Community Support Keeps Kitchen Open

Sutter Health Buys Livermore Land

County Receives Top Environmental Award

People Count on Recycling Baskets

Livermore Moves Ahead with Plan for I-580 Widening

Gingerbread Hippo Has a Name

Events Highlight Cuba Week at Las Positas College

Sutter Health has acquired 45 acres north of Granite 50 and east of Canyon Road in Livermore for $39 million.

The purchase was made from Silja Homes and AKTAR in late October.

Stacey Wells, ValleyCare Health System's Alameda County environmental liaison, said that a nonconforming property, if not redeveloped, could lose development potential.

The viewpoint is fixed as of December 8, 2004, when FreezeTheView won a court challenge to protect the view. Wells added, “Livermore is a great community. We are lucky and happy to serve in that region.”

Alameda County received the 2008 Governor’s Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEEA) for its master’s degree Forest Management Building.

Weiss added, “Livermore is a great community. We are lucky and happy to serve in that region.”

Elk Grove

Livermore’s neighborhood, with school properties not yet developed can build homes.

Freezing the viewpoint shows the city council voted 3 to 2 on Monday to amend zoning for the 8,000 children. For more information, please call Becky McKeever or the staff at Open Heart Kitchen.

Sutter Health has a distinctive landmark in Livermore in its newsletters, published the site has been outfitted with a battery recycling station. The station has been so great that it looks like the nonprofit might make it.

Livermore took steps Mon.

to Recycle Batteries

to the outside driving way. With the widening, the outside lane would be moved 22 feet to the inside lane. Staff proposed retaining the same viewpoint location, rather than moving it as the road is widened.

Students at Cottage Preschool at Cedar Grove Community Church in Livermore celebrated Thanksgiving last week by watching in costumes and entertaining visitors with songs in celebration of the holiday. The students also ate a Thanksgiving meal complete with turkey, stuffing, and dessert.

Livermore's valley is the site of the winning idea.

To the front, the staff received the prestigious environmental award.

February 2006 in an effort to stem the chemical leaching of used batteries into water supplies.

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February 2006 in an effort to stem the chemical leaching of used batteries into water supplies.
Residents enjoy winingstasting by candlelight during the festivities held at Blackbird Square in Livermore to raise funds for Open Heart Fund.
Pleasanton at (925) 931-5580.

BATTERIES

Recycling is a key element of a green building's sustainability. A green building reduces the environmental impacts of construction and operation, and helps ensure the future. Green buildings use less energy, reduce waste, contain more recycled content, and provide a healthier, more productive environment for the building's users. The City of Livermore is committed to protecting the environment and has implemented a variety of programs and initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint. This includes recycling batteries, which are toxic to the environment if not handled properly. The City of Livermore provides battery recycling bins at various locations throughout the city, making it easy for residents to recycle their batteries. Additionally, the City provides educational programs and resources to help residents understand the importance of recycling batteries and how to do it properly.

Livermore City Council recently adopted a resolution committing the City to recycling batteries and reducing their environmental impact. The resolution directs the City Manager to develop a battery recycling program and to work with local schools, businesses, and residents to promote the recycling of batteries. The City also encourages residents to bring their used batteries to one of the City's designated battery recycling sites, which include the City Hall Lobby, 200 Old Bernal Avenue; and Livermore-Pleasanton BART Station.

There are several ways to recycle batteries in Livermore. Residents can bring their used batteries to one of the City's designated battery recycling sites, which include the City Hall Lobby, 200 Old Bernal Avenue; and Livermore-Pleasanton BART Station. Additionally, residents can drop off batteries at the Pleasanton Operations Center, 3333 Bernal Avenue, or at the Pleasanton BART Station. The City also encourages residents to contact their local school district or community center for information on how to recycle batteries in their area.

The City of Livermore is committed to protecting the environment and promoting sustainability. By recycling batteries, residents can help reduce the environmental impact of these toxic materials and ensure a safer, healthier future for all.

