

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 38 • October 13, 2006

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INSIDE this week

Tragedy

Nine-year-old boy struck by car, community grieves
page 5

Spoiled?

Author tells of the risks of being a rich kid
page 10

More road woes

Area's imbalance of jobs and housing hurts air quality
page 14

Undefeated

Amador, Foothill still boasting winning streaks on the grid iron
Section 2

In da house

Take a tour of some local area homes, see the Open Home Guide
page 41

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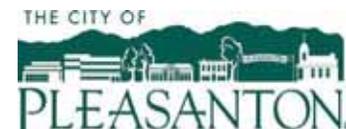
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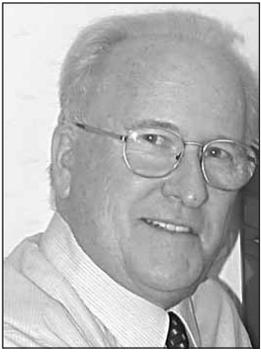


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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Happy Valley memories on cross-country bike ride

When I joined long-time Happy Valley homeowner Ernest Dohner at a recent meeting of a city-sponsored Blue Ribbon Committee that is pursuing ways to keep golf course traffic off Sycamore Road, where he lives, I learned that his son John was pursuing quite a different objective by bike-riding across America. At the time, he was about 2,200 miles to the east, having peddled into Minnesota and heading around the top of Lake Superior. I caught up with John Dohner 2,000 miles later after he had ridden for 63 days for a family get-together near the campus of Dartmouth University, where his son Adam, 17, just enrolled as a freshman. John left the bike there and came back to the family's Portola Valley home with his wife Katherine and daughter Emma, 13, who is in the eighth grade at Terman Middle School in Palo Alto. This weekend, Adam is on the well-worn bike again, riding with classmates into New Hampshire for his first look at fall colors in New England.

Ernest Dohner and his wife Nancy moved to a house on Happy Valley Road in 1957, where they raised John and daughter Emylyn, now Emylyn Dohner-Krafts, who lives in Satellite Beach, Fla. Nancy, who died in 2000, taught in Southern California and then at Alisal Elementary after moving to Pleasanton. Both children attended Alisal and the Pleasanton School, located where the school district headquarters is now located and which taught all eight elementary school grades. They then went to Amador Valley High, where John graduated with academic honors and as the class valedictorian in 1968, after starring in track and playing in the marching band all four years. Emylyn graduated two years later.

When he was 16, John and several of his Amador and Happy Valley friends rode their bikes to Yosemite and back, an experience John found not only exhilarating but one he wanted to do again, even possi-

bly riding a bike across the country. But undergraduate and graduate work in chemical engineering at Stanford and at the University of Wisconsin and its Monterrey, Mexico campus, kept him busy for the next five years. A 30-year career at Alza Pharmaceuticals in Palo Alto followed. It wasn't until he retired several years ago that he was able to seriously consider the two-month-long Portland (Oregon) to Portland (Maine) bike ride. Since his son Adam would need a bike at Dartmouth, it made perfect sense for cost-conscious John Dohner to ride it there and save shipping charges.

His detailed day-by-day account by telephone of his cross-country trip is really a travelogue that I hope John writes up for a publication that serves bicycling enthusiasts. He starts with his 26-mile round-trip training rides to De Anza College, where he studied French, to prepare for his ride into French-speaking Quebec. His problem with that he learned is that the spoken word in French Canada is a few dialects away from the French spoken in France or at De Anza. Except for French nationals he met in a Laundromat in Quebec City, who were having the same language problem, he found it easier to use English or sign language in that province. Peddling at about 12 mph for 70 miles a day, Dohner also developed an appreciation for the hard work, tough life and sometimes tough luck of the ranchers and farmers he met along the way. Blistering heat in South Dakota last August was drying up crops with one farmer telling him that it had taken him 15 years to build up his herd of cattle, which he was taking to market because he would have no crops for them to eat this winter. Bedding down along riverbanks and staying at motels at other times, Dohner made it to Dartmouth with time to spare on Sept. 3. With his son's goal accomplished, Ernie Dohner hopes the Blue Ribbon Committee can find an acceptable bypass road for golfers—an effort that's been under way here since 1998. ■

About the Cover

It's survival of the best...of Pleasanton. After fierce competition in the online ballot arena, the winners are locked in. So turn to page 16 to see which favorites have torches burning bright. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

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Streetwise

Q: What do you think about paying one fare to ride BART, no matter how far you go, as one BART board member has suggested?

Asked Downtown



Dan Kihanya

Marketing

I think it is a great idea. Commuting would be easier. When you are rushing to get on a train, the last thing you want to worry about is adding that extra 15 cents. It would make using BART more convenient.

Jo Chiti

Human Resources

I think this could be a good solution for some folks that use BART often. Paying one fee for all day usage could save money. For those that typically use it occasionally and go one or two stops down the line I don't think that would be a good solution.



Jim Hanscom

Sales Manager

I think you should only pay for as far as you are traveling on BART. I ride the train to Raiders games because I like the service and I only pay for what I need.



John Huk

Accountant

If it costs less to pay a flat rate then that would be a good deal. We travel into San Francisco often. It would be nice to leave the car at home, pay one fee and be able to take the train all over the city.



Denise Vendley

Advertising

I love the idea, it takes the thinking out of using BART. I don't need to worry about exact change every time I get on or off. It would be great to pay one, consistent rate and be done with it.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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Newsfront

News Digest

Harvest House Home Tour

A press release incorrectly stated ticket prices for the Harvest Home Tour. They are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. In addition to calling 828-3272 or 461-6401, tickets can also be purchased at the following stores: Studio 7 Fine Arts, Main and West Angela streets; Clover Creek, 670 Main St.; Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.; Rose Hotel, 807 Main St.; California Stampin', 5480-2 Sunol Blvd.; Proctor's, 2200 First St., Livermore. For more information, visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Operation: SAM Holiday Drive

The annual Operation: SAM (Supporting All Military) Holiday Drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14 at the Pleasanton and Livermore Walmarts. Volunteers will be collecting goodies to send to military men and women who will be unable to spend the holidays with family. Items requested are: miniature stockings filled with treats, unbreakable ornaments and decorations, small holiday gifts, DVDs, CDs, games, sports equipment (include a pump if necessary) and batteries. Winter items such as gloves, warm socks, lip balm as well as stationary with pens and individually wrapped food items are encouraged as well. Visit www.operationsam.org, e-mail operationsame@comcast.net or call 443-7620 for more information.

Jewish-Christian workshops

A series of six workshops intended to stimulate conversation between people of Jewish and Christian faiths begins Oct. 18. The series, iWalking God's Paths—Christians and Jews in Candid Conversation, will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, on Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13. The talks will be facilitated by Rabbi Richard Winer of Congregation Beth Emek, Fr. Dan Danielson of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, and Gustavo Nystrom of Pax Christi. The sessions, sponsored by the Jewish and Catholic communities of Pleasanton, are free and open to the public. Advanced registration is requested. For more information or to register, contact Mary Schneider by e-mail at mary0531@comcast.net.



Flowers, stuffed animals and handmade signs form a makeshift memorial for 9-year-old Shawn Niethammer on a sidewalk next to the driveway along Palomino Drive.

Janet Pelletier

Community mourning loss of nine-year-old boy hit by car

Plans under way to memorialize fourth-grader as well as help his family

by Janet Pelletier

One week ago today, 9-year-old Shawn Niethammer was in his fourth-grade class at Vintage Hills Elementary School. Come Monday, his seat was noticeably empty.

The Pleasanton boy was hit by a car Oct. 6 as he rolled out of a driveway on his bicycle in the 700 block of Palomino Drive—just a few blocks from where he lived, police said. The driver of the Lincoln SUV, a 53-year-old man, was heading eastbound on Palomino, just east of Norton Way to visit a friend nearby.

It happened at 5:37 p.m. and as the collision threw the boy from his bicycle, he sustained injuries to his neck and spine that later proved to be fatal. He was wearing a safety helmet at the time.

The driver immediately stopped at the scene of the accident and has been fully cooperating with police, according to Sgt. Michael Collins.

No charges have been filed against the man and Collins said according to normal procedure, the case will eventually be forwarded to the county district attorney.

The vehicle was traveling at or slightly above the posted 25 mph speed limit, which isn't uncommon because on average, 15 percent of motorists drive slightly above the posted speed limit, Collins said.

As of press time, the police department was withholding the driver's name.

Collins said it's been years since a tragic event

"He would do anything for anybody and would always put other people first and at 9, you wouldn't think that."

—Veronica Simon,
Shawn Niethammer's mother



Shawn Niethammer

like this has happened in Pleasanton, but cautioned that incidents like these could potentially happen at any time.

"Almost every parent has had a kid go darting into the street and but for the grace of God nothing has happened," he said. "Unfortunately in this case, that's not what happened. It appears to be a momentary lapse of judgment."

The bright and fun-loving 9-year-old will be best remembered by his loved ones as someone who loved to play sports and who always had a smile on

(continued on page 7)

Community meeting slated for new senior living facility

Public invited to attend Oct. 21 meeting to get information, application

by Elizabeth Campos Rajs

A community-wide meeting about the new assisted living facility nearing completion on Sunol Boulevard will be held on Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Anyone interested in learning more information about the Parkview Regent Assisted Living facility, particularly its 31 affordable units, is encouraged to attend. Pre-applications will be available at the meeting, said Lisa Grady, senior project manager for BRIDGE Housing Corp., the San Francisco-based affordable housing developer working in partnership with the

(continued on page 11)

PG&E grant spreads solar curriculum across district

Solar panels being made to be installed on selected school roofs

by Emily Atwood

Pleasanton Unified School District received a \$25,000 Pacific Gas and Electric Solar Schools grant that would introduce solar energy education district-wide. The grant would support energy coaches—with the help of non-profit training partner National Energy Education Development Project—to inform staff and students about how solar energy works and how it's used efficiently.

This is the second PG&E Solar Schools grant to come to the district, the first funded a demonstration-sized solar electric generator installed in August at Walnut Grove Elementary School. Walnut Grove Principal Bill Radulovich has been very active in the quest to have a solar school.

That goal continues to gain large ground with the recent partnership between the District and Honeywell International Inc. The diversified technology and manufacturing company will fund the

(continued on page 9)

Amador Valley Athletic Boosters



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Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006
10 am to 4 pm

Amador Valley High School Small Gym
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Tinfow takes key post in Walnut Creek

Plans to finish golf course bypass study

by Jeb Bing

Lorie Tinfow, hired just a year ago as the city's Administrative Services Director, quit this week to become Assistant City Manager of Walnut Creek with expanded responsibilities as also the head of its Administrative Services Department.

