WGI World Finals since 2005. Pictured here with the Pleasanton Weekly are (front, from left) Shari Nishijima, Meg Beymer, Mina Park, Cori Jackson, Della Lin, Lisa Sene, Olivia Torino, Kyra Trinh and Verena Lin, and (back, from left) Calla Li, Cathrine Lilja, Holly Cheek, Erin Liao and Alison Ono.

To submit your "Take Us Along" entry, email your photograph to rhodes@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.



2016 Holiday Fund



Strengthening our communities

Tri-Valley YMCA benefiting from Holiday Fund contributions

By JULIA REIS

Colorful photos adorn the wall behind the front desk of the Tri-Valley YMCA's new Family Wellness Center in Pleasanton, catching patients' eyes as they walk into the waiting room.

The pictures of children — some with wide grins, others more subdued — are a fitting reminder of the nonprofit's commitment to providing vital community programs and services for youth and families.

The Tri-Valley YMCA is a beneficiary of the Pleasanton Weekly's 2016 Holiday Fund, with donations going to support low-income residents and expanded mental health and case management services at the recently-opened Family Wellness Center on Pleasanton Avenue.

"There's a big need for mental health services in the Tri-Valley," said Susan Mancino, a marriage and family therapist at the Family Wellness Center. "We're almost at capacity without a wait list so we see the need to expand in 2017."

The Tri-Valley YMCA opened its doors in 1965 as the Livermore YMCA. Today the nonprofit serves children and families living in Sunol, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton with the goal of strengthening these communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

While there's a lot new with the nonprofit these days — their administrative offices relocated to a suite upstairs from the Wellness Center — its family wellness services have been an integral part of its local offerings since well before the dedicated facility.

Among the services the Tri-Valley YMCA offers are case management and community resource connection services, parenting classes, social emotional learning courses, and therapy options for couples, families, teens, adults and children.

"We initially started (offering these services) for our own families' needs," said Kenny Altenburg, Tri-Valley YMCA branch

operations director. "Then our board and leadership talked and said, 'We need to do more. How do we do this?' That's when we started to develop the vision for the Wellness Center."

Although its new offices are smaller than the previous site in Dublin — 4,900 square feet altogether, down from 7,300 — the move allowed the agency to reduce its overhead costs while creating an opportunity to expand its mental health services.

"It wasn't the right environment to offer therapy (in Dublin); there wasn't a lot of privacy to go along with it, which is what you want," Altenburg said.

Now, the YMCA has four dedicated therapy rooms as part of its Family Wellness Center. Two of them are play therapy rooms designed for specialists to work alongside children to help them express their thoughts and emotions.

In one such room, stuffed animals and puppets sit atop shelves filled with games and other toys.



TRI-VALLEY YMCA

Tri-Valley YMCA branch operations director Kenny Altenburg blows bubbles to talk about wind energy at a STEM Fair hosted by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

A poster on the wall shows children's faces expressing a variety of emotions, from surprised and excited to jealous and afraid.

"I see again and again how kids respond to being able to explore and challenge their emotions through play," Mancino said.

Besides the child-centered play therapy, the YMCA also offers parent-child interactive therapy, family therapy and short-term crisis support services.

While Mancino is currently the only therapist seeing patients at the Wellness Center, Altenburg said they plan to add a few interns to the staff next year to support its expanding services.

The YMCA will also add divorce support groups for adults and youth, expressive arts therapy, and workshops on topics such as mindfulness-based stress reduction to its slate of wellness services next year.

Financial aid is available for some of these services, as well.

Alongside the YMCA's burgeoning family wellness services, the nonprofit continues offering after-school programs at Pleasanton

elementary and middle schools, a summer day camp, its Y-Guides and Y-Princesses programs, and a statewide youth and government program. The agency also remains a crucial part of helping the Tri-Valley's neediest families, serving over 3,000 low-income residents throughout the area this past year.

"With our new facilities, we're thrilled we're going to be able to better meet the needs of the community, especially when it comes to family wellness," Altenburg said. "We're still fully committed to serving the residents of Livermore, Dublin, and Sunol, and we're continuing to do outreach so we can meet their needs." ■

The Tri-Valley YMCA is located at 5000 Pleasanton Ave., suites 120 and 220. For general questions about its offerings, contact Kenny Altenburg at 263-4444 or kaltenburg@ymcaeastbay.org. Contact Susan Mancino for questions about the YMCA's family wellness services, either at the aforementioned phone number or by emailing smancino@ymcaeastbay.org.



JULIA REIS

Marriage and family therapist Susan Mancino talks to Altenburg in one of the child play therapy rooms at the YMCA's new Family Wellness Center in Pleasanton.

How to Give: Contributions should be directed to:
Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund
 c/o Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300, Mountain View, California 94040
 Checks should be made payable to Silicon Valley Community Foundation.



2016 Holiday Fund Donors

So far in the 2016 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund campaign, 90 donors have contributed \$20,376 to the fund. This list includes donations received and reported on or before Nov. 18.

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Gabe Gonzalez and Katia Jeronimo perform the Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux in last year's Valley Dance Theatre production of "The Nutcracker." This year's rendition opens next month in Livermore.

'Nutcracker,' 'Messiah' — it must be Christmas

Live classics are a draw each holiday season

By Dolores Fox Ciardelli

'Tis the season to don finery and take the children to the ballet, or to join in the lusty singing of the Hallelujah Chorus along with trained choral groups. Even those who don't ordinarily seek out classical music look forward each year to two holiday standouts — Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" and Handel's "Messiah."

"The Nutcracker," a two-act ballet, begins at a Christmas Eve celebration in the 1800s home of a young girl, Clara. Later, when the household is sleeping, Clara creeps downstairs to play with her favorite gift, a

nutcracker, but she finds him come to life and leading an army of gingerbread soldiers battling to defeat troops of the Mouse King.

Then Clara and the nutcracker, who is transformed into a prince, magically fly through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy presents a dazzling display of dances.

Anyone, no matter their religious beliefs, can relate to this magical world of young children, parents, toys, snowflakes, candy and dance. And the old-fashioned wooden nutcracker itself has become a symbol of Christmas, collected and displayed by many people during the holiday season.

Tchaikovsky was commissioned to write music for "The Nutcracker," an adaptation of a German short story by E.T.A. Hoffman, after the success of his "Sleeping Beauty" in 1890.