Contact:
Nancy Kilbourne, City of Livermore
3333 Bernal Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: (925) 266-4270
Email: nkilbourne@cityoflivermore.ca.us
Website: cityoflivermore.ca.us
**EDITORIAL**

Award Winners

Coveted awards have covered the valley’s way in recent weeks. They include two of the Valley’s newsmakers — Mayor Marshall Kamena of the Bankhead Theater, recipient of the Business Times’ East Bay Visionary Award, and Casa Real, sitting next to the Baby Hill tasting room, at one of the main gateways to the Livermore Valley. The Theater and the Casa are two of many new commercial ventures that serve to bring more economic activity to the city’s coffers. One way to spur this growth is to redevelop the other, unused land that is currently in downtown Livermore’s revitalization.

Another noteworthy prize winner is Joan Thomas’s Café Real, which sits at the corner of Industrial Avenue and Main Street. Thomas, above, was supposed to be only one prize, $2,000 to the winner. The two awards do not mean Valley Jennings is in a big way. Congratulations to the winners!

**Legal Actions Could Give More Funds to Livermore**

The City of Livermore is looking to expand its sales-tax spending as the economy continues to improve. However, there are two potential scenarios that Livermore could be looking at.

One is a sales-tax revenue rebound, the other an opportunity to expand the city’s coffers. On Monday, the city council approved a staff’s recommendation was a 3 percent cut to the city’s sales-tax rate. This would amount to a $6.2 million cut over the next five years. The city council also voted to keep the sales-tax rate at the present amount of 7.75 percent.

While at the laboratory, the impact of Lab operations on surface soil, sediment and vapor was removed from past operations. At the Laboratory, some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2007, monitored by some 65 instruments at 38 separate locations.

No one would argue that Lab operations have had a significant effect on the environment. Livermore lawyers have been appealing to the city council to ask for an impact study to take a closer look at costs, and whether a change is needed. Money is due with staff that will produce three reports by the end of the 2010 calendar year and be due in March 2011. The field has been awarded for 10 years, 15 percent of the city’s employees are major factors. In 2007, the Lab’s 267 E85 pumps supplied gasoline to the Lab’s 267 E85 pumps. In 2007, the Lab’s 267 E85 pumps supplied gasoline to the Lab’s 267 E85 pumps.

Environmental monitoring of Lab operations has continued at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in support of efforts to reduce the Lab’s environmental impacts. The monitoring of Lab operations has continued at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in support of efforts to reduce the Lab’s environmental impacts.

**Entrepreneur in Residence Program Being Extended to More Labs**

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced that it would extend its current five-year capital- and facility-improvement program for DOE’s Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) Program.

The program, now in its third year, was launched in 2006 by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Savannah River National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The EIR Program is designed to accelerate the development and commercialization of next-generation technologies from DOE’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and DOE’s National Laboratories.

Sinda National Laboratories Livermore Fellows to Two Developers

Livermore National Laboratories is extending its Entrepreneur in Residence Program Being Extended to More Labs. The EIR Program was established in 2002 to provide a forum for entrepreneurs to work with new and established companies. The Program was established to provide a forum for entrepreneurs to work with new and established companies.

In the current phase of the program, the entrepreneurs will work with start-ups and small businesses to develop new technologies and help to commercialize them. The EIR Program was established in 2002 to provide a forum for entrepreneurs to work with new and established companies.

Mickey Elizabeth Jones, age 87, passed away quietly at home in Livermore on the morning of November 29, 2008. She was born on November 9, 1921 in Westwood, California.

She is survived by her parents, Thomas and Ada; her husband, Robert; her sons, John (Teresita), David (Sharon), and Michael (Suzanne); her daughter, Susan Jones Amos of Livermore; her grandchildren, Andrew (Hannah), Calvin (Heather), and Amanda; and her great-grandchildren, Ross and James.

She was predeceased by her father, Thomas; her mother, Ada; and her sister, Joan.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Livermore Library Foundation or the 150th anniversary committee for the Church of the Epiphany of Livermore.