Her last day on the job here will be Friday, Oct. 27, with a start date in Walnut Creek the following Monday.

Tinfow won high praise from those who worked with her as well as members of volunteer committees that she directed. Among these is the Blue Ribbon Committee, a City Council-structured group representing a wide range of individual interests in trying to find an acceptable alternate roadway for golfers to use to reach Callippe Preserve Golf Course. The city agreed in a Specific Plan in 1998 to build a bypass so that golf course traffic would not use Sycamore Road and Alisal Street, as it now does.

Tinfow said that she has agreed to continue directing the Blue Ribbon committee at upcoming meetings, including one on Nov. 9, to help the group reach a consensus on where the bypass road should go and how it will be financed.

Tinfow also was put in charge



Lorie Tinfow shows traffic options at the Happy Valley Ribbon Committee meeting, which she chairs.

of analyzing the issues involving the city's acquisition of Pleasanton Memorial Gardens cemetery on Sunol Boulevard. The council followed her recommendations to buy the cemetery from the International Order of Odd Fellows for \$1, and to develop a maintenance and future growth plan. That work will have to be assigned to another staff aide.

In her new job, Tinfow will report to Walnut Creek City Manager

Gary Pokorny, and she will handle his duties whenever he is away from the office.

Tinfow once worked for Walnut Creek as assistant to the city manager. Prior to joining the Pleasanton staff, she was the assistant city manager for Saratoga.

Tinfow, 45, and her husband Greg, who works in Walnut Creek, recently sold their home on the Peninsula and moved into an apartment in Pleasanton. ■

Come One! Come All!

Child Care Links' 30th Anniversary Carnival

Saturday, October 14, 2006
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Free Admission
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Free T-shirts for Children
Local Talent will Perform

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend with friends and family as Child Care Links celebrates 30 years of dedication to children, families and the community. The event will be held at Val Vista Park (cross streets are Johnson and Stoneridge Drives) in Pleasanton.

Candidates debate Stoneridge Drive extension

Once subdued, issue gains strength in election campaigns

by Jeb Bing

Traffic woes and the lack of affordable and moderately-priced housing continued to dominate campaign commentaries in public coffees and candidate forums last week in the city's mayoral and City Council races, but the extension of Stoneridge Drive has suddenly become a major focus of some voters.

Up to now, the council has put the controversial issue aside by agreeing to a Memorandum of Understanding with Alameda County to reserve a right-of-way should a future council want the street extended to El Charro Road and Livermore. The five current members of the council, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and her challenger for the mayor's post, Councilman Steve Brozovsky, have vowed to keep Stoneridge barricaded where it now stops at the city limits in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood.

Only council candidate Cheryl Cook-Kallio has said she would

consider extending Stoneridge if traffic studies showed it would help move traffic more efficiently into and out of Pleasanton.

Since then, speakers at council meetings have urged the council to consider the extension. A new group advocating extending the street is also distributing flyers, calling on the council and mayoral candidates to attend a public forum scheduled for 5:30 p.m. next Thursday and at

forum, he said the issue "probably should be placed on the ballot as a referendum so that the public can decide."

Hosterman and Brozovsky, however, stood firm, telling constituents that until traffic congestion can be reduced on I-580, they will oppose opening Stoneridge, where motorists could drive through the city to connect to 580 and I-680.

"Frankly, we can do a lot locally without relying on outside money," Brozovsky said. "We just need to fix our traffic lights so that they allow us to move smoothly across the city. We need to synchronize the signals."

Hosterman said that in the two years she has served as mayor and as a councilwoman for two years earlier, she has represented Pleasanton on a number of regional, county and Tri-Valley traffic agencies. Her work on the Triangle Study Committee and the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency has helped direct millions of dollars to projects that will widen highway 84 and build HOV (carpool) lanes on 580.

"Without exception, the Stoneridge extension issue has become the most divisive I've ever seen in Pleasanton."

—Jerry Thorne, councilman

the same time on Monday, Oct. 23. The group has opened a Web site at www.stoppleasantongridlock.com to voters to read traffic data supporting the view that the Stoneridge extension would reduce heavy traffic volumes on Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue.

"Without exception, the Stoneridge extension issue has become the most divisive I've ever seen in Pleasanton," said Councilman Jerry Thorne, who is seeking reelection. Addressing a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

(continued on page 11)

Mourning

(continued from page 5)

his face.

"He wanted to be friends with everybody," said his father, Darrin Niethammer. "He had a laugh that was so contagious that it would make anyone laugh. He was my little buddy and my life."

Niethammer said Shawn was riding his bicycle from his mother's house to a friend's house just a few blocks away. When he discovered the friend wasn't home, he headed back out of the friend's driveway where the accident occurred.

"That area seems to have a lot of school traffic for kids," Niethammer said. "I would like to see some speed bumps in there because it doesn't only stop speeding, but it makes people look too."

Shawn's stepfather Pat Simon said he will always cherish the times he used to take him to Callippe Preserve Golf Course to play golf or the times he would take him along on his handyman trips to people's homes to make housecalls.

"He would do anything for anybody and would always put other people first and at 9, you wouldn't think that," said mother Veronica Simon.

She said she's been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community.

"So many people that we don't even know have come over and offered their condolences and brought meals and you don't know

what a wonderful community you have unfortunately until something like this happens," she said.

Ron Hyde, a close friend of Pat Simon's has set up a bank account at the Bank of Walnut Creek at 249 Main St., titled "The Shawn Niethammer Memorial Fund for the Benefit of Youth Golf." Donations will go towards benefiting youths in golf camps who would otherwise not be able to afford them. The 9-year-old participated in the youth golf program this past summer at Callippe.

At Shawn's school, efforts are under way to memorialize him as well as help his family, according to Vintage Hills Principal Carolyn Parker.

Extra counselors were brought on campus to talk to students and parents about the incident. The students in Kasey Poet's fourth grade class have already found ways to remember their classmate, Parker said.

Students are given a number that corresponds with where their name falls in alphabetical order and that number is used on homework and class assignments. Shawn's number was 20, and students asked that they "retire" his number so as to never forget him.

The school has also set up a bank account for charitable donations at Fremont Bank, 6654 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 345. Anyone who wants to make a donation can either go to the bank or drop off a donation at Vintage Hills. The account is titled "The Shawn Niethammer Memorial Fund." The bank can be reached at 417-7671.

Some parents have also sent out e-mails to city officials and local businesses to solicit donations to help defray the funeral costs for the family.

To honor Shawn's love of baseball, Vintage Hills will host a baseball drive in which students can bring in new or used baseball equipment that will be sent to an organization that will donate the supplies to needy Cambodian children.

"I think Shawn would be happy to know that there would be a lot of kids with this equipment that they can play baseball with," Parker said.

The school plans to have a memorial sometime next month.

Shawn Michael-Harold Niethammer is survived by his mother Veronica and her husband Pat Simon, his father Darrin Niethammer and his wife Tina, grandmother Marilyn Niethammer, grandparents Michael and Dorothy Berthelsen, stepbrothers Kyle and Sean and stepsister Robin and by his uncles, aunts, cousins and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandfather Woodard Niethammer.

A private viewing was scheduled for Wednesday for the family, according to Graham-Hitch Mortuary. A service will be held today at 4 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St. in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made in care of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church to be used for children's charities, to junior golf or the Pleasanton National Little League. ■

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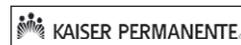
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Emily Atwood

Students, administrators and parents at Hearst Elementary School gather every Wednesday morning to walk the blue line that stretches around the play area as a part of the new Walk and Talk program.

Elementary students walk to school for fitness

*International program seeks
to combat several national, local issues*

by Emily Atwood

Recent studies have shown that the United States has been diagnosed with an obesity epidemic. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael Leavitt identified obesity prevention as one of the department's key priorities.

An estimated 17 percent of children and adolescents are overweight, and HHS sees this as a growing issue "with health and social consequences that often continue into adulthood."

Pleasanton schools are heeding those warnings by taking students outside the classrooms to get exercise.

During the week of Oct. 4, elementary schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District joined millions of students, teachers and parents around the globe as they participated in International Walk to School Day. Students grouped together with parents on the trek to school, and were greeted with beverages and granola bars before school began.

This is the sixth year Pleasanton schools have participated in the voluntary event. Since the program's inception in 1997, it has expanded into an international program seeking to promote health, safety, physical activity and concern for the environment.

Lisa Adamos, economic development specialist for the city of Pleasanton, says the event also eases the city's early morning traffic congestion.

"Twenty percent of morning peak hour traffic is contributed to schools," she said. "Walking to school would reduce that, and the walk is an opportunity for parents and students to try it. I've heard from several administrators and parents who say [participants] do continue to walk [to school after the event]."

Safety is also an important factor. Adamos said flyers about the event

included safety tips and encouragement for parents to join and/or the students to walk in groups.

Hearst Elementary Principal Michael Kuhfal started a new walking program this year called Walk and Talk. He was inspired by a similar and successful program done by a school in Chicago, which found that hyper and tired students meet a balanced energy rate after a walk. It also allowed a deeper connection to be made administrator to student as well as student to student.

Kuhfal finds these results true in Pleasanton. Every Wednesday before school he hits "the blue line" circling the playground and is soon joined by dozens of students, administrators and parents. Each week the number of walkers grows.

"We've seen a lot of success," he said. "Kids are putting their arms around each other and connecting. They socialize while exercising, which coincides with the District's strategic plan of lifetime planning; time to maintain excellent physical and mental health." He also mentioned the fourth grade class is using pedometers, with the goal of walking 10,000 steps a day.

Supporters of programs like International Walk to School Day and Walk and Talk are onto something, according to California Podiatric Medical Association President Ernest J. Hook.

"Walking is just about the best health bargain around," he said. "It's fun, easy to do and it's free. ... Research supports the long-standing belief that taking just a few extra steps a day can improve the lives of all Americans."

The National Association of Sport and Physical Education recommends students have 45 minutes of activity each day. While national reports say the majority of students fail to meet this standard, the efforts of the International Walk to School Day and Walk and Talk movements are helping. ■

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Pleasanton gets spooky

City hosts annual Haunted House

by Rebecca Guyon

The city of Pleasanton is hosting its annual Haunted House Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19 and 20 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave. This year's theme is "The Witching Hour," transforming the recreation center into the "Pleasanton Manor," owned by the Hopyard family.

