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INSIDE

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Livermore, Pleasanton agree on extension

By JEB BING

With the Livermore and Pleasanton city councils' recent approvals of major projects on the southern side of I-580 and El Charro Road, as well as the extensions of Jack London Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive to where they will meet at El Charro, multi-million-dollar retail, residential, recreational and roadway improvements may soon get under way.

On the Pleasanton side of El Charro, that city's council voted 3-2 to approve the extension of Stoneridge

Drive as a four-lane thoroughfare to El Charro Road and Livermore, completing one of its final policy decisions for Staples Ranch and giving the green light to a multi-million-dollar commercial, recreational and residential development on the now-vacant 124-acre property.

The site is now owned by Alameda County. Once development agreements are finalized, it's expected that the site will be annexed into the city of Pleasanton. The council's action settled years of discussion

Years in the planning stage, cross-city roadways get final OK

over Staples Ranch. At one time, a 300-home residential development was proposed there, which was rejected by Pleasanton. IKEA, the Swedish furniture store, also expressed an interest in the site, but chose available land in Dublin, instead. Later, IKEA dropped its

plans for a Tri-Valley store altogether.

Along with approving the Stoneridge Drive extension, which both Dublin and Livermore officials have long urged, the Pleasanton council also approved a revised Staples Ranch Specific Plan that was needed before development could actually start. The major developments with their plans already in place are:

- Hendrick Automotive Group, which wants to build a new auto mall on its 37-acre portion of

Staples, next to the junction of I-580 and El Charro Road, directly across El Charro from a 180-plus store outlet mall that Livermore has approved.

- Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, a 45-acre senior continuing care community to be developed by Continuing Life Communities (CLC), with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living residents.

- Fremont Land, an 11-acre

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VADIM GORETSKY

A pair of children play in a mosaic fountain at the new Shannon Community Center in Dublin.

Dublin's Shannon Center opens

Dublin's new Shannon Community Center has opened with a flourish—bands playing and several hundred crowing into the spacious facility for a first look.

The \$5.5-million center sits on 10 acres at 11600 Shannon Ave., has 19,700 square feet of space and provides a banquet hall for 300 people, a teaching kitchen, two preschool classrooms, flexible meeting rooms and staff offices.

The traditional mission style design of the building incorporates a terra cotta colored tile roof, cream-colored walls, sandstone colored base, dark window mul-

Hundreds join designers, city officials at opening ceremonies

lions and green stone accent tiles. The building interior has similar finishes and colors that mimic the terra cottas and creams in the wall colors, carpets and tiles.

The landscape was designed to incorporate demonstration gardens on the lower terrace, which can also be used as a teaching tool for nature camps. The multi-function plaza and landscape off of the social

hall also includes the removal of the gazebo to be replaced with a thematic re-creation of a "faerie ring" from Irish folklore. This element will also function as an opportunity for donor names for the Dublin Pride Steering Committee.

City officials said they believe the center is poised to become a premier rental facility in the region. The cornerstone of this new mission-style building is Ambrose Hall, named for recently-retired City Manager Richard Ambrose, under whose watch the rebuilt center was designed and completed. Ambrose

Continued on **PAGE 5**

'Destination Showcase' brings events to Valley

Vineyards, facilities, prices have special appeal

Despite a downturn in the economy, more than 125 corporate meeting planners and others turned out for the recent "Destination Showcase," a new event sponsored by the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau that had special appeal as companies seek to reduce travel and meeting expenses.

Those attending found some 50 exhibitors, ranging from local hotel representatives to wineries, florists and caterers.

"We understood that in this economy, meeting planners are looking for an economical destination to host their groups," said Natalie Alvanez, Tri-Valley CVB's director of marketing and membership. "We wanted to help make the process less time consuming and expensive."

The event, held in the San Ramon Valley Conference Center, was basically one-stop shopping for meeting planners. It gave them an opportunity to check out the prices, meeting room sizes and other amenities of scheduling their conferences, weddings and executive gatherings in the Tri-Valley, considered a less expensive area for those who still want to meet close to San Francisco.

