

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

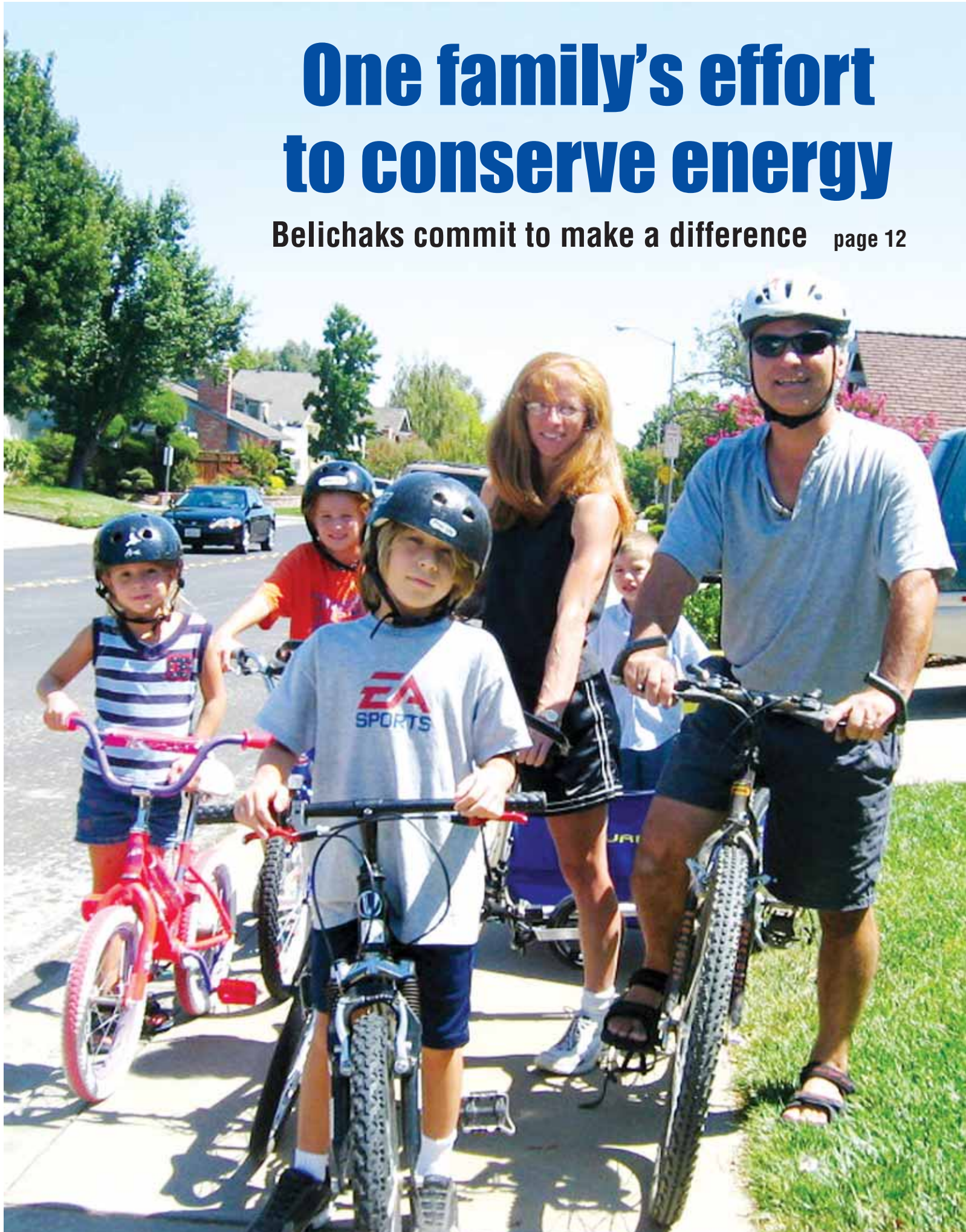
Vol. VII, Number 31 • August 25, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton

One family's effort to conserve energy

Belichaks commit to make a difference page 12



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INTERO
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OPEN SUN 1-4



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Life just keeps getting better in China

With a population of more than 3 billion and a glowing white-hot economy, China is a country on the move. In my 12-day, 3,500-mile swing through China earlier this month, it was the people and their determined, forward-thinking focus that was most impressive. Stores stay open late at night and seven days a week. Construction workers who have moved from family farms 1,000 miles away walk along ledges carrying heavy rebar half-way up 60-story buildings. They sleep at the site and work seven days a week, even at night. Once a year, like an estimated 100 million of their fellow transplants who have moved away from rural China and off the fields for good, they make the trip back home once a year during the spring festival in January.

As I wrote last week, I made the trip with my wife Jan to visit our son Chris and his wife Mary. Both speak Chinese and are there for another summer as part of their graduate course and medical school work at UC San Diego. With these skilled interpreters, we were able to talk one-on-one with scores of Chinese in cities, in cabs, among the hundreds of vendors whose stores line the streets, and with the smartly-dressed office workers and restaurant owners in the cities we visited.

The people's momentum and optimism is pervasive, with everyone's focus clearly on the future. Most of our conversations were with younger Chinese. We didn't see many 60 and older, with those we met saying that their parents were back on the farm. That's not surprising since the largest age group today in China is made up of those in their 20s and 30s. They're the driving force of a fast-moving China. Many have moved to the cities to work in factories near Shenzhen or on construction jobs in Shanghai and Beijing, often taking jobs that pay about \$100 a month with room and board included. They dutifully send some of that back home. Such is the price and benefits of China's economic reform, with gains for the younger generation, but with restrictive social policies such as

the one-child family doctrine that now deprives aging Chinese with the labor and care of their children, historically a Chinese tradition.

One of our cab drivers in Yangshuo was typical of many we met in China. Mying came from a family of seven, with some of her siblings functionally illiterate because her parents ran out of the tuition it costs to send children to public school after Mying had completed sixth grade, her final year. Mying married and she and her husband rent a cab for \$12.50 a day, working 12 hour shifts and earning about \$375 a month, more than enough to keep their one child, an 11-year old girl, in school and to provide tutoring to help her pass the sixth grade exams that can qualify her for high school and, possibly, college later on. Their salary greatly exceeds the Chinese average of \$1,200 a year, enough to allow them to buy their own car and live comfortably in an apartment with many of the amenities we enjoy here in the United States, including cable television.

An attractive, conversant young woman in her mid-30s, Mying and her family are enjoying an average 7 percent boost in their earnings each year, about normal for most working Chinese. Like others we talked to, politically she is indifferent. Too young to remember the Cultural Revolution or Chairman Mao, she has little interest or concern for the ruling Communist Party. It doesn't affect her. Ask about the Lebanon-Hezbollah-Israeli crisis, which was under way when we were there, she'd never heard of it. As for Taiwan, "it belongs to China, doesn't it?" So no problem there. China's focus on preparing the country for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics is one Mying and her compatriots share. For her, it will mean more revenue, even in this resort area 1,000 miles south of Beijing, with thousands of Westerners with money to spend. She might use the added revenue to send a bit more home, and might even make more than her usual once a year trip to see the parents. But to go back to rural China? Never. Life's just too good, and getting better, now that she's seen Yangshuo. ■

About the Cover

The Belichak family gets ready to take off on their bikes. Unlike most families, the Belichaks go anywhere from school to work to picking up pizza on their bikes. It is just one of the ways they contribute to helping the environment. Photo by Jeb Bing

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Begins - September 7, 2006



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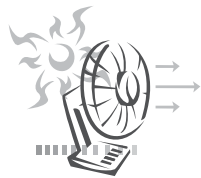
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Streetwise

Q: What keeps you coming back to the Pleasanton Farmers' Market?

Asked at the Farmers' Market



Mindy Gorman

Homemaker

The Farmers' Market is a great place to bring the kids. We buy flowers, rotisserie chicken and visit the dogs at the park. I like to support local farmers and I especially like to buy organic produce. It's a great way to spend the morning.

Jennifer Sullivan

Management consultant

It is so convenient to come downtown on a Saturday morning and buy our produce for the week. The fruits and vegetables are great quality and we like to support local farmers.



Suzette Sager

Homemaker

I think we can buy better produce here than at the supermarkets. My son likes to come down and watch the people. The fruit is great!

Ron Graham

Scientist

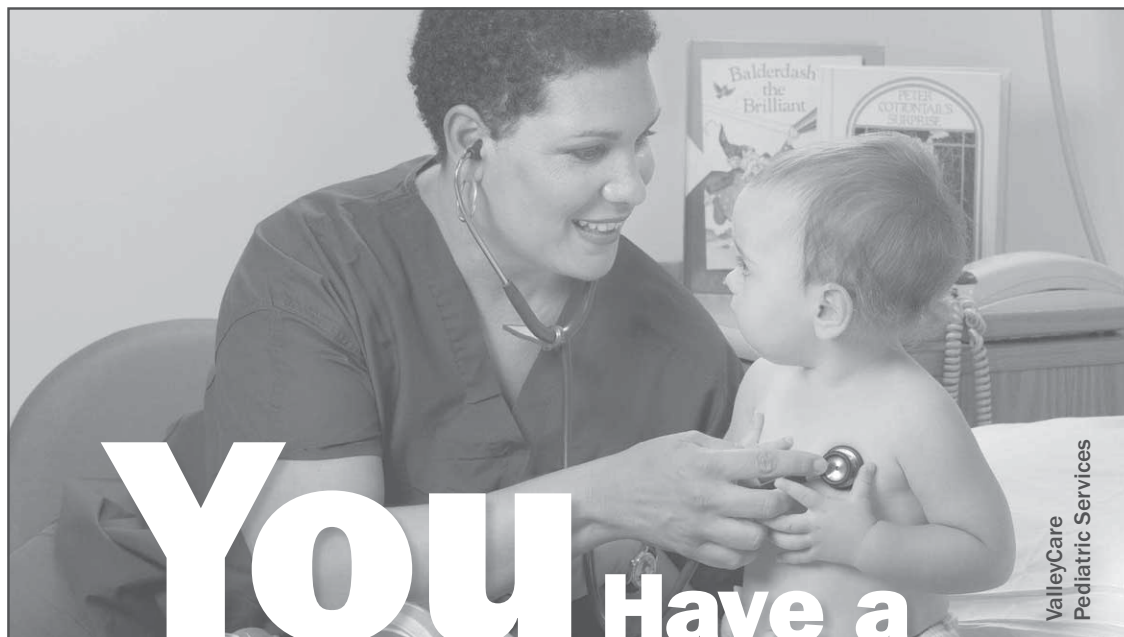
We like to come here because it's fun. The market has a great variety of fruits and vegetables and the atmosphere is exciting. The items we buy are kind of novel, not the types of things we would find at the local grocery store. On a nice day, it's something to do with the whole family.



