

Pleasanton Weekly



VOL. XVIII, NUMBER 50 • JANUARY 5, 2018

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Make a Difference in the new year

Event next weekend presents 34 local volunteer opportunities

Page 11



5 | **NEWS** Foothill considers bell schedule changes

14 | **HOLIDAY FUND** Donations approach \$60,000

17 | **SPORTS** Bittersweet homecoming for Piscotty



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TIM TALK



By TIM HUNT

Frustration grows in crowded Dublin

Frustration levels are running high for some Dublin residents, driven by over-crowded schools that they believe are exacerbated by continuing residential growth.

Dubliners United, a political action committee, initiated recall efforts aimed at City Councilmen Don Biddle and Abe Gupta last month. The group also targeted school trustee Dan Cunningham with a recall because of what they termed inappropriate behavior.

The underlying issue is the failure of the school board during the planning process for East Dublin to insist upon a school site east of Camp Parks.

The board, at that time, instead decided to expand and improve Dublin High to have one large high school. Somehow those responsible ignored the sprawling Parks Reserve Forces Training Area that divides Dublin and results in only Dublin Boulevard and Interstate 580 being east-west routes. All the Dublin High-bound traffic must take one of those two routes — the majority choosing Dublin Boulevard.

When I asked former Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti about the decision, he recalled how frustrated Councilman George Zika was at the time. Sbranti related that Zika asked school district officials three times about a high school on the eastside and finally acceded to their plan for one large high school.

That has proven to be a planning disaster of the first degree. Student projections for both East Dublin and the Dougherty Valley in San Ramon have been shown to be way too low. In both districts, I believe those responsible used the best data they had at the time, but the demographics shifted, and many more children are in the new areas. Both districts have added more schools than originally planned in the new areas.

Sadly, for Dublin, there are two challenges:

1. Finding a suitable site that is large enough and at a reasonable price.

2. Coming up with the money to build it if a site can be located.

It's unfortunate that the school board, last year on a 3-2 vote, chose not to pursue a vacant office building that could have been converted

into a school. Some parents complained that it was a dangerous site because of its proximity to Santa Rita Jail. Somehow, you do not read any similar concerns from the hundreds of residents living across the street or the nearby elementary school.

The school district now has a task force working to determine alternatives to build a high school in East Dublin.

Meanwhile, Dubliners United has launched signature-gathering campaigns (they need 5,800 valid signatures) to recall Cunningham and the two councilmen.

The irony is that both Gupta and Biddle have terms ending in November this year. Biddle is termed out, having served since 2008, although he floated the idea of the council discussing whether to put a measure on the ballot to modify or eliminate term limits. Incidentally, Biddle served 13 years on the school board before taking an 18-year hiatus from public service.

Term limits were approved by voters in 1996. Given the popularity of term limits across the state, it's doubtful that either a majority of the council or voters will go there.

The council recalls, assuming the signature-gathering is successful and the election is consolidated with the primary in June, would have an effective time of less than six months. It's not worth the effort unless the effort is a preamble to build support for a different slate of candidates in November.

That's not the case with Cunningham, who was elected in 2016. Whether his behavior and what recall supporters describe as conflicts with teachers and residents rise to the level of a recall will be determined by whether people sign petitions.

Unfortunately, recalling all three would only send a message — it would do nothing to alleviate the overcrowding. That's up to the Dublin school board, working in conjunction with the City Council, to solve. ■

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

Offering residents a chance to learn more about dozens of local nonprofit and service organizations, the annual Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival is set to take place Jan. 13 at the Pleasanton Public Library. Photos by Michelle Suski. Cover design by Paul Llewellyn.

Vol. XVIII, Number 50



Happy New Year!

I look forward to my 23rd year of serving my clients and wonderful hometown community.



Gina Piper

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You're invited to our guest lecture series on topics related to senior care. Reap the benefits of an expert's perspective and receive the support of others whose families are experiencing similar life circumstances.

A Living Trust Checkup/The Joy of Less

January 11, 2018 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Jay Roadarmel, Wills, Trusts, and Probate Attorney, identifies the four legal documents every senior needs and how to identify and repair a broken estate plan. Kim Falahati, owner of Family Matters, is the one-stop shop to help seniors transition; she delivers ready-to-cook Paleo meals under 600 calories, downsizes, packs, and organizes the move.

Senior Housing Options

February 8, 2018 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Susan Tamaoki, a Certified Senior Advisor, describes some local options for senior housing and offers some tips on how to pay for it.

Social Security Benefits

March 8, 2018 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Anthony Carr, CPA, CFP®, EA, will discuss the various claiming strategies available for those filing for either retirement, disability, spousal, ex-spousal, survivor, and dependent benefits. Learn the rules and eligibility requirements that can help you make better informed decisions about the important topic of social security.

A question and answer session will follow each presentation and a light supper will be served. Please RSVP.

With Christina Rice, Seniors Real Estate Specialist, MBA, Graduate, Realtors Institute (GRI), BRE 01934850

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Is there anything special you are really looking forward to in the new year?



Ward Welles, *Finance*

I'm looking forward to seeing some of my high school friends in February, whom I haven't seen in over 30 years. It is for a sad reason — a memorial service for a classmate who recently died of brain cancer. But spending time with my old buddies, reminiscing about the past and appreciating our good health and our seemingly shiny futures, is a bit of a silver lining.



Shreyas Saxenas
Engineer

Oh yes. I am new to the Bay Area. I am so looking forward to creating a new life for myself here, to exploring my new surroundings, and to making new friends and developing new interests and hobbies in the place I now call home.



Julia Thompson
Lawyer

I'm looking forward to skiing several times on fresh powder in Tahoe, and to conquering the Dead Tree Double-Black Diamond run at Squaw Valley. I've been thinking and dreaming about it for years, but this year I'm actually going to do it.



Bracken Welles
Middle school student

I'm looking forward to competing in a Regional Robotics Competition against an arch-rival school, and beating them. They beat us last year, but I think this year our technology is better and more advanced, and that we can get them good.



Cruce Langford
Retired

Absolutely. If all goes well and my rheumatoid arthritis does not get the best of me, I'll be celebrating my 90th birthday in August. All of my children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are planning to travel from all over the country to be with me to celebrate this major milestone. I can't imagine a better gift than that.

—Compiled by Nancy Lewis and Jenny Lyness

Have a Streetwise question? Email editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ©2018 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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DIGEST

PUSD workshop

The Pleasanton school board will meet for a facilities workshop at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the district office boardroom at 4665 Bernal Ave.

At the special meeting, trustees are expected to discuss student enrollment as of December as well as the Measure 11 school facilities bond project list. The list, approved by the school board in 2016 and outlined in the ballot language, includes safety and security upgrades like new fire alarm systems as well as marquee projects like the Lydiksen Elementary School rebuild and a new elementary school.

No formal action will take place Saturday, but the board may provide direction to district administrators on Measure 11 projects.

The workshop is open to the public. The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16.

Religion Chat

Interfaith Interconnect is set to host its January Religion Chat next Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. at the Hindu Community and Cultural Center in Livermore.

The event topic will be, "What behaviors will get you thrown out of your religion? How has it changed through the years?" Speakers will be Gaurav Rastogi, presenting a Hindu perspective, and Moina Shaiq with a Muslim point-of-view. Following the presentations, there will be time for attendees to share in small groups.

Doors will open a half-hour early and close a half-hour after the presentation to allow attendees a chance to visit with each other. The free event will take place inside the Kedarnath Room in Building D at the center, 1232 Arrowhead Ave.

For more info on the event or the group's interfaith collaboration, visit <https://interfaithinterconnect.weebly.com/> or its Facebook page.

ARTSFUND grants

The Alameda County Arts Commission is accepting applications for its 2018 ARTSFUND Grants Program, offering contributions of \$1,000 to \$2,500 each to county-based nonprofits.

The program supports all types of arts programming such as dance, literature, media arts, music, theater, visual arts, and multidisciplinary arts programs presented in Alameda County. Funding is provided by the county, individual contributions from residents submitted with county property tax payments and donations to Foundation for the Arts in Alameda County.

The application deadline is March 1. Visit www.acgov.org/arts. ■

Foothill weighs bell schedule changes

School plans to send out survey this month before considering formal proposal

By JULIA BROWN

A later start time? An "access" period? Adding brunch to the day?

These are among the ideas the Foothill High community is weighing as school officials explore whether to formally propose changes to the bell schedule next school year.

The concept of a new bell schedule was first approached in the spring, around the same time the Pleasanton school board approved Amador Valley High's proposal to pilot an access period underway this school year.

The 40-minute class period every Wednesday and Thursday serves as advisory time for Amador students to connect with teachers, work on assignments, seek help from counselors or pursue other

wellness-related activities. The addition to the schedule was meant to target student stress and address other needs, school staff said upon bringing their proposal to the board last winter.

To implement the access period, Wednesdays and Thursdays were shifted from traditional school days with all six regular periods to a modified block schedule where students have the access period and one half of their classes. Most students now also have a "late start" on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with classes beginning at 8:50 a.m. and ending at 3:01 p.m.

Seeing the changes being made across town at Amador, Foothill officials began exploring the possibility of their own bell schedule change

with an initial meeting last April, according to principal Sebastian Bull.

But further research was put on hold when Foothill's principal at the time, Jason Krolikowski, was appointed the new head of San Ramon Valley High School in Danville. Bull and other school officials reapproached the matter in the fall.

"We picked it back up again this fall just to explore and see the possibility and what the interest level may be and the need for it at the school," Bull said. "From our 'Healthy Kids' survey done every two years, there's an indication that there is a lot of student stress — it comes up quite a bit."

In October, the school set up a committee comprised of Foothill teachers, staff and parents to help

with the exploration. In November and December, the committee visited high schools that have adopted new bell schedules in recent years — Amador, San Ramon Valley and Dougherty Valley — to learn more about changes that were implemented and how things have worked out.

Following those visits, the committee's research to date was presented to staff and parents for initial feedback.

At this juncture, Foothill does not have a formal proposal for the 2018-19 bell schedule, Bull said. The school is planning to survey parents, students and staff about a possible modification after classes resume from winter break on Tuesday.

See **BELL SCHEDULE** on Page 7



JEREMY WALSH

Sunrise of Pleasanton opened its newest senior living community in October at the corner of Stoneridge Drive and Foothill Road.