"In the midst of the current recession, it's very important to rely on these events and find place where they can stay, dine and have fun for a better value than they might find in large cities, such as San Francisco," said Amy Blaschka,



JEB BING

MacKenzie Herbst, corporate sales manager for Casa Real and the Palm Event Center, and Lisa Mitchum, director of sales for both centers, attended the CVB event.

president and chief executive of the Tri-Valley CVB.

"We're creative and working collaboratively and coming up with ideas to help everyone who is planning a corporate or family event," she said.

Lisa Mitchum, event coordinator for the Palm Event and Casa Real event centers on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton, said both facilities are booked on weekends through 2009, although there have been some cancellations by companies of meetings they had planned during mid-week times.

"Some of the cancellations are because of the negative perception there seems to be of throwing company parties," Mitchum said, "not because these organizations

Continued on **PAGE 7**

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AROUND THE TRI-VALLEY



BY JEB BING

Tips for weathering the downturn

There's nothing like a recession to make business owners large and small think about how best to maneuver through economic quicksands and come out relatively unscathed on the other side. Steve Siner, newly-elected to the top job as managing shareholder at the Tri-Valley law firm of Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel, has worked with clients in troubled times during his 30 years as a lawyer and has strong opinions on what we should do to make it through today's challenges. Siner admits it's a cliché but he firmly believes that challenges can also be opportunities and that Tri-Valley businesses, entrepreneurs and property owners can stay viable in all that we're facing. Have no doubts, Siner reminds us, these are extraordinary times that few with business plans ever envisioned. In fact, those with business plans which were likely written in better economic times should pull them out and update now.

First, businesses need to become lean and mean. If there are 12 employees on board and the ship can only hold 10, two need to get off quickly before the ship goes down. It's not easy to pare staff, but Siner says that's what businesses must do to stay profitable. A mom-and-pop-owned dry cleaners, for example, might be able to reduce hours to still adequately serve its customers without an extra hand, stuff a few more garments in a delivery bag, and even cut energy costs by bunching up batches in the cleaning process.

If there's money in the bank, keep it there even if plans to add a new wing to the showroom floor are in place and a contractor hired. No one knows when this downturn will end and that cash reserve might come in handy to weather a four-to-six month cash shortfall if conditions worsen. The building addition can wait. That's what Whole Foods is doing with its plans to build in Dublin, what Prime Outlets is doing with its plans for a 150-store center at El Charro Road and I-580 in Livermore, what

Safeway is doing with its plans for a superstore at Bernal and Valley Avenues in Pleasanton and what Hendrick Automotive is doing in delaying construction plans for a new auto mall on Staples Ranch. All have moved forward to get final city approvals of their plans so that they're ready to build when the markets improve in 2010 or beyond.

Siner considers today's economic downturn as an upturn for renters and mortgage holders. A real estate broker for 16 years as well as a highly regarded lawyer, including 23 years with his late father Bernard in the San Jose law practice of Siner & Siner, he considers 2009 a renters' market like none other he has ever seen. For businesses still trapped in 2007-era rents, they need to renegotiate with their landlords or move to vacant retail spaces elsewhere. The Tri-Valley has abundant vacant office and commercial properties with many owners willing to work deals so that they can pay their own bills. For property owners, Siner recommends checking their assessments. He's seeing companies reduce their property taxes by \$10,000-\$20,000 through readjusted assessments. This is also the time to go to the bank and negotiate more favorable terms on a mortgage. Many banks are receptive to working with their established customers to keep their loans so that the banks' auditors can see future-focused, secure packages.

Finally, Siner urges businesses, especially retailers, not to take the seemingly easy path of cutting all expenses, including advertising, promotions and sponsorships. Customers need to know you're still there, still offering value for their money with quality goods and services they need more than ever as expendable income shrinks. Don't sacrifice the short term to get to the long term, Siner warns, or there may not be a long term. Retailers are short-sighted when they freeze promotional dollars needed for business development. Sure, these are unprecedented, "even horrible" times, he counsels, but they won't last forever. A 23-year resident of Pleasanton, Siner has seen that community go through tough economic times before, but always with a special kind of business acumen that he has found leads to a fast and strong recovery. ■

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STONERIDGE DRIVE

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retail development, which would include various shops and also may include a food market, bank and restaurant.

