

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 29 • August 11, 2006

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton



Going to the **dogs**

Pleasantonians
share a special
connection
with their pets

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**INSIDE
this week**

City Hall changes

Traffic engineer fired,
new faces introduced
page 5

Gift of life needed

RE/MAX, Foothill High
help offset blood shortage
page 7

Tee time

Pleasanton kids have fun
at Pinehurst golf tournament
page 21

All-Madden weekend

Hall of Fame enshrinement
shared with Pleasanton friends
Section 2



INTERO
REAL ESTATE SERVICES



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

DUBLIN

5228 CHARLTON COURT \$765,000
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, +/- 1,634 square feet, tile entry-way, kitchen and master baths, wall to wall carpeting throughout, no rear neighbors, built in 2000.
Nanette Cartego 925.251.2553



OPEN SUN 1-4

LIVERMORE

378 JEANNIE WAY \$774,900
4 bed, 3 bath, fireplace, New carpet, Remodeled kitchen with granite counters, Vaulted ceilings, Option for side yard access, Spacious back yard with fabulous deck.
GLORIA GRIEVE 925.251.2515



PLEASANTON

3375 NORTON WAY #6 \$399,988
2 bed 1.5 bath towntown, Spacious floorplan of over 1100 sq ft, Close to downtown, Recently updated
Tonni Chandler 925.788.7788



OPEN SUN 1-4

SAN LEANDRO

16035 WINDSOR DRIVE \$499,900
Highly desirable Fairmont Terrace. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, Features include newly painted interior, re-surfaced Hardwood floors, updated kitchen, large family room.
Sandra Gilbert 925.251.2521



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

HAYWARD

323 WINTON AVE \$539,000
2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 942 +/- Sq. Ft. of living space, 4400 +/- Sq. Ft. lot. close to shopping, school, college
Reza Tanha 925.251.2576



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

PLEASANTON

3665 HUFF COURT \$985,000
4 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,437 sq. ft. +/-, Bright, Airy, Freshly Painted, Marble Entry, Laminate Floors, New Carpet, Granite Counter Tops, Spacious Master Suite w/retreat.
DANIEL ALPHER 925.548.6500



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

CASTRO VALLEY

22472 CAMERON STREET \$639,000
3bd, 2ba, 1,546+/-sft, lot size 8,652 +/- sft, New granite countertop/ marble Floor, New Roof, Dual Pane Windows, Hardwood floors, Solar tub in Bath.
SANG KANG 925.251.2555



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

PLEASANTON

3399 SMOKETREE COMMON DRIVE \$419,950
2 bed, 2 bath, Lots of privacy, one car garage, New carpet / paint, washer & dryer included, Fireplace in living room, Walk to downtown.
MAX De VRIES 925.525.0116



OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

PLEASANTON

5738 BELLEZA DRIVE \$584,950
2bd/2ba, 1,294 +/- sq ft townhome, Bright End Unit, Cozy Fireplace in the Livingroom, Lovely Patio Deck, Vaulted Ceiling, Indoor Laundry in the Upstairs.
SANG KANG 925.251.2555



OPEN SUN 1-4

SAN RAMON

610 WEATHERLY PLACE \$739,000
Stunning Remodel, 4 Beds, 2 Baths, Gourmet kitchen, Custom Cabinetry, Granite Counter tops. Natural Stone Fireplace, Court Location.
JOE LEDESMA 925.251.2559



OPEN SUN 1-4

BRENTWOOD

202 BRUSHWOOD PLACE \$499,900
3 bed / 2 bath, 1799 +/- sq. ft. This very inviting home offers spacious floor plan with neutral decor/large kitchen w/island open to family room/gas fireplace.
ROBIN YOUNG 925.251.2541



OPEN SUN 1-4

DUBLIN

7642 IRON WOOD DRIVE \$639,000
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Love of the Navy runs in local restauranteur's family

Pleasanton's Mike Gutierrez has reason to be proud. His Emilio's El Portal restaurant on Main Street is now the oldest, continuously owner-operated restaurant in our town. This is no small accomplishment in Pleasanton given the Tri-Valley's rapid growth and competition in the dining business since Gutierrez opened El Portal in 1981. Then there's his son John-Michael, 23, from Foothill High's Class of 2001 who just graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. The newly promoted Ensign Gutierrez will be leaving for naval flight school at Pensacola, Fla., in November to become a Navy pilot. His sister Monica, 20, a 2004 Foothill graduate and school cheerleader, starts her sophomore year at Annapolis this month. Gutierrez's other daughter Michelle, 9, is heading for the fourth grade at Alisal Elementary School, with a few years to go before deciding if she, too, wants a Naval Academy education. After finishing a year at the top of his one-year post-Foothill class at the academy's prep school in Rhode Island, John-Michael won an appointment to Annapolis from Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-10th) when she still represented Pleasanton. U.S. Representative Richard Pombo (R-11th), whose district now includes Pleasanton, made the appointment for Monica Gutierrez.

A strong patriot, Gutierrez comes from a family of hard-working, successful restauranteurs. At one time, his parents owned the popular El Charro Mexican restaurants on the Peninsula and in San Francisco's North Beach. One branch was in the Student Union building at San Francisco State University—called the Big Enchilada—where Mike Gutierrez learned the business by working there while being a student. Both parents are now deceased, although the El Charro

still operates under different owners in South San Francisco. In honor of his father, Emilio, Gutierrez later added his name to the El Portal restaurant at 828 Main St.

Earning a degree in political science from SFSU in 1978, Gutierrez became a police officer with the San Jose force, which is where he met Stan Kephart, a fellow policeman who had also been on the Pleasanton City Council. Hearing Gutierrez talk about how he wanted to follow his parents' footsteps into the restaurant business, Kephart encouraged him to come to Pleasanton, and the rest is history. Like so many of us, Gutierrez decided to live here and raise his family after the first time he saw Main Street. Soon thereafter, he opened El Portal at 320 Main, relocating nine years ago into the old Cheese Factory building on North Main.

Among the better restaurants in Pleasanton, Gutierrez's is perhaps the simplest. A nicely-decorated, full sit-down Mexican restaurant, El Portal, features all of his father's recipes, ranging from a shredded beef taco to his fancier dishes, with prices ranging from \$6 to \$15. Managing the kitchen with his wife Carolina handling the customers, both always have time to talk about local issues and events. This has made Emilio's El Portal a favorite rendezvous spot for City Council and other political campaigns. Last week, former Peninsula Congressman Pete McCloskey and his team were there after helping to launch Jerry McNerney's campaign for Congress. With the other November campaigns for mayor, City Council and school board seats just starting, Gutierrez's restaurant will likely become even more lively as the scene of political strategic planning and debates in the weeks ahead. ■

About the Cover

Iris Cruz, 4, is almost as tiny as her 4-month-old dachshund Heidi. The two made a cute pair at the Pooch Parade last Wednesday, where Pleasanton residents of all ages showed off their beloved dogs. Dogs and their owners share a special connection, and some even take on each other's personalities, as evident by the pairs in the parade. Cover photo by Shannon Corey

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Roy Dronkers

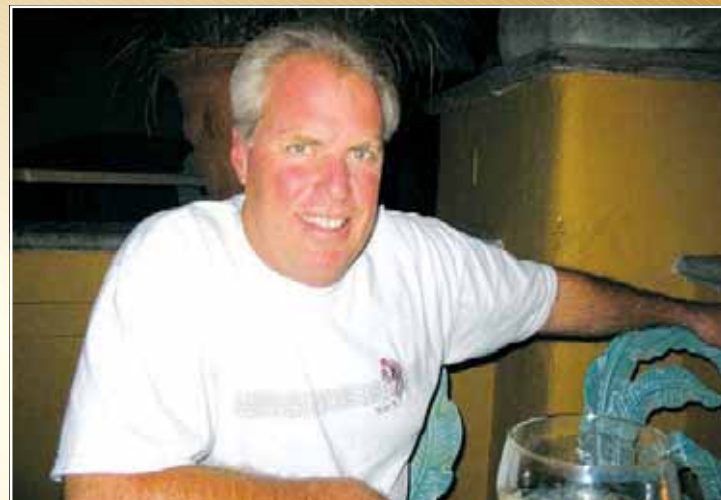
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"Thank You, Pleasanton"

Steve Asmann of Steve's Valero would like to thank Pleasanton for over 27 years of patronage.

As of August 1st Steve's Valero became Roesbery Car Care.

Please welcome Mike Roesbery and Tom Spillner at Roesbery Car Care located at 2991 Hopyard Road and 3192 Santa Rita Road.

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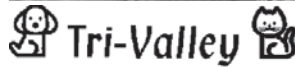
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Streetwise

Q: What book do you think everyone should read once in their lifetime?

Asked around town



Nicole Browne

Homemaker

"A Prayer for Owen Meany" by John Irving. The story is about a boy who is born different than everyone else. He is always searching for the answer as to why he is different and begins to realize he is on a mission from God. This is a favorite book at our house and the reason we named one of our sons Owen.

Joe Battaglia

Bookseller at Towne Center Books

The one that comes to mind is "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. I thought of it because it made a lasting impression on me. It is a fun read but, ultimately, a book with the message that sometimes what we are looking for is right here within, not at all beyond our grasp.



Devin Caisse-Aloise

Student

"History of the World, Vol. 2" by Howard Zinn. Howard Zinn is a meticulous historian who backs up his work to the most incredible point and reveals the ultimate truth about any situation, whether it agrees with his politics or not.

Linda Dinneen

Student

The book everyone should read at least once in their lifetime is "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn. This book states problems with humanity and how we treat the environment and each other. It offers solutions to these problems. It is a wonderful thought-provoking book.



Lisa Kelly

Bookseller at The Book Store

"Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austin because it is the greatest love story ever written. It is a perfect example of structured plot; many things happen at different levels with interesting characters intertwined. Unfortunately, it is misinterpreted as a story for women, but it is a wonderful book for both men and women.



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Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Barry Schrader scholarship

Help support the Journalism and Communication Arts students of Las Positas College by making a tax-deductible donation to the Las Positas College Foundation through the Barry Schrader Scholarship.

Donations can be made by filling out a form and mailing a check or sending credit card information to: The Barry Schrader Scholarship, Las Positas College Foundation, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore 94551.

Ghostwalk tickets on sale

The Museum On Main began selling tickets to its annual "Halloween Ghostwalk" this week during the First Wednesday street party. Tours are held every half hour starting at 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13, and Saturday, Oct. 14, with the last tour starting at 8 p.m. Each tour lasts one hour. After the First Wednesday street party, tickets will be available for purchase during the museum's regular hours, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 per person. The Museum On Main is located at 603 Main St. Info: 462-2766.

New Online Courses

Las Positas Community College has partnered with Gatlin Education Services to provide non-credit certification programs in fields like healthcare, business and many other high interest areas via online coursework.

In response to the overwhelming interest in online training courses, the programs are designed for individuals looking to switch career paths or for first-time job seekers who need specialized training. The courses are open enrollment and self-paced, and students are paired with a personal instructor. Online courses take an average of 90 days to complete and provide training for entry-level positions.

For program and course description, go to www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed. For Enrollment information, call 424-1467.

State Fair opens today

The California State Fair opens today in Sacramento and runs through Sept. 4. The Fair is open Tuesday-Thursday, noon-10 p.m. and Friday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. It is closed Mondays, except for Labor Day when it will stay open. The Fair is at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Visit www.bigfun.org.

Facing unforeseen challenges

Firing of Traffic Engineer Jeff Knowles one part of larger City Hall restructuring

by Jeb Bing

From a genuine mountain high to the emotional depths of being fired from a key city post he had held for the last five years, Pleasanton's Traffic Engineer and Deputy Director of Public Works Jeff Knowles had quite a week.

With over 28 years of transportation engineering and planning experience, Knowles was quickly hired by Dowling Associates, one of California's top traffic engineering firms that did more than \$150,000 in consulting work for Pleasanton last year, shortly after his departure from City Hall.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said he couldn't comment on Knowles' termination or the two months' pay and benefits severance package the city was reported to have given Knowles "because this is strictly a personnel matter." He said Assistant Traffic Engineer Michael Tassano would step into Knowles' position on an interim basis until a successor could be recruited.

On his return from the Mount McKinley expedition, so far the hardest and highest of Knowles' longstanding passion for mountain climbing, Knowles sent a series of photos to the Weekly along with a promise to send more and talk about the trip soon after he returned to his office on Monday. He never had a chance. When he reported for work Tuesday morning, he found his phone had been turned off. Public Works Director Rob Wilson gave him his termination papers, and he was escorted out of City Hall.

Although neither Wilson nor Fialho will discuss the dismissal, and Knowles said his termination agreement prevents him from talking, it was clear that the Dowling offer had been in the works for

some time. Knowles is well known as a top professional in traffic engineering circles, and has been a frequent speaker at state, regional and local government and private sector meetings on area traffic congestion.

Here in Pleasanton, he implemented measures to curb cut-through commuter traffic and reduce speeding, which included metering lights on on-ramps to eastbound I-580 at Hopyard, Hacienda and Santa Rita, speed bumps on Crellin Road, and a traffic speed monitoring light on Vineyard at Montevino, which received international coverage and has served as a prototype for similar signals in other cities.

He was also a supporter of the roundabouts on Vineyard, which, at the direction of the City Council, are now being torn out at a cost of \$600,000, and of extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore, which all five members of the current council have vowed to prevent. An earlier effort to curb cut-through traffic with a metering light near the Sunol Boulevard off-ramp at I-680, which

(continued on page 9)



Former Pleasanton Traffic Engineer Jeff Knowles reads the Weekly at the 20,320-foot summit of Mount McKinley, his highest climb ever. Shortly after this photo was taken by his 2006 Denali Expedition team members, Knowles started the long trek downward and back to his job at City Hall, where he was terminated two days later.

Courtesy Jeff Knowles

Lights, camera, action!

Pleasanton provides perfect venue for Mervyn's shoot, more filming to come

by Jackie Pugh

Roaring Tiger Films, a motion picture and video production company, shot a Mervyn's commercial at Café Baci in downtown Pleasanton, Tuesday, August 1.

"They were looking for a downtown that had a lot of character and ambiance," said Pamela Ott, economic development director for the city of Pleasanton.

Roaring Tiger Films is based out of San Francisco and had been scouting out a site around the Bay Area when it came to the Tri-Valley. After originally talking with Dale Kaye, president and CEO of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce, and the city of Livermore's Film Commission staff, Kaye referred



The film crew from Roaring Tiger Films sets up outside of Café Baci in downtown Pleasanton to shoot a commercial for Mervyn's.

the production company to Ott to see if Pleasanton would work for the shoot.

"They were looking for a very specific look of a main street, which we didn't have and Pleasanton did," Kaye said. The plan of the Film Commission is to not only promote Livermore as the future hot-spot for filming, but also its neighboring cities of Pleasanton and Dublin.

While film companies do not have to pay a city fee for filming and do not need to secure a permit,

they do have to pay expenses that incur from city businesses and services. This might include payment to police personnel for monitoring traffic or compensation to Café Baci for closing the restaurant for the day.

"What we recognize is that if Pleasanton becomes a place that filmmakers want to film at, then revenue will occur," Ott said. When production companies arrive and

(continued on page 9)

Bravery beyond belief

Police officers earn Carnegie Medal for heroic rescue

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission recently recognized Officer Randy Paulson of Pleasanton and Deputy Todd Gore of Dublin Police Services, for their work saving the life of a young woman attempting suicide off the I-580 overpass in March of 2005.

One could say Gore was at the right place, at the right time when he saw a woman climbing over the ledge of a freeway sign, about to jump, on March 16, 2005. Gore and Paulson made a split-second decision to scale the chain-link fence and climb onto the platform themselves.

(continued on page 7)

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McNerney appoints new communication director

Michaels looks to 'spread the word' through Election Day

by Jackie Pugh

As Election Day gets closer, Jerry McNerney, candidate for the 11th Congressional District, including Pleasanton, recently added Tor Michaels as the communication director to his campaign.

"The reason I'm here is because I got a call from a friend in Washington that said 'Tor this is right up your alley. The volunteers out here need someone like you,'" Michaels said.

Michaels, 38, a native of Belfont, Pa., was in broadcasting at WBLF radio at State College, Pa., when he received the phone call from long-time friend and McNerney's fundraising coordinator, Ken Christensen. Michaels

knew it was just the type of fight he wanted to get involved with after speaking with Christensen and meeting with McNerney in Washington, D.C.

Michaels took the offer and arrived in California in early July, pleasantly surprised with the faint difference he found between Pennsylvania and the Tri-Valley.

While helping current campaign manager A.J. Carillo speak to the press and create

relations with the media, Michaels' overall focus is to tailor the message to voters in the 11th District.

The three big issues that the campaign will highlight are the strong ethics package McNerney intends to bring to Congress, a shift from foreign oil dependence, and support for veterans, Michaels said.

With alternative energy sources being a key issue for voters in the upcoming election, Michaels expanded on McNerney's plan to convert the agriculture-rich area of central California into a "Silicon Valley of renewable energy."

"Our reliance on foreign oil has



Tor Michaels

(continued on page 8)

Renovation makes camp more fun

Local residents raise money, donate time to save popular summer destination

by Rebecca Guyon

With summer coming to a close, many Pleasanton students can say they spent their school-free months at camps, such as Camp Loma Mar located near Half Moon Bay. But this year, their camp experience was made significantly better thanks to the work of Pleasanton resident Bing Hadley and 95 Tri-Valley volunteers.

During the last weekend of February, Hadley and his team of volunteers, mostly men who are involved with the YMCA's Y-Guides and Princesses programs, arrived at Camp Loma Mar ready to do extensive renovations, focusing mostly on fixing 11 student cabins. The cabins were originally built in 1973 by the Oakland Rotary and

since that time, only small capital improvements had been made. This meant that serious structural repairs had to be addressed, including repairing the cabins' foundations and entirely re-roofing two of the cabins, as well as doing general roof repairs to others. One cabin was experiencing major problems due to erosion, so the volunteers additionally built a 60-foot retaining wall to remedy the problem. They also installed 12 new propane heaters that replaced the old units, which didn't provide much heat and were bordering on unsafe.

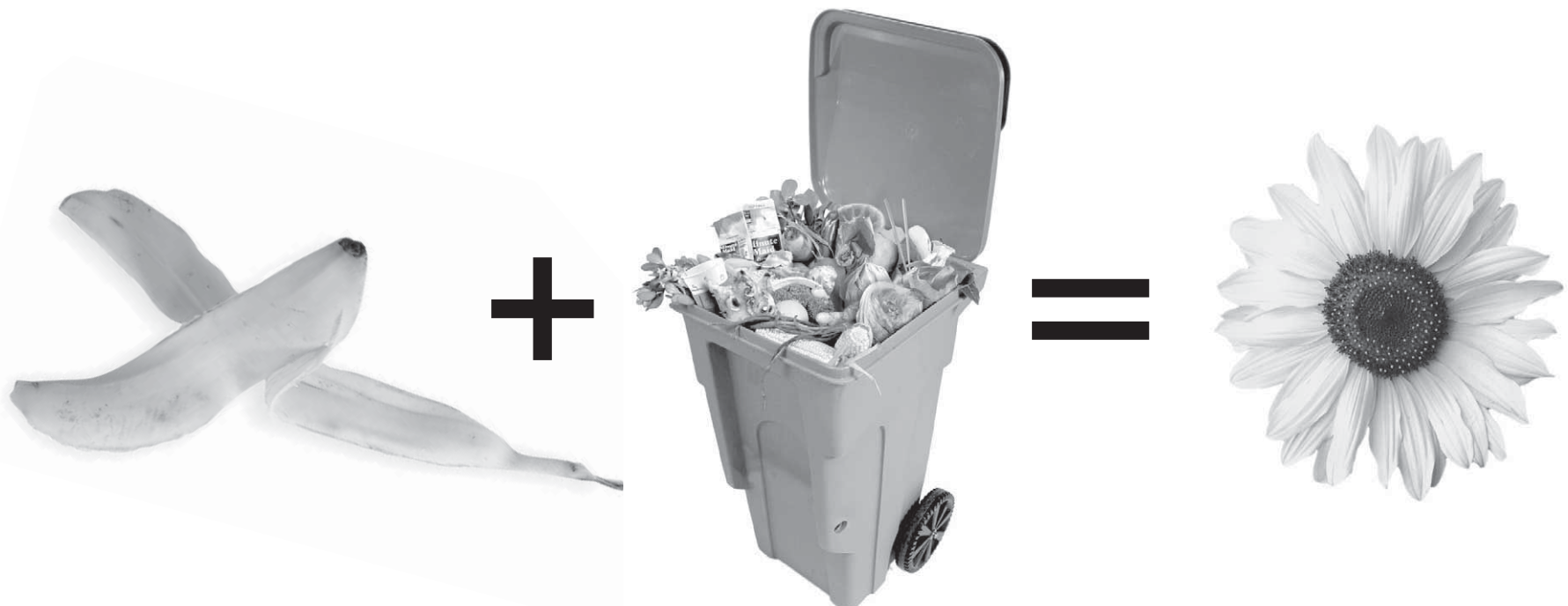
"I've never seen anything like this happen anywhere before," said Camp Director Koffi Kpachavi. "It was like a swarm of bees descending on camp. They got here, got to work and only stopped to use the

bathroom and eat. They worked so hard that it would have taken a lot of money and years to do everything they did in one weekend."

Kpachavi said the renovations made a huge difference for the 800 campers that stayed at Camp Loma Mar this summer, and will continue to make camp a comfortable space for the 600 students who will stay there for Outdoor School held during the school year.

"There is a big difference between this year and last year in terms of how much better it is during the nights," Kpachavi said. "We get a little chill out here, and the new heaters were amazing to have. It used to be that the old heaters every now and then would quit, but

(continued on page 8)



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Blood collection slows in summer

Local blood drives prove successful, but aren't enough

by Jackie Pugh

RE/MAX, a local realty office on Stoneridge Mall Road, held a blood drive August 1 as emotional support for one of their agents who was recently diagnosed with a blood-related cancer.

"We had 58 donors and we collected 34 units of blood," said Roxanne Cline, office administrator and organizer of the event, in reference to the turnout at the RE/MAX office in Pleasanton. "Simultaneously, at our Danville office, we had 18 volunteers and 16 units donated."

The donations went to Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP), a community-based, non-profit blood bank that distributes blood across Northern California to hospitals and for medical research. BCP made planning the drive really easy, Cline said.

"They sent out a big air-conditioned bus, with a full staff of nurses who were able to take 4-5 donors at a time," she added.

Cline also sent out internal e-mails throughout the company and posted flyers. The agents, and friends and family of agents, all showed their support.

Yet, while the blood collected last Tuesday exemplifies compassion and service to a greater cause, BCP, along with other blood banks in the surrounding area, are experiencing an extreme shortage of blood with the passing summer months.

In a June 15, 2006, news article linked on BCP's Web site, titled "Bay Area supplies critically low," BCP said it would be rationing blood given to the 41 hospitals it serves and has put those hospitals on notice that there might not be enough available blood for procedures requiring large amounts of Type O.

Similarly, the American Red Cross, Northern California Blood Services Region has recognized the high demand for regular blood donors during the summer months when families go on vacation and



Steve Mohseni, Chris Miller and Angie Gianella, real estate agents at RE/MAX in Pleasanton, show off their purple bandages after giving blood Tuesday, August 1, in a drive to support their colleague diagnosed with a blood-related cancer.

students are not attending school.

The American Red Cross applauded the many wonderful students of the Bay Area who participated in blood drives throughout the 2005-2006 school year. Collecting more than 6,000 pints of blood during 117 blood drives at 69 high schools throughout Northern California, including Pleasanton's Foothill High School, the organization estimated that over 18,000 people have been given a second chance at life as a result of these school-wide drives, for each pint of blood donated can help three people.

The Red Cross hopes that students will remember that donating blood is a compassionate and rewarding activity, and one they will continue to do throughout their lives.

"Our goal is to make them life-long donors because only 2 to 3 percent of eligible Bay Area residents donate blood. Nationwide, the average is closer to 5 percent," said Chief Executive Officer, Jay Winkenbach, of the American Red Cross, Northern California Blood Services Region.

"High school and college blood drives account for less than 9 percent of the mobile blood drives we do, yet these students provide over 10 percent of the blood needed in the Bay Area," Winkenbach added.

As the population lives longer everyday, new medical advances require more and more blood be donated, including the vital necessity to help accident victims, premature babies, cancer patients, organ recipients and numerous others.

While blood banks do not have enough blood to supply local hospitals during this slow period, BCP and the American Red Cross encourage anyone who is eligible to visit their local blood banks.

For more information, visit the Pleasanton American Red Cross, located between the JC Penney Home Store and Cost Plus at 5556-B Springdale Ave. For any questions or concerns, call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit www.HelpSaveALife.org. Contact BCP at (888)-393-GIVE and visit its Web site, www.bloodcenters.org. ■

attempts," Chief Neal said.

But at what point does suicide affect more than just the individual? In a case like this one, the woman, suspended 28 feet above a concrete thoroughfare, could very easily have brought her rescuers plummeting down with her. As far as the job description goes, "there's no requirement to commit suicide yourself," Neal commented.

Thus, it is with these extraordinary circumstances that Gore and Paulson have been awarded such a medal. These two men bravely demonstrated how the fear of losing their own lives was overcome by the chance to save another's.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission honored 15 individuals in 2006 from the U.S. and Canada with the Carnegie Medal for acts of heroism. Along with the medal, recipients get a \$4,000 grant, which Paulson plans on putting toward his son's college fund.

The officers were notified by mail, and Paulson was commended by the City Council with a resolution, but it was not publicly presented. The Council has invited him back August 15 to thank him again.

To date, 9,012 medals have been awarded from over 79,000 nominees. The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, with a board of 21 members based out of Pittsburg, Pa., has given roughly \$28.7 million in grants that can go to scholarship aid or continuing assistance.

Originally established after a mining explosion in Harwick, Pa., Andrew Carnegie felt compelled to recognize two individuals who had lost their lives in an attempt to save their co-workers in the disaster. It was because of "civilization's heroes," as Carnegie would call them, that the commission was set up to recognize the everyday heroes that walk among us.

—Jackie Pugh

Hero

(continued from page 5)

In a miraculous rescue effort, Gore grabbed the arm of the woman as she completely let go of the sign. As the woman dangled above the eastbound lanes of the interstate, Paulson made his way over the wall to help Gore pull the woman to safety. The woman returned unharmed to solid ground where she was then hospitalized.

"It's very unusual, and they put themselves at incredible risk," Pleasanton Police Chief Tim Neal said. Suicide cases, while uncommon, are increasing, as seen in the 2005 Annual Report from the Pleasanton Police Department. The number of psychiatric commitment cases has ranged from 211 in 2004 to 222 in 2005. "Of those, we estimate 80 percent are suicide

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Diana Korpi

THE BENEFITS OF HOME OWNERSHIP

Shelter is a fundamental human need which most people fill by renting or buying a house, apartment or condominium. Rental property, however, is often less-than-perfect. Tenants usually experience a rent increase every year or so and feel subject to the wishes of the homeowner. They don't necessarily feel a strong commitment to the property or the community.

Making a decision to buy a house is a major commitment, and the decision is both an economic and an emotional one. Instead of paying the landlord's mortgage every month, homeowners pay their own mortgage and build up equity in their investment. When they paint, plant flowers or make structural improvements to the property, their family reaps the economic and aesthetic benefits. Homeowners tend to be more selective than renters about finding the perfect home, and more diligent about maintaining it in excellent condition. Home ownership can create a positive sense of satisfaction and self-esteem.

Diana Korpi is a multi-national award winner. She specializes in residential sales and is a Certified Relocation Specialist and holds the prestigious Re/Max Luxury Homes Designation.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying or selling, contact Diana at ReMax Accord. Diana is committed to professional, attentive service to her clients - always willing to go the extra mile. When you deserve the very best, call 925-830-4764.

RE/MAX ACCORD

Camera

(continued from page 5)

are filming all day, they hire local caterers or buy materials at stores around town, bringing in profits at fairly large amounts. "This whole area of the Tri-Valley becomes more attractive to film companies, so that can be significant dollars," Ott added.

Two commercials were recently filmed in Pleasanton, with the Mervyn's shoot this past week and one for Clorox Bleach earlier in July. While commercials tend to bring minimal exposure to a city—the Clorox Bleach commercial was shot at a local residence on a side street—commercials shot in the heart of downtown are more likely to spark some gossip.

Some might be aggravated by traffic issues and the inconvenience of having locations close for filming, and others may worry that films generate too much business for the small "Pleasantonian" market to handle, or, if future motion pictures are filmed here,

flocks of tourist will take over the town. Yet, Ott and Kaye both remain hopeful for the potential profits that the Tri-Valley's natural beauty and appeal will bring to the economy. As a film commissioner in Florida, Kaye realized the potential of the three cities once she took the job at the Livermore Chamber of Commerce.

"Miami looks like Miami and nowhere else," Kaye laughed. "There are places here that can look like the East Coast or the Midwest." The versatility provided by the architecture that spans over hundreds of years is a focal point that Kaye and Ott try to make when enticing film producers to shoot here. Kaye is actually putting together a production guide that she and fellow members of the film commission will take to L.A. in November.

The production guide will show pictures of the Tri-Valley's most unique, historic and beautiful spots in town, like Dublin's jail and Pleasanton's downtown strip. It also includes lists of hotels, restaurants, weather patterns, proximity to airports and production facilities, like sounds stages. "Frankly, we don't

want to miss any location shoots or anybody for that matter, but by doing this we lure the production companies out here, and we'll be updating our lists and doing numerous issues to get as much publicity as possible," Kaye said.

"What it is, is an economic development tool," Kaye added. "Whether it's a commercial, TV series, a feature ... even still shots bring a lot of money into the community." When small commercials are filmed, costs consist of location fees, which, Kaye mentioned, are fairly generous for food vendors and local businesses. When a motion picture is being produced, the entire cast and crew stays for three to four months. This means the people are living in the hotels, going to the dry cleaners, using the golf courses and visiting the hardware stores, putting tremendous revenue into cities.

So will Pleasanton be the next Hollywood? Ott concluded, "We hope for more filming, but I don't have any knowledge at the moment." With only a few commercials having been filmed in Pleasanton, one can only guess. ■

Jerry Iserson was named Director of Planning, succeeding Brian Swift. Swift has provided some assistance as a planning consultant on the city's General Plan update. Principal Planner Wayne Rasmussen also left to start his own consulting business. Fialho and Iserson subsequently hired two new principal planners: Janet Stern and Donna Decker.

Fialho also hired David P. Culver to succeed Finance Director Sue Rossi, who retired after 31 years of public service. Culver, who has 28 years of experience, most recently was director of finance and treasurer for the city of Santa Cruz.

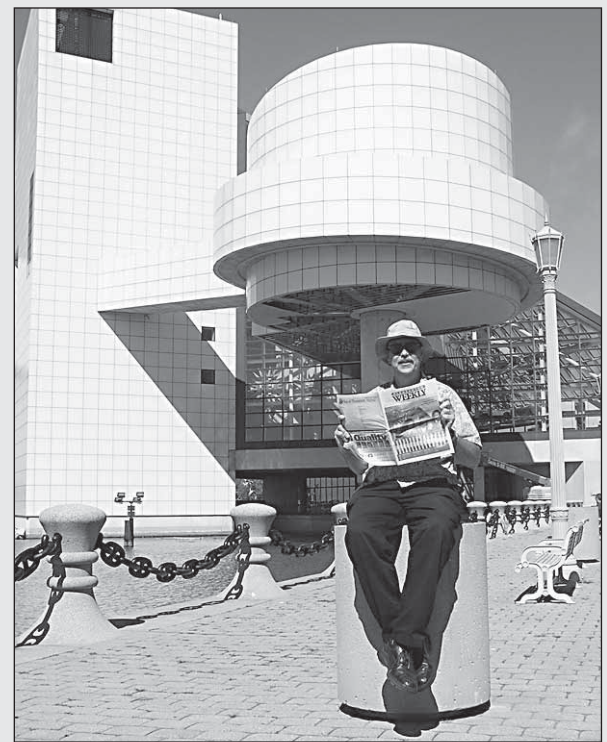
Also new is Karen Diaz, hired as city clerk to replace Dawn Abrahamson, who took the same

post in Fremont. Diaz reports to Fialho.

Other recent changes at City Hall included:

- Lorie Tinfow to the new position of administrative services director. She replaces the position Fialho previously held under former City Manager Deborah Acosta McKeehan as assistant city manager/director of human resources. Tinfow's position has been expanded to include oversight of the city clerk's office and central services. Fialho also placed her in charge of the city's newly-appointed Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee, which is seeking a bypass route to the Callippe Preserve golf course, and of a study considering the acquisition of the Pleasanton

Take Us Along



Cleveland rocks

Bruce Fiedler, manager of Pleasanton Gardens, took a break from his duties to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. But, being dedicated to Pleasanton, he just had to keep up with local news by reading the Weekly.

Challenge

(continued from page 5)

then-Mayor Tom Pico supported, significantly reduced cut-through by volumes. But, the device also delayed Pleasanton commuters coming back from jobs south of Pleasanton and was removed because of the protests. In recent months, Wilson and Tassano have replaced Knowles at City Council, commission, committee and agency meetings where Knowles served as the city's traffic expert.

In a press release, Dowling Associates said Knowles would work on traffic analysis and engineering assignments. He is expected to focus on Dowling projects in Northern California, but probably not in Pleasanton, at least not for now.

The exodus of Knowles came in the wake of major changes at City Hall as City Manager Fialho solidified his management team since taking the post nearly two years ago. About that time, the city's long-time Principal Planner

Memorial Gardens Cemetery, now owned by the Livermore Odd Fellows fraternal organization.

- Emily Wagner to the new position of economic development fiscal officer. She joined the city last May to assist both Fialho and Director of Economic Development Pamela Ott. Wagner's current projects include the Bernal property financing, ACE train station location, permit streamlining and downtown parking improvements.

- Jacqui Diaz to the post of assistant to the city manager. She has worked in various capacities

for the city for the last three years, including as interim city clerk during the recruitment of Karen Diaz. She also coordinates the refuse and recycling programs, serves as liaison to the Youth Master Plan Committee and assists Fialho on City Council initiatives.

"As a result of these changes, I now have only one assistant city manager, Steve Bocian, who is now freed up to work on City Council priority projects," Fialho said. "These include the Staples Ranch development, major capital projects and affordable housing." ■

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, August 15, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- Approval of Plans and Specifications, Review of Bids and Award of Construction Contract for the Vineyard Hills Reservoir and Access Road, Amendment to the Contract with Tetra Tech, Inc., to Perform Construction Management Services for the Project, Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement with Threehand LP, and Direction to Staff to Develop a Financing Plan for the Remaining Portions of the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area Infrastructure
- **PUD 54, Threehand, LP, Reznick Property**
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide an approximately 20-acre site located into eight-lots, consisting of seven single-family lots for custom homes and one lot for a City water tank located at 5 Windy Oaks Drive. Zoning for the property is PUD-HR/OS (Planned Unit Development – Hillside Residential/Open Space) District
- **PUD-44, Barbara Young**
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning from Agriculture (A) to Planned Unit Development – Low Density Residential (PUD-LDR) District and development plan approval for a three-lot residential development of an existing 2.91-acre parcel located at 11249 Dublin Canyon Road. Also consider the Negative Declaration prepared for the project
- **General Plan Update**
Consider Refinements to the "Working Draft" Circulation (Roadway) Network – **This item will be continued to a Workshop/Special Council Meeting on August 29 @ 6:30 p.m.**
- Livermore Airport Noise Monitoring
- Discussion on whether to include the development of a Fire Sprinkler Ordinance to the City Council 2005-2006 Work Plan.

Housing Commission

Thursday, August 17, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- Revision to Fiscal Year 2006 Operating Budget for Kottinger Place to Provide Funding for a Service Coordinator
- Recommendation Regarding Revised Condominium Conversion Ordinance and Revised Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance
- Update Regarding Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

Future Meetings

- A General Plan Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29
- The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23
- The next Trails Ad-hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 28

GENERAL INFORMATION

A General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 for the following officers:

For Mayor (Full term of two years)

For Two Members of the City Council (Full term of four years)

The nomination period opens Monday, July 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. Nomination Papers are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, through Friday, August 11, 2006. Please call 931-5027 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, for more information or to schedule and appointment.

If Nomination Papers for an incumbent officer of the City are not filed by 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 11, 2006, the Nomination Period will be extended until Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., for non-incumbents only.

While appointments to take out and/or file nomination papers are not required, they are strongly encouraged.

For more information, questions, or to schedule an appointment, please contact the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

**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

Police Bulletin

Wine, electronics and jewelry stolen

A burglary resulting in the loss of a DVD player, jewelry, a Play Station and video games and several bottles of wine occurred in the 3400 block of Virgil Circle between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on August 1, police said.

The resident reported the crime about an hour after returning home, where he found the side garage door damaged and property missing from the house.

The hollow, wood door was possibly opened by a flat chisel-type tool, judging by the markings left on the door, police said. The outside of the door was splintered and bent outward, while half of the solid end core was broken off and laid on the garage floor.

The connecting door from the garage opens to a short hall, which the resident said is never kept locked. In the family room, there was a wine cellar, which the suspect left open after taking the wine bottles. The suspect also opened drawers to the entertainment center, the nightstand and a chest that were all located in the upstairs bedroom.

Police Report

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

July 31

- Theft: 4
- Vandalism: 2
- DUI: 1
- Domestic Violence:
 - 12:38 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- Child Abuse: 2
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 1100 block of Laguna Creek Lane
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 3800 block of Stone Pointe Way

August 1

- Theft: 10
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 3
- Found property: 1

August 2

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 2
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Embezzlement:
 - 2:43 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- Reckless driving:
 - 8 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

August 3

- Theft: 3
- Vandalism: 1
- Defrauding an innkeeper:
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Assault: 2
 - 11:02 p.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue
 - 11:05 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

August 4

- Theft: 2
- DUI: 1
- Assault: 2
 - 8:12 a.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court
 - 9:12 p.m. in the 1300 block of Briones Court
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 6:55 p.m. in the 3000 Mall Lot
- Public drunkenness:
 - 7:47 p.m. at the intersection of First and Abbie streets

August 5

- Theft: 2
- Burglary: 1
- DUI: 1
- Possession of amphetamines:
 - 12:47 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Las Positas Boulevard

• Battery:

- 3:47 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

August 6

- Vandalism: 2
- DUI: 1
- Assault:
 - 12:31 a.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles

ACCIDENTS

July 31

- 7:56 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Lagoon Road and Bernal Avenue

August 1

- 7:08 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive

August 4

- 2:15 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road

August 5

- 10:37 p.m. - Non-injury accident in the 1600 block of Bivar Court

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←
 (Left) Rachael Toschi, 10, brought her "cockapoo" (a mix between a cocker spaniel and a poodle) Sparky to the parade. Toschi and her friends made paper hats to go with a much smaller one they already made for Sparky. (Right) It's a good thing Buck, a border collie mix, is as big as a Giants fan as his owner Rikki Albert, 9. The two decided to wear matching jerseys for the Pooch Parade.



Chihuahua Pinto ("Like the bean," explained his owner A) parade begins.



Going to

It's often been said that people share the same hair (or fur) as their furry friends. Whatever it is, it's often true. Nowhere is this more evident than at the annual Dog Day parade held during the August "Dog Day" celebration. Owners brought out dogs of all shapes and sizes, many dressed in their favorite attire. The event raises money for the Tri-County Humane Society. Here's a look at some of the most creative outfits.



↘
 (Above left) Nick Bruce decided to give his bull dog Zoe some feminine flair with this pink tutu and matching ribbon. (Above right) Kayla Stanbery (right), 11, and Delaney Sivo (left), 11, put together a "Wizard of Oz"-themed look to match Sami, Stanbery's 12-week-old schnauzer. (Left) Claire O'Leary's shirt may match her shih tzu Hurley's white, fluffy fur, but O'Leary sure can't match Hurley's tongue.