The new ballet premiered a week before

Christmas in 1892. Tchaikovsky also selected eight of the most popular pieces from the ballet to form what is known as the Nutcracker Suite, Op.71a, which immediately became popular although the complete ballet did not become a Christmas staple until the next century.

"The Nutcracker" first was performed outside Russia in England in 1934, according to the Moscow Ballet's www.nutcracker.com. It premiered in the United States in 1944 with a production by the San Francisco Ballet.

But it was when the New York City Ballet performed "The Nutcracker" staged by George Balanchine in 1954 that it was secured as an American institution.

Dance troupes count on their annual productions of "The Nutcracker" to draw audiences, exposing more people to ballet plus earning money for less popular performances. And the ballet is a natural for dance studios because the extensive cast provides

a part for everyone, with the Sugar Plum Fairy being the ultimate role.

On the choral front, "Messiah" was composed in 1741 by George Frideric Handel, a German composer who settled in London, with a script from the King James Bible and the Psalms in the Book of Common Prayer. It gained in popularity through the years and it is now one of the most frequently performed vocal works.

Handel composed "Messiah" in 24 days, according to www.mormontabernaclechoir.org, barely sleeping or eating. When he finished the Hallelujah Chorus, he reportedly said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself seated on His throne, with His company of Angels."

For local performances of "The Nutcracker" and Handel's "Messiah," check the Pleasanton Weekly's Calendar online and in print throughout December. ■

Holiday Stars

4 ways to make your family's holiday portraits shine

Pictures of your holiday stars become more precious with each passing year

Take a look at your family. How many changes have crept in since last year? And one year from now, when it's time to send out holiday cards again, think about how much more they will have changed.

Sending a family photograph as your holiday card is one way to share with your friends and loved ones the joy and pride your family makes you feel. But more importantly, as the years pass, the holiday memories within these pictures will become more and more precious.

It certainly is easy enough to have a friend snap some pictures on a smartphone and print off a stack of copies with a pre-designed template. But if you take the idea a couple of steps further, booking a session with a professional photographer will result in stunning cards that people will love to display and keep. In addition to that, you'll have framed gifts to wrap up for your loved ones.

The advantage to using a professional photographer is that they have the skills and artistic ability to make beautiful images that you will cherish forever. In addition to that, they can partner with you to create a style and effect that matches your family's unique personality. To get you started, here are four different styles that just might capture your family's personality and the magic of the holiday spirit.

Classic

Simple yet timeless, this background is often neutral with the family sitting in formal poses. The photographer is less likely to use editing effects to alter the finished product.

To prepare for this, choose a color and style that is clean, uniform and classic — something that would be set off by a holiday-themed border when you're designing your card layout. In the end, the goal is to draw the eye to the face, which is

what the classic style emphasizes more than anything.

Modern

This style ditches the formal posing and creates a relaxed, candid feel. You come as you are, perhaps using a setting that is familiar and comfortable to your family, such as building a snowman in your backyard or taking a hike through the winter woods. Whatever you bring to the shoot, the idea is to showcase your family relaxed and happy together.

Eclectic

This style takes the modern approach to a highly specialized, highly individualized level and uses special effects and editing to convey humor or a sense of drama.

For example, perhaps your holiday portrait could feature your family members forming a human ladder to place a star on the top of the tree. Look for a photographer with the



BPT

For your annual holiday photo, choose the type — classic, modern, eclectic or vintage — that captures your family's personality.

savvy and technique to pull off these specific effects and dramatic images.

Vintage

What's old is once again new. What better way to call back to the family roots that tie your loved ones together? You can express this by pulling from your family heritage. For example, you could dress your daughter in your childhood velvet dress. Or include your grandfather's vintage toy train set as a prop.

Some photographers specialize in

black and white photography, as well as sepia effects. Of course, if you really want to try an authentic and timeless look, some photographers are experimenting with glass plate photography.

Which style of photography is right for you and your family? Take a "Family Photography Style quiz" and, once you're ready for your new photo session, check out findaphotographer.com to find the right photographer for you and in your city. ■

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Favorite movies warm our hearts

Sentimental or just plain fun — films provide holiday joy

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Last year, “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” broke records for the top Christmas Day gross with an estimated \$49.3 million, crushing the previous record of \$24.6 million set by “Sherlock Holmes” in 2009, according to www.comingsoon.net.

But it's often the heartwarming offerings on television or DVD that beckon as oldies but goodies begin to appear soon after Thanksgiving. Even when viewed for the umpteenth time, “It's a Wonderful Life” from 1946 and “Miracle on 34th Street” from 1947 are perfect companions while wrapping presents or addressing Christmas cards.

Watching “A Christmas Carol,” “A Christmas Story” or “Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” we not only enjoy seeing the familiar stories unfold but we also can enjoy memories of watching them with loved ones in other years. “Home Alone” is not only a Christmas movie — it sets us off to dreaming: What if we were actually home alone for a few days?

Here are some movies that may not be quintessential holiday fare but include Christmas scenes:

- “About a Boy,” 2002, a coming of age tale starring Hugh Grant as a bachelor who against his will befriends an adolescent whose mother is suicidal. It ends with a touching Christmas gathering of old and new friends.

- This could be the year to check out “Babes in Toyland,” made in 1934, since Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy's goofy adventures in the fantasy world would click with today's Judd Apatow fans.
- “Trading Places,” 1983, an Eddie Murphy/Dan Aykroyd comedy that manages to make Wall Street stock trading hilarious.

This year, like any other, new holiday fare will play in theaters. “Office Christmas Party” opens Dec. 9 with the old comedy concept — a bunch of people throw a party and things get out of hand. One review noted that it breathes new life into the “adults behaving badly” genre.

If you can't entirely drop your cynicism during the holidays, you can always watch the 2003 dark comedy “Bad Santa” — or the new sequel, “Bad Santa 2,” which just debuted. But for hearty laughs, nothing beats “National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation,” 1989, when elderly Cousin Bethany is asked to say grace but recites the Pledge of Allegiance. ■

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MIKE DOYLE 'Been a great ride'



By Jeremy Walsh

Change is in the air with the new year on the horizon, and Danville's town government certainly won't feel the same starting next month.

For the first time in 25 years, Mike Doyle won't be sitting on the Town Council.