"The Hopyards are inviting the public into their mansion to put to rest any rumors that have been tossed about town and let them know the mansion is safe," explained Mark Duncanson, senior recreation program specialist and co-leader of the Parks and Community Service Department's Haunted House Performance Class. "Of course, then we find out the rumors are true," he said, adding the Hopyards are a fictional family.

The Haunted House is put on by students in the Haunted House Performance class. Twenty-five students ages 13-18 are in the class where they learn improvisation technique, which gets put to use in the manor. They began meeting Sept. 7 to begin work on the Haunted House.

"The first class we just worked on improv techniques and getting comfortable because the

Haunted House is about interacting with each other and the people who come through the house," Duncanson said. "Now, they're building the story, figuring out who the Hopyards are and doing story building through improvisation, as well as character analysis."

Adding to the spooky atmosphere, a magician will perform outside the Haunted House from 6 to 8 p.m. Students can also participate in craft projects outside of the house.

Although the event will be held more than a week before Halloween, Hiram Berhal, teen and youth recreations supervisor for the city, explained the city holds it earlier in the month so as not to conflict with other Halloween parties and activities.

"What happens is, there are normally a lot of parties that take place

the weekend of Halloween, and we found that the Haunted House is more successful when we hold it a week prior," Berhal said.

As for parents who say they won't have their child's costume ready that early, Berhal said not to worry since a costume is not required to enter the Haunted House. In fact, most students come in their casual clothes, he added.

Tickets for the Haunted House are on sale now at the Park and Community Services Department, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Each ticket offers admittance to a 30-minute tour. The first tour is at 5:30 p.m. and the last is at 7:30 p.m. The three earliest times are recommended for children 9 or younger. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission is free for children 3 or younger. Call 931-5353 for more information. ■



Staff photo

Roger Huang receives distinguished student award

Roger Huang, a seventh-grade student at Harvest Park Middle School, was California's recipient of the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award. Teachers, the superintendent, family, friends and even the school jazz band gathered Oct. 10 to celebrate his achievements.

He was chosen not only because of his academic and musical excellence, but for his caring heart for others. Being two years ahead in math, teachers said inspired and challenged them to be better teachers. His fifth-grade teacher Michelle Coldani said teaching him was "like teaching a chef how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich."

Presented by the California Association for the Gifted, the award honors Nicholas Green, a boy who was killed at the age of seven by highway robbers in 1994. One student from each state is honored with this award, which includes a \$500 savings bond. For more information about the Nicholas Green Foundation, visit www.nicholasgreen.org.

PG & E

(continued from page 5)

production and installation of solar panels on top of seven schools in the district. The completed project has an estimated cost of \$6 million, but comes at no cost to the district.

"We've looked at where we have the greatest capacity and have identified seven schools that will easily take solar panels without throwing up eye sores," Radulovich said.

These panels will create 650 kilowatts of power. And though the energy is not directly available to the schools, the district will be able to purchase it at discounted rates. Those rates aren't final, but Radulovich says with increased efficiency and solar power the latest grant provides, he would love to see the district's current energy costs of \$2 million eventually be reduced by 50 percent.

"Local schools face unprecedented financial challenges," said Ophelia Basgal, PG&E vice president of civic partnership and community involvement. "PG&E's Solar Schools program helps address that gap by bringing together classroom education and renewable energy in a way that will benefit students and the community for years to come." In 2006, PG&E has committed \$1.7 million towards expanding the Solar Schools program.

No dates have been set for the panel installation and plans have yet to be finalized, but Radulovich is hopeful that the project will begin within the next few months. ■

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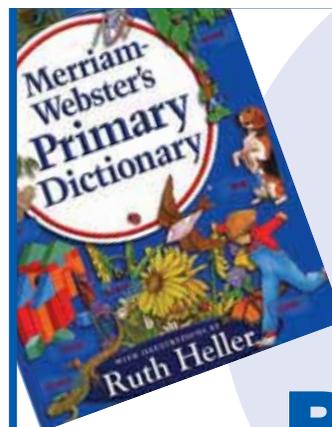
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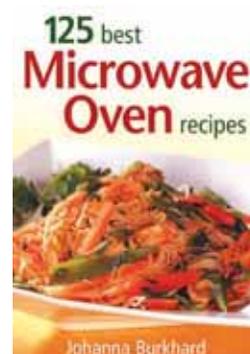
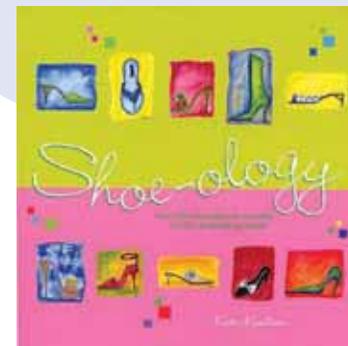


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Putting a price on privilege

Psychologist to speak in Pleasanton about affluent youths

by Jerri Pantages Long

Psychologist Madeline Levine, Ph.D., will be speaking in Pleasanton on Oct. 20 about her latest book, "The Price of Privilege: How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids."

Besides having raised three sons, Levine has had more than 25 years of experience as a psychologist in Marin County, focusing her practice mainly on adolescents. She has done extensive research for her book, which includes the following, startling assertion:

"America's newly identified at-risk group is preteens and teens from affluent, well-educated families. In spite of their economic and social advantages, they experience among the highest rates of depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, somatic complaints, and unhappiness of any group of children in this country."

An assertion like that would seem to resonate in Pleasanton, since statistics from U.S. Census Bureau list the city as having the highest median household income (\$101,000/year) for all mid-sized cities across the nation (populations of 65,000-250,000). However, the issue is more complex than household income.

"Kids are bombarded with messages about the importance of high performance at school, at home and in the media."

—Psychologist
 Madeline Levine, Ph.D.

"Money is not the culprit," wrote Levine. "It is the culture of affluence—a culture that embraces materialism, that values performance over learning and external motivation over internal motivation, that overemphasizes competitiveness and offers a dearth of opportunities to see adults behave with compassion and integrity—that is sickening our children."

Two critical factors Levine identifies are "achievement pressure" and "isolation from parents."

"Kids are bombarded with messages about the importance of high performance at school, at home and in the media," said Levine. "What they really need is to be educated about the values of perseverance

and perspective, and to understand that learning and performance are not always the same thing. They need to see that their parents value effort, curiosity and intellectual courage."

As contradictory as it may seem, the same parents who pressure their teenagers to highest levels of accomplishment in multiple arenas may also be "missing," physically or psychologically or both, from meaningful interaction with their children, she said.

"Eating together reinforces the idea that family members are interested, available, and concerned about each other," noted Levine, who finds that many of her patients' parents are more apt to be present at competitive sports events than at the dinner table.

Most of us probably know of parents who do their children's homework instead of monitoring it, who heckle coaches and teachers to give their children unearned advantages or grades or who threaten to hire a lawyer should their child be accused of doing wrong. Levine said this type of intervention can be damaging.

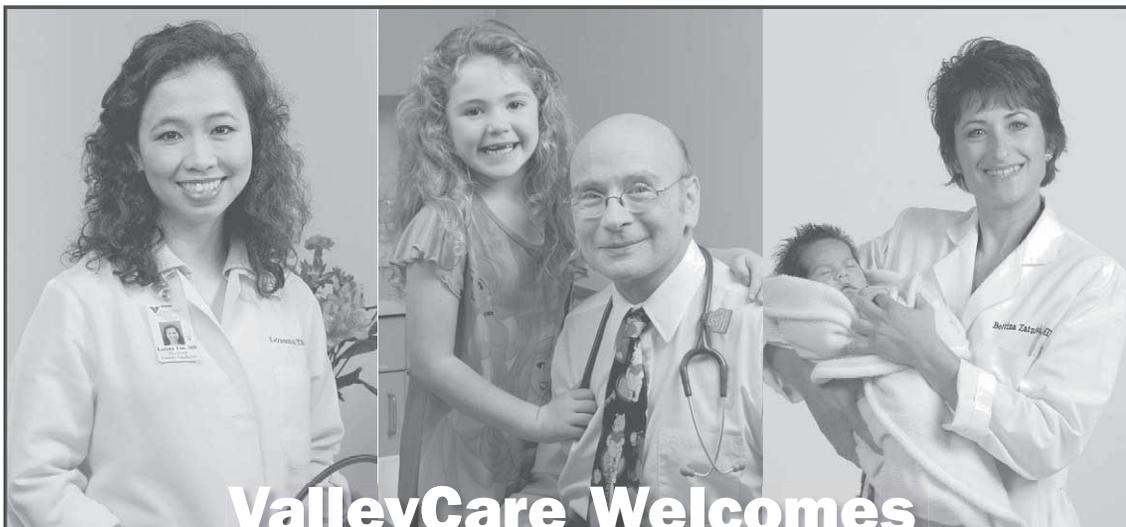
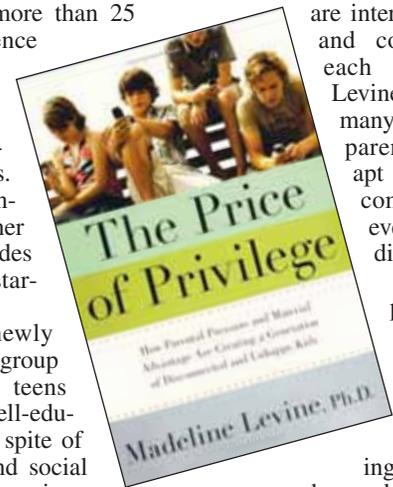
"Parents who persistently fall on the side of intervening for their child, as opposed to supporting their child's attempts to problem-solve, interfere with the most important task of childhood and adolescence: the development of a sense of self," wrote Levine. "Affluent kids are so often protected from even the most minor disappointments and frustrations that they are unable to develop critical coping skills."

As Levine points out, "We need to always deal with the child in front of us, not the child of our fantasies."

Parents who fail to allow their children to see their own struggles set unrealistic expectations of perfection, of life with no set-backs or failures, she said.

"All of us—mothers, fathers, children, adolescents and young adults—yearn to be loved for who we are, not just for what we do," concluded Levine. "Make certain that your children know every day how much they are loved, not for their grades, honors, or awards, but for their striving to be independent, capable, good and loving people."

Free and open to the public, Levine's talk will take place at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at the 300-seat Lynnewood Church, 4444 Black Ave. (across from the aquatic center). No reservations are necessary. The event is being funded as a community service by Lynnewood Methodist Church, Towne Center Books, Kim Riseforph and the Mark Bailey Family. Copies of the 246-page book (\$24.95) will be available at the event. ■



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Senior

(continued from page 5)

city of Pleasanton on the project.

