

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 11 • April 14, 2006

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## City's recycling program truly a winner

Three small, old television sets that I found stored in the back of closets and on a garage shelf are now back with their makers—or at least new manufacturers—thanks to an electronics recycling program sponsored by the city of Pleasanton. I was among nearly 2,000 motorists who showed up last Saturday at the Pleasanton Operations Service Center to drop off everything from old cell phones to the big screen projection TVs, and everything in between. There were even some 1960s-style television cabinets made out of real walnut and pine that, though dated, were still in good shape. Apart from my small portable-style TVs that were capable of being battery-powered to carry to football games and on camping trips, most of the electronics being discarded were big and old, including computer servers and bulky monitors.

It was really quite an amazing sight as the hundreds of us in line snaked around the Operations Center at the direction of volunteers who worked frantically to unclog the intersection of Valley Avenue and Busch Road. Jacqui Diaz, assistant to the city manager who manages what the city call "E-Waste Day," said 90 cars were lined up at the center at 7:30 a.m., a half hour before opening. As soon as workers were in place from E-Recycling of California, the recycling company that handles the discards, Diaz opened the gates. There wasn't a break in traffic until after 3 p.m., when the center closed.

Looking at all of the old electronics, I had to ask why anyone would hang on to it for so long. My small TV sets simply got covered up with closet clothes, but it's hard to miss a 60-inch projection TV that stopped

working four years ago. Kent Moore of Northway Road had his car filled with old monitors and servers, even a large facsimile machine. We agreed that it was environmental foresight, whether intentional or not, for all of us to hang on to these old computers, VCRs, stereos and printers until the Pleasanton E-Waste program got started. Had we discarded these earlier, they'd be in the Altamont landfill, adding to the toxic waste problems already there. Ron Proto of Oakland-based E-Recycling of California said his company takes everything apart and breaks it into components for recycling, with a 99 percent success rate for making use of all of the materials again. My three small TVs would probably end up as materials in new electronics, he said, with a chance that a wire or part of a circuit board could make it back into my family room once again.

Diaz didn't have a final count on what was collected last Saturday, but she's sure it was more than the 92 tons of electronic waste that Pleasanton residents brought to the recycling program last April, the first year of the program. This year, there were more newer TVs and computer monitors being discarded, some that appeared to be in good working order. They're being replaced by flat screens and the large plasma TVs, just as the iPod revolution is probably responsible for the many DVD players and hand-carried recorders we saw being thrown in the recycling bins. With some motorists turned away at the end of the day after the gates were closed, Diaz said the city may schedule a follow up E-Waste Day this fall. In this throw-away society of ours, six months might even be too long to wait. ■

*Had we discarded these earlier, they'd be in the Altamont landfill, adding to the toxic waste problems already there.*

### About the Cover

Swim instructor Jerilyn Green helps Mackenzie Van Valkenburgh, 4, learn how to kick while Sofie Ricker, 4, waits her turn on the wall during a swimming class taught at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center. With summer fast approaching, parents need not worry because there is a multitude of activities available in Pleasanton to keep their children busy. With the help of our Kid's World guide, parents are sure to find the perfect summer fun for their child. Cover photo courtesy Pleasanton Parks and Community Services.

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## A day in the life

### of your local computer guy

**9am.** Receive "dead" notebook. Discover it's a simple BIOS setting. Call client in the car to go buy a new system to tell him to return home.

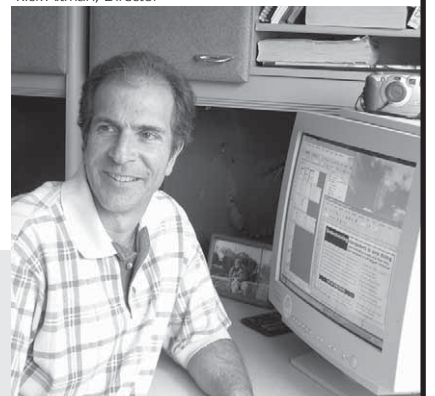
**10am.** Help new client restore data. Bring 80GB portable drive; client was ready with a stack of diskettes and had planned to take the day off from work. He was back at work by noon.

**1pm.** Computer so full of popups, AdAware not strong enough. Scrub Registry and coach mom of teenagers in house on safe downloading. **3pm.** Install router and connect five PCs in one home. **5:30pm.** Once home, 13-year-old asks for help with Sims. No clue.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Do you think California should have a law like the one just approved in Massachusetts that requires all citizens to have some form of health insurance?

Asked at Hart Middle School Gymnasium.



**Ben Herzfeldt**  
Student

Universal health care could be a good thing but in reality I think the drain on our resources would be bigger than the benefits realized. It would take away from the health care we have now. When you stretch a system to the limits you give up quality for quantity. The money would be better spent supporting education or law enforcement.

**Rekha Mohata**

Fulltime Mom

I think there should be a law supporting health care for all. I am originally from India, of course health care is much cheaper there, but still everyone is able to see the doctor regularly because everyone is covered. If you are unable to pay for insurance the government should help.



**Celina Leal**

Assistant Director of Preschool

I think health care coverage should be mandatory for everyone. I work with children and if all Californians were covered children could have regular check ups and be vaccinated. This would not only benefit them but all of the children they came in contact with. I'm for it!



**Jennifer Wilner**

Supply Chain Manager

I'm not in favor of a law that requires all citizens to have health insurance, in my mind it resembles socialized medicine and I'm against that. I like being able to pick my own doctors, that is important, and I think the quality of care would suffer.



**David Jordan**

Attorney

In California the uninsured can go to a county hospital. Unfortunately the care at these facilities can be substandard. Everyone should have a minimum level of quality health care available to them. Every human being has the right to life, liberty and happiness and one must have health to enjoy these rights. I feel the government has an obligation to provide its citizens with the coverage needed to stay healthy.



Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybelle Ryan

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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Roundabout meeting Tuesday

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Tuesday to review plans for tearing out the two traffic roundabouts in Vineyard Avenue and re-routing traffic onto Old Vineyard Avenue while the construction project is under way. The work is expected to take two to three months to complete.

The roundabouts were installed two years ago as part of a \$6 million realignment of Vineyard Avenue. They were designed to allow traffic in and out of two streets built to serve Neal Elementary School to move more smoothly than traffic signals would have permitted. Neal School has yet to be built and complaints from east side motorists over the dangers posed by the roundabouts convinced council members to order them removed. The cost of ripping out the roundabouts and replacing them with two lanes of pavement to match the Vineyard Avenue approaches is estimated at \$750,000. The city will also spend additional funds to repave and add new lane striping on Old Vineyard.

Tuesday's hearing will be held in the council chambers at 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

### Art awards

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council is accepting applications for the annual Young Artist Achievement Awards. Artists ages 14-20 who live or go to school in Pleasanton are invited to apply. PCAC will award \$500 to the winners in creative writing, visual arts, music and performing arts. Winners will be notified in mid-May and will be honored at the annual PCAC Awards Banquet, Wednesday May 31. Applications are due by April 24. Visit [www.pleasantonarts.org](http://www.pleasantonarts.org) for an application form or call Rebecca Bruner at 426-3815 for more information.

### Alumni needed

Alumni of Foothill High School are invited to present at Foothill's annual Alumni Career Day happening Friday May 19. The day will start with a luncheon followed by alumni visits to junior and senior classrooms where they will share information about their current career. Visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill) and click on "Alumni Information" for more information about the program. E-mail [acd\\_fhs@hotmail.com](mailto:acd_fhs@hotmail.com) to sign-up as a presenter.

## Pombo launches re-election campaign

*Congressman counters charges by Sierra Club*

by Jeb Bing

**U**.S. Representative Richard Pombo (R., 11th) launched his district-wide campaign this week for re-election to his eighth term in the House of Representatives.



Shannon Corey

The Tracy congressman will face challengers in the Republican primary on June 6. They are former congressman Pete McCloskey, who represented the San Francisco Peninsula area in the 1960s and 1970s and now lives in Lodi, and businessman Tom Benigno, who has run against Pombo in the past.

In one of his first stops in his district campaign during the current congressional recess in Washington, D.C., Pombo met with editors of the Danville Weekly and Pleasanton Weekly to talk about issues affecting this region.

He said his priorities if elected to another term will be to intensify his focus on transportation and energy issues and, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, to seek more federal assistance to help California rebuild its levees, already being tested for their endurance during recent heavy rains.

"Working with Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D., Calif.), as I will continue to do, we will be looking for more appropriations to resolve the desperate situation these levees are in," Pombo said. "Most of these levees really have not had any substantial work done to them in 100 years."

Pombo and Feinstein recently toured the regions where levees have broken or been damaged with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. They were able to provide \$50 million in federal funds for repair work.

Pombo said the House Agriculture Committee also will begin writing the next five-year farm bill in the next session of Congress, a bill that will have major impacts on California agriculture.

On transportation, Pombo plans to continue his

(continued on page 8)

U.S. Representative Richard Pombo (R., 11th) talks about energy, transportation and immigration concerns during a campaign briefing at the Pleasanton Weekly.

## Brozosky to run against Hosterman for city mayor's post

*Decision means he gives up his council seat*

by Jeb Bing

**C**ity Councilman Steve Brozosky said Wednesday that he will run against Mayor Jennifer Hosterman in the Nov. 7 election for the city's top post.

Elected four years ago, Brozosky chose not to seek re-election to a second term in order to campaign for mayor. Council members can serve two four-year terms where as the city's mayor is elected every two years, with an eight-year term limit in that position.

His decision also opens a vacant seat on the City Council. Councilman Jerry Thorne, elected to the council last June in a special election, is expected to announce that he will seek re-election later this month. Planning Commissioner Brian Arkin and businessman Dan Faustina, who also ran for

the council seat Thorne won, have indicated that they will try again in November.

Hosterman announced last week that she will seek re-election, saying that there were a number of issues she wanted to continue tackling in a second term. Among those, traffic was a number one concern.

"Solving some of our traffic problems is also a top priority for me, too," Brozosky said, "but there are many more issues that I want to address."

"I will also focus on efficiencies in government and how we spend our public money, both internally and in the community," he added. "I also want to improve the way that we as a city deal with businesses so that businesses can be productive and profitable in our city."

Brozosky said he made the decision to seek the mayor's post after talking to friends and business and civic associates.

"A lot of people have asked me to run," he said. "These are all different people from different groups, all strongly encouraging me to run for mayor."

He said some in the business community have been irritated by the time it takes to obtain expansion and construction permits in Pleasanton, and by a process that Brozosky said can result in costly delays. He wants that to change and would work with city staff to streamline the permitting process, even doing away with the need for structured condition use permits for more simple operating permits, such as opening a dance studio.