A U.S. Air Force veteran who moved to Danville toward the end of his service, made his living as a private investigator based in town, helped raise his family there and spent his "retirement" serving as a devoted councilman, Doyle will sit for his final meeting Dec. 6 to conclude a six-term tenure that left an indelible impact on the town he so often affectionately refers to as "Camelot."

"It's been a great ride. I truly enjoy what I'm doing. I truly enjoy helping the town. I just absolutely adore this town," Doyle, 87, said reflecting on his long run on the council. "To me, it is a very special place."

Born into an Irish Catholic family during the Great Depression in 1929, Doyle was raised in Mahanoy City, Pa., a small town in the coal region of eastern Pennsylvania.

Right after high school in 1947, Doyle began carving his own path by enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. "My dad had a job for me in the mines, and I knew — no, I'm not going to work in any mines. I've been around them. I'm not going to work there," he remembered.

After training and serving in the U.S. for several months, Doyle volunteered for an assignment in Germany in June 1948. He was stationed on a supply base in Bavaria during the Berlin Airlift, an effort in 1948 and 1949 to deliver supplies to Germans in West Berlin after the Soviets blocked ground access to the region.

"The people had no food. It was just devastating," he said, describing the country in the immediate aftermath of World War II. During the airlift, the Americans delivered "everything — food, medical supplies, blankets. Everything that they needed to keep them from starving and freezing to death."

A staff sergeant assigned as a chaplain's assistant, Doyle served in Germany for roughly three more years after the airlift.

"I loved it because I got to meet everybody. I mean, colonels,

generals, all of them. Sooner or later everybody has to come down to the chapel. I knew everybody," he said. "They called me 'Preacher' because I worked with the Catholic priest."

One of his fondest memories was having a private audience with Pope Pius XII while he joined several other military officials in escorting Bishop Fulton J. Sheen — well-recognized from hosting radio and TV programs in his day — during his trip to be consecrated as a bishop.

"Being the only enlisted man, I was in the back. And the pope says, 'Sergeant, come here.' And I went up, and he said, 'You kneel right there.' And I knelt; I was right there with Pope Pius XII," Doyle recalled with a smile.

When his assignment was up, he said he signed up for six more years in Germany.

It wouldn't come to pass, however, after an order requiring any service members overseas for more than four years to return stateside. He remembered his commanding officer calling him in and saying, "Preacher, do you know where California is? Because that's where you're going."

So, Doyle traveled back to the U.S., staying with family a few weeks in Pennsylvania and then flying to meet a fellow serviceman in South Dakota before the two drove out to California in his friend's brand-new yellow Chevrolet convertible.

Doyle was set to serve at a new basic training base being opened outside Pleasanton — now known as Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, "Camp Parks," in Dublin.

He and his friend made it to the Bay Area, drove up Highway 24 and onto Hartz Avenue and as he remembered, "We see this sign that says, Elliott's" — downtown Danville's staple bar.

Doyle went inside, leading to an exchange with the bartender that Doyle still fondly remembers.

The bartender said, "Hey sergeant, what can I do for you?"

Doyle replied, "I got two questions for you: Do you have a men's room and do you know where Pleasanton is?"

The bartender answered, "Yes. Yes. I got a question for you: Do you drink?"

Doyle said, "Yes," and the bartender followed with, "Well, step up to the bar."

"I went out, knocked on the window and brought my buddy in there. Two days later, we left," Doyle said with dead-pan delivery before a chuckle.

He served at Parks Air Force Base until 1953, and often returned to Danville and Elliott's bar, where he got to know a lot of the local residents, ranchers and members of some of Danville's pioneer families. He said he particularly enjoyed listening to the stories of Danville's old-timers. "These people, they knew everything," he added.

Doyle soon settled in Danville for good: "I met a girl, got married, bought some property, got out of the service and built a house and my children were all raised here, and I've been here ever since."

He and his wife, Joe Anne, have been married for 63 years. They raised their five children in Danville, and eight of their 11 grandchildren live in or were raised in Danville. He worked for nearly four decades as a private investigator based in town.

Well-versed in Danville tradition, Doyle said he first became active politically at the local level in the mid-1980s — several years after the town's incorporation — after hearing of a proposal by the Town Council to change the name of Hartz Avenue.

"That was stupid. Why would you change the name from a founding father? They wanted to change it to Danville Boulevard ... They said people were getting lost. And I said, 'No way.' How could you get lost in a two-block area?"

He said he helped start a signature-gathering effort to recall council members to prevent the possible name change.

Shortly after a council member caught wind of their recall drive, the council held a crowded meeting in a church hall "and they decided they wouldn't change the name; it's still Hartz Avenue," Doyle said. "Technically, I put a bull's eye on my back with the Town Council because they didn't like what I did."

A few years later, Doyle decided to run for the council, with him and two incumbents vying for three available seats. "They



JEREMY WALSH

Mike Doyle, this year's Lifetime Achievement award winner, is wrapping up his 25-year tenure on the Danville Town Council next month.

were going to have to appoint me ... and so they picked some guy to run; he was their hand-picked candidate."

Doyle said his campaign got a boost when his opponent was caught trying to steal a Doyle campaign sign. "It was like a gift from heaven for me because I made a big deal of it," he added, with a laugh. "I raised Cain."

"I won by 68 votes," Doyle recalled. He joined the council in 1991, a place he'd call home for the next 25 years.

He said his favorite accomplishments include helping the town balance its budget every year, supporting its economic development efforts, restoring the Veterans Memorial Building, fixing the little problems like a recurring puddle downtown and helping coordinate beneficial public-private partnerships, like those that led to a donation for the town's first police dog.

"We're one of the five most fiscally sound towns in the state of California, we're one of the six safest towns in California, we have beautiful schools, beautiful parks. I mean, it's just gorgeous for people to live here," Doyle added.

As for choosing not to seek a seventh term this fall, Doyle said "it wasn't an easy decision to make" but he recognized it was the right time to step away.

"I just figure that 25 years, and I've accomplished quite a bit. I feel perfectly happy ... Here I am, 87 years old. Still going strong. Can still do everything I want. In good health," he added. "It's been a great ride. You can't make this stuff up. If I were to write it, I would not change a thing." ■



COURTESY OF DOYLE

Doyle (bottom right) kneels next to Pope Pius XII for a group photo after the consecration of famed Bishop Sheen (left). Doyle served as part of Sheen's military escort during the event nearly 65 years ago.