Joe Fischer

Retired

My wife wants her fresh flowers every Saturday and we enjoy walking downtown. We come every Saturday, get our exercise and support the Farmers' Market.



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Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Scottish pub night

The Pleasanton Blairgowrie Fergus Sister Cities Organization is hosting a Pub Night at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31. Special guests include Pipe Major Doug Swann and Drum Major John Millar of the Toronto Scottish. The Piedmont Highlanders have also been invited to perform.

Scottish gathering and games

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco presents the 141st Scottish Highland Gathering and Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 2 and 3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult admission is \$15 or \$22 for two days; youth ages 8-16, seniors age 65 or over and handicapped are \$10.

Poetry reading

Pleasanton's Poet Laureate, Cynthia Bryant, will be reading from her new book of poetry, "No Time to Shoot the Poets" on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. This free bi-monthly poetry spotlight is located at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Tri-Valley Business Council

The Tri-Valley Business Council (TVBC) announced the hiring of Tobias Brink as its new President and CEO August 16. Brink currently serves as the President and CEO of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce and will be replacing Tom O'Malley, who has served as the President of TVBC for the past 8 years. To allow for a smooth transition, O'Malley will continue with the TVBC on a part time basis to manage the Vision 2010 Project through the next six months. For more information visit www.trivalley.org.

Jewish community gathering

The Tri-Valley Jewish community is gathering at Hart Middle School on Thursday, August 31 to show solidarity with Israel. Recently confirmed by the Israeli Consul General David Akov, this gathering is co-sponsored by the East Bay Jewish Federation. It will also be the first time Consul General Akov will speak to members of the Tri-Valley with close to 500 people expected to attend.

Pombo calls for programs to wean country off foreign oil, ease traffic congestion

Lawmaker promises end to 30-year hiatus in push for more domestic drilling, nuclear power

by Jeb Bing

U.S. Representative Richard Pombo (R-11th) assured Pleasanton Rotarians that federal help is on the way to reduce traffic congestion on area freeways while also improving the country's energy self-sufficiency.

In a 20-minute presentation to the Downtown Rotary Club, the

congressman said he is intensifying his focus on transportation and energy issues, both as Chairman of the House Resources Committee and in close liaison with the House Transportation Committee. Specifically, he said he wants to:

- Move cargo now being carried on trucks on I-580 east from the Port of Oakland onto barges that can transport the freight along

a deepened waterway to the Port of Stockton, taking at least 1,300 trucks a day off the freeway.

- Build a new freeway along a realigned old State Hwy. 130 from Patterson on Interstate 5 to Hwy 101, just south of San Jose.

- Increase carpool capacity on Interstates 580 and 680, including adding toll lanes that might exempt hybrid vehicles as well as carpool-

ers.

- Extend and improve BART and ACE commuter service to make these rail routes more attractive for commuters who now drive to work.

- Add incentives and open more public land for the extraction of oil and natural gas.

(continued on page 9)

Registration process eased with station system



Students and parents weave through the registration stations at Foothill High School on Tuesday, Aug. 22. The station system alleviates lengthy lines.

Students get schedules set as classes near

by Emily Atwood

Foothill High School's campus awoke from summer hiatus this week as students and parents returned for

registration. Instead of waiting in line after line, people were ushered through a series of stations with efficiency.

Pleasanton resident Melinda O'Brien volunteered to help with the registration forms table and was pleased with the process.

"This was the first time (par-

ents) had to show two proofs of residency," she said, "but this was only a problem for about five percent." And as for the station setup, she was impressed, "the organizers have got it down to a science."

(continued on page 7)

School year begins with scheduling changes

Five schools have new start times

by Rebecca Guyon

Next Tuesday marks the start of the 2006-2007 school year, but, while all classes will start at some point that day, some students will find themselves starting at new times. Students at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools will follow a new schedule this year in order to accommodate the new collaboration period for teachers, which in turn has affected the start times for Donlon, Alisal

and Lydiksen elementary schools.

First period at Amador and "A period" at Foothill will start at 7 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On those days, second period at Amador will start at 8:14 a.m. and first period at Foothill will start at 8:12 a.m. At both schools, the early morning courses are optional for students who either want to get an early start or fit seven classes in their schedule.

On Wednesdays, the teacher collaboration period starts at 8:14 a.m. at Amador and 8:12 a.m. at Foothill. First and A periods will not meet on Wednesdays and instead school starts with second period at 9:02 a.m. at Amador and with first period at 9 a.m. at Foothill.

Recognizing that the Foothill corridor is already crowded with traffic before the school bell rings,

(continued on page 8)

Goodguys 20th West Coast Nationals

Thousands of rods and customs roll through Pleasanton, celebrate Hot Rod Week

The Goodguys West Coast Nationals will be returning to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds for its 20th edition this weekend, starting today.

The event, hailed as the "crown jewel" of all 24 Goodguys events nationwide, is part of the newly announced proclamation by the city of Pleasanton introduced on August 15.

The City Council declared August 21-27 "Goodguys Rod and Custom Association's Hot Rod Week," showcasing the Goodguys/Texaco Havoline West Coast Nationals, which is expected to draw more than 3,000 cars from across the United States and Canada.

Event highlights include the massive outdoor car show which will display hot rods, customs and classics through 1954 vintage, and an outdoor midway, as well as air-conditioned buildings, with more than 300 performance automotive companies to answer consumer questions and provide technical support. There will be a swap meet and a "Cars for Sale Corral," live entertainment throughout the weekend, including "The House Rockers," "The Pendletons" and "Daddy O," and a toy car exhibit and arts and crafts center.

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration, Goodguys has invited all former signature award winners from the event's first 20 years to come back on Saturday, August 26 and will have a special fireworks show to light up the night sky that evening.

In addition, Goodguys will be

(continued on page 7)

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Valley Humane Society's big move gets stalled

Animal shelter works with the city to get permit approvals

The Valley Humane Society is still working with the city in order to approve plans to move to its new location on Nevada Street as of last week.

"We don't have the condition of approval from the city," said David Stegman, executive director of Valley Humane. "We met last Friday with the department heads and it could take another two to three weeks."

Stegman explained that once the organization gets approval for the permit they will have to go back and redesign with their architects and engineers. "Once we get to that spot, we can pull our permit and go to our contractor," he added. It will have 45 days to build and Stegman estimated that the move to the temporary building, once finished, will probably be in two to three months.

"In the meantime, we are taking all of our cats and putting them in different homes because our lease on Spring Street is up Sept. 1," Stegman said. Valley Humane will operate out of an office at 236 Ray St. It has already placed all 23 cats in homes in the community and will put any extra equipment from the old building into storage.

Stegman emphasized that they are doing all that they can to work with the city and that once they can issue the notice to proceed and people see the construction, the community will be more at ease.

While decisions are still pending, keep updated by contacting the Valley Humane Society at 462-3886 or visit its Web site at www.valleyhumansociety.org.

—Jackie Pugh

Registration

(continued from page 5)

Kim Phi, mother of junior Kathleen, thought the process was "excellent" and went through without difficulty. Continuing students signed up for classes at the end of the previous school year, and Kathleen didn't anticipate any scheduling problems.

Yet, the experience was not always without frustration for some. Parents of a sophomore waited for several minutes in the counseling line hoping to resolve a scheduling error. Upon arriving at the table, they were told that their request would be processed and resolved by Thursday, mere days before school is scheduled to begin. The parents weren't too optimistic because the same problem happened the year before.

Principal Kevin Johnson, in his 12th year at Foothill, recognized the need to have a fluid system in order to get parents and students out quickly.

"We don't want to make them wait in long lines, so we have several stations," he said. "It's a lot of work and we appreciate the help from the community volunteers, parents and staff."

Registration is not only about paperwork and finalizing class schedules, it's also a time for social planning. Boisterous students joyfully reunited with friends in the gym decorated with falcon pride. Blankets, sweatshirts, lanyards and cushioned seats in blue and yellow were for sale by the Associated Student Body as well as the Music and Sports Boosters clubs. There was a booth where seniors could sign up for all the events in one stop. As the process expanded from the small gym to the multipurpose room, students were able to sign up for clubs and parking permits as well as the student yearbook and newspaper.

Parent Wayne Buchanan was grateful for the "smooth and simple" process, but it wasn't so easy for his son Josh, who was "bummed" that summer was nearing its end. ■

Goodguys

(continued from page 5)

honoring hot rod hero Vic Edelbrock of Los Angeles. After taking over the family's performance automotive company following the death of his father in 1962, Edelbrock is the world's largest manufacturer of aftermarket speed parts and will be at the show Saturday morning to participate in a question and answer forum.

More than 65,000 spectators are expected to attend. Event hours are Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. General admission for adults is



\$15. Tickets for seniors 60 and older are \$12 and children 7-12 are \$6. Fairgrounds parking is \$8.

—Jackie Pugh

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Schools add new counselors, fulfill Excellence Committee goals

Trustees decided to 'pause' parcel tax feasibility study

by Rebecca Guyon

The district added 7.8 full-time counselors to the secondary schools, a move that puts it a few steps closer to fulfilling the goals set by the Excellence Committee, reported Superintendent John Casey during Tuesday night's school board meeting, the first of the 2006-2007 school year. The additions were made after the state allocated additional funds for counseling services in the June budget. Additional one-time funds that could go toward fulfilling other Excellence Committee priorities were also made available in the state budget. In light of the additional funds, the district staff recommended, and the trustees agreed, to "push the pause button" on the parcel tax feasibility study.

"All of a sudden we're feeling very good about counseling services," Casey said.

The state budget allocated an additional \$80 per student—totaling \$576,000 for the district—to provide additional counseling services in grades 7-12. The district used the funds to add two new counselors to each comprehensive high school, increasing the counseling staff from four to six and bringing the student-counselor ratio to 400 to 1. The Excellence Committee, a 55-member committee that earlier this year presented the board with a list of 22 priority items for improving the schools, recommended a counselor-student ratio of 350 to 1 at the comprehensive high schools, something the district could achieve now by adding one additional counselor at each high school, according to the staff report.

Each middle school also received one additional counselor, increasing the counseling staff from two to three at each school and making the student-counselor ratio 400 to 1, meeting the Excellence Committee recommendation. A counselor was also added to cover Horizon and Village high schools and independent study students. This brings the student-counselor ratio to 200 to 1, also the recommended ratio by the

mittee to decide how those funds should be directed, Casey added. The one-time funds can go toward art, music or physical education supplies and on-going support for music and art. There is also a "discretionary" block grant which must be used for closing the achievement gap and staff development.

Wanting to have time to manage the new state funds and watch how the state budget pans out in the upcoming year, Casey recommended the district hold off on the parcel tax feasibility study, which the trustees approved in the spring. The study would have measured how receptive the community is to passing a parcel tax during the March 2007 elections that would generate funds for items on the Excellence Committee report. The trustees agreed holding off on the study, saying there are misconceptions in the community about the study and the parcel tax in general.

"I would like to pound the pause button on this because, for whatever reason, the feedback I'm getting from the community is a perception that we're going for the parcel tax, but this was just a study to see if it was feasible," said Trustee Pat Kernan. "I'm not sure how they got that, but I think we need to go back to it and revisit."

Other trustees said they had also heard a negative reaction to the parcel tax in the community and would like to take time to better educate the community about it.

"I'm okay with pushing the pause button, but I don't want to lose the idea," said Trustee Kris Weaver. "There is more stuff on this paper than we can fund, and no one is going to dispute that." ■

"All of a sudden we're feeling very good about counseling services."

—Superintendent John Casey

Excellence Committee.

With the additional counselors, all students will have the chance to meet with their counselor and discuss their future plans at least once this year, something that was unrealistic before. Starting in seventh grade, students will be able to plan their high school track—something that is now necessary given college admission requirements that continue to grow more demanding. Currently, freshmen students meet with counselors to develop their individual plans, but the trustees had said they'd like to see the process start earlier.

However, the state funding does not provide for additional elementary school counselors, which is recommended by the Excellence Committee.

Additional, one-time funds were also allocated to the schools and the district is assembling a com-

in order to help the traffic situation caused by Amador on Santa Rita Road, Galbo said. With other schools changing this year, it seemed like a good time for Alisal to also change. Grades 1-5 and morning kindergarten classes will now start at 8 a.m. every day except Wednesdays when they will start at 9 a.m.

Superintendent John Casey and Galbo met with school site councils at all of the affected schools prior to making the scheduling changes in order to get parent input, Galbo said. In addition to these meetings, the new schedules were posted on Internet message boards where parents could suggest changes or point out problems. Based on these suggestions, the district came up with the current schedule, although even this is not set in stone. Once the schedule is in practice, the district will see where there are problems, if any, and make changes as needed.

So far, the district has heard both negative and positive responses from parents, Galbo said. Most of the negative feedback has come from parents who may have multiple students to drop off at differ-

ent schools across the district, she added.

The school board approved the collaboration periods and the new high school schedule in January of this year. The purpose of the collaboration period is to give teachers within the same discipline time to meet and discuss professional issues and work to standardize classroom expectations. The middle and elementary schools established collaboration periods in 1990.

"Because the work is so rigorous at the high schools and there is so much more sophistication in terms of expectations for students, it's important, for example, to pool English teachers together so they can plan for changes in the SAT test," Galbo said. "Given the current schedule, it's not possible to do that during the school day and, because so many teachers are involved in after school activities with students, we needed to provide them with another time to meet."

"We're hoping the collaboration periods will help teachers use their time in class more wisely and we'll see a positive impact in the classroom," she added. ■

Schedule


(continued from page 5)

the district changed Lydiksen's and Donlon's start times to give the schools space between Foothill's start. Grades 1-5 at Donlon will start at 8:25 a.m. every day except Wednesdays when they will start at 9:25 a.m. Morning kindergarten students will start at 8:15 a.m. every morning except on Wednesdays when they will start at 9:15 a.m. At Lydiksen, grades 1-5 and morning kindergarten will start at 8:30 a.m. except on Wednesdays when both will start at 9:30 a.m.

"We're trying to help with the traffic on the Foothill corridor," said Cindy Galbo, assistant superintendent of educational services. "We listened to parents and heard them say it's a challenge to drop off a student at Foothill and get another student on time to Lydiksen and Donlon. So, we looked at the times and tried to make changes to them so that there is enough time between the schools."

Alisal had been thinking about changing its start time for a while

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Pombo

(continued from page 5)

• Work to put into place a national energy policy that will encourage the development of alternative energy sources, including nuclear, as well as modes of transportation that will use little if any fossil fuels.

Earlier in the day, Pombo, who is seeking re-election Nov. 7 to an eighth term in office, hosted a visit by Acting U.S. Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino to Pleasanton, preceded by a look at traffic congestion on I-580 at Flynn Road on the Altamont Pass. But, as Pombo told the Rotarians, the visit took place at 10 a.m. on a hot August morning the week before schools opened when many commuters and their families were on vacation.

"Unfortunately, when Secretary Cino was out there, we had light traffic and the cars were moving right along," he said. "Still, I think she got the idea."

Later, at a roundtable discussion, Cino said that she sees traffic-choked freeways all the time in the Washington, D.C. area and has committed her department to increasing its support of relief measures.

"It's clear that this region faces some of the toughest transportation challenges in the country, but it's also clear the nation can learn from the innovative solutions being put to work here to keep traffic moving."

Still, she made no commitment to increase spending in the region.

The roundtable included representatives from about 20 highway and transportation-related agencies and county governments, including more from private firms that serve as contractors and consultants on road-building and design projects. Except for a review of current transportation plans, no new proposals or funding commitments were made.

In his remarks at Pleasanton Rotary, however, Pombo talked about the country's transportation and energy dilemma.

"We have problems that have been 30 years in the making," he said. "We have done almost nothing



Congressman Richard Pombo (left) talks with Downtown Pleasanton Rotary member Dick Karn after Pombo discussed traffic and energy issues with the Rotary.

over the last 30 years to deal with mounting traffic problems. In the last 30 years, no new major oil or natural gas fields have opened up. We haven't built a single refinery in over 30 years."

"At one time, one-third of our energy came from foreign countries," he added. "Today, 30 years later, two-thirds of our energy comes from abroad. Now we are starting to import liquefied natural gas to meet our dwindling output for that fuel. This will impact every one of us because in California over half of our electricity is produced by natural gas. So when you triple the price of gas, we will all pay more for our electricity."

He said the development of alternative fuels is under way along with more fuel efficient cars, but that fossil fuels will remain a major component of the country's energy needs for years to come. Both in his House Resources Committee and with the help of Congress and the Administration, Pombo wants to open drilling for oil and natural gas on more federally-managed lands, including the Alaska Natural Wildlife preserve, and offshore. Already, states such as Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina and more Gulf states favor more offshore drilling.

He also supported building nuclear power plants, "again, which we haven't done for the last 30 years."

"In the meantime, the European Union gets over half its power from

nuclear; France gets 80 percent from nuclear," Pombo said. "Most of those plants are being built and serviced with U.S. technology."

Changes in nuclear siting and permitting requirements may improve the interests of U.S. companies to invest in nuclear plants again, Pombo said, with three power plants under consideration—one in the Upper Midwest and two in the South.

As for his proposals to realign and build an expressway along Highway 30—a project nicknamed the Pombo Freeway—the congressman said he gained funding in the last Transportation Bill to undertake a feasibility study for the roadway. As proposed, it would be a toll road except for vehicles with an EPA rating of 35 miles per gallon or higher, or for carpoolers. Financial incentives would be made available to property owners along the proposed route to encourage them to restrict their land uses to agriculture only, not for development.

Pombo said he's not the first to propose a freeway along Rte. 130. It was first proposed to become an expressway in 1926, but that plan was shelved. It came up again in the 1950s, but was dropped from a freeway construction list. It was even discussed again in the early 1970s, but not until now, with federal funding appropriated to seriously consider the new freeway, has the proposal gained strength. ■

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Pleasanton Real Estate News

by
**Gerarda
Stocking**

FREEDOM AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

The importance of our ability to purchase and own our homes was recognized by those who founded this nation. Today, government leaders acknowledge that higher levels of home ownership translate into better and safer neighborhoods. Groups working for minority rights are doing all they can to educate lower-income Americans, showing them that the fastest way to build up a meaningful net worth is to own a home.

Those who developed the principles underlying this nation's founding were perhaps even more aware of the importance of property ownership. For centuries, only those who inherited land and wealth or those who grabbed it by force ended up owning property. As it became possible for others in society to own property as well, local wars diminished and more of the population lived in freedom and growing wealth.

Philosopher John Locke helped to refine the idea of "natural rights"—and his thinking worked its way directly into the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. Another Virginian, George Mason, wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which his state adopted. Jefferson's words were strongly influenced by the document, in which can be found this remarkable statement: "...that all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety." For assistance, call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Opinion

Editorial

With city election 10 weeks away, candidates are off and running

With two candidates vying for the Pleasanton mayor's post and four more seeking two available seats on the City Council, the municipal election set for Nov. 7 promises to be another highly competitive contest. Campaigning for mayor is the incumbent Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was elected two years ago after serving two years on the council. Her opponent is Councilman Steve Brozsky, who is completing his fourth year on the council and chose to run against Hosterman instead of seeking re-election to a second term on the council. The two have differed on key issues before the council, with Brozsky also critical of Hosterman's advocacy of national and global efforts, such as global warming and the war in Iraq. Hosterman, on the other hand, makes no apologies and believes strongly that elected officials and the cities they represent have an interest in a broader agenda, especially cities such as Pleasanton with its highly-educated and politically-active population. Their campaign no doubt will be a war of words and promises that will make this year's race exciting.

As for the council, we'll see three of the same candidates who vied for Hosterman's vacant seat in June 2005, with Councilman Jerry Thorne winning that election over close-runner-up Brian Arkin and well ahead of a third candidate, Dan Faustina. Those three are in the race again for two vacant seats to be filled—Brozsky's and Thorne's. Also running is Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a long-time educator, who filed her election papers just before the deadline.

For voters who follow meetings of the City Council and Planning Commission, Thorne and Arkin are better known and experienced in municipal affairs. Thorne, 61, a retired businessman and former chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, had the endorsement of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce last year and is generally regarded as savvy on business issues. Arkin, 45, a member of the Planning Commission since 1999, first became active in community affairs 10 years ago when he worked to block a plan by San Francisco to build 2,500 houses on the Bernal property. He has been intensely involved in land use issues, particularly on the General Plan Update that is now under way. At 27, Faustina is the youngest of the candidates. A lifelong resident of Pleasanton and 1997 graduate of Foothill High School, he works in the health and benefits insurance field and has served on Congressional and State Legislative political campaigns.

Cook-Kallio, 51, the newcomer, is least known on the Pleasanton political scene, although a household name among educators. A 29-year veteran teacher, she teaches Advanced Placement U.S. History and U.S. Government at Irvington High School in Fremont. Her successes in the "We the People..." advanced civics competition is well known by fellow Civics Competition teachers at Amador Valley High School, which finished second in the national contest this year with support from Cook-Kallio, and at Foothill High, which has also earned awards in the competition.

Already, Arkin has placed campaign signs on a truck he parked near Bernal and Stanley, probably the first to launch his campaign. Others will no doubt follow, including Cook-Kallio who will have some catching up to do in winning votes. Remember, Election Day is only 10-1/2 weeks and hundreds of campaign signs and neighborhood rallies away.

Letters

The new iron curtain

Dear Editor,

For 40 years following World War II, Europe was divided by walls and fences guarded by military and police. It separated families and cut off trade and the free flow of ideas. Finally, the pent-up desires of the peoples of Eastern Europe, encouraged by President Reagan's speech at the Brandenburg Gate, brought an end to the separation of the continent.

Now there is a movement to repeat the mistakes of the past and make our southern border into an armed camp. Its proponents who play the "national security" card have not measured the thousands of miles of Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts and the Canadian border. They have also forgotten that the 9/11 attackers came here through the airports.

Rather than waste billions of dollars and the energies of our over-extended National Guard on this boondoggle, I recommend investment of those funds into education and cutting the demand for illegal drugs in America.

But, if they do build this new iron curtain, I fully expect the spirit of Ronald Reagan to rise from his grave in Simi Valley and his words to echo out once more, "Mr. Bush, tear down this wall!"

Bruce Fiedler
Pleasanton

Mayor brings dignity

Dear Editor,

Your July 28 issue contained letters regarding Mayor Hosterman that seem to shed a bit more heat than light (Letters to the Editor, "Mayor causes concern" and "Mayor, not ambassador," July 28, 2006), except for one from Fred Norman (Letters to the Editor, "Mayor brings leadership), with whom I am in complete agreement.

Mayor Hosterman, in and out of office, says what she means and means what she says. She has restored City Council meetings to a dignified process and leveled the playing field so every concerned citizen can have a voice in their areas of interest. And she listens.

Pleasanton is fortunate indeed to have a mayor who sees the forest as well as the trees and isn't timid about taking a stand on issues that she feels affect all of us. (And she's pretty photogenic, too.)

Janet M. Linfoot
Alisal Street

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Guest Opinion

Global climate change is a local issue

by Dan Sapone

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's interest in climate change has recently attracted local attention. The Pleasanton Weekly's July 14 Editorial ("Is the mayor out-of-bounds on global talks?") urged Pleasanton voters to consider whether this issue is the proper business of local government.



People all across the political spectrum are coming to the same conclusion: human impact on global climate must be reversed soon or the consequences will be devastating and irreversible. The science is irrefutable. Only a sustained reduction in CO2 emissions can make a difference.

Our local discussion should answer two questions:

1. Is climate change the proper business of city government?
2. If climate change is city business, what can the city of Pleasanton do to protect its own interests? Let's answer these questions directly.

The local effect of climate change is city business. If we are going to invest Pleasanton resources in addressing local effects of climate change, our local business model must justify it. Let's examine an easy example.

Key elements of our business model surround this valley's world-class wine business and the tourism that follows from it. Local governments and businesses have made capital investments and joint marketing efforts to grow that model. Scientific research, including a nationally reported study published last month by the National Academy of Sciences¹, demonstrated that small increases in CO2 concentrations and temperature will cut U.S. premium grape production in half during this century. The study cited particular risk to California wine-growing regions. The increasing frequency of days with tempera-

tures above 95 degrees was identified as curtailing photosynthesis and causing a breakdown of grape sugars, severely limiting premium grape production.

Studies warn that individual micro-climates will experience varying impacts based on localized concentrations of greenhouse gases. So, the ability to monitor local CO2 concentrations will be essential for local planning decisions.

So, is climate change city business? Since our wine, hotel and restaurant businesses are tied to our grape-growing climate, the answer must be "yes." If a key function of city government is to protect local business, then evaluating local CO2 concentrations should be a high priority.

Other Pleasanton-specific issues require these same data: How much growth? How much traffic? What kinds of businesses can we support? Clearly, issues related to local CO2 emissions are local issues.

Now our second question: What can the city of Pleasanton do? The answer is found in a proposal that Mayor Hosterman has offered that is scientifically sound and inexpensive. The Mayor has proposed an inexpensive first step—that Pleasanton join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). This association of 475 local governments provides technical support for sustainable development at the local level. For only \$1,200 a year, Pleasanton can join the ICLEI, measure local CO2 emissions and identify ways to reduce those emissions. Pleasanton can afford this sensible step; and it is clear that we cannot afford to do without the knowledge and support it will provide.

So, is climate change city business? Yes. The message for Pleasanton voters? Local government must understand the forces that impact our business models and act sensibly with a commitment to sustainable development.

Dan Sapone has been an editor and writer in the Tri-Valley for 22 years. He and his wife have lived in Pleasanton for ten of those years.

¹ Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, July 10, 2006.

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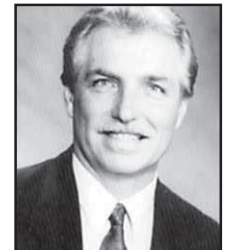
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Jeb Bing

One family's effort to conserve energy

Belichaks commit to make a difference

by Kathy Cordova

Meg Belichak first learned about the phenomenon we now call "global warming" in a college biology class in the 1980s. But it was after she graduated and moved to Los Angeles that she saw the real-life effects of the academic theory.

"I lived in L.A. for four months before it rained," she said. "Every day, I walked to work the same way. One morning it rained and I saw this enormous mountain as my scenery. For four months I never even knew that mountain was there because there was so much smog. By afternoon, the mountain was gone again."

That experience was one of many that had a profound impact and helped shape Belichak's commitment to the environment since she moved into a single-story home on Oak Creek Road in Pleasanton.

"We live in such a beautiful place, and when I see smog and I see litter, it hits me," she said. "I like to be outside and I like it to be clean."



Kathy Cordova

Laura, 7, and Joshua, 3, show how the family's thermostat is kept at an energy-saving temperature in the summer months.

She doesn't proclaim to be an expert on global warming, but added: "You can go with the obvious. When you see the effects of pollution, it's disturbing."

Like Belichak, a lot of people are starting to pay attention to the issue of global warming. This summer's record-setting heat waves in some parts of the country, coupled with Hurricane Katrina and other weather-related storms, and then the public interest in former Vice President Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," have raised concerns about the influence of transportation, industry and other man-made developments on climate changes.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the earth's surface temperature is rising.

"The 20th Century's 10 warmest years all occurred in the last 15 years of the century," the EPA reported. "The snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere and floating ice in the Arctic Ocean have decreased. Globally, sea level has risen 4-8 inches over the past century. Scientists expect that the average global surface temperature could rise 1 to 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the next 50 years."

That has the Belichak's concerned.

"I don't think it's been debatable for years," said Meg's husband, Bob, "except for political reasons. It's a pretty well proven fact. And let's say that what (mankind) is doing isn't causing global warming. Whether pollution is causing it or not, (by taking action) the worse that can happen is we have cleaner air."

Meg added, "You don't have to be a scientist to want to breathe clean air."

"It all sounds overwhelming," said Bob, "and it is. It's a global problem. But there are lots of things we can do as individuals and families. Meg is a firm believer in the philosophy that if everyone does their own little part things can change."

Although the Belichaks said they are not political activists, Meg, Bob, and their three children, Michael, 9, Laura, 7, and John, 3, have quietly tailored their lives in a way that blends environmental consciousness with family fun.

For example, they drive their family van as little as possible, choosing people-powered transportation, such as bikes and scooters to go to school, soccer practice and run errands around town.

"When we get ready for school in the morning, the question is 'What do you want to ride?'" said Meg. "If someone has a flat, we scramble to grab the next thing on wheels—skateboards, scooters, Heelies. It might be a little rushed, or cold, or rainy, but most days we get to school laughing, even if it doesn't start that way."

Meg has mapped out various trips around town on her bike.

"I know I can get to the Pleasanton library in 15 minutes from my house, towing one kid," she said. "I can get to the gym in 15 minutes. Pleasanton is very bicycle-friendly. I ride to the grocery store, and I've even picked up pizzas on my bike."

Sometimes it's inconvenient, but beyond being socially responsible, Meg believes their actions are character-building.

"Sometimes when we ride to school in the rain when everyone else is getting a cushy ride, my brother-in-law will drive by and scream out the window, 'Why can't you get an SUV like everyone else?'" Meg said. "I think the kids are proud of themselves that they can physically do it, and it's healthier and we're not polluting the air."

The Belichaks are careful with their energy consumption at home, too. They use their air conditioner sparingly and keep the thermostat set at 68 degrees in the winter.

They use compact fluorescent light bulbs, ceiling fans, energy-efficient appliances, a wood-burning fireplace with a heat-producing insert, and they remember to turn off the lights and TV when they aren't using them. And they do something else that may seem radical for a family with three small children—they rarely use their dryer.

"I think I used the dryer twice last winter," Meg said. "I learned about hanging out my laundry from my Australian neighbor, Elleneta. She had four children and moved here and didn't have a dryer. She taught me to take the stuff right out of the washing machine, hang it up on a hanger and then hang it outside. In the summer your clothes are dry before your dryer could dry them."

The Belichaks' energy conscious ways have big financial pay-offs. Their electricity bill averages only \$75 a month in the summer and winter months for their 1,800-square-foot house, compared to a neighbor with the same model house who regularly spends \$550 a month. Bob's goal is to use only one tank of gas per month in their family van, which costs about \$45.

"We take our bikes whenever we can and I group trips together," he explained. "It's like a puzzle, like an eco-challenge."

Meg stressed the importance of consumers making their voice heard in regards to the companies they do business with.

"I know it's not always easy or possible for people do stuff like this," she said, "but you can patronize companies that are environmentally conscious. For example, my gym, Butterfly Life, is really making an effort. They are phasing out aerosols; they recycle; they walk the linens over to a local business to have them washed."

She cited another business that is packaging its yogurt to produce less waste because of customer demand.

"As consumers, you can be more proactive about letting companies know that you don't want a lot of packaging."

The Belichaks' lifestyle is both challenging and rewarding.

"Even if we didn't have to worry about air pollution, we would still ride," said Meg. "It's good exercise and we love to be outside. The

Nine Things to Do

Want to do something to help the environment? Here are nine simple things you can do and how much carbon dioxide you'll save doing them.

- 1) Change a light. Replacing your regular light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.
- 2) Drive less. Walk, bike, carpool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive.
- 3) Recycle more. You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.
- 4) Check your car's tires. Keeping your tires inflated properly can improve gas mileage by more than 3 percent. Every gallon of gasoline saved keeps 20 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.
- 5) Use less hot water. It takes a lot of energy to heat water: Use less hot water by installing a low-flow showerhead (350 pounds of CO2 saved per year) and washing your clothes in cold or warm water (500 pounds saved per year).
- 6) Avoid products with a lot of packaging. You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down on your garbage by 10 percent.
- 7) Adjust your thermostat. Moving your thermostat just 2 degrees down in winter and up 2 degrees in summer can save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.
- 8) Plant a tree. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.
- 9) Turn off electronic devices. Simply turning off your television, DVD player, stereo, and computer when you're not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.

Source: www.climatecrisis.net

laundry thing is pretty funny, too. I am outside with my kids; the little ones run through the sheets and jump up and down to get their clothes off the line—another family event."

Bob recalled that at their school science fair last year, Michael did a wind project and Laura made a solar oven.

"We made s'mores in the solar oven, which was educational and tasty," he added.

Seven-year-old Laura summed up the family philosophy: "I like riding my bike places because I like being with my family. I feel good because I am helping the earth." ■



Bob Belichak shows how the family uses a solar screen to harness reusable energy.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

General Plan Workshop

Tuesday, August 29, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

• **Draft Circulation Network**

Review refinement to the "Working Draft" General Plan Circulation (Roadway) Network

• **Draft Conservation and Open Space Element**

Review of Draft Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan

• **Draft Public Safety Element**

Review and provide comments on the Draft Public Safety Element

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, August 28, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.

City Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal

• The agenda for this meeting is currently unavailable.

Please visit the City's website at the address listed below to view the complete agenda

General Information

• On Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m., The Friends of the Pleasanton Library will host a fundraising dinner at the Palm Event Center. SSGoodtimes will be a cruise-ship themed dinner and entertainment with wine, authors Josh Braff (The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green) and Ayelet Waldman (Love and Other Impossible Pursuits), music by the Ira Stein Jazz Quartet, dancing, a chocolate fountain and casino action including blackjack and poker.

The Friends are a 501(c)3 non-profit supporting education and literacy through by supporting the Pleasanton Library.

Profits of the fundraiser will go entirely to purchasing picture books for children. The Pleasanton Public Library, located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue near downtown Pleasanton, provides books and other materials, literacy programs and cultural events in support of reading. Over one million items are checked out from the Library each year, of which more than 50% are for children.

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Decoy Alcohol Enforcement

Officers of the Pleasanton Police Department along with an Investigator from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control conducted a decoy alcohol enforcement program Friday, August 18, police said.

The intent of the operation was to target the sales of alcoholic beverages to underage persons by both on and off sale liquor establishments. That evening, underage decoys, ages 18 and 19, acting in concert with police, entered 11 businesses in Pleasanton and attempted to purchase alcoholic beverages. Of the 11 attempts made, the decoys were able to successfully purchase alcohol at six locations: Pleasanton Liquors, Express Liquors, Hopyard 7-11, Perry's Liquors, Shell Gas Station Mini Market at Hopyard Road and Owens Drive, and the Sunshine Saloon. In all but one successful attempt, the decoy was not asked for identification, reports showed.

The decoys carried their true identifications into the establishment and were instructed to present them and give their real age if asked.

In each instance, the responsible clerk or employee who completed the transaction was issued a citation for the sale of an alcoholic beverage to a minor. The businesses may face an administrative action against their ABC license by the

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The success in the decoy program is measured by how many employees refuse to sell to the decoys. If assistance is needed in the proper procedures for checking identifications and lawful sale of alcoholic beverages, individuals may contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100 or the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at (916) 263-4216.

Guidelines for back-to-school safety

The first week of school is coming up and the Pleasanton Police Department Traffic Bureau would like to revisit some traffic safety tips to get students to and from school:

1. Give yourself plenty of time in the morning to decrease traffic volume and congestion.
2. Obey the posted speed and directional signs, including marked curbs in school zones and signs that indicate parking for buses only.
3. Be patient.
4. Have your students ready when you get to the school curb.
5. Explore carpool, busing, walking and biking alternatives.
6. Look for and obey the school crossing guards.

The Pleasanton Police Traffic Bureau and patrol officers will be increasing their efforts at all schools in Pleasanton for the next several weeks.

Police Report

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

August 14

- Theft: 6
- Found property: 1
- Contempt of court: - 2:29 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

August 15

- Theft: 3
- Burglary: 2
- DUI: 2
- Found property: 2
- Possession and sale of drugs: - 11:05 a.m. in the 4400 block of Pleasanton Avenue

August 16

- Theft: 4
- Vandalism: 2
- Burglary: 1
- Found property: 1

- Public drunkenness: - 6:36 a.m. in the 6700 block of Hansen Drive - 7:26 p.m. in the 200 block of Angela Street
- Embezzlement: - 8:20 a.m. in the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Contempt of court: - 8:48 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- Assault: - 8:49 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cumberland Gap Court

August 17

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 1
- Assault: - 1:51 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

August 18

- Theft: 3
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 1
- DUI: 1

- Found property: 1
- Alcohol sales to a minor: - 11:04 p.m. in the 700 block of Main Street - 11:16 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street - 11:42 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue - 11:58 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road

August 19

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 1
- Alcohol sales to a minor: - 12:33 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road - 1:30 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- Peeping Tom: - 4 p.m. in the 5900 block of Laurel Creek Drive

August 20

- Theft: 3
- Vandalism: 2
- DUI: 1
- Assault: - 1:05 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Battery: - 1:45 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness: - 3:37 a.m. in the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Mall Road - 8:37 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- Contempt of Court: - 12:10 p.m. in the 5800 block of Arthur Drive

ACCIDENTS

August 17

- 1:51 a.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Dorman Road and W. Las Positas Boulevard

August 18

- 5:09 p.m. - Non-injury accident in the 4900 block of Johnson Drive

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Transitions

Obituaries

Norma June Cottrill

Norma June Cottrill died August 1 at her home in Discovery Bay. She was 73.

She had waged a decade-long battle with Parkinsonism and Spasmodic Torticollis. Previous to the onset of her physical problems, she spent much of her time at local health clubs, both in Pleasanton and Discovery Bay, which she enjoyed immensely.



ly. She was a housewife until her children were in high school. At that time, she went back to school to become qualified for various jobs in the health care industry. She

spent some time working in the operating room of an out-patient surgical hospital and then spent many years working in both the front office and back room for two medical doctors. She thoroughly enjoyed helping people and formed many lasting

Engagement

Heather Anne Halseth and Kellen Christopher Smalley

Heather Anne Halseth and Kellen Christopher Smalley are engaged to be married Sept. 22 at the Palm Event Center at Mitchell Katz Winery in Pleasanton.

Heather is the daughter of Dave and Nancy Halseth. She graduated from Foothill High School in 1996 and later attended UC Davis where she earned her bachelor's degree in technical business management in 2001. She now works as Mervyn's Men's Distribution manager in Hayward.

Kellen is the son of Ty and



Ann Smalley. He graduated from Davis High School and later UC Davis in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in managerial economics. He is now the licensing and content relations manager at FunMobility, Inc. in Pleasanton.

The two were engaged at the top of the Eiffel Tower. After spending their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, the couple will live in Danville.

friendships during her time in this industry.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Bob; brothers Harold and Wayne of Malvern, Ark.; son Robert Cottrill of Tracy; ex-daughter-in-law, turned daughter,

Deborah of Oregon; four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by sons Jim and Allen and brother James.

The Cottrill family plans to host a memorial for her at their home in Discovery Bay in the near future.

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Diana Korpi



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE?

Sometimes there are defects in a house that the homeowners no longer notice, such as small leaks in the roof or a basement that only gets damp when it rains. When the house is on the market, homeowners don't have a real sense of urgency about having such defects repaired. The Realtor feels quite differently, however.

When buyers are deciding which houses deserve serious consideration, any kind of water problem may appear to be much more serious than it really is. The sellers may regard a damp basement as simply a sign that it's time to clean the gutters and check the soil buildup around the house. A leaking roof may be seen as a call for new flashing. But to someone who has never owned a home, these defects can be taken as signs that the house may not fulfill their

primary need for shelter from "the elements." People may be perfectly willing to rent a home with minor water problems, but they are likely to refuse to buy the same house if they think it won't keep them perfectly dry.

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. www.dianahomes.com



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**ALAMEDA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT
AUTHORITY (ACTIA)
CITIZENS WATCHDOG
COMMITTEE
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE PUBLIC JULY 2006**

Alameda County voters approved a ballot initiative in November 2000, Measure B, to continue the 1/2-cent transportation sales tax to implement a 20-year Expenditure Plan. Responsibility for managing Measure B funds rests with the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), made up of 11 elected officials from within Alameda County.

Measure B provided that a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) review all expenditures of ACTIA, including projects and programs, to monitor compliance and timely delivery. From this, we report to the public how the funds are being spent.

The CWC has been meeting regularly since June 2001. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting schedules and agendas are posted on the website and the public is invited to attend. This fourth annual report covers ACTIA expenditures from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, and CWC actions during Fiscal Year 2005/2006.

SUMMARY

ACTIA's financial statements for fiscal year ending 2005 were audited by independent auditors. The auditors issued an unqualified opinion (no accounting issues were identified), which can be viewed at the ACTIA website at www.actia2022.com.

CWC members have reviewed the Audited Statement of Revenues and Expenditures under Measure B from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Of the \$104.3 million recorded as revenue, \$15.8 million has been set aside for future expenditures, and \$88.5 million was allocated for local governments, capital projects, and administration. At our request, a separate audit shows ACTIA to be in compliance with the 4.5% overall administrative cost ceiling, and under the 1% administrative staff cost cap mandated by Measure B, for which we commend staff.

By December 31st each year, recipient jurisdictions are contractually required to submit a report summarizing programmatic compliance, an independent audit of ACTIA funded

programs and a compliance opinion stating material compliance with the ACTIA contract signed by an independent auditor.

CWC also reviewed independent audits of all jurisdictions receiving Measure B funds. Four agencies, the Cities of Berkeley, Dublin, Fremont, and Hayward did not submit their complete financial audits in a timely manner, delaying CWC's review of their expenditures. As of May 2006, all jurisdictions submitted their complete reports and were in compliance. **We conclude that recipient agencies had spent the monies in accordance with the terms of Measure B under agreements drawn up by ACTIA.**

We note that of the 27 ACTIA capital projects, nine are at-risk due to funding uncertainties, totaling \$833.3 million (see Table 1, Projects At-risk projects). Last year, we deemed ten at-risk.

CWC ACTIVITIES

CWC does more than review financial statements. We convene special ad-hoc committee meetings focusing on projects at-risk, and projects or programs of concern. We also make formal recommendations to the ACTIA Board. We review projects and programs to monitor conformance with the Expenditure Plan approved by the voters. In November 2005, CWC met with ACTIA's new independent auditors to review their auditing processes.

Ad-Hoc Committee Review

Over the last year, we implemented a new process for raising issues of concern with project sponsors through the use of ad-hoc committees. In May 2006, CWC held two ad-hoc committee meetings and received focused presentations from BART and AC Transit on each topic raised by CWC. We report that there are no bases for CWC action on these projects. The following issues were raised:

- BART Oakland Airport Connector Project: Concern over the security of Measure B funds if BART enters into a public/private funding partnership where a private entity would enter into contract with BART to design, build, finance and operate the project.
- AC Transit: There were three issues raised regarding AC Transit
 - o Bus signal priority on its Rapid Bus system and the effect on the safety of pedestrians crossing the street
 - o Bus Rapid Transit on Telegraph/International/E.14th Street

including project implementation schedule changes and how the project will coordinate with other local projects, such as bike lane projects on Telegraph Avenue

- o Accessibility of Van Hool buses for seniors and disabled.

CWC Recommendations

Although CWC has no financial concerns regarding the AC Transit and BART projects noted above under CWC Activities, CWC encourages continuing public involvement in review of BART's performance measures in the proposed public/private partnership agreement for the Oakland Airport Connector project. Visit BART's website at www.bart.gov/about/projects/airport.asp for more information. Environmental documents for the AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit project are scheduled to be available in Summer 2006. Visit AC Transit's website at www.actransit.org for more information.

Keeping Watch-Projects

In order to ensure timely delivery of projects, the 2000 Measure B Expenditure Plan requires that projects receive environmental approvals and have a fully funded project by April 2007. Projects that cannot meet this requirement may appeal to the ACTIA Board for one or more one-year time extensions. CWC is closely monitoring project readiness to meet this directive. See Table 1, Projects At-Risk. Given the number of projects at risk, the CWC again recommends that the Board consider a public process for making decisions about project extensions or deletions to ensure that the voters have a say in the Measure B expenditures.

Keeping Watch-Programs

Regarding expenditures on local streets and roads, CWC expressed concern that some cities spent a very high percentage (more than two-thirds) of the funds received on administration. However, Measure B does not prohibit such use.

THE 2004/2005 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Total revenues for fiscal year 2004/2005 were \$104.3 million. Expenditures were \$88.5 million for the year ending June 30, 2005,

- \$43.3 million (41.5% of revenues) for Public Transit investments and operations,
- \$37.2 million (35.7% of revenues) for cities and the County to spend on local transportation,
- \$4.2 million (4.0% of revenues) for Highway and Street projects,
- \$3.8 million (3.6% of revenues) was for administration, and
- \$15.8 million (15.2% of revenues) funds dedicated for future expenditures.

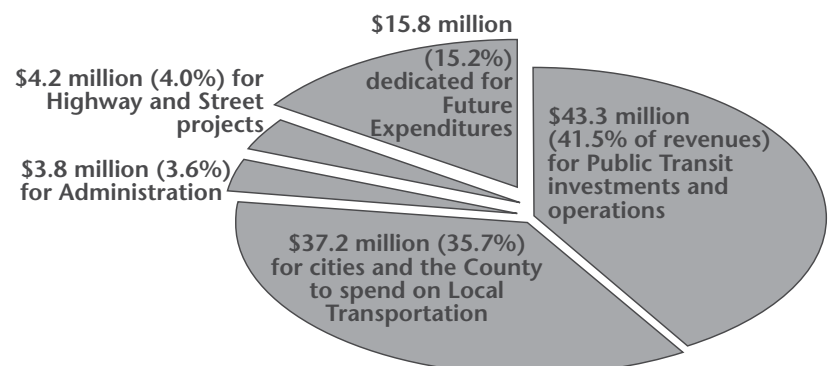
The remaining \$74.8 million fund balance, which includes \$59 million from previous years, is reserved for future capital and program expenditures.

ACTIA PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Measure B funds are separated into two broad categories. Project funds and Program funds are allocated by percentage of the total revenues.

ACTIA Projects

The voters approved 26 projects throughout the county committed to infrastructure improvements such as highway expansions and BART extensions or transit vehicles. In 2003, the ACTIA Board added the Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project from the Emergency Congestion Relief Fund included in the Expenditure Plan. Four of the 27 projects have been completed: Fruitvale Transit Village parking garage, Newark Local Streets, San Leandro's Hesperian/Lewelling widening, and San Leandro's Westgate to Williams Street Extension. Three projects are under construction and CWC is monitoring all 20 remaining projects.



At Risk

Last year, we reported that ten Measure B projects were at risk due to uncertainties in state, federal, and other funding needed to complete the projects. Nine projects still at-risk are shown on Table 1. Detailed information on the project-by-project status of all the projects, including the level of funding risk, can be found on the ACTIA website at www.actia2022.com.

ACTIA Programs

Program funds are passed through to municipal jurisdictions, the county, and transit agencies on a monthly basis or distributed via grants. These funds are often leveraged as the local match for state and federal grants, extending the value of local Measure B dollars.

Mass Transit (22% of net sales tax revenues)

Monthly allocations fund transit operations for AC Transit (including specific funds for meeting the needs of people transitioning from welfare to work – 1.46% of the funds), WHEELS in East County, Union City Transit, Altamont Commuter Express Rail, and the Oakland-Alameda Ferry. These funds are distributed through fixed percentages of the net revenues collected.

A countywide grant program was instituted in 2006 for the Express Bus Funds. Grants totaling \$3.2 million for Express Bus services were awarded to WHEELS (\$1.6 million) and AC Transit (\$1.6 million).

Local Streets and Roads (22% of net sales tax revenues)

Monthly allocations fund millions of dollars worth of local transportation improvements in every Alameda County jurisdiction. These are the most flexible Measure B funds and can be used for local transportation priorities. Each jurisdiction uses these funds differently to meet their local needs.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Funds (5% of net sales tax revenues)

The funds for Bike/Pedestrian Safety and for Special Transportation are allocated both monthly and through grants. ACTIA began development of the first ever Alameda County Strategic Pedestrian Plan to guide pedestrian investments for county-wide funds through 2030.

Special Transportation for Seniors and Disabled (10.5% of net sales tax revenues)

Innovations in providing and improving special transportation services have been possible because of Measure B Gap Fund grants. In May, the Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee recommended approval of \$3.5 million in service gap closure grants (Gap grants) and \$9.7 million for on-going special transportation services, both of which the ACTIA Board approved in June 2006.

Providing return trips from medical centers, creating paratransit waiting areas at medical centers, travel training, and increased availability of “same day” trips are examples of new services for Alameda County residents.

Transit Center Development (0.19% of net sales tax revenues)

Policies for implementation of the Transit Center Development Program were completed in 2006, resulting in over \$90,000 awarded to the Cities of Alameda, Pleasanton, and San Leandro as local match funds for an MTC grant to create station area plans for transit hubs.

Public Involvement

ACTIA continues to support public participation in delivering the ACTIA projects and programs through four public committees composed of 90 people: the Citizen Watchdog Committee, the Citizen Advisory Committee, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee. Committee chairs report to the ACTIA Board at its public meeting held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

THE FUTURE

On-going difficulties still exist in securing local, state and federal dollars to provide the balance of funding for Measure B projects. Examples include the failure of a sales tax measure in Santa Clara County which jeopardizes ACTIA funding for the BART to Warm Springs Project. Additional funding sources, such as a statewide bond measure on the November 2006 ballot, or additional legislation increasing the vehicle license fee, may affect Measure B projects. Stay tuned.

Good News

In fiscal year 2004/2005, sales tax revenues exceeded expectations. The original budget expectation was \$99.7 million; actual totaled \$104.3 million. In addition, over \$24 million were received from the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill.

Bad News

Measure B projects are dependent upon a variety of funds. Nine projects are still facing funding shortfalls. If outside funding is not assured by April 2007, the Board will have to decide whether or not to re-allocate the ACTIA funds.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The complete Expenditure Plan and this report are available on the ACTIA website, www.actia2022.com. Copies are also available, as are audits for each agency, at the Authority offices at 426 17th Street, Suite 100, Oakland, CA 94612, telephone 510-893-3347. Information on Measure B-funded program expenditures can also be found on the website of each jurisdiction.

CWC MEMBERS

| Name | Appointed By |
|---------------------|---|
| Aboumrad, William | Supervisor Scott Haggerty, D-1 |
| Braun, Joan C. | Supervisor Nate Miley, D-4 |
| Campbell, Dave | Alameda County Mayor's Conference, D-5 |
| Chalmers, Martha Jo | Paratransit Advisory Planning Committee |
| Geen, Arthur B. | Alameda County Taxpayers Association |
| Johnson, John | Alameda County Mayors' Conference, D-4 |
| Kahn, Zev | Alameda County Mayors' Conference |
| Paxon, James | EDAB |
| Piper, Robert R. | Sierra Club |
| Raburn, Robert | East Bay Bicycle Coalition |
| Reynolds, Mary | Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, D-3 |
| Roy, Joyce | League of Women Voters |
| Skahill, Jeffery J. | Supervisor Keith Carson, D-5 |
| Tom Dlugosh | Alameda County Mayors' Conference, D-3 |
| Vacancy | Alameda County Mayors' Conference, D-2 |
| Vacancy | Central Labor Council of Alameda County |
| Vacancy | Supervisor Gail Steele, D-2 |

MEASURE B ACTIA PROJECTS AT RISK

| ACTIA Project Name | Total Current Project Cost (\$ Millions) | Measure B Expenditure Plan Commitment in 1998 Dollars (\$ Millions) | Measure B 2006/2007 Strategic Plan Commitment (\$ Millions) | Funds "At Risk" (\$ Millions) | Fund Source | % of Funds "At Risk" to Total Current Project Cost |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| BART Extension to Warm Springs | 695.1 | 165.5 | 211.3 | 55.5 82.5 84.7 145.0 367.7 | Future STIP - RIP TCRP RM-1 Reserve San Mateo Buy-In Total | 53 |
| BART Oakland Airport Connector | 380.5 | 65.8 | 83.5 | 38.0 10.0 31.5 141.5 221.0 | Programmed STIP - RIP Programmed STIP - IIP RM-1 Reserve Private Financing Total | 58 |
| Union City Intermodal Station | 42.4 | 9.2 | 11.9 | 10.1 1.9 12.0 | Programmed STIP - RIP TCRP Total | 28 |
| I-680 Express Lanes (SB Demonstration Project Only) | 36.5 | 25.8 | 33.1 | 12.4 6.3 18.7 | Programmed STIP - RIP Future Federal Total | 51 |
| I-880/Broadway-Jackson | 28.3 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 19.8 19.8 | Future STIP - RIP Total | 70 |
| I-880 Route Reliever and Route 92/Clawiter Rd - Whitesell Dr I/C | 67.0 | 19.5 | 25.2 | 4.0 37.8 41.8 | RM1 Reserve Local Funds Total | 62 |
| Isabel - Route 84/I-580 I/C | 98.8 | 20.0 | 25.2 | 15.0 20.2 35.2 | I-580 Corridor Other Funds Total | 36 |
| Dumbarton Corridor Improvements | 308.2 | 14.7 | 18.2 | 34.0 44.0 12.0 15.0 105.0 | Future STIP - IIP SCVTA Capital Corridor JPA Local Funds Total | 34 |
| Vasco Road | 22.4 | NA | 1.5 | 3.9 6.4 1.8 12.1 | Programmed STIP - RIP TCRP To be determined Total | 54 |
| Total | 1,6792 | 324.5 | 415.1 | 833.3 | | 50 |

LEGEND:

*Funding "at risk" is subject to the programming and budgeting process of the various funding agencies, and could change.

State Funding Sources:

STIP - RIP: State Transportation Improvement Program - Regional Improvement Program
STIP - IIP: State Transportation Improvement Program - Interregional Transportation Improvement Program
SHOPP - State Highway Operation and Protection Program

TCRP - Transportation Congestion Relief Program

Regional Funding Sources:

RM1 - Regional Measure 1

County Funding Sources:

CMA TIP - Alameda County Congestion Management Agency Transportation Improvement Program
SCVTA - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
JPA - Joint Powers Authority

Calendar

Author Visits

Author Talk and Live Music

Gerald Haslam will be accompanied by a duo from the swinging Saddle Cats at 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 3 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Penny, 931-3405.

Cynthia Bryant

Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant will read from "No Time to Shoot the Poets," at 7:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 30 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

Civic Meetings

City Council

The council meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Sept. 5.

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 Sept. 21.

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 Sept. 13.

School Board

The board meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Sept. 12.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

The City of Pleasanton's Trails Ad Hoc Committee, an advisory body to the Parks and Recreation Commission, will meet at 6:30 p.m., Mon., Aug. 28 in the Council Conference room, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Call Fran, 931-5348.

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

Castlemont High School reunion will be held on Sept. 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd. Call Greg Hickey, 461-1381 or Ron Campos, 820-5628.

Richmond Union High Class of 1956

Richmond Union High School reunion will be held on Sat., Sept. 16. Call Alma Graham, 510-724-5594.

Classes

The Gospel of Judas

Explore the background and content of "The Gospel of Judas," with Rev. Mary Anne Harris from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sun., Aug. 27 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters

The Quilt Guild Club meets at 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 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

Weekend Preview



Art show by local abstract artists

An art show, featuring vibrant abstract art by local artists MaryClair Strotler and M. Barta Atkins will be displayed Sept. 2-17 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main Street, Pleasanton. Expect a blend of different textures and mediums and as many as 25 pieces between the two artists. Alexander's Main Street Gallery is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon-4 p.m. For more information please contact the Gallery at 846-6015.

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. Guest speaker will be Bob Hornback from Luther Burbank Nursery in Santa Rosa. Call Marilyn, 462-1461.

Mothers Club

The Pleasanton Mothers Club meets 7-9 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Dr., room C2. Call 927-2444, or visit www.pleasantonmothersclub.org.

Mt. Diablo Rose Society

Mt. Diablo Rose Society meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the second Wednesday monthly, except in 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

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Art Association features demonstrations by nationally recognized artists held at the Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. Call 462-5917 or visit www.pal-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 Auxiliary 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.

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.

Events

California State Fair
The California State Fair runs 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.

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 army@tfff.org.

Foothill Band Pancake Breakfast
The Foothill Band Alumni Parents presents its annual Labor Day Pancake Breakfast from 7-11 a.m., Mon., Sept. 4 at Donlon Elementary School, 4150 Dorman Rd. Cost is \$6 general, \$5 for seniors and youth 10 years or younger. Call 846-0802.

Harvest Wine Celebration
Garre Winery is hosting the Harvest Wine Celebration on Sun., Sept. 3 and Mon., Sept. 4 at 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Call 371-8200, or visit www.garrewinery.com.

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.

Septemberfest
"Septemberfest," sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, closes the summer season from 6-9 p.m., Wed., Sept. 6 downtown. Admission is free. Call Nickie, 484-2199, ext. 4 or visit www.pleasanton-downtown.net.

Travel Around the World

Enjoy an evening in Portugal with live, Internationally-acclaimed Portuguese songstress at 6 p.m., Fri., Sept. 1. Also come for the Italian Scallion with live guitar Sept. 8, Turkish Delight with Twos Guys Jazz Duo Sept. 15 and Mississippi Delta Blues with T Lane & The Nighthawks Sept. 22 at Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$34.95 per night. Reservations required. Call 371-8200, or visit www.garrewinery.com.

West Coast Rod & Custom Nationals

The Goodguys/Texaco Havoline 20th Anniversary West Coast Rod & Custom Nationals features over 3,500 1954 and earlier hot rods, customs & classics, vendor exhibits, and more. It will be held from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., Aug. 25 and Sat., Aug. 26, and from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun, Aug. 27 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. General admission is \$15, seniors 60+ \$12 and kids 7-12 \$6. Parking is \$8. Call 838-9876 or visit www.goodguys.com.

Exhibits

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.

Wine Country Wildlife Art Show

Kathleen Hill's work will be on display 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.

Film

The 19th Amendment's 86th Birthday

"Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks" and "Chisholm '72: Unbrought & Unbossed" will be shown to commemorate the 19th Amendment's 86th Birthday at 8 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The birthday cake potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Call 462-3459.

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., Sat., 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.

Weight Loss Coaching and Fitness Walk

Dan Taylor, ACE certified fitness trainer, will teach effective permanent weight loss strategies and do a fitness walk through Pleasanton at noon, Mon., Aug. 28 at Coffee Beans and Bistro, 401 Main St. Call 413-2268 or visit www.trivalleytrainer.com.

Wellness Club Party

Dr. Lynne Sullivan, chiropractor and expert on Fibromyalgia, will be hosting the Wellness Club Party at 6 p.m., Mon., Aug. 28 at 268 Main St. Call 484-1070 or e-mail dcladywss@yahoo.com.

Kids & Teens

Roller Hockey

The Golden Skate Roller Hockey League begins its Fall season Mon., Sept. 18 for children age 9 through 19. Register before Tues., Aug. 29. Call Kristie, 314-0457 or visit www.thegoldenskate.com/hockey.html.

Lectures/ Workshops

Mandala Art Lecture and Workshop

Judy Gardner will lecture on the Mandala and its transformational aspects, and guide participants as they create their own mandala paintings from 7-10 p.m., Wed., Aug. 30 at The Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$30 for materials, \$25 for the class. Call 426-8255.

Live Music

The John Palowitch Trio

John Palowitch, Eric Ford and Jonathan Stein will be performing a mixture of jazz standards, contemporary jazz and originals at 2 p.m., Sun., Aug. 27 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Teresa, 931-3404.

Miscellaneous

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Donate Blood between 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tues., Aug. 29 at Hewitt Associates, 7901 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 100 and between 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 31 at Washington Mutual, 4520 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Call Kathryn, (510) 594-5204 or (510) 773-2416.

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Donate blood from noon-6 p.m., Wed., Aug. 30 at Toyota Motor Sales, 2451 Bishop Dr., San Ramon. Call Beth, 275-3428 or visit www.beadonor.com and type in the code TOYOTA84.

Travel into California's Past

Visit a 2,500-year-old heritage with Dino Labiste, a naturalist from East Bay Regional Park District, at 1 p.m., Tues., Aug. 29 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Admission is free. Call Raymond, 931-5365.


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CITY OF PLEASANTON NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees for the terms indicated:

City of Pleasanton Commissions/Committee (Four-Year Terms)

- Housing Commission, • Library Commission, Alternate Member
- Housing Commission, Alternate Member • Civic Arts Commission, Alternate Member
- Economic Vitality Committee, (1) At-large Member; (1) Residential Builder Representative; (1) Financial Institution Representative

Regional Commissions/Boards

- Alameda County Housing Commission, Pleasanton Representative, Term: September 2006-December 2007
- Tri-Valley Conservancy, Pleasanton Representative, Four-year term

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

Interviews will be held the week of September 11. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

**YOUTH MASTER PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF VACANCIES**

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications for 8 members to serve the Pleasanton Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee. The 8 members will be appointed by the City Council and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board. This is a non-paid position.

The purpose of the Committee is to implement the goals and objectives of the Youth Master Plan of Pleasanton such as: the Youth Center, Ptown411 web page and Youth-related workshops and events. The Plan focuses on providing services to youth throughout the community. Specifically it addresses issues of programs and activities, health and wellness, childcare, jobs, leadership, and communication amongst children, youth and families. The Committee is comprised of representatives from various community organizations, schools, and businesses. The Task Force is comprised of 30 members. There are currently vacancies for the following representatives:

- o 2 At-Large Parent Representatives – one representative from a pre-school and one representative from a middle school
- o 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- o 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- o 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- o 1 Alternate Representative from Amador High School
- o 1 Youth Representative and 1 Alternate from Village High School
- o 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School
- o 1 Youth Representative from Pleasanton Middle School

It is anticipated that the YMPIC Committee will meet at least monthly for the purpose of implementing these projects. Committee members will be appointed for a one-year term initially.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

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.

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 pleasenior@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

Judy Young

Judy Young, a member of Tri-Valley Unity Church, will share stories of faith, hope and courage of the people affected by Hurricane Katrina during the regular worship service at 10 a.m., Sun., Aug. 27 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Practices of Meditation

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., presents, "Touching the Sacred: Christian Practice of

Meditation," at 7 p.m., every Monday from Sept. 18 through Oct. 16. All are welcome. Register before Fri., Sept. 8. Call 462-4802.

Psychology of Jesus

Remember what Jesus is all about and stimulate, clarify, and direct on matters of salvation and mental health from 7-8:30 p.m., Mon., Sept. 11 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Call 560-3826 or register at www.crosswindschurch.org/workshops.

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.

Support Groups

Forty Plus of Northern California

The group is for professionals over the age of 40 who are unemployed or in career transition. The free classes are held 8:30 a.m.-noon Mondays at 770 Edgewater Drive, Suite 626, Oakland. Call (510) 568-7587 or visit www.fortyplus.org.

Grandparents Visitation Support Group

Grandparents who have problems visiting their grandchildren meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday in March at Pleasanton Public Library in the small conference room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Space is limited. Call Joyce, 339-4700.

Head Injury Support

This group provides support for brain-injured individuals and their caregivers. It meets from 7:30-9 p.m. every fourth Wednesday in the Blackhawk Room at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call Jo Ann, 443-4366.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C support group meets at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday monthly in the ValleyCare Medical Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Dr., Suite 270. Call 734-3300.

Hope Hospice Bereavement Support

The nonprofit organization offers a wide range of support groups, including grief support for adults, teens, children; young adult support; tragic loss; loss of children; men in grief; terminal illness; loss of parents; and loss of spouse; among others. Meetings are held at 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 214, Dublin. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospice.com.

Independent Living

If you or your loved one need a personal assistant to help maintain independent living, Community Resources for Independent Living can help with specific needs. Call 371-1531; TTY, 371-1532. Visit www.cril-online.org.

Jobs Networking Group

CSIX East Bay, helping individuals in career transitions, meets from 1-3:30 p.m. every Thursday at WineCentives, 6040 Dougherty Road, Dublin. Cost is \$3. Call Doug Herz, 277-6600.

League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen

This group is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, express feelings, form friendships and understand and improve relationships with women. The group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Anthropos Counseling Center, 326 South L. St., Livermore. Call 449-7925.

Live Beat Dads

Fathers who are raising their children meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 1550 Springtown Blvd., Suite 7E, Livermore, for discussions and speakers on individual's rights, custody issues, networking and parenting programs. Child care is available. Call Pete, 449-8436, or visit www.lbduk.org.

Men at Work

This Al-Anon group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call Tom, 417-7540.

Men's Support Group

Anthropos Counseling Center provides

support for men to improve personal growth and change and become aware of emotional habits and attitude. Group meets from 7-8:30 p.m. every Friday, 326 S. L. St., Livermore. Call 449-7925.

Military Group

Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets 7 p.m. the second Tuesday monthly, held at different group member's home. Call Chris, 730-1604.

Narconon Arrowhead

Narconon Arrowhead offers free addiction counseling, assessments and referrals to rehabilitation centers nationwide. Call (800) 468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com.

Newcomers to Al-Anon

This group, for those who are new to Al-Anon and anyone who is affected by someone else's drinking, meets 7-7:55 p.m. Thursdays at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Room H, Dublin. Call 277-7661.

Operation SAM

The group, offering emotional support to families with loved ones in the military, meets at 7 p.m., the second Monday monthly at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Call Kristin, 443-7841.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meetings are held from 7-8 p.m., Thursdays at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call Lisa, 931-0994.

Parents of Alcoholics

Parents of alcoholics are welcome to join this Al-Anon group that meets 4:30-5:30 p.m. and at 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sundays at CalFed Bank, 3101 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 277-7661.

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/pleasantonspecial to join. E-mail pleasantonspecial@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

COPPS in Pleasanton

Take a look into the Pleasanton Police Department at 1 and 8 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 and Sun., Aug. 27 on channel 30.

In a Word

Join Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova for interviews with authors and the TV30 Book Club at 6:30 a.m., 12:30, and 9:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 and Sun., Aug. 27 on channel 30.

Mayors Report

Review issues affecting the Tri-Valley with four Tri-Valley Mayors at 10, 10:30 a.m., 5, and 5:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 and Sun., Aug. 27 on channel 30.

School Board Meeting

The Pleasanton School Board meeting from Tues., Aug. 22 will air at 6 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 and 10 a.m., Sun., Aug. 27 on channel 28.

Your Schools

Join Myla Grasso for a look into Pleasanton Schools at 3 p.m., Sat., Aug. 26 and Sun., Aug. 27 on channel 30.

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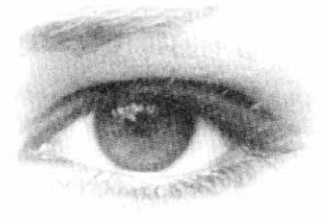
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Jim's Country Style Restaurant
 5400 Sunol Blvd., next to Raley's, Pleasanton, (925) 426-7019. Loved by locals and famous for its ranch-style omelets and large portions, Jim's serves up the country-style fixings from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. So if you're 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.

(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.



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Indian

Chef India Cuisine

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

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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.



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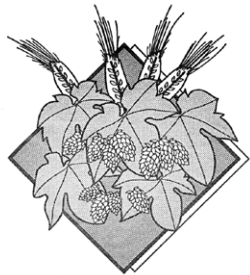


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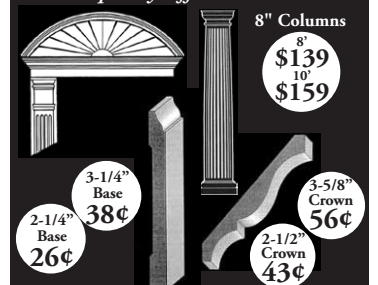
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