Grady, city housing specialist Scott Erickson and a representative from Eskaton, the property management company, will offer an overview of the project and conduct a question and answer session.

Information about the facility also will be available at a site office scheduled to open next week. The onsite marketing office can be reached at 461-3042.

Construction on the 105-unit complex is scheduled to be completed in December and it is set to open in January, Erickson said.

When completed, the 3.5-acre complex will include 86 assisted living units ranging in size from studio to two-bedroom apartments, and a separate one-story "memory care" building specially designed to house 19 dementia care patients.

The complex also features common areas for the residents, including a living room, library, wellness center, multipurpose rooms, a community dining area and a private dining room. The memory care building features studio apartments as well as common lounges, dining rooms and an enclosed courtyard.

"This is an important addition

to the scope of housing options we have in Pleasanton for seniors," Erickson said. "This facility provides a middle ground for people before a nursing home."

Of the facility's 105 units, 74 will be rented at market rate and will be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis, Erickson said. Applications for the market rate units will be available soon in the facility's new onsite office, Grady added.

The remaining 31 units, including one bed in the memory care wing, will be set aside for people of low and very low incomes, Erickson said.

For the affordable units, there will be an application and selection process, Erickson said. First priority will be given to seniors who are already living in subsidized housing units in Pleasanton, he said.

Second priority will be given for seniors who live in Pleasanton and third priority will be given to applicants who have family members living in the city, Erickson said.

"Affordability is the key component," he said. "People in the below-market rate units will pay one fee no matter what level of service they require. In the market rate units, the rate is on a tier based on the need for level of care."

For additional information about the facility, visit Eskaton's Web site at www.eskaton.com. ■

Candidate

(continued from page 7)

Brozosky, however, said Hosterman had actually missed a number of those meetings and not asked others from the council or city staff to represent the city, possibly missing out on funding considerations.

The candidates are also facing housing issues as Pleasanton nears buildout with a 1996 voter-mandated housing cap of 29,000 residential units. Only about 1,700 residential permits have yet to be issued, and the candidates differ on where those housing units should go and whether they should be affordable, priced for moderate income buyers or mostly apartments.

Council candidate and former Planning Commission Chairman Brian Arkin said he wants the bulk of those units yet to be built placed near the BART station next to Hacienda Business Park, with

others to go near the new BART station being built near Foothill Road.

Council candidate Dan Faustina said, however, that he opposes using the remaining number of available housing permits for only affordable and high-density homes.

Like Arkin, Faustina said he would never support raising the housing cap, which was mandated by voters and cannot be changed by the council. Responding to threats by affordable housing advocates that the cap might someday be challenged in court, Faustina said he would brace for that as a councilman and have the city fight vigorously any legal action to take away what Pleasanton voters have said they wanted.

Cook-Kallio said she would work to keep the housing cap, but also believes that more housing is needed in Pleasanton to accommodate the needs of its workforce, including many who simply can't afford the higher price homes here now. ■

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Mums the word

Pleasanton resident Cheryl Wilske shares the Weekly with her "mum," Jean Williams in Trafalgar Square during their trip to London.



Pyramid building

Making a human pyramid on water while reading the Weekly is no small task. That's what (bottom row, l-r) Mauricio Diaz, Greg Symons, Jeff and Kevin Randel, Josh Mendoca, Kelsey Gullick, (middle row, l-r) Lizzy Lewis, Jenneca Smead, Lauren Barraza, Jenna Symons (top row, l-r) Chelsea Randel and Alicia Fraticelli learned during their trip to Lake Trinity. It took several tries, but they finally got the perfect shot, only to have the pyramid crash a few seconds later. But we are impressed with their tenacity!

And what a canal it is

While traveling through the Panama Canal (l-r) Joyce and Bob Shapiro, Sharrell and Carl Michelotti, Harv Kameny, Marty Wadekamper and Cheryl and Jim Issac read the Weekly.

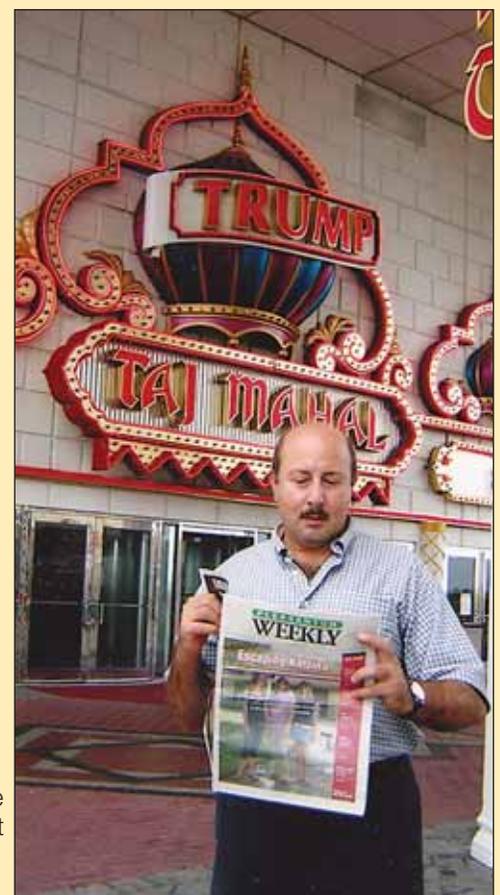


Somber history

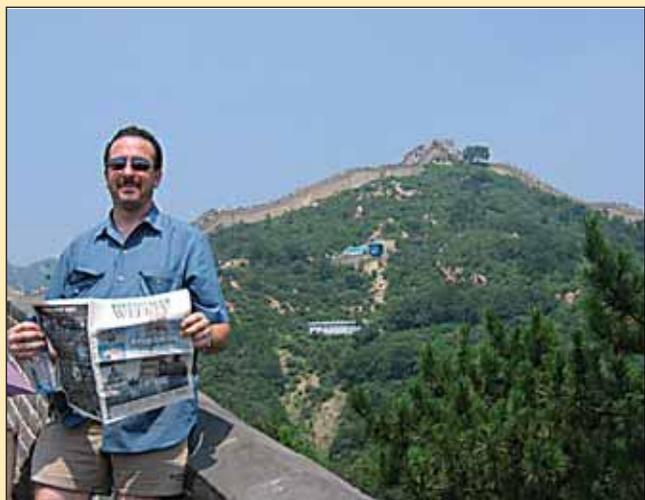
Rick and Joann Lydon, Chuck Desoto and Carol Fuller read the Weekly while visiting the Civil War New Market Battlefield site in Shenandoah Valley, Va. Known as the "Field of Shoes," this was the only battle in which 15-18-year-old cadets from the Virginia Military Institute engaged in battle during the war.

Put it all on red

Jerry Tusan seems to find reading the Weekly more interesting than the slots at the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City, N.J.



Take Us Along



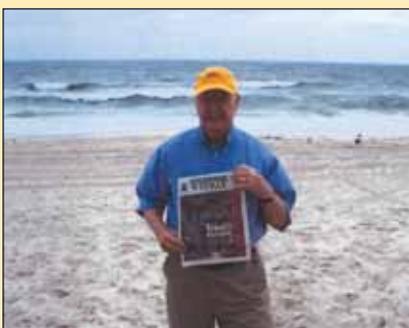
Not all business

Sterling Goyer reads the Weekly while visiting the Great Wall of China. Although he was in Beijing for business, he made sure to take time and check out the sites.



Make friends with the Weekly

During a visit to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Bob and Patt Steffenauer share the Weekly with new friends they met from Arizona, Pennsylvania and Mexico.



New Jersey coast

Bob O'Neill takes time from his 55th high school reunion in Montclair, N.J. to read the Weekly at Spray Beach on Long Beach Island, N.J.



Gone fishin'

Although Georgia may not be known for its fish, but (l-r) Mo, Joanie, Eric, Josh and Carol Smith still decided to visit the Georgia Aquarium during their Christmas trip to Atlanta. Apparently, the aquarium is a happening spot considering the family had to wait in line, but fortunately they had their Weekly with them to help pass the time.

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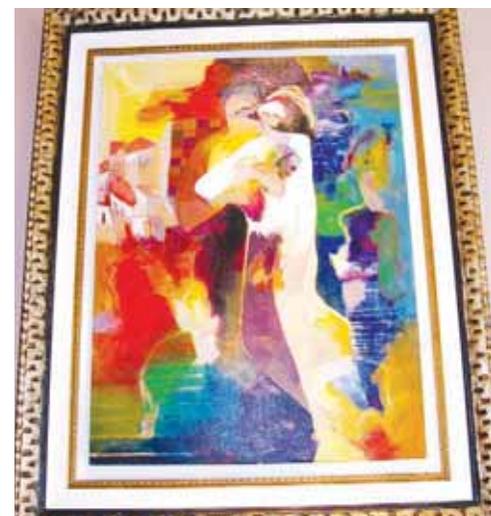
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Opinion

Editorial

Keep the Sharks arena in Pleasanton

A proposal by a San Jose Sharks affiliate to build a four-rink ice hockey arena in Pleasanton's Staples Ranch at no cost to taxpayers is like the legendary bird in hand opportunity the city should seize before cities such as Dublin or Livermore jump out of the proverbial bush to take it away from us. Pleasanton's inability to move fast enough on a similar proposal by Swedish home furnishings giant IKEA three years ago for a giant store on vacant Staples Ranch acreage caused that firm to take its business and \$2 million in sales tax revenue across the freeway to Dublin, where a new IKEA will start construction next year across from Hacienda Crossings.

While we share Councilman Matt Sullivan's concern that taking the proposal to the City Council is unorthodox and "backward" (instead of starting out as most development plans before the Parks and Recreation and Planning Commission), the action the council took was by no means an approval. But with a 4-1 vote, with Sullivan voting against the proposal, city staff now has the council's direction to spend time and money to research the plan and advise Parks and Rec when it considers the proposal publicly. At that time, public hearings will allow residents to hear more details and to state their views. As City Manager Nelson Fialho pointed out, this is a multi-million-dollar development plan that will require extensive study by city staff and consultants. It would make no sense to launch the process unless the council gave it preliminary endorsement to the concept.