•Sharks Ice Center, a two-story, four rink facility to be built by San Jose Arena Management, a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks, with the facility to occupy about 10 acres of a 17-acre public park that the Sharks would also develop for the city.

Each of those developments will still need specific approvals of their site plans and subsequent building permits, which will require more discussions with city planners, the Planning Commission and finally again with the City Council.

In Livermore, settlements of lawsuits allowed the city's council to move forward with long-standing plans to extend Jack London Boulevard from Isabel Avenue, which is also State Hwy. 84, to El Charro. That action also cleared the way for CrossWinds Church to build its new campus on Livermore's western border.

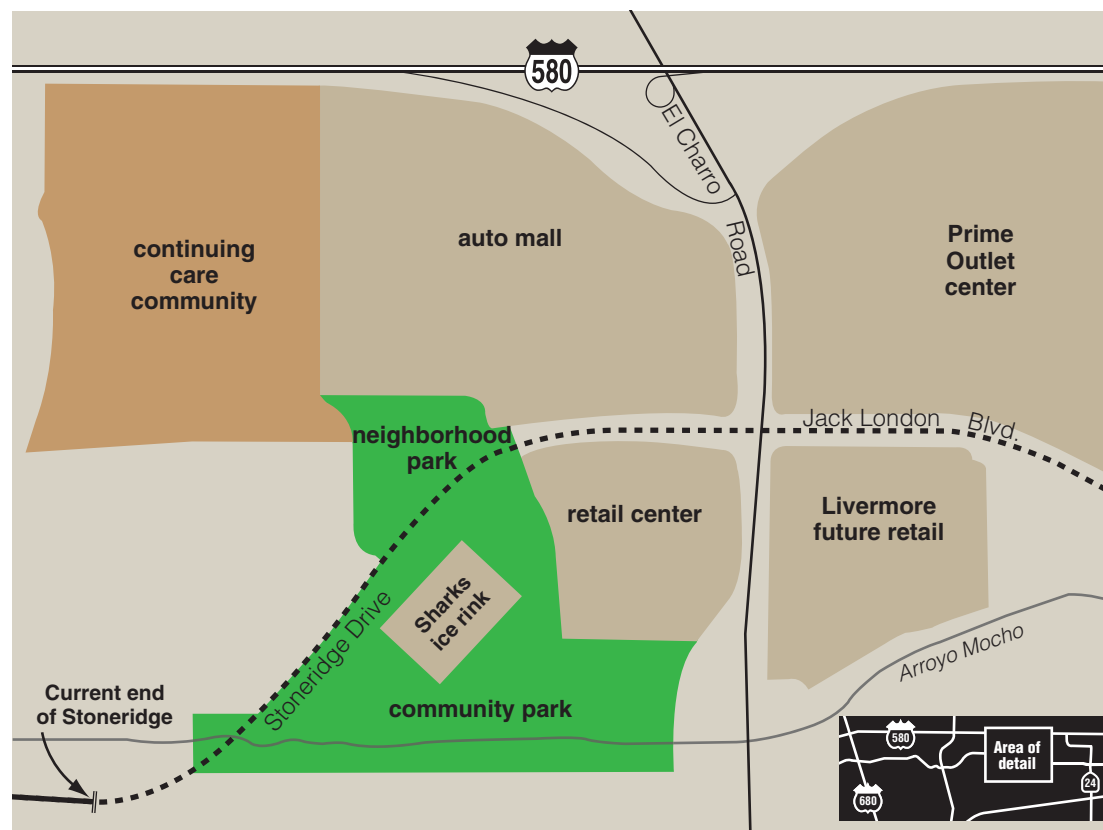
•Meanwhile, Prime Outlets received approval for a modified development agreement that would allow up to 550,000 square feet of retail space for as many as 180 outlet stores, including outlets for high-end retailers such as Neiman Marcus and Barneys of New York.

This will be the largest retail center in Livermore, which will move forward now that the city has also agreed to help with a sales tax sharing agreement to offset some of the costs of roadway and other infrastructure improvements.

The infrastructure project is scheduled to go to bid this summer with construction expected to start later this year or in 2010. The project includes widening El Charro Road, extending Jack London Boulevard westerly to El Charro Road, and improving or constructing utility lines, a sewer pump station and flood control system. Shops in the Prime Outlet

Stoneridge extension

Map shows major developments planned for 124-acre Staples Ranch with newly approved Stoneridge Drive extension connecting Pleasanton to El Charro Road and Livermore.



center are expected to open in late 2010 or 2011, depending on the economy.

The current economic downturn also is likely to slow development now approved for Staples Ranch, including extending Stoneridge Drive. City officials are reviewing the Environmental Impact Report to make sure it's in accord with state and county regulations now that the Stoneridge Drive extension is part of the Staples project.

Richard D. Aschenbrenner, chief executive officer of Continuing Life Communities in San Diego, which will build and operate Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, said more than 100 applicants for the independent and assisted living units have

already placed deposits and he's had inquiries from 400 more. He said CLC plans to start work on its residential units in phases early next year.

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho said Hendrick Auto has also submitted development plans and could start building its new and expanded auto mall in 2010 or 2011. Fremont Land also has the funds to start construction, he said.

City officials are still negotiating a land lease with the San Jose Arena Management for the ice rink, with those details to be announced shortly, Fialho said. With Stoneridge Drive now approved, the Sharks affiliate can proceed to develop specific build-

ing and parking lot plans.

Key among the decisions by Livermore and Pleasanton, however, was both cities' agreement to extend Stoneridge Drive and Jack London Boulevard. The long-awaited connection of an intercity roadway to allow Pleasanton and Livermore motorists to travel between the two cities has been contentious at times, with Dublin, Livermore and Alameda County holding up their support of widening Route 84 until Pleasanton agreed to extend Stoneridge. With that decision made, and barring a lawsuit that could delay that project, the Tri-Valley cities are expected to work together to seek funding for Rte. 84. ■

Axis gets \$1.3 million in stimulus funds

Axis Community Health was awarded \$1.3 million in federal economic stimulus funds recently, joining 125 other community health centers in the country as recipients of the funding from the \$787-billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Axis, which provides medical, mental health, substance abuse counseling and health education service, is receiving the money in the form of New Access Point grants, which is expected to create 5,500 jobs and provide services to 750,000 people nationwide.

It is projected that the funding will enable state clinics to provide 80,890 additional people with medical care and create 600 new jobs.

"This is huge for us," said Axis CEO Sue Compton. "We have attempted to obtain federal funding in the past, but were disqualified because previous priorities were on clinics that were located in rural and border areas."

"Clinics are bursting and we have a one month waiting list for most of our services," she added. "Because we are the only provider of primary care medical services in eastern Alameda County and the Tri-Valley area, more than 200 new residents are turning to us each month now for their medical care."

Over the next 24 months, Axis expects to serve an additional 4,000 patients and provide 21,000 more medical visits each year. This will also increase its capacity to provide mental health counseling (250 new clients, 6,000 more visits) and substance abuse services (500 clients, 15,000 visits).

Axis' clinics will be open six-to-seven days a week and at least five evenings per week, Compton said.

—Janet Pelletier



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SHANNON

Continued from PAGE 1

Hall has floor to ceiling windows the length of the room that look out over a colonnade to the lush landscape and beauty of the creek. The abundance of natural wood trim, large wood cellar doors and a travertine wainscot provide the hall with the elegance of a grand hotel or winery.

The Shannon Community Center is available for rentals beginning June 1. For more information, call 556-4500 or send an email to marie.boudreau@ci.dublin.ca.us.

Pleasanton Weekly photographer Jay Flachsbarth, who took a series of photographs of the new center and opening day ceremonies, said he was especially impressed with the beautiful, rich woods, modern designer-style lighting throughout the facility and its furnishings.

At the opening day ceremony, caterers from around the Tri-Valley served samples of their cuisine at the west end of the building, with several hundred moving into Ambrose Hall, the main room, where musical entertainment was provided.

"Also of note is the center's guest chef, Rosabella Malmgren," Flachsbarth said. "She is the chef instructor at Draeger's Market Cooking School and will be conducting numerous cooking classes during the spring." (See www.dublinRecGuide.com for the schedule.)

Malmgren left a successful career in the legal industry to pursue her culinary passions. She graduated from the California Culinary Academy and has worked at Green's Restaurant as well as catering to Wente Bros. vineyards before joining Draeger's.

Another highlight at the center is the fountain mosaic, which bears the title: "And there was evening and there was morning..." The title is for the moment when light is separated from darkness, according to Vadim Goretsky, who worked with Margarita Soyfertis in designing the mosaic.

"This project was selected by the city of Dublin as one of the winning entries through its Public Art Competition," Goretsky said. "Our goal was to transform the old Shannon fountain into a special meeting place at the entrance to the new community center."

"We hope this project is received in the spirit it was created," Goretsky added. "The glass tiles capture the sun. The stainless steel mirrors reflect the sky. The fountain is revived as a bright and colorful place to delight and bring joy to the community."

Soyfertis said, "We'd like to express our thanks to all who participated to make this project a reality: to the Dublin public art selecting committee, to John Hartnett and Herma Lichtenstein who coordinated the process, to my friends and family, who helped to assemble the mosaics, to my co-author Vadim Goretsky, who collaborated on the design and production of the project."

This center is located in a 10-acre community park, which also features a natural creek meandering its way through the park and provides visitors with an opportunity for exploring nature.

—Jeb Bing



LVPAC

A town hall meeting will be held March 24 on a proposed \$69.2-million regional theater in Livermore. The 2,000-seat theater, to be built in the old Lucky shopping center, is anticipated to generate \$20 million to \$25 million per year.

Meeting on theater in Livermore planned for Tuesday

Residents encouraged to hear about plans, ask questions

By JANET PELLETIER

Plans for a second performance venue in Livermore are moving forward. A town hall-style meeting will be held this Tuesday, March 24 at the Bankhead Theater, where residents can get more information and ask questions.

Planned is a 2,000-seat regional theater, scheduled to open in late 2011. It will be located on South Livermore Avenue, between Railroad Avenue and First Street in the now-mostly demolished shopping center space where Lucky grocery store used to be, and just steps away from Livermore's newest theater, the Bankhead. The city is choosing between two different proposals for housing and retail on the site. A four-star hotel is also planned across Livermore Avenue from the regional theater.

The \$69.2-million regional theater is planned to feature a unique, terraced seating layout to hold full-scale Broadway touring productions, concerts, music and dance groups, lectures, seminars, meetings, conferences and com-

munity events.

A Livermore Valley visitor's center would be located adjacent to a tri-level atrium lobby in the theater.

The theater is a partnership of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center and the city of Livermore. The city's redevelopment agency will invest \$49.5 million from a projected \$122.8 million in tax increment revenues over a 30-year period.

The theater is estimated to generate more than \$600 million during that timeframe (\$20 million to \$25 million annually). LVPAC is raising funds for the theater, including a campaign of \$10 million for construction and another \$10 million for other costs.

The town hall meeting, sponsored by LVPAC and Friends of the Regional Theater, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bankhead, 2400 First St.

For information, call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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Taylor Foundation postpones fundraiser

By Emily West

The largest fundraiser for the Taylor Family Foundation, Day in the Park, which was scheduled for August, has been postponed.

In past years, several restaurants would offer free food and auction packages to support the organization that serves Northern California children with life-threatening and chronic diseases, developmental disabilities and at-risk youth. Other past supporters include local and regional wineries and chefs. TTF president Elaine Taylor said 14 participating restaurants have gone out of business since the last Day in the Park.

"We trying to be respectful and considerate as well as grateful," Taylor said. "We had a good year last year. We will stretch those dollars and be really careful."

They realize the next 15 to 20 months, at least, will be challenging for them as well. Taylor also reports that they have had to reduce staff in order to not reduce any of the program offerings. Buying two years worth of T-shirts last year has saved her for this year, as well as searching for more affordable prices for camp staples like ice cream.

Since it was founded in 1990, the Taylor Family Foundation continues to see a strong demand for its offerings. Camp Arroyo started in 2000, in partnership with the East Bay Regional Park District, which takes place over the summer and is co-operated by the YMCA of the East Bay. The demand has even led them to start a new camp this year.

"Our camp calendar is booked through 2011," Taylor said. "We will make it possible for the nearly 3,000 campers who will attend camp this year to experience the magic that camp has to offer."

The next Day in the Park will be scheduled for Aug. 30, 2010, which marks the double anniversary of TFF and its Camp Arroyo.

Anyone wishing to donate to the organization or to sponsor a camper can visit www.ttf.org or call the offices at 575-1640. ■

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OF NOTE

Livermore man to attend NFL summit

USA Football, the sport's national governing body on youth and amateur levels, recently selected Jim Burke of Livermore to attend the 2009 NFL Youth Summit in Canton, Ohio July 29-30. Burke is the president and commissioner of the Livermore Junior Football League, which is comprised of more than 200 youngsters from Dublin, Fremont, Livermore, Mountain House, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Tracy.

Burke was one of 25 local youth football leaders who recently attended USA Football's Northern California Leadership Forum at the San Francisco 49ers practice facility. He was chosen at random.

The NFL Youth Summit, funded by the NFL and NFL Players Association, assembles approximately 200 youth and high school coaches from all 50 states and Washington, D.C., along with grassroots football leaders, including former NFL players now coaching at the high school level. Included in the two-day summit is a USA Football National Forum to further strengthen the sport, involving one delegate from all 38 USA Football Leadership Forums.

LPC Talk Hawks earn 1st place

The Las Positas College Talk Hawks recently participated in the Northern California Forensics Association's Spring Championship Tournament at CSU Chico.

More than 28 colleges and universities participated, and the Talk Hawks earned the 1st Place Sweepstakes Award as the top performer out of all Community Colleges. They also finished first place among all competing schools in the individual event competition and second place among all schools in all event categories. Every participating LPC student won an award and the college had the top two speakers of the entire tournament.

"This competition was the result of hundreds of hours of hard work and dedication by the Forensics Team and coaching staff," said Jim Dobson, instructor and team coach. "This was our eighth weekend of activity and our 10th tournament of the year, with more to come."

The LPC Talk Hawks are: Natalie Kellner of Brentwood, Stacy Shaw of Castro Valley, Birney Young of Dublin, Jacquie De Fremery of Liv-

ermore, Christoph of Livermore, Tiffany Lee of Pleasanton, Masi Quorarshi of Tracy, Anthony Passero of Livermore and Birney Young. The team is coached by Jim Dobson and Tim Heisler.

Livermore teen goes to D.C. conference

Louie Arias III went to Washington, D.C. Feb. 28-March 5 for the Junior National Young Leaders Conference.

He was nominated by his teachers at Joe Mitchell School in Livermore. Louie, 12, a sixth-grader, has a 4.0 GPA.

Last year, he was nominated by technology coordinator Anu Wusirika to attend the National Youth Scholar Program at Occidental College in Los Angeles. There, he studied and developed leadership skills and worked on a crime scene investigation team to develop and learn critical analytical and logic skills.

Come see works of local artists

The local art critique group, "Art Crit & Coffee", which has been meeting weekly for almost two years now, will be having a show of their work at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery at the Community Center in San Ramon during the month of April.

The gallery's address is 14502 Alcosta Boulevard, San Ramon and the public is cordially invited to attend the reception from 3 to 5 p.m. April 4th.

The Art Crit & Coffee group was started in May 2007 by Sally Haig, a local artist who was looking for feedback or "critique" as it is more formally referred to, on her paintings in progress. She posted a message on the Pleasanton Art League Yahoo Groups chat board, and the group has been meeting on the patio near Tully's Coffee in downtown Pleasanton ever since.

Members of the group are artists from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon. Paintings are discussed weekly along with various topics of conversation such as who is having a sale on art supplies, new materials to try, shows to enter, painting tips, where to buy frames or how to bill for a commissioned painting. The subject matter is diverse, ranging from plein air watercolor artists, abstract painters, pastel artists, photographers and local landscapes.

SHOWCASE

Continued from PAGE 1

can't afford it. So we work with them at restructuring their annual events to a more downscale style."

Although wedding events continue to flourish, Mitchum said the numbers of those attending each wedding have declined. Planeloads of invited guests used to come from all over the world for a traditional Indian wedding held at the Palm Event Center. This year, there are fewer guests making the trip.

Abut half of those having their wedding receptions at the two

major Pleasanton event centers also have their actual weddings there, too, Mitchum said, with the other half preferring to have their ceremonies in churches and other more traditional settings.

The CVB also is finding that corporate event planners, often part of company human resources departments, have become endangered species as businesses downsize. So the CVB is working more frequently with executive assistants, providing more one-on-one consultations to make sure the events they plan for their managers are first-rate.

—Jeb Bing

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Goings On

a calendar of TriValley events worth a look

March 27-April 18

'WORKING'

Las Positas College performing arts program presents "Working" at 8 p.m., March 27-28; April 3-4 and 17-18; and at 2 p.m., April 5 and 10, at Las Positas College Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets are \$15; \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call 424-1166.

March 28-29

BARREL TASTING WEEKEND

Livermore Valley will host its first barrel tasting weekend from noon-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29, at participating wineries. Taste wines right out of the barrel, meet winemakers and more. Tickets are \$25; visit www.lwvine.org.

March 29

SISTERS IN SERVICE FOURTH ANNUAL INDIAN DINNER

A family-oriented fundraiser event to benefit marginalized women and children in India, will be from

5:30-8 p.m., Sunday March 29, at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. There will be special music, food and guest speaker, Kay Strom, co-author of Daughters of Hope. Cost is \$10 for adults; \$3 for children. Call Gloria at 998-3785.

April 1-30

'ART CRIT AND COFFEE' GROUP SHOW

Local artists from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon from the "Art Crit and Coffee" group are hosting a showing of their work at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery at the Community Center in San Ramon during the month of April. The Gallery is located at 14502 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. A reception will be held from 3-5 p.m., Saturday, April 4. The public is welcome.

April 2

'THE WESTERNER'

Las Positas College and Pleasanton Public Library present "Great Performances: A Classic Film Series"

at 7 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Upcoming shows include "The Westerner," April 2; "Kitty Foyle," May 7; and "Sullivan's Travels," June 4. These events are free. Call 931-3405.

April 4

TRACING ANZA'S TRAIL: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOURNEY

Dublin Friends of the Library will host anthropologist and award winning photographer Dr. Nina Egert from 1-2 p.m., Saturday, April 4, in the Dublin Library Program Room, 200 Civic Plaza. She will talk about "Tracing Anza's Trail: a photographer's journey" and show her images of the trail today with excerpts from the explorers' diaries to convey the story of the 1776 Anza expedition. It is wheelchair accessible and an ASL interpreter will be made available with seven days notice. This program is free and suitable for all ages. Call 828-1315 or visit www.aclibrary.org.

April 11

SPRING EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Dublin's annual Spring Eggstravaganza includes an egg hunt, crafts, petting zoo and carnival rides. The egg hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 11, at Emerald Glen Park, Baseball Field B. This event sells out every year so advance reservations are recommended. Visit www.dublinrecguide.com.

April 16

'HOW TO BE'

The California Independent Film Festival presents a wry comedy about 20-something, Art (Robert Pattinson), who moves back in with his parents, hits a quarter-life crisis and enlists the help of a self-help guru. This is a timely look at the increasingly common phenomena of grown-up children living at home, frustrated creativity and self-help. See it at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 16, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$16.50. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.com.

April 25

SMOKE ALARM REPLACEMENT IN DUBLIN

The Rotary Club of Dublin will be replacing batteries in smoke alarms and replacing smoke alarms if needed in home of seniors Saturday, April 25. If you need help, call John at 785-3651.

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