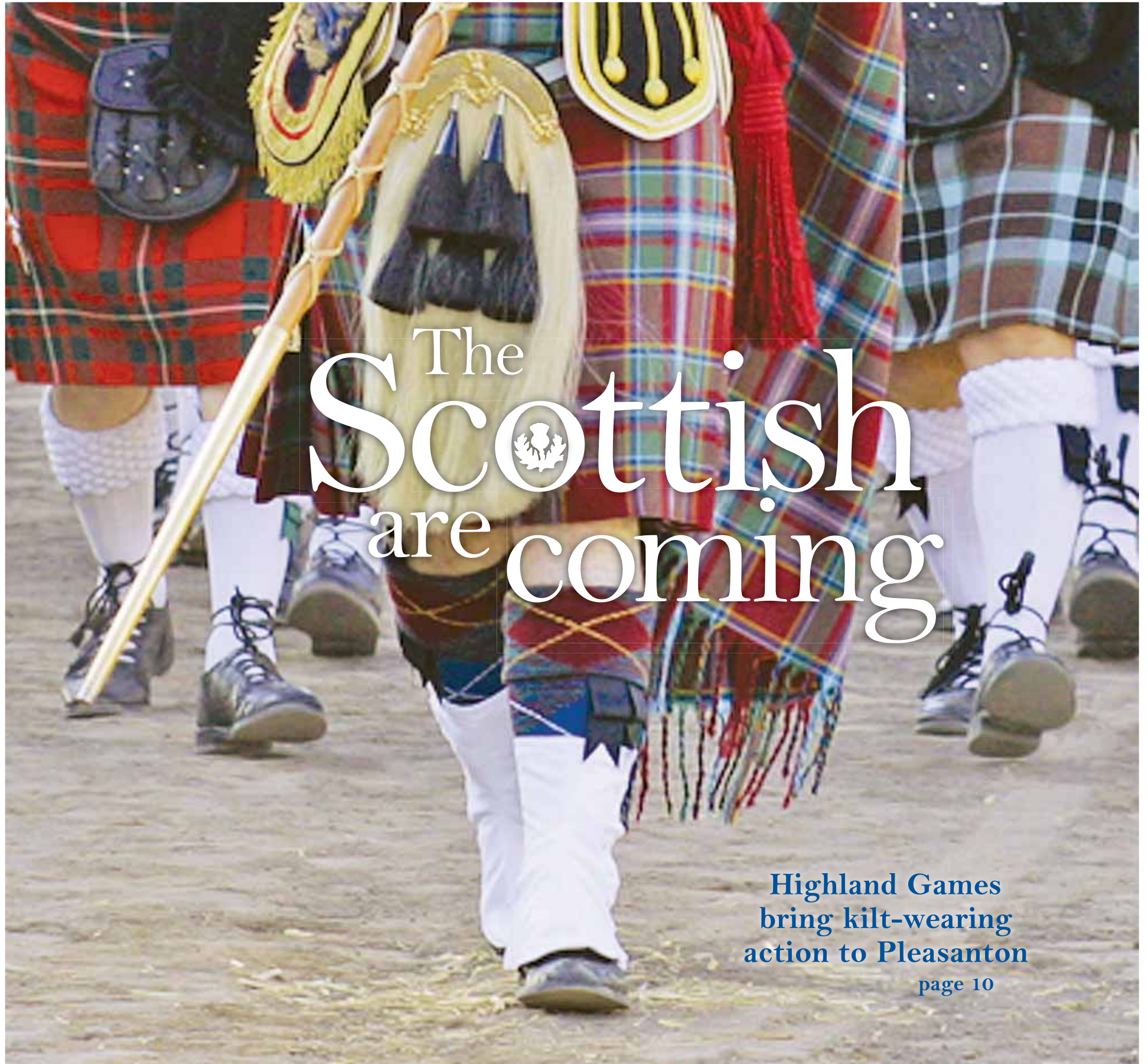


PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 32 • September 1, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton



The Scottish are coming

Highland Games
bring kilt-wearing
action to Pleasanton
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Don't delay

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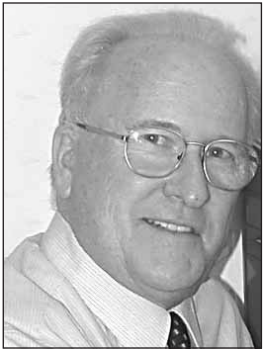
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Toby Brink a good choice for business group

Toby Brink, who has been the executive director of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce for the last four years, has been tapped to take over the reins of the Tri-Valley Business Council Sept. 11 from Tom O'Malley, the organization's first executive director and highly regarded regional strategist. Brink, whom I've known since the days when he built the Tri-Valley and Tri-Cities Junior Achievement organization into one that gained national recognition, is a good choice for a job that requires extensive contacts and knowledge of the local business community and the four cities that also support the council: Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon. For starters, Brink will have to look at the plan that's driven the council: Vision 2010. At the time it was initiated back in October 1998, the diverse group of Tri-Valley leaders who joined together to develop a vision for the future of the region viewed 2010 as a realistic target for improving the outreach of the Valley to the Bay Area and even national business community. Many of its objectives have been realized in terms of economic growth and vitality. Brink's job will be to take another look at the 2010 objectives with an eye for moving them out a few more years as he revitalizes the council and increases its visibility and viability.

Brink was born near Stockholm and came to the United States when he was 4 years old, growing up in Marin County. He went back to Sweden to boarding school, and then returned to obtain a degree in philosophy from the University of San Francisco in 1991. He then joined Dianne Feinstein's staff for her first Senatorial campaign, later serving as a case worker on her San Francisco Senate office staff. He became a director of a work study program at an international language school before joining Junior Achievement in 1998.

Under Brink's leadership, the San Ramon Chamber has moved from a small-town style nonprofit

to one of the top chambers in the state, with strong support from Chevron and AT&T as well as other major businesses in that city's thriving Bishop Ranch complex. He was asked to testify in the hearings on the merger of AT&T and SBC, a new telecommunications company that eventually adopted the AT&T corporate name. Brink's frequent dealings with the corporate giants in the Valley will add influence and contributions to the Tri-Valley Council, which can use a boost. Already, Brink is working on a Web site matching system, with a prototype at the San Ramon chamber that corporate leaders like. It's a match-up system that the Business Council will operate, giving companies that are searching for people with finance, human resources, even public relations skills, but don't want to advertise those positions or take the time to review applications. Brink's system has both the companies on one end and the skilled professional on the other list their attributes without any identification. When a match looks good, Brink's site allows both sides to take a closer look, and eventually to meet.

Brink also plans to work on a "branding" program for the Tri-Valley. We're behind in that effort, with the Silicon Valley, San Diego and even Pittsburgh promoting their business and workplace environments in national publications and global meetings. Few have heard of the Tri-Valley, even groups just across the Bay, and Brink wants to change that by promoting the quality of life, economic vitality and transportation network here. With the Livermore Lab, wine country, top-of-the-line golf courses and favorable climate, Brink thinks there's much to attract new businesses to the Valley and to keep those that are here now. I do too and look forward to hearing Brink's inaugural presentation at the Tri-Valley Business Council's long-overdue membership meeting to be held in mid-October. ■

About the Cover

For 141 years, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco has held an annual Scottish Gathering and Games, and the last 12 have been in Pleasanton. Thousands will pour into the city this weekend to join in the games, and some may even wear kilts. But what happens during the event, and what exactly is a caber toss? Cover design by Jason Lind.

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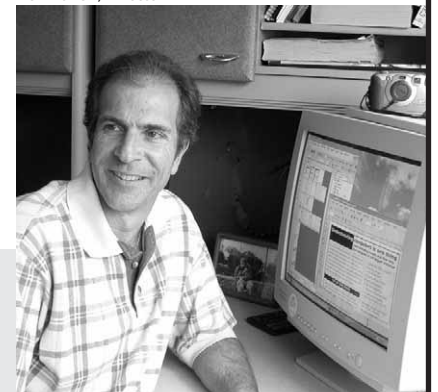


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Streetwise

Q: How do you feel about more million-dollar-plus homes being built in the hills surrounding Pleasanton?

Asked around town



Amy Fox

Owner of Day Art Studio

I think Pleasanton can benefit from more homes being built in a variety of areas and values. The issues, I feel, are for existing residents not to have their view-shed interrupted and to make sure the City Council looks at balancing affordable housing with the million-dollar-plus homes.

Hank Jones

Software consultant

I do not mind million-dollar homes being built on the hills as long as they are not high up on the Ridge and they are camouflaged. We need to maintain the natural wonder of the area. I worked to help preserve the Ridglands area 20 years ago and I would hate to see that beauty destroyed.



Lisa Desmond

Homemaker

I am not opposed to building more homes in the hills, but projects like that should be taken very seriously. We need to evaluate the effect to the surrounding area and the environment. There should be limitations to the size and scale of the project in order to preserve the natural landscape.



Marina Meyere

Attorney

I live in one of those homes. My particular development was very tastefully built, preserving the green space quite well. The main reason I moved to Pleasanton was for the open space, hiking trails and the wonderful way that Pleasanton has preserved the natural feeling of the town. I would hate to see anything that would not protect our open space.



Chris Newkirk

Young adult ministry assistant

I can tell you that, based on my understanding of young adults in this area, there is a great need for affordable housing. Young people coming out of school and merging into adult life need to be able to establish their own homes in this town. I would be for anything that would allow that to happen over more affluent housing for people who have already made it.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan



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Newsfront

News Digest

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CSUEB student health center earns accreditation

The Student health center at California State University East Bay has earned the seal of approval from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, a national organization that promotes quality health care services in the outpatient clinical environment. The health center, located on both the Hayward and Concord campuses, received a three-year re-accreditation, signifying the university has substantially complied with the rigorous standards of care being evaluated.

'Bras for a Cause'

The Tri-Valley SOCKS are hosting the first "Bras for a Cause" Moonlight Walk, Sept. 8, at the Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton. Participants will join in a 10K fundraising walk in which all the money raised will go to the San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. All information regarding the event can be found on www.trivalleysock.org/walkinfo.htm.

Newcott-Caldebery award deadline approaching

The Pleasanton Library is accepting original stories by children entering Grades 1-8 for its 2006 Newcott-Caldebery Book Award Program. Young authors and illustrators have until Saturday, Sept. 16, to write or draw a story and deliver entries to the Children's Desk. All young authors will be recognized at an awards ceremony to be held on Oct. 25 and will have their book added to the library's collection for general checkout. Entry forms will be available at the Children's Desk or call 931-3400 ext. 8 for information.

Police Chief to retire in December

Tim Neal served four cities over 30-year career

by Jeb Bing

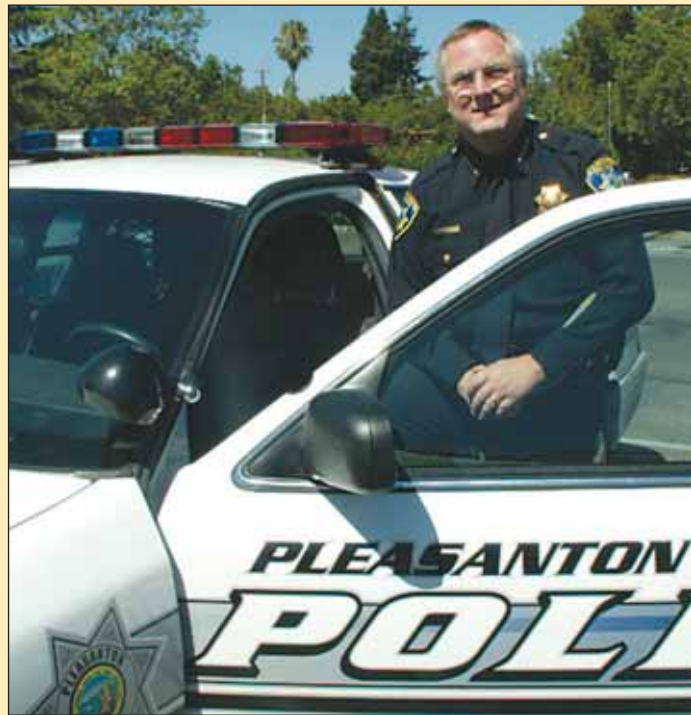
Pleasanton Police Chief Tim Neal has announced that he will retire at the end of the year, wrapping up 30 years of police work at age 52.

A 26-year Pleasanton resident, he and his wife Robin raised their two children, Scott and Kathy, here during most of the years he served with four police departments: Union City, Mountain View, Tracy and Pleasanton. He was named chief of the Pleasanton force in 1999.

He was just 16 and a junior at Cupertino High School when he befriended several Santa Clara city traffic officers at the El Camino Real gas station where he worked part-time.

"I remember Anton Morec, who is now a retired police sergeant, talking about how great his job was, with something new and different happening every day," Neal said. "I was hooked and decided to make police work a career."

After receiving a bachelor's



Police Chief Tim Neal at his squad car announces plans to retire at the end of the year.

degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University in 1976, he was hired by the Union City police department, where he was promoted several times and

stayed 11 years before joining the Mountain View force, where he became a captain. He was also the department's pick to

(continued on page 9)

Council to consider acquiring cemetery

More than 1,000 sign petitions to put city in charge

by Jeb Bing

The Pleasanton City Council will consider plans Tuesday to take over the historic Pleasanton Memorial Gardens cemetery on Sunol Boulevard, which is now owned by the Livermore chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows, an organization whose membership and funds are rapidly dwindling.

The council turned down a bid last May by a citizens' committee to buy the deteriorating cemetery for \$1, an offer the committee had received from the Odd Fellows. However, it agreed to review the proposal again after a study was conducted to develop an action plan.

Chris Berattis Sr., a downtown businessman and developer, is chairman of the 10-man Pioneers group that is pressing the council to acquire the cemetery and maintain it. His group will present the council with petitions signed by more than 1,000 residents who support

the takeover.

He also said his group would volunteer its services to help supervise maintenance, and has arranged with a landscaping firm to perform routine maintenance.

The cemetery, located near I-680 at the gateway to Pleasanton, was opened 120 years ago. It is adjacent to another old cemetery owned and operated by St. Augustine Catholic Church. One of the proposals to be considered by the council Tuesday would seek to partner with the church in maintaining the grave sites. ■

Indian culture shines at the library

Food festival kicks-off year-long 'Fusion Pleasanton' program

by Rebecca Guyon

Pleasanton and India are closer than one might think, at least that's the case this year thanks to the Pleasanton Public Library's new program, "Fusion Pleasanton." Organized in partnership with the East Bay Marathi Mandal (EBMM) and made possible with a \$25,000 grant from the California State Library, the program kicks off next Saturday, Sept. 9 with a food festival titled "The Exotic Spices of India."

"We wanted to try and introduce the non-Indian community to the range of Indian cultural offerings,

have big programs on music and food, and also host educational seminars," said Penny Johnson, adult programming coordinator for the library. "We're trying to hit everything, which is impossible, but we cover the gamut so at the end of the school year the community will have a better understanding of India's history, richness of culture and know more than they began with. And hopefully the Indian community will feel they've been understood."

The year-long program will feature different aspects of Indian culture each month with events ranging from a discussion on the experience

of Indian women who immigrated to America to a look at Bollywood films. In addition to the monthly programs, there will be an ongoing story hour on Mondays featuring stories in Hindi and other Indian languages. The story times start Oct. 2 and will run through June 4. There is also an adult seminar series starting Jan. 24 featuring topics such as India's contribution to astronomy, the tech-boom of Bangalore, and travel and adventure in India.

During next Saturday's event, community members will learn about Indian cooking from food

(continued on page 6)

Making efficient use of city land

Developers, city officials seek to better housing situation

by Rebecca Guyon

When it comes to planning cities, two things are for sure: do it early and have funding. At least, those are the two conclusions made by panelists during a discussion on the East Bay Area's housing and land use priorities, organized by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EDA). The meeting, held at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek, addressed the housing situation in the East Bay and what city officials and developers can do to make sure cities are accommodating every citizen in the community. Many of the issues discussed directly relate to Pleasanton's current housing situation, as the city approaches build-out and may soon find itself in a legal battle with a San Francisco-based law firm demanding the city to rezone 30-40 acres for affordable housing.

The panel included Director of California Housing and Community Development Lynn Jacobs, Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart, Legislative Director of the League of California Cities Dan Carrigg, Chairman of the California Building Industry Association Layne Marceau and Planning Director for the Association of Bay Area Governments Janet McBride. Vice Chair of the East Bay EDA Mike Brown moderated the discussion.

Looking for areas of consensus among the panelist, Moore summarized that everyone agreed that, for a city to meet the housing and amenities needs of its citizens, it needs to develop specific plans for how land will be developed. Lockhart pointed to Dublin as an example of early planning done well.

"When we acquired east Dublin, we designed what we thought the community should look like," Lockhart said. "We decided how we wanted our community to grow by listing the number of people for each area, where things would be located and how it would all fit together. That way, when developers came to us, we could say, 'Look at the map. This is where housing goes, this is where there needs to be a park and there also needs to be a school here.'"

"The issue we keep hearing is that planning for housing earlier is much better than waiting for, say, Shay Homes to walk in and

(continued on page 7)

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Library

(continued from page 5)

writers Laxmi Hiremath and Lachu Moorjani before getting a chance to sample a wide variety of Indian foods. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will also be at the event to kick off the program.

"We wanted to start with a block party feel where it's casual and people can chat and move around," Johnson said.

Most of the programming is organized by the EBMM, a nonprofit organization that strives to promote the culture of Maharashtra, a state

on the west coast of India. One of the grant's requirements was that the library team up with a local nonprofit organization. As it happens, Johnson knew Varsha Upadhye, board member of EBMM, through their children's shared activities. Johnson contacted Upadhye to see if she knew of any Indian organizations that might be interested in working with the library on the grant and Upadhye immediately jumped at the chance.

"This is a phenomenal opportunity for EBMM," Upadhye said. "To do this work with the library was the best thing to happen to us. We feel really excited about it and

fortunate."

Although EBMM traditionally promotes Maharashtra culture, the organization is making sure that all of the cultures of India are represented in the program.

"Since India is so diverse, every state has as different languages and cuisine, so showing the whole of India is a big task," Upadhye explained.

EBMM and the library hope that, by the end of the year, Pleasanton residents will have a better idea of the cultures of India and members of the Indian community will feel embraced by the town.

"I think after this year, people will

walk away with an understanding of what Indian culture is all about and that our Pleasanton community is very diverse," Upadhye said. "This is a good opportunity for us to show what India is about." ■

Get involved with 'Fusion Pleasanton'

"The Exotic Spices of India: The Makings of an Authentic Spicy Desi" is Saturday, Sept. 9 from 3:30-7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Check the library's online calendar at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library for all upcoming events in the "Fusion Pleasanton" series.

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Gallery expands onto Main Street

Studio 7 Fine Arts will be Bay Area's largest gallery

by Emily Atwood

Since Hope Hospice moved out, neighboring Studio 7 Fine Arts nabbed the coveted corner of Main and Angela streets and expanded to become the Bay Area's largest art gallery. It will boast 5,000 square feet, compared to its former 1,500-square-foot space tucked around the corner.

"Several times a day (during the remodel) I've had people come ask me if we're a new business," owner Jaime Dowell said. "We've been in business for 24 years and we're excited to be rediscovered. I've always considered Studio 7 to be a hidden gem."

Being located on a prime corner of the street is not something that the studio takes lightly. Dowell considers it her "responsibility" to utilize the location and be a resource to the community. To do these, they plan to stay open later



Studio 7 Fine Arts owner Jaime Dowell stands in front of the new Main Street location. The gallery re-opens Sept. 6.

Emily Atwood

on some evenings and host events (like artist receptions and solo exhibitions with food, live music and local wines) once a month.

With almost double the space to fill, Studio 7 is bringing in a little more of everything—fine art,

fine crafts, glass, jewelry, wood and sculpture—to bring even more diversity to an already unique display of artwork. The new expansion will also allow them to more completely showcase several pieces

(continued on page 8)

City land

(continued from page 5)

say, 'I want 500 homes' and then you have to think 'we'd better do a study to look at the issues,'" Moore added.

Carrigg pointed out that most cities in California, including Pleasanton, have General Plans that are out of date. However, unlike Pleasanton, most of these cities have not done a General Plan update because they do not have the funds needed to do the planning, such as paying for staff time and conducting tests. Jacobs said that the state is trying to address this by simplifying grant forms, as well as proposing legislation to give cities additional funds for housing priorities.

Carrigg advocated that cities that do not have "green space," a term used to describe open land with nothing built on it, should look into in-fill development, or construction in an already established area. Part of the challenge with in-fill is that it can require changes in a city's zoning and requires the city promise developers that the infrastructure can accommodate whatever amenities will go on the property, Carrigg added.

The East Bay EDA held the panel discussion to solicit suggestions in ways to improve the increasingly cramped housing situation in the East Bay Area and begin to work toward solutions. The organization is planning to present a series of solutions to lawmakers in Sacramento in the coming fall. ■

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'Best in the West'

Cal State East Bay makes the cut

The Princeton Review, one of the top evaluators and guides for university-bound students in the United States, has selected California State University, East Bay as a "Best in the West" college for 2006.

In its third consecutive year of being recognized by the Princeton Review, Cal State East Bay received high marks for academics, small class sizes, campus life, and a diversity of ages, races, and ethnicities that make up its student population.

Robert Franek, Princeton Review publisher, noted that the university was one of 123 colleges receiving the "Best in the West" designation. This year, 656 American universities were surveyed in five geographic regions. Cal State East Bay was one of only 43 California institutions of

higher learning recognized, and one of just seven selected from the 23-campus California State University system.

Cal State East Bay plans on opening a new 67,000 square-foot Wayne and Gladys Valley Business and Technology Center early next year, which contributed to the Review's inclusion of the university in the "Best of the West" ranking. The campus also noted its growing sports program and aggressive plan to emphasize freshmen enrollment as key factors that make the school appealing.

Additional comments and information about Cal State East Bay by the Princeton Review can be found on the Review's Web site at www.princetonreview.com/college/research/regional.

—Jackie Pugh

Gallery

(continued from page 7)

from current artists, instead of one or two.

Studio 7 will be one of several galleries on Main Street, but this doesn't bother Dowell. "The more galleries the better! I wish there were more," she said. "Every gallery has its own approach, which gives each a different experience."

Dowell adds that new art is continually added to Studio 7, so even coming back to the same shop should be a new experience.

The gallery will open for business on Sept. 6, and will have a grand opening event on Sept. 16. For more information, visit Studio7FineArts.com.

Dowell has worked hard to bring art to the community, and through Studio 7 and the Firehouse Art Center, she continues to work towards that goal. ■

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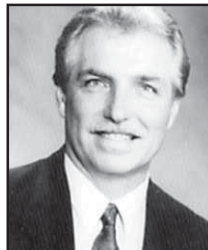
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Chief Neal

(continued from page 5)

serve on Secret Service details that guarded Presidents Gerald Ford, George H. W. Bush and William Clinton during visits they made to the Silicon Valley. Photos of Neal with the presidents adorn his office.

In 1997, after serving with Mountain View for 10 years, the police chief's job opened up in Tracy. Neal applied and was hired, leaving that position two years later to accept the chief's position in Pleasanton.

"Chief Neal's 30-year career has been marked with significant accomplishments," City Manager Nelson Fialho said. "Neal turned our police department into a model of community-oriented policing, hired good and honest people, and made significant strides in building bridges with the community, especially our youth."

From the start, Neal made community relations a focus of his work. He began the department's highly successful Citizen Police Academy and later the Teen Citizen's Police Academy. These programs have now graduated more than 400 students.

Neal said he and his wife plan to stay in Pleasanton, and that he might work as a substitute teacher at Las Positas College, where he serves on the Criminal Justice

Take Us Along



The Weekly's not a bore
Peter, Florrie, Ed and Allie Novak are such avid readers of the Weekly that they brought the paper with them on their cruise to Bora Bora.

Advisory Committee. He is currently president of the Alameda County Police Chief's Association and will complete that term of office at year's end. He is also vice president of the board of directors of Hope Hospice and plans to continue that role.

His wife works as a Property and Evidence Technician for the Fremont Police Department.

Fialho will start a search for Neal's replacement this month, with the Pleasanton department's two captains, Mike Fraser and Dave Spiller, expected to be among the candidates. Neal said that although he plans to retire Dec. 31, he had agreed to stay longer if needed during an extended recruitment or transition period. ■

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The Scottish Highland Games bring kilt-wearing action to Pleasanton

are coming

by Rebecca Guyon



Courtesy Caledonian Club

Whether high or low, all roads lead to Pleasanton this weekend, at least for people looking to learn more about Scottish heritage and tradition. That's because the Caledonian Club of San Francisco is hosting its annual Scottish Gathering and Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Sept. 2-3. The games kicked-off today with the annual "March Under the Arch," bringing marching bagpipe bands and dancers down Main Street and under the arch to announce, "The Scottish are coming!"

"It's a way to remind everyone that the 'Scottish circus' is in town," said John Biggar, chief of the Caledonian Club. "You don't have to wear a kilt, but come."

Highland Games are a Scottish tradition dating back to before recorded history and modern-day Scots keep the games alive as a way of celebrating their heritage. The games include strong-man athletic, bagpipe and Highland dancing competitions, as well as booths for Scottish clans to display family heritage and for people to search their own family's genealogy.

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco held its first Scottish Gathering and Games in 1866, the year after the American Civil War ended, making this the club's 141st game. Since then, the club has not missed a year, and the event has grown to be the largest Highland Games in North America. Last year, over the course of the two days, nearly 45,000 people attended. In fact, around the world the Pleasanton games are known as "The Big One."

"When Scots are talking at other Highland Games and they say they're going to 'the big one,' everyone knows that's the Pleasanton games," Biggar said.

Part of what makes the Pleasanton games so popular is that it's also the World Highland Games Championship competition.

"At smaller games, you can go and compete as a novice trying it out, but at Pleasanton you can't just come and say I'd like to compete. You have to qualify somewhere else first and prove you are a worthwhile competitor," explained James Jardine, historian for the Caledonian Club.

Several "big names" on the professional Highland games circuit will compete this weekend including Harrison Bailey III from Pennsylvania, Sean Betz from Nebraska, Kerry Overfelt from Kentucky, Larry Brock from North Carolina and the reigning World Champion Ryan Vierra from California.

With events like the caber toss, stone put, Scottish hammer throw and weight over the bar, the athletics competition is a far cry from the typical sports Americans are used to playing. Take for example the caber toss, perhaps one of the most recognizable events in the Highland Games. It is just what it says: a man takes a caber—a wood pole that weighs 120-150 pounds and is 13-14 feet long—and literally tosses it. The goal is to have the caber do a 180 spin in the air and land directly in front of the tosser. Competitors are judged on accuracy rather than distance. In the weight over the bar event, athletes throw a 56 pound weight over a bar with one hand. Each round the bar is raised and only athletes who clear the height that round advance to the next.

Other events may seem a bit more familiar. The weight throw resembles the modern-day hammer throw seen in the Olympics, where a competitor takes a weight and tosses it while standing in one place, with the winners judged on distance. Similarly, the stone put (pronounced "foot") resembles the Olympic shot put with competitors tossing a heavy stone for distance. Within this event, there are actually two categories—the lighter stone event, which ironically is called the "heavy stone," and then the heavy stone event, called the Braemar stone, named after Braemar Royal Castle in Scotland.

Although these sporting events are ingrained in Scottish tradition, there is little recorded history about their origins.

"It wasn't something historians or chroniclers of the moment recorded. They were more interested in political things, and that's what got written up as so-called history, so the sporting world was not as well documented," Jardine said. But that doesn't mean people do not speculate about the origins of the games.

"There are so many opinions about how it started," Biggar explained. "One of the more ridiculous stories is that a man cut down a tree and then toss it off a fjord and the people counted that by saying why would you do that?"

"The whole concept started in the Scottish Highlands, which is very clannish," Biggar added. "Families and one family would say to the other, 'I'll go to the other side of the fjord farther than you.' It was just part of the tradition of competing in events."

Why the games stuck is somewhat of a mystery, but one fact that, as his son-in-law of Scottish ancestry, Biggar knows to do everything their way.

In addition to the athletic competitions in piping, drumming and Highland dancing, there is also a focus on the competition, running through the woods, which happens to be one of the most popular events. Highland dancing and dancing competitions are just as common as the athletic events and bands coming from across the country to compete.

Just about every Scottish Games, whether held in Scotland or elsewhere, will include athletics, piping and Highland dancing. At the Pleasanton games, the Caledonian Club has several groups to perform, Biggar said.

"Celtic rock is combining rock music with traditional tunes, a lot of old tunes revisited and amped up, and it appeals to a lot of younger audiences."

Not that the club needs to do anything to attract the thousands of people taking part in the games. As participants, the Caledonian Club, which is a volunteer organization, needs to bring in hundreds of people. Fortunately, more than 200 volunteers come to the games to do tasks that can range from making sure bands have a place to sell merchandise. Volunteers are not just from Pleasanton, but many people who are either interested in the games or with some aspect of the event help keep the games going. Distances to help at the games, some come from as far as Sonoma County or southern Santa Clara County.

All the pre-game work, however, is done by the club. About 60 Caledonian members either volunteer or are paid to start planning for that year's games. The work of the pre-work involves working out the details of athletic competitors.

"Because people are coming from all over the world, like Tokyo, they have to start saving money early and get their schedules in line far in advance."

In fact, it was due to the growing number of people coming from all over the state, country and world that the games moved to the Fairgrounds in 1994. The games were held at the Rosa Fairgrounds, but with only a two-lane road leading to the traffic into the games became a problem. Pleasanton, located between Interstates 580 and 880, is a convenient location, he added.

But, logistics aside, Pleasanton also has a long history as it is a sister city with Blairgowrie, Scotland. The PBFSCO (Pleasanton Blairgowrie Fergus Sister City Organization) was formed in 1994 and many of its members are also members of the Caledonian Club. Three of the Caledonian Club's past chairs are also members of PBFSCO. PBFSCO President Malcolm Carden said the two organizations do not overlap entirely is because the Caledonian Club has stricter criteria for membership—only those with Scottish ancestry they are of Scottish ancestry—whereas the PBFSCO is a city alliance can join PBFSCO.

During the week leading up to the games, there are themed events around town, one of which is a parade for PBFSCO.

"It is part of our social contribution to the community," Carden said. "It's something we've always done that links the games to the local community."

Another Pleasanton link to the games is Scott Walsh, who was injured in a fire in 1994. He is a member of the Caledonian Club and has been a fan of the games since he was a child. He has warm wishes in his continuing recovery, and he will be participating in the games' closing ceremonies.

Biggar said that he hopes Pleasanton will continue to learn a bit about Scottish heritage and tradition.

"You get to hear the bagpipes and see the kilts, which you usually only see on postcards and travel brochures, right in Pleasanton." ■



GOING TO THE

The Scottish Gathering and Games Sept. 2-3 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$10 for one day or \$22 for two days. Tickets are \$5 for those 65 or older and handicapped persons. Admission is free for those 12 and under.

ow the caber toss was started," Jardine says. One of the reasons is that these guys would chop a log and make a bridge out of it. Of course, you wouldn't just have walked around?"

Scotland Highlands where they were. The men would get together, throw a picnic for family, 'We can throw a 50 pound log for fun and years later they started

a mystery. Jardine chalks it up to the fact that the Danish decent says, "the Scots have

on, the Highland Games also include Highland dancing. Even sheep dogs get timed courses in the "sheep dog trials," popular events, Jardine said. The piping is as competitive as the sporting events with no compete.

ether in the United States, Scotland or Ireland, dancing and clan tents, but each one has its own unique. The Caledonian Club has begun bringing Celtic rock

with bagpipes," he explained. "It's a pumping major voltage, and bringing

ing to bring people to the games. With the games, either as spectators or participants a nonprofit, entirely volunteer-based group of volunteers to help pull off the event. They come out, willing to help with a variety of tasks and are on time for their performances. They are not necessarily club members. In fact, many of the games or have children involved in it running. Volunteers also travel long distances from as far away as Sacramento, California to County.

is done by Caledonian members. Some are lead or are members of committees that meet nearly a full year in advance. Most of the scheduling with judges, bands and

all over, as far away as Australia and New Zealand and they need to know they're coming in advance," Biggar said.

number of people coming to the games was so large that prompted the Caledonian Club to move the event was previously held at the Santa Fe Fairgrounds, Biggar said. The Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, CA 94568, provided a more ideal

made an ideal home for the games in California. The Pleasanton Blairgowrie Club (PBFSCO) provides many volunteers for the games. Many members of the Caledonian Club. Some of the members were members of PBFSCO, said Biggar. Perhaps the only reason the clubs are so large is that the Caledonian Club actually has much more people can join and they must prove that they are anyone who is interested in the sister

the games, there are many Scottish-themed events which is the pub night sponsored by the

to the games more than anything else," Biggar says. "It's one of the few events that brings the community."

is Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Captain John Walsh who died in a lighting accident earlier this year. Walsh was a member of PBFSCO. To honor Walsh, and bid him farewell, there will be a salute to him on Sunday.

residents take advantage of the chance to go and enjoy the games this weekend: "I'll see the caber toss—things that people don't see, but it is here, in living color



Courtesy Caledonian Club

Highland dancing, a form of Scottish dance similar to ballet, requires a lot of skill and strength. During the Scottish Gathering and Games, Highland dancers from across the country come to compete.



Courtesy Caledonian Club

Bagpipes and Scotland go hand in hand, so it's no wonder pipe bands play a huge role in the Scottish Gathering and Games.

Left: The caber toss is one of the most popular athletic events in the Scottish Gathering and Games.

THE GAMES



is this weekend, Sat.-Sun., Sept. 2-3. Adult admission is \$15 for youth ages 8-16, seniors age 65 and older are \$10. Children 7 or younger

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, September 5, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- Consider Acquisition of Pleasanton Memorial Gardens Cemetery
- Approve plans and specifications; review bids and award construction contract for the Vineyard Hills Reservoir and Access Road; amendment to the contract with Tetra Tech, Inc., to perform construction management services for the project; amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement with Threehand LP; and direction to staff to develop a financing plan for the remaining portions of the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area Infrastructure - Continued from August 15, 2006
- Public Hearing: PAP-98, Steve and Carol Stanton, appellants; (PAP-97 Stanton/PADR-1542 Sweeney Construction, for Jim Rhoades) appeal of the Planning Commission decision denying PAP-97, the appeal of Steve and Carol Stanton, thereby upholding the Zoning Administrator's approval of PADR-1542, the application of Sweeney Construction for administrative design review approval to construct an approximately 1,224 sq. ft. 2nd floor addition and an approximately 120 sq. ft. 1st floor addition to the front of the existing residence located at 3227 Anastacia Court
- Informational report regarding City Council Rules and Operating Procedures – Representation of City Positions and use of Titles (IR 06:036)

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, September 6, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal

- Review of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidation Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2005
- Discussion of CDBG FY 2007/08 Funding Cycle
- Presentation of Draft Study for Viability of Taxi Use for Paratransit Services in the Tri-Valley

Civic Arts Commission

- The September 4 Civic Arts Commission meeting has been rescheduled to Monday September 11.

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©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

Strong armed robbery near the Ramada Inn

A man from Sacramento was arrested for strong armed robbery Saturday night in Pleasanton, according to police reports. The suspect was identified as Trini Mack Blakely, who is on active parole out of Sacramento County for assault with a deadly weapon. He was booked at Santa Rita Jail.

Around 1:30 a.m. officers were patrolling the parking lot of the Ramada Inn and witnessed a fight in progress. Officers saw a male adult at the door of a vehicle stopped in the driveway of the hotel, striking another male seated in the driver's seat of the car. When the male outside of the car

saw the police he fled on foot, and the officers chased him around the El Balazo restaurant until they caught him.

Apparently, the suspect and victim had been in the car together when they had an argument and the suspect reached over, turned the ignition of the car off and removed the car keys police said. He then got out of the car, walked around the driver's door, opened it and began striking the victim with both fists in the head. The victim attempted to protect himself and fight back until the suspect reached into the car and ripped a diamond bracelet off the victim's wrist and ran.

The victim, a 33 year old Tracy resident, sustained minor scratches to his wrist when Blakely grabbed the bracelet off his arm. He also had some swelling and a complaint of pain in his face and head, but refused medical treatment at the scene. The victim stated that value of the bracelet is \$120,000.

Police Report

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

August 21

- Theft: 4
- Vandalism: 2
- Assault:

- 6:12 p.m. in the 4000 block of Holland Drive

August 22

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 1

August 23

- Theft: 12
 - Vandalism: 5
 - Parole violation:
- 11:02 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

August 24

- Theft: 2
 - Vandalism: 1
 - Burglary: 1
 - DUI: 2
 - Found: 1
 - Graffiti:
- 12:00 a.m. in the 3300 block of Norton Way

- Assault:
- 3:29 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- 9:36 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

- Possession/sale of synthetic drugs:
- 4:42 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Navajo Court

August 25

- Theft: 2
 - Vandalism: 3
 - DUI: 1
 - Found: 1
 - Grand theft:
- 12:08 p.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive
- 2:00 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Drive

- Assault:
- 5:25 p.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court

August 26

- Theft: 2
 - Burglary: 2
 - Found: 1
 - Public drunkenness:
- 12:38 a.m. in the 4800 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 5:09 a.m. at the intersection of Birch Creek Drive and Vine Street
- Strong arm robbery:
- 1:29 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

- Possession of marijuana:
- 1:00 p.m. in the 6100 block of Via De Los Cerros

August 27

- Theft: 1
 - Vandalism: 1
 - Burglary: 1
 - DUI: 1
 - Sale of a deadly weapon:
- 12:26 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Drive
- Assault:
- 1:37 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Drive

ACCIDENTS

August 23

- 3:31 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road

August 24

- 7:06 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Stoneridge and Gibraltar drives

August 25

- 6:52 p.m. - Property damage at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Santa Rita Road

August 26

- 6:41 p.m. - Property damage in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road



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Opinion

Editorial

Vote Yes on Measure P

With a myriad of propositions and a multitude of national, state and local candidates on the ballot for the Nov. 7 General Election, one measure should be easy to answer for Pleasanton voters. Measure P. A “yes” vote for Measure P will provide unique opportunities for Pleasanton residents of all ages. This 318-acre Bernal “Grand Park,” which is now vacant land across Bernal Avenue from the Fairgrounds and along both sides of I-680, was a gift to the city of Pleasanton and is being designed around a framework of woodlands, meadows and wetlands. Trails and paths will intertwine throughout the park and connect to regional trails. Cultural and rural heritage will be showcased through agricultural and Native American historical reflective areas. Open space will dominate the grand park concept. Community facilities such as lighted sports fields, an outdoor amphitheater, children’s play areas, outdoor basketball courts, a teen and community center and a cultural arts facility that includes a theater, art classrooms, gallery, and rehearsal space are all planned as part of the eventual build-out of this treasured central park.

The Bernal property has long been considered the crown jewel of Pleasanton. Greenbriar Homes bought the 520-acre parcel from San Francisco in 2000 for \$126 million. In return for permits to build 581 homes and apartments and an office park of eight four-story buildings, it agreed to give the rest—381 acres—to the city and people of Pleasanton for public use. Since then, city commissions, task forces and the City Council developed a conceptual plan for developing Bernal into a Grand Park that will go to voters. Much of it is still a concept with funds appropriated so far only for three lighted baseball fields at the eastern edge of the site, where work will begin this fall. The rest will be developed in the coming years, possible decades, as funds become available. By approving Measure P, voters will give city planners the initial approval they need to start that process, which will continue to involve public discussion as it moves along.

During the political campaigns in the upcoming election, we’ll no doubt hear many reasons to favor or oppose propositions and candidates. But there won’t be any argument against Measure P from this newspaper or even on the Sample Ballot. Whether you are voting absentee or at the polls, we urge a “yes” vote on Measure P. ■

Your Turn

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or on issues of local interest. No anonymous letters or “open letters” to other organizations or individuals will be printed. Please provide your name, street address and daytime telephone number. Please keep length to 250 words or less. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length and style and for factual errors known to us.

Letters: Mail or hand deliver to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Fax: (925) 600-9559 **E-mail:** editor@PleasantonWeekly.com



Letters

Widen I-580 for BART

Dear Editor,

One of my last acts as a 14-year BART director was to secure the West Livermore station site on Airway Boulevard. That 53-acre site—far larger than any other BART station site—made practical the coming Isabel (SR-84) freeway interchange. Earlene DeMarcus, who succeeded me, got an even larger site near the truck scales for an East Livermore station site and train yard.

A BART rail line—track, signaling, power, ductwork and fencing—in a widened freeway median should cost about \$15 million per mile. (Stations, land, structures, earthwork, freeway widening, cars, a yard, shop, and “implementation” would be extra.)

BART should stay in a widened freeway median to east of Greenville Road. It should then curve under westbound I-580 up to the former SP roadbed aimed for later extension to Mountain House and Tracy. An ACE inter-modal facility there, with direct Altamont Pass freeway access and financed by parking fees, would ease I-580 congestion at no cost to BART taxpayers.

Stations near the Isabel interchange, the truck scales and at the inter-modal would give commuters an alternative to crowded I-580. Until BART rail comes, good bus service should link the future stations to BART trains at Dublin-Pleasanton.

Planning a widened right of way and compatible development should come first in capital spending. Caltrans has a crucial role in making it possible. They should acquire land ASAP to widen I-580; build heavy-duty truck lanes and shoulders just outside the existing truck lanes; resurface those for light vehicles; and convert existing inside lanes into a wide median for HOV lanes and future BART rail.

Funding for ACCMA’s eastbound HOV lane project, which would greatly increase the cost of BART rail to Livermore and benefit few other than Central Valley carpoolers, should go instead to a coherent I-580 widening program. Everyone would benefit!

BART valley floor land at East Livermore could be put to far higher use than storage tracks and shops. More earthwork would be required to put them beyond the UP/ACE overpass, but, with on-site borrow and waste, there would be little haul.

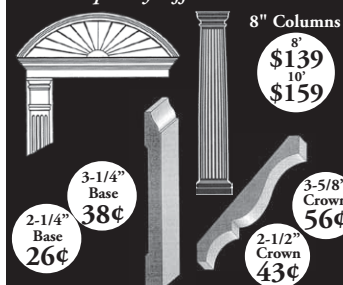
Caltrans’ top priority should be planning for, protecting and acquiring land for widening I-580 from Tassajara Creek to Greenville Road. ACCMA’s eastbound HOV project is a dreadful waste of scarce Alameda County funds—akin to Spare the Air subsidized rides on transit.

Robert S. Allen
BART Director (1974-1988)

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

WHY OWN YOUR HOME?

“The primary goal for first-time buyers is to build wealth through property acquisition—not simply to own a home. In other words, this is all about attitude.... For most Americans, property ownership is their primary opportunity to create wealth!”

Those words come from David Lereah, chief economist of the National Association of Realtors®, who has been observing our nation’s real estate market for many years. Here’s how he translates this insight into action: “If you are a young prospective household, I urge you to purchase your first home as soon as you are financially able. Each year you postpone purchasing a house, the greater the lost opportunity.”

Mr. Lereah knows very well the anxieties that can beset first-time buyers when they first contemplate the amount of money they will owe each month, once they have bought their home. He knows how difficult it can be to cobble together a meaningful down payment. But he also knows that, after a few years, when the home is worth a great deal more than it is today, those monthly payments will seem far more benign to the homeowners.

Indeed, he suggests that, as time passes, they should look into doing it all over again—perhaps buying a second home and renting it out. This, as he has seen in his own life and in the life of others, is one of the surest ways to wealth our national economy has to offer. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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	30-34	\$74
	35-39	\$81
	40-44	\$115
	45-49	\$137
	50-54	\$191
Family	55-59	\$232
	60-64	\$277
	Under 30	\$170
	30-34	\$224
	35-39	\$244
	40-44	\$321
	45-49	\$350
50-54	\$448	
55-59	\$503	
60-64	\$582	

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Transitions

Obituaries

Thomas A. Gallipeau

Thomas Gallipeau died August 20 at the age of 58.

He was a resident of Pleasanton and Alameda County for 14 years and was a graduate of Samuel Ayer High School in Milpitas. He was employed at Crystal Clean Janitorial Service in Pleasanton as a janitor. His hobbies included watching football and rooting for the underdog.

He is survived by his companion Donna Kenney of Pleasanton; daughter Tracie Gaines of San Jose; sister Sharon L. Reynolds of Fremont; brother Richard C. Gallipeau of Modesto; two grandchildren and four nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by parents Leonard and Dorothy. There were no services held, only a family gathering.

Vada Geneva Rood

Vada Geneva Rood died August 16 at the age of 80.

Born in Oklahoma in 1925, she lived in Livermore for the past 50 years. She was a school bus driver for the Pleasanton Unified School District for 20 years and was known for being a giving and helpful woman who loved children.

She is survived by her daughter Geneva Howe of Livermore; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore.

Births

The following birth information was provided by ValleyCare Health System.

July 22

Jeanne and Michael Kelly, a girl

July 26

Joan Natividad and Justin Arthur, a boy

Leticia Vazquez and Jose Perez, a boy

July 27

Lana and Argyl Dickson, a boy

July 29

Manisha Patel and Sandeep Bhutani, a boy

July 31

Sherry and Adam Wight, a boy

August 1

Suzanne Sugimoto and Dennis Haar, a girl

August 3

Rosemary and Kevin Clark, a girl
Vanessa Guitron, a girl

August 4

Rebecca and Ryan Cantrell, a boy

August 6

Pia and Doug Moore, a girl

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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.

Vladimir Guerrero

Vladimir Guerrero, author of "The Anza Trail: And the Settling of California," will be at the Pleasanton Library at 2 p.m., Sun., Sept. 10 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Penny, 931-3405.

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.

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.

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 school board will not meet during the summer months. The next meeting is Sept. 5.

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

Bible Study

Community Bible Study begins its 30-week study covering the books of first and second Peter, Daniel, and Colossians, from 9:30-11:30 a.m., every Thursday starting Sept. 14 at Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Dr. Children's program and baby care will be available on site. E-mail pleasanton.cbs@gmail.com to register.

Clubs

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.

Concerts

Youth Concert in the Park

Wrapping up Pleasanton's downtown summer concert season, a first-time Youth Concert in the Park will be held from 7-8:30 p.m., Fri., Sept. 8 at Lion's Wayside Park, First and Neal St. Call 931-5051 or visit www.Ptown411.com

Events

Book Sale

The Fall Book Sale will be held from 7-9 p.m., Fri., Sept. 29 for members only; from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Sept. 30; and from noon-3 p.m., Sun., Oct. 1 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Nancy, 462-4368.

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.

Exotic Cuisine of India

Enjoy foods of India, cooking demos, author talks and music from 3:30-7 p.m., Sat., Sept. 9 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Penny, 931-3405.

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.

Ghostwalk

"Ghostwalk" tours will be from 5-8 p.m., Fri., Oct. 13 and Sat., Oct. 14, starting every half hour. Each tour lasts about one hour. Tickets will go on sale Wed., Aug. 2 at Museum On Main's outdoor booth at the First Wednesday Street Party and in the museum, 603 Main St., during business hours. Tickets are \$10. Call 462-2766.

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.

History By Heather

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

Indian Food Festival

"The Exotic Cuisine of Indian Food Festival" will be held from 3:30-7

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

HUMAN SERVICES

The Human Services Commission of the City of Pleasanton will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, to receive citizens' comments on reports from the following agencies which were allocated federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Year 2005 (05/06):

AGENCY:	PURPOSE:	FUNDING:
		CDBG City:
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:		
Axis Community Health	Replace wheelchair ramps at Railroad St. community clinic site	\$21,838
CAPE, Inc.	Hill'n'Dale Head Start Preschool rehab. improvements	\$10,000
City "Section 108" Loan Repayment	Sojourner House (formerly Family Crisis Shelter)	\$20,324
Tri-Valley Haven for Women	Equipment and furnishings for domestic violence shelter	\$19,345
HOUSING REHABILITATION:		
Alameda County HCD	Housing rehab. services for low-income Pleasanton residents	\$75,000
GRID Alternatives	Solar Affordable Housing rehabilitation program	\$35,524
Pleasanton Gardens	Miscellaneous senior housing rehabilitation projects	\$25,000
PUBLIC SERVICES:		
Axis Community Health	Teen substance abuse program	\$5,000
Bay Area Comm. Services (BACS)	Creative living services for mentally disabled adults	\$6,000
Comm. Res. for Indep. Living (CRIL)	Services for disabled persons	\$9,000
Easter Seals Bay Area	Tri-Valley Community Inclusion Program for dev.-disabled youth	\$5,000
ECHO Housing	Tenant-landlord, fair housing, and rental assistance programs	\$7,000
ECHO Housing	Senior reverse mortgage counseling program	\$14,575
Hope Hospice	Bereavement support services for seniors	\$6,000
Senior Support of the Tri-Valley	Alzheimer's case management support	\$11,000
Spectrum Community Services	Senior nutrition/meal delivery program	\$8,238
HOUSING SERVICES:		
Allied Housing	Case management services for Housing Scholarship Program	\$12,000
ADMINISTRATION:		
City of Pleasanton	Administration of CDBG program by City of Pleasanton	\$64,317
	TOTAL FUNDING (FY 2005):	\$331,568 \$57,977

Following the public hearing, the information obtained from subrecipients and comments received from members of the public will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the form of the FY 2005 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). For additional information, contact the City of Pleasanton Housing Division at 925-931-5007.



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p.m. Sat., Sept. 9 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Penny, 931-3405.

King Tut Festival

Enjoy entertainment, films, live music, mediterranean cuisine, clothes, jewelry, papyrus paper, gifts and more Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Sept. 16-17 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave.

Operation S.A.M.

Supporting All Military will host an open house at 7 p.m., Mon., Sept. 11 at the Livermore Police Station Community Room, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. to honor the heroes that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2005, and to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve. Admission is free. Call 443-7620, or visit www.operationsam.org.

Patriots and Heroes Week

The USS Hornet Museum will be honoring the community's emergency response teams during Patriots and Heroes Week, from Mon., Sept. 11 through Fri., Sun., Sept. 17. Call Stephanie, (510) 521-8448, ext. 211 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

Poetry Reading

Deborah Grossman will read from her book, "Goldie and Me," a collection of poems, at 7:45 p.m., Thur., Sept. 14 at Barnes & Noble, 4972 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. An Open Mic will follow the reading.

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.caedonian.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.

Exhibits

Poetry & Art Exhibition

The Poetry & Art Exhibition will be open weekends at Big White House Winery and El Sol Winery at 6800 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Call Linda, 243-0424 for schedule of events.

The Art of Abstract

Alexander's Main Street Gallery features the abstract art of MaryClair Strotler and M. Barta Atkins from Sat., Sept. 2 through Sun., Sept. 17 at 610 Main St. Artist reception will be held from 4-7 p.m., Sat., Sept. 2. Call Rosalinda, 846-6015.

The Four C's

"The Four C's" will be on display from Tues., Sept. 5 through Fri., Sept. 29 at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. Opening reception will be held from 3-5 p.m., Sun., Sept. 10. Gallery hours are from 8:30-5 p.m., Mon. through Fri. Call Carolyn, 447-5134.

Film

Heroes and Villains

Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Library presents "Heroes and Villains: A Classic Film Series," at 8 p.m., every first Thursday monthly until June 2007 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call Penny, 931-3405.

Fundraisers

Fun Raisers for Charity, Inc. Golf Tournament

Fun Raisers for Charity, Inc. is a non-profit organization sponsoring a golf tournament to raise funds for local charities that benefit the community. It will be held from 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Fri., Sept. 15 at 6900 Mission Rd., Sunol. Cost and registration is \$109. Call 876-7136.

S.S. Goodtimes

Set sail with the Friends of the Pleasanton Library on a fundraising "cruise," as the S.S. Goodtimes departs at 7 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 21 from the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Tickets are \$90. Adults only. Call Julie, 931-3406, or Nancy, 462-4368.

Health

Mindful Chi Kung

Experience an ancient practice that will help you be aware of your body and mind to stay healthy, and increase your energy from 3:30-5 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 14 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. For cancer patients, their families and friends. Cost is free. Reservations required. Call 933-0107.

Kids & Teens

Kids Circle & Teen Talk

The Wellness Community is offering fun, creative activities and discussion groups for kids and teens whose mom or dad has cancer. These activities will help them express themselves and is held 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sat., Sept. 9 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is free. Reservations required. Call 933-0107.

Lectures/ Workshops

Boundaries

Learn how to have healthy boundaries at work, with a spouse, with money, with your body, and more, from 6:15-9 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 18 and 25 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Cost is \$40. Call 560-3826.

Financial Planning for Women

The Pleasanton USD Adult Ed presents, "Taking Control: Financial Planning for Women," from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays Sept. 12 through Oct. 3 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. in room 102. Cost is \$35. Registration required. Course number is 255501. Call Angie, 426-4280.

Return to Wellness

This 10-week workshop is for women who are at least 3 weeks past treatment for breast cancer and meets from 4-6 p.m., every Monday and Wednesday, Sept. 11 through Nov. 15 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. Cost is free. Registration required. Call 933-0107.

Live Music

Blues on the Patio

Enjoy "Blues on the Patio" with Gary Tackett and Full Moon Rude, and a special guest, from 5:30-9:30 p.m., Thurs., Sept. 7 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Admission is free. Call Gary, (209) 221-2426 or visit www.garytackett.com.

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band will perform from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tues., Sept. 12 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Admission is free. Call 846-8106.

Stacey's at Waterford

Enjoy live music from 3-6 p.m., every Sunday in Sept. at Stacey's at Waterford, 4500 Tassajara Rd., Suite C, Dublin. Call 551-8369.

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- How to choose an affordable financing program that's right for you
- Discussing any credit issues
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On Stage

Comedy Night
Elliston Vineyards welcomes back Comedy Night from 6:30-10 p.m., Fri., Sept. 15 at 463 Kilkare Rd., Sunol. Cost is \$65 per person, and \$57 for Club 200 members. Buffet dinner included. Call 862-2377 or visit www.elliston.com.

Laugh-A-Lot Comedy Showcase
Laugh-A-Lot Comedy Showcase will be held at 8 p.m., every Tuesday at Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd. Cover charge is \$7 with a 2 drink minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.laughalotproductions.com.

Scholarships

Tri-Valley Housing Scholarship
The Tri-Valley Housing Scholarship Program provides rental assistance for low-income, full-time students currently enrolled in an academic or vocational program which will be completed within the next 18-21 months. You may apply if you work, attend school, or live in Pleasanton or Livermore. Call Nelida, 373-5313 or e-mail nvillanueva@tricityhomeless.org.

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.

Spiritual

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

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

Sports

CYO Youth Basketball
Registration for CYO Youth Basketball for boys and girls grade 3-8 will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sun., Sept. 3 at St. Augustine Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. and from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m., Sun., Sept. 3 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. The second registration will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wed., Sept. 6 at St. Augustine Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. Call Greg, 462-8189.

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

Support Groups

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

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

Bereavement Support Group
This group of the Catholic Community

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

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

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

Volunteering

Fall Book Sale
The Friends of the Pleasanton Library is seeking adult volunteers for the Fall Book Sale from 7-9 p.m., Fri., Sept. 29, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Sept. 30, and from noon-3 p.m., Sun., Oct. 1 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Nancy, 462-4368.

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

Pleasanton Reads
Adult volunteers are needed for the adult literacy program, "Pleasanton Reads." Training dates are from 7-8:30 p.m., Mon., Sept. 11 and from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sat., Sept. 16 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3411.

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

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

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

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

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

Week of Caring
Bay Area businesses can register now for "Week of Caring," the Bay Area's largest corporate volunteer event held from Sun., Sept. 10 through Sat., Sept. 16. Thousands of employee volunteers will lend a hand at more than 100 non-profit organizations. Register online at www.weekofcaring.com or call (415) 808-4349.



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Sports

88 teams here for Soccer City USA Warm-Up

Tournament kicks off
2006-07 season

by Michael Miller

Once again Pleasanton earned the title of Soccer City USA when the city hosted its 6th annual Soccer City Warm-Up Tournament last weekend at Sports Park with 88 teams in various age groups participating.

The Under-19 championship game pitted the Pleasanton RAGE, coached by Ed Meyer and James Ellison, against its sister team, the U-19 Blues. Coached by Chris Louie, the Blue offense dominated the game, with 18 shots on goal.

LeeAnn Meyer had a remarkable 12 saves for the game, while the RAGE's Lindsey Ellison, Melissa Sheehan and Jamie Thurman played tough defense. The RAGE scored the only goal of the first half, as midfielder Kerry McCulloch left-footed the ball into the net off a Heidi Larsen blast off the post.

The Blues broke through the RAGE defense in the 55th minute with a high cross into the left corner of the net. After the second half ended with the score tied at 1-1, the teams played two 5-minute overtime periods. The Blues had the only goal in the overtime periods, again with a high cross, this time to the right corner of the goal in the first overtime half. The final score, RAGE 1, Blue 2, put the RAGE team in 2nd place for the tournament. RAGE players Brittany Kepke, Hannah Roberts and Stacey Hildebrand made spirited efforts on the field throughout the tournament.

BUSC Blacks beat Patterson at Shamrock invite

The BUSC U-17 Black continued its fine preseason with a run to

the championship in the Shamrock Invitational. BUSC came out strong in the first game, besting Patterson 4-0. The offensive star in game one was Jay Guilmar, with two goals and a nice assist on a header goal by Kurt Lenamon. Tim Gaisor added a fourth goal on a nice chip that found the back of the net. In goal, Nate Weber and Eric Lobao shared the shutout.

Game two was a rough and tumble 0-0 tie with Livermore. Midfielders Trevor Dawson, Jason Ash and Matt Carlucci created some excellent scoring good opportunities, but Ballistic couldn't close out the chances.

Game three was a 1-0 win over Dublin. The forwards, led by Kieren McEntee, Joey Halim and Kris Tayyeb, wreaked havoc in front of the Dublin net. Aaron Scott made the hard work pay off in the second half when he ripped a blast past the Dublin goalie for the game's only goal.

Game four was a rematch against Dublin for the championship. As expected, the game was another battle. The return of Brent Cambra, and Kamron Behzadi gave Ballistic more weapons up front with which to pound away at the Dublin net-minder. The Black had tremendous intensity on defense led by Willie Berger, Bryant Dante, Lenamon and Gaisor, who repeatedly stopped the Dublin attack. Weber, who went the whole way in net in the championship game, made several acrobatic saves to keep the game scoreless.

Finally, in the 70th minute, Ballistic struck. Nick Bonham slotted a perfect pass to a streaking Gaisor, who found himself one-on-one with the keeper. Gaisor's goal caused Dublin to ratchet up their intensity in a furious attempt to score the equalizer. The Black countered the Dublin attack with a great run down the right side by

Scott. Once in the Dublin end, Scott slid a seeing-eye cross through the box to an onrushing Bonham, who drilled it home to secure the 2-0 win and the championship.

2 Foothill grads playing in baseball minors

Two Foothill High School graduates, Brett Andrade, 22, and Bradley Bergesen, 21, are proving their mettle in the minor league systems of the Cleveland Indians and Baltimore Orioles, respectively.

Andrade, a 6'4" 200-pound right-hander, has thrived for the Burlington Indians in the Rookie Appalachian League with a 2-1 record with one save, a 2.67 ERA and 24 strikeouts in 33-plus innings.

Bergesen, playing for the Delmarva Shorebirds, the Single-A affiliate of the Orioles in the South Atlantic League, is in his second season of minor league baseball. He spent his first year Aberdeen Ironbirds in the New York Penn League. In 18 games in 2006, 14 starts, Bergesen is 5-4 with a 4.27 ERA. ■

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

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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.

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