He cited the number of hours by both applicants and the Planning Commission recently over public hearings that were required for conditional use permits to keep a few chickens in the backyards of homes.

"That was a complete waste of time, and it's also an example where

(continued on page 7)

## Parcel tax on the horizon

*District hires outside group for feasibility study*

by Rebecca Guyon

**T**he Board of Trustees tentatively moved forward on plans to present a parcel tax to the community during the November or March elections by agreeing during the April 4 meeting to contract with the Lew Edwards Group to provide a parcel tax feasibility and communication service. The resolution was passed on the condition that Board President Steve Pulido and Trustee Kris Weaver meet with the group and are still satisfied with the decision. Trustees Pat Kernan and Juanita Haugen along with district staff met with the group prior to the board meeting.

The Lew Edwards Group would be contracted to research the viability of a parcel tax by seeking community feedback via mailings and surveys and then advising the district on how it should proceed. If the district aims to have the parcel tax on the ballot for the November 7 elections, meaning it has to call election by August 7, the group's services will cost \$30,000. However, if the district decides to go for the March 6, 2007 election, meaning it has to call election by Nov. 30, 2006, the group's services will cost \$45,000. That is in addition to a projected cost of \$25,000 for public opinion research polling and \$32,000 for mailings, according to the staff report.

Weaver was not sold on hiring the group saying she did not understand why their services would cost \$15,000 more in the case of the March election. Superintendent John Casey explained that with the longer timeline the group would conduct more research and do more work, which is why their services would cost more. But Weaver was still not comfortable with hiring the group.

"It always bothers me to spend money to make money," she said.

The district is considering a parcel tax to fund the 22 priorities suggested by the Excellence Committee, a 55-member committee comprised of community members and education professionals tasked to research and identify policies, programs and practices that would enhance the school district, without being limited by financial constraints. The concept was to find out what the district needs to do to make the schools event better, put a price tag on it and then find a way to fund it, instead of the usual practice of being given a budget and then finding what can fit within that budget. Top items on the list included

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## Which of these costly mistakes will you make when you sell your home this summer?

A new report has just been released which reveals seven costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a nine-step system that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their home and become disillusioned and – worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their home on the market.

As this report uncovers, most home sellers make seven deadly mistakes that cost them

literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable.

In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled The 9 Step System To Get Your Home Sold Fast And For Top Dollar.

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## New police recruit already a familiar face

*Explorer Program inspired young woman to join the Pleasanton PD*

by Rebecca Guyon

Anyone who visited the front desk of the Pleasanton Police Department during the last six years probably met Cassie Pickett, although they may not have realized at the time that, aside from her friendly smile and impressive knowledge about the department, there's something special about this young woman.

At the age of 21, Pickett is training to be a police officer and will work in the Pleasanton department when she graduates from the police officer academy in July. However, Pickett really started working with the department when she was 15 years old through the Police Explorer Program, a program for youths 15-18 years old where students learn about the daily work of law enforcement officers. Pickett was a student in the program's first year and continued to be part of it until the age of 20, taking a leadership role as a captain in the program. Now, she is the first student from the Explorer Program to become an officer in the Pleasanton Police Department.

Currently, Pickett is in the thick of police training at Evergreen Police Academy in San Jose, which she started in January. The six-month program keeps her and the

other recruits busy with long days filled with classroom lessons on codes and laws, as well as intense physical training and hands-on demonstrations.

"I feel like I'm very well prepared because I spent so much time in the police department before starting," Pickett said. "I was about as much prepared as I could be, but it's still like nothing I could have imagined."

Pickett started working at the police department's front desk part-time when she was 16 years old. She kept the position after she graduated from Foothill High School in 2002 as she started attending Las Positas Community College where she earned her associate's degree in criminal justice in 2004. After graduating at the age of 20, she then became a fulltime records clerk, a position she held for the past year, and began pursuing a position as an officer with the department.

Before even beginning the academy, a potential officer must complete an application, go through several interviews and pass an extensive background check, said Sergeant Scott Rohovit, the department's liaison between recruits and the academy. If a person passes the first hurdles, the department offers him

or her a conditional offer and then conducts psychological and medical tests. Once cleared, the person becomes a new recruit and is sent to the academy. Even upon completion of the academy the testing doesn't stop. New recruits work with a field training officer for 12-16 weeks where they first observe and then gradually show that they can handle the work. Once released, they go out on their own, but still are in an 18-month probationary period.

"Right now in the academy is a very stressful time for me, and I think the job will be similar," Pickett said. "But I strive to constantly remember why I chose this profession and remember that you never know when you will contact someone and make a difference in their life."

Pickett first became interested in police work when she was a fifth grade student at Walnut Grove Elementary School. As part of the DARE program, a nationwide program where uniformed police officers come into the classroom and teach students about drugs, she met and interacted with a police officer for the first time.

"The interaction I had with my

(continued on page 8)

## D.A.R.E. training conference comes to Pleasanton

*Officers improve skills and give back to the community*

by Rebecca Guyon

Nearly 250 DARE officers will be spotted around Pleasanton next week as the California DARE Officers Association and DARE America along with the Pleasanton Police Department host the annual California DARE In-Service Training Conference. The conference starts Tuesday, April 18 and will run until Thursday, April 20 at Hilton Pleasanton at the Club. This is the 10th California training conference.

Officers will spend the days in training workshops focused on improving their teaching and law enforcement skills, said DARE America Regional Director Dale Brown. Classes cover the gamut of topics from maintaining dignity and discipline in the classroom to counterterrorism. Many states require officers to receive up to 24 hours of professional training every two years and the training convention is one way DARE officers can get 20 of those hours at no cost to them or their department, Brown said.

"By coming to this conference, I think the officers will be better able to teach programs and they'll be better on the streets of their community," Brown said. "They need to keep all of the skills tuned up because they're perishable skills. If

you don't use them and tune them up, they diminish."

Aside from classroom training, the conference is a good chance for officers to network and get advice from their peers.

"They have the chance to talk and ask each other things like, 'How do you get this done?' and, 'What problems are you having in your community?'" Brown said.

The officers will also lend a helping hand around Alameda County, visiting sick children at The Children's Hospital in Oakland and Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley and meeting with classes at local schools.

"The DARE group is committed to supporting the community where they train by taking part in service projects," said Captain Dave Spiller of the Pleasanton Police Department. Spiller was formerly a DARE officer and has gone to many of the conferences, which is why he was especially excited when he was told the conference was going to be in Pleasanton this year.

"I got called on the front end and they asked if we'd be interested or supportive, and immediately I said we'd be supportive and as involved as they'd want us to be," Spiller said. The Pleasanton Police Department was active in helping secure the training location and

organizing activities for the officers in their free time and the service project.

One activity that's a little different this year is the DARE car show. Many DARE officers have specialty vehicles, so on the first day of the conference these vehicles will be displayed and judged. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman is also getting involved by giving a "Mayor's Award" to the most creative vehicle.

Every year, DARE America looks for cities to host the conference, alternating between northern, southern and central California, Brown said. This year was a Northern California year and when cities were being reviewed, Pleasanton kept coming up.

"We want a place with a strong DARE program and both Pleasanton and Alameda County have strong programs," Brown said.

Spiller and Pleasanton's DARE officers Stephanie Green and Ted Young have the special privilege of not only attending the conference, but serving as the host officers, something they are sure to enjoy.

"I'm just looking forward to boasting Pleasanton to DARE officers in our town from all over the state," Spiller said. "This is a great opportunity and I'm happy to have staff there." ■

## Bunnies are cute, but a lot of work

*Think before choosing a bunny as a pet*

With Easter this Sunday, many children are expecting to wake up and find baskets filled with candy and eggs hidden around their home. Some might even find a special little bunny of their own. While these bunnies are adorable and fun at first, many parents don't realize how much work goes into raising a bunny and after the first few weeks, many either abandon the new pet or turn it over to shelters and rescue groups. Hundreds of bunnies are euthanized as a result. This Easter season the Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and Urgent Care is urging potential bunny owners to consider the following before

adopting a bunny as a pet:

- Consider the cost of owning a bunny including vet care, food, litter, toys and housing. Bunnies can live for 8-10 years, something most people are surprised by.

- Think about how much time your family has to dedicate to a new bunny. It will take time to litter box train, socialize and exercise your bunny every day. Bunnies are active—they may dash around the house, hide behind furniture and chew on baseboards. They can make very nice pets for the home and will bond with humans and other household pets if owners take time to play with them. Bunnies actually can be litter box trained and can roam around freely inside the house as long as they have enough sun-lit exercise space. Families who keep their bunny in

an outdoor cage will miss out on their special personalities.

- If your children are young, you will need to supervise their interaction with the bunny. Bunnies are very delicate, which means they are easily hurt when children pick them up. They also feel frightened when held and children may get hurt by a bunny kicking and struggling to run, or they may get bit.

- Bunnies are healthier if spayed or neutered, lowering their chance for cancer and relieving sexual aggression. Costs for altering a bunny can range from \$100-\$200.

Bunnies can be great pets if given the time and Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center and Urgent Care suggests families adopt a foster bunny first before deciding they want to buy one.

—Rebecca Guyon

## Hosterman seeks federal aid for city projects

*Delegation calls on Washington senators, congressmen*

by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton has found a new source of revenue for major improvement projects: the federal government.

A three-member delegation of Pleasanton officials, led by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, traveled to Washington, D.C. on a two-day trip to lobby California politicians for \$500,000 in federal aid to help pay for local projects. If granted, the funds would be used for the redesign work under way on Vineyard Avenue, the planned renovation of the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street and the restoration, rebuilding and expansion of the Alviso Adobe Community Park on Foothill Road.

Working with a Washington, D.C.-based lobbying firm,

Hosterman, City Manager Nelson Fialho and Andy Jorgensen, Civic Arts Manager, made presentations to senior aides in the offices of California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and to U.S. Representatives Richard Pombo (R., 11th) and Pete Stark (D., 13th). The districts for both congressmen include parts of Pleasanton.

"We put on quite a dog and pony show with good visuals and messages," Hosterman said. "We had beautiful folders about Pleasanton to show these people, and our lobbying firm pinpointed for each senator and congressman what specific federal programs contained funds that could be used for these three projects."

"We actually met with Mr. Stark and then with key staff rep-

resentatives of our other elected officials," she added. "They all said that no other city has come to them with such a well-designed, clear presentation. Every one of them was blown away by our effort."