At stake is an 83,000-square-foot facility that the San Jose Arena Management Company would finance and operate, leasing 10 acres of a 17-acre park that Pleasanton would control after signing an annexation agreement with the county for the 124-acre Staples Ranch, the last large undeveloped tract in Pleasanton's sphere of influence. The council has already agreed to the development of an auto mall at I-580 and El Charro Road, and is expected to approve a privately-operated 600-bed-plus independent and assisted living facility. Still undetermined is the traffic pattern that will be part of the annexation agreement—whether to allow access to the acreage only from El Charro and 580 or to open some street access from Stoneridge Drive, which ends at a blockade at the western edge of Staples Ranch. The council has also agreed to a memorandum of understanding with the county to reserve a right-of-way for an extension of Stoneridge to El Charro if a future council decides to allow it. All five members of the current council and all except Council candidate Cheryl Cook-Kallio have pledged not to extend Stoneridge during the time they would be on the council.

The ice facility, called Sharks Ice, would have two rinks at first, and then be expanded to four rinks. It would be open to the public for a variety of ice skating activities. It would also fulfill a long-stated need for ice rinks in the Tri-Valley to support hockey teams already here and a growing interest in ice-related sports. Right now, neighboring cities lack the municipally-owned open space that provide the land needed by San Jose Area Management, but that could change. Pleasanton planners should move quickly to consider this offer so that it doesn't get wallowed in process and consultants' studies, with the result that the proposal, like IKEA's, moves to cities with more hospitable, flexible schedules.

The Weekly endorses

For mayor - Jennifer Hosterman

For City Council -
Cheryl Cook-Kallio, Jerry Thorne

Correction

In our editorial last week ("Our Endorsements," p. 15), the comment on City Council candidate and Councilman Jerry Thorne should have read: "He approaches his work on the council in a non-emotional and non-confrontational manner, which is needed on a council that sometimes digresses into irrelevant tangents."

Letters

Traffic solutions needed for safety

Dear Editor,

Monday morning brought the disturbing reality of Pleasanton traffic to light once again. Another child was hit by a car, this time by Harvest Park Middle School. Although I don't know the details, as a parent this scene was extremely upsetting. This was the second child-auto related accident in Pleasanton in three days and highlights the increased risk our families face as the city's traffic problems escalate.

Traffic is a city-wide issue and requires a commitment from residents and a unified approach to solve the problem. Over the past year, we have seen the number of pedestrian-auto injuries and close calls increase dramatically, as discussed in a recent City Council meeting. Residents close to Alisal school have come to the council highlighting the issue of safety for the children going to school. As a father of two, I share their concern and frustration as traffic has only increased in and around Pleasanton as communities relentlessly develop open space and commuters look for more direct and less congested routes to get to Pleasanton and other Bay Area destinations.

It is hard for me to believe that we actually have one candidate for City Council, Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who is focused on creating additional traffic by extending Stoneridge Drive east of Santa Rita Road and connecting it to El Charro Road. She sells this to residents as relief to traffic congestion on Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road.

Unfortunately, this approach fails to address our current traffic patterns and creates yet another area for traffic congestion, opening two other schools in Pleasanton to child safety issues. Unless one believes that more streets equal less traffic, this is not a solution for Pleasanton!

Solving the traffic issue should be our top priority as a community. By pitting one neighborhood against another we squander our energy away from the issue and tear at the very fabric that makes Pleasanton a desirable community to live in. Let's fix the problem, not create additional problems for the benefit of other communities outside of Pleasanton.

David Richter, Pleasanton

Pioneer cemetery treatment disappointing

Dear Editor,

What a big disappointment to learn that Pleasanton's newly-acquired cemetery will no lon-

(continued on page 15)

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

THE "CUSTOM" HOME EQUITY LOAN

Discovering that you need to pull some of your equity out of your home, you face the question of which of several loans to use.

1. You could simply refinance your home, adding to the size of the loan to cover the money you need. The problem here is that you are committing yourself to paying off the added loan, and the old loan balance, with a new 30-year loan. This results in the lowest monthly payment of all your options, but 30 years of interest eventually turn your costs into a mountain.

2. You could take out a home equity loan, essentially what we've traditionally called a "second" loan (because it is the second loan secured by your home, after your primary mortgage). This will bear a higher interest rate, will give you the money you need in one lump sum, and will require repayment with regular monthly payments over several years.

3. You could take out a home equity line of credit, very like a credit card attached to your home equity. You would make monthly payments only on the money you borrow, so you could borrow only small amounts as you need them. But your interest rate would adjust to market rates over time.

4. You could choose a new hybrid home equity loan, call for more information on this. Meanwhile, be aware that it will serve you well to study the available loan programs. You can virtually create a custom program that meets your specific needs. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Letters

(continued from page 14)

ger have green grass, according to the city's Administrative Services Director Laurie Tinfow. The plan is to "let the grass that's there die out" and there are no plans to install a sprinkler system. Yet, the city plans to spend around \$25,000 a month for maintenance, like taking out the trash on a regular basis! This is outrageous, especially for those early pioneers buried there and the ancestors who visit the cemetery.

Both my grandparents and great grandparents have family plots in this pioneer cemetery, having arrived in Pleasanton in the late 1800s. As a Pleasanton resident since 1969, I have been doing my part in maintaining both of these gravesites and will continue to do so.

The Pleasanton City Council election will be coming soon. Let's hope that our newly-elected councilmembers will make efforts to allocate the funds needed to really restore and upgrade the newly-acquired cemetery. Wouldn't it be a joy to have John Kottinger's resting site be as uplifting as the existing \$1.2 million restoration project of his Kottinger Park?

Don Kruse, Pleasanton

Mayor should confront controversy

Dear Editor,
Pleasanton is not an isolated island. Our town, its businesses and neighborhoods, its workers and residents, have an impact on and are affected by the world around us. We need, no, we must require, our mayor and city councilmembers to not only have a handle on issues that affect us locally, but also see where Pleasanton and these issues fit into the big picture. Fortunately, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's open, honest and responsive leadership is positioning Pleasanton to meet the challenges we face.

Mayor Hosterman doesn't shy away from controversial issues—from Interstate 580 cut-through traffic choking our streets to supporting and defending us against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The oath of office each mayor and city councilmember swears upon entering office demands nothing less. Don't be fooled by mayoral candidate Steve Brozosky's campaign smoke screen of personal attacks, innuendo and disinformation against Mayor Hosterman. Don't let Pleasanton's vision, leadership and integrity be limited by his narrow-minded viewpoint that refuses to consider Pleasanton's role and responsibility beyond our city limits.

Mayor Hosterman has been forthright and upfront with her views on the issues that touch us all. She has and will continue to work hard protecting Pleasanton, and ensure that our town makes a positive impact on its businesses and neighborhoods, workers and residents and the world around us. In November, please cast your vote for Pleasanton's future. Vote to reelect Mayor Hosterman.

Billie Otis, Pleasanton

Guest Opinion

City's lack of affordable housing has domino effect on global warming

by Becky Dennis

Pleasanton's lack of affordable workforce housing is a major cause of air pollution that contributes to global warming.

Dan Sapone's August guest editorial explored whether or not our City Council should address climate change.

He concludes that this is indeed an issue that calls for council action. I agree. Pleasanton's severe jobs/housing imbalance generates more commute traffic, and therefore more air pollution, than other Tri-Valley cities. The impacts extend far beyond our own residents and businesses.

To put Pleasanton's negative effect on the earth's climate in perspective, consider this:

More people commute into Pleasanton to work than into any other city in the Tri-Valley. This is hardly surprising since only 5 percent of Pleasanton's housing is affordable to these non-resident Pleasanton workers, who have a median income of \$89,800. Currently 42,498 people—80.2 percent of Pleasanton's entire workforce—must commute here from other communities. About 47.1 percent of these commuters live beyond the Tri-Valley area. Sadly, the latest U.S. Census figures show a worsening trend. In 1990, only 36.6 percent of Pleasanton jobs were held by people commuting from outside the Tri-Valley. During the same period, from 1990 to 2000, the percentage of Pleasanton residents working in Pleasanton fell from 27.3 percent to 19.8 percent.

Now let's look through the smog into the future.

Pleasanton's General Plan projects commercial development to grow from today's approximately 20 million square feet to an eventual 28 million square feet, although there is no actual limit. The Association of Bay Area Governments predicts that the number of jobs in Pleasanton will grow

from today's 53,013 to 78,670. Thus, Pleasanton's currently planned commercial development will create a need for a total of at least 49,169 units of workforce housing (1.6 workers per housing unit, one worker for every 358 square feet of commercial development). That is 20,169 units more than Pleasanton's 29,000 unit housing cap allows.

No other city will agree to build housing for Pleasanton's workers. They have workers of their own to house. Environmentally concerned residents should ask the City Council how far away Pleasanton's workforce will have to live, how many miles to work they will have to drive, and how much air pollution this will cause.

Environmental talk is cheap, and so, as Dan Sapone points out, is joining environmental organizations. The City Council could make a greater contribution to preventing climate change by rebalancing jobs and housing so that a majority of Pleasanton's workforce can afford to live in Pleasanton. Global warming, along with fuel scarcity and rising prices, compels us to safeguard our community's quality of life and economic vitality by planning for development that minimizes commute distances and brings needed workers close to employers.

Pleasanton must develop an adequate amount of affordable workforce housing to protect the rest of the world from the impacts of our planned economic growth. As the well-known mantra of the environmental movement suggests, we need to "Think globally and act locally." Residents should encourage the City Council to raise the housing cap to a socially responsible level.

Becky Dennis served on the City Council from 1993 to 2002. She volunteers as a housing advocate with Pleasanton Citizens for a Caring Community, and serves on the board of the Tri-Valley Interfaith Poverty Forum. Becky and her husband Murray have lived in Pleasanton since 1988. Their children, David and Matt, attend Amador Valley High School.



Code of ethics

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

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This year's balloting for our sixth annual "Best of Pleasanton" feature was done entirely online with phenomenal response, telling us that Pleasanton has well adapted to the Internet and keyboard communications. Besides voting on all 53 questions, many took the extra step of commenting on their choices, emphasizing that they enjoy our historic downtown, that people-watching is part of the fun of dining at restaurant tables along Main Street, and that our downtown coffee shops, restaurants, shops and Farmers' Market are clearly the public's favorite gathering places.

Of course, it's not easy to pick out the Best of Pleasanton because so much is so good. Teens, especially, still like to hangout at Stoneridge Mall, although some want more "Fun" places where they can go on weekend nights. Others e-mailed us directly after casting their online votes to suggest more categories for next year, such as Best Dentist or Best Teacher. We were flattered to have so many unsolicited votes naming us as "Best Newspaper," although that wasn't on our list of choices. Our question about the "Best Spirited High School" produced many direct e-mails from students praising Amador Valley or Foothill high schools, which tells us their upcoming season-ending cross-town football duel should be quite a game.