Sunrise Senior Living arrives in Pleasanton

Long-awaited opening comes just in time for NorCal fire victims

By JEREMY WALSH

It's been almost three months since Sunrise of Pleasanton opened its doors — and more than three decades since the senior housing company first eyed a new facility here.

And the long-planned residential complex at the corner of Stoneridge Drive and Foothill Road finished not a moment too soon for some of the most vulnerable seniors impacted by the Northern California wildfires this fall.

Construction was just about wrapped up on Pleasanton's newest senior care community in early October when disaster struck in Sonoma and Napa counties, leaving seniors at the company's Sunrise Villa Sonoma assisted living facility needing to evacuate.

In a stroke of fortune amid the chaos, Sunrise Senior Living found itself with an all-but-completed complex in Pleasanton without any residents, about a

week out from its official opening date.

So the company scrambled to put together key finishing touches and work with city, fire and state agencies to accelerate early permitting to allow Sunrise of Pleasanton to temporarily house 65 Sunrise Villa Sonoma residents until the wildfires dissipated.

"It was really a great coordination

See **SUNRISE** on Page 9

DSRSD saves \$9.8M in bond debt

Move comes just ahead of new tax law prohibiting such refinancing

By ERIKA ALVERO

The Dublin San Ramon Services District's recent debt refunding will save the district nearly \$10 million over the next few decades, officials said.

The refunding process, which involved refinancing the district's outstanding 2011 water revenue bonds, was finalized Dec. 28 — just days before a new federal tax law provision prohibiting such refunding takes effect.

The money savings come from the new bonds' lower interest rates — resulting both from lower rates market-wide and the newly improved credit rating on DSRSD's bonds. Specifically, the savings come out to an estimated \$9.84 million over the next 24 years.

Sue Stephenson, DSRSD spokeswoman, said they are "very happy" about the situation.

"That's \$10 million we don't have to charge our customers," she said.

The debt was initially incurred in order to build the district's share of the Jeffrey G. Hansen Water Recycling Plant, the plant's facilities and a few potable water facilities.

See **DSRSD** on Page 8

PUSD expands adult and career education offerings

More ESL courses on tap, plus new online classes in various subjects

By JULIA BROWN

With the start of the new year come new offerings from PUSD's Adult and Career Education Department as it gears up for the spring semester.

For the first time, the district is partnering with lern.org and YouGotClass to offer fee-based online

classes and certificates in the areas of career education, parent/guardian education and personal advancement. Subjects include bookkeeping basics, Spanish for health care professionals, certificate in web design and more.

Start dates for online classes vary, with many beginning in February.

Fees vary depending on the class, according to Adult and Career Education Department assistant director Beth Cutter.

"We realized (adding online courses) would allow us to offer some more specific classes and to really expand what we could do," Cutter said.

She added, "The nice thing about it is any one organization like Pleasanton Adult and Career Ed doesn't need to fill the class with just their own community members ... We're able to offer this to our community without having to fill the classes."

Also among the department's new offerings this coming spring semester are two additional English as a second language (ESL) courses, bringing the total to 13. One is a daytime class called "Advanced Bridge to College" — to help students transition from adult school to community college — and the other an evening class that could be focused in writing, conversation or pronunciation depending on student interest, Cutter said.

ESL classes, which are free, begin the week of Jan. 22. Placement testing is mandated for new students and will be offered Jan. 10-11 and Jan. 16. Preregistration is required.

Cutter says the department continues to see demand for ESL courses.

"Some of our daytime classes are already full with a waitlist," she said. "There will be some people that do the placement test that won't get into a class, but they'll have priority for next go-around."

The department is also bringing back classes newly introduced in the fall.

The "Exploring Health Care Careers" course, which provides students with a basic overview of human health, the health care system and affiliated careers, runs Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School from Feb. 15 to May 24. Taught by career technical education teacher Laurie Erceg and Joe Carlucci of Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare, the course fee of \$129 includes required textbooks.

Community education classes like conversational Mandarin, knitting and crocheting will also be part of the slate of offerings once again.

And for those looking to encourage friends and family to sign up for classes, the department is now offering gift certificates that can be purchased online, according to Cutter.

Cutter said it's "been an exciting couple of years" since PUSD restored the Adult and Career Education Department thanks to renewed state funding in spring 2016.

"We have found that there's been an unmet need and we're excited to be working to meet that," she said.

For more information on offerings, including class start dates and fees, visit adulthoodeducation.pleasantonusd.net. To register for classes, go to bit.ly/PACE-Classes. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Getting ready to graduate: Back in 2012, current Amador Valley High School seniors Derek Shue, Harrison Wu, Kevin Zheng and Justin Shue took a cruise to the Bahamas when they were besties in middle school. While enjoying the beach, they did not forget to catch up with the news from their hometown.

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.

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Pleasanton company acquires ParaGard contraceptive for \$1.1B

Move rounds out CooperSurgical's portfolio in women's and family health, firm says

By JEREMY WALSH

The Cooper Companies Inc., a firm headquartered in Pleasanton, recently announced it completed its proposed purchase of the assets and global rights and business of the ParaGard contraceptive device from Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. for approximately \$1.1 billion.

The acquisition brings the first contraceptive device to the company's CooperSurgical division, rounding out CooperSurgical's portfolio of women's and family health care products and putting the division on track to become a billion-dollar company itself, according to Cooper Companies officials.

Cooper also announced it obtained a \$1.425 billion, five year senior unsecured term loan to fund the ParaGard acquisition, to provide working capital and for general corporate purposes.

ParaGard is a prescription

intrauterine contraceptive that provides birth control through a T-shaped, copper-releasing device placed in the uterus that can prevent pregnancy for up to 10 years.

Cooper officials say purchasing the intrauterine copper contraceptive will help push CooperSurgical revenues over \$600 million as well as result in about 30 new employees and two new facilities coming online in Buffalo, N.Y. and West Chester, Pa. to support ParaGard.

Headquartered in the Stoneridge Corporate Plaza on Stoneridge Mall Road, The Cooper Companies has more than 10,000 employees with products sold in more than 100 countries. A global medical device company publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange, Cooper operates through two business units: CooperSurgical and CooperVision. ■

LAFCo set to consider municipal service review report

Commission also recruiting for new public member

By JEREMY WALSH

The Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) is set to meet in Dublin next week to talk about its report that evaluates all Alameda County cities' ability to serve current and future residents and recommends updates to their spheres of influence.

In Pleasanton's case, LAFCo's municipal service review (MSR) report finds the city in solid shape to meet its service requirements while also recommending creating a new overlapping sphere of influence with the city of Livermore in the quarry area between the two municipalities.

Public review of the final report comes as the commission — on which Pleasanton is well represented — announced it is recruiting residents interested in serving on the commission as its public (non-government) member. Applications are accepted through Feb. 2.

The commission is a local agency that reviews proposed changes to boundaries of cities and other governments within the county, such as annexations. Commissioners include local elected officials from throughout Alameda County, though the agency is separate and

under its own control or authority.

Its MSR report includes service determinations and recommended sphere of influence (SOI) updates for all 14 cities in the county.

For Pleasanton, the report notes the city anticipates "it adequately serves all areas within its municipal boundary and SOI and anticipates it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future." Pleasanton is expected to grow 0.9% between 2010 and 2030, when the population will exceed 75,000, according to the report.

"Overall, the City of Pleasanton appears to be in positive fiscal health," the MSR report states.

"As with other cities in Alameda County, rising pension costs are expected to continue to reduce funding for other priorities," the report adds. "Overall, the city of Pleasanton appears to have sufficient financial resources to continue providing services, as well as to accommodate infrastructure expansion, improvements or replacement."

The report does recommend LAFCo consider amending Pleasanton's eastern SOI and the city of Livermore's western SOI to incorporate an overlapping SOI for the quarry area between the two cities.

"This report further recommends that LAFCo encourage the two cities to develop written agreements regarding future land uses and service needs in this area," it states.

The LAFCo meeting is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. next Thursday (Jan. 11) in the Dublin San Ramon Services District boardroom at 7051 Dublin Blvd. in Dublin. The MSR report can be viewed online at www.acgov.org/lafco.

LAFCo opening

The commission is recruiting for a resident, unaffiliated with local governments in Alameda County, to serve as its public member.

"The public members represent all Alameda County citizens in an objective and impartial manner. Applicants must be residents of Alameda County, and cannot be a current board or council member, officer or employee of Alameda County, a city or special district in Alameda County," LAFCo officials said.

The commission has seven regular voting members: two county members named by the Board of Supervisors, two city members selected by the Mayor's Conference, two special district members and one public member. There are also

BART fares go up 2.7%

Free Clipper cards at local station Monday

Fares increased for BART riders in the new year, with everyone paying 2.7% more than in 2017, according to the transit agency.

The minimum fare will rise to \$2 for adults, \$1 for youth between 5 and 18 years old, and 75 cents for senior or disabled Clipper card users.

The youth discount was extended starting last Monday for people up to 18 years old after previously being only for children between the ages of 5 and 12. Children 4 and under will remain free on BART.

To encourage the use of the cards and cut down on fare gate maintenance cuts related to

paper ticket jams, 50 cents are being added in the new year for each ride using BART's blue paper tickets.

BART staff will be handing out free Clipper cards at East Bay stations in the upcoming days, including at the eastern Dublin-Pleasanton station from 4-7 p.m. this coming Monday and at the Bay Fair station from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday.

People can go to clippercard.com to get a card, find in-person locations or find out how to get a discounted card for youth, seniors or disabled riders, according to BART. ■

—Bay City News Service

four alternate members (one each of county, city, special district and public).

Pleasanton's representation on the commission includes Mayor Jerry Thorne, Supervisor Nate Miley and public member Sblend Sblendorio, a practicing attorney based in Pleasanton. Former Mayor Tom Pico is a commission alternate.

LAFCo is accepting applications for the public member seat through 5 p.m. Feb. 2. The commission plans to review each application

and supplemental questionnaire and then conduct interviews the week of Feb. 19.

The commission typically meets on the second Thursday of every odd-numbered month at 2 p.m. in Dublin. The public appointment term is four years. Commissioners receive \$100 stipends per meeting.