Hosterman said the Vineyard Corridor improvements are costing the city about \$7 million, with specific transportation funds available to help cities on projects like that where cross-town and inter-city traffic is involved.

The historical Veterans building could receive federal funds because of its multiple uses by veterans and community organizations, she said. The Alviso Adobe is eligible for special funds for projects that can serve as interpretive centers for the public to better understand historical land uses. ■

## Mayor race

(continued from page 5)

we made changes to simplify those kinds of requests," Brozosky said.

As vice mayor last year, Brozosky said he had a chance to "learn the ropes" and now believes he is the best qualified to be mayor of Pleasanton.

Another priority as mayor, Brozosky said, would be to complete work on the General Plan update, which is now in its third year of review and drafts.

"This work seems to be much like the commercials for the Eveready Battery," Brozosky said. "It just keeps going and going! And it's tiring for all of us and confusing for the public."

He wants to hold day-long workshop sessions and public hearings on Saturdays to both speed up the process and to allow for ongoing reports and reviews. Currently, the council holds workshop sessions with the Planning Commission and other commissions once or twice a month for two to three hours at a time.

"At each of these meetings, we

often go over part of what was said and done at the last one," he said. "We sort of regurgitate all the same stuff each time."

Brozosky, who is 44, lives on Brozosky Way in the Vineyard Corridor with his wife Annie, who is the manager of the Pleasanton Spa. They have two daughters: Robin, 19, a sophomore at UC Santa Barbara, and Richelle, 13,

who is in the eighth grade at Pleasanton Middle School.

Brozosky has lived in Pleasanton since 1982 and owns and operates Government Outreach, a firm that provides software programs and monitors local government efficiency and service response. The cities of San Ramon and Tracy and the Livermore Airport are among the firm's clients. ■

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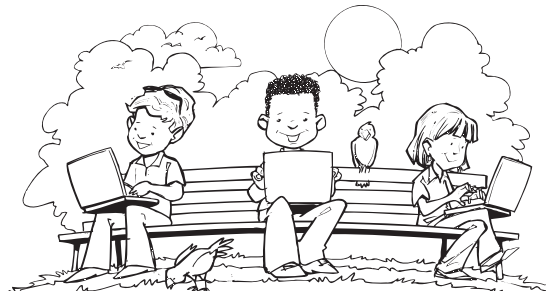
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## Celebrating an Indian 'Holi'-day

Students got covered with colored powder and water on the Hearst Elementary School field earlier this month as part of the "Holi Blast" sponsored by the Amador Valley High School PTA. Holi, also called the Festival of Color, is an annual Hindu spring festival celebrated in India and Nepal for two days around late March or early April. On the first day, a bonfire is lit at night and on the second day people go around until afternoon throwing colored powder and water at each other. During Holi Blast, attendees not only doused each other with paint, but also enjoyed authentic Indian snacks and Indian music played by Foothill High School students. The event raised money for the Amador Library.

## Pombo

(continued from page 5)

support of federal funding measures to add more carpool lanes to I-680 and build new ones on I-580. He also would seek to accelerate the feasibility study he sponsored for a new freeway between Patterson in I-5 and east San Jose. Dubbed the "Pombo Freeway" because of his initiatives to gain appropriations from the House Transportation Committee to get the project started, the new roadway would provide an alternative for commuters who now travel on the 580 and 680 freeways between jobs in the Silicon Valley and their homes in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

"The 580 has gotten to the point where it is much like the 405 in Southern California—congested all the time," Pombo said. "Traffic studies show that between 20 and 25 percent of the traffic on 580 and 680 is pass-through traffic coming from the Central Valley, so there would be roughly that much of a reduction with an alternative route like we are proposing."

As chairman of the House Resources Committee, Pombo views rising oil prices and increased foreign dependence as major challenges for the federal government to spur faster development of renewable energy sources. Already, he said, federal aid and incentives have helped develop more efficient turbines to produce more electricity from the wind, solar panels that are twice as efficient as the ones in use today, and a greater focus on national conservation.

Still, he said, continued development of new domestic oil and natural gas production is essential until renewables can assume a major portion of the country's energy demand.

"When you talk about Alaska, the estimate of additional supply is

about 10.5 billion barrels of oil, or about 1-1/2 million barrels a day, which is equal to what we import from Saudi Arabia today," he said. "That won't solve our energy problem, but it is that development amongst other steps that we need to take in order to meet our short- and medium-term demands for energy."

Pombo also said that he favors establishing a guest worker law for undocumented immigrants so that they have an opportunity to become part of the country's legal workforce.

"We just can't go out and evict the 15-20 million people who are already here and working," Pombo said. "But you also can't let this problem go on as part of an underground economy."

Undocumented immigrants, primarily from Mexico, have been a problem for Pombo's 11th District for decades, and were a concern of the Tracy City Council when he was a councilman there.

"While we recognize the problem in the Central Valley, there are others in Congress from states that don't see this as a concern and just don't want to give illegal immigrants a chance to legally work and live in the U.S.," Pombo said. "As time goes on, though, this will become more of an issue."

Pombo said he recognizes that some of his political positions on natural resources, greater domestic oil development and national parks don't please his Democratic opponents, but he believes he is making the right decisions for the country as a whole.

The Sierra Club is one organization that is taking out full-page newspaper ads and writing its members to oppose Pombo's plan to sell off or redesignate unused federal lands. Last year, the organization opposed his plan to make it easier for developers to build windmills on Bureau of Land Management acreage, even though Pombo said

the Sierra Club once supported wind-energy projects.

"To a large degree, it was the environmental community that moved the windmill projects forward," he added. "It's gotten to a point where no matter what I propose, they're opposed to it."

He also blamed Democrats for a widely circulated document that names Pombo as one of "the 13 most corrupt members of Congress." Prepared by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), the group charged that Pombo paid his wife and brother \$375,325 in campaign funds in the last four years. It also claims that he supported the wind-power industry before the Department of Interior without disclosing that his parents received hundreds of thousands of dollars in royalties from wind-power turbines on their ranch.

Pombo said his Republican opponent in the June primary, Pete McCloskey, is listed as a source of the CREW project along with other leading Democrats. He discounted the report, saying that every complaint the CREW project stated in its report was either unsubstantiated or were trips, expenditures and actions the House Administration Committee had approved.

"Up until a year ago, nobody ever questioned me on my ethics or on breaking any laws or rules of the House," Pombo said. "Now all of a sudden, the Democrats are targeting me as one of the 13 most corrupt members of Congress. They are trying to tie me to whatever the scandal of the day is."

The winner of the Republican primary in June will face the winner of the Democratic primary for the 11th District Congressional seat. The candidates are energy consultant Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton, and pilot Steve Filson and electrician Steve Thomas, both of Danville. ■

## Tax

(continued from page 5)

adding more counselors to all school levels, add more technology support, class size reduction, add visual and performing art teachers, provide wireless access throughout all middle and high schools and expand vocational programs.

Pulido, Haugen and Kernan were supportive of hiring the group.

"Preliminary work is crucial," Haugen said. "We need to have a survey of the community to see what they think because there is no reason to go out for a parcel tax if we don't have the community support."

While Kernan said he was comfortable with trying for either the November or March election, Pulido and Haugen were convinced that March was the best option saying November is too soon and will already be an intense election with two open board seats.

"November is overly optimistic. I just don't see us being ready, even if we had a full board," Pulido said,

referring to the recent resignation of Trustee Gloria Fredette.

There is also the possibility of calling a special election if neither election seems viable, Casey said. He explained that in these preliminary stages it is appropriate for the district to research the feasibility of the parcel tax, but once it is on the ballot the district can not campaign. District staff and board members could answer questions regarding the tax, but it would be up to a citizen's group to take the lead on the campaigning efforts.

Casey also emphasized that the parcel tax is only one way the district is looking at funding the Excellence Committee's priority list. The district is also looking for financial help from community and school organizations, by supporting or proposing legislation that would provide schools with more funding opportunities and examining its own budget to find places where funding can be shifted.

The board will discuss the hiring of the Lew Edwards Group again at the April 25 meeting. ■

## Recruit

(continued from page 6)

DARE officer left me with a positive outlook on law enforcement," she said. "Throughout middle and high school, I kept having these positive interactions and it made we want to make a positive difference in my community like the Pleasanton police had made in mine."

Knowing she was interested in police work, one of Pickett's friends told her that she should go on a "ride along," a program that let's members of the community join a police officer on patrol. She did and was assigned to ride with Sergeant Brian Laurence who leads the Youth and Community Services division. Pickett was 15 at the time and the department was just starting its current Explorer Program. Laurence suggested she sign up, and the rest is history.

The Explorer Program is sponsored by the police department and the Boy Scouts of America to

give teens the opportunity to learn about law enforcement through a hands-on approach. Explorers receive training in various aspects of law enforcement, ranging from arrest procedures to crime scene investigation, during meetings held once every two weeks. Community members may be familiar with the program as the students work at many community events, such as the First Wednesday street parties and car shows. For Pickett, who is now also an advisor to the program, being part of the Explorer Program solidified her desire to become a police officer.

"Through the different trainings, you get a better grasp of what law enforcement is like," she said.

Now, Pickett is living her dream and hopes to make a difference in the Pleasanton community.