As always, there are those who are disappointed by Pleasanton. One 44-year-old woman said she's looked in vain for a good place to meet other singles, "but I have yet to find it, let alone find the best place for a first date," another Best of question. One disgruntled homeowner messaged us that "there is still a lot of room for improvement in Pleasanton, so I haven't found anything I'd call best." Most messages sent directly to the Weekly, however, were from readers who said they had great difficulty picking a "Best of" because they think the whole town is the best place to live, shop, work and have fun. And that's the spirit of our "Best of" feature: To let you, our readers, tell us what you like best. Here we go. . .



Best Place to People Watch, Get Together With Friends and Meet New People: Main Street/Downtown Pleasanton

Although Pleasanton may have grown in size throughout the years, its heart remains the same, and is still located right in Downtown Pleasanton along Main Street. Whether sipping coffee at Tully's Coffee, window shopping, stopping at one of the many fine restaurants, spending Saturday at the Farmers' Market or enjoying the many parades and events held along Main Street, Pleasanton residents know downtown is the place to be. That's why Main Street was voted Best Place to People Watch and Downtown was named Best Place to Get Together With Friends. For those new Pleasanton residents looking to make friends, downtown, the Farmers' Market and Tully's Coffee tied for Best Place to Meet New People.

Best Activity for Teens: organized sports

With so many teams and facilities in Pleasanton, it makes sense that organized sports won Best Activity for Teens. The Pleasanton Sports and Recreation Park, 5800 Parkside Dr., reveals no favorites as it houses areas for soccer, baseball, football, volleyball, skateboarding and batting cages. Time teens spend practicing is evidenced by the excellent records of Pleasanton's many sports teams. Yet, the "sport" of shopping is not to be overlooked, as several teen readers said they also enjoyed hanging out at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Check out www.ptown411.com/sports.php for sports team listings or to add a teen sports group.

Best Place to Have a First Date

Popular upscale Mexican eatery the Blue Agave Club, 625 Main St., took the top honors for the best place to break bread with a new flame. Maybe it's the restaurant's prime location on Main Street with the ability to people watch, the indoor seating inside a restored 143-year-old building, the outdoor courtyard tables decorated with romantic candles, heat lamps, dressed up waiters or the beautiful presentation of traditional Mexican cuisine. In Pleasanton for nine years, Blue Agave has become a staple for anyone looking to taste the flavor from south of the border. It's no surprise to learn that the restaurant also garnered reader's choice for "Best Atmosphere" and "Best Outdoor Dining." Salud!

Best Public Event/Festival/Entertainment

A summer concert series this past summer at the Alameda County Fair with big name headliners such as county artists Tracy Lawrence and Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, swing musicians Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and pop and R&B group KC & The Sunshine Band may be what propelled the annual fair to the top of the charts for Pleasanton residents. The approximately two-week affair continues to attract attendees from far and wide year after year to experience the carnival rides, 4-H offerings, exhibitions, horse racing at the country's oldest racetrack and the overall good old fashioned fun that comes along with a county fair.

Best Place to Take Kids and to Walk a Dog: Any Pleasanton Park

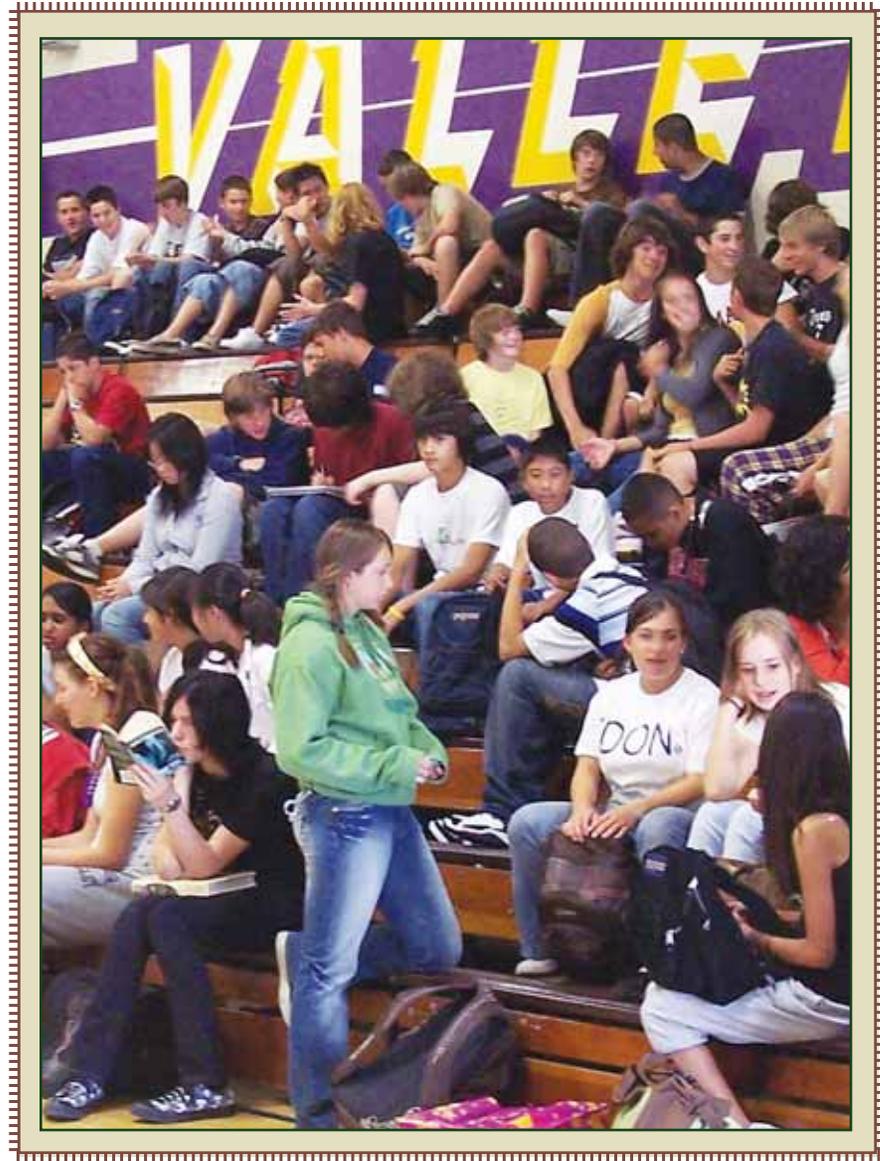
With 41 parks to choose from, its no wonder Pleasanton residents couldn't pick just one for the Best Place to Take Kids or the Best Place to Walk A Dog. Any Pleasanton park will do, according to the voters. But, if you're looking for something specific—picnic spot, bocce, barbecue pits, etc.—be sure to open up the Pleasanton Weekly's Info Pleasanton guide and turn to page 20. There you'll find a list of amenities for every park. If it's a day for sports, Val Vista Park or Sports and Community Park with many soccer and baseball fields may fit the bill. Or, if you're looking for a smaller, quieter park where young children can play, Veterans' Memorial Park or Vintage Hills Park could be the setting for your day. If your dog is tired of walking on a leash, take him over to Muirwood Park where he or she can run around in the dog park. Whatever your day holds, any park can fill that need.

Most Spirited High School: Amador Valley High School

Ever since Foothill High School opened in 1973, there has been a (friendly) rivalry with Amador Valley High School, which was Pleasanton's first high school and has a history that spans more than 80 years. Whether in sports, competition civics or marching band parades, whenever Foothill and Amador go head-to-head, the students get riled up, ready to defend their school and bring home the win. It's no wonder, then, that in the Weekly's Best Of contest, a face-off between Amador and Foothill brought out many voters. But, when all was said and done, Amador came out with the victory and was named Most Spirited High School. However, all is not lost for Foothill. Maybe Amador was on top in this challenge, but football season is just getting started and when Foothill and Amador face-off later this season that will be the real test for which school has the most spirit.

Best Golf Course

You've got to be a member, which costs up to \$36,000 upfront, but even so, Castlewood Country Club was the leading favorite of readers who like its challenging golf course, the historic site and clubhouse facilities. As one credit card company advertises, membership has its privileges at Castlewood with shorter waits for tee times and a less crowded practice tees and warm-up areas. Still, Pleasanton's \$34.5-million Callippe Preserve Golf Course that opened last November came in as a close second, with voters saying they like its hilltop site, on-site golf pros and a chummy clubhouse with tasty, inexpensive sandwiches and refreshments. GolfWeek magazine ranked Callippe Preserve as the sixth best golf course in a recent issue, which is likely to draw more golfers and probably more votes in our "Best of" in 2007.



Amador Valley High School students, voted Most Spirited, await the start of a spirit rally.

Best Local controversy: Traffic

Traffic congestion in and around Pleasanton ranked as the No. 1 controversy, which means there's really no controversy at all. Traffic jams during the morning, after school and evening commute hours are worse than ever. And there's no new pavement planned to ease the problem in the near future, only more traffic lights which a number of readers believe are the problem. We may see a new carpool lane on I-580 east of Hacienda and a separate truck-climbing lane over Pigeon Pass on Highway 84 within a few years, but don't look for Stoneridge Drive to extend to El Charro and Livermore anytime soon. A note to candidates in the Nov. 7 municipal election: Many readers e-mailed us that your views on easing traffic jams will play heavily when they cast their ballots.

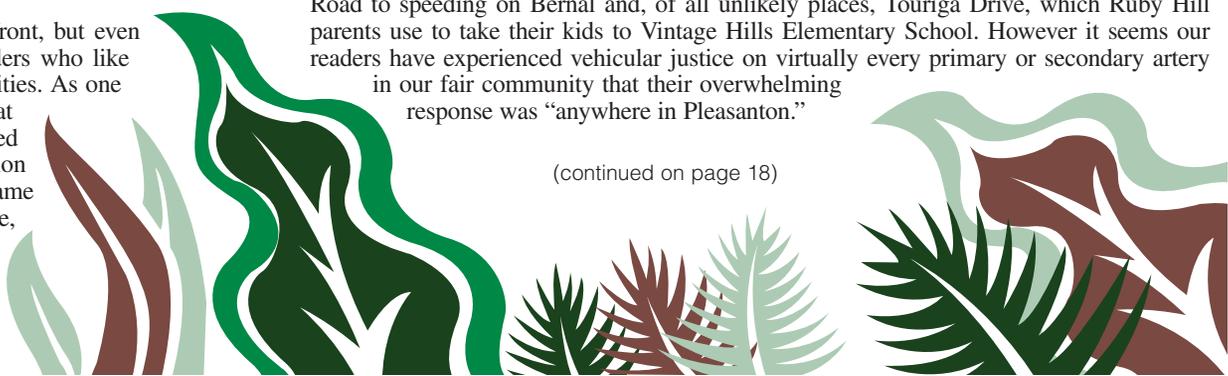
Best Local Hero

It seems as if everyone knows John Madden, and we should since he and his wife Virginia have lived in Pleasanton for 35 years. Their two sons, Joe Madden of Goal Line Productions, and developer Mike Madden of Red Bear Enterprises, are also household names in the business and high school sports communities. Readers said that during the off-season, they see the Maddens on Main Street or enjoying refreshments at their Rose Hotel. Recently inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, John Madden also is seen on most television sets during the football season and year-round in the scores of video games that carry his name and thrill thousands of youths in the community.