Hero FYI

- ▲ Mike Doyle keeps in regular contact with three friends he went to first grade with. "Must've been the water we had in Pennsylvania," he quipped.
- ▲ He traveled throughout Europe while stationed abroad, including to the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway.
- ▲ The group photo Doyle took with Pope Pius XII, Bishop Sheen and others was featured in magazines and newspapers worldwide, Doyle recalled: "Needless to say, my mother was ecstatically happy."
- ▲ He is good friends with now-retired Col. Gail S. "Hal" Halvorsen, known as the "Berlin Candy Bomber" who dropped candy to children during the Berlin Airlift. Nearly six decades later, Doyle helped coordinate a meeting between Halvorsen and Danville's Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, who piloted the "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency water landing in 2009.
- ▲ Doyle and wife Joe Anne raised their five children in Danville: Michael, Mary Anne, Terry, Celeste and John. Their daughter Mary Anne, who died from a brain tumor in 1989, was the first female police officer in Moraga.
- ▲ Joe Anne Doyle taught in the school district for nearly 45 years. She still works in education, as a resource specialist at St. Isidore School in Danville.
- ▲ Describing his devotion to Danville, Doyle invoked the words of a longtime Los Angeles Dodgers manager: "Tommy Lasorda once said 'if you open my veins, out would roll Dodger blue.' Well, I like to say if you open my veins, out would roll Danville green."

CONNOR BRUCE Supporting special needs youth



COURTESY OF BRUCE FAMILY

Blackhawk's Connor Bruce is this year's Rising Star for his leadership and commitment while supporting people with special needs.

By Cathy Jetter

When Sports Illustrated named Connor Bruce its High School Athlete of the Month last April, it could easily have been assumed that the national magazine was simply recognizing the exceptional athletic ability the Blackhawk teen brought to every baseball game he caught for the Monte Vista Mustangs.

But the first baseball player to receive the honor was also being acknowledged for the substantial heart he brings to those around him, a heart every bit as big as his talent behind home plate.

Since his seventh-grade year at Danville's Diablo Vista Middle School, Bruce has found a variety of ways to become involved in supporting special needs youth in his community. From working in the classrooms as a teacher's assistant to serving as president of the Monte Vista Special Olympics club, Bruce has worked to break down the barriers that keep children with special needs

separated from the rest of the community.

"The kids are warm, nice and easy to hang around with," said Bruce, now a freshman at North Carolina State University after graduating from Monte Vista last spring. "If you show them love, they just open up."

Bruce's mother Kim pointed out her son's extra efforts have gone a long way to making the lines of communication easier for the kids, opting to take three years of American sign language to fulfill his high school language requirement.

Bruce said that was an easy choice. "My middle school teacher used ASL to communicate with the kids," he said, adding he planned to continue to develop his signing skills with a course at a community college this summer.

Of special significance to Bruce is his involvement with the Little League Challenger Program, which was founded in 1989 as a way to allow boys and girls with physical and developmental challenges to enjoy the benefits of baseball.

Introduced to the program by his grandfather during his freshman year of high school, Bruce spent Sunday afternoons throughout his Monte Vista career coaching two-inning games with some of his favorite people.

"I played baseball my whole life," he said. "It was great to see how much the kids loved being out there."

Though Bruce left baseball behind when he headed to college in Raleigh, N.C., this past fall, he has continued his involvement with the Special Olympics, becoming an active member of the school's Special Olympics Club. The group recently spent Halloween afternoon hosting a field trip to a local corn maze for a group of Special Olympic families from China.

"We showed them the full American experience," Bruce said. "We took them all through the maze and gave them fried food and cheeseburgers. They loved the funnel cakes, but didn't like the deep-fried Oreos."

As a public and interpersonal communications major, Bruce has yet to decide what career path he will follow after graduation, though he is certain his work with special needs youth will continue.

Reflecting on the attention brought by the Sports Illustrated award, Bruce described the experience as crazy, with radio show



FILE PHOTO

Bruce and his mother Kim pose for pictures after the ceremony at Danville's Monte Vista High recognizing his selection as Sports Illustrated's High School Athlete of the Month for April.

interviews and lots of media attention. Having filled the application out on a whim one evening, Bruce never thought he would win — then he got a call a few months later.

"When they said they had chosen me, I couldn't believe it," he said. "The best part is that it opened doors to let so many people know about the Special Olympics and the Challenger Program." ■

Hero FYI

- ▲ Connor Bruce's father Jeff also played catcher for Monte Vista High coach Bill Piona.
- ▲ Bruce and his mother, Kim, enjoy a good adrenaline rush, having sky-dived and bungee-jumped together. Base-jumping is next on their list.
- ▲ He said he was honored to have former San Francisco Giants pitcher Bill Laskey present the SI Athlete of the Month Award to him in April.
- ▲ Bruce is a fan of both the A's and the Giants.
- ▲ He was named 2016 All-EBAL first-team catcher.
- ▲ Away at college in North Carolina, Bruce could not attend the Tri-Valley Heroes ceremony in Pleasanton last month, so Kim Bruce accepted the Rising Star award on her son's behalf.



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Concerts

LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY The Livermore-Amador Symphony will open its fifty-fourth regular season with "A Heavenly Life" at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Conducted by Music Director Lara Webber, the concert will feature Mozart's "Exsultate, Jubilate" and Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Soprano Emily Helenbrook will be the guest soloist for both of these joyful works. A free family concert will be held at 3 p.m., featuring holiday favorites and a portion of "Exsultate, Jubilate." Tickets for afternoon concert are free but required. Tickets for evening concert are \$12-\$35. Call 373-6800 or go to www.bankheadtheater.org.

JIM CURRY'S 'A ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS' Acclaimed performer Jim Curry will perform a special holiday concert with holiday favorites for the whole family, and songs from John Denver's vast legacy of multi-platinum hits at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Tickets are \$17-\$27. Call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org.

Music

SHAMANIC DRUM CIRCLE Drumming will help you to gain access to your inner guidance and learn to work with your helping spirits. Presented by Ashleigh Pevey, a Shamanic healer, sessions are usually 3-4:15 p.m. the second Sunday of the month at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. Bring a drum or rattle; a few will be available. Call 829-2733 or go to www.unityoftrivalley.org.