"Pleasanton police made a difference in my life—not police in general, but specifically Pleasanton police—and I figured if I can do both (work in Pleasanton and be a police officer), then why not?" ■

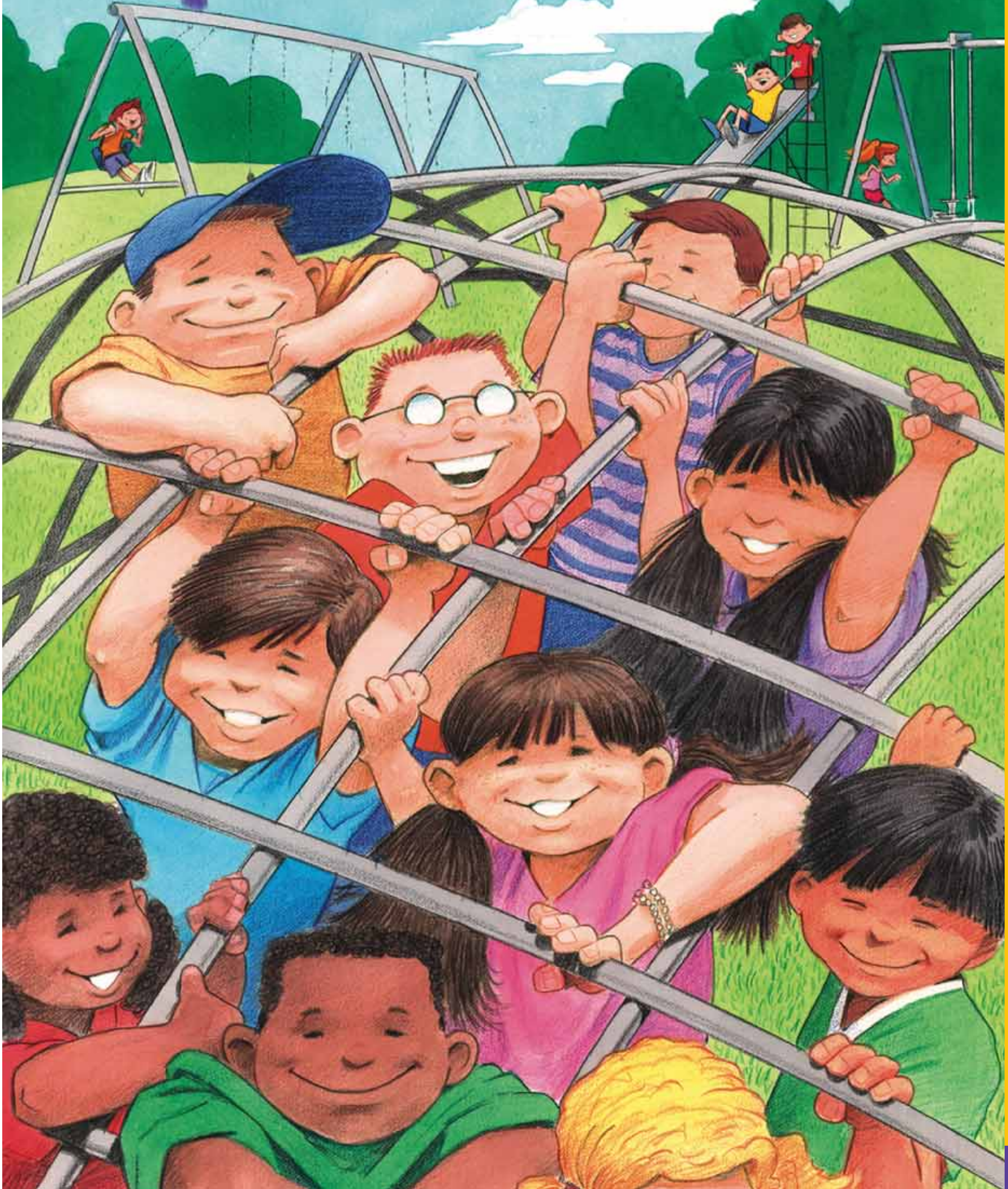
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# Kids' World



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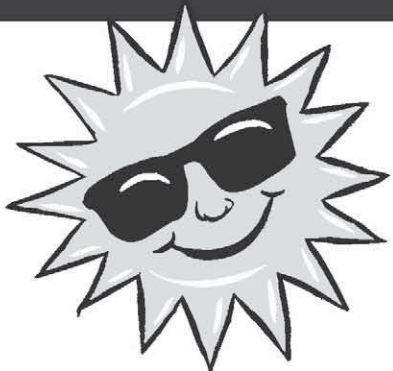


photo by Deacea Willis

## Different kinds of summer fun

Sofie Ricker, 4, plays poolside at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center. She also graces the cover of the upcoming Summer 2006 Activities Guide published by the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department.

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### Parks Department offers variety of summer classes for students

Summertime can be hard on parents who need to find ways to keep their children entertained and active while they are out of school. If your child loves sports or is eager to leave the house for summer camp, this might not be a problem. But even if your child is not interested in those activities, there are still plenty of things to keep them busy right here in Pleasanton. The city of Pleasanton's Parks and Community Services Department provides a variety of classes every summer and there's sure to be something for everyone.

#### Art

Is your child a budding Picasso? Then you can nurture that passion for art by signing them up for a variety of art classes, ranging from drawing to sculpture, and all right in town.

For preschool and elementary school-age children, there are many clay classes available where students can learn the basics of sculpture and have fun getting messy—but not so messy that you won't want to take them home. There are two "Critters 'n Clay" classes this summer, one for children 3-5 and another for children 4-9. Both classes will focus on a different "critter" each day and students will not only learn how to make the critter, but also get a dose of science and literature as they learn about the critter's anatomy and history. By the end of the class, each student will leave with four creations that they can take home and show off to the rest of the family.



There are two new art classes this year for students 6-9 and both are perfect for students who are not only interested in art, but who also love science. In "Coral Reef Art" students will learn how to draw different coral reef animals and create an underwater scene. Students will learn how to work in watercolor, mixed media and printmaking to create three different works of art. In "Rainforest Art" students will learn how to draw bright ani-

# Kids' World



Courtesy Pleasanton Public Library  
Renee Freidus (right) and Laura Belichak (left) read with "Joey" during a Paws to Read night at the Library. There will be four Paws to Read sessions during the summer.

mals and plants from the rainforest. Because the rainforest is filled with many vibrant colors, the class will focus on using oil pastels, watercolor and paint. Students who love drawing and nature can also sign up for "Still life painting—Nature Appreciation." This class for students 3-5 will teach children how to paint pictures of flowers and plants that they collect at the beginning of class and through their drawing they'll learn about the different parts of flowers.

If your child loves cartoons—and let's be honest, that's most children—then "Cartoon Workshop" is perfect for them. Students ages 7 and older can sign up for this class where they will learn to draw their favorite cartoon characters from Sponge Bob Squarepants to Buzz Lightyear from "Toy Story." This one-day workshop is led by Matthew Lhun, a PIXAR animator and cartoonist who has worked on movies you've probably seen with you kids a million times—"Toy Story," "Toy Story 2," "Monsters Inc.," and "Finding Nemo."

Children 9 and older can take advantage of a new class titled "Simple Jewelry Making" where they can learn a wide range of jewelry making techniques. Students will learn how to wirework and bead, and use stretchy cord and memory wire. By the end of class, students will have several beaded pieces to take home.

For students who want to experience many different kinds of art, the "Summer Art Camp" is a perfect fit. The camp's a week-long chance for students 8-10 years old to learn how to make tie-dye, origami, papier-mâché and more. There is also an opportunity for older students to learn how to make ceramics with summer sessions of "Youth Ceramics" for ages 7-15, 7-11 and 12-15. The class is for all skill levels and will focus on hand building ceramics. Wheel throwing will not be covered.

### Getting close to nature

If an art class doesn't appeal to your child, but being outside does, then the "Nature World" series of classes is what you need.

"Ridge Runners Day Camp" for students 6-11 is a week-long camp held in Augustin Bernal Park and Sunol Regional Wilderness where students will explore nature through arts, crafts, environmental games, storytelling, hikes and scientific exploration. Younger children can also explore nature with the "Preschool Nature Exploration" class for students 3-5. Because the grand parks on the ridge might be too much for little kids, this class instead will spend its time exploring a garden and students will learn appreciation through crafts, stories and games. For more adventurous students in the 6-8 age group, there is the class "What's Bugging You? Exploring the World of Bugs!" Each week, students will learn about a different bug, such as worms, ladybugs, bees and butterflies, through stories, exploration and art.

Perhaps your child has an interest in gardening. If that's the case, there are many gardening class available and each takes a different approach on the topic. "Fairies in My Garden" for children 6-8 gets students using their imagination as they learn about the world of fairies through stories, play and crafts and make their own small fairy garden in a pot. "How Does Your Garden Grow?" for students 3-5 focuses more the science of gardening as students learn about six main plant parts and how a plant starts to grow through stories, crafts and observations.

Teens 16 years and older who are interested in gardening have three classes available to them: "Wildlife Gardener," "Organic Gardening 101" and "All About Lavender."

Wildlife Gardener teaches students how to turn their backyard into an oasis for wildlife by learning what plants, water features and habitat enhancements they can install to



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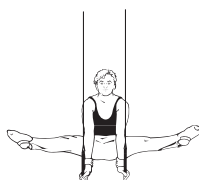


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Courtesy Pleasanton Public Library

Hannah McClintoch and Yasmine Fathi read to a group of children at the Library.

attract local animals. Organic Gardener gives students the skills they need to make their garden a healthier place for people and animals by teaching about pest control, healthy soil, composting and weed control. All About Lavender is just what it says, a class that teaches students not only how to grow lavender, but also teaches about the history and folklore surrounding the herb.

### Cultural Experiences

As Pleasanton becomes more diverse, students may want to learn a little bit more about cultures different from their own.

Many people are familiar with Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. Students 9 and older can learn about unit origami, a form of origami that uses many small, identical units to create large figures, such as keepsake boxes, polyhedrons and more. For students 7 and older, there is a regular origami class where they will learn to make an origami garden, zoo and sea.

Less familiar to students may be the art of "Maedup," a traditional Korean decorating art that they can learn in the class "Korean Knotting." For students 11 and older, this class will teach

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# Kids' World

students how to use a single cord to make lots of decorative ornaments such as bracelets, necklaces, key chains and dragonflies.

Students who like to stay active may enjoy learning Salsa, a dance popular in Latin America. There are two sections—Salsa 1 for beginners and Salsa 2 for the more advance—where students 16 and older can learn how to keep in time with the music and gain basic dance moves. Students in this age group may also enjoy learning about yoga, the Eastern art of stretching and meditation. There is a "Gentle Yoga" class for students who want to relax and enjoy the meditative aspects of the exercise and an Intermediate class for students interested in pushing their flexibility skills. New this year for students 14 and older is the Tai Chi class. Tai Chi is an Asian activity that focuses on slow body movements and rhythmic motion to improve physical and mental health. It's also a martial art where each movement has application, teaching participants to be present and bringing them closer to their inner nature.

## Swimming

Of course, summer just isn't summer without at least a few days at the pool. And because knowing how to swim is almost a necessity in California, there are many swimming classes offered at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center for children of every age and skill level. Students 15 and older can also sign up for Red Cross Certification classes such as "Lifeguard Training," "Basic Water Rescue" and train to be a Junior Lifeguard.

For those who want to just have fun at the pool, there are several scheduled "Pool Play Time" sessions for adults with children 6 months to 4 years old. This is an opportunity for parents and children to explore and experience the fun of swimming. Also for families is "Friday Family Fun Night" from 6-9 p.m. where the pool holds games and activities for the entire family.

Children should be plenty busy this summer as they take advantage of all Pleasanton has to offer. All classes and activities have a fee associated with them. For more information about classes, schedules and fees, pick up the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department's Summer 2006 Activities Guide available at 200 Old Bernal in the City Hall complex or call 931-5350. Information is also available at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation).

—Rebecca Guyon



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# Opinion

## Editorial Taxes, taxes and more taxes

Monday is Tax Day 2006, a two-day extension offered by the Internal Revenue Service since the usual April 15 deadline falls on a Saturday. An increasing number of Pleasanton taxpayers have found that their 2005 taxes are significantly higher as more middle wage earners reach the threshold of a tax code called the alternative minimum tax (AMT). For others who aren't there yet, wait another year or two. The bracket creep that subjects more and more incomes to the AMT is likely to continue unless Congress takes action to repeal this 1969 law aimed at the super rich. It may be a bit discomfoting, therefore, to hear that both the Pleasanton school board and the Pleasanton City Council are considering news taxes that will add even more to the local tax burden. The school board may seek voter approval in November or next March at the latest for a parcel tax to fund some 22 priorities identified by the district's Excellence Committee to make Pleasanton's highly-regarded school system even better. These proposals could include more schools, a third high school, more classrooms to accommodate class-size reduction proposals, more school counselors and a long list of new or expanded academic programs. For starters, the board also plans to hire consulting groups to test public attitudes toward a parcel tax and to recommend programs for winning voter approval.

Across First Street at City Hall, staff and elected officials are putting the finishing touches on a broad-based conceptual plan to take to voters in November for developing the 318-acre Bernal public lands, which were given to the city free of charge by a developer consortium in return for permits to build houses and an office complex on

the rest of the 510 acres they purchased from San Francisco. The homes are either built and occupied or still under construction; the office park is on hold for now. Early planning for the public acreage includes lighted sports fields, a cultural arts center, youth center, 4-H demonstration farm and gardens and pathways. Estimates for developing the land range up to \$100 million, with several on the council suggesting that the city seek voter approval of a bond measure to pay for the Bernal improvements quickly, rather than over two or three decades as General Fund appropriations became available. As with the funds to be raised for the school district's projects, the city would need to obtain voter approval for a bond issue and parcel tax to build out Bernal.

As the onerous AMT digs deeper each year into the pockets of more Pleasanton taxpayers, the new parcel tax proposals could be a tough sell. According to Wallace Mayer Sr. of WH Mayer Accountancy Corp. in Pleasanton, among those hit by the AMT increases in 2005 are 54 percent of families with adjusted gross income of \$100,000 to \$200,000 and 27 percent of those earning \$75,000 to \$100,000, based on type of income and deductions. Along with higher rates being proposed for everything from vehicle licenses to bridge tolls, taxpayers may say enough is enough. With school board and City Council election campaigns getting under way for the November ballot, higher taxes are likely to be a top issue for the candidates. How do you feel about higher taxes in Pleasanton? Make sure before you vote this fall that you know where your City Council and school board candidates stand on additional taxes.

## Letters

### Use certified mold inspectors

Dear Editor,  
In a recent home inspection article (Real Estate, "Know what you're buying," March 3, 2006), the appropriate quote should have read: "Most home inspectors perform a visual mold screen during the home inspection, yet home inspectors are typically not certified to address mold."

Mold has been a growing concern. With over 10,000 articles having been written about mold, there is more misinformation than facts available to the general public. But it's time we calm the hysteria about mold. Most nationally certified home inspectors are required to disclose if they see mold, but the difference between a Certified Residential Mold Inspector (CRMI) and other inspectors is that they can't say the word "mold." They can only say, "a mold-like substance" because they are not qualified or certified to say anything different. Then they refer the observation to a qualified specialty service person who can say if it is mold or not and offer a test on the spot and have the results back from the lab in the same day to rule out if it is a Mycotoxin or not.

**Code of ethics**

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

If the homeowner does want to pursue a test, that is fine too, but some type of remediation should eventually take place. If the mold is caused by condensation, I recommend correcting the problem causing the condensation and offer simple instructions on home remediation. If mold is caused by water intrusion, then it has to be handled more aggressively.

*Ken Benson, Advance Look Building Inspections & Environmental Testing, Pleasanton*

### Stop the stop lights

Regarding the article "Easing Gridlock" (Editorial) in the March 24 issue. I was dismayed to hear the city plans to add an additional 26 stop lights. Currently there are about 100 stop lights in Pleasanton, many installed to "deter" the ever increasing cut-through traffic. Stop lights are not going to deter the cut-through traffic. Only when significant improvements (carpool lanes, BART to Livermore and beyond, etc.) to the I-580 corridor are made will the cut-through traffic decrease. Adding stop lights will only "push" traffic to other streets (one should see what my wife does to get from Vintage Hills to I-680 avoiding stop lights) until every street in this city is affected with additional traffic. Cut-through traffic my only be 2 percent of total traffic, however at commute times it is a heck of a lot more, depending on I-580.

Mr. Knowles states "signals improve traffic flow." I use Valley on a regular basis and have no problems with the stop signs as they are. I am not sitting at a red light while there is no cross traffic as I do every morning on Tawny at Bernal. Mr. Knowles, please try out this stop light a few times and tell me how it improves traffic flow.

*Kevin Ryan, Pleasanton*

# Community Pulse



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Alameda County Surplus Property Authority and the City of Pleasanton concerning the development of the Staples Ranch area to include an auto mall, senior continuing care community, city park, emergency vehicle access, road right of way, utility improvements, and a yet to be determined future commercial/retail site.
- Review of Potential Future Uses for the City's Lower Income Housing Fund
- Review of Draft Public Facilities and Community Programs Element of the General Plan
- Approval of Annual Action Plan for the Use of Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Fiscal Year 2006 (2006-07)

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- **PCUP-154, Rimma Radayeva, Radayeva Music Studio**  
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a trade school at 1228 Quarry Lane, Suite A, within the Valley Business Park.
- **PCUP-156, Peter Chan, Aloha Cabinetry**  
Application for a conditional use permit to allow a cabinetry shop at 3930 Valley Avenue in the Valley Business Park.
- **PCUP-160, Jack Whiteford/deb Construction, Inc.**  
Application for conditional use permit to allow administrative offices for a general contractor to be located at 3942 Valley Avenue, Suite P.
- **PDR-530, Valley Humane Society**  
Application for design review approval to allow the temporary installation of a modular building and parking area for office, storage and work space for Valley Humane Society and for caring facilities for cats during the construction of its new facility at 3670 Nevada Street.
- **PUD-99-14, Kazuo Hatsushi**  
Application for PUD development plan approval of a new development consisting of 13 new and one existing single-family homes on an approximately 15-acre site located at 2756, 2770, and 2798 Vineyard Avenue in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area. **This item is continued to April 26, 2006.**
- **PDR-520/PCUP-162, City of Pleasanton**  
Application for: (1) design review approval for a City water tank to be constructed on a portion of a 20-acre site located at 5 Windy Oaks Drive (formerly 1680 Vineyard Avenue) in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area; and (2) conditional use permit approval to allow the temporary stockpiling of approximately 14,000 cubic yards of excess soil from the City water tank project on the upper portions of 5 Windy Oaks Drive. **This item is continued to May 10, 2006.**

### Housing Commission

Thursday, April 20, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- Approval of Tenant Representatives for Ridge View Commons and Kottinger Place
- Acceptance of Annual Housing Authority Independent Audit for the Year Ending June 30, 2005
- Discussion Regarding Process for Reviewing the Working Draft of an Amended Condominium Conversion Ordinance

**All meetings are open to the public and public comment is welcome.**

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, including any agenda amendments, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## Police Bulletin

### Pleasanton teen indicted for online piracy

A federal grand jury in San Jose indicted Allen Soares, 19, of Pleasanton and four other people for allegedly participating in an online community where users illegally swapped copyrighted music, movie and software files.

Soares is accused of violating federal copyright laws by helping install a server to upload or download more than \$2,500 worth of protected material from a network of Web sites, the U.S. attorney's office said. Four other people from around the country, including Tom Leung, 53, of Cupertino, were charged in the indictment.

An arraignment for all five is scheduled May 11. In total, 32 people have been charged since September as part of the federal government's Operation Copycat investigation.

### Zales Jewelry Store Robbery

At 10:30 a.m., April 3, two males broke into the Zales Jewelry Store in Stoneridge Mall stealing an unknown amount of jewelry, police said. One of the men used a sledge hammer to break the glass of a display case while the other held a crow bar in his hands. The suspects grabbed the jewelry from the display case and fled, according to the police report. A uniformed security officer saw the suspects fleeing

the mall and gave chase. One of the suspects turned to face the security officer and threatened to shoot him, but the guard did not see a gun, police said.

The suspects are described as African-American, between 5 feet 7 inches and 6 feet tall and 25-30 years of age and were wearing black beanie caps, heavy black coats, dark jeans and gloves, police said. The suspects were seen getting into a maroon, 1990 GMC Yukon with black and yellow paper plates that read "CARLS" or "CALI'S", police said.

Anyone with information on this case should contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. Refer to case number 06-1947.

## Police Report

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

### April 3

- \* Theft: 7
- \* Burglary: 3
- \* Found property: 1
- \* Annoying phone calls: 1
- \* Possession of marijuana:
  - 3:20 a.m. at the intersection of Kamp and Elene drives

### April 4

- \* Theft: 4
- \* Vandalism: 1
- \* Burglary: 1
- \* Assault:
- 12:13 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- \* Battery:
  - 2:21 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue
- \* Animal Bite:
  - Noon in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

### April 5

- \* Theft: 5
- \* Vandalism: 2
- \* Burglary: 2
- \* DUI: 2
- \* Found property: 2
- \* Possession of marijuana:

- 1:35 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Moller Ranch Drive

### April 6

- \* Theft: 6
- \* Disorderly conduct:
  - 1:10 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
  - 4:43 a.m. in the 4000 block of Stanley Boulevard
- \* Possession of synthetic drugs:
  - 1:51 p.m. at the intersection of Gale Avenue and E. Angela Street

### April 7

- \* Theft: 5
- \* Vandalism: 2
- \* Burglary: 2
- \* DUI: 1
- \* Assault:
  - 9:37 p.m. in the 400 block of San Gabriel Court

### April 8

- \* Theft: 1
- \* Vandalism: 3
- \* Burglary: 1
- \* DUI: 2
- \* Found property: 1
- \* Assault:
  - 4:24 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue
- \* Disorderly conduct:
  - 9:50 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

### April 9

- \* Theft: 6
- \* Vandalism: 1
- \* Found property: 2
- \* Threatening phone calls: 1
- \* Seized contraband:
  - 7:51 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

## ACCIDENTS

### April 4

- \* 3:15 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road

### April 5

- \* 9:08 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive
- \* 4:03 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Foothill and Dublin Canyon roads

### April 6

- \* 8 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Stoneridge and Denker drives
- \* 9:13 a.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of I-580 and Foothill Road

### April 9

- \* 12:33 a.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue
- \* 9:01 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Quarry Lane



# FURNITURE WAREHOUSE

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Danville/San Ramon area

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hurry in for spring clearance

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Free bed frame with Sealy mattress purchase

## FURNITURE TRENDS

12893 Alcosta Blvd. San Ramon  
(between post office & hospital)

hours  
mon-sat 11-6  
sun 12-6

# Calendar

## Author Visits

### Barbara Hodges

Barbara Hodges, author of "The Daradawn Series" will sign copies of her book 7 p.m., Thurs., April 20 at Bay Books, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 855-1524.