OCTO Basketball

Delvin Shaver (4), from Granada High School, will play the ball back at San Ramon Valley High School. Shaver has 356 NCS Division I & II Volleyball championships. His high school, Granada, is 3 sets to 2, 24-23, 25-22, 25-23, 24-26, and 15-13 to move on to the quarterfinals. Also in the quarterfinal round is the team from Foothill High School. Foothill will take on Freedom in a 5-set, Nov. 29, 7 p.m. match in Pleasanton.

Pleasanton Vikings

Delvin Shaver is the top scorer in the game of 2BN4. Wyatt Moseley of SMSC 2BN4, scored 10 points, and Trenton Green 6 points. The Vikings continued to keep the pressure on 2BN4. The SMSC Spartans won the game by 18 points, 14-16 for CCOP. The Golden Vikings are 8-8 overall and 2-3 in the league.

California Gymnastics

In AGE GROUP JUNIOR G, Alexandra Brown scored 9.3 (2T) on vault, 9.3 (2T) on balance beam, and 9.7 on floor. She was 14th in balance beam, tied for 19th on floor, and 19th on vault. In AGE GROUP CHILD F, Katarina Macintyre and Caleb Wang scored 5.7, 5.7, and 5.4 on balance beam, respectively. Katarina was 14th, Caleb was 15th, and Nicholas was 16th in balance beam.

Gymnastics gimnastics

In AGE GROUP CHILD H: VAULT: 16th, 8.15. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR J: Vault: 18th, 8.0. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR I: Floor: 19th, 8.525. All-around: 17th, 8.8. The following gymnasts made it to the quarterfinal round: Level 6 Age Group - Child H: VAULT: 16th, 8.15. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR G: Alexandra Brown scored 9.3 (2T) on vault, 9.3 (2T) on balance beam, and 9.7 on floor. She was 14th in balance beam, tied for 19th on floor, and 19th on vault.

Lacrosse Registration

Our website: www.Livermorehomes.com

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Sara's scores are as follows: Level 6 Age Group - Child H: VAULT: 16th, 8.15. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR J: Vault: 18th, 8.0. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR I: Floor: 19th, 8.525. All-around: 17th, 8.8. The following gymnasts made it to the quarterfinal round: Level 6 Age Group - Child H: VAULT: 16th, 8.15. In AGE GROUP JUNIOR G: Alexandra Brown scored 9.3 (2T) on vault, 9.3 (2T) on balance beam, and 9.7 on floor. She was 14th in balance beam, tied for 19th on floor, and 19th on vault.
Bid on Inauguration Tickets

During ‘Music in the Halls’

The Valley Recaps Literary Harvest


The Wound Vine: Local photographer Maurie Louis has dedicated herself to creating a photo collection for the Pleasanton Vets Home that will chronicle the journey of this year’s Veteran residents. The pictures, taken by Louis at various locations around the city, are currently being framed for the screening on December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Louis, the Director of Public Relations for the Pleasanton Community Services Foundation, selected the theme ‘Home for the Holidays’ for the project.

The West Wind: 12644 Doherty Drive, Doherty, CA 94530. Tickets are $50 per person, which includes admission, a dinner, and keepsake program.

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Perfectly Portrait-Able: Open to the public, the 6th Annual Barbara Money Fundraiser Gala will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Livermore Sports Park. The event is a benefit for the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LV-PAC) and will honor 2009’s Barbara Money Grant Recipient, Susan W. Bland.

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**Holiday Fund-Raising Festivities Planned**

The Pleasanton PTA Council to present Reflections Arts Awards

The Pleasanton PTA Council will hold its sixth annual Reflections Arts Recognition Program on Monday, December 1, at Harvest Park Middle School’s Performing Arts Center. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with the ceremony to follow at 7 p.m. The Reflections Program, sponsored by the National PTA, is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves artistically in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, and theatre arts. For more information about the Arts Awards Program, visit the website at www.pleasantonpta.org/artsawards. Please join us for this fun, festive event. This is a great opportunity to win cash prizes and gift baskets. Tickets will be available at the Middle School’s front office, the human resources office, or the Pleasanton Public Library. Tickets may also be purchased at the event for $20. Tickets for this event are available at the door. Tickets are $20 and include refreshments. A special word of thanks to Greenbriar Homes for making this event possible.

**Festive Reflections**

**Pleasanton PT A Council to Honor Class of 2008**

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What is There to Be Thankful For in this Real Estate Market?

By Cher Wollard

Real estate these days are often met with prying glasses and exasperated comments from many people in the Bay Area, where housing prices remain among the most robust in the nation.

In fact, there is much to be grateful for in real estate these days, for many people have turned to real estate to avoid the economic ebb and flow. There are many reasons to be grateful for in real estate.

“Money is going to last longer when purchasing homes right now,” stated Tammy Pryor, a Realtor with Keller Williams. “This gives homeowners the ability to take a long-term approach.”

For homeowners, the fact that prices are down about 25 percent from the peak is something to be grateful for.

And the Affordability Index, which measures what percentage of income is necessary to afford a home, has fallen from a low of about 10 percent last year to 30 percent this year.

In coming months our Thanksgiving week here is a few real estate notes worth mentioning:

• About 400 Livermore residences – both single family homes and condos – went pending last month, according to the Bay East Association of Realtors. This compares with over 500 a year ago and less than 300 the height of the market.

With 500 plus homes offered, the market was sluggish and sellers were often selling at discounts, which in fact, was true for many people unable to move in, and, in the distress situations, facing foreclosure.

At the height of the market, by contrast, there were so few homes available that buyers snapped up any property they could at almost any price over what they could manage, whether it was for them or not. Many buyers were forced to buy inside their budget.

A lot of first-time homebuyers – because the affordability index is so much – are able to afford to get into a home now. “We are a lot more flexible,” said Hendler.

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New home developments too are offering lower prices, better financing and more perks as incentives to buy now. It’s not uncommon for amenities such as granite countertops, upgraded flooring and appliances, landscaping and indoor outdoor to be included in the mix.

All of this is great news for owners looking to shift their portfolio out of the troubled real estate market.

People who thought they could never invest are able to now, and there are great properties to be had.

Even those who want to transition from their current homes to something larger are seeing affordability.

The move-upbuyer can get into a bigger house, and the cost and due date bases will be lower. Plus, cost rates are still great. Hernandez said, that fact brings us to our next two blessings:

“Government guarantees will allow for low interest rates to vote for mortgages on owner-occupied property. Over the past 4 years, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate, with a 20 percent downpayment, has averaged 6.1 percent, according to Freddie Mac. With 6 percent down, the rate would be 6.8 percent, which is well under 7 percent for conventional mortgages.”

The federal government this year increased the conforming rate, the top dollar amount a consumer can borrow for a home before moving up to higher ‘jumbo’ mortgage pricing.

“The conforming rate this year increased from 80 percent to 6 percent, which means that the top dollar amount a consumer can borrow for a home before moving up into higher ‘jumbo’ mortgage pricing.”

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**SHORT NOTES**

**Birds in Veterans Park**

Holiday Birds is the topic of a presentation next Monday at Park Central Library, 800 N. Main St. in Veterans Park.

**LPC Information Night**

Information tables regarding financial aid, scholarship and internship opportunities, student leaders, as well as representatives from campus administration, student services, and various academic departments will be available.

For more information, visit the website at www.lpc.csulb.edu or email visits@lpc.csulb.edu.

**SHOP**

**Classical Clocks & Antiques**

**Shrimp Cocktail**

**Pasta Party**

**Fall Open House**

Fall Stroll 2008 & Open House at Thomas Coyne Winery will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Tasting room is located at 5301 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

**Wine Release**

John Christopher Cellars at Blackbird Square in Dublin is host to the release of 2008 Livermore Valley, California High School, 2004 Eldorado Merlot, 2003 California High School cabernet sauvignon and 2005 Livermore Petite Sirah.

**United Christian Church**

Where God is still speaking

1898 College Avenue, Livermore (at All Streets)

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2008**

Opening the doors of our hearts...

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

December 3rd, 5 p.m.

Men of Mirrors - Laser - glammertex - drag - producers - front - prices, and more!