Best Place to get a Traffic Ticket

We thought our readers would pick the intersection of First Street and Bernal Avenue since we see so many flashing lights there during the evening rush hour, but then we learned that most of the motorists cutting through our town then don't live here and probably didn't vote. Responses ranged from tickets for red-light runners at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road to speeding on Bernal and, of all unlikely places, Touriga Drive, which Ruby Hill parents use to take their kids to Vintage Hills Elementary School. However it seems our readers have experienced vehicular justice on virtually every primary or secondary artery in our fair community that their overwhelming response was "anywhere in Pleasanton."

(continued on page 18)



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Best of Pleasanton

(continued from page 17)

BEST SERVICE

Best Book Store: Towne Center Books

Pleasanton residents are a literary bunch, it's hard to name a favorite with so many independent bookstores to choose from around town. But, when pressed to choose, the verdict came back that Towne Center Books is the Best Book Store in Pleasanton. In addition to a great selection of titles, Towne Center Books makes literature an event, regularly bringing in authors each month for readings and question and answer sessions. The store also is home to several book clubs that meet once a month. Located at 555 Main St., just under the Pleasanton arch, the store first opened in 1993 and was purchased by the current owner, Judy Wheeler. Visit www.townecenterbooks.com for a complete list of upcoming events.

Best Dry Cleaners

In a new category this year that highlights Pleasanton's best clothes priming for that special gala, holiday party or just the average workday, VIP Cleaners cleaned house with first place for best dry cleaners. The business has two locations along Santa Rita Road. Call 462-8838 or 846-4335.

Best Domestic Car Repair: Scott's Automotive and Light Truck Repair

When it comes to domestic auto maintenance, it's important to find trusted and friendly mechanics. Weekly readers say they have found this and more at Scott's Automotive and Light Truck Repair. Located in Suites C and D on 32 California Ave., they service foreign and domestic cars and trucks. They are open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. To set up an appointment, call 417-0222.

Best Foreign Car Repair: Precision Auto Repair

For those who consider knowledge of foreign car maintenance to be a different language, let Precision Auto Repair be your translator. Need a factory-scheduled service or repair? They can do it, while maintaining your warranty. Readers said Precision Auto repair was the best because they are all about convenience, customer service and a job well done. The owner even works in the shop to ensure quality work. Customer service surveys, coupons and appointment request forms can be found on their Web site: www.precisionautorepair.com.

Best Art/Frame Gallery: Studio 7 Fine Arts

Even before expanding onto Main Street, Weekly readers considered Studio 7 Fine Arts to be a masterpiece. Locally owned and operated at the corner of Main and West Angela streets, Studio 7 received many awards before becoming the largest gallery in the Bay Area in September 2006. With a wide variety of paintings, sculpture, jewelry, hand-blown glass and more, you'll always find something new and unique within the new walls of Studio 7. Make sure to regularly check their Web site www.studio7finearts.com for their many events and latest additions.

Best Athletic Apparel/Shoes: The Passionate Athlete

The Passionate Athlete is for athletes who love to break a sweat and look good while doing it. The store at 440 Main St. offers plenty of great-looking clothes—even jewelry and shoes—for someone with an active lifestyle or who loves to be cute and comfortable. Give them a call at 931-0775 or e-mail passionateathlete@aol.com.

Best Clothing Store: Aloha Island Trading Clothing

If a trip to Hawaii is beyond your grasp, try the next best thing and head to Aloha Island Trading Company on 410 Main St. The store is stocked with Hawaiian

Cover Story

print shirts, Tropical Tantrum batik clothing, sandals, purses, swimsuits, specialty Hawaiian foods and more. No wonder readers named it Best Clothing Store, just wearing their clothes seems like a tropical vacation. Visit their Web site at www.alohaislandtradingcompany.com for product info, hours and events, like "Taste while you shop" on Friday nights. In a close second, readers also liked Me & Emmi clothing store, 459 Main St.

Best Florist: Alexandria's Flowers

Whether you're looking for a corsage for prom, a bouquet for your sweetheart or just some flowers to liven up a room, Alexandria's Flowers is the place to go. The wide selection and great quality, not to mention personal service, is what makes Pleasanton residents say Alexandria's Flowers is the best Florist in town. A family-owned and operated business, Alexandria's Flowers, located at 3037 Hopyard Rd., takes the time to give every customer customized help and you'll be sure to leave with the exact flower arrangement you want.

BEST SPECIALTY RETAIL

Best Place to Buy a Gift: Domus

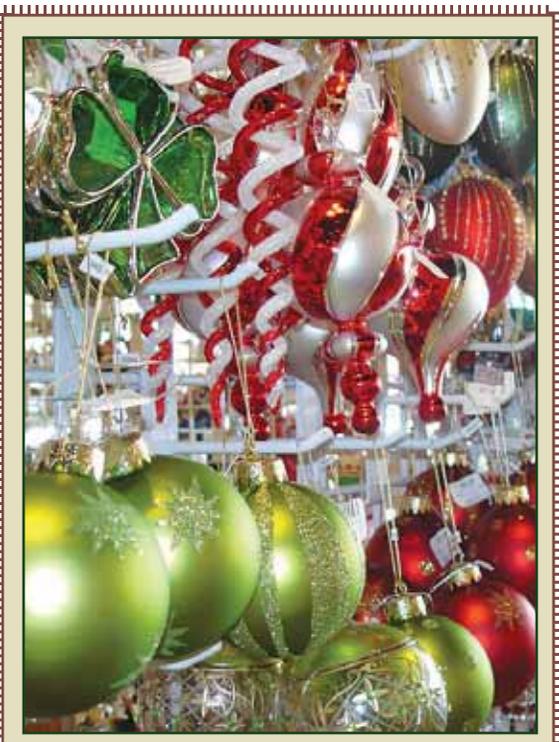
When it comes to picking out that perfect present for a birthday and many other holidays of the year, Domus in downtown Pleasanton is where readers said is their one-stop-shop. The window dressing displays that can be seen along the busy Main Street entices shoppers looking for just the right thing to give as a gift from the heart. The specialty home décor and housewares store offers a varied selection of unique products that can't be matched at any Williams & Sonoma or Crate & Barrel.

Best Veterinarian/Pet Care

Dr. Larry Scharg led the voting for providing best veterinarian, with readers describing him and his Hopyard Animal Hospital as the best for compassionate, excellent care. His technicians and assistant won equal praise for carefully handling the smallest of dogs and cats to Great Danes and Boxers. One reader said they're committed to providing quality medical care with a gentle touch. The animal hospital is located at 3059 Hopyard Road Suite B. Call 462-7750.

Best Pet Store

PetWay Discount Pet Food & Supplies in the Raley shopping center at 5480 Sunol Blvd. won Best Store hands-down. Owner Doug Weiss and his employ-



Christmas ornaments join other great gift options at Domus, the "Best Place to Buy a Gift".

Winner
Best Clothing Store

BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006

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We will feature a Livermore winery with complimentary wine, appetizers and entertainment

Studio 7 and Gourmet Works are participating as well so come and shop the heart of Pleasanton on Friday evenings

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ees earned compliments for their knowledge of the best food for different pets and other supplies to keep pets happy and under control. They also offer to carry supplies to their customers' cars but, unfortunately, not from driveways to their garages. The store is open every day except Sunday. Call 846-3172.

DINING OUT

Best Pizza: Gay '90s

Everyone in Pleasanton knows if you want quality pizza, go to Gay '90s. It's so good, you won't even mind when a ghost pops up every now and then. The restaurant, located on the corner of Main and Abbie streets, is known for its rich history and its role in Pleasanton's past. But, more importantly, what makes the pizza so tasty are the quality products used for every pie, everything from the cheese to the toppings to the crust. And while the pizza is just as good whether you take it out or eat in, Pleasanton parents know Gay '90s is a great place to take the young ones. After all, children love pizza, and the outdoor patio and laid back atmosphere makes it an ideal restaurant for the whole family. That's why Gay '90s came in second for the Best Place to Eat with Kids.

Best Bakery: Primrose Bakery

For those of us who have a sweet tooth, and we do come in large numbers, Primrose Bakery is just the place to satisfy that confection craving, according to reader's responses. Just like our "Survivor" theme, Primrose has outmatched and outlasted the competition. Located at 350 Main St., the bakery continues to offer the best in European-style cakes and pastries for those special occasions in life.

**Best Breakfast:
Vic's All Star Kitchen**

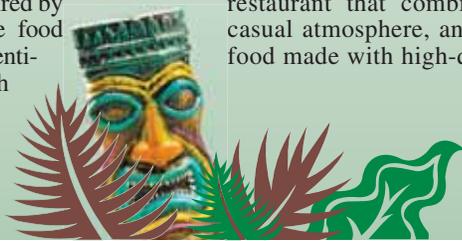
Judging by their votes, readers say there's no better place to grab a breakfast while reading the paper than a table at Vic's. Nestled at 201-A Main St., Vic's All Star Kitchen has been serving breakfast and lunch since 1994, making even local hero John Madden proud. The sports-themed eatery offers an array of dishes from omelets to burgers to "light weight" selections for those looking for a healthier choice.

**Best Place to Eat with Kids:
Sweet Tomatoes**

To a child, the buffet is by far the most ideal restaurant. Where else do you get to have as much as you want and get to pick and choose what exactly will go on your plate? In the world of a child, where decisions are usually made for him or her, this kind of control is exhilarating. And parents know it, which is why they voted Sweet Tomatoes as the Best Place to Eat with Kids. What makes Sweet Tomatoes, located at 4501 Hopyard Rd., a great place to eat with kids is that there is something for everyone. Even picky eaters will find something between the salad bar, soups, bread, pastas, baked potato bar and, everyone's favorite, the pizza. Sweet Tomatoes also has a rotating menu that features seasonal favorites each month. After the meal, children (and adults) can have fun at the dessert bar making their own sundaes with soft serve ice cream and a variety of toppings. And, no one will mind if they go back for seconds.