### Chitra Divakruni

Meet Chitra Divakruni, author of "Queen of Dreams" 7 p.m., Tues., April 18 at Bay Books, 5698 Stoneridge Dr. Call 460-3213.

### Gennifer Choldenko

Meet Gennifer Choldenko, award-winning author for children and young adults, 4 p.m., Fri., April 21 at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

### Margaret Lobenstine

Meet Margaret Lobenstine, author of "Renaissance Soul: Life Designs for People With Too Many Passions to Pick Just One," noon, Mon., April 24 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

### MJ Ryan and Jessica Inclan

The Tri-Valley Writers Association is sponsoring a book signing and membership drive. Author MJ Ryan will be available from noon-1:30; Jessica Inclan from 1:30-3 p.m.; and other TVWA authors from 3-6 p.m., Sat., April 22 at the Barnes and Noble in Dublin.

## Book Clubs

### Livermore Book Club

The Livermore Book Club meets 7-9 p.m. every fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

### Mother Daughter Book Club

Mother Daughter Book Club for teens will be discussing Dana Reinhardt's "Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life" 7:30 p.m., Wed., April 19. Mother Daughter Book Club for grades 4-6 will be discussing Shannon Hale's "Princess Academy" 5 p.m., Fri., April 21 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

## Civic Meetings

### City Council

The council meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The council is holding a special meeting Tues., April 11. The next regular meeting is April 18.

### General Plan Land Use Workshop

The joint City Council-Planning

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## Weekend Preview



## Last chance to catch Wharton One Acts

Nikolai Lokteff (right) and Marsha Howard (center) play a married couple who adopts an abandoned baby and Donna Blevins (background) is their maid in "The Mission of Jane," part of the Wharton One Acts presented by the Valley Shakespeare Festival this weekend. The two one-act plays are adapted by Dennis Krausnick from the short stories of Edith Wharton. The other play, titled "The Promise," follows two colleagues in the marriage business who understand and appreciate each other, with other intentions hiding below the surface. This is the last weekend to catch the show with performances at 8 p.m., Fri.-Sat., April 14-15 and 4 p.m., Sun., April 16. All performances are at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St. Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$20 for seniors, students and military. Visit [www.valleyshakes.org](http://www.valleyshakes.org) for more information and to purchase tickets or call the ticket hotline at 1-800-838-3006.

Commission General Plan Land Use Joint Workshop #7 will be at 6:30 p.m., Tues., April 25 in the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Direct questions to Janice Stern at 931-5606 or [jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

### Housing Commission

The commission meets 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is April 20.

### Human Services Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is April 26.

### School Board

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is April 25.

## Clubs

### American Legion Post 237

American Legion Post 237 meets 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Call Rene, 846-7532 or Dan, 846-7320.

### B2B Power Exchange

B2B Power Exchange meets 7:45-10 a.m., Thurs., April 20 for breakfast at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$40 non-members, \$30 if pre-pay before Tues., April 18. Members attend for free. Call 201-3410 or visit [www.b2b-powerexchange.com/dublin.htm](http://www.b2b-powerexchange.com/dublin.htm).

### Crossroads Business Network

Crossroads Business Network meets 7-8:30 a.m. every Friday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. Call Bill, 249-1400.

### Daughters of the British Empire

The John McLaren Chapter meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday monthly. Newcomers and long-time residents are welcome for tea and a chat. Call Jenny, 484-1273 or Veronica, 846-4579.

## Concerts

### 100th Anniversary of the SF Earthquake

Conductor Duane Carroll will lead a concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake and fire with the premiere of "Symphony No. 1: New Day Rising," 8 p.m., Tues., April 18 at Dean Leshner Regional Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. General admission is \$18, \$15 for seniors and students. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.CCWindSyphony.org](http://www.CCWindSyphony.org).

## Events

### 16th Annual Bike Tour for Cyclists

The Northern California Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society hosts the 16th Annual Bike Tour, rain or shine, on Sat., April 22 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Check in time for the 75-mile route is 6:30 a.m., 50-mile route is 7 a.m., and 25-mile route is 8 a.m. Call Alicia, (510) 268-0572, ext.

# Ship of Hope Gala

Dinner, Dance, Auction & Casino  
To Benefit Hope Hospice

Saturday, April 22, 2006  
6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Castlewood Country Club  
Pleasanton

\$75 per person  
Reserved seating – Table of 10  
Cocktail attire • Black-tie optional

Come journey with us to the Greek Isles...

To make reservations for the event,  
please call (925) 829-8770  
or email Pattie DiLauro, at [pattied@hopehospice.com](mailto:pattied@hopehospice.com)

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Gold sponsors:  SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
 SEADRONE & LOGAN HOMES  
 Tenet Healthcare Foundation

116 or e-mail alicia.schwemer@can.nmss.org.

**Career Information and Employment Fair**

Las Positas College and Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center are hosting the free Career Information and Employment Fair 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Tues., April 25 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore, Building 1700. Dress professionally and bring copies of a current resume. Call Katherine, 485-5272.

**Festival Opera**

Join Festival Opera in celebrating its 15th anniversary aboard the Galaxy Commodore yacht 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun., April 30. Tickets are \$150, light buffet, hosted bar and entertainment included. Call Helen, 944-9610.

**Garden Tour**

The 3rd annual free, self-guided Bay-Friendly Garden Tour will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., April 30 in six geographic clusters throughout Alameda County. Reistration required by Thurs., April 20. Call (510) 444-SOIL or visit www.BayFriendly.org.

**High Tea and Hollywood Hats**

Join Gloria Heidi for an elegant tea social 2-4 p.m., Wed., May 3 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. as she entertains you with her one-woman show featuring songs, stories and legends of Hollywood stars. Cost is \$15 residents, \$18 non-residents. Call 931-5365 to RSVP.

**Kalaikoil Music, Dance, & Arts of India**

Students from Kalaikoil Music, Dance & Arts of India will perform Tanjore style of Bharatanatyam 2 p.m., Sat., April 22 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

**Mystery Dinner**

The Pleasanton Hotel presents "Murder at the Pleasanton Hotel" 7 p.m., Fri., April 14 at 855 Main St. Cost is \$60, a three-course dinner and a four-act show are included. Call 846-8106 or e-mail VernieLaube@yahoo.com.

**Poetry reading**

Join Cynthia Bryant, Carolee Harari, Tamara Grippi, Peggy Messerschmidt, Martha Meltzer, Alice Knight and Liz Fortini for a poetry reading 7:30 p.m., Fri., April 28 at Towne Cener Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

Donate blood 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tues., April 25 at DCA Corporate Center, 4140 Dublin Rd., Dublin or 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., April 28 at Toyota Motor Sales, 2451 Bishop Dr., San Ramon. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

**Saving Strokes**

American Heart Association is hosting the 2nd Annual Saving Strokes event Sun., April 23 at Pleasanton Golf Center. Physical therapists and trained PGA golf professionals will be there to introduce stroke victors to the physical and social benefits of golf. Call Keisha, (510) 904-4000.

**Ship of Hope**

Cruise with the "Ship of Hope" to the Greek Isles from 6-11 p.m., Sat., April 22 at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$750 for a table of 10. Call 829-8770 to RSVP.

**Six Dreams in Four Days**

Habitat for Humanity East Bay's Earth Day Build-A-Thon will take place from Thurs., April 20 through Sun., April 23 in Livermore. Help build frames of six homes in four days. Breakfast, snack and lunch will be provided. Call Patti, (510) 251-6304, ext. 313 or visit www.habitatEB.org.

**Slam Dunk to Team Success**

Tara VanDerveer, women's basketball coach at Stanford University, will speak about team success 7 p.m., Tues., April 18 at California High School, 9870 Broadmoor, San Ramon. E-mail Arleen, arl.chng@hotmail.com.

**Spring Floral Extravaganza**

Blackhawk Bloomers presents Spring Floral Extravaganza, featuring floral designer for the Ritz Carlton and Four Season Hotels, Jun Pinon, 11 a.m., Wed., April 26 at Blackhawk Country Club in the Lakeside Ballroom, 599

Blackhawk Club Dr., Danville. Cost is \$50, lunch included. Call Lotty, 736-3665 to RSVP.

**Spring Wine & History Tour**

Museum On Main is sponsoring the "Spring Wine & History Tour" 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., April 23 at 603 Main St. Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased by 4 p.m., Sat., April 22. Call 462-2766.

**Tri-Valley Women's Connection**

Detective Harmish from the Pleasanton Police Department Identity Theft Division will show how to keep safe from identity thieves. Guest Speaker, Jeanie Sartre, author of "Eight Is Not Enough" will also speak at the next meeting from 9-11 a.m., Thurs., April 20 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Brunch will be served. Make reservation or cancellation by April 17 by contacting Jan at 462-9142 or Jill (510) 582-2351 or e-mail trivalley.w.c@sbcglobal.net.

**Exhibits**

**Art in the Family**

Different styles of art from six painters will be on display until Sat., April 15 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St. Call 846-6015.

**Bouquets to Art**

Worthington Gallery West presents "Bouquets to Art," a floral exhibit, Sat., April 8 through Sun., May 7. Artist reception is from 4-6 p.m., Sat., April 8 at 739 J. Main St. Call 485-1183.

**Fundraisers**

**Big Bucks Purple and Gold Gala**

Amador Valley High's Athletic Booster Club is hosting the 20th Annual Big Bucks Purple and Gold Gala featuring dinner, raffles, auctions and more 6 p.m., Sat., May 6 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Call Lori, 426-6786 or visit www.amadorsports.com.

**Bingo**

Choice for Children Education Foundation hosts Bingo at 4 p.m. every Sunday at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. All proceeds benefit Livermore Valley Charter School. Call Maria, 201-3422 or e-mail ccef@lvcs.org.

**Military Appreciation Day Donation Drive**

Donate goodies, hygiene and other products and we will ship it to our troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sat., April 15 at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Dr. All donations are tax deductible. Call Eric, 640-2909.

**Health**

**Free Dyslexia Screening**

Learning Rx is offering a free dyslexia screening until Sun., April 30. Call 416-1400 or visit www.learningrx.com.

**Hearing Loss Association of America**

The Tri-Valley Chapter of HLAA will demonstrate the LACE program, a program to train your brain to understand speech in adverse conditions, at their next meeting 7:30 p.m., Thurs., April 20 at the Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. Open to the public and attendance is free. For more information, contact Hiram at 455-6591 or hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

**Holiday**

**Champagne Buffet Brunch**

Stacey's at Waterford is featuring a Champagne Buffet Brunch 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sun., April 16 at 4500 Tassajara Rd., Dublin. Cost is \$32.95 for adults, \$14.95 for children age 6-11. Call 551-8325 to RSVP or visit www.opentable.com.

**Community Sedar**

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold a Secular Community Passover Sedar 5 p.m., Sun., April 16. The Sedar is a non-kosher-for-Passover potluck featuring a non-religious, progressive haggadah. Cost is \$15 for non-members ages 13 and up. Call 455-0542 to RSVP by Mon., April 10.

**Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt**

Garre Winery is hosting their 2nd Annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny 10 a.m. or 1 p.m., Sun., April 16 at 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$34.95, \$12.95 for children 10 and under, free for children 3 and under. Easter egg hunt will begin at noon for \$7. Reservations required. Call 371-8200 or visit www.garrewinery.com.

**Easter Egg Hunt**

All kids and adults are welcome to participate in the hunt, rain or shine, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat., April 15 at Bay Books, 5698 Stoneridge Dr. at Gibraltar Dr. Special treats and surprises for all. For more information, call 460-3213.

**Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

Tesla Vintners will host the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt for children 12 years and younger 1 p.m., Sat., April 15 at 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Call Patty, 606-WINE.

**Special Easter Week Services**

Presbyterian Church is holding Special Easter Week Services 7 p.m., Thurs., April 13, 7 p.m., Fri., April 14, and 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., Sun., April 16, 4300 Mirador Dr. Call 846-4436.

**Kids & Teens**

**AAU Track & Field Sign Ups**

Youths between 6-18 years of age are welcome to join the Tri-Valley Track Club. Practices are held 4 p.m. every Wednesday and 3 p.m. every Sunday at Sunset Park, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Call 862-085 or 518-9356.

**Art Competition**

Congressman Richard W. Pombo invites all high school students residing in the 11th Congressional District to participate in "An Artistic Discovery." Submit entries by Fri., May 12 at one of Pombo's district offices. Visit www.house.gov/pombo/students/students.htm.

**King Kong**

"King Kong" will be shown at 2 p.m., Wed., April 19 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call Teresa, 931-3404.

**Little League**

Registration for Farm (ages 7-8) and T-Ball (ages 5-6) is still open. Visit www.pleasantonamerican.org or e-mail palregistrar@comcast.net. All games are played at the Sports Park. Call 890-7679.

**Self-Defense Clinic**

Pure Girls is sponsoring a mother/daughter self-defense clinic 7 p.m., Thursdays, April 20, 27 and May 4. Cost is \$30 per pair, \$20 per individual

with a 10 percent discount if you sign up for all four sessions. Call 485-4380 to RSVP.

**Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp**

Boys and girls age 10-19 are eligible to apply for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif. College basketball scholarships available for players selected to the All-American team. Call (704) 373-0873 for a free brochure.

**Young Artists Achievement Awards 2006**

Artists age 14-20 who live in or attend school in Pleasanton may enter to win a \$500 prize in creative writing, visual arts, music or dramatic arts. Deadline is Mon., April 24. Call Rebecca, 426-3815 or visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

**Lectures/ Workshops**

**Administering Health Care Costs**

Marcy Feit, president and CEO of ValleyCare, will speak about "Administering Health Care Costs and Current Trends in Stem Cell Research," 6-8:30 p.m., Tues., April 18 at Wyndham Garden Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd. Cost is \$29 and includes dinner. Call Robert, (510) 304-1406 or e-mail rthulin@theima.org to RSVP.

**Boundaries in Dating**

The book "Boundaries in Dating" by Blaine Carman will facilitate this workshop being held from 1-5 p.m., Sat., April 22 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. The early bird fee is \$30 if paid by April 15; thereafter and at the door, \$40. Childcare available for \$20. Indicate interest in childcare when registering. Register at www.crosswindschurch.org/workshops. Contact Claudia at 560-3826 or csiglin@crosswindschurch.org, for questions.

**Boutique Textile Art**

Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m.-noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins. Call 935-8972.

**C.S.I. Pleasanton**

Andrew Galvan will be lecturing 7 p.m., Thurs., April 20 at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Admission is \$5 for members. \$10 non-members. Call 462-7266 to RSVP.

**Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan**

Technology Ventures Corporation presents "Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan" 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed., April 19 at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Admission is free. Call 960-1600 or visit www.caconference.com. To register, visit www.123signup.com

**Spring Bereavement Workshop**

If you are dealing with the death of a loved one, join the 7-week workshop and begin to heal 7:30 p.m., every Thursday, April 27 through June 8 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Suggested one-time donation is \$15. Registration is required. Call Mary, 846-5377.

**Women's Connection**

Women's Connection presents "Don't be a Desperate Housewife!" from 9-11 a.m., Thurs., April 20 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Guest speaker Jeannie Sartre, author of "Eight is Not Enough" will share her source of strength in raising a large, international family with humor and hope. Cost is \$17 inclusive. Reservations and cancellations requested by April 17. Call Jan, 462-9142, or Jill, (510) 582-2351.

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April 17 at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Only for those 18 years or older. Call Penny, 931-3405.

**Miscellaneous**

**Adopt a New Best Friend**

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts dog and cat adoptions 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays at the Farmers' Market and noon-4 p.m. at Dublin PetsMart. Call 803-7043 for more times and locations or visit www.tvr.org.

**Poetry Open Mic**

Beginners and long-time writers bring up to 10 minutes of poetry to share for the open mic or listen to poetry from 7-9 p.m. every third Thursday monthly at Used and Rare Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Rd. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

**Rabbit Education and Adoption**

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is hosting a bunny event, focusing on education while showcasing homeless bunnies from 1-4 p.m., Sat., April 29 at PetsMart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. Call Marisa, 447-2130 or e-mail bunny@aino.com.

**On Stage**

**Comedy Wednesday**

John DeKoven's Comedy Showcase is every second and fourth Wednesday monthly at Main Street Brewery, 830 Main St. Cover charge is \$7 with a two drink minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.trivalleycomedy.com.

**Junie B. Jones & A Little Monkey Business**

Junie B. Jones and A Little Monkey Business will show 2 p.m., Sat., April 15 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

**Recreation**

**DBAC Swim Team Tryouts**

Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center recreational swim team is accepting applications for the summer swim team. All new swimmers must attend one of the following try-out dates 9 a.m.-noon: March 18, April 15, or May 6. Call 931-3420 for fees and guidelines.

**Enrichment Classes**

Pleasanton Parks and Recreation offers enrichment classes ranging from art, aquatics, sports, health and cooking at 200 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-5340 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/parks.html.

**Seniors**

**Bingo**

Play Bingo 12:30-3 p.m. on the first, third, and fifth Monday monthly and 1-3 p.m. every Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

**Emotional Wellness Group**

Learn more about depression, anxiety, and how medications and alcohol may affect emotional well-being 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Charlene or Jode, 931-5382.

**Friday Night Dance**

Join the crowd for ballroom dancing once a month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 non-residents. Singles welcome. Reservations required. Call 931-5365.

**Internet Access Workstation**

The internet workstation is available 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri. and 9 a.m.-noon most Saturdays. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365.

**Luncheons**

The Dublin Senior Center hosts special luncheons on the second Thursday monthly at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Call 556-4511 or visit www.ci.dublin.ca.us. Reservations needed by the Friday prior to the luncheon.

**Movie Madness**

Seniors are invited to watch free movies on the big screen 1 p.m. on the first and third Monday monthly at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Popcorn and refreshments available. call 931-5365.

**Paratransit Service**

The paratransit service provides door-to-door bus service to seniors 65 and older, and individuals with disabilities of any age and is available 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon-Fri., and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. Call 931-5376.

**Personal Computers Group**

Meets 10 a.m.-noon the fourth

Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365 or e-mail please-nior@yahoo.com.

**Senior Dinner**

Open Heart Kitchen provides seniors 60 years and older with an evening meal from 4-6 p.m., Mon-Fri. at Ridge View Commons, 4200 Case Ave. Suggested donation is \$3. Call 484-5131 for reservations.

**Senior Lunch**

Spectrum Community Services provides seniors 60 years and older with a noon meal at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Suggested donation is \$3.25. Call 931-5385 for reservations.

**V.I.P. Senior Club**

Meets from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays monthly at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5385.

**Woodshop Program**

The woodshop program is open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Drop-in fees are \$1.75 for residents and \$2.75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 for additional drop-in hours.

**Spiritual**

**Community Bible Study**

An interdenominational bible study invites women in the community to a study of Ephesians from 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Thursday until May 18, at 4300 Mirador Dr. Childcare is available. Call 820-3481.

**Faith Chapel Assembly of God**

Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., and Children's Church Program (ages 3-12) at 11:15 a.m. Every Wednesday the Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., Choir Practice and Boys & Girls Mission Crusade Club (grades K-5) all begin at 7 p.m. Singles and Young Married home bible study meets at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday. Seniors 55+ meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. Call Sophia, 846-8650.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church**

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets 10 a.m. every Sunday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com. Join the Easter celebration at 10 a.m., April 16. The sermon is on "The Easter Story," by Rev. Mary Anne Harris.

**Sports**

**Athenian Athletics**

This track and field club's mission is to promote the development of all levels of track and field athletes in any season or sport to make them faster, stronger, and healthier. Applications for the summer and year-round youth

programs are now being accepted. Call 518-9356 or visit www.athenianathletics.com.

**Sea Devils**

The Tri-Valley Sea Devils team is looking for year-round swimmers. Call Hope, 469-8495.

**Support Groups**

**CHADD**

Meetings are held for parents of children with ADD/ADHD from 7-9 p.m. on the second Wed. of each month at Thomas Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Rd. in the library. Call 484-2173 or visit www.chadnocal.org.