Amelia Briones) and English mastiff Duke have a cultural exchange before the



o the dogs

photos by Shannon Corey

People choose pets that match their personality, so even look like their animal friend. Maybe they style, have matching walks or wear complementary accessories. It's clear that pets blend into the lives of their owners more than at the Pooch Parade. This annual event is the "First Wednesday Street Party" of Summer. Hundreds of dogs of all shapes and sizes and their owners for the past nine years. The Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, a group that trains guide dogs for the blind. Hundreds of dogs turned up in their best wear, and many matching their beloved owners. —Rebecca Guyon



(Above) Victor Wong chose a nautical-themed ensemble for him and his Maltese, Ginger. His wife, Ping (not pictured), also wore a matching outfit. Ginger already had a little sailor outfit, so the Wongs decided to buy their own nautical clothes to match their dog. (Left) Dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds paraded down Main Street at the start of the First Wednesday street party.

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Opinion

Editorial

Will the General Plan ever be adopted?

All cities in California must have an adopted General Plan that describes the city's vision for housing, land use and other municipal issues. One chapter, the housing element, must also be state certified. General plans are expected to be updated on a regular basis, at least every 6-10 years. Pleasanton's plan is now 10 years old and is woefully out of date. The drafting of the updated General Plan has taken an inordinate amount of time, and there is no end in sight. Pleasanton finds itself in this predicament despite, or because of, hundreds of hours of strategic planning sessions and endless neighborhood, committee, commission and City Council meetings. This project will now transcend at least two City Council elections. City staff time and outside consultant's fees will cost over a half a million dollars since its inception in 2003. Still, the project will not be completed until mid-2007 or beyond.

After all this time and money, the two most pressing concerns for lawmakers and the public remain the same—housing and traffic. With regard to housing, the state has now decertified the adopted Housing Element because Pleasanton failed to implement a plan to rezone more land for additional housing. As a result, an Oakland-based housing coalition is now challenging the city's reluctance to build more housing, even if it means discarding the 29,000-unit housing cap that Pleasanton voters mandated in 1996. It is threatening to take its case to court. The city is working with the Oakland group to reach a compromise, but litigation could delay completion of the General Plan and might produce an outcome Pleasanton voters might not want.

With regard to traffic, the studies have been unending. Preliminary plans alter the roadway designs of previous General Plans by deleting the long-planned West Las Positas Interchange at I-680 and a proposed extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and into Livermore. While unpopular in neighborhoods closest to these roadway changes, the entire town was planned and developed with the expectation that these roadway connections would be in place. Pleasanton's road system will not work as well without them. The city has yet to make the formal decisions to eliminate these roadways because it requires an adopted General Plan to do so. The city may also not be prepared to deal with the negative impacts on countless more neighborhoods if these roadways are not built as envisioned. The silent neighborhoods, the majority of neighborhoods in Pleasanton, may be impacted the most. They have yet to be heard from, and unfortunately may not figure it out until it is too late. Making the best decisions for Pleasanton will be much more difficult without accurate and timely information. That may be impossible without the traffic engineer who knew the most about the positive and negative impacts on all of us. He was not the most popular person because he often had to tell us what we did not want to hear. Now that he is gone, how long will this process take and who will stand up to tell us the truth? We have to ask: Will the General Plan ever be adopted?

Letters

Vote on Stoneridge Extension

Dear Editor,

Have you every noticed how simple the four way stop operates? There is no need for a traffic light because each motorist knows whose turn it is to proceed. It is the least expensive way to control traffic, and it works. Case in point: At the In-N-Out burger in Pleasanton, I've never seen more than three cars backed up, never seen an accident there and no tickets being given. It is pure poetry in motion.

On the other hand, we need to consider a real traffic concern than that has been continually kicked around for a least 10 years: the Stoneridge Drive extension. Citizen committees can't solve it, the former traffic engineer could not solve it, the past and present City Councils can't solve it and the Chamber of Commerce doesn't seem to have much clout.

One of the earliest reports ever done for our city was the General Plan back in the 60s, which did an excellent job of masterplanning Pleasanton. Do you think the City Fathers and City Planners followed it? Only partially, so our local and cut-through traffic have never been anything to brag about.

It is time we vote on it. Take a stand like we did on Prop 13.

*Howard Neely
Former Pleasanton resident*

Good job McCloskey

Dear Editor,

Kudos to Republican Pete McCloskey for putting his country above his party and choosing to endorse Jerry McNerney for Congress (News, "McCloskey launches McNerney's Campaign," July 28, 2006). We need more honest Republicans like McCloskey to take a hard look at the corruption that our representative, Richard Pombo, has brought to our district and to take a principled stand to vote him out of office. Jerry McNerney stands for honesty, integrity and accountability, and that's a message that both Democrats and Republicans can stand behind.

*David Gates
Pleasanton*

McNerney is wrong

Dear Editor,

"The healthcare system in this country is broken," says McNerney (News, "McCloskey launches McNerney's Campaign," July 28, 2006). Tell that to Canadians dying without USA coronary care and hip replacements. Tell that to Pleasantonians finding at my office for 45 years the prompt correction of inflamed back or lungs missed by "free" care, dictated by government or insurer (as McNerney would force on everyone).

Pombo's patient power trumps McNerney's Canada care. Pombo's property protection stops McNerney's socialist confiscations. Pombo's tax cuts boost revenue by dynamic gain McNerney rejects. Rancher Pombo stops bombers overseas, unlike isolationist McNerney.

Health Savings Accounts bring self-managed care choices. Only 1 in 20 of the millions of families yearly turning to HSAs use the catastrophic (hospital) insurance and most save over \$6,000 per year; HAS compatible plans at e-healthinsurance.com cost 40 percent of full coverage.

"This is going to be a very vicious campaign," complains loser McCloskey. Reject politicians who would dictate when we die by socializing healthcare.

*Howard Long, MD
St. Mary Street*

Guest Opinion

It's best to live, work here

by David Stark

Last fall, I changed careers and took a position with a trade association located in Pleasanton. My motivation wasn't more money but, rather, less time on I-580. Changing jobs allowed me to swap a 17-mile commute for a four-mile drive to work. The lifestyle benefits, not to mention the gasoline savings, are amazing.



Being able to both live and work in Pleasanton is the legacy of civic leaders who planned for our long-term economic needs. They saw the potential of the Hacienda Business Park and the Stoneridge Mall to create jobs and economic growth. These leaders also saw the value of creating housing opportunities for all segments of the community. Our current housing stock includes a variety of units from high-end estates to high-quality housing affordable to lower-income seniors. However, our housing supply has not kept up with demand, resulting in high prices and long commutes for our workforce.

Our current city leaders can continue the visionary planning tradition by addressing our long-term housing needs. The irony of our economic success is that Pleasanton can provide jobs for our residents, but not housing affordable to young families and to our workforce.

At some point we've all needed affordable housing. Perhaps it was the apartment we rented as a college graduate, or it was finding a studio for a grandparent who wanted to live closer to the family. Pleasanton currently supplies housing at the upper end of the market, but we also must house teachers, firefighters and the service workers that we all rely on.

Pleasanton's housing challenges are caused, in part, by regulations that restrict supply. While growth controls that balance development with the capacity of municipal services and preserve open space help maintain Pleasanton's character, some restrictions may no longer be necessary. The urban growth limit protects natural resources, but the housing cap does not seem to provide the same community benefits. Furthermore, land use decisions and project approvals seem to be made with a focus on how a project will impact the housing cap rather than whether it will address community needs.

Additionally, these housing restrictions may result in plan-

ning decisions imposed from outside our community. The state has rejected Pleasanton's Housing Element, which has prompted possible legal action by Public Advocates and Urban Habitat. These groups may sue if Pleasanton fails to follow through on rezoning land for affordable housing. Litigation could result in land use planning by court-order, which, I can assure you, will be far less sensitive to our needs than planning by local leadership and community consensus.

This challenge is an opportunity for us to make visionary plans. Let's stop focusing on the housing cap and concentrate on creative planning and developments that meet our housing needs. For example, land near the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and the new West Dublin station provides two opportunities for environmentally preferable projects within current urban growth boundaries and close to transit and jobs.

Let's make our land use decisions based on a rational jobs/housing balance that will meet the housing needs of current and future residents—including our children. I love my new commute and hope that we all recognize the benefits of both working and living in Pleasanton.

—David Stark lives and works in Pleasanton and serves on the city's Housing Commission.



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Calendar

Auditions

Valley Concert Chorale

Auditions for experienced singers will be held Sept. 11, 18 and 25. Open rehearsal provides an opportunity to sing with the chorus prior to scheduling an audition and will be held on Sept. 18 in Livermore. Call 462-4205 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Author Visits

Connie and Allen De Grange

Connie and Allen De Grange, authors of "A Place Called Sunol," will be at Museum On Main, 603 Main St., 7 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 17. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations are requested. Call 462-2766.

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton

This book club meets at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie, 846-1658.

Political Book Club

Political Book Club meets at 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1000 S. Livermore Ave. For the month of August, read "How Would a Patriot Act?: Defending American Values From a President Run Amok," by Glenn Greenwald. Call 462-7495.

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 next meeting is Aug. 15.

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 Aug. 17.

Human Services Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Sept. 6.

Library Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Sept. 14.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Sept. 14.

Planning Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Aug. 23.

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 school board will not meet during the summer months. The next meeting is Aug. 22.

Youth Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. There are no meetings during the summer. The next meeting is Sept. 13.

Class Reunions

Castlemont High Class of 1956

50 year reunion on Sept. 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pleasanton. Call Greg Hickey, 461-1381 or Ron Campos, 820-5628.

Classes

Widow/Widowers Grief Recovery

If you have experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple of years, share your experience during this 10-week class that can be helpful in healing. Classes are held from 2-4 p.m., Wednesdays, Aug. 23-Oct. 25. Pre-registration is required. Call Betsy, 846-6622.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters

The Quilt Guild Club meets 1:30 p.m. on the second Saturday monthly at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call Debra, 454-1971 or visit <http://amadorvalleyquilters.org>

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.

Business Builders USA

Join the network of professional business people in the Tri-Valley at 7 a.m. every Wednesday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call Christine, 984-6789 or visit www.businessbuildersusa.com.

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, 469-1111.

Del Valle Folk Dancers

Join beginning and experienced Balkan, Israeli and other world dancers from 7:45-9:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Livermore Academy of Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Ave., Livermore. Cost is \$4. Dress casual. Call George, 447-8020.

Diablo Valley Soaring Society

This radio control glider club meets to fly their planes on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Call Wayne, 846-8617.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets from 9-11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly to critique poetry and the third Saturday monthly for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring ten

Weekend Preview



Celebrating Yosemite

This painting "Spirit of the Ahwahneechi II" by Pleasanton artist Charlotte Severin is one of the many works on display at the Castro Valley Adobe Art Center for the exhibit "Yosemite and Environs." The show opened last weekend and runs until Sept. 6. The works reflect the beauty of Yosemite and includes painters Patricia A. Allen, Susie Chou, Pat Devitt and Maybelle Rasmussen. The Adobe Art Center is located at 20395 San Miguel Ave., Castro Valley and is open Mon.-Thurs. from 9 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. and Fri.-Sat. from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call (510) 881-6735 for more information.

copies of a poem. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Express to Success Network

Women's Express to Success Network meets 6-8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday monthly at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Visit www.expresstosuccess.org or e-mail info@expresstosuccess.org.

Fly Fishers

Fly Fishers Club meets 7 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at Livermore Road and Gun Club, 40000 Dagnino Rd., Livermore. Call Bob, 989-2358 or visit www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org.

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club meets noon-12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com.

Genealogical Society

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society meets 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday monthly at Congregation Beth Emek, 13400 Nevada Ct. Call Jane, 447-3898 or visit www.1-ags.org.

Hacienda Park Toastmasters

Hacienda Park Toastmasters meets from noon-1 p.m. every Thursday at Tyco, 4280 Hacienda Dr. Call Kevin 463-4120.

Horseshoe Pitching

The Horseshoe Pitching Club meets 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Alameda

County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Call Martha, 462-4283.

Ladies Choice Investment

Ladies Choice Investment meets 7 p.m. on the second Monday monthly to discuss educational stock selections and investments. Call Jeannie, 846-5106.

Livermore-Amador Valley Garden Club

The Garden Club meets 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Call Beverly, 485-7812.

Mt. Diablo Rose Society

Mt. Diablo Rose Society meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the second Wednesday monthly except in July, Aug., and Dec. at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call Pat, 846-4913.

P-Town Street Rods

Truck or car enthusiast club meets 6-9 p.m. the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday monthly at Chicago's Metropolitan Deli, 6003 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call George, 846-5550.

Phi Delta Kappa

This international organization includes professional educators and those interested in education and meets at various locations four to six times during the school year. Call Pat, 443-5526.

Pleasanton Art League

Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association features demonstrations by nationally recognized artists

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held at the Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. Call 462-5917 or visit www.pai-art.com.

Pleasanton Downtown Association
Pleasanton Downtown Association meets 8:30 a.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Suite A. Call Frances, 484-2199.

Pleasanton Kiwanis Sunrise
Pleasanton Kiwanis Sunrise Club meets 11:45 a.m. every Friday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main St. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com.

Pleasanton Lions Club
Lions Club meets 7 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday monthly for dinner at Round Table Pizza, 530 Main St. Call Rick 462-1062.

Pleasanton Newcomers
Newcomers Club meets 10 a.m. the first Wednesday monthly for coffee and at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday monthly for lunch. Call 215-8409 or visit www.pleasanton-newcomers.com.

Pleasanton North Rotary Club
The Pleasanton North Rotary Club meets at 12:15 p.m. every Friday at the Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call Wayne, 426-2510.

Soroptimist
Soroptimist International is dedicated to issues affecting women and children and meets at noon the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. Call Corrine, 846-6644.

Toastmasters No. 2452
Join the Toastmasters Club No. 2452 to improve your communication and leadership skills 7-8 a.m. every Thursday at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Call Mark at 227-6210 or visit www.amadorvalley-toastmasters.org

Tri-Valley Leads
Tri-Valley Leads meets 7:15-8:30 a.m. every other Wednesday beginning

Feb. 22 at Carrow's, 7505 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Call Donna, 586-3952 or e-mail donna@diamonddonna.com.

Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group
TMUG meets 7 p.m. the third Thursday monthly and at 9 a.m. the Sat. following the third Thursday, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Call Izak, 830-8838 or visit www.clubtmug.com.

Tri-Valley Rotary
The Rotary Club meets 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Call Marlene, 846-1000.

V.F.W. Auxilliary
V.F.W. Post 6298 Auxilliary meets 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Call Dan, 846-7320.

Women's Investment Club
Women's Stock Investment Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month in Livermore. Club follows NAIC principles for studying stocks and investing for the long term. For meeting location, times, and details, call Barbara, 484-1319 or Eleanor, 846-6911.

Events

California State Fair
The California State Fair runs from Fri., Aug. 11 through Mon., Sept. 4 at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Call (916) 263-3000 or visit www.bigfun.org for ticket information and hours of operation.

Chamber Golf Outing
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Golf Outing Mon., Aug. 21 at Ruby Hill Golf Club. Register by Aug. 14. For more information visit www.pleasanton.org or call Wendy, 846-5858.

CVB 11th Annual Meeting & Membership Luncheon
The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau will be hosting its 11th annual Meeting & Membership Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Thurs., Aug. 17 at The Bridges Golf Club, 9000 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. Call Alison, 846-8910 or e-mail alison@trivalley-cvb.com.

Day in the Park
The Taylor Family Foundation presents the 16th annual "Day in the Park" from noon-6:30 p.m., Sun., Aug. 27 at Camp Arroyo, 5555 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. To purchase tickets, tables, or learn more about sponsorship and donation opportunities, call 455-5118 or visit www.tfff.org, or e-mail amy@tfff.org.

Design4Living Women's Conference
Design4Living Women's Conference, featuring Point of Grace in concert, will be held from 6:30-10 p.m., Fri., Aug. 11 and from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Pkwy., Livermore. Cost is \$78. Call 447-3465 or register at www.cornerstoneweb.org.

Ghostwalk
"Ghostwalk" tours will be from 5-8 p.m., Fri., Oct. 13 and Sat., Oct. 14,

starting every half hour. Each tour lasts about one hour. Tickets will go on sale Wed., Aug. 2 at Museum On Main's outdoor booth at the First Wednesday Street Party and in the museum, 603 Main St., during business hours. Tickets are \$10. Call 462-2766.

History By Heather
History by Heather downtown walking tour will be held at 9 a.m., Fridays, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15 at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Tickets are \$10. Reservations recommended. Call Terry, 462-2766.

Ride for a Better Chance Motorcycle Race
Support the California Autism Foundation at the 2nd annual Ride for a Better Chance Motorcycle Race from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun., Aug. 20 at Cruiser Customizing, 4671 Los Positas Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$25 for individual riders. Call (510) 758-0433 or visit www.rideforabetterchance.org.

Scottish Highland Gathering and Games
The 141st Scottish Highland Gathering and Games will be held from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., Sept. 2 and Sun., Sept. 3 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. One-day admission is \$15 and two-day admission is \$22. Youth ages 8-16, seniors and handicapped are \$10. Visit www.caledonian.org.

Speedway
Make cars and airplanes, design a balloon rocket car, play a race car game and eat checkered flag cookies from 1-4 p.m., Sun., Aug. 13 at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. Call 736-2277.

Summer Open House
Thomas Coyne Winery is hosting a Summer Open House from noon-5 p.m., Sat., Aug. 19 and Sun., Aug. 20 at 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Call 373-6541 or visit www.thomascoynewinery.com.

Concerts

Concerts in the Park
Join the Pleasanton Downtown Association for its 2006 Concerts in the Park series from 7-8:30 p.m., every Friday through Sept. 1 at Lion's Wayside Park, First and Neal St. Call Nickie, 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Rock & Roll in the Vineyard
The Livermore Valley Opera Guild will present "Rock & Roll in the Vineyard" from 5-8 p.m., Sun., Aug. 20 at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Rd., Livermore. General admission is \$20, and free for children 12 years and younger. Call 960-9210 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

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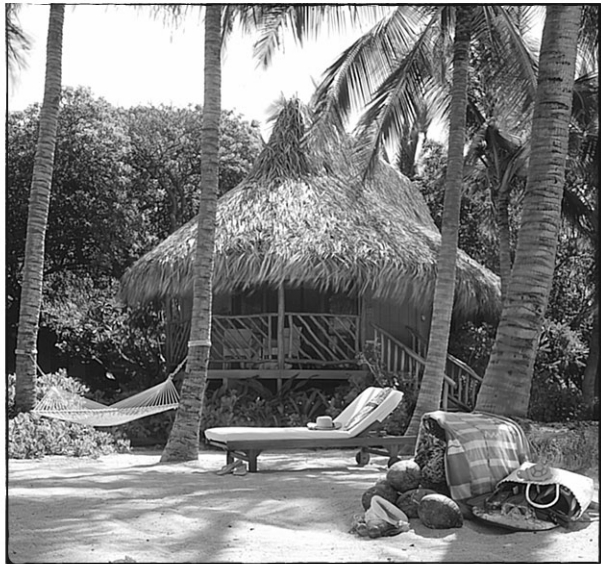
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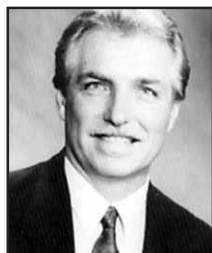
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Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Adoption Fair

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Adoption Fair will be held from 1:30-5 p.m., Sat., Aug. 19 at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Get free hot dogs and drinks from 1:30-2 p.m. Call Susan, (408) 202-6708.

Blankets for Babies

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at ValleyCare and Lucile Packard are collecting sewn, knitted, and crocheted 24- or 36-inch blankets. Call 426-4307 or 426-9635.

Dictionary Project

Bay East Association of Realtors partners with a national non-profit, The Dictionary Project, to provide dictionaries for third graders in local schools. There are more than 200 classes waiting to be adopted. One call per Realtor member. Call Marla, 730-3269 or e-mail marlak@bayeast.org.

Recycle for Breast Cancer

Recycle electronics, empty ink jet and toner cartridges to support the fight against breast cancer. Free pick up, drop off, or prepaid envelopes and shipping labels available. Call Larry, 735-7203 or e-mail larry@recycleforbreastcancer.org.

Sister City BBQ Fundraiser

The Sister City BBQ Fundraiser will be held from 5:30-11 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds "Ivy Glen" area, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and \$240 for a reserved table for eight. Tickets are available at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters St. and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Ste. A. Call Alice, 462-5786 or Jorge, 462-6723.

Exhibits

Art Collecting 101

Worthington Gallery continues its Art Collecting 101 Series from 3-4 p.m., Sat., July 8 at the art gallery, 739 J Main St. The July Group Art Show presents "Neighborhood Watch" from July 14 through Aug. 26. Call 485-1183.

Diverse Directions

Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St., presents "Diverse Directions," a show of artwork by women artists in the East Bay from Sat., Aug. 5 through Sun., Aug. 20. The reception will be held from 4-7 p.m., Sat., Aug. 5. Call 846-6015.

Heidi Mann

Artist and member of the Pleasanton Art League, Heidi Mann, will display her oil paintings through Thurs., Aug. 31 at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main St.

Hindu Culture & Dharmic Traditions of India

Kindu Swayamsevak Sangh presents "Exhibition on Hindu Culture & Dharmic Traditions of India" from 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 24 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Penny, 931-3405.

Summer Show

View artwork by the Las Positas College Art Club throughout August at the East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Call Jennifer, 485-5215.

Wine Country Wildlife Art Show

Kathleen Hill's work will be on display from Tues., Aug. 1 through Wed., Aug. 30 at Wente Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Artist's Reception will be held from 1-3 p.m., Sun., Aug. 6. Call Kathleen, 373-0860.

Health

Exercise Class

The Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services offers a month-to-month 50 Fitness Plus class for seniors in the morning and Exercitement Fitness class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from \$3 to \$4.50 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for Exercitement Fitness.

Summer Immunization

Axis Community Health offers drop-in immunization clinics for low-income and uninsured families from 9-11:30 a.m., Saturdays July 1, Aug. 5 and Sept. 9 at 4361 Railroad Ave. Immunizations for children are also provided during regular weekday clinic hours at the Pleasanton and Livermore locations by appointment only. Call 462-1755.

Yoga

The Art of Living Foundation presents a free yoga and breath workshop at 7 p.m., Mon., Aug. 14 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Bring a yoga mat and blanket and dress in loose, comfortable clothing. Admission is free. Call Penny, 931-3405.

Fundraisers

16th Annual Day in the Park

The Taylor Family Foundation, a camp for children with chronic and critical illnesses, is hosting its 16th annual Day in the Park on Sun., Aug. 27 at Camp Arroyo, 5555 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Ninety percent of the proceeds will directly fund and facilitate the operation of Camp Arroyo. Call June, 455-5118 or visit www.tfff.org.

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.

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.

California Spirit Elite

CSE is looking for preschoolers to high school students for their newest cheerleading program, The All Star Team, and offering private skill assessments throughout the summer. No experience is necessary to be a California Spirit All Star cheerleader. Call 462-5877 or visit www.californiaspiritelite.com.

Little League Fall Blitz

This eight week Sunday program is filled with advanced baseball training, tournament style baseball, high school rules and an 80-foot diamond for 12-14 year olds. Call Jason, 580-4050 or visit www.pleasantonamerican.org.

Parent-Free Summer

Parent-Free Summer Wednesday Nights is open to all girls over age six who feel they are too old to be babysat and too bored to be left alone. The party is held from 6-9 p.m., Aug. 16 and 23 at Pure Girls,

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660 Main St. Cost is \$35, with a \$5 discount for bringing a friend. Dinner, drinks and dessert is included. Call 485-4380.

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.

YMCA Day Camps
Tri-Valley YMCA is accepting enrollment for a variety of day camps for varied ages and interests running from June 19-Aug. 25. Call 475-6108 or visit www.ymcaeastbay.org/trivalley.

Lectures/ Workshops

B2B Power Exchange
B2B Power Exchange presents "Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers" from 7:45-10 a.m., Thurs., Aug. 17 at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is free for members, \$40 for non-members, and \$30 if purchased by Tues., Aug. 15. Breakfast is included. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm.

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.

Child Care Initiative Project
Licensed and license-exempt child care providers are encouraged to participate in the CCIP project to receive technical assistance and support, free training and support materials, and more. No cost for this workshop. Call Donnamarie at 249-3923.

Free Employee Training for Tri-Valley Businesses
This free on-going workshop includes learning how to choose child care, parenting skills, child development and work/family balance. Call Kim, 249-3940.

Market Research and the Marketing Plan
Technology Ventures Corporation presents "Market Research and the Marketing Plan" from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 16 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Cost and registration is free. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org. Sign up at www.123signup.com.

Papier-Mache Wimsy
Learn techniques that spark your imagination and encourage creativity 2-4 p.m. every Tuesday at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave., room 207. Bring newspaper, roll of 1-inch masking tape and two wire coat hangers. Call 935-8972.

Live Music

Hummingbirdz
The Hummingbirdz will be playing from 12:30-4:30 p.m., Sun., Aug. 20 at John Christopher Cellars, 25 South Livermore Ave., Ste. 103, Livermore. Admission is free. Call 456-WINE.

Miscellaneous

American Red Cross Blood Drive
Donate blood from 1-7 p.m., Fri., Aug. 11 at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Call Tom, 447-1950 or visit www.beadonor.com and type in the code ASBURY.

Animal Adoption
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts dog and cat adoptions 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.,

Saturdays at Farmers Market at First St., noon-4 p.m., Dublin PetsMart. Cats are available noon-4 p.m., Saturdays excluding the 4th Sat. at Dublin Pet Food Express and excluding the 2nd and 4th Sat. at Livemore Pet Extreme. Cats are available 1-4 p.m., Sundays at Dublin PetsMart and Dublin Pet Food Express. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

Donate to Help Fight Cancer
Help fight cancer by donating new or gently used clothing and accessories, household items and furniture to the American Cancer Discovery Shop, 1987-A Santa Rita Rd. Call 462-7374.

Family Read Night
Read stories and craft with the family at Family Read Night, offered in English and Spanish. Admission is free. Space is limited so registration is required. Call Donnamarie, 249-3923 for dates and locations.

Farmers' Market
Shop for fresh produce, flowers, and baked goods from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday on West Angela Street between Main and First streets. Call 825-9090.

Foothill Class of 2007
Foothill students and parents can purchase Grad Night tickets during walk-through registration, Aug. 21 and 22. Tickets are \$135.

LifeStyle Rx
Work on swim stroke, endurance and confidence year-round starting Mon., Aug. 14. Call Hope, 454-6342, ext. 5174.

Open Heart Kitchen
Open Heart Kitchen provides hot meals to the underprivileged from 4:30-6 p.m. every Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., noon-6 p.m.; every Tuesday and Wednesday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore; and 4-6 p.m. every Thursday at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 460 N. Livermore St., Livermore. Call Carol, 580-1616.

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.

TVAR Cat and Dog Adoptions
Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts dog and cat adoptions from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays at Pleasanton's Farmers Market at First St, from noon-4 p.m. at Dublin PetsMart. Cats are available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Livemore Pet Extreme. Cats are also available from 1-4 p.m., Sundays at Dublin PetsMart and Pet Food Express. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org.

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.

Don Giovanni
Festival Opera presents Don Giovanni at 8 p.m., Aug. 12, 15 and 18 and at 2 p.m., Aug. 20 at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$35-\$100. Call 943-SHOW.

The Imaginary Invalid
Las Positas College presents "The Imaginary Invalid" at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 12 and 13 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore in the Performing Arts Patio, building 800. General admission is \$10, \$7 for students and seniors. Call 424-1812.

Recreation

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. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 non-residents and \$8 for residents, \$9 non-residents at the door. Singles welcome. Reservations recommended. Call 931-5365.

Home Equity Conversion Counseling
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity is providing individual counseling for senior homeowners from 10 a.m.-noon, Thurs., Aug. 17 by appointment only at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call (510) 271-7931 or (510) 581-9380, ext. 19.

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 Ridgeview 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
The Pleasanton V.I.P. Senior Club meets the second and fourth Monday monthly from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The second Monday are business meetings and the fourth Mondays are social meetings. Snappy Cafe lunch serves at noon with a \$3.25 donation. Reservations for lunch must be made by the Thursday before each meeting by calling 931-5385 or call Verla, 846-2992.

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.

Sports

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

Support Groups

Al-anon and Al-a-teen
Al-Anon is a Tri-Valley support group for family and friends of alcoholics that meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Sunday at San Ramon Presbyterian Church, 12943 Alcolta Blvd., upstairs in the Kindergarten room. Call 277-7661 or visit www.ncwsa.org.

Auto Immune Support
The group meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 848-5020.

Bereavement Support Group
This group of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton meets at 7:30 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays monthly, and is for anyone of any faith at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Mary, 846-5377.

Bipolar Support Group
The Tri-Valley Bipolar Support Group, which provides peer support for people with mood disorders, meets 7:15-8:45 p.m. every Wednesday at St. Claire's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call 560-0842, e-mail trivalleybipolar@hotmail.com, or visit www.namitrivalley.org.

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Pleasanton Real Estate News

by Gerarda Stocking

REJECT A FULL-PRICED OFFER

You have offered full price to the seller of the home you wish to buy. Is there any circumstance in which the seller could refuse your offer?

YES, but read this carefully. When sellers list their home for sale, it seems as if they are making a contract with a potential buyer. I will sell you my home for, say, \$550,000. But the listing contract is actually an agreement between the seller and his or her broker. Thus, if a buyer comes in with an offer that meets the price and terms the seller set in the listing agreement, the seller isn't liable to the buyer for anything...but could be liable to the broker for fulfilling the listing contract. The seller, meanwhile, has every right to reject the buyer's offer for any reason.

This is a very unlikely scenario, though. A buyer generally comes in with an offer that differs in at least some small way from what the seller said in the listing agreement that he or she would accept. The buyer, for example, may ask that certain things be removed from the backyard and that the roof be power-washed and that a certain piece of furniture be included in the sale. Those small items, since they are not in the seller's listing agreement, mean that the buyer has not come in with a full-price/full-terms offer.

But let's face it. A home sale/purchase is a meeting of minds in which the needs and wishes of two parties are weighed and, insofar as possible, met. It is an agreement between people, not a situation in which one party forces the other to do something. Make sure, therefore, that you have the assistance of a seasoned real estate professional who will negotiate well on your behalf and help create a transaction that satisfies as many needs as possible, both of buyer and of seller. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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who have just been diagnosed and are either in treatment or starting treatment. This series will help address the emotional and physical issues that surface after diagnosis. Join medical experts from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesdays July 5-Oct. 25 at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Admission is free but space is limited. Call 933-0107 to register.

Breast Cancer Prayer & Support

The Breast Cancer and Support Group of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., room B. Call 461-8411. All are welcome

Breast Cancer Support

The free, professionally facilitated group is for women in any breast cancer treatment stage; meetings are 6:30-8 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly in the south building's west day room at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 275-8414.

Parents of Children with Autism

For parents of children with autism in the East Bay, this group uses e-mail-based discussions for parent-to-parent support. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/eastbayautism> to join. E-mail autismtrivalley@yahoo.com for questions.

Parents of Diabetics

The POD Squad, a support group for parents of diabetics, meets from 7-8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly, September-May, at the Laguna Oaks neighborhood clubhouse. Call 461-1170 or visit www.podsquad.com.

Parents of Special Needs Children

Receive and give support with other Pleasanton parents in an e-mail-based discussion. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/pleasanton>

tonspecial to join. E-mail pleasanton-special@yahoo.com for questions.

Temporary Restraining Order Clinic

This clinic is for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and meets 5:30-7:30 p.m., Mondays at 4471 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. A and 2-4 p.m., Thursdays at 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Call Michael, 449-5845, ext. 110.

TV30

Conversations

Join Pleasanton Library's Morgan Mitchell as she discusses volunteering for Pleasanton Reads, an adult literacy program, and then join Deborah Rogers of Wellspring Psychotherapy as she discusses how to help your children prepare for back-to-school without stress at 6:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 and Sun., Aug. 13 on channel 30.

COPPS in Pleasanton

Take a look into the Pleasanton Police Department at 9 a.m. and 8 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 and Sun., Aug. 13 on channel 30.

In a Word

Join Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova for interviews with authors and the TV30 Book Club at 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 and Sun., Aug. 13 on channel 30.

ValleyCare

Join Marcy Feit, ValleyCare Health System CEO, and Tom Vargas, Chairman of the Board, ValleyCare Health System at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 and Sun., Aug. 13 on channel 30.

Volunteering

Foster Homes Needed

Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring

St., is urgently seeking temporary homes for rescued kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Food and medical expenses are provided. Also needed are Adoption Volunteer Coordinators and counselors. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Jewish Community Federation

Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay offers opportunities to volunteer within the community, such as serving meals, tutoring children, and serving on Jewish agency committees or boards. Call (510) 839-2900, ext. 261.

Open Heart Kitchen

If you love to cook and have a passion to end hunger, volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen, the Tri-Valley's only free hot meal service for the needy. There are many volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Call Dianne, 580-1619 or e-mail dadamson@openheart-kitchen.org.

Pleasanton Senior Players

The Pleasanton Senior Players needs volunteers for their upcoming Fall show on Oct. 6 and 7. Volunteers would help build sets, do stage make-up, handle costumes, act as stage manager or a prompter. Call Fay, 846-4630 or Shirley, 931-0937.

Shepherd's Gate

Volunteer at Shepherd'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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue volunteer orientation will be held from 1-2:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, Aug. 12 and 27 and Sept. 9 and 24 at East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Call 426-2472.

Tri-Valley Haven

Tri-Valley Haven provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness in the Tri-Valley and needs volunteers to help with childcare, answer the crisis line and assist clients with restraining order paperwork. Training starts at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Must be at least 21 years old. Call Melissa, 449-5845, ext. 111 or e-mail melissa@trivalley-haven.org.

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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Sports

Pleasanton kids go to Pinehurst

by Jackie Pugh

Four Pleasanton residents, ages 9-12, just returned from the U.S. Kids Gold Championship Tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., which was held July 26-30.

Natalie Bodnar, 12, Travis Rowney, 12, Alex Sborov, 11 and Sabrina Bodnar, 9, made their way to the tournament where more than 900 kids participated, representing 33 countries.

"They were blown away with just the experience of being there," said Patty Bodnar in reference to the feedback she received from her daughters Natalie and Sabrina.

All four kids were able to participate in the U.S. Kids Gold Champion Tournament after winning the U.S. Kids Regional Qualifier on June 29 at Shoreline. The tournament only allows kids ages 12 and under to play, which made this year's tournament especially meaningful for Natalie and Travis, who got the chance to play at such a high-scale resort as Pinehurst.

Natalie finished 56th out of 64 in her bracket, while her sister, Sabrina, finished 45th out of 57. Sborov came in 29th out of 50 and Rowney, playing in the boys' 12-year-old bracket, placed in spot number 55 out of 115.

With so many kids coming from across the world, the competition was at its highest level and proved to be a great accomplishment for the Pleasanton residents to make it to the tournament. For those kids who were 11 or 12 years old, they played a full 18-hole course, while ages 10 and under played 9 holes. Throughout the tournament the kids were mixed with different players from other countries. Sabrina, for example, played with a boy from Hong Kong, and girls from the United Kingdom and Georgia.

Yet, the tournament faced its fair share of problems, with thunder storms occurring throughout the week. The kids would be at the course from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Then, they would have to come back in the morning to finish up the holes they couldn't get to the night before, and play another 18- or 9-hole game, as well.

However, Pinehurst remained organized. Having seen the weather report for the week, the tournament was equipped with numerous volunteers. When the horn blew, which would stop the play due to lighting, the volunteers would take the players in mini vans and shuttles to the club house or shelters they had set up along the way. While the storms caused up to five-hour delays, the players just saw it



Sabrina Bodnar, 9, of Pleasanton, plays at the U.S. Kids Gold Championship Tournament in Pinehurst, N.C. July 26-30.

Courtesy Bodnar Family

as real-life experience, something that the "pros" often deal with.

The four Pleasanton residents will keep busy for the rest of summer with many other tournaments lined up. With a tournament in Diablo Creek on Wednesday, the San Leandro City Tournament Friday, and the Livermore Open the following week, the kids will have played in about 15 Northern California tournaments during the summer. ■

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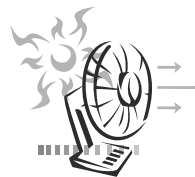
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Tim Miller

Piranhas out swim Gators

Pleasanton resident Stephanie Csongor of the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Swim Center (DBAC) Piranhas Swim Team dives in for the medley relay during a swim meet against the Dublin Green Gators. The Piranhas won the meet, held at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center July 29, beating the Gators with a score of 520 to 455. Both teams are part of the Tri-Valley Swim League.

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Dining Out

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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

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 Fontina's Ristorante bring "the taste of Italy" home to you soon. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert, or we'll take 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan
 3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, (925) 846-5251. Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987. Friendly service, delicious food, great prices. Lunch specials from only \$5.25.

Continental

Barone's
 475 St. John St., Pleasanton, (925) 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant. Innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees. Outdoor dining. Open for 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

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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 for details.

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

405 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 417-2222. Join us at Pleasanton's most loved downtown Italian Restaurant. Our elegant atmosphere complemented by our one-of-a-kind menu items will offer a little something for everyone. We feature great steaks, seafood and our famous pasta dishes. Our full-service bar offers a superb selection of spirits and fine wines, and the sounds of live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. We have banquet facilities available with wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests. The place to meet your friends!

Japanese

Hasegawa Japanese

4855 Hopyard Road, across from Chili's Grill, (925) 734-0996. Japanese owner Kazutoyo "Joe Cool" Hasagawa has 26 years experience as a Sushi and Shabu-shabu chef. Traditional Japanese dining. Lunch served Monday-Friday. Dinner seven days a week.

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

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

288 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 846-2520. Family oriented with an extensive menu. Renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. Patio dining. Antique games for the kids. Groups, take out, call-ahead lunch orders. Wine, beer, open seven days a week, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Little Caesars

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 coupon specials in the dining section weekly. Hot-n-ready Pizza, all day, every day!

Vinny's 2 Go!

4001-5 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 463-0280. Vinny's 2 Go! is the Rose Pavilion's newest authentic Italian pizzeria. Lunchtime favorites include New York pizza slices, meatball sandwiches and the popular Mona Lisa panini. Savory Meals 2 Go and fresh cannoli are available for fast pickup. Catering is offered for special occasions and office luncheons. Visit Vinny's 2 go! for quality, freshness and great taste!

Sandwiches/Deli

Togo's

3120-D Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 846-8646; 5556-A Springdale Ave., Pleasanton, (925) 463-3090. Togo's has been voted "Pleasanton's Best Sandwich" for five consecutive years. Conveniently open seven days a week, Togo's features its popular "Endless Combo" (1/2 sandwich, 1/2 salad or small soup) ... choose any two for only \$5.19 plus tax. Everyday favorites include the Hot Pastrami #9 and the tasty Turkey-Avocado #24. Togo's also features specialty soups for winter.

Wine Bars

The Wine Steward

641 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 600-WINE (600-9463). In historic Downtown Pleasanton is a full service wine shop with the largest selection and the most competitive prices in the East Bay area. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff can help you select a single bottle or perfectly pair wines for your next dinner party. Our Wine Bar is open Thursday through Saturday with a new theme every week—check our Web site, www.thewinesteward.com, for details.



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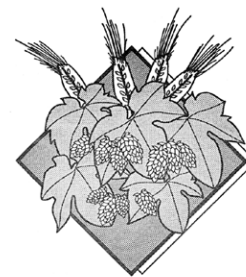
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