Talks & Lectures

AMADOR VALLEY TOASTMASTERS Learn how to give speeches, gain feedback, lead teams, and guide

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

GROWING UP WITH A SIBLING WITH SPECIAL NEEDS Come to a Pleasanton SNC event panel discussion on "Growing Up With a Sibling With Special Needs" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. For parents and caregivers interested in learning more about the dynamics of raising a family that includes both special needs and typically developing children. To register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/Dec2016SNC>. If you have any questions about this event or would like to request a sign (ASL) or spoken language interpreter, contact snc@pleasantonpta.org by Nov. 30.

HOPE HOSPICE HANDLING THE HOLIDAYS WORKSHOP The holiday season is typically filled with merriment, celebrations and long standing traditions. But many individuals and families who have lost a loved one feel lost, alone and overcome with sadness and anxiety. To help those who have experienced a loss, Hope Hospice is holding a Handling the Holidays Workshop from 2-4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 8 at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Dublin. Registration required. Call 829-8770 or go to HopeHospice.com.

Health & Wellness

PLEASANTON SOLE MATES Join this weekly walking group at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday mornings departing from the Pleasanton Senior Center. Participants must be able to walk 2.5-3 miles and keep a moderate pace with the group. Stop by the Center to pick a monthly walk schedule or call 925-931-5365 for more information.

PLEASANTON PEDALERS If you love cycling, this group is for you. Join at 9 a.m. every Thursday. Rides will be at an easy pace from 15 to 25 miles, with no rider left

behind. A signed waiver is required for all riders. Go to meetup.com/PleasantonPedalers.

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

Fundraisers

LAUGH YOUR STRESS OFF WITH MARGARET ZHAO Margaret Zhao, winner of the Sharp Writ Book award for her biography "Really Enough," and teacher of Natural Healing Arts, will present her unique blend of humor, movements and demonstration to bring you a remarkable evening of energy and laughter at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost is \$20-\$22. Go to www.lvpac.org.

Seniors

PEDDLER SHOPPE AT THE SENIOR CENTER The Peddler Shoppe in the lobby of the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers the handmade wares of talented local senior artisans. It's a great place to buy gifts. The Shoppe is staffed by volunteers and is open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Go to www.pleasantonpeddlershoppe.com.

SENIOR MENS SOCIAL CLUB Sons In Retirement (SIR) is a social club for senior men. In addition to friendships, members can participate in interest groups like golf, bridge, travel, photography, etc. We meet for lunch first Thursday of the month at San Ramon Golf Club. Open to retirees in the Tri-Valley. Contact Carl Churilo at 967-8177 or trivalleysir@gmail.com. Go to branch34.sirinc2.org.

Religion & Spirituality

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP Lynnewood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Ave. offers a friendly congregation where all are welcome. Sunday morning services are at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided at both services, and Sunday school is at 10:30 a.m.. Children's choir is at 11:40 a.m.-12:10 p.m.. At 5:30 p.m. on Sundays the church offers an informal service called "Come As You Are" with music, prayer, and discussion. Contact Rev. Heather Hammer at 846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org. Go to www.lynnewood.org.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT UNITY OF TRI-VALLEY Join the Sunday service with Reverend Micah Murdock, minister, at 10 a.m. every week at Unity of Tri-Valley, 7567 Amador Valley

PET OF THE WEEK



VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

Dazzling Stella

Stella will be your friend to infinity and beyond. Her dazzling presence and comradeship are truly out of this world. Enjoy every night under the stars with this bright-eyed, 1-year-old Calico. Very outgoing, Stella is FIV-plus and looking for an indoor forever home. Take home this stellar beauty for free during Black Cat Friday Weekend (today and tomorrow) at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. Visit valleyhumane.org or call 426-8656.

Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. All are welcome. Ongoing classes, groups, and activities. Call 829-2733 or go to www.unityoftrivalley.org/.

'THE SPIRITUALITY OF ADVENT' Father Tom Bonacci will present "The Spirituality of Advent: Reflections from the Gospel of St. Matthew" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 28 at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. The program will survey the splendor and the challenges of the Advent Season using the first two chapters of Matthew as a text, and including advent prayers. Call 846-0221 or go to www.lynnwood.org.

Community Groups

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON NORTH Pleasanton North Rotary invites anyone interested in making a difference. The membership includes 65 professionals, business owners, executives, managers and community leaders. The club meets from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fridays at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main St. Call 556-2333 or visit www.pnr-rotary.org.

CLUTTERLESS (CL) SELF HELP SUPPORT GROUP ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Support Group, for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions, meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at The Parkview, 100 Valley Ave. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. We are for the Clutterer who is ready to change. Go to www.ClutterLessEastBay.org.

TRI VALLEY SUPPORT GROUP FOR FIBROMYALGIA, LUPUS AND ALL FORMS OF ARTHRITIS This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at the Groves at Dublin Ranch in the Clubhouse, 3115 Finnian Way, Dublin. It hosts special speakers like doctors or specialists. For more information, call JoAnne at 875-0960.

PLEASANTON COMMUNITY TOASTMASTERS: GUESTS WELCOME Learn more about public speaking in a fun-filled and supporting environment at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Highland Oaks Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive.

Enjoy improving your leadership skills, building confidence and meeting new friends. Go to pleasantontoastmasters.com.

LIVERMORE LIONESSE 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.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB Pleasanton Newcomers is open to all families in the Tri-Valley. We offer a variety of activities and clubs: something for everyone, including monthly get-togethers, games and book clubs, shared interest groups, community service, outdoor activities such as hiking, walking and golf, monthly luncheons at local restaurants, a welcome coffee for new members, and much more. The Welcome Coffee is held at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month. Contact us for activities, dates and locations at 215-8405 or pnewcomers@gmail.com.

MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE Mothers With a Purpose meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Foothill High School Library. Mothers with a Purpose was formed by local moms to offer support to families affected by addiction. Visit www.motherswithapurpose.org.

Volunteers

WREATHS ACROSS PLEASANTON Local volunteers are working hard to ensure that all veterans laid to rest at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery are honored this December on National Wreaths Across America Day. The ceremony will take place at noon on Saturday, Dec. 17 at Pioneer Cemetery. Help is needed from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Amador Recreation Building, 4443 Black Ave. to assemble about 600 wreaths. Volunteers can come for however long they can spare; all help big and small is appreciated.

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INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-155
- FOR SALE 200-270
- KIDS STUFF 330-355
- MIND & BODY 400-499
- JOBS 500-585
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-690
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
- FOR RENT/ FOR SALE REAL ESTATE 801-899
- PUBLIC/LEGAL NOTICES 995-997

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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? A Married couple without children seeks to adopt. Will be hands-on parents. Visit our website: <http://chadandjulio-adopt.weebly.com>. Financial Security. Expenses Paid. Chad and Julio (ask for Adam). 1-800-790-5260. (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. 877-362-2401

140 Lost & Found



LOST HOUSE CAT! Please help us find our beloved Stella, missing from the Del Prado area. She isn't street smart, has allergies and likely scared. She is very sweet and too trusting of other animals. She is a beautiful brown/black maine coon mix, med/long hair, bushy tail, weighing 10 lbs or less. She has a white mouth, chin, front neck and has black and brown striped front legs. If you think you've seen her - no matter when - Please let us know. Thank you! 925-484-0139

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202 Vehicles Wanted

CASH FOR CARS Any Car/Truck 2000-2015, Running or Not! Top Dollar For Used/Damaged. Free Nationwide Towing! Call Now: 1-888-420-3808 (AAN CAN)

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DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT to Heritage for the Blind. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

Get Cash for Cars/Trucks!!! All Makes/Models 2000-2016! Top \$\$\$ Paid! Any Condition! Used or wrecked. Running or Not. Free Towing! Call For Offer: 1-888-417-9150. (Cal-SCAN)

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Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1973 Only. Any condition, top \$ paid (707) 965-9546 (Cal-SCAN)

245 Miscellaneous

DIRECTV. NFL Sunday Ticket (FREE!) w/Choice All-Included Package. \$60/mo. for 24 months. No upfront costs or equipment to buy. Ask about next day installation! 1-800-385-9017 (Cal-SCAN)

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260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

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345 Tutoring/ Lessons

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495 Yoga

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Business Services

604 Adult Care Offered

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624 Financial

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636 Insurance

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640 Legal Services

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Lung Cancer? And 60 Years Old? If So, You And Your Family May Be Entitled To A Significant Cash Award. Call 800-990-3940 To Learn More. No Risk. No Money Out Of Pocket (Cal-SCAN)

Xarelto users have you had complications due to internal bleeding (after January 2012)? If so, you MAY be due financial compensation. If you don't have an attorney, CALL Injuryfone today! 1-800-425-4701. (Cal-SCAN)

Home Services

726 Decor & Drapery

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751 General Contracting

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Real Estate

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

PACIFIC COAST WINDOW COMPANY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524034

The following person(s) doing business as: PACIFIC COAST WINDOW COMPANY, 3597 NEVADA ST. SUITE C, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): BMFL LLC, 3597 Nevada St. Suite C, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Limited liability company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 07/18/2016. Signature of Registrant: Fred Gotthardt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/31/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; 2016)

PIXSELL FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 523870

The following person(s) doing business as: PIXSELL, 2088 W. LAGOON ROAD, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Marco Angelo Abellera, 2088 W. Lagoon Road,

Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2016. Signature of Registrant: Marco Angelo Abellera. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/25/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; 2016)

KIDS WELL CARE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524002

The following person(s) doing business as: KIDS WELL CARE, 3621 CHILLINGHAM COURT, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jing Zhang, 3621 Chillingham Court, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Jing Zhang. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25; 2016)

BEAUTY AND THE BOUTIQUE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524162

The following person(s) doing business as: BEAUTY AND THE BOUTIQUE, 6911 MARIPOSA CIRCLE SUITE #204, DUBLIN, CA 94568, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kisha Prince, 6911 Mariposa Circle Suite #204, Dublin, CA 94568. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 10/01/2016. Signature of Registrant: Kisha Prince. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/03/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2; 2016)


THE LEAN LANE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524271

The following person(s) doing business as: THE LEAN LANE, 1411 KILKARE ROAD, SUNOL, CA 94586, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Andrew Martin Kenny, 1411 Kilkare Road, Sunol, CA 94586. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein. Signature of Registrant: Andrew Kenny. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 11/07/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9; 2016)

GREAT CLIPS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 524020

The following person(s) doing business as: GREAT CLIPS, 6766 BERNAL AVE., SUITE 540, PLEASANTON, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): KCS Group, Inc., 862 Sunny Brook Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein 12/10/2011. Signature of Registrant: Cheryl Rathnam, Vice President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on 10/28/2016. (Pleasanton Weekly, Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9; 2016)

Need to publish a FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT in an Alameda County newspaper of general circulation?



Call the Pleasanton Weekly 925-600-0840

Pleasanton Weekly

Tri-Valley residents to lead national real estate organizations

Brown named president of National Association of Realtors; Souza president of Women's Council of Realtors

Local real estate professionals will lead two of the nation's most prominent and influential real estate trade associations in 2017.

Bill Brown of Alamo, a second-generation Realtor, will serve as the 2017 president of the National Association of Realtors. Sherri Souza of Livermore will serve as the 2017 president of the Women's Council of Realtors.

"We are so proud of everything both Bill and Sherri have accomplished at the local, state and national levels. Their service to the real estate profession starting in the East Bay is a great foundation for the important work they will do in 2017," said Kim Ott, 2016 president of the Bay East Association of Realtors.

Brown and Souza are members of the Pleasanton-based professional organization, which represents more than 5,500 local real estate professionals.

Brown has been active in organized real

estate for more than 35 years. He was president of the Oakland Association of Realtors in 1984 and president of the California Association of Realtors in 2008.

"The experience I gained starting my real estate career in Alameda County served me well as I've progressed through various leadership positions in the Realtor community," Brown said. "The real estate issues I've had to deal with throughout the East Bay — including housing affordability, rent control, land use issues, and government regulation of real estate transactions — prepared me to understand what Realtors across the country face every day."

Brown has supported Realtor advocacy efforts throughout his leadership career; an interest and passion he will carry into his National Association of Realtors presidency.

"Home ownership and property rights are a big issue in the East Bay, and the whole

country," Brown said. "I look forward to working with the more than 1.2 million Realtors to help make the American dream possible."

"The National Association of Realtors will be busy in 2017 educating both a new President and Congress about the important role home ownership plays in the national economy," he added.

The National Association of Realtors is the largest trade association in the United States. Its members include brokers, salespeople, property managers, appraisers, counselors and others engaged in all aspects of residential and commercial real estate who are pledged to a strict code of ethics and standards of practice.

Livermore's Souza will lead the Women's Council of Realtors (WCR), a nationwide community of 11,000 real estate professionals. The WCR network includes more than 300 local and state networks with volunteer managers trained to position their groups as a business resource in their Realtor communities.

Souza has been a Realtor for 15 years and is a broker/owner with Broker In Trust Real Estate, a network of independent brokers with a shared interest of elevating the level of professionalism in real estate for the consumer. She is a Livermore resident and helps home buyers and sellers throughout the Bay Area.

She was president of the California Women's Council of Realtors in 2011 and president of the Southern Alameda County Women's Council of Realtors in 2005.

"When this journey began I didn't know where it would lead," Souza said of her path to the WCR presidency. "I wanted to help other women become more than they ever dreamed possible. I actually witnessed the growth of the women around me."

Her leadership experience also includes serving as a member of the California Association of Realtors' Board of Directors and as member of the Bay East Association of Realtors' Board of Directors. She is a 2011 graduate of the National Association of Realtors Leadership Academy.

Souza said "the desire to help others be successful in what they're passionate about" continues to drive her commitment to WCR and the Realtor community.

"Women's Council of Realtors is still essential and much needed in the real estate industry, perhaps more now than ever before," she added. "As women evolve and aspire to bigger, greater roles in the world there is a need for trained leaders who volunteer in many different facets of leadership within organized real estate, locally, statewide and nationally, and outside organized real estate, too." ■

—Gina Channell

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

<p>Danville</p> <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 BEDROOMS</p> <p>9 Gold Poppy Court \$1,299,000</p> <p>Sat/Sun 1-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260-2220/413-6544</p>	<p>Pleasanton</p> <p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px;">4 BEDROOMS</p> <p>427 Cabonia Court \$1,394,888</p> <p>Sat/Sun 1-4 DeAnna Armario & Liz Venema 260-2220/413-6544</p>
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SALES AT A GLANCE

This week's data represents homes sold during Sept. 28-Oct. 28.

<p>Pleasanton (Sept. 28-Oct. 21)</p> <p>Total sales reported: 24</p> <p>Lowest sale reported: \$622,000</p> <p>Highest sale reported: \$2,525,000</p> <p>Average sales reported: \$970,357</p> <p>Dublin (Sept. 28-Oct. 21)</p> <p>Total sales reported: 25</p> <p>Lowest sale reported: \$500,000</p> <p>Highest sale reported: \$1,385,000</p> <p>Average sales reported: \$771,722</p>	<p>Livermore (Sept. 28-Oct. 21)</p> <p>Total sales reported: 54</p> <p>Lowest sale reported: \$310,000</p> <p>Highest sale reported: \$1,430,000</p> <p>Average sales reported: \$723,143</p> <p>San Ramon (Oct. 19-28)</p> <p>Total sales reported: 52</p> <p>Lowest sale reported: \$360,000</p> <p>Highest sale reported: \$2,375,000</p> <p>Average sales reported: \$859,583</p>
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Source: California REsource

Tri-Valley

Real Estate Directory

Darlene Crane
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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Sept. 28-Oct. 28

Pleasanton

1249 Concord Street T. & S. Kinzer to J. & R. Maclsaac for \$865,000

3119 Half Dome Drive E. Palma to E. Bryant for \$778,000

6548 Hansen Drive C. & H. Giddings to Rao Trust for \$1,050,000

7830 Knollbrook Drive I. & J. Berson to Y. Wang for \$1,117,500

533 St. John Street A. & M. Riedel to C. Jayachander for \$622,000

4164 Veneto Court A. & A. Capovilla to L. Jonnavithula for \$760,000

2456 Via De Los Milagros L. & P. Fritts to P. Doshi for \$1,600,000

4672 Carson Court M. & D. Smith to J. & J. Osterhoudt for \$800,000

1127 Deer Creek Court R. & L. Wells to M. & A. Iyer for \$1,535,000

2647 Gapwall Court Bell Trust to Z. Dai for \$1,195,000

3428 Gravina Place Liou Trust to R. & L. Wells for \$1,460,000

3708 Raboli Street R. & K. Sabhlok to H. & Z. Gill for \$2,390,000

5949 Via Del Cielo R. & M. Walsworth to R. & R. Gupta for \$1,475,000

3696 Virgin Islands Court J. & J. Archer to J. Andersen for \$880,000

2196 Cameron Circle Thomas Trust to Weisal & Tully Trust for \$2,000,000

4675 Corday Court E. Brandtman to D. Selvaraj for \$865,000

4281 Diavila Avenue W. & L. Craig to R. & T. Almeida for \$945,000

4102 Fairlands Drive Catalina Bay to M. Raja for \$1,017,500

5942 Laurel Creek Drive Chew Trust to Young & Hsieh Trust for \$1,925,000

3693 Mohr Avenue J. Lozano to Thomas Trust for \$2,025,000

993 Piemonte Drive S. Miley to Petersen Trust for \$2,525,000

2317 Romano Circle Kanning Trust to B. & L. McClung for \$1,635,000

3261 Touriga Drive M. & G. Stapleton to AEC

Dublin

6908 Brighton Drive Weber Trust to L. Weber for \$500,000

11151 Brittany Lane M. Samiullah to J. & J. Rho for \$1,120,000

3385 Dublin Boulevard #136 K. Li to S. & C. Leung for \$580,000

3716 Finnian Way L. & A. Cortes to Hong Trust for \$575,000

4270 Fitzwilliam Street P. Khaled to B. Wang for \$635,000

5651 Melodia Circle Pulte Home to L. Cheng for \$825,000

3322 Monaghan Street L. & K. Putt to K. & R. Puri for \$600,000

6809 South Mariposa Lane X. Zhao to D. & M. Patil for \$725,000

2913 West Castle Pines Terrace S. & R. Kumar to B. & P. Shah for \$1,385,500

3740 Branding Iron Place S. & M. Kalafatis to J. Lee for \$699,000

6933 Cedar Lane Oconnell Trust to D. Marley for \$725,000

7350 Cronin Circle A. Podyma to Wang Trust for \$510,000

4316 Keegan Street O. & A. Desai to J. Zhang for \$670,000

4731 Perugia Street H. Chung to A. Chin for \$672,500

11861 Pollardstown Court J. & A. Passos to M. Ng for \$510,000

4631 Sandyford Court G. Gonzales to R. Durga for \$701,000

11456 Winding Trail Lane V. & C. Esposito to S. Min for \$690,000

6984 Amador Valley Boulevard B. & M. Buhagiar to P. Doyle for \$670,000

3725 Central Parkway #27 K. Cheng to S. Annamalai for \$760,000

4292 Clarinbridge Circle D. Yu to X. Luo for \$540,000

7282 Dover Lane M. & S. Perez to P. & J. Lovel for \$730,000

Source: California REsource

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AVAILABLE

**4092 GRAHAM STREET,
PLEASANTON**

This is the home you have been waiting for — with 2,010 sqft. Located in the heart of Pleasanton in one of the highly sought after Jensen/Amador neighborhoods. A spacious & private master suite has been added to the upper level offering a dressing area, generous closet and storage space. On the main level is the original master suite with an adjoining full bath. The original wood floors are featured throughout the main level. A Family room is also in the home, not often seen in home in this neighborhood. **LISTED AT \$995,000**

SOLD

**6300 LAURA LANE,
PLEASANTON**

Country living and close to downtown — 1.26 acre home with a private well, a vineyard with 369 vines in Carmenere, a pool house & pool with a spacious deck area and spectacular views of the surrounding hills. Approx. 3,100 sqft of living space in this tri-level home with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. Views of the open spaces and Callippe golf course. It was a pleasure to represent the seller with cutting edge marketing in the sale of this home. Sold in 4 days. **SOLD AT THE LIST PRICE OF \$2,000,000**

SOLD

**927 KOLLN STREET,
PLEASANTON**

Also located in the highly sought after Jensen/Amador area, walking distance to downtown, schools, shopping and parks. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath along with 1,506 sq.ft. of living space was updated with state of the art lighting and heated floors in the master bath. Original refinished wood floors, a private rear yard, side yard access, & newer windows are additional features of this home. **LISTED AT \$915,000 AND SOLD FOR \$935,000 (THE HIGHEST PRICE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THIS SIZE HOME)**

SOLD

**3337 ARBOR DRIVE,
PLEASANTON**

Representing Buyers — Helping buyers find the perfect home to establish their home ownership in Pleasanton was my pleasure. The home offers 4 bedrooms and 2 baths with a formal dining room, a family room and a separate living room. Two master suites are featured in the home — one on the main level and one upstairs. A spacious lot of 9,239 sqft with mature trees and backing to a creek, along with its close location to the neighborhood park, are priceless for the buyer.

**COMING SOON
IN LIVERMORE**

SUMMIT PARK

A charming 3 bdr 2.5 bath home with 1,600-sqft. New hand scraped dark wood floors on the lower level with carpet on the upper. Formal dining room, a family room opens to the kitchen with tile floors and maple cabinets. A 2 car garage and private rear yard are additional features. Close to Summit Park and an Elementary School. **WILL BE PRICED IN THE \$700,000 RANGE.**

It's time to start preparing your homes for the upcoming Spring selling season.

With many sellers waiting for Spring to sell their homes, and Buyers anticipating new homes coming on the market, now is the time to start completing those tasks you have been putting off. Call Kris today — it would be my pleasure to help you through the process to put your home on the market.



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ArmarioVenemaHomes.com

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



9 GOLD POPPY COURT, DANVILLE
4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2686+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,299,000

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



427 CABONIA COURT, RUBY HILL
4 BR, 3 BA, 2806+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,394,888

PENDING



1443 GERMANO WAY, RUBY HILL
4 BR, 4.5 BA, 5577+/- Sq. Ft.
Now Offered at \$2,599,000

PENDING IN 6 DAYS



1477 BROOKLINE LOOP, PLEASANTON
4 BR, 3.5 BA, 3512+/- Sq. Ft.
Offered at \$1,550,000

COMING SOON



8076 HOLANDA LANE, DUBLIN

This lovely single story home has 3 bedroom, two remodeled baths and kitchen. Close to school. **Low \$700,000s**



Cindy and Gene Williams

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12 OFFERS SALE PENDING!



7814 Knollbrook Drive, Pleasanton
Adorable home w/hardwood floors, sunny gourmet kitchen w/chic cabinetry, Cozy family room w/slate stone fireplace. 4 BD/2 BA. 1749 sq ft. **\$900,000**

COMING SOON!



217 Wild Flower Court, Pleasanton
DIY Dream Home! 4 BD/2.5 BA, over 1900 sq ft. Bring your paint brush and hammer for instant sweat equity. Shown by appt. **Priced in the low \$800,000's**

COMING SOON!



Beautiful Birdland Home
5 bedrooms + a bonus room. Beautiful backyard paradise with sparkling pool, arbor and outdoor kitchen. 10,000 sq ft lot. **High \$1,200,000's**

COMING SOON!



Wonderful Vintage Hills II Home
Beautifully updated. New interior and exterior paint, carpet and wood flooring. Updated kitchen w/ quartz counters. New master bathroom! Beautiful views!

SALE PENDING!



1038 Gray Fox Circle, Pleasanton
Custom estate on a private 1 acre parcel. 4 bdms, 4 baths, 4744 sq ft. 3 car garage, +2 car detached. Pool, spa, fire pit! **\$2,168,000**

SALE PENDING 5 OFFERS!



6085 Allbrook Circle, Pleasanton
Stunning one level home, with 4 bdms, 2 remodeled baths and a gorgeous granite kitchen. Detached office or hobby room! **Priced in the high \$800,000's**

COMING SOON!



6379 Dana Court, Pleasanton
Cute as a button! Sunny 3 bedroom, 2 bath one level home on a quiet court. Beautifully remodeled throughout! **Priced in the low \$800,000's**

COMING SOON!



6349 Benner Court, Pleasanton
Stunning one level that is remodeled from top to bottom! New granite kitchen and bathrooms! **Priced in the high 800,000's**



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