**ClutterLess Self Help Group**

If clutter is stressing you out, come to the Presbyterian Church from 7-8:30 p.m. every Monday, except April 17 and May 29, at 4300 Mirador Dr., room 7. Call 426-5311.

**Diabetes Support Group**

Groups meet from noon-1 p.m., on the first Wednesday monthly. Also from 6-7 p.m. every third Thursday monthly and for diabetics using insulin pumps, from 6-7 p.m. the second Thursday of every other month, Diabetes and Nutrition Education Center, Valley Care Medical Plaza, 5725 West Las Positas, Suite 220. Call 416-6710.

**TV30**

**LARPD Board of Directors**

LARPD Board of Directors meeting from Wed., April 12 will air 6 p.m., Sat., April 15 and 16 on channel 28.

**Museum On Main Street**

Learn about the Sunol Water Temple 4 p.m., Sat., April 15 on channel 29.

**Tri-Valley Sports Final**

A recap of the week's local sports action will air 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sat., April 15 and Sun., April 16 on channel 30.

**Volunteering**

**Senior Center Volunteers**

The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., has an array of daytime volunteer opportunities available to adults of any age including receptionist, bingo caller, teacher's aide and lunch program assistant. Call Raymond Figueroa, 931-5366.

**Shepard's Gate**

Volunteer at Shepard's Gate Shelter, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore or their thrift stores, 7381 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, and 1362 Railroad Ave., Livermore any time Mon-Fri. Call Lyn, 443-4283, ext. 217.

**The American Cancer Discovery Shop**

The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri.-Sat., or from noon-5 p.m., Sun. Call 462-7374.

**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue**

TVAR will host two volunteer/shelter orientations 1-2:30 p.m., Sat., April 8 and Sun., April 23 at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Call Cathy, 426-2472 or e-mail calicocathy@yahoo.com.

**ValleyCare Auxiliary**

Volunteers are needed at ValleyCare Medical Center. With nine volunteer service areas in Pleasanton and Livermore, opportunities are available at the information desk, office, library, gift and thrift shop. Call 734-3368.

**Volunteers Needed at RCJL**

The Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living provides assisted living, Alzheimer's and skilled nursing care to its residents. Volunteers play a key role. RCJL has a wide range of opportunities matching volunteer's interests while ensuring the needs of residents. To apply, call Irma, 964-2098.

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# Dining Out

## American

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### Jim's Country Style Restaurant

5400 Sunol Blvd., next to Raley's, Pleasanton, (925) 426-7019. Loved by locals and famous for its ranch-style omelets and large portions, Jim's serves up the country-style fixings from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. So if you're in the mood for chicken-fried steak, an omelet, a stack of pancakes, a deluxe sandwich or just a good old-fashioned burger, you won't be disappointed. Jim's friendly staff invites you to drop in and say, "Howdy!"

### Pleasanton Hotel

855 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 846-8106. This restored Victorian "hotel" combines the ambiance of the past with the exciting contemporary cooking of Chef Neil Marquis. Also offering Mystery Dinner Theater and Winemaker Dinners, live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, some Sundays. Open for lunch, dinner and Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch, patio dining, banquets and weddings to 200.

### Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 734-0307. The place to go for great tri-tip, rotisserie chicken and baby back ribs. The wonderful staff serves up sandwiches, salads and family dinner meals. So come by for a glass of wine and a great meal. Crossroads Shopping Center on Hopyard just one block south of Stoneridge.

### Swensen's

1991-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 426-1266. Swensen's Ice Cream has called the Bay Area its home since 1948. Known for its delicious ice cream, smoothies, burgers, sandwiches, pho beef noodle soup and BBQ chicken, beef and pork over rice. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday.

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Located in the heart of downtown Pleasanton on Main Street, Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a bustling, cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta has teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience with a local sports theme. Open daily 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Evening banquets/daytime catering.

## Brewpub/ Alehouse

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,



(925) 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, the Hop Yard offers 30 beers on tap and a variety of great food, everything from finger food to full blown meals. Ask about new banquet menu.

## California Cuisine Chinese

### Silver Palate Restaurant

680 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, (925) 417-5900. Silver Palate's menu is based on a concept of wholesome cooking, using the most natural ingredients available. The ambiance of this restaurant evokes the light-filled expanse of a European marketplace, while the outdoor patio captures the best in al fresco dining. Choose from a wide selection of flavorful entrees and side accompaniments ... among them risottos, specialty soups, Kobe beef burgers, wild salmon, Organic Sonoma Mix salads and handcrafted desserts. Country Brunch Buffet every Sunday. Open seven days a week.

## Catering

### Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, (925) 462-9299. The seasonal tastes of Fontina's award-winning menu can now be custom delivered to you—direct to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a newly expanded vegetarian menu. Let

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	35-39 .....	\$81
	40-44 .....	\$115
	45-49 .....	\$137
	50-54 .....	\$191
Family	55-59 .....	\$232
	60-64 .....	\$277
	Under 30 .....	\$170
	30-34 .....	\$224
	35-39 .....	\$244
	40-44 .....	\$321
Family	45-49 .....	\$350
	50-54 .....	\$448
	55-59 .....	\$503
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dinner seven nights, lunch Monday-Friday. Live music Friday and Saturday evenings. Full bar. Banquet facilities, rehearsal dinners, special events.

## Indian

### Chef India Cuisine

5100 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, (925) 463-8773. Newly arrived in Pleasanton, its lunch buffet features over 25 items on every week day. They have a special Brunch buffet on every Sat. and Sun. which features more than 30 items. The dinner menu is extensive with many authentic Indian dishes to choose from, along with a full bar and large dining facility. Chef India invites you to hold your banquet with them. Conveniently located near the corner of Hopyard and Owens (next to Chevron) with plenty of parking. Check their website [www.chefindia.com](http://www.chefindia.com) for details.

### Gold Indian Cuisine

824 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 600-0202. Popular Livermore restaurant has opened a second location in downtown Pleasanton, presenting delicious North Indian food, seasoned to your taste: mild, medium or hot. Fresh menu daily. Parking in rear. Patio dining. Open for lunch 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Dinner seven days a week, 5-10 p.m.

## Italian

### Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Offering a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials, including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. Indoor or outdoor seating. Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

### Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, (925) 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic are the first things you notice in this warm and friendly classically "Italian" restaurant, complete with red checked tablecloths. It has an open kitchen where patrons can watch the cooks "hand toss" the dough for this pizza mecca of the Tri-Valley. It is perfect for romantic couples as well as the entire family, and the authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini and Lasagna as well as Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

### Garlic di Pasta

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 485-4500. Rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic. Voted the best Italian restaurant in the

year 2000 by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

### Pastas Trattoria

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AT WATERFORD

**Featuring an Easter Champagne Buffet Brunch**

10:30am - 3:30pm

Reservations available at 925.551.8325

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café

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AT PASTAS TRATTORIA

## Easter Specials

This Weekend at Pastas

*Rack of Lamb*

*Salmon Roulade*

rolled with dungeness crab

*Grilled Ribeye*

with scampi prawns

And Don't Forget...

*Mother's Day*

Sunday, May 14th



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*T r a t t o r i a*

405 Main Street

Downtown Pleasanton, California

(925) 417-2222

make your reservations with OpenTable.com

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### Mediterranean

#### Athens West Restaurant

6999 Dublin Blvd., (925) 803-9601. Truly authentic Mediterranean cuisine featuring Greek specialties including delicious steaks and seafood. Large upscale dining facility with full bar located adjacent to the original Athens Burger Restaurant. Opens Tuesday-Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

### Pizza

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2889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 417-8880. Feeling hungry on a low budget? Original round large Pepperoni Pizza only \$5 every day, eight pieces of our famous crazy bread w/sauce \$1.99, 10 delicious Caesars wings only \$5. Look for other

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### Sandwiches/Deli

#### Togo's

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### Wine Bars

#### The Wine Steward

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DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30  
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- Will Cover and/or edit news and feature stories about the Pleasanton Community
- Has a journalism degree and experience (if Associate Editor Candidate) has a resume which reflects continuing advancement and proficiency in writing and editing
- Would enjoy professional challenges and rewards of a community newspaper.

Send resume and clips to:  
[editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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WEEKLY**

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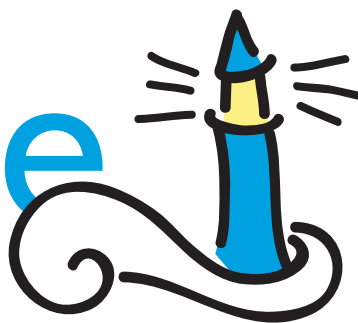
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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

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### RESEARCHING FRONTIER CALIFORNIANS

Patrick Reddy, Edward "Ned" Reddy, Emily Page Conklin Reddy. Any information/letters contact Jaak Treiman [reddyresearch@att.net](mailto:reddyresearch@att.net) or call 818.340.5766. (Cal-SCAN)

Spring Boutique - MOMS Club

Taylor Family Walkathon

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for all ages  
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### 135 Group Activities

Come knit with us!

Fibromyalgia Arthritis Support

Fibromyalgia Arthritis Support

### 145 Non-Profits Needs

Taylor Family Walkathon

### 150 Volunteers

Taylor Family Walkathon

### 155 Pets

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## For Sale

### 201

#### Autos/Trucks/Parts

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Pleasanton CA 94566  
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PLEASANTON

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM-6 PM  
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1950's COFFEE TABLE 925/846-4299 - \$115

### 220 Computers/ Electronics

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### 230 Freebies

A POWER WHEELCHAIR NEW \$0  
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Call 925-846-5260

### 240 Furnishings/ Household items

Washer & Dryer - \$250.00

Anniversary Clock - \$15

Art Deco Chifferobe Cabinet - \$815.00

Chrystal Chandelier - 900.00

Drop Leaf Table - \$800

Hanging Shelves 925/846-4299 - \$39.

Hartmann Luggage - Brand New - \$395.00

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### 245 Miscellaneous

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Attention: Samantha Crapser  
Fax: (925) 833-1498  
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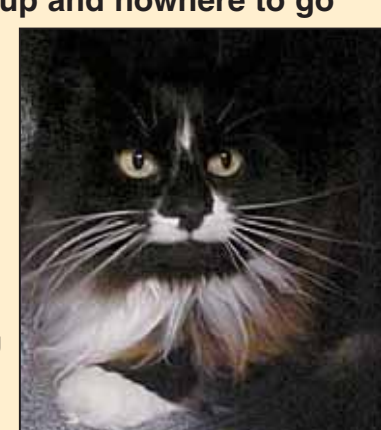
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