The application is available through the LAFCo website. For additional information, call 510-271-5142 or email Sandra.Hou@acgov.org. ■

BELL SCHEDULE

Continued from Page 5

The surveys will ask for participants' thoughts on concepts like a modified block schedule, access period, a late start and brunch — all of which are a part of Amador's current bell schedule.

Administrators and the schedule committee plan to examine the survey results at the end of the month and go from there, Bull said.

"There's some definite interest and also some valid questions or concerns about what the structure would be," Bull said when asked about initial feedback regarding a potential change. "Most people are intrigued at this idea of an access period or support period, but the logistics of it is the part we'd have to work through."

At Amador, school officials report that response to the new bell schedule this year has been largely positive, though some concerns remain.

Asked in a survey whether the access period has reduced the level of academic stress for their child, 86.7% of Amador parents responded yes, according to results provided by PUSD spokesman Patrick Gannon. In the same survey, 88.8% of parents said they would currently support continuing the access period beyond this school year.

The survey was taken by 241 parents.

A fall survey of 74 Amador teachers found that 47 fully support continuing the access bell schedule, 11 still had questions regarding the schedule and 16 did not support continuing it as is. Concerns included implementing better structure for students during the access period and a preference to end the school day earlier than 3:11 p.m. on traditional days.

Amador is still compiling the results of a student survey on the subject, Gannon said.

Asked for his thoughts on how the access bell schedule is going so far, Amador principal Mike Williams said he is "very encouraged by the positive response our Amador community has had."

"Students and parents have been able to connect further with teachers and use the adjusted schedule to seek out additional support and catch up on academics," Williams said in a statement. "We look forward to reflecting on our pilot semester with staff in January to determine the best next steps for Amador Valley."

Should Foothill change its bell schedule next school year, the move will need to get the approval of the school board. Bull said the school has been told it would need to bring a proposal to the board by March for possible implementation in 2018-19.

If the school hasn't settled on a proposal by that point, "we'd wait and make sure it's done

properly," Bull said.

"The biggest thing I've told people is I don't want to do it just to do

it; we want to make sure we have a schedule that's best for everybody," he said. ■



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fleetwood Mac hits at Firehouse

Cover group Fleetwood Mask is set to perform the best of Fleetwood Mac — from favorites like "Rhiannon," "Don't Stop" and "You Make Lovin' Fun" to early gems that harken back to their early days as a British blues band — next weekend at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton. Fleetwood Mask has been personally endorsed by Mick Fleetwood because of their passion and performance style. The shows are set for 8 p.m. Jan. 13 and 2 p.m. Jan. 14. Tickets \$25-\$35. Visit www.firehousearts.org or call 931-4848.

TAKE US ALONG



Peggy's Cove: Gary and Janet Sears (with little travel buddy Smokey Bear) at Peggy's Cove Lighthouse in Nova Scotia, Canada. They were visiting the area for a family wedding.

New BART rules to deter fare evasion now in effect

Riders must be ready to show proof of payment or face citations, fines

BART's ordinance that passed in October took effect Monday to deter fare evasion by requiring proof of payment inside paid areas of stations and on-board trains.

Any person inside these paid areas must be prepared to show a magnetic stripe ticket or Clipper card with valid fare on them.

The BART Board of Directors passed the payment requirement on Oct. 26. It was agreed upon that there will be a one-month grace period when violators of the ordinance will be warned instead of cited.

Adults who fail to show proof of payment in paid areas or on a train will be issued a civil administrative citation if it is the first and second violation within any 12-month period. Once an individual has more than two civil citations, BART police can issue a criminal citation.

Juveniles will be cited just civil

administrative citations when they fail to provide proof of payment.

Proof of payment will be enforced by fare inspectors, or unarmed community service officers employed by BART. They will go through training prior to this ordinance's inception.

The fare inspectors will have the authority to issue civil citations but not criminal citations. However, they can call upon a BART police officer for assistance in extenuating circumstances.

Fare inspectors will proceed from one passenger to the next nearest passenger and check as many as possible on trains as well as on platforms. They will activate mobile video recorders prior to the start of any fare inspection.

BART police may step in on their own if they have reasonable suspicion to believe that an individual

evaded paying fares in paid areas of BART.

BART police can issue a criminal citation to anyone they believe knowingly gives false information to police or fare inspectors about proof of payment.

Civil citation fines will be \$75 for adults and \$55 for minors. Community service options are available. Criminal citations will not exceed \$250.

There are checks and balances in place for the public, including but not limited to an appeal process, quarterly audits of enforcement demographics, body camera videos, spot checks, and report by board members of proof of payment contacts, civil and criminal citations, requests for community service, delinquent payments and repeat offenders. ■

—Bay City News Service

DSRSD

Continued from Page 5

"It's very fortunate that we have the recycled water system," Stephenson said, pointing to recent years of drought during which time recycled water became crucial.

"Now (recycled water) is about 24% of our water supply," she added. "It's a really good thing, but we had to go into debt to get it."

Earlier this month, Standard & Poor's Global Ratings raised DSRSD's long-term credit rating

on the bonds two notches, from AA- to AA+.

The district had been looking to refinance for several years, Stephenson said, but it hadn't made sense before, considering the market's high interest rates. But current low rates, in conjunction with the new AA+ credit rating, led DSRSD to the recent action.

The new bonds have a true interest cost of 3.17%, which includes the bonds' interest and \$192,895 of refunding costs. In comparison, the former interest rate was on average 5.70%.

The refinancing came just in time too, Stephenson said — the federal tax law changes that took effect Monday include provisions prohibiting advance refunding. Under the new tax law, DSRSD would have had to pay the higher interest rate on the bonds until 2021.

DSRSD provides water service to Dublin and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon, wastewater service to Dublin, south San Ramon and Pleasanton (by contract), and recycled water for those communities. ■

Opening reception for plein air exhibitions

"Gold & Granite" by Kevin Courter is among the artworks on display in the "Plein Air Paintings of the High Sierras" exhibition at the Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery now through Feb. 17. The gallery's hallways and other public spaces also feature paintings en plein air, this time in the concurrent "Jade Fon Plein Air Group" exhibition. Both showings will usher in their month-long run in downtown Pleasanton with a free public reception next Thursday (Jan. 11) from 7-9 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Visit www.firehousearts.org for more info.



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SUNRISE

Continued from Page 5

of efforts," said Sunrise of Pleasanton executive director Melissa Malek. "It's sort of amazing that an entire community was evacuated, some of those residents having memory care, and we just happened to have an empty memory care."

"It was really just kind of meant to be," Malek added.

"Opening the doors a week in advance to be 100% ready and having 65 new faces — literally all at once, every bus rolling up and we're just getting people off and literally in five minutes we have an entirely full dining room and we're in go-mode — it was a bit of a shock, but a pleasant one," said Sarah Dillon, regional director of operations.

"It was really quite a joy to see the building being used for the purpose ... and just the life that came into it was pretty rewarding," Dillon said.

The Sonoma seniors stayed at Sunrise of Pleasanton for three weeks until their facility was safe to return to. During the last two weeks of that time, the Pleasanton complex also began welcoming permanent residents who'd registered to move in when Sunrise officially opened here.

Sunrise of Pleasanton, now approaching full capacity, has already become a close-knit, thriving community, according to Malek.

But the journey to this point was a long one, for Sunrise and for Pleasanton.

Sunrise Senior Living first applied for a permit to open one of its first facilities in Pleasanton in 1982, but that proposal didn't come to fruition. Sunrise administrators resurfaced in 2008, but economic concerns during the recession eventually put that effort on hold.

The company returned in fall 2015 with detailed plans for developing the site, and construction began in late winter 2016.

The two-story Sunrise of Pleasanton facility can accommodate up to 103 residents among its 82



COURTESY OF SUNRISE

Seniors from Sunrise Villa Sonoma were moved temporarily to Sunrise of Pleasanton after their facility was threatened by dangerous wildfires in October.

rooms. The full-service facility is geared toward seniors 60 years old and older with physical health or memory loss considerations.

It is the newest of 26 Sunrise facilities in Northern California, joining nearby locations such as Sunrise of Danville on Diablo Road and Sunrise of Walnut Creek on Ygnacio Valley Road.

Pleasanton is the type of community Sunrise looks for, and the need for senior care housing certainly exists in the Tri-Valley, according to Dillon.

"It's a wonderful, very family-oriented community and a welcoming area," Dillon said. "We want to have our Sunrise communities in those kinds of locations and sort of embed ourselves into the fabric of the local stores, neighborhoods, church groups and schools. We really believe in being collaborative."

The apartment units, available with several floor plans on month-to-month leases, consist of 34 on the first floor dedicated to memory care and 48 for assisted living on the second floor. The ground floor is divided for memory care, with one side being the "Terrace" rooms for seniors with earlier signs of memory loss and "Reminiscence" for those with more advanced symptoms.

There are four dining rooms spread across the building — resident units do not have kitchens — along with a small movie/TV theater, a courtyard with gardens and activity rooms for exercise, lecture

and other classes throughout the day focused on "engaging mind, body and spirit," Malek said.

Sunrise of Pleasanton is staffed 24/7 with more than 60 employees in all, including care, nursing, housekeeping and administrative staff.

Officials hope to develop a connection within the community, so each resident has a personalized shadow box outside their room with personal photos and heirlooms to help the seniors and Sunrise staff get to know each other.

Cynthia, a Pleasanton resident whose mother moved into Sunrise of Pleasanton memory care in November, said she's already experienced that positive connection.

"I was very pleased because it was the first time I saw memory care that had an open feeling and nice facilities," said Cynthia, who asked that her last name be withheld to help protect her mother's privacy.

"It really gives her the dignity she deserves, and she really, really enjoys it here," she added. "The worse thing is to feel you're putting your parent in a place you wouldn't want to live in. I would want to live here ... so I can breathe easy and I know that the staff is supportive."

Sunrise of Pleasanton is located at 5700 Pleasant Hill Road, just off Stoneridge Drive before the Foothill Road intersection. Sunrise administration declined to reveal the total cost of the project, saying the pricetag would remain private at this time. ■



HOPE HOSPICE

A little holiday cheer for Hope Hospice patients

Members from Pan Am World Wings International's Oakland Chapter once again visited Hope Hospice in Dublin with bags overflowing with new stuffed bears and other cuddly animals to bring a touch of comfort to Hope Hospice patients during the holiday season. This group of former Pan Am flight attendants has been donating fluffy stuffed animals to the local nonprofit for more than a decade.

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Kazuo "Kay" Hatsushi

Jan. 5, 1931 - Dec. 25, 2017

Kazuo "Kay" Hatsushi, a resident of Pleasanton since 1971, passed quietly surrounded by his family on Christmas Day, December 25, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Takiko, his two sons, Mori and Ted, his daughter, Amy Hatsushi-Hughes, his brothers Mutsuro and Satoru Hatsushi, and his sister, Yoko Hiramine. Preceding him in death were his brothers Yasuo and Masaru



Hatsushi. He is also survived by his grand children and one great grand child. Kay was born in Kagoshima, Japan, on January 5, 1931. He was the son of a farmer, and in his youth was himself a farmer, a coal miner, and a beekeeper. In 1955, southern Japan was devastated by a typhoon. Kay became an evacuee, and with more than 100 other Japanese men who would become his lifelong friends, immigrated to the United States. Penniless, he was under a three year contract to work the fields in Visalia. In 1956, he had saved enough to bring his wife to the United States. Together, they proudly became citizens of their new country, worked the fields, and raised a family. After working the fields for four years, Kay moved his family to Fremont where he made his living as a gardener and landscaper. He soon saved enough to purchase an 8 acre parcel on Decoto Road. In 1962, he opened Hatsushi Nursery. In 1971, he moved the family and the nursery to a 16 acre site on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton. The nursery flourished until it was sold to Western Garden Nursery and Tri Valley Concrete in 1999, and the family retired. Among his many accomplishments, Kay opened the first Japanese restaurant in the Tri Valley, built homes and an office building, operated successful landscape and janitorial businesses, raised cattle, and provided jobs and other opportunities to hundreds of people, both in the United States and Japan. He was twice featured in documentaries which aired in Japan, and was a guest lecturer at universities in Japan. He was a founding member of the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Union City, a member of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Pleasanton Lions Club for over 25 years. He received many trophies, awards and ribbons for his landscape exhibits at the State Fair, and at various county fairs, and commendations for his charitable work. He donated the bonsai and other plants at his church, Peace Plaza in Japantown, and Valley Care Hospital, to name but a few. In 1999, Kay authored an autobiography called, "Making Dreams Come True--Gardening as a Footing in Business." Services will be at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

PAID OBITUARY

Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Marijuana use among targets of new traffic safety laws for 2018

Cannabis consumption on the road is a key priority for California Highway Patrol officials as they remind drivers of new laws surrounding traffic safety statewide that took effect as of Monday.

The advisory comes as California joins the list of states to legalize recreational marijuana use, as of 2018.

Previous laws prohibiting drinking alcohol and driving were expanded to specifically include cannabis — Senate Bill 65 asserts that smoking or ingesting cannabis while driving or riding in a vehicle is also prohibited.

SB 94, which established a single system of cannabis law administration, went into effect on June 27, 2017 and included multiple provisions: The state has appropriated \$3 million for the CHP to train law enforcement officers in drug recognition and impairment; possessing an open container of cannabis product while operating a vehicle is prohibited; and an Impaired Driving Task Force was created to determine best practices and policies when addressing driving

under the influence of cannabis and controlled substances.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office announced Tuesday that during its annual holiday drunk driving campaign, which lasted from Dec. 15 to Jan. 1, its deputies made 174 DUI arrests. This year's campaign was dedicated to CHP Officer Andrew Camilleri, who was killed in a crash on Christmas Eve in Hayward involving a driver believed to have been under the influence of alcohol and marijuana. The 22-year-old driver has been charged with second-degree murder among other counts.

According to Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, there have been six deaths related to DUI collisions in the county since Thanksgiving.

The CHP also reminded drivers about two new traffic safety laws that weren't tied to marijuana legalization.

Per Assembly Bill 390, pedestrians are allowed to start crossing an intersection when a traffic signal displays a flashing "DON'T WALK" or "upraised hand" symbol, as long as the signal includes a countdown timer and the pedestrian can complete the crossing before the symbol is no longer flashing.

SB 20 stipulates that, effective July 1, the driver and passengers of a tour bus must wear a seat belt if the bus is so equipped. Tour bus operators will be required to make sure the seat belts are functioning and to inform passengers of this legal requirement. School buses and transit buses are not included in the bill.

In other news

A Blackhawk man charged with brutally killing his wife in their home in 2016 pleaded guilty last week to committing the crime, changing his plea weeks before his trial was set to start — and making what attorneys on both sides described as an unexpected apology in court.

John Tercheria, 71, pleaded guilty to charges of voluntary manslaughter, elder abuse and domestic violence with use of a weapon and infliction of bodily harm, for beating his longtime wife, Linda Marie Tercheria, with a hammer almost a year and a half ago.

He has been sentenced to jail for 17 years and four months — enough time "to make it pretty likely" that he will die in prison, or at least will be well into his 80s if released, said Contra Costa County deputy district attorney Chris Walpole, who prosecuted the case.

During his sentencing hearing

Dec. 26 and after listening to the testimony of two friends of his former wife, Tercheria requested permission to speak on his own behalf, and according to Walpole, apologized and said he was "sorry for what he did."

"It was not planned, not scripted — spontaneous, brief and to the point," said William Gagen, Tercheria's attorney.

Within the next few weeks, Tercheria will be transferred to San Quentin State Prison, where his placement for the duration of his sentence will be determined, Gagen said.

The crime itself unfolded in August 2016. On the afternoon of Aug. 7, 2016, Contra Costa County sheriff's deputies found the body of Linda Marie Tercheria, 69, while they were responding to a suspicious circumstance report at the couple's home in the 4300 block of Quail Run Lane.

She had suffered more than 20 blows to the head from a hammer recovered by investigators, according to Walpole.

Tercheria was arrested early the next morning, initially pleading not guilty. He posted the \$1 million bail that afternoon, but was detained once again after sheriff's deputies obtained a new arrest warrant for him in light of subsequent investigation, according to the sheriff's office.

Tercheria was set to be tried on

murder charges on Jan. 22, Gagen said, before he confessed and accepted the plea deal.

It came out over the course of the investigation, Walpole said, that Tercheria had been involved in an affair with a younger woman before his wife's death, giving him a potential motive for the murder.

"They're always sad cases, it was a senseless killing," Walpole said. After listening to the testimony of the victims' friends, he said, "it seemed like (Tercheria's) ego and his own selfishness really got the best of him."

However, Gagen said the defense had "very solid medical information that he was showing signs of early dementia," and that, combined with Tercheria's frequent steroid injection, had potentially led him to murder his wife.

"It was the end of a horribly sad case, with two people who certainly seemed to be decent people," Gagen said. "Something happened that morning of Aug. 7. The way his wife died was terrible."

Tercheria was an accomplished senior softball player and had briefly played minor league baseball. He has three adult children, two sons from a previous marriage and one daughter with Linda Tercheria. ■

—Erika Alvero and Bay City News Service

Sachiko Churilo

Resident of Pleasanton

After a 9 and a half year battle against Multiple Myeloma, a rare blood disease, Sachiko Churilo passed on December 18, 2017. She spent her final days, basking in the glow of her treasured garden, surrounded by her loved ones.

Sachiko loved her family first and enjoyed ballroom dancing, gardening, photography, and let's not forget - work! Sachiko was a Realtor-Broker for over 25 years in the Tri-Valley area. She also loved to provide words of encouragement to all those around her - whether to help them to conquer their dreams or to keep them fighting for their health - she was always available to provide her unique perspective, stories, and words of encouragement. A true friend who was full of love and compassion.

Sachiko is survived by the love of her life, Carl, their two children and their spouses, Chris Churilo and Jeffrey Willis of San Francisco, and Richard and Shelly Churilo of Granite Bay, their three grandchildren, and her two sisters in Japan, Kimiko Iwaoka and Meiko Fukunishi.

In lieu of expressions of sympathy, please make donations to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) for Multiple Myeloma Research. <http://bit.ly/1ve5wwM>

Read about how Sachi worked with UCSF: <http://bit.ly/2C6qxYk>



PAID OBITUARY

POLICE REPORT

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available.

Dec. 31

Drug violation

■ 10:07 p.m. on the 4500 block of Chabot Drive

Theft

■ 10:09 a.m., 5200 block of Hopyard Road; theft of bicycle

■ 2:54 p.m. on the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

■ 8:36 p.m., 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting

Alcohol violation

■ 4:12 p.m. on the 3200 block of Touriga Drive

Dec. 30

Theft

■ 12:22 a.m., 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

■ 1:04 p.m., 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from structure

■ 1:31 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:24 p.m. on the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 7:47 p.m., 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

■ 2:26 p.m. on the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway

Alcohol violation

■ 12:10 a.m. at Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 10:48 a.m. on the 4400 block of Railroad Avenue

Dec. 29

Theft

■ 6:32 a.m., 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft from auto

■ 7:57 a.m., 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; theft from auto

■ 10:55 a.m., 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; theft from structure

■ 1:44 p.m. on the 2800 block of Hopyard Road

■ 11:19 p.m., 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; theft from auto

Drug violation

■ 10:22 p.m. at Rosewood and Owens drives

Assault/battery

■ 10:02 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Fraud

■ 1:39 p.m. on the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

Domestic battery

■ 1:30 a.m. on Johnson Drive

■ 12:32 p.m. on Payne Road

Dec. 28

Theft

■ 1:41 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 2:15 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 5:32 p.m., 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

■ 7:23 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

■ 9:04 p.m., 6600 block of Owens Drive; theft from auto

■ 10:04 p.m. on the 5700 block of Owens Drive

■ 11:10 p.m. on the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Drug violation

■ 7:13 p.m. on the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Burglary

■ 8:19 a.m. on the 6700 block of Bernal Avenue

■ 3:06 p.m. on the 3500 block of Touriga Drive

Dec. 27

Burglary

■ 1:43 p.m. on the 5600 block of Owens Drive

DUI

■ 12:19 a.m. at West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road

Dec. 26

Auto theft

■ 12:29 p.m. at Canyon Meadows Drive and Canyon Meadows Circle

■ 10:41 p.m. on the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Shoplifting

■ 5:45 p.m. on the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

DUI

■ 5:27 p.m. on the 4300 block of Addison Way

Fraud

■ 10:05 a.m. on the 2800 block of Tudor Court

Dec. 25

DUI

■ 10:48 p.m. at Busch Road and Valley Avenue

Alcohol violation

■ 1:40 p.m. on the 6000 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 10:36 p.m. on the 5300 block of Blackbird Drive

Assault/battery

■ 10:18 p.m. on the 5300 block of Blackbird Drive

Domestic battery

■ 1:05 p.m. on Burgundy Drive

■ 3:36 p.m. on Vineyard Avenue

■ 4:18 p.m. on Old Santa Rita Road



The Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival has been an annual event since the 1990s to help residents become familiar with community organizations.



Above right: Sarah Schaefer is ready to talk about volunteer opportunities for teens and adults at Museum on Main, where she is education director. Left: The Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raising Club will also be on-hand. Below: Historic banner volunteers can sign at the festival.



Make a Difference in the new year

Event next weekend presents 34 local volunteer opportunities

STORY BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI | PHOTOS BY MICHELLE SUSKI

If your New Year's resolution is to volunteer more, you are in luck.

Local volunteer opportunities can be explored all under one roof at the Make a Difference for Pleasanton Festival taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, in the community room at the library. "Get Connected and Stay Connected" is the theme of the day.

From helping puppies to preparing meals for those in need, volunteer opportunities will be shared by 34 Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations. Adults, families and teenagers can learn more about their community and

how they can help — including driving elderly neighbors to appointments, assisting newcomers in learning English, helping visitors learn about local history, and beautifying public gardens.

Help is also needed to organize Pleasanton's annual Special Olympics sporting events, and its volunteer chairman Ken Mano is a member of the Make a Difference committee.

"Last year we had 50 people sign up on the Special Olympics sheet, to volunteer for our basketball

See **DIFFERENCE** on Page 12

DIFFERENCE

Continued from Page 11

and track tournaments, which are held at Amador Valley High School in the spring,” Mano said.

The Make a Difference in Pleasanton Festival is produced by Make a Difference, Today & Always, a registered nonprofit group.

“We used to try to tie in with the national Make A Difference Day, which is held in October, but here in Pleasanton that date has long been reserved for the Foothill High School Band Review, so we changed to the date closest to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which has become a global service day,” said W. Ron Sutton, founder of Make A Difference, Today & Always.

Of course the January date makes it perfect for people pumped with their New Year’s resolutions to do more to help others. Pledge cards will be available that state: “I pledge to spend at least 50 hours in community service, and to spend 50 more hours with my family in the next year.”

“We felt that people should make a commitment to community service on more than one day per year,” Sutton said. “That is why we came up with the ‘50/50



Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne joins Make a Difference committee member Ken Mano at previous festival.

Pledge’ and the slogan, ‘Get Connected, Stay Connected.’”

The event is co-sponsored by the city of Pleasanton, the Community of Character Coalition, Tri-Valley Y, ACCUSPLIT Make a Difference Programs and Karlsson & Lane Accounting Services.

Originally the Pleasanton Unified School District was a key sponsor of the event, and visitors can sign the historic banner from the first festival in the 1990s.

For more information, visit www.MakeADifferenceForPleasanton.org. To learn more about the groups who will be at the volunteer day, visit www.MAD4P.org. ■



DROBOT DEAN/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

Don’t stop snacking — just make sure you munch on nutrient-dense foods.

‘Healthy’ resolutions worth giving up

This new year, look for better solutions

While most New Year’s resolutions are well-intentioned, sometimes they look better on paper than in practice, actually doing more harm than good. Here are five so-called “healthy” resolutions worth giving up in 2018, as well as better solutions.

Resolution 1: I’m going to take up permanent residence in the gym. Working out is an important piece of the weight loss puzzle, but moderation is key.

Studies suggest that too much exercise can lead to a number of issues like hormonal imbalance, fatigue, insomnia and even depression.

Many people also report experiencing a drastic increase in appetite after extreme bouts of physical activity, which can lead to overeating and negate the weight-related benefits. Plus, if you exercise so intensely that you’re injured or sore for days, it will be difficult to sustain this otherwise healthy habit.

Resolution 2: I’m saying goodbye to fats completely. Fatty foods have gotten a bad rap. The reality is there are good fats and bad fats. In humans, fat helps support normal growth and development, provides energy, allows for proper cellular function, provides protective cushioning for organs, and helps with absorption of certain vitamins.

Bad fats are found in foods like meat, butter, lard, cream and trans fats (found in baked goods, fried foods and margarine) and can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. Aim to replace these with good fats, which are associated with a decreased risk of chronic disease. Good fats include plant-based oils like olive and canola, avocados, nuts, seeds and dairy, since these also offer the nutrition your body needs.

Resolution 3: I’m going to skip breakfast to cut calories. According to The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, if you’re skipping breakfast, you’re doing something wrong. Research shows breakfast helps support brain function, energy and mood.

And research suggests that people who eat breakfast consume fewer calories throughout the day, weigh less, and have fewer risk factors for heart disease. Just a few reasons to load up in the a.m.

Resolution 4: I’ll just crash diet to lose the weight. Crash diets don’t work and many people who do them end up just gaining the weight back.

“Sustainable weight loss should not involve hunger or deprivation,” says Mandi Knowles, dietitian for South Beach Diet. “Your weight loss efforts should include sensible changes that are easy to follow.”

Find a weight loss plan that’s convenient and lets you know with confidence that you are losing weight the healthy way. Plans like South Beach Diet teach portion control through a low-carb, high-protein approach with meals delivered to your door.

Resolution 5: I’m going to stop snacking. Snacks can account for more than a quarter of one’s daily calories. But if you munch on nutrient-dense foods (high in vitamins, minerals and fiber and low in calories), you’re more likely to maintain a healthy weight, according to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. So, snack wisely.

In the new year, ditch extreme diets and exercise schemes. You’ll find more success with sustainable health and wellness habits. ■

—StatePoint

Make a Difference exhibitors

ACCUSPLIT Make A Difference Programs
Alviso Adobe Community Park
Amador Valley Quilters — Quilts of Valor Project
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Cancer Society — Discovery Shop & Relay for Life
Asian-American Donor Program
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs
Assistance League of Amador Valley
Axis Community Health
Boy Scouts of America
Child Care Links
City of Pleasanton — Library & Community Services
Community of Character Coalition
Hope Hospice
JustServe.org

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club
Lynnewood United Methodist Church
Museum On Main
Open Heart Kitchen
Paws in Need
Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council
Pleasanton Lions Club
Pleasanton North Rotary
Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE)
Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
Senior Support Services of the Tri-Valley
Special Olympics
Spectrum Community Services
Stanford Health Care/Valley Care Auxiliary
Sunflower Hill/Sunflower Gardens
Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers
Tri-Valley Haven
Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center

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'I resolve to hike more'

East Bay Parks recognizes efforts to trek its trails

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

If you have resolved to hike more in 2018, check out East Bay Regional Park District's 25th annual Trails Challenge.

It runs now through Dec. 1 for participants to earn a free commemorative pin for completing a minimum of 26.2 miles of trails or by hiking five trails.

Trails Challenge 2018 is a free, self-guided program presented by a partnership between East Bay Parks, Kaiser Permanente, and the Regional Parks Foundation. Free printed guidebooks and T-shirts are available at participating visitor centers or the district's administration office in Oakland. The Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness, 1895 Geary Road in Sunol, is one of the participating visitor centers.

No registration is needed to participate. Just go to www.ebparks.org/TrailsChallenge to download the guidebook and get started. The program is run on the honor system with no verification



of the hikes required.

The guidebook includes detailed trail descriptions for hikes in 20 regional parks or trails, ranging from easy to challenging. There are trails open to hikers, bicyclists, dogs and equestrians, and many are wheelchair accessible. To complete the challenge, hike five of the trails — or 26.2 miles of trails.

The East Bay Parks also offers naturalist-led hikes throughout the year, including at Del Valle and Sunol. The calendar of events is on the website.

The park system has 121,030 acres in 73 parks in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, including 1,250 miles of trails. ■

Opera hosting first sing-along

Enthusiasts to share evening of wine, passion and song

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Choral singers are invited to attend Livermore Valley Opera's first-ever opera sing-along for an evening of wine and opera, directed by Maestro Ofer dal Lal and chorus master Bruce Olstad.

The opera sing-along was the idea of Revital Shmerling, director of LVO's community outreach and educational programs for youth in schools, as a way to bring together singers who love opera.

"This free event is something I have wanted to do for a long time," Shmerling said. "I know there are many singers in our community who have a passion for opera and would love a chance to sing the pieces selected for the event, just for fun."

The sing-along takes place from 4-6:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, at Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. No reservations are necessary.

"Singers will enjoy wines, and we will rehearse the selected music and then sing it all together," Shmerling said.

The program includes "Votre Toast" (Toreador Song) from "Carmen" by Bizet, "Tarantella" from "La Forza del Destino" by Verdi, "Va Pensiero" ("Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves") from "Nabucco" by Verdi, and Fer-vono "Amori e Danze" from LVO's upcoming production of "Un Ballo in Maschera" by



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maestro Ofer dal Lal will be one of the directors at the first sing-along with the Livermore Valley Opera on Jan. 13.

Verdi, which will be at the Bankhead Theater in March.

Additionally, baritone Ben Brady, who will sing the role of Silvano in "Un Ballo in Maschera," will perform the solo part in "Votre Toast."

Preparation is not required for any of the chorus selections and sheet music will be provided. ■

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Holiday Fund

Each year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund raises money to support programs and services that care for local families and children in our community. The Holiday Fund partners with the Silicon Valley

Community Foundation, which handles all finances, so every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to the 12 local nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

This year's Holiday Fund recipients that will share in fund contributions are:

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency finds stable homes and a loving environment for abused and neglected children throughout 14 counties in Northern California, including here in Alameda County.

Axis Community Health is the Tri-Valley's sole provider of medical and mental health services for individuals and families who have a low income or who are uninsured. It serves more than 14,000 members of our community.

Hope Hospice provides ethical hospice care, transition services for those not eligible for hospice, bereavement support for adults and children and end-of-life education to Tri-Valley families, regardless of insurance or income status.

Open Heart Kitchen is the largest hot meal pro-

gram of its kind in the Tri-Valley feeding the hungry every weekday at multiple locations.

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation is an organization that has a collaborative relationship with the Pleasanton Unified School District and contributes to the needs of Pleasanton students and educators.

REACH (Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for special adults of the Tri-Valley) offers education programs, activities, resources and housing opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation provides local cancer patients with complementary therapies to help alleviate the side effects caused by radiation and chemotherapy.

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley serves seniors over 60 in the communities of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol to promote independence, safety and well-being, preserve dignity and

improve quality of life.

Sunflower Hill is working to create a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs, similar to senior living facilities.

Tri-Valley YMCA aims to strengthen the local communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation plans to use its contribution from the annual campaign to help fund state-of-the-art health care technology, facilities, various clinical programs and services at Stanford Health Care-ValleyCare.

Valley Humane Society rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

2017-2018 Holiday Fund Donors

As of Dec. 26, 242 donors have contributed \$58,792 to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

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The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund is a donor advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. A contribution to this fund allows your donation to be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

All donors and their gift amounts will be published in the Pleasanton Weekly unless the boxes below are checked.

I wish to contribute anonymously.

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For more information and to donate online, visit:
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The following agencies will benefit from the 2017 Holiday Fund:

Agape Villages Foster Family Agency	Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation
Axis Community Health	Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley
Hope Hospice	Sunflower Hill
Open Heart Kitchen	Tri-Valley YMCA
Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation	Valley Humane Society
REACH for Special Adults of the Tri-Valley	ValleyCare Charitable Foundation



In partnership with:



Make this the week you help schools through Holiday Fund

With students heading back to school next week after a two-week holiday break, it's a good time to remember to give to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, which will benefit Pleasanton schools.

The Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation is one of 12 nonprofits that will benefit from contributions to the current campaign, which closes next Friday, Jan. 12.

PPIE is an organization that has a collaborative relationship with the Pleasanton Unified School District and contributes to the needs of Pleasanton students and educators.

Although the organization hosts its own community fundraising events each year and raises funds through donations and grants from regional companies and organizations, it also benefits from the

Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

"Thank you, Pleasanton Weekly, for your great generosity," said Steve McCoy-Thompson, PPIE's executive director. "These donations help us achieve our goals."

For 30 years, PPIE has supported all Pleasanton students at all schools with critical funding, grants and programs. After the 2008 economic crisis, PPIE raised additional funds from Pleasanton families and businesses to sustain lower class sizes in elementary schools. PPIE has also funded instructional coaches to provide best practices in math, English and technology at all schools.

PPIE raises approximately 80% of funds from Pleasanton families who want to support Pleasanton schools. Additional funds come from the Weekly's Holiday Fund, corporate sponsors and signature



PPIE'S Steve McCoy-Thompson (upper left) presents gift of video lighting kits to Pleasanton school principals and vice principals.

annual events such as the Pleasanton Run for Education, which will be held this year on April 15, and the Fall Gala scheduled for Oct. 12. More information is available at www.ppie.org.

Altogether, this season's 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
- PPIE
- 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 is handling all finances related to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. Since the Pleasanton Weekly handles all costs of the campaign, that means that every dollar will go directly to the 12 nonprofits with no administrative expenses.

To contribute, check out our donation form on Page 15 or visit www.pleasantonweekly.com/holiday_fund. ■

LETTERS

Pot: The brain-altering weed

Dear Editor,

This New Year began Monday, and California will now begin to experience an upswing in motor vehicle deaths, due to the legalization of this weed, called marijuana.

This brain-altering marijuana drug with its obnoxious odor will begin to impregnate (saturate, pollute) the brains of those who use it and as a consequence, the driving public's risk to become potential DUI victims will increase 100% over and above the victims of drivers that have consumed too much alcohol.

How do we, the driving public, defend ourselves against all of this legal use of marijuana, along with the legal use of alcohol and those drivers that are DUI, as a result of all of this legal use?

For starters, when we observe an erratic motor vehicle making multiple lane changes with no turn signal at a high rate of speed or the motor vehicle is swerving in and out of lane of travel in traffic or is using the brake when it is not necessary or speeds up and reduces speed erratically, all of these observances are clues — that motor vehicle is operated by a possible DUI driver.

Action to take: Call 9-1-1, report a possible DUI motor vehicle. The responding CHP will ask your location, the type and description of vehicle that is erratic, description of your vehicle, and they will respond within minutes. The CHP is everywhere on our freeways and highways and appreciate the driving public using 9-1-1 to report a possible DUI vehicle on the roadway.

—Michael Austin

THE CITY OF PLEASANTON

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Civic Arts Commission
Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Assignments
- Review of the Commission meeting schedule for 2018
- Review of FY 2017/2018 Community Grant Midterm Reports
- Review One (1) Proposed Design for "Project Paint Box"

Human Services Commission Workshop
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- The workshop topic will address transportation services and access in Pleasanton. Workshop objectives include: offering a forum for the public and local social service agencies to communicate current human service needs; achieving a better understanding of local service gaps and service provider challenges; and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

Youth Commission
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Operations Services Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Approve Revised Commission Meeting Schedule for School Year 2017 - 2018

Parks and Recreation Commission
Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Selection of Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Assignments
- Review of the Commission Meeting Schedule for 2018

Library Commission
Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

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

To explore more about Pleasanton, visit us at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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PLEASANTON PREPS

By DENNIS MILLER

Feel-good story in Piscotty's bittersweet homecoming

Also: Foothill girls basketball wins West Coast Jamboree

It is during the holiday season that the importance of family is celebrated and cherished.

For the Piscotty family of Pleasanton, the best Christmas gift came 11 days early when Stephen Piscotty — the son of Mike and Gretchen Piscotty — was traded from the St. Louis Cardinals to the hometown team Oakland Athletics.

An incredibly tight-knit group, the family was rocked earlier in the year when Gretchen was diagnosed with ALS. It was devastating to all in the Pleasanton community that know the Piscottys, a family admired by all because of their dedication and love for each other.

I had the chance to talk with Stephen last winter when I did a cover story for the Pleasanton Weekly, and it was evident how much family meant to him. In fact, he lived at home in the offseason — a rarity for a Major League Baseball player — until buying a house in St. Louis a few months back.

Another rarity for a professional athlete in any sport is the desire to opt away from a starting spot on a perennial contender to come back to a team that has not been among the elite in the league in recent years.

But that's who Stephen is, with much credit going to how he was raised. When I did the cover story on Piscotty, every person I talked with raved about Stephen as a person. His level of talent — plenty, obviously — was secondary to references about his character.

In the day and age of pampered and pompous athletes, Piscotty is a beacon of what we should aspire to have our children become.

And what about the Cardinals? It has been no secret that many consider the Cardinals as a model professional organization — or even the model franchise — and this move cements those feelings. Under no circumstances did the Cardinals have to make the trade and most professional teams across the board would never have considered making the move.

But the class of the entire Cardinals organization came shining through, putting someone's family

above everything else. It's easy to be cynical toward professional sports teams, but this is a move that restores some faith.

I have never been a Cardinals' fan in the past — I am an A's fan — but moving forward I wish the Cardinals nothing but success.

The A's also deserve credit for giving up some prospects to bring Piscotty home and give Gretchen a chance to see her son play in person throughout the season as an everyday outfielder for the A's.

While it is sad to see Gretchen afflicted with ALS, the homecoming is the type of feel-good story that puts warmth into the holiday season.

Amador wrestling

Amador Valley wrestling placed three wrestlers in the top six at the prestigious, two-day Pat Lovell Holiday Wrestling Classic.

In the tournament previously known as the California Coast Classic, Cameron Ghoddoucy (170 pounds) was crowned champion with a 6-0 record. Donovan Lucente placed fourth going 7-2 at 113 pounds, and Tyler Bonitz placed fifth going 6-2 at 132 pounds.

Foothill girls basketball

The Foothill girls basketball team took first place in the Bay Area's West Cost Jamboree Basketball Tournament, Opal Division, winning the championship on Dec. 30.

The Falcons opened the tournament beating Rodriguez 48-33, with Madison Baxter scoring 16

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TAKA YANAGIMOTO/ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
 Amador Valley alum Stephen Piscotty has come home after being traded from the St. Louis Cardinals to the Oakland A's last month.

points, Lauren Hermes scoring 11 and Katelynn Jensen adding eight. Foothill's second game was a 62-58 win over St. Patrick. Hermes had 22 and Baxter 21, to send the Falcons to the finals.

In the finals, the Falcons took on the always competitive St. Ignatius from San Francisco. The game went back and forth with multiple lead changes in the fourth quarter.

Baxter won the game in the final seconds, grabbing a rebound on a missed Wildcat free throw, going the length of the court and hitting the jumper to win it 59-58.

Baxter led all scorers with 29 points, while Gianna Lyng had nine and Hermes with eight. Hermes and Hope Alley were named to the All-Tournament team, with Baxter being named the tournament MVP. ■

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.



FALCONS BASKETBALL
 The Foothill girls basketball team celebrates after winning the division title at the West Coast Jamboree last week.

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Take Us Along

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 Great One: Lynn Andrus and Lori Brandes (the Plato sisters) landed on Ruth Glacier, making them two of the few to set foot on a glacier of “The Great One” — Mt. Denali. Denali creates its own weather pattern, having a summit elevation of 20,237 feet, the highest peak in North America.



Hello, it's us: Diane and Greg Hudson of Dublin took their Pleasanton Weekly to Tiki Iniki, a restaurant on Kauai (Hawaii) owned by musician Todd Rundgren and his wife.



Balloon races: Stephen and Janice Phalen checked out the balloon races in Reno last September.



Cruising the Baltic: Jon and Kathleen Kalb took a Baltic cruise that took them to Stockholm, Copenhagen, Helsinki, and the three Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. They also were able to spend time in St. Petersburg and see such sites as Catherine's Palace, pictured here.



Mt. Floyen: Marti Christiansen and Connie Roney spent 18 days touring Norway and Sweden. Here, they took their Weekly on a ride on the Floibanen Funicular to the top of Mt. Floyen in Bergen, Norway.

Concerts

FLEETWOOD MASK Jan. 13 and 14 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Fleetwood Mask, performing the best of Fleetwood Mac and even a few early gems that hearken back to the Mac's early days as a British blues band. Personally endorsed by Mick Fleetwood because of the passion and style of Mask's live performances. Tickets \$25-\$35. Purchase at: www.firehousearts.org, 931-4848, or at the Box Office.

THE SPECIAL CONSENSUS The Special Consensus: Bluegrass with attitude. "Special C" proudly celebrates their 42nd anniversary this year. The 2012 Grammy-nominated acoustic bluegrass band returns to the Firehouse on Friday, Jan. 19, at 8 p.m. Four-man bluegrass in classic vein, with modern edge. Tickets \$15 - \$25; available at www.firehousearts.org, or call 931-4848, or at the Box Office. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Talks & Lectures

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

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS MEETING Jennifer Dick, a Missouri quilter, teacher, and author will present the lecture "Stories in Stitches" at the Jan. 13 meeting of the Amador Valley Quilters. The lecture will feature 25 vintage quilts included in the 2010 Cass County Quilt Documentation Project. Live models of some of these projects will be available for viewing. The Amador Valley Quilters meet on the second Saturday of every month from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, Cass St. Guests are welcome.

Fundraisers

LIONS ANNUAL CRAB FEED FUNDRAISER Pleasanton Lions Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser, Saturday, Jan. 20, 5:30 p.m., Alameda County Fairgrounds, Young California Bldg. Each year we host this fantastic Crab Feed, which is our main fundraiser. Attendees can count on an evening filled with an abundance of delectable all you can eat crab served chilled w/ cocktail sauce, green salad with shrimp, pasta, and dinner rolls. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. More info at www.pleasantonlionsclub.org.

Family

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES Community Education Series is presented by the City of Pleasanton in partnership with the Pleasanton

Unified School District, and Pleasanton PTA Council. Are you wondering what to expect when you start High School in the Fall? We've got you covered! Join us for a panel discussion about real life concerns and solutions. Panelists include High School students, parents and administrator from PUSD. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free.

Museums & Exhibits

GRANITE GROUP: PLEIN AIR PAINTINGS OF THE HIGH SIERRAS Jan. 12 to Feb. 17. Firehouse Arts Center Harrington Gallery, 4444 Railroad Ave. 26 artists from across California and beyond, who come together once a year to trek the High Sierras and paint on-site. Works will include smaller pieces completed entirely while trekking, and larger formats inspired on the adventures but completed in studio. Reception with artists Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Free. Painting demo: Granite Group co-founders Paul Kratter and Bill Cone present a dual painting demo, plus guided walk-through of the exhibition. Jan. 20, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER Special Youth Event: "The Outside Arts" Young@Art session: Feb. 8, 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m. 4444 Railroad Ave. \$15 for residents, \$18 for non-residents. Students tour and discuss the exhibit, then head outside to create an art piece "en plein air." Register at Pleasantonfun.com, select "School Age," and "The Arts," then "Young@Art." Class code is 4931.

Health & Wellness

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. Pleasanton.

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

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 p.m. to 9 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.

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 or call 487-5706 or email eastbayet@comcast.net.

MOTHERS WITH A PURPOSE Mothers With a Purpose meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Foothill High School Library, 4375 Foothill Road. Mothers with a Purpose was formed by local moms to offer support to families affected by addiction. Visit www.motherswithapurpose.org.

Food & Drink

BEER TRAIL Tri-Valley Craft Beer Trail. Five beer stops by January 31 equals \$20 to Sunflower Hill. Visit Tri-Valley's seasonal beer trail passport, is back. Through January 31, beer-lovers can download a passport or pick one up at any stop on the Tri-Valley Beer Trail or Tri-Valley hotel, visit at least 5 out of our 22 breweries, taprooms or ale houses, and for every passport with five stamps that you turn in, Visit Tri-Valley will donate \$20 to Sunflower Hill, a local, nonprofit organization working to create a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs. For more info, visit trivalley.com/spreadcheer.

Seniors

SENIOR MEN'S SOCIAL CLUB Sons In Retirement (SIR) is a social club for senior men. In addition to friendships, members can participate in interest groups like golf, bridge, travel, photography, etc. We meet for lunch first Thursday of the month at San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Road, San Ramon. Open to retirees in the Tri-Valley. Contact Carl Churilo at 967-8177 or trivalleysir@gmail.com. Go to branch34.sirinc2.org.

EYE GLASS ADJUSTMENTS AND CLEANING Stop by the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month to have your eye glasses and sunglasses cleaned and adjusted by a representative from Sears Optical. For more information call 931-5365.

FRIENDS OF THE PLEASANTON SENIOR CENTER 'NEWCOMER'S WELCOME' The Friends of the Pleasanton Senior Center are sponsoring a "Newcomer's Welcome" from 10:30 a.m.-noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the

PET OF THE WEEK



TVAR

Sweet little Taz

Taz is a young male cattledog/bull terrier mix who wanted to be in his forever home for the holidays and is still waiting. Taz is deaf and volunteers are beginning sign work with him. Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is sponsoring classes with Taz and his adopter with a professional trainer to learn sign training. He is available for adoption at East County Animal Shelter in Dublin. For more information, call 803-7040.

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5506 Sunol Blvd. Tour the facility and hear about programs and activities. Questions are welcome and will be answered, and light snacks will be served. Attend a free lunch at the Sage Cafe after; no reservations needed. Go to www.seniorcenterfriends.org.

PHOTO CLUB The photo club is open to any senior who enjoys the hobby of photography at any level. It is suggested that you have some form of a digital camera. The group shares photos and makes suggestions on how the photos might be improved. Meetings include occasional speakers and field trips, and are from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center. 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$2 for residents, \$2.50 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Lessons & Classes

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

PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USER GROUP The PT Users Group meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The usual format is 2-3 presentations by various presenters. Topics include internet use, email, photos, security, help with Windows 7/8/10, smart phones, tablets. Cost is \$2.00 to \$2.50. Call 931-5365.

Sports

LIVERMORE PLEASANTON UMPIRES ASSOCIATION The Livermore Pleasanton Umpires Association is 503c non-profit organization that has been part of the local sports scene for nearly 50 years. The Livermore Pleasanton Umpires Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming 2018 fast pitch

softball season. We serve the high school as well as the youth programs in Livermore and Pleasanton. Training and meetings will begin in early January 2018. Those interested should contact Brian Jensen, 640-4932 or email, ifsavr@gmail.com.

BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN & TRAILS COMMITTEE Advises Parks and Recreation Commission and City's Traffic Engineering Division on bicycle, pedestrian and trail related items. Committee reviews and prioritizes potential projects, provides input on policies related to bike-ways and trails, and promotes community education. Next meeting, Monday, Jan. 22, 6:45 p.m., Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. www.cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Community Groups

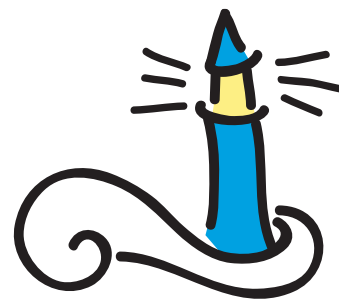
HACIENDA PARK TOASTMASTERS CLUB: GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME All welcome. Improve public speaking, communication and leadership skills. Gain confidence through practice. Toastmasters.org. Join us 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays at the Corrie Center, 3rd Flr. Conf. Rm., 7950 Dublin Blvd, Dublin. HaciendaTM@gmail.com, or call 398-3257.

LIVERMORE VALLEY COIN CLUB Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave., Community Room B, Livermore. Livermore Valley Coin Club is for anyone in the Tri-Valley interested in coin collection. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month. Meet and greet at 7 p.m., business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

81ST AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST American Legion post 237 will host our Oratorical Contest on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main Street, at 1 p.m. Contest is open to all high school students, grades 9 thru 12. Participants must be US citizens and residents of California. See www.legion.oratorical for further information. Local prizes of \$250, \$150, \$100 and \$25. Contact Norman Houghton 846-8725 or email norm4064@yahoo.com to enter.

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INDEX

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

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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140 Lost & Found

Found SmartPhone

Found 12/24 at 4pm on North sidewalk of Vineyard Ave near Shadow Cliffs park. Text to 925-470-0433.

145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. FREE 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 1-800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

Got an older car, boat or RV?

Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1- 800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

For Sale

202 Vehicles Wanted

WANTED! Old Porsche

356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1973 Only. Any condition, top \$ paid! PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE 1-707- 965-9546 (Cal-SCAN)

245 Miscellaneous

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from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill-Cut Lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N (Cal-SCAN)

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560 Employment Information

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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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with the IRS? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 855-970-2032. (Cal-SCAN)

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640 Legal Services

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715 Cleaning Services

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751 General Contracting

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890 Real Estate Wanted

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Legal Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

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).

No phone number in the ad?
GO TO FOGSTER.COM for contact information

Do You Know?



- The Pleasanton Weekly is adjudicated to publish in the County of Alameda.
- The Pleasanton Weekly publishes every Friday.

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Deadline: 4 p.m. Tuesday
Call Regina Nestor (925) 600-0840 to assist you with your legal advertising needs.

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Pleasanton Weekly

Real Estate

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Castro Valley

3 BEDROOMS

1731 Grove Way \$649,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Janice Habluetzel 699-3122

Livermore

3 BEDROOMS

124 Nadine Street \$699,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Katie Moe 216-9083

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS

2595 Secretariat Drive \$788,888
Sat/Sun 12-3 Brian Wright 580-4524

5 BEDROOMS

3720 Raboli Street \$2,499,000
Sun 1-4 Fabulous Properties 980-0273/519-8226

Find more open home listings at pleasantonweekly.com/real_estate

SALES AT A GLANCE

Pleasanton (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 16
Lowest sale reported: \$725,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,550,000
Average sales reported: \$1,078,938

Dublin (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 11
Lowest sale reported: \$665,000
Highest sale reported: \$971,000
Average sales reported: \$827,864

Livermore (Nov. 9-16)

Total sales reported: 34
Lowest sale reported: \$307,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,480,000
Average sales reported: \$874,250

San Ramon (Dec. 1-6)

Total sales reported: 7
Lowest sale reported: \$600,000
Highest sale reported: \$2,010,000
Average sales reported: \$1,068,143

Source: California REsource

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during Nov. 9-16.

Pleasanton

4021 Alta Court J. Keyser to P. & J. Verducci for \$860,000
3545 Ballantyne Drive H. & C. Reynoso to A. & R. Sharma for \$1,050,000
3001 Boardwalk Street S. & E. Pyo to V. Banapuram for \$1,050,000
5872 Corte Brazos Schroeder Trust to J. & C. Dooley for \$1,322,000
2558 Corte Facil P. & C. Wankle to J. & B. Allen for \$1,400,000
6929 Corte Madrid T. & S. Rutkowsky to B. Gai for \$1,257,000
5873 Corte Mente M. & J. Kilpatrick to S. Raveendranath for \$1,415,000
3155 Delicado Court P. & P. Balsama to R. & S. Song for \$725,000
7564 Driftwood Way Jurich Trust to C. Lemessurier for \$998,000
6343 Inglewood Drive S. Qiang to S. Kandhuri for \$930,000
3813 Muirwood Drive P. & J. Stewart to Borjon Trust for \$1,039,000
5221 Northway Road R. & N. Martin to H. & K. Mokashi for \$1,169,000
4142 Peregrine Way C. Lehman to Z. Sun for \$810,000
3657 Shenandoah Court J. & J. Cyr to E. & M. Benson for \$913,000
7429 Stonedale Drive Stokes Trust to Yoo Trust for \$775,000
535 Sycamore Road M. Ziemer to N. & C. Chekka for \$1,550,000,500

Dublin

4825 Boxwood Way #115 P. Casilao to A. & P. Bansal for \$767,500
7638 Coral Way Flipit to T. & S. Singhal for \$900,000
6958 Darian Court E. Rego to R. Guuduru for \$755,000
7258 Dover Lane L. Shaw to T. Chung for \$900,000
7843 Hillrose Drive S. & C. Holmes to K. & S. Joo for \$910,000
8074 Iglesia Drive Allen Trust to S. Lee for \$898,000
7374 Larkdale Avenue R. & M. Marion to C. & A. Gleason for \$735,000
7346 Newcastle Lane Hobbs Trust to V. & N. Verma for \$825,000

3563 Palermo Way V. & C. Ngo to S. Liu for \$971,000
4727 Sandford Court K. Vargas to S. Thomas for \$665,000
3993 Twain Harte Road S. Hayes to Sophia & Sumbal Trust for \$780,000

Livermore

1917 5th Street R. Deutschman to W. Evans for \$670,000
4715 Apple Tree Common G. & N. Correia to G. & S. Whang for \$530,000
5407 Arlene Way M. & L. Christensen to A. Joel for \$828,000
602 Austen Way R. & B. Kahwaty to J. Kim for \$970,000
2998 Bresso Drive R. & T. Hayley to S. Eid for \$1,198,000
573 Brighton Way S. & D. Gephart to O. & S. Taovil for \$731,000
1381 Calais Avenue Kordes Trust to S. & K. Zimmerman for \$941,500
1633 Cascina Court Bai Trust to Haque Trust for \$1,400,000
1425 Cheryl Drive G. & T. Edwards to O. Cuarezma for \$1,070,000
1363 Columbus Avenue White Trust to M. & J. Wagner for \$795,000
2632 Cowan Way Zenger Trust to Rusty Trust for \$1,360,000
2619 Crescent Court G. & J. Miceli to MCGourty Trust for \$1,480,000
971 Dana Circle Langer Trust to F. & S. Khaliq for \$930,000
775 El Rancho Drive Jo & J Properties to G. & D. Allen for \$630,000
283 Fennel Way J. & S. Carlson to D. & J. Davis for \$758,000
570 Firenza Street D. & H. Duffin to C. & A. Grover for \$1,035,000
512 Fontonett Avenue Dobson Trust to H. Lee for \$795,000
2228 French Street E. & S. Tolentino to L. Su for \$1,293,000
2659 Kelly Street S. Osmunson to F. & J. Ramirez for \$580,000
640 Moraga Drive Y. Wong to B. & J. Valle for \$755,000
1087 Murrieta Boulevard #239 S. Asbury to T. Johnson for \$307,000
115 Northwood Commons M. & C. Silva to M. Henderson for \$635,000
1544 Olivina Avenue S. & J. Dixon to A. Belleville for \$665,000

Source: California REsource

Valley Brokers

PLEASANTON NEW LISTING!!!!



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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 Listed
124 Nadine St, Livermore



Open Saturday and Sunday 1-4 PM

This adorable 3 bedroom and 2 bath home is situated on an almost 7,000 sq ft lot in Livermore. Located within close distance to Granada High School, downtown Livermore and easy access to freeways via Stanley and Isabel. The home is beautifully updated throughout with an incredible backyard ready for entertaining as well as a detached shed, raised planter beds and room for a boat/RV. Contact Katie Moe directly for additional details!

Asking price: \$699,000

Contact Katie Moe for additional details



KATIE MOE
 925.216.9083

Katie@KatieMoe.com
 www.KatieMoe.com
 BRE#01507863



CASTRO VALLEY
 1731 Grove Way



Offered at \$649,000

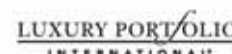
www.JaniceTheRealtor.com

Updated home in a convenient location of Castro Valley. Bamboo floors thru the home, except tile in kitchen, baths and laundry room. Kitchen has stainless d/w, sink and gas range. Cherry cabinets, granite counters and glass tile backsplash. Large living room and dining room. Private backyard with wood deck. New sod and sprinkler system installed, 12/17. Dual pane windows, newer roof and detached 2 car garage. This home is move ready.



JANICE HABLUETZEL
 Realtor, ABR, SRES

925.699.3122
 jhabluetzel@apr.com
 License # 1385523



Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors®. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL

Throughout the Bay Area and Northern California - from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe, Carmel to Wine Country - our level of service is second to none.

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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 MONTIVENO 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

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 Amaral 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

THE ADDRESS IS PLEASANTON

THE EXPERIENCE IS ALAIN PINEL



MILPITAS \$2,398,000

1618 Calera Creek Heights | 4bd/4.5ba
 Kelly King | 510.714.7231
 License # 1142949
 OPEN SATURDAY 1:00-4:00



CASTRO VALLEY \$649,000

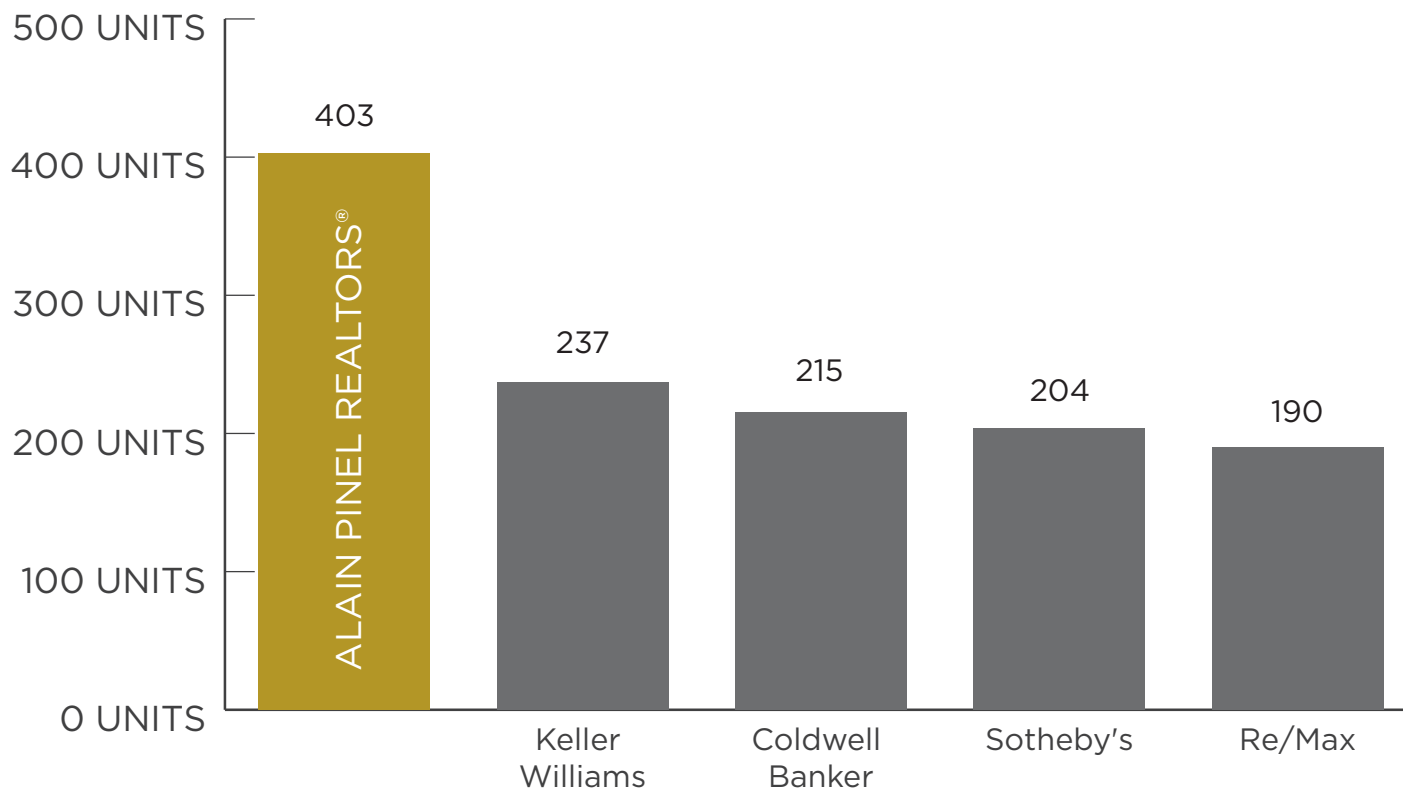
1731 Grove Way | 3bd/2ba
 Janice Habluetzel | 925.699.3122
 License # 1385523
 OPEN SAT & SUN 1:00-4:00



PLEASANTON \$2,149,000

12 Deer Oaks | 5bd/3.5ba
 Tim McGuire | 925.895.9950
 License # 1349446
 BY APPOINTMENT

THE LEADER IS ALAIN PINEL



*Source: TrendGraphix, Oct 1, 2016 - Sep 30, 2017, Top Office Market Share Dublin, Livermore & Pleasanton, All Properties
 Information is obtained from the Multiple Listing Service and/or public records. This third party information has not been independently verified.*

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