Special Pricing for Buses During Happy Hours Open House with Dr. Warren Lemp

**GRAND PRICE SHOW OFF**

**FACIAL**

**KANTAN'S DAY 7**

9:30 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m. - Worship and Children's Sunday School

**OUT in the World - making a World of DIFFERENCE**

www.catholic.org (209) 449-4320

A partnership Church of the United Methodist Church of Fremont Church of Christ

The Independent, NOVEMBER 27, 2009 - PAGE 9
Three Livermore Families Compete in the Zero Waste Challenge

By Patricia Koning

This fall, KTVU and Waste Management challenged four local families to reduce, recycle, and reuse, and to track their way to victory in the Zero Waste Challenge. KTVU and Waste Management staff selected the families after receiving nominations. The families were selected to represent a cross-section of the community.

“We thought the challenge would be a fun way to educate and motivate the public to recycle more,” said Kathleen Minor, government affairs officer for Waste Management. “Over the summer, Waste Management and KTVU received the call for families of four who were up for the challenge, and received over 1,000 responses from as far away as New York, Colorado and California.”

The four families who were chosen from hundreds of nominations are by a competitive challenge, according to Minor. “The community service organizations, churches, school districts and community leaders who nominated the families are truly needy because they can’t help us assure that they are truly needy.”

These organizations, such as Tri-Valley and Central Valley area of Oakland, Albany, and Castro Valley were eligible.

Through a series of phone and in-person interviews, KTVU narrowed the field down to the four families, three of whom are from Livermore (the Jepsons, Kerstetters, and Laus). The fourth family, the Oakleys, are from Oakland. Interested families were by a competitive challenge, and were interviewed by the community service organizations, churches, school districts and community leaders who nominated the families.

Each week, Waste Management will wrap all the gifts in Livermore more than 900 children. Volunteers do this for Creative Use, which they already own eye-opening.

While the Laus especially their two young children, were pleased with their review, which includes a trip to Sea World in San Diego. Livermore and they were most impressed by the families who completely changed their ways. “To give up knowing they can also reduce their community as it’s important. If you reduce first, there is a lot less of the other waste to deal with,” she explained.

Waste Management was thrilled with the performance of the Zero Waste Challenge families. “We expected them to be good at recycling, we were surprised by how much they were able to make their waste from week to week,” said Minor.

We’d like everyone to think about ways to recycle and put less waste into the trash can.”

She added that Livermore residents have a great resource in the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Center at La Rohns Street off South Niles, where you can drop off fluorescent tubes, chemicals such as fertilizers or weed killer, and batteries. See www.acwaste.org for more information.

To read the families’ diaries and view all of the KTVU segments from the Zero Waste Challenge, see http://www.ktvu.com/wastechallenge2008.html.

Program Helps Provide a Happy Holiday

The Surtec Adopt A Family Program was founded by Bill Field in 1991 to provide a happy Christmas to children of needy families in the Bay Area. As a non-profit corporation, it is a family-friendly, people-oriented program focused on making Christmas special for children in the community.

The program consists of a group of volunteers.

The average cost for the food baskets and gifts for each family is approximately $200. All of the volunteers, from the Surtec staff to the community volunteers, are personally chosen for their age group and gender, gift wrap, and personalized name tags to identify the family.

One of the main requirements of the program is that no administrative costs are taken from the group. All of the help is on a volunteer basis and all funds and goods go directly to the needy families.

The families are obtained through various channels, such as school districts and community service organizations. These organizations receive the families’ names so they are only notified of the selection of the families and children are not based on any specific religion or race. The only requirement is that they are truly needy families with children.

In 1991, the organization served 51 families with 144 children. Last year, there were 52 families with 221 children. The entire project is managed with volunteer help and all money raised comes primarily from an annual golf tournament, business sponsorships, and donations from individuals and companies adopting a family or more. Volunteers do all of the shopping for food and gifts and the volunteers purchase, wrap and deliver the food, gifts and delivering them directly to the family. Some families also have a warehouse space left over which to accommodate the gifts.

On the Saturday prior to Christmas, all of the food baskets and gifts are delivered directly to the families’ homes for volunteer distribution.

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