**Best Romantic Restaurant:
Claude and Dominique's Bistro**

By far a popular choice for romantic dining, Claude and Dominique's Bistro continually serves fine French cuisine. French Chef Claude Lejeune started developing his legendary skill as an apprentice in France at the age of 14. While the restaurant is inspired by Pleasanton's "quaint downtown," the food is praised for being upscale and authentically French. Open Tuesday through Saturday, Claude and Dominique's is located at 210 Rose Ave. Readers also head to Barone's at 475 St. John St. for a romantic meal out.



Jose Mena is always there with a smile to serve up Fiesta Taco's authentic Mexican food.

**Best Solo Dining and Best Burrito:
High Tech Burrito**

When people eat burritos, they like them big—so full that with each bite the beans, rice and any other fillings spill out. High Tech Burrito will give you just that, which is why Pleasantonians voted it Best Burrito in town. What makes High Tech Burrito, located at 349 Main St. Suite A, even more delicious is its eclectic menu featuring specialty burritos such as the "Thai Me Down" burrito filled with chicken and vegetables sautéed in a peanut sauce and the "Ya-hoo! BBQ" burrito stuffed with steak or chicken and slathered in barbeque sauce. Fiesta Taco on 1989 Santa Rita Rd. came in a close second for Best Burrito. A traditional taqueria-style restaurant, Fiesta Taco will give true burrito connoisseurs the authentic meal they crave. The restaurant also makes its own salsas, a great addition to any burrito. For those looking to eat alone, High Tech, located at 349 Main St., right in the center of Tully's Plaza, provides the ideal spot, which is why it was also voted Best Solo Dining. Grab a burrito, sit in the sun and enjoy taking as long (or as little) time as you want—after all, when you eat by yourself, you get to decide when to come and go.

**Best Take-out Restaurant:
In-N-Out Burger**

It could be the North Pole and fast foot chain In-N-Out Burger would still have a steady stream of cars passing through its drive thru. That's how popular the burger joint, which pays homage to 1950s Southern California, is even today. Especially popular with the younger generations, In-N-Out is best known for its staff which dons white aprons fastened with an oversized safety pin and legendary paper hats with palm trees on them. Readers voted the eatery at 6015 Johnson Dr. Best Take-out Restaurant as well as Best French Fries.

Best Hamburger: Red Smoke Grill

The local, non-franchise Best Take-out was the Red Smoke Grill at 4501 Hopyard Rd., which makes some fabulous barbecue. The restaurant is owned by Jim Painter and Ken Hinshaw who each have 30 years of restaurant experience under their belts. Red Smoke Grill is designed as a concept restaurant that combines convenience with a casual atmosphere, and serves freshly prepared food made with high-quality ingredients.

(continued on page 20)



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Best of Pleasanton

(continued from page 19)



Have a craving for sweets? Readers go to the Primrose Bakery for the solution.

Best Value Restaurant: New York Pizza

Where else can you get a slice of pizza that takes over the plate and a soda for under five bucks these days? At New York Pizza at 690 Main Street, the piece of pie reminiscent of the Big Apple is not only tasty, but affordable. Not in the mood for pizza? The eatery also serves up ribs, chicken wings, salad and garlic bread.

Best Chinese Restaurant

The Panda, voted Best Chinese Restaurant, is located on just east of Main Street at 30 W. Angela St., with one reader commenting that the restaurant's Mandarin cuisine is "a savory delight" just as she experienced in Northern China. Readers also said its friendly, fast service and reasonably-priced entrees make it their favorite for lunch downtown, but they also praised its broad selection for more leisurely

dinners. Family-owned and operated, The Panda is open for lunch from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday and for dinner from 5-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and from 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call 484-4880.

Best Italian Restaurant

Fontina Ristorante at 349 Main St. was our readers' favorite for Italian food, with Pastas Trattoria, located nearby at 405 Main, coming in a close second. Fontina's received rave comments from our readers who praised the restaurant's homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal and its "comfortable, elegant atmosphere." The critically acclaimed white tablecloth Italian restaurant features a new integrated computer system to speed up customer service and outdoor seating areas. It also has started a weekend champagne brunch, which is being served Saturdays and Sundays beginning at 10 a.m.

Readers also named Pasta Trattoria as their favorite, with just a few votes short of Fontina's. Our voters said they liked the ambiance, the authentic Italian cuisine and Pastas' luscious desserts. Frankly, we like both restaurants and often stand in line for tables on Main Street where we can enjoy good food while also watching the people passing by.

Best Martini and Place to Splurge

Not being martini drinkers ourselves, we relied on readers to tell us that Hap's at 122 W. Neal St. offers both the best martinis in town, but also is the Best Place to Splurge. Making a great martini and attracting diners who don't mind paying a bit more for some of the best steaks in town must go hand in hand. On the outside, Hap's is unassuming, but one step inside and you know you are in for a special treat. The tastefully decorated steakhouse offers ambiance and serves quality meals and obviously, our readers say, the best martinis. Reservations are recommended by calling 600-9200.

Best Mexican restaurant

It's not hard to find great Mexican food in Pleasanton, but when it comes to a favorite, readers once again chose family-owned and operated Alberto's at 435 Main St. as the Best of

Pleasanton. They said they liked the authentic Mexican food with the chance to dine outside overlooking Pleasanton's historic Main Street or in one of Alberto's festive dining rooms. Another favorite activity, readers said, was drinking Alberto's prized margaritas while watching games in the restaurant's sports bar on its 73-inch high definition TV.

Best Sushi/Japanese

Pleasanton is truly blessed with sushi, but the winner again was Sozo Sushi, a busy place at lunch and dinner, where everyone is greeted with friendly shouts when they enter. Supplies are delivered fresh each day, sauces are made from scratch, and even the "Sushi World Guide" notes its "creative maki menu." Readers said the food arrives quickly and is well presented, and the atmosphere is efficient and bustling, yet amazingly calm. The restaurant is located at near the intersection of Hopyard Road at Valley Avenue, near Gene's Fine Foods.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL



Best Biking or Walking Trail: Pleasanton Ridge

Even though Pleasanton is a developed city, it still has many beautiful trails nearby. Case in point: The Pleasanton Ridge. This 3,163-acre park offers Pleasanton residents an escape into nature that may be just what you need after a long week in the office. That's why, once again, the Pleasanton Ridge was voted Best Biking or Walking Trail. The ridge has a variety of trails that can accommodate walkers or bikers of any level, from leisurely strolls to intense bike rides. With a 5.9-mile hiking loop covering the park, you can be sure you'll never get bored while getting the workout you need.

Best Fitness/Yoga Center: Club Sport

This is the third year Pleasanton residents voted Club Sport as the Best Fitness/Yoga Center, and it's no wonder why. Located at 7090 Johnson Dr., the club calls it self a "fitness resort," which



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NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES EXTENDED RECRUITMENT

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)

- Planning Commission
- Housing Commission, 1 Regular 1 Alternate
- Library Commission, 1 Alternate
- Civic Arts Commission, 1 Alternate
- 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, OCTOBER 20, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

makes even exercise seem like a peaceful activity. Club Sport has the usual gym accessories, boasting a wide range of weights, cardio equipment and exercise classes, but provides even more than the usual fare. The facility also houses intramural sports leagues, nutrition and wellness classes, live jazz on Thursdays and a deli with full wireless Internet access—you know, for after the hard workout.

**Best Place to Jog:
Any Pleasanton Neighborhood**

Pleasanton residents aren't picky with where they jog. If it's nearby, it's good enough, apparently because no one could decide on one place in Pleasanton that's the best, which is why any Pleasanton neighborhood won as Best Place to Jog. If you're in the mood for a challenge, jog up the hill on Bernal Avenue. Want something a little quieter? Vintage Hills works. Looking to take in some history along the way? Try a downtown neighborhood. Although, jogging down Main Street, while you'll get plenty of window shopping done, may not be that fun. Who wants to be sweaty in a crowd? One thing is for sure: when the weather's nice, Pleasanton gives residents plenty of jogging options.

Best Place to Pamper Yourself: Pleasanton Spa

Every now and then, you need to take a "me day" and the Pleasanton Spa offers everything to make that happen. From massages to facials to manicures, the Pleasanton Spa knows how to treat a lady (or man) right, which is why it was voted Best Place to Pamper Yourself. Located at 6155 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 150, what makes the Pleasanton Spa so special is not just its excellent service and calming atmosphere, but also the variety of services available, which includes reiki treatment, toe pebbling and a special tension buster, just to name a few. To reduce and eliminate tension is the spa's stated objective, so stop in and see if it's meeting its goal. We have a feeling you'll be glad you did.

Best Place to Walk a Dog

Readers said any park in Pleasanton is the Best Place to Walk a Dog, but make sure your dog's on a leash. Complaints from other dog walkers about unleashed pets has police and the department's animal control officers scurrying in response to cell phone calls to ticket those who violate the city's requirement. Dogs can be unleashed in Augustine Bernal Park if the owner is with them.



QUICK FIXES



Best Sandwich: Quiznos

The people have spoken and they like their sandwiches toasted. At least, that's what can be inferred by Quiznos' win as Best Sandwich in town. With locations at 519 Main St. and 4000 Pimlico Dr., as well as a store in Hacienda Crossings, Pleasanton residents can get their fill of Quiznos' toasted subs where ever they are in town. Every sandwich at Quiznos has a special twist—even a turkey sandwich is made exciting again with anything from rosemary bread, bacon or guacamole. Coming in a close second was last year's winner, Gimanelli's Deli. Located at 915 Main St., right next to Amador Valley High School, Gimanelli's is an authentic Italian deli with hearty sandwiches filled with quality meats. The store also serves many homemade specialties, such as hummus, sausage, dolma and its signature garlic cheese dip.

Best Coffee: Starbucks

When a caffeine fix is in need, the coffee cup with a mermaid with flowing hair is the chosen one among Pleasantonians. Originally flourishing in Seattle, Starbucks Coffee has become as ubiquitous if not more so than McDonald's. With six locations in the city, residents don't have to look far for those green aprons.

When Pleasanton residents don't feel like feeding a corporate giant, