

Pleasanton Weekly

Traditions

Page 14



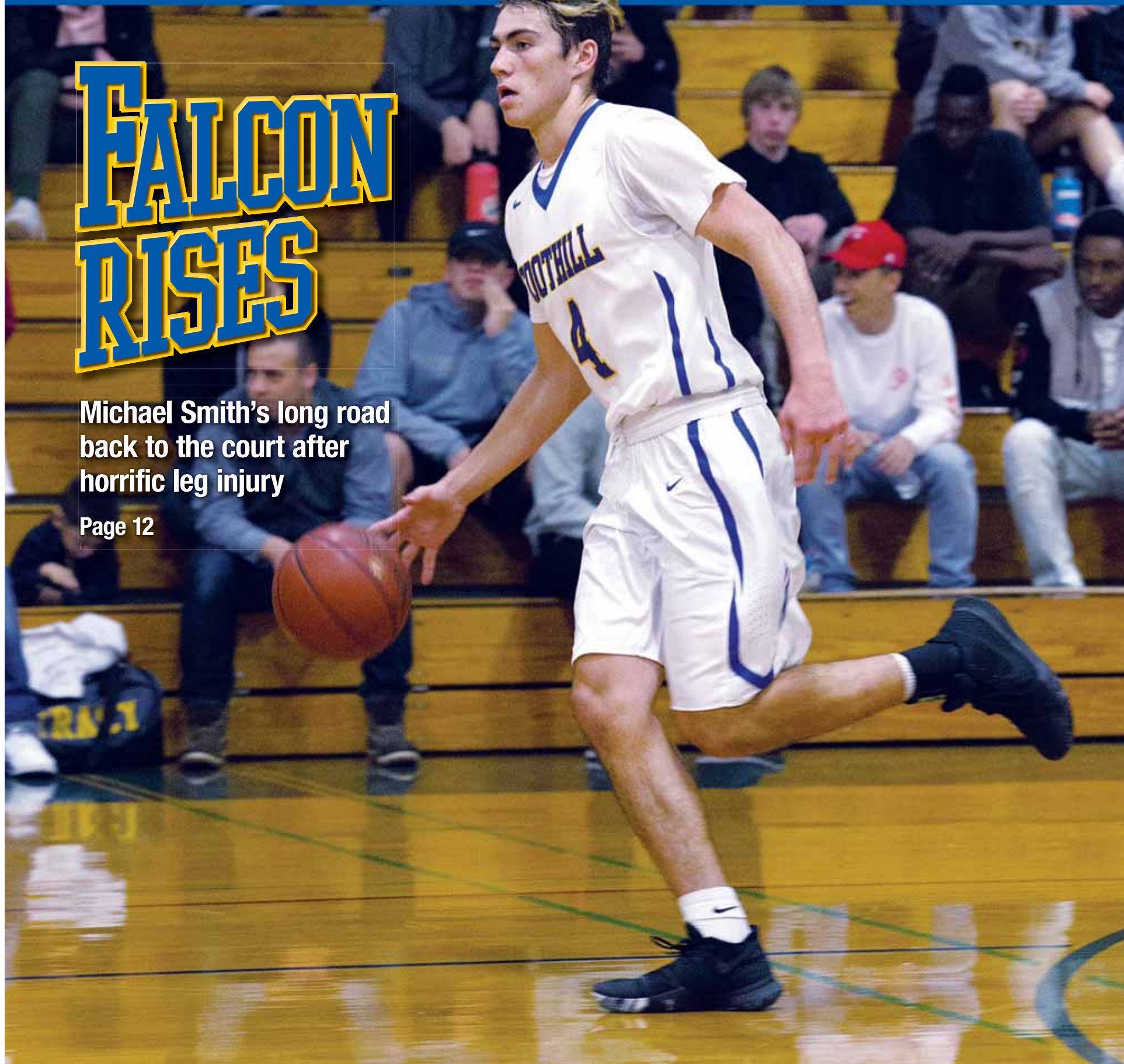
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FALCON RISES

Michael Smith's long road back to the court after horrific leg injury

Page 12



5 | **NEWS** The latest on JDEDZ lawsuit, referendum

11 | **EDITORIAL** Give to the 2017 Holiday Fund

16 | **SPORTS** Tri-Valley's first girls hockey title

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TIM TALK



By TIM HUNT

Downtown Livermore could become a destination

A diverse group of leaders has managed to move the Livermore City Council forward with consensus on its long discussion of what to do with the 8.2 vacant acres in the heart of downtown.

In sharp contrast to the other group that is dominated by members and donors of Friends of Livermore, Livermore Citizens United brought together the cowboys, the wineries, the tech community, the business community and the performing arts community in support of a strong plan for the area.

It is based on a major central plaza that could be the hub for community festivals that is complemented by a 150-seat black box theater (like what Pleasanton has at the Firehouse Arts Center) and a science and society center that will educate visitors about Livermore's world-wide science leadership. Both would be privately funded.

The plan also preserves and enhances the historic Blacksmith Square — that's in stark contrast to the plan pushed by the Friends' members that would either tear it down or isolate it.

The deal hinges on the offer by the Livermore Rodeo Stockmen's Association to swap naming rights on the plaza for the right of the city to build housing on the vacant parcel behind City Hall that used to be known as "Sunken Gardens." The rodeo grounds were once at the current civic center site and when they were moved to Robertson Park, there was a "no residential development" clause tied to the former site.

Freeing up that land for 100 units of workforce housing alleviates the need to build as many units on the downtown site. Because the city purchased the land through its now-defunct redevelopment agency, there is a requirement for 25% of proceeds to be used for affordable housing. Gov. Jerry Brown pushed through a law in 2012 that wiped out the redevelopment agencies and saved the city from a 2,000-seat performing arts albatross on that site.

That rodeo association offer alone was a game-changer, to say nothing for the two privately funded facilities that will enhance the area.

David B. Kent, the spokesman for Livermore Citizens United, explained in an earlier press release the principles that guided the group as it developed the plan:

1. Design the downtown for future

generations.

2. Repay the \$14.5 million that was borrowed from the city's affordable housing fund to purchase the site.

3. Take no side (pun intended) on which corner to build the hotel on — east or west.

The council agreed in a series of 5-0 votes to ask staff to move ahead with more detailed plans for the core of the plan presented by the united group and to show plans with the boutique hotel on the westside and the eastside.

The unanimous votes demonstrate how thoughtfully the United plan — even though the art presentation was a sketch — was put together and designed to bring the community together. People from many different aspects of Livermore spoke in favor of the plan at a five-hour public hearing last month. The strong and diverse support likely moved the council to incorporate many elements of the United plan.

The central plaza, coupled with Blacksmith Square, has the potential to give downtown Livermore the same type of hub as the plazas in wine country destinations Healdsburg (a personal favorite) and Paso Robles, a United press release noted.

What's unusual for Livermore is it is a community of 80,000-plus with wine country bordering it to the south and east. By contrast, Paso and Healdsburg are small and somewhat isolated, although both share easy access to a major freeway as Livermore does.

Portions of downtown Livermore are already dynamic and thriving. This type of central attraction will provide a gathering spot that is unique in the Tri-Valley area. If brought to fruition, it will marry Livermore's history in ranching, the sciences, wineries and the arts and enhance it as a destination.

I never thought I would write of Livermore as a destination, but that's the possibility the United vision put on the table. Decades ago, I asked why would anyone see the broader valley as a destination for visitors. Attractions have changed since then, but the central plaza would be a huge step forward. ■

Editor's note: Journalist Tim Hunt has written columns on the Tri-Valley community for more than 40 years.

He grew up in the valley and lives in Pleasanton. His "Tim Talk" blog appears twice a week at PleasantonWeekly.com.

About the Cover

Foothill Falcons senior guard Michael Smith dribbles up the court during his season debut against Tracy last month, just over a year after he suffered a gruesome leg injury while playing football for Foothill. Photo by Mike Sedlak. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XVIII, Number 47



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DIGEST

'Gambling With Death'

One of the most infamous crimes in Pleasanton history has been revisited in a television program with the 10th anniversary of the double murder on the horizon.

"Married with Secrets," a series on the Investigation Discovery network, examined the case of Ernest Scherer III, who is serving two consecutive life sentences in state prison for the murder of his parents, Ernest Scherer Jr. and Charlene Abendroth, in their Castlewood Country Club home on March 7, 2008.

The couple's bodies were found a week after they'd been bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat, stabbed and slashed. Scherer Jr., 60, and Abendroth, 57, were well known in the Tri-Valley.

Scherer III, a struggling professional poker player looking to cash in on a lucrative inheritance, was arrested a year after the murders and it was nearly another two years before he was brought to trial and ultimately convicted in 2011.

The episode, aptly titled "Gambling With Death," premiered last Friday but is available on YouTube and will be available on the ID network website.

Tree collection

Pleasanton Boy Scouts Troop 941 is now accepting signups from residents who want the scouts pick up their Christmas trees after the holidays.

Donations generated by the annual fundraiser are used by troop members to pay for camping equipment and scouting activities such as summer camp and weekend outings. Last year, the boys collected over 1,000 trees in partnership with the Pleasanton Garbage Service.

The scouts will provide the service only to Pleasanton residents who have registered at www.troop941.org. Registration will remain open as space allows through Jan. 2, and collection day is Jan. 6.

Santa photos

Has your family visited Santa Claus this year? This weekend is your last chance to submit your Santa photo to be included in our holiday issue. Send it with the subject line "Santa photo" to dciardelli@pleasantonweekly.com.

Photos should be JPG format and at least 500KB to be large enough to use in the newspaper. Include names of children in the photo, names of parents, where you ran into Santa, where you live, where the children attend school and anything else you think might be interesting in the caption. We are also interested in photos of pets with Santa. ■

City sued over JDEDZ approvals for proposed Costco site

Filed by citizens group that failed to collect enough signatures for referendum petition

By JEREMY WALSH

The city of Pleasanton now faces a lawsuit — but not a referendum petition — in the effort to overturn the City Council's recent approvals that paved the way for a new commercial center near the I-580/I-680 interchange expected to be anchored by Costco, two hotels and other businesses.

Local resident coalition Pleasanton Citizens for Responsible Growth, spearheaded by former City Councilman Matt Sullivan, filed a petition for writ of mandate in Alameda County Superior Court earlier this month challenging the

council's environmental clearances that helped advance the city's Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone (JDEDZ) proposal.

Sullivan's group also pursued a referendum petition to reverse council JDEDZ approvals, but the deadline for submitting voter signatures to city officials passed at 5 p.m. Wednesday without the group filing petitions with the city clerk.

"There was significant community opposition to the Costco and we were on a path to acquire the necessary signatures, however, 30 days is a very high bar for a referendum, particularly during the holiday

period when so many people are rushed for time or out of town," Sullivan said Wednesday afternoon in conceding the referendum attempt.

"We would like to thank all those citizens who took the time to sign the petition and we regret that your voices will not be heard," added Sullivan, who served on the council from 2004 until being termed out in 2012.

The group now turns its attention to the lawsuit, which argues the city-certified environmental impact report (EIR) was an inadequate analysis that failed to mitigate all significant impacts of the project. They also contend city officials did not adequately

respond to public comments on the draft EIR and did not recirculate new information in the final EIR.

"The EIR for this project fails to adequately evaluate all of the project's significant direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, including but not limited to impacts on: air quality, human health, transportation and traffic, utilities and urban decay," wrote the group's attorney, Mark R. Wolfe, of the San Francisco law firm M.R. Wolfe & Associates.

The lawsuit, filed Dec. 1 and served on the city Dec. 7, asks the

See **COSTCO** on Page 8

Miller named board president

PUSD trustees also make new hires, approve budget report

By JULIA BROWN

Pleasanton school board trustees elected Mark Miller as their new board president and Valerie Arkin as vice president at their last regular meeting of 2017 on Monday evening.

The school board typically appoints a new president and vice president in December to serve for the following year.

Miller, who served as vice president the last two years, replaces Joan Laursen in the new role.

Shortly after taking the helm Monday, Miller took a moment to recognize Laursen.

"First thing I'd like to do is really quickly offer my thanks and praise to Joan Laursen," Miller said. "She has done an amazing job as president this last year and it has been a rough year in many, many respects. I think she got two years' worth in one."

Miller has served on the school board since being elected by Pleasanton voters in November 2014. His seat is up for re-election next November.

Arkin joined the board in



Mark Miller



JEREMY WALSH

Redevelopment of the Pleasanton Gardens affordable senior housing complex started this week after the nonprofit owner of the property transferred the land and its assets to the city for the project.

Second phase of Kottinger Gardens senior housing project begins

Pleasanton Gardens site ownership transferred to city

By JULIA BROWN

The nonprofit behind Pleasanton Gardens, an affordable senior housing complex near downtown, has formally transferred ownership of the property to the city, paving the way for the start of Phase 2 of the new Kottinger Gardens project.

The transaction was complete as of Dec. 1 for the property with single-story senior housing cottages located at 251 Kottinger Drive, across the street from the recently completed Kottinger Gardens first phase.

"Providing more affordable housing for seniors has been a City Council priority for some time, so this is a very proud moment for all of us here in Pleasanton," City Manager Nelson Fialho said in a statement. "This milestone brings us one step closer to completing the second phase of Kottinger Gardens, which will double the affordable senior

housing in our community."

The redevelopment of Pleasanton Gardens marks the final phase of the Kottinger Gardens project, which is a collaboration between the city and nonprofit developer MidPen Housing Corp. The first phase consisted of the redevelopment of the former Kottinger Place site at 240 Kottinger Drive.

As part of the project agreement, the city retained ownership of the former Kottinger Place property while MidPen committed to redeveloping and managing it.

Meanwhile Pleasanton Gardens Inc., the nonprofit owner of the 40-unit Pleasanton Gardens senior housing complex, agreed to donate the property and its assets to the city for redevelopment. The organization also gave the city \$286,000 toward the project.

The city will also retain ownership of that site and lease the property to MidPen, which will build

and manage the new housing.

Upon completion, the project will have more than doubled the number of affordable housing units for seniors between the two sites.

The first phase of redevelopment began in March 2016 and was completed in October. The 50 units that made up the former Kottinger Place complex were torn down and replaced with 131 new ones split between 51 single-story one-bedroom cottages and a multi-story apartment building. Former Kottinger Place residents were moved to temporary housing or stayed with relatives for a year until construction on the cottages was completed in March.

The second phase of the Kottinger Gardens project will see the existing 40 units at the Pleasanton Gardens site demolished and replaced with 54 split between 24

See **GARDENS** on Page 8

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 8

Council approves mapping of southeast hills in line with Measure PP

Methodology to be used in all areas of city where hillside mapping is desired

By JEREMY WALSH

The Pleasanton City Council has endorsed mapping of the city's so-called southeast hills in accordance with Measure PP and affirmed city staff's methodology as the required process for reviewing other project areas subject to the 2008 voter-approved initiative to limit new development on hillsides.

The maps produced by city staff aim to show where development could and could not occur under Measure PP's key provisions, which ban new commercial structures or residential development of more than 10 homes on hillside slopes 25% or greater, or within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline.

"I think it's excellent," Councilwoman Kathy Narum said last week

at the Pleasanton Civic Center. "We're now giving clarity and certainty to where the houses can and can't be, which is good for everybody."

Councilwoman Karla Brown also praised the mapping methodology, calling it "well-researched" and "a good process."

"It's clear that the hillsides of the southeast hills are protected under Measure PP using the methodology that has been worked with by city staff," she said.

The new maps and methodology help resolve years of some uncertainty associated with the hillside protection provisions of the "Save Pleasanton's Hills and Housing Cap Initiative" passed by voters nine years ago.

One difficulty for projects post-PP is the fact the measure did not define

certain terms such as ridgeline, slope or structure, leaving them up to interpretation, according to city staff.

Measure PP was at the center of public debate over development of the Lund Ranch II site, a 43-home project located in the southeast hills area whose fate was ultimately decided by city voters when they passed Measure K in June 2016, allowing the project to move forward.

In the wake of Lund Ranch II debate, the council added southeast hills mapping to its priority list to help settle how city officials would interpret and apply Measure PP terminology going forward.

The area — about 1,520 acres east of Happy Valley Road — consists of four large, hilly properties with a history of livestock grazing along with limited development, native vegetation and wildlife. In addition to Lund Ranch II, the other parcels are known as the Spotorno Property, Oak Grove Property and Foley Property.

With housing already approved for Lund Ranch II, the new mapping covers only the other three properties.

City officials' effort to map the southeast hills for high-slope and ridgeline areas involved developing methodology for how to apply Measure PP provisions in the undeveloped hilly areas, utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping along with site visits, according to assistant city planner Megan Canales.

With no general industry standard in place, city officials needed to craft an applicable definition for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nativity presentation

Pleasanton's GraceWay Church is celebrating the Advent season with a special musical "God With Us Nativity Presentation" this Sunday at 10 a.m. at Alisal Elementary School (1454 Santa Rita Road). The show will bring together the GraceWay choir, GraceWay children and some members of the Foothill High School choir. Pairing adult choir members with teen and youth singers is part of GraceWay's commitment to Gen2Gen ministry. Sunday's 25-minute presentation will be followed by an Advent message by Pastor Mike Barris.

ridgeline on their own, according to Canales. They defined the end of the ridgeline as 200 feet above the valley floor — from which to apply the 100-vertical-foot PP provision.

For slope, they followed the general standard of rise over run.

The end result was three maps: one showing areas above/below 25% slope, one showing where areas have 100-foot vertical setback from ridgelines and a final composite map combining the two to indicate where development could occur under Measure PP.

A vast majority of the mapped area shows land protected from commercial development or projects of 11 or more homes.

Canales noted that land marked as developable under PP provisions

would still need to adhere to state environmental law and other state and local regulations.

She also said the city maps are intended to provide a bird's-eye view of the area, so developers would still need to provide in-depth mapping for their hilly project site to make sure all aspects of their proposal adhere to Measure PP.

No residents spoke to the council about the southeast hills mapping at the Dec. 5 public meeting before the council unanimously approved it.

The final vote included a change requested by Brown to require this methodology for any hillside mapping done in the city — the original resolution draft only said the methodology "can be employed" where hillside mapping is desired. ■

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Stanford-ValleyCare names new chief medical officer

Dr. Svec brings six years experience with Stanford Health system

By JEREMY WALSH

A doctor with nearly six years of experience in internal medicine and hospital medicine within the Stanford Health Care system has been appointed to the newly created position of chief medical officer for Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

Dr. David Svec previously served as a clinical assistant professor of medicine for Stanford Health as well as saw time in the Tri-Valley as medical director of the hospitalist team at Stanford-ValleyCare, according to hospital officials.

"I've enjoyed working with this community since 2015, and I look

forward to continuing to work collaboratively with an exceptionally qualified team to develop new initiatives," Svec said in a Stanford Health statement announcing his appointment last week.

"In addition to my clinical work, my research and scholarly interests have focused on delivering high-value care through quality improvement projects," he said "In the teaching area, we have already developed a physician assistant student rotation where students can learn with our Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare hospitalist team, and an internal medicine rotation as well. This is just the beginning."

In his new role, Svec will help guide the clinical mission of Stanford-ValleyCare, including the development of innovative programs, monitoring outcome measures and developing and implementing

improvement plans, hospital officials said.

"David is hardly a newcomer to Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, having been instrumental in the development of the hospitalist program over the past three years. He will continue to serve as a hospitalist while taking on additional responsibilities within his new role," Stanford-ValleyCare president Scott Gregerson said.

"David has already contributed significantly to our organization, and I am confident his impact will be further enhanced as we work together to broaden the reach and scope of services we provide in the growing Tri-Valley area," Gregerson added.

Svec lives with his family in Mountain View but they are



Dr. David Svec

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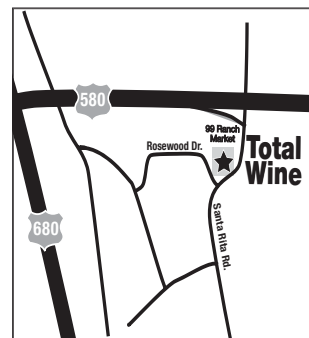
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COSTCO

Continued from Page 5

court to set aside the city's EIR certification and JDEDZ approvals and sign off on an injunction to stop the city from moving forward with the project while the civil case is pending. The citizen group also seeks attorney fees, costs of the suit and "any other relief the court deems necessary and proper."

Pleasanton city attorney Dan Sodergren said the city stands behind the EIR certification and JDEDZ approvals given by the council after "an extensive public review process" and "a robust environmental analysis."

"I believe that all of the issues raised in the lawsuit were more than adequately addressed in the environmental review completed for the JDEDZ," Sodergren told the Weekly. "The city will vigorously defend this lawsuit and will move forward with implementing the JDEDZ."

The two sides are currently scheduled for the first court appearance in the case in February, a case management conference in Oakland before Judge Frank Roesch at 9 a.m. on Valentine's Day.

In the meantime, city officials will work to prepare an administrative record of all documents related to the JDEDZ approval (which generally takes about two months), and then have another 30 days to respond to the suit, according to Sodergren.

Until an injunction is ordered by the court, the city could proceed with implementing the JDEDZ and

processing applications for any project, once the rezoning ordinance approved last week takes effect early next month, according to city staff.

The city-initiated JDEDZ proposal details rules for how redevelopment could occur at 12 parcels on Johnson Drive and Commerce Circle near the freeways' interchange, including a nearly 20-acre site left vacant when Clorox closed its research center there. Costco and a hotel developer have stated their intent to build on the former Clorox site now owned by Nearon Enterprises.

Sullivan has been critical of the city's JDEDZ consideration process, questioning the city's road infrastructure financing agreement with Costco and city officials' transparency during the public review in addition to the validity of the JDEDZ's environmental analysis.

That review process formally came to a close on Dec. 5 when the council voted 4-0 — with Mayor Jerry Thorne recusing himself — to adopt an ordinance approving a rezoning of the 40-acre site that included strict design guidelines that could help expedite city review of future projects in the marquee area.

Last week's vote followed a 4-0 council decision on Nov. 7 for final approval of the EIR, a General Plan amendment to allow new commercial uses at the site and a resolution declaring their intent to adopt a JDEDZ transportation fee some time down the line.

Sullivan's group began collecting signatures for their referendum in

the wake of the November vote, with clock ticking as of Nov. 13 — when the city clerk certified the documents approved by the council — to collect names from 10% of registered Pleasanton voters.

"It is a common strategy for cities to time approvals of controversial projects over the holidays to quash citizen referendum efforts," Sullivan said in the wake of his group's failed referendum attempt.

The petition aimed to be Pleasanton's second ballot measure related to the JDEDZ and new Costco. An earlier initiative from the Pleasanton Citizens for Planned Growth — unaffiliated with Sullivan's group — sought to limit retail stores in the JDEDZ to no more than 50,000 square feet, but it was defeated at the polls in November 2016, 63% to 37%.

City leaders and many residents pointed to the strong defeat of Measure MM as a sign the Pleasanton community at large supports bringing Costco to town and the JDEDZ concept overall.

But Sullivan and others contend the result of Measure MM could have been much different if residents had known the full scope of the final JDEDZ proposal, including a proposed term sheet with the Costco that includes a 60-40 sales tax sharing deal with the wholesale retail giant to cover a portion of the costs for road improvements needed to accommodate the full JDEDZ.

The JDEDZ consists of 12 parcels at 7106 to 7315 Johnson Drive and 7035 and 7080 Commerce Circle. ■

GARDENS

Continued from Page 5

one-bedroom cottages and a multi-story building.

Construction for the \$30 million second phase officially started

Monday, according to city of Pleasanton housing manager Steve Hernandez. The buildings that currently occupy the site will be leveled over the next couple months.

"Wet weather can certainly throw a wrench into the process, but if all

goes well they'll be done by April 2019," Hernandez said.

Pleasanton Gardens tenants have moved to the Kottinger Gardens Phase 1 property across the street while construction takes place. They will be given the opportunity to move back once the project is completed, according to city officials.

Fialho said the project would not have been possible were it not for a group of dedicated individuals.

"Bruce Fiedler, Brad Hirst, Dave Stark, Tim Hunt, the entire board of directors of Pleasanton Gardens, Inc., along with Abby Goldware and MidPen Housing, deserve our special thanks for helping us help senior citizens who want to age in place," he said. ■

VALLEYCARE

Continued from Page 6

planning to relocate to the Tri-Valley because they love the area. "We are all excited to join the community," he said.

He is board-certified in internal medicine, completed his residency at Stanford University and received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Svec has also received awards at the Stanford School of Medicine, including the 2016 David A. Ryland Clinical Teaching Award. ■

SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

November 2008 and was re-elected to her third four-year term in fall 2016.

In other business

- The board approved the district's first interim budget report with a positive certification, which indicates the district will meet its financial obligations this fiscal year and the following two years.

The California Education Code requires school districts to prepare interim financial reports as of Oct. 31 and Jan. 31 of each fiscal year.

In June, the board adopted the 2017-18 fiscal year budget, which anticipated \$145.4 million in general fund revenue and \$147.3 million in general fund expenditures.

Now those figures are projected at \$151.7 million and \$159.6 million, respectively.

District staff wrote in Monday's board packet that the expenditure budget increase is a result of carryover of unused funds from 2016-17.

"The majority of the carry-over balances and designations are budgeted in the supply and textbook accounts, and may be subsequently transferred to other accounts," staff wrote.

It was also noted as part of an updated multi-year budget projection that the district's costs for retirement benefits for both the California State Teachers' Retirement (CalSTRS) and California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) are projected to nearly double over the next several years.

Administrators confirmed Monday that so long as Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal set to come out next month doesn't contain any big surprises, the district will not be looking at having to issue layoffs this school year or next.

"Reading the news, there are a lot of districts that are struggling right now financially, so I appreciate the fact that we're not in that same situation," Miller said.

A second interim budget presentation is slated for March.

- Trustees heard a capital funds financial report highlighting revenues and expenditures from last school year.

According to the report, PUSD collected \$2.9 million in developer fees in 2016-17. Of that, \$1.5 million was spent on 2010 certificates of participation annual debt service payments and \$200,000 on capital leases.

District capital funds include the capital facilities fund, which accounts for developer fees; the deferred maintenance fund; the building fund; the county schools facilities fund; the sale of property or Sycamore fund; and the

special reserve fund for capital outlay projects.

- The board made several appointments in closed session.

Joseph Viviani was selected for a vice principal post at Harvest Park Middle School. He spent the last 11 years working as a social studies teacher at Dublin High.

Carla Henderson, who most recently worked as coordinator of college and career readiness for Oakland Unified, was named to a vice principal position split between Hearst and Valley View Elementary.

Kent Rezowalli was named interim director of special education. He served as PUSD's senior director of special education for 12 years before retiring in 2011. The following year he came out of retirement to serve as substitute director of Tri-Valley SELPA for three years.

Dorothy Epps was appointed interim director of human resources. She most recently worked as assistant superintendent of human resources for Pittsburg Unified before retiring in 2014.

Diana Arante, who most recently worked in human resources for San Ramon Valley Unified, was named administrative assistant in human resources.

Teresa Burke, who has worked in the district's child nutrition services department for more than 20 years, was named substitute coordinator of child nutrition services.

Juan Sanchez, who spent the last 10 years working in the maintenance and operations department for Milpitas Unified, was selected as the new manager of custodial services and operations.

Ellen Rebosura was appointed the coordinator of purchasing, warehouse and graphics. She most recently served as the purchasing manager for San Lorenzo Unified.

As part of the consent agenda later in the meeting, the board accepted the resignations of human resources director Aileen Parsons, effective today; special education director Marla Silversmith, effective Dec. 8; assistant director of special education Tara Kyle, effective Dec. 22; and director of child nutrition Brandy Campbell, effective Nov. 30.

- The board authorized the formation of a board facilities subcommittee and appointed vice president Arkin and trustee Steve Maher to serve on it.

Administration recommended the subcommittee "in order to enhance communications with the board of trustees regarding Measure 11, and the district's facilities and construction projects."

The subcommittee plans to meet monthly starting Jan. 17.

The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16. Monday's meeting was moved from the typical Tuesday to avoid conflicting with the first night of Hanukkah. ■

COME WORSHIP WITH US**Christmas Services****Advent Worship Service**

December 17 at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. with orchestra and chancel choir.

Christmas Eve Morning Service at 9:00 with hand bells and chancel choir.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 (families), 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. (with choir). Childcare provided at 5:00.

New Year's Eve Morning Service December 31 at 9:00

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The gift of a bus ride for the holidays

Program collects tickets for homeless in Tri-Valley

By JEREMY WALSH

Winter can be an especially difficult time for homeless residents.

Though many nonprofits, churches and other organizations stand ready to provide food, warm clothes, shelter and other support to these people in need during the holiday season, traveling to and from these locations can be tough during the cold, wet weeks of winter.

Livermore resident Jacky Poulsen

saw this trend in her community and decided to do something about the problem.

Poulsen, in partnership with Asbury United Methodist Church, has just launched her second annual holiday bus ticket drive to provide much-needed transportation help to homeless people in the Tri-Valley.

"Many homeless people and others in the Tri-Valley who struggle

with poverty have no vehicle," Poulsen said. "In many cases, there are services available to help these people (such as free meals, health care, showers and laundry), but they have no way to get there."

Poulsen said she and other organizers are hoping to build on the success of last year's inaugural drive, when they collected nearly 4,000 bus tickets — which, she noted, seems like a large number, but really translates to only about five round-trips daily throughout the year.

"Unfortunately the need is far, far greater," she said.

One of the beneficiaries is Livermore Homeless Refuge, a collaborative of four churches working to

provide a clean, dry, warm and safe refuge for people to stay overnight.

"I watched our homeless friends leave the shelter (one) morning, with bus pass clutched in their hand," Livermore Homeless Refuge coordinator Donna McKenzie said, reflecting on last year's bus ticket donations.

"It was raining and they must carry all their belongings with them," she added. "Had it not been for you and your very generous gift of bus passes, these folks would have been soaked. Once wet, they are wet all day."

Tickets from this year's drive will also be given to Open Heart Kitchen, Axis Community Health,

Tri-Valley Haven and Partners for Change. "The people in these organizations know their clientele and they are in the best position to know whom to provide bus tickets," Poulsen said.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates the Wheels bus system, has agreed to match donations up to \$1,500 total, worth more than 900 tickets, according to Poulsen.

To participate, donate money online at <http://bit.ly/2017bustickets> or mail a check made out to Asbury United Methodist Church with "Bus Tickets" in the memo field and send to the church at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore (94550). ■



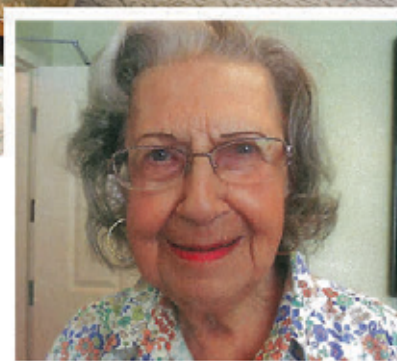
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Kaoru Masuda

April 28, 1920 – Nov. 29, 2017

Kaoru (Carl) Masuda, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family on November 29, 2017 at the age of 97. Kaoru was born in San Francisco and grew up in Pleasanton, CA, with his father farming hops on Hopyard Road, and in Cortez, a Japanese-American farming community (near Ballico, CA), where he, along with his wife Yuriko (Yamamoto) of 65 years, raised carrots, peaches and almonds, finally retiring from farming at the young age of 87. Kaoru and Yuri were active members at Cortez Presbyterian Church and Japanese American Citizen League (JACL), and enjoyed contributing towards their community and beyond. Through the years, Kaoru enjoyed traveling with the family, fishing, bowling and baseball in his youth, as part of the Cortez Wildcats. Kaoru was also part of the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment combat team ("F" Company) during WWII, participating in the "Go for Broke" rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains of France, and the liberation of both Bruyères and Biffontaine, France. For their heroic efforts, the 100th/442nd combat team and MIS (Military Intelligence Service) received the Congressional Gold medal in Oct. 2011. Kaoru is survived by his children, Agnes (Bob) Kiyoi of Santa Barbara, Calvin (Kathy) Masuda of Pleasanton, Ann Masuda (Russell Yamano) of Pasadena, 6 grandchildren and 23 nieces and nephews. Kaoru is predeceased by his wife, Yuriko; parents, Tomenosuke & Kazue Masuda, brother Seio Masuda; sisters Miye Tsubota and Ida Takahashi.



At Kaoru's request, private services will be held at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery and Turlock Memorial Park for family and relatives only.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Pleasanton police looking for suspects in driveway assault

The Pleasanton Police Department is asking for the public's help in finding three suspects whom they allege assaulted a woman in her driveway last week.

A resident of Chardonnay Drive — located near the intersection of Vineyard and Bernal avenues — was in her driveway around 8:15 p.m. on Dec. 7 when three black males approached her, according to a post Tuesday on the department's Facebook page.

Two of the males assaulted her while the third grabbed her purse. A neighbor heard what was happening and confronted the assailants, who fled in either a 1990's model Toyota Rav 4 or a Chevrolet Geo Tracker, according to police.

The assailants were described as having thin builds and were wearing sweatshirts with hoods pulled up over their heads, police said. About two hours after the assault, a neighbor saw several people matching the suspects' descriptions in the area of Grapevine Drive.

Anyone who believes they saw the culprits or has information about the incident, including any security camera footage in the area, is asked to contact the department at 931-5100. Reference case No. 17-50063.

In other police news

With the holidays in full swing, local law enforcement officials are reminding residents to watch out for Grinches looking to steal packages.

The Pleasanton Police Department and Alameda County Sheriff's Office recently shared tips to prevent package theft this holiday season:

- Track your package online

so you know its current location, when it goes out for delivery and when it's been delivered.

- Require a signature for all packages so they aren't left on your porch. You could also have them sent to a FedEx or UPS location, an Amazon kiosk or directly to the local store, or ask a trusted neighbor to pick them up.

- Consider installing a camera on your front porch and/or investing in a locking package container that can be bolted to the porch for deliveries.

- Start or join a neighborhood watch and/or join Nextdoor.com so you and your neighbors can be on the lookout for suspicious people in the neighborhood.

- Report suspicious cars following mail or parcel delivery vehicles to local law enforcement, as well as anyone tampering with mailboxes.

- If you have a package stolen, immediately report the theft to local law enforcement. ■

—Julia Brown

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 10

Theft

- 9:47 a.m. on the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
- 12:54 p.m. on the 3300 block of Hopyard Road

Robbery

- 3:56 a.m. on the 5200 block of Hopyard Road

Dec. 9

DUI

- 7:25 p.m. on Santa Rita Road at Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 9:05 a.m., 1700 block Whispering Oaks Way; theft from auto
- 10:37 a.m., 1300 block of Brookline Loop; theft from auto
- 2:35 p.m. at Old Vineyard and Vineyard avenues; theft from auto
- 3:58 p.m. on the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 6:49 p.m., 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Commercial burglary

- 2:07 p.m. on the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 2:28 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Domestic battery

- 2:56 p.m. on Segundo Court

Child abuse

- 10:26 a.m. on Hacienda Drive

Alcohol violation

- 1:09 a.m. on the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

Dec. 8

Weapons violation

- 10:19 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Theft

- 7:51 a.m., 500 block of Sycamore Road; theft from auto
- 11:16 a.m. on the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 2:08 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 3:22 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting
- 3:41 p.m., 5700 block of Gibraltar Drive; theft from auto
- 5:29 p.m. on the 2300 block of Sandpiper Way

Assault/battery

- 5:18 p.m. at Kottinger Drive and Second Street

Graffiti offense

- 12:16 p.m. on Santa Rita Road at Navajo Court

Fraud

- 10:15 a.m. on the 4400 block of Neal Court

Sex offense

- 9:20 a.m. on Valley Avenue

Commercial burglary

- 7:38 a.m. on the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Dec. 7

Theft

- 10:05 a.m. on the 6000 block of Kolb Ranch Drive
- 10:18 a.m., 4200 block of Casterson Court; theft from auto
- 3:20 p.m. on the 800 block of Sylvaner Drive
- 4:48 p.m., 6000 block of Johnson Drive; theft from auto
- 8:07 p.m. on the 3000 block of Chardonnay Drive
- 5:21 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Fraud

- 4:04 p.m. on the 6300 block of Paseo Santa Maria

Graffiti offense

- 9:45 a.m. on the 4400 block of First Street

Dec. 6

Theft

- 12:11 p.m. on the 8200 block of Sassafras Court
- 12:56 p.m. on the 9200 block of Longview Drive
- 2:05 p.m. on the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
- 8:13 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 9:43 p.m., 5600 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

DUI

- 6:54 p.m. on the 6000 block of Johnson Drive

Fraud

- 3:34 p.m. on the 100 block of Main Street

Alcohol violation

- 3:04 p.m. on the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Graffiti offense

- 11:11 a.m. on the 4200 block of Chapman Way

Dec. 5

Vandalism

- 10:41 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

ATTENTION USERS OF CALAVERAS ROAD

The Closure of Calaveras Road to thru traffic between Milpitas and Sunol has been extended to September 30, 2018.

The nine month extension is due to heavy winter rains and damage to a section of the road in this area that prevented hauling trucks from entering the site.

More details at
sfwater.org/Calaverasroad
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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY



Give to the 2017 Holiday Fund

This banner hanging across Main Street in front of the Museum on Main says it all. With Christmas fast approaching, it's also time to give to the Pleasanton Weekly's 2017 Holiday Fund.

Heather Greaux counts on help from the Holiday Fund. When it comes to Christmas, she isn't interested in receiving any presents — unless they're cans of vegetables or meat or other nonperishable foods or other contributions.

She's executive director of Open Heart Kitchen (OHK), one of the major relief organizations in the Tri-Valley that serves nutritious meals to those with minimum wage jobs or no jobs at all.

The organization is one of 12 beneficiaries of this season's Holiday Fund, whose contributions help feed hundreds of needy individuals, including seniors and school children. Although the local economy appears to be booming, Greaux's organization is the largest hot meal program in the area, serving more than 300,000 meals a year at 10 meal sites and 22 schools in the Tri-Valley.

"Our programs make a valuable difference to our neighbors in need," Greaux said. "The Holiday Fund helps us continue to provide nutritious meals to the hungry in the Tri-Valley."

OHK is faced with the same dilemma of other nonprofits: budgets hard-pressed to keep pace with the rapidly increasing numbers of needy they serve. These include some who just can't find jobs to match their skills; others who have been laid off; many who find that their higher gasoline bills and mortgage and rental payments make them reach out — if only temporarily — for the help the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund beneficiaries provide.

Altogether, the 2017 Holiday Fund will benefit 12 nonprofits, with contributions to be split between two tiers.

In Tier 1, the recipients that will share equally in 50% of total 2017 receipts are:

- Axis Community Health
- Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation
- Valley Humane Society
- ValleyCare Charitable Foundation

The Tier 2 recipients that will share equally in 50% of total receipts are:

- Agape Villages Foster Family Agency
- Hope Hospice
- Open Heart Kitchen
- REACH for Special Adults of the Tri-Valley
- Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley
- Sunflower Hill
- Tri-Valley YMCA

Again this year, the Weekly is partnering with Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which will handle all finances related to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. This will allow donors to take advantage of a tax deduction for the dollars they contribute through the foundation's 501(c)(3) nonprofit status to the fullest extent of the law.

Also, the Pleasanton Weekly and Silicon Valley Community Foundation are handling all costs of the campaign. That means that every dollar will go directly to the 12 nonprofits with no administrative expenses. ■

How to Give

As the Holiday Fund is a donor-advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, please direct your donations 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.
Or donate online at www.pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund.
** All donations will be acknowledged shortly after being received.

TAKE US ALONG



Happisburgh Owls: Isla and Molly Griston holding some owls (and the Pleasanton Weekly) at "Happisburgh Owls" in Norfolk, England.

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

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON



UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Council

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- **PUBLIC HEARING:** P17-0904, Stoneridge Properties, LLC (Simon Property Group) - Consider an amendment to the Stoneridge Shopping Center Development Agreement, governing an approximately 362,790-square-foot expansion, for an additional five years
- **PUBLIC HEARING:** E17-0604, Peter MacDonald - Consider an application for pre-annexation for sewer and water connections for a new single-family residence located at 622 Happy Valley Road
- Presentation and discussion of the City's unfunded pension liabilities
- Authorize staff and council subcommittee on refuse and recycling to finalize a tentative franchise agreement with Pleasanton Garbage Service for recycling and refuse services and approve a second amendment to the professional services agreement with HF&H Consultants, LLC
- Project status report and discussion of options for the Downtown Specific Plan Update
- Approve calendar year 2018 City Council Assignments and appointment of the Vice Mayor

**City Offices will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
Friday, December 22, 2017 and Monday, December 25, 2017**

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FALCON RISES



Michael Smith's long road back to the court after horrific leg injury

STORY BY DENNIS MILLER | PHOTOS BY MIKE SEDLAK

In the fall of 2016, Foothill High School's Michael Smith was living on top of the high school world. Smith was coming off a sophomore year that saw him play on both the varsity football and basketball teams for the Falcons, impressive achievements in the ever-important social circles around Foothill.

It was the start of his junior campaign and everything pointed to the 6-foot-2 Smith having an amazing, final two years of high school.

But that all changed in an instant in an early-season football game.

It was Sept. 9, 2016, and the Falcons were hosting Monte Vista in a showdown of East Bay Athletic League powerhouses.

Smith was involved in a play and took a helmet to his ankle. Life changed that fast.

"When I first realized I was hurt, I felt my ankle was just dangling there," recalled Smith, now a senior at Foothill. "I thought it might be a high-ankle sprain. Then when I found out I needed surgery, my heart dropped."

Smith suffered a broken fibula and a torn ligament that connects the fibula and tibia — far worse than a high-ankle sprain.

The family sought out three medical opinions, with the last coming from the well-known and respected Dr. Arthur Ting. Also known as the "doctor to the stars" because of the number of celebrity patients he has worked with, Ting told Smith he needed pins in his leg.

The surgery took place 10 days after the injury, and Smith was full of high hopes.

"I was hoping at that point to be back playing basketball by the first of the year," Smith said.

But it wasn't to be.

"By mid-November (2016), I had not progressed as far as I thought I should be progressing," he said. "I realized I had a nerve block, but it was taking longer than I expected for the numbness to go away."

This in turn was a defining moment for Smith. A lot of teenagers might have packed it in, feeling sorry for themselves and not focusing on the bigger picture. Smith chose to fight rather than settle for excuses.

"Every time (bad) thoughts came into my head, I kept telling myself not to think that and to stay positive," Smith explained. "I started pushing myself harder. I was up to seven different physical therapy

sessions over the course of five days at three different places. I kept thinking I would come back better."

That Smith increased his physical therapy and worked to get healthy rather than give up certainly didn't catch Foothill Falcons basketball coach Jason Wallis by surprise.

"He's a competitor," Wallis said of Smith. "He's got that fire you can't coach. I remember when he was a sophomore, he would come into the gym after football practice. He couldn't practice with the team yet because football season was still going on, but he would work on his shooting and dribbling on the side after he had been out at football practice. That's the kind of kid he is."



Smith speaks with assistant coach Bryan Colteaux during a home game against Tracy IQ improved while he was injured and watching his team from the bench.

Smith needed to be home-schooled some during his recovery, but he was able to stay associated with the Foothill basketball team by attending the games and sitting on the bench.

“Our goal was to keep him involved in the program,” Wallis said. “We asked him things during the game, like what he saw. I think when you can’t play, you get a lot different perspective of the game.”

Smith admitted those times did improve his mental aspect of the game, but there was still the fire burning to get back on the court. The long wait finally ended last May.

Smith’s Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team had a tournament in Reno that he attended without thinking of playing. Those plans changed when his coach asked if he wanted to play in a game.

Dr. Ting had given him clearance to do what he was comfortable doing, so Smith jumped at the chance to get on the court.

The results were mixed. It was incredible to be back on the court, but he found he still had a long way to go.

“I was slow,” Smith said. “I couldn’t do what I wanted.”

More disappointment, but once again, Smith kept plugging.

He took a break from basketball after May, but kept working on his rehab. He finally returned to the court and gave it another shot in summer league.

Once again, it wasn’t the successful return he was hoping for.

“Summer league was tough,” Smith said. “I still wasn’t the player I wanted to be. I wanted to be back strong for my senior year.”

There was one other aspect plaguing Smith as he was on the shelf for his junior year — college recruiting.

A starter as a sophomore, Smith figured to be among the elite players in the EBAL as a junior and senior.



Foothill’s Michael Smith returns as a starter in the basketball team’s home opener against Tracy after suffering a gruesome leg injury playing football.

To intensify the disappointment, the junior year is a prime time for college coaches to see prospective players, but that was gone out the window.

Undaunted, he pushed off the series of setbacks, persevered and found ways to make it work. Smith’s family sent him off to camps in Georgia and Texas in the fall to gain some exposure.

“I knew I needed to get out there,” Smith said of attending the out-of-state camps. “I didn’t have much to lose. No one knew me, but I just wanted to play.”

Smith was getting stronger — and healthier — allowing for improved play. Heading to those camps was the beginning of the return he had been searching for.

“I was feeling really good at those camps,” Smith said. “I had come a long way and was able to get some good film.”

Some colleges are taking note.

“I have been talking with some coaches,” Smith said. “I’m very excited about that.”

Fast-forward to the last couple of weeks, when the Foothill basketball team opened its 2017-18 season. Opening night, the Falcons hosted Tracy in a non-league contest, and though the Falcons lost the game, Smith was back as a starter, coming out of the gate like he had never been away.

There’s still some numbness, but to the casual observer, Smith looks

as good as ever and is ready to be one of the elite players in the area again.

“I’ve gotten better at some aspects — my first step, ball-handling,” he said. “I see things differently. My basketball IQ has gotten better.”

The hard, often frustrating, return to playing basketball has given Smith a new appreciation and perspective of life in general. It’s a lesson often lost on the youth of today,

but that’s far from the case with Smith.

“It was a character builder,” Smith said of the injury and the recovery. “I am very respectful and grateful for everything I have. I make better decisions and don’t take anything for granted.”

The lessons he has learned in turn could help benefit others when faced with the same daunting climb.

“I would tell them to put their

head down and work,” Smith said. “Keep working and see each month how far you have come. Don’t get distracted and keep focused.”

His comeback should be inspirational to many. Count Wallis as one.

“When he first got hurt, I was sending him stories about other athletes that came back from bad injuries,” Wallis said. “Now going forward, I will share his story to inspire kids when they get hurt.” ■



The Foothill senior says his basketball



Foothill players take a break in the action during a home game against Tracy.



Traditions



sequenced to music that features a miniature Ferris wheel, towering Christmas trees and a North Pole sign. The LED lights throughout the front and backyard are overseen by Capt. Eicher through an intricate computer system that helps them manage the power and create countless color combinations.

Past a giant red chair Widmer built himself ("When you sit in it it makes you look like you're 6 years old," he says), the backyard brims with lights and figurines. A walkway is lined with tables of Christmas-themed Disney and Peanuts paraphernalia. There's a light-up archway that leads to a room dedicated to model trains ("The kids love this," Widmer says) and another room with a large K'NEX Ferris wheel. Nativity figurines cluster in one corner of the yard, near a display of homemade wood decorations from the 1980s.

Amidst all the sights and sounds of Widmer World there are also special features like a scavenger hunt that is held every evening — except on nights when Santa makes a guest appearance.

"There are groups of people that will get their Santa photo done here (every year)," Widmer said.

Two years ago, Widmer World caught the attention of "The Great Christmas Light Fight," a reality TV show where large light displays around the country are featured and judged.

"That was an experience in itself," Widmer said. "We were filming in early October and trying to make it look like it was Christmas and it was 100 degrees in Pleasanton."

Although there's a lot of work that goes into Widmer World, it's a labor of love for the family. Capt. Eicher says being involved in the display setup is "a nice hobby" and he enjoys helping figure out a new aspect to change things up each year.

"Working in this profession you don't get to see people smile all the time," Capt. Eicher said. "But you see people smile as they walk through here."

Over the years the Widmers have seen people delighted over something that reminds them of their childhood and widows tearing up over a sight that makes them think of their spouse. Both verbally and through a guestbook, visitors express their appreciation for the display.

And it's the visitors that help make Widmer World possible every December.

"If it wasn't for people coming and having a decent time there's no way I'd be doing this," Widmer said. "To see people enjoy themselves and have a great time is great." ■



The wonderful world of Widmer

Family's Christmas lights display attracts thousands of visitors each season



STORY BY JULIA BROWN | PHOTOS BY MIKE SEDLAK

It's a blue-skied balmy afternoon, T-shirt weather that belies the calendar. But it's the week of Thanksgiving, which means it's crunch time in Widmer World.

"We're running to the last minute to get everything done," said Bob Widmer shortly after emerging from his workshop, atop which a sign sits reading "Grandpa's hideaway."

Every night during the month of December, barring inclement weather, the Widmers' home at 3671 Chelsea Court — where they've resided since moving to Pleasanton in 1979 — becomes a spectacle of lights, sights and sound. The front yard and backyard transform into Widmer World, a Christmas display on a grand scale.

It all began back in 1983, when Widmer and his wife Susan made wood cutouts of Santa, Mrs. Claus and a crew of flying reindeer and put them up along with some lights.

"We put it on the roof for a couple years, and then we just kept adding stuff," said Widmer, 73. "We got carried away I guess."

They filled up their front yard with lights and decorations, progressing into the side yard and then the backyard. Eventually the Widmers started letting people take a peek in their backyard.

In 2000 the family opened up their full backyard to visitors. Word about Widmer World spread, and Bob gained "expert decorators" as his daughters and grandchildren started getting involved in the prep work.

Now, Widmer World sees 15,000 to 17,000 visitors each season, many of whom are out-of-towners in the Tri-Valley to see family for the holidays or residents of nearby communities who want to check out the unique display for themselves.

"Some nights it's pretty hairy and the line (of people waiting to get in) goes down to the corner," Widmer said. "I don't think we ever wanted it to get quite that big."

Still the Widmers embrace their popularity, setting up their display year after year with a combination of homemade and store-bought decorations and mixing in different assortments so it's never exactly the same each season. They've accumulated so much holiday decor over the years that Widmer estimates there are three sheds' worth of items that won't get put to use this season.

In August with the holidays still far from most people's mindsets, the family started preparing this year's display. Widmer's wife Susan is the painter and "fine tuner," he says, helping create and spruce up decorations. Widmer and son-in-law Craig Eicher, a captain for the Pleasanton Police Department, are responsible for moving boxes and bins of decor to their respective spots. The Widmers' daughters, Kimberly and Kristine, handle the setup. Granddaughter Micaela Widmer has also pitched in.

The setup was nearing completion last month as Widmer toured the scene.



In the front yard sits a light display



The Widmer family's Christmas lights display at their home on Chelsea Court attracts visitors from all over.

Widmer World

What: Widmer World, a Christmas lights display

When: 6-9 p.m. nightly (weather permitting) through Dec. 31. Santa will be visiting tonight and Saturday, as well as Dec. 22-23.

Where: 3671 Chelsea Court
Cost: Free, but donations are appreciated

To learn more, visit www.widmer-world.com.



Traditions



Are there any particular holiday foods or traditions that you are especially looking forward to this year?



Skylar Cohen
Operations manager

Oh, definitely. I've been communicating with my friends to organize a party where we can get all of our young adult children (who are in their 20s) together, at the same time, in the same place, for a Hanukkah party. We did this routinely when the kids were little, but as they all get older and busy with their own lives, this gets more and more difficult to do. We're all looking forward to it, and to sharing that special time together.



Ben Weller
Retail sales

I am so looking forward to the white elephant party my family hosts each Christmas Day. It is mostly joke/gag gifts, but we all enjoy it thoroughly. I think I experience more laughter, joy and merriment during those few hours than I do for the entire rest of the year. I wouldn't miss it for anything.



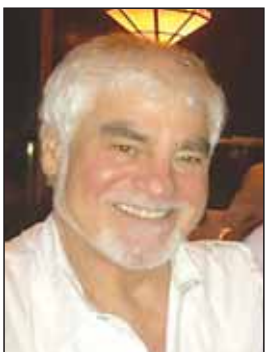
Erika Alvero
Reporter

Yes! I am planning to get together with family. We are of Cuban descent and really enjoy preparing Cuban food together. One of our holiday favorites is flan, which we will be making together and eating together this Christmas.



Rodrigo Carillo
Biomedical technician

Oh yes. My family's custom and tradition each year on Christmas Day is to walk around the block together, a few times, carrying empty suitcases. It raises a few eyebrows around the neighborhood, for sure, but it serves as a nice reminder to us that life revolves in a continuous circle that never ceases, and that no matter where in the world we are, and no matter what losses we have suffered, and even if we have nothing more than empty suitcases, so long as we are together, we are comfortable and at home.



Don Davidson
Lawyer

Absolutely. I'm the patriarch of my family, so everyone comes to us for a traditional and festive holiday meal each year, where we all share with one another the highlights and successes of the past year, as well as our failures and shortcomings, so that we can learn from those negative experiences. It is overwhelmingly positive and I can assure you that no one ever leaves hungry.



Logan Miller
High school student

Absolutely! I'm looking forward to my family's annual road trip to Southern California to visit and catch up with our relatives down there, and to sit down with my dad at the kitchen table and polish off a half gallon or so of eggnog together.



Carmen Guandique
Business owner

Yes! My family has a tradition of spending Christmas Day in our pajamas. It is the one and only day of the entire year that we don't get dressed and leave the house in order to work hard and earn money to survive. Instead we spend the day entirely together, in the comfort of home, not working, and in our PJ's, enjoying one another's company. I look forward to this every year.



Sandra Davis
Retired

I'm looking forward to spending time in the kitchen with my daughter and granddaughters, teaching them how to make our most special Hanukkah food — potato latkes — so that they can pass this tradition along to future generations and keep it going forever.



Yaneth Tomas
Cashier/food server

On major holidays like Christmas my family gets together and our tradition is to all eat foods that are different and unfamiliar to us. This year we have planned to try Brazilian food. I am so looking forward to it, and to spending time with my family.



Julia Thompson
Small business owner

I always am eager to go to midnight Mass at my church. I've gone every year for as long as I remember. I love this service's message of promoting peace on earth, and somehow, one way or another, I am able to sing all of the hymns beautifully and on key this one night of the year. My best friend, who usually accompanies me, refers to this phenomenon as a Christmas miracle!

—Streetwise compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness



PLEASANTON PREPS

BY DENNIS MILLER



Amador wrestling places second at Bay Area tournament

Soccer: Foothill boys win Winter Classic, Amador girls continue undefeated start

The Amador Valley High School wrestling team had a great day last Saturday, taking second place at the 32-team Bay Area Wrestling Tournament.

Donovan Lucente led the way as the champion at 113 pounds, and Dons' teammate Cameron Ghodoucy finished second in his weight class.

Other top finishers were Devon Dyliacono (third), Jackson Butler (fourth), Tyler Self (fourth), Kyle Jordan (fifth) and Chris Reese (seventh).

Foothill boys soccer

The Foothill High boys soccer team brought home the title of the Winter Classic with a thrilling victory in penalty kicks over Richmond last Saturday.

The game was a defensive struggle against a quick and skilled Richmond squad, ending regulation time in a scoreless draw.

In penalties, both goalies saved three of the first five penalty kicks, before both teams dialed it in. In the ninth round, Foothill goalkeeper Owen Camp blocked a hard shot to the upper corner, then walked to the mark and drilled in the winning shot.

Other Falcons making their kicks were Brandon Chen, Ryan Jackson,

Braeden Maas, Sergio Fleta and Joseph Lemus.

Foothill advanced to the finals with a 2-1 win over Castro Valley in the semifinals.

In the first half of the semifinal match, Fleta weaved through defenders in the right corner and fed the ball to Davis Wollesen who slid it across the goal for Jackson to tuck in at the far post.

Foothill's second-half goal was nearly a mirror image of the first. Josh Shields dribbled past three defenders on the left end-line while defender Bradley Russo raced the length of the field down the right side. Shields hit the ball to Wollesen, who turn laid it off to Russo for the goal.

Amador girls soccer

The Amador girls soccer team ran off another pair of wins last week to move to 5-0 on the young season.

The Dons started the week with a 4-0 win over Castro Valley on Dec. 5. Kieran Wallace scored twice, with Kate Reedy and Allison Jones getting one goal each.

In their second game of the week, the Dons battled with James Logan, coming away with a 3-2 win.

Keara Greenan scored the first goal for the Dons, with the second

goal coming off an assist from Jones to Sydney DeVor. Wallace came through with the game-winner for the Dons.

The defensive effort was led by Julia Gonsman (committed to UC Berkeley as a sophomore) and were able to hold off a final charge by the Colts.

Foothill girls soccer

The Falcons beat Newark Memorial in their home opener, coming away with a hard-fought 2-1 win over the Cougars last week.

Quinn Lombardi and Sarah Mirr led the attack against a very good opponent who controlled the mid-field much of the match.

Newark got off to a fast start, taking advantage of an early counterattack to take a 1-0 lead. The Falcons knotted the match up just five minutes later when Lombardi finished a corner kick from Kira Broacha with a left-footed volley that found the corner of the goal.

Mirr put the Falcons ahead to stay with a finish after receiving a pass from Drew Pagtakhan.

In their second match of the week, the Foothill girls beat Alameda 1-0. The winning goal was scored by Aly Marzocco off an assist from Mirr.

Dons cross country

The Amador cross country team ended their season on Nov. 25, when three runners competed in the CIF State Championships at Woodward Park in Clovis.

Junior Aidan Boyle, sophomore Derica Su and freshman Hope Bergmark all competed as individuals. All three are in their first season of cross country running, and all hope to return to cross country next year.

Pleasanton athlete honored

Trevor Kryslar of Pleasanton received the UT San Diego All-Academic Award.

The Union Tribune All-Academic Award is awarded to all junior and senior varsity athletes with a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.00 and higher. Kryslar is from the class of 2018 at the Army and Navy Academy. ■

Dennis Miller is a contributing sports writer for the Pleasanton Weekly. To contact Miller or submit local high school sports scores, game highlights and photographs for his weekly Pleasanton Preps column, email him at acesmag@aol.com.

Tri-Valley team wins league's first girls hockey title

10-and-under Lady Blue Devils take SoCal championship in shootout



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lady Blue Devils 10U squad won the 2017 Lady Ducks Fall Classic Hockey Tournament, giving the Tri-Valley girls program its first title banner.

BY JEREMY WALSH

One of the Tri-Valley's youngest all-girls hockey teams has earned a place in Lady Blue Devils history by bringing home the program's first-ever tournament championship.

The 10-and-under squad won the 2017 Lady Ducks Fall Classic Hockey Tournament in Southern California over Thanksgiving weekend on the strength of three consecutive shutouts, including a thrilling shootout victory in the title game.

"I am beyond excited for these girls to see success of their effort," said head coach Alex Kaplenko, who also serves as Lady Blue Devils hockey director. "Many of them have been with us from the early days of the program and are developing into strong hockey players and confident women while building lifelong memories and friendships."

"This is an incredible day for the Lady Blue Devils program," added Dave Curtis, president of the Tri-Valley Minor Hockey Association. "The dedication to building this program from the directors, coaches, players and parents over the past years is the reason for the success of this program."

The tournament got off to an inauspicious start for the Lady Blue Devils, who lost their opening game to the San Diego Gulls 3-1 — which team officials joked could have been a "post-Disneyland hangover" for the girls. The competition was held a bit outside Anaheim in Lakewood on Nov. 24 and 25.

The young hockey players regained their focus in their next two games, beating the San Jose Junior Sharks 8-0 and the Anaheim Lady Ducks 3-0 to finish round-robin play with a 2-1 record to earn a spot in the championship game.

There the Lady Blue Devils had the chance to avenge their loss to the Gulls, who got through round-robin play undefeated.

And the local girls took advantage. The two teams battled through regulation play and sudden-death overtime without a goal, meaning the championship would hinge on a shootout.

The Lady Blue Devils' Jazlynn Jefferson, who dominated on offense and defense all tournament, scored the only goal in the shootout to give her team the title.

The victory gave Lady Blue Devils goaltender Alexandra Fernandez her third shutout in a row.

Tri-Valley's Cali Byrd led the division in points with five goals and two assists in the competition.

In addition to Jefferson, goaltender Fernandez and Byrd, the Lady Blue Devils consisted of Kayla Baumann-Norris, Adriana Fernandez, Andrea Fernandez, Natalia Frost, Amber Kaplenko, Cora Kerton, Anna Markova, Sofia Tichauer, Madison Wingerd and Haley Woelkers.

Alex Kaplenko's coaching staff also featured Matt Jefferson, Reto Baumann, Derek Kerton and Nick Byrd, and Suzanne Wingerd served as team manager.

The Lady Blue Devils draw from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville, Walnut Creek and Brentwood.

Founded in 2013 with just 20 players, the Lady Blue Devils now boasts more than 100 girls across 8U, 10U, 12U and 14/16U teams. The girls ice hockey program competes under Tri-Valley Minor Hockey Association that plays at Dublin Iceland and Livermore's Tri-Valley Ice. ■

2017 PLEASANTON WEEKLY Readers' Choice

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Concerts

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: GLORIA. SONGS OF PRAISE A concert for the whole family to celebrate the joys of Christmas. Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Presented by the CCOP Music Ministry, featuring the Adult Choir, Teen Choir, Children's Choir, Cantors, and Instrumentalists. A free-will offering will help defray concert expenses. More information, please visit our website at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH Sing along performance of Handel's Messiah, featuring the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m., San Ramon Community Center Fountain Room, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. San Ramon. Tickets: \$10.00; www.sanramonarts.org.

Talks & Lectures

VIRTUALLY SPEAKING TOASTMASTERS Virtually Speaking Toastmasters Club meets from noon to 1:00 p.m. every Thursday at Electrical Reliability Services, 6900 Koll Center Pkwy., Suite 415. Everyone is welcome to come see what a positive change Toastmasters can make in their confidence. Call 580-8660.

Fundraisers

EVENING OF ANGELS FUNDRAISER The Kiona Foundation will host the 5th Annual Evening of Angels Dinner Fundraiser with former NFL player Boo Williams on Saturday Dec. 16 at the Reinstein Ranch in Livermore from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Founded by Dr. Lakisha Jenkins, who lost her first-born child, Kiona T. Jenkins to chemotherapy treatment in 2006. Reserve spots now before they are filled. For more information, visit www.flipcause.com.

HOLIDAY POP UP SHOP Blue Oaks Church, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, and Valley Community

Church have started taking sign ups for Holiday Pop-Up Shop, held on Dec. 16, which will enable parents to hand-select and wrap gifts for their loved ones, and provide basic necessities including food and clothing donated by individuals and businesses in the surrounding community. Anyone can contribute. Residents of Pleasanton and Dublin who might need a little extra support this season can register online at www.toyshop.team or in person at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy.

Family

COMMUNITY SHABBAT POTLUCK DINNER & HANUKKAH SHABBAT Celebrate Shabbat Hanukkah with Beth Emek at the Community Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., 3400 Nevada Court. Prior to Shabbat services, we invite you to come for a potluck dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to eat great food and connect with the Beth Emek community. Following dinner, we'll light Hanukkah menorahs and celebrate Shabbat with lots of Hanukkah songs and fun. www.bethemek.org.

5TH NIGHT HANUKKAH: YOUNG FAMILY CELEBRATION Make the fifth night of Hanukkah about giving, rather than receiving. Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court. At this Hanukkah celebration, we will work together to make gifts for those less fortunate while gathering together to celebrate the Festival of Lights. We will have Hanukkah songs, a group menorah lighting, and enjoy a celebratory Hanukkah meal together. \$30 per family, includes dinner and craft materials. www.bethemek.org.

Seniors

MEN OF BREAKFAST Join the Men of Breakfast or MOB at 8:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month for a cup of coffee and friendly discussion at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353

Sunol Blvd. Bring a newspaper and whatever topics pique your interest. Call 931-5369.

Business

ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING Pleasanton is known as a city of planned progress, resulting in a community that successfully integrates a thriving residential population within a robust business environment. Companies choose Pleasanton for its competitive advantages as highlighted in our Pleasanton Economic Assets Report. Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m., Remillard Conference Room, 3333 Busch Road. admin@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Community Groups

ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION BRANCH 285 The Italian Catholic Federation, Branch 285, a social/philanthropic organization, invites those who love all things Italian to join us for a potluck and guest speaker evening at 6 p.m., the third Friday of the month at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Judy at 462-2487.

PLEASANTON NEWCOMERS CLUB Meet your Tri-Valley neighbors, have fun and learn more about our beautiful community. Open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include monthly coffees and lunches, day trips, games, book club, wine club, shared interest groups, community service, outdoor activities such as hiking, bocce, walking, and golf. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. For dates and times contact 215-8405 or pnewcomers@gmail.com. Go to www.PleasantonNewcomers.com.

PLEASANTON NORTH ROTARY We meet every Friday for lunch 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Handles Gastropub, 855 Main Street. Learn more about us online at: www.pnr-rotary.org. Public Relations

PET OF THE WEEK



ALLIE'S PALS

Wake up with Maggie

Maggie is 6 months old, totally outgoing and confident; she's eager to meet new people and do new things. She's a happy little girl with tons of energy who's always purring, sure to provide hours of fun and games. Maggie is spayed, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV and FIV, current with her vaccinations, treated to prevent fleas, and litter box trained. Maggie is available for adoption through Allie's Pals Cat Rescue. Contact Terri at terriduncan@yahoo.com or 487-7279.

Contact: Stacey Blaney, 872-4036, [email:stacey@denalidatasystems.com](mailto:stacey@denalidatasystems.com) or call 519-0669.

AL-ANON AND ALATEEN Have you been affected by someone's drinking? Al-Anon and Alateen offer hope and strength for families and friends of problem drinkers. Contact 277-7661 or help@AlanonTriValley.org. Go to www.alanonTriValley.org.

ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY BOARD MEETING The Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Zone 7 offices, 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore. Board meetings are open to the public. Community members may provide comment on any agenda item, and may address the Board about non-agenda items during each meeting's Citizens Forum. Agendas are posted at least 72 hours prior to meetings.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF AMADOR VALLEY All ladies are invited to join this dedicated group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at The Parkview, 100 Valley Ave. Contact 461-6401 or assistanceleagueamadorvalley@yahoo.com.

MOM2MOM MEETINGS Moms and grandmothers of all ages are welcome to join the Mom2mom group based on the Titus 2 women, where the older moms are mentoring the younger moms. Parenting tips, guest speakers, crafts and practical life applications. Meetings are 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the first and third Wednesdays of the month at Harvest Valley Church, 3200 Hopyard Road. Contact Valerie Fleming at 484-2482 ext. 121 or valerie@harvestvalley.org.

of each month to give free 15-20 minute consultations. Appointments are by lottery. Register from 5:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m., names selected at 5:50 p.m., 400 Old Bernal Avenue. Call 931-3400, ext. 7.

Health & Wellness

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about this common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us from 10 a.m.-noon on the third Saturday of each month, in Conference Room 112 at the Alcosta Senior & Community Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. For more information, view their blog at www.eastbayet.com, call 487-5706 or email eastbayet@comcast.net.

LUPUS AND FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP Weekes Library - 217300 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, (off Tennyson Road). Contact: janetip510@yahoo.com. Next meeting Dec. 16, 12:00 p.m.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI) TRI-VALLEY NAMI Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group meets for parents with children to age 17 diagnosed or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the third Tuesday of each month at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 114. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. For more information contact Marsha McInnis at 980-5331 or marsha@nami-trivalley.org.

Sports

WEDNESDAY FUN RUN Weekly Wednesday Fun Run. Five miles around Dublin. Families and pets are highly encouraged. All levels. Meet-up time: 6:15 p.m., start run: 6:30 p.m. Dick's Sporting Goods, 2820 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Bring water. trivalleyrunning.org.

Lessons & Classes

LAWYERS IN THE LIBRARY Members of the Alameda County Bar Association visit the Pleasanton Public Library on the third Tuesday

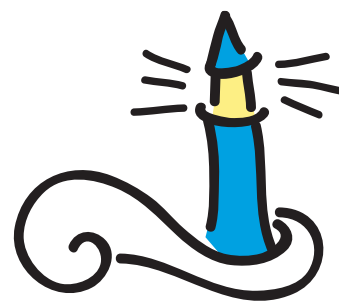


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Classic rock Christmas

December People will give two shows of "A Classic Rock Christmas" at the Firehouse Arts Center, both at 8 p.m. tonight and tomorrow. The event is also a food drive to benefit Open Heart Kitchen, with barrels in the lobby to collect canned goods. Organizers suggest five or more cans per ticket to get a photo taken with band members, who will perform holiday favorites in the style of rock 'n' roll hits. Tickets are \$30-\$40. Go to www.firehousearts.org, call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office, 4444 Railroad Ave.

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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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Stop OVERPAYING
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Jobs

500 Help Wanted

BIOINFORMATICS SCIENTIST
Bioinformatics Scientist for Roche Sequencing Solutions, Inc., Pleasanton, CA. Req: PhD in Bioinformatics, Computational Bio, Comp Sci, or rlted + 6 mos. exp. Apply: http://applyroche.com/00454673 (Job ID: 00454673)

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER
Principal Engineer sought by Ellie Mae, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA to cntr to prdct dvp team & dsgrn/dvlp soft apps. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com, ref 50237

QA Engineer
QA Engineer: Bach. in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engr., or rlted. & 5 yrs. rlted. exp. Hitachi High Technologies America, Inc. Job in Pleasanton, CA. CV to Kristin.Reusser@hitachi-hita.com. EOE - Females/Minorities/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities

SR. STORAGE ENGINEER
Sr. Storage Engineer sought by Ellie Mae, Inc. in Pleasanton, CA. Ensr avlbty, relabty, sclbty & mnglbt of dta strg envrnments. Aply to www.jobpostingtoday.com, ref 34645

525 Adult Care Wanted

Caregiver for Adult with special needs
Part time caregiver needed in Pleasanton family home: Monday through Thursday, 3:30-6:30 for a 35 year old female with special needs-cerebral palsy/wheelchair. Fridays and week ends as needed but not required. Driving to appointments desired but not required. Must have valid California drivers license and auto insurance. Total care required: feeding, bathing, dressing, changing. Duties also include meal prep, light housekeeping, laundry for her special needs family. Female applicants ideal. Very competitive pay. Will run background check. Please email with resume to apply: or phone (925) 997-4194.

560 Employment Information

AIRLINE CAREERS
begin here - Get started by training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

Business Services

601 Accounting/ Bookkeeping

Accounting/Bookkeeping
NEED HELP WITH QUICKBOOKS? NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO small CALL LINDA 925-918-2233

624 Financial

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Work to Repair Your Credit Report With The Trusted Leader in Credit Repair. Call Lexington Law for a FREE credit report summary & credit repair consultation. 855-620-9426. John C. Heath, Attorney at Law, PLLC, dba Lexington Law Firm. (AAN CAN)

Do you owe over \$10,000
to the IRS or State in back taxes? Our firm works to reduce the tax bill or zero it out completely FAST. Call now 855-993-5796. (Cal-SCAN)

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Up to \$2,671/mo. (Based on paid-in amount.) FREE evaluation! Call Bill Gordon & Associates. 1-800-966-1904. Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., member TX/NM Bar. (Cal-SCAN)

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Real Estate

801 Apartments/ Condos/Studios



Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA
518 Everett Ave APT B, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Charming one bedroom apartment just two blocks from University Ave. APT B unit with hardwood floors throughout. This place has a nice size living room with a closet, dining area connected to full size kitchen with garbage disposal and plenty of cabinets. There is a full size remodeled bathroom. There is on-site free washer/dryer, parking space available contact Via

Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOME CLEANING SERVICE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 537966 The following person doing business as: MOUNTAIN HOUSE HOME CLEANING SERVICE, 4000 PIMLICO DRIVE STE 114-212, PLEASANTON, CA 94588, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby registered by the following owner: APRIL LARSSON, 4000 PIMLICO DRIVE, STE 114-212, PLEASANTON, CA 94588. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT: APRIL LARSSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on NOVEMBER 15, 2107. (Pleasanton Weekly, NOVEMBER 24, AND DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 2017)

HEALING INTENTION BODYWORK FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 537544

The following person doing business as: HEALING INTENTION BODYWORK, 164 RAY ST., PLEASANTON, CA, 94566, ALAMEDA COUNTY, is hereby registered by the following owner: AIMEE AUSTIN GRAJEDA, 4075 VINEYARD AVE #22, PLEASANTON, CA 94566. This business is conducted by an Individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name listed herein. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRANT: AIMEE AUSTIN GRAJEDA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on NOVEMBER 3, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, 22)

SIGNATURE MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No.: 538486

The following person doing business as: SIGNATURE MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES, 5729 West Las Positas Blvd., #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588, Alameda County, is hereby registered by the following owner: Kerrie Watkins, 5729 West Las Positas Blvd., #303, Pleasanton, CA 94588. This business is conducted by Kerrie Watkins, an Individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name listed herein December 4, 2017. Signature of Registrant: Kerrie Watkins, Owner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on December 4, 2017. (Pleasanton Weekly, Dec. 15, 22, 29, 2017 and Jan. 5, 2018).



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

Just call **925-600-0840**

Pleasanton Weekly

OPEN HOMES

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS		
1801 Crestline Road	\$725,000	
Sat/Sun 1-4	Margene Rivara	200-6916
4 BEDROOMS		
7589 Highland Oaks Drive	\$1,990,000	
Sat 1-4/Sun 12-3	Julia Murtagh	997-2411
5 BEDROOMS		
3726 Oak Brook Court	\$1,190,000	
Sat/Sun 2-4	Joyce Jones	998-3398
3720 Raboli Street	\$2,499,000	
Sun 1-4	Fabulous Properties	980-0273/519-8226



Are you buying or selling a home?

Visit PleasantonWeekly.com and click on the **Real Estate** link to find: sales information, current listings, open homes, virtual tours and more!

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Oct. 23-27)

Total sales reported: 16
 Lowest sale reported: \$535,000
 Highest sale reported: \$2,735,000
 Average sales reported: \$1,264,844

Sunol (Oct. 23-27)

Total sales reported: 1
 Lowest sale reported: \$755,000
 Highest sale reported: \$755,000
 Average sales reported: \$755,000

Dublin (Oct. 23-27)

Total sales reported: 17
 Lowest sale reported: \$550,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,957,000
 Average sales reported: \$948,353

Livermore (Oct. 23-27)

Total sales reported: 28
 Lowest sale reported: \$373,500
 Highest sale reported: \$1,850,000
 Average sales reported: \$782,768

San Ramon (Nov. 16-20)

Total sales reported: 16
 Lowest sale reported: \$400,000
 Highest sale reported: \$1,800,000
 Average sales reported: \$948,438

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Oct. 23-27.

Pleasanton

- 3668 Ashwood Drive** C. Delin to V. Patibanda for \$995,000
- 5555 Baldwin Way** H. Higgins to R. Bliss for \$810,000
- 5662 Belleza Drive** J. Lewis to K. Raghunathan for \$691,500
- 5548 Blackbird Drive** K. & C. Kim to R. Pedapati for \$1,150,000
- 923 Crellin Road** Doppee Trust to T. Huynh for \$1,195,000
- 4352 Fairlands Drive** C. Jeffries to S. Gourineni for \$756,000
- 19 Golf Road** Murphy Trust to Rodgers Trust for \$1,700,000
- 3540 Mercato Court** M. & S. Monahan to D. Parrode for \$2,735,000
- 715 Montevino Drive** G. & M. Marzullo to V. Signore for \$1,648,000
- 3190 Montpelier Court** C. Rodriguez to M. Krishnan for \$1,100,000
- 4271 Pleasanton Avenue #C** C. & K. Kyer to D. & N. Bernardi for \$575,000
- 2389 Romano Circle** Bell Trust to W. & Y. Ho for \$1,795,000
- 1006 Shotwell Court** W. & M. Dykstra to G. Stork for \$2,260,000
- 3312 Smoketree Commons Drive** V. Hsiao to J. Imazumi for \$535,000
- 471 St. Mary Street** J. Felton to J. Karsner for \$1,580,000
- 4240 Zevanove Court** M. Ramaswamy to P. & S. Kolluru for \$712,000

Sunol

2955 Kilkare Road S. Vanfleet to K. Tsao for \$755,000

Dublin

- 8712 Augusta Court** C. & D. Fritter to B. & D. Barbero for \$1,035,000
- 11532 Bay Laurel Street** E. Handman to J. & J. Cyr for \$1,300,000
- 5338 Campus Drive** N. & B. Damle to L. & M. Hardy for \$830,000
- 3421 Castleton Court** S. Nayabkhal to H. Shah for \$1,145,000
- 2212 Central Parkway #104** LS-SF Jordan Ranch to A. & N. Masubuchi for \$853,500
- 2216 Central Parkway** LS-SF Jordan Ranch to V. Rachabattulasrihar for \$804,500
- 2220 Central Parkway** LS-SF Jordan Ranch to J. Chen for \$688,000
- 4185 Font Court** R. & S. Joshi to S. Pillai for \$921,000
- 8160 Holanda Lane** C. & N. Watkins to D. & C. Fama for \$800,000
- 6079 Kingsmill Terrace** M. & F. Razaqi to T. Ma for \$1,957,000
- 7630 Landale Avenue** Rivera Trust to T. Bhuthimethee for \$900,000
- 8498 Longford Way** Olson Trust to K. Taylor for \$797,000
- 10846 McPeak Lane** R. Singh to V. Kommaraju for \$705,000
- 7025 Stagecoach Road #D** G. & J. Campbell to T. Marsden for \$550,000
- 4327 Trolan Lane** Pulte Home to V. MacHerla for \$1,001,500

Source: California REsource

Helping Sellers and Buyers in the Tri-Valley

**JUST LISTED ~ GORGEOUS HIGHLAND OAKS HOME
 OPEN SAT 1-4PM & SUN 12-3PM**



7589 Highland Oaks Drive, Pleasanton

4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2025 Sq. Ft. | 6200 Sq. Ft. Lot

Welcome to this gorgeous "Highland Oaks" Home, located in one of west Pleasanton's favorite neighborhoods. Enjoy 4 Large Bedrooms and 2.5 Bathrooms in the main house and a large additional building outside (200sq. ft.) to use as an Office, Gym, Playroom or 5th bedroom. There is an updated kitchen with Corian counters, stainless steel appliances and custom cabinetry. The spacious back yard is perfect for kids to play, space for gardens and nice for outdoor entertaining. Walk to award winning Lydiksen Elementary, Highland Oaks Swim Club and Muirwood Park.

Listed for \$ 1,990,000 | www.7589HighlandOaks.com

COMING SOON IN 2018

- ✓ Darling upgraded Gold Creek Condo ~ 3/2 great location in development, walk to Mall and BART.
- ✓ Charming home in West Pleasanton with a beautiful garden like back yard. Located on a court, walk to Lydiksen and Foothill. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, upgraded with style.



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3726 Oak Brook Court, Pleasanton

Located in one of Pleasanton's Finest Neighborhoods...Pleasanton Meadows. Features 5 bedrooms (1 bedroom with small closet), 2.5 bathrooms, updated kitchen with granite counters and lots of cabinets for storage. Backs to greenbelt with walking trail, tennis courts, playground and community pool. Call today for private showing.

Offered at: \$1,190,000

Happy Holidays!

If you are thinking of buying or selling, let me know. I'd love to help.



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Our Neighborhoods

An annual magazine featuring the neighborhoods of Pleasanton and surrounding areas.

Coming inside your Pleasanton Weekly on **February 23, 2018**



Our Neighborhoods showcases selected neighborhoods and captures the particular qualities that make it unique.

Each Neighborhood profile includes local features — such as parks and shopping centers — and a fact box including the median home sale price, how many homes were sold and the nearby schools.

Our Neighborhoods is a great resource for current residents or those looking to relocate to the Tri-Valley.

Pleasanton Weekly

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

Get your ad featured inside Our Neighborhoods. Learn more by calling: **Call 925.600.0840**

JUST SOLD



6 Beds | 5 Baths | 4,455sf. | 3-Car Garage



956 SUMMIT CREEK PLEASANTON

Bridle Creek Neighborhood

Court Location, close to Downtown. Upscale design with curving staircase, porches and butler's pantry. Main level offers office & guest suite. Upstairs w/ Master suite, 3 bedrooms and large bonus/media room. Private yard overlooking the Valley. No rear neighbors in view.

Sold for \$2,190,000

PENDING



2 Homes | 1 Lot

2347 7TH STREET, LIVERMORE

Custom built in 2017. Two homes, 1 Lot. Main home offers 3BD/2.5BA 2,515sf. Open floor plan with top of the line finishes. Guest home offers 2BD/2BA 1,420sf. Potential for 3rd bedroom. Central courtyard, wrap around porch, vaulted ceilings, entertainers dream & gourmet kitchens, walk to downtown. Representing buyers. \$1,549,000

PENDING 18 OFFERS



3 Beds | 2 Baths | 7,448sf. lot

18 TRINITY CIRCLE, LIVERMORE

Spacious and open floor plan. Single story with vaulted ceilings and a spacious back yard complimented with side yard access. New carpet, dual pane windows, updated baths, spacious closet space and a private back yard with beautiful landscaping and mature trees.

JUST SOLD



4 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,575sf. | 13,885sf. lot

474 AMARAL CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

Downtown Pleasanton

Fixer Upper. Premier location with a peaceful setting and walking distance to Main St. Backing to a seasonal creek the deep lot offers easy expansion options. Side yard access. Needs TLC. Sold \$905,000



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PLEASANTON VALLEY



JUST CLOSED

1757 GREENWOOD ROAD, PLEASANTON

Location, Location, Location. This Highly Updated Single-Story Country Model in Desirable Pleasanton Valley Neighborhood offers a Recently Remodeled Kitchen (2016), Three Bedrooms, Two Remodeled Baths, Hardwood Floors, Crown Molding, Plantation Shutters, Spacious Rear Yard with Stamped Concrete and Pergola. The Adorable Front Porch allows you to enjoy a Cup of Coffee or a Glass of Wine. Located Walking Distance to All Levels of Schools, Shopping, Post Office, Neighborhood Parks and Downtown Pleasanton. For More Photos and information go to 1757greenwood.com or call the Blaise Lofland Group for a Private Showing.

JUST CLOSED AT \$1,142,000

MOLLER RANCH



SOLD

5751 ATHENOUR COURT, PLEASANTON

Premium Location! Don't Miss this Three Bedroom, Plus Office (4th area), Two and One-Half Bathroom Single Family Home in The Western Hills of Pleasanton Ridge off Foothill Road. This Property Backs to Tree Lined Open Space. Private Rear Yard with Patio, Brand New Interior Paint & Carpeting, Fireplace, Balcony, Central Air Conditioning, Tile Roof, Professionally Staged. Conveniently Located for Commute Access to 580/680 Interchange, BART's Western Station, Stoneridge Mall and Just Minutes to Main Street and Several Livermore Valley Wineries!

SOLD FOR \$1,150,000

MISSION SAN JOSE



JUST CLOSED

2382 CASTILLEJO WAY, FREMONT

Desirable Mission San Jose Home with Five Bedrooms and 2 1/2 Bathrooms and approximately 3160 Square Feet. Large Great Room with window Wall. Large Downstairs Bonus Room. Premium .39 Lot (17,120) at End of Court Location. Private Rear Grounds with Views of San Francisco Bay and Natural Parkland. New Paint and Carpeting. Three Car Garage. In-Ground Swimming Pool, Patio & Decking. Preferred Schools Attendance Areas. Convenient access to Downtown & Commute Access. For a Private Showing, Contact-The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. For More Information and Photos, go to www.2382castillejo.com.

JUST CLOSED AT \$1,675,000

ST. JOHNS PLACE



SOLD

4105 PLEASANTON AVE., PLEASANTON

Like New-Customized Downtown Home! Recently Remodeled Bathrooms & Gourmet Kitchen-GE SS Appliances! Travertine Floors, Plantation Shutters, Upgraded, Crown Molding, Newer Wrought Iron Stair Bannister, Anderson French Doors, Upgraded Lighting, Closet Organizers, Expanded Front Porch with New Large Walnut Front Door, Covered Outdoor Living Area with Paver Patio, Beautiful Landscaped! Premium Lot in the Neighborhood! Adjacent to Park! Walk to Main Street! Downtown! Don't Miss this one. It's Turn Key and exceptional! For More Photos and information go to 4105pleasanton.com or call the Blaise Lofland Group for a Private Showing.

SOLD FOR \$1,325,000

VINTAGE HEIGHTS



SOLD

715 MONTEVINO DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group Represented the Buyer in the Purchase of this Attractive Custom Built Home In Family Friendly Vintage Heights. Four Large Bedrooms Plus Den And 3.5 Bathrooms. This Open Floor Plan Home Is Tastefully Upgraded in Crowned Molding, Baseboards & Plantation Shutters Throughout. Updated Granite Slab Gourmet Kitchen W/ Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island, Recessed Lighting, Hardwood Floors, Three Fireplaces, 1 Full Bedroom And Bath Downstairs, Gorgeous Master Suite W/ Retreat Area, Stunning Master Bathroom, Soaring Ceilings, 3 Car Garage, Beautiful Rear Grounds With Peaceful Sitting Areas & Pergola, So Much To List! Too Many Features And Updates.

SOLD FOR \$1,648,000

WESTSIDE ALAMO



SOLD

21 SUSAN COURT, ALAMO

The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group represented the buyers! The beautiful expanded & remodeled single level Home is located on large .60-acre lot with spacious private rear grounds with newer pool & spa. Privacy is provided by the gated driveway and conveys an estate impression. Three Bedrooms, two bathrooms, plus office with fireplace. Approximately 3500 Square Feet, with Expansive Great Room offers the blending of a large gourmet kitchen and family room for entertaining. The owned solar system provides energy savings. Just a short walk to downtown Alamo and children can attend quality schools.

SOLD FOR \$2,175,000

CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS



SOLD

6900 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON

Upgraded Single Level in Castlewood Heights by Pulte Homes in 2002 Five Bedrooms, Four Bathrooms, Approximately 3249 Square Feet, Finished Four Car Garage* Large Open Family Room (with Fire Place)/Kitchen Great Room Concept. Gourmet Kitchen with Granite Countertops and Stainless Steel Appliances, Large Master Suite with Recently Remodeled Master Bathroom, Newer Wood Style Tile Flooring and Extensive Woodwork Throughout. Guest Suite with Private Bathroom, Updated Secondary Bathrooms, Large Laundry/Mud Room, Beautifully Upgraded Landscaped Side and Private Back Yard, Backs to Natural Community Open Space, Large Side Yard Lawn Area and Play Structure, Occupied But Immediate Possession Available. For More Information and Photos, go to 6900riddell.com. For a Private Showing Call, the Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group.

SOLD FOR \$1,725,000

DOWNTOWN



SOLD

474 AMARAL CIRCLE, PLEASANTON

Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group represented the Buyer in the Purchase of this Original Condition Single Level Home on Premium .32 Acre Lot. Super Location on Amara Circle in Downtown Pleasanton. Tremendous Potential with this Three Bedroom, Two Bathroom Home. Plenty of Room for Expansion and Remodeling with this Oversized Lot. Lots of Mature, Large, Beautiful Trees on Neighboring Lots to Enjoy! For more information, contact the Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group!

SOLD FOR \$905,000

HILLSDALE



SOLD

235 CROYDEN DRIVE, PLEASANT HILL

Location, Location, Location! Don't Miss This Three Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Home with approximately 1302 Square Feet. Located in Quiet Mature neighborhood that's Close to Everything! Premium Nearly One Quarter Acre Lot (10,005 Square Feet). New Paint & Carpets, Updated Kitchen, Large Rear Yard & Covered Patio Central Heat & Air Conditioning. For a Private Showing, Contact-The Blaise Lofland Real Estate Group. For More Information and Photos, go to www.235croyden.com

SOLD FOR \$760,000



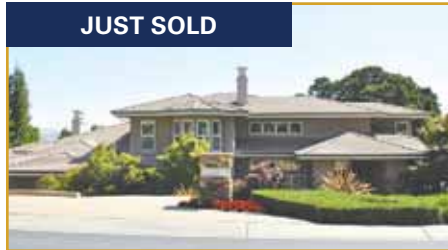
*Wishing you peace and happiness
this holiday season and beyond.
If your plans for the New Year
involve selling or buying a home,
we would be honored to discuss
it with you!*



PENDING SALE
1035 Sycamore Creek Way
Elegant one story Mediterranean style home w/ 4 BR, 2.5 BTHS, and large private .39 Acre lot
Offered at \$1,795,000



JUST SOLD
6155 Club House Drive
Gorgeous modern one story custom home with pool, spa, guest house, and incredible views!
Offered at \$2,650,000



JUST SOLD
2109 Black Oak Court
Exquisite modern custom with 4 BR + office & bonus, premium .94 Acre lot with amazing views
Offered at \$2,550,000



JUST SOLD
5756 Hanifen Way
Elegant 5 BR, 4 1/2 BTH luxury home in Sycamore Heights on .42 Acre lot with spa
Offered at \$2,020,000



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\$2,536,600

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3750 Smallwood Court, Pleasanton
\$1,855,000

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2478 Foothill Road, Pleasanton
\$1,750,000



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Team Leader/Realtor



Liz Venema
Team Leader/Realtor



Kim Hunt
Team Manager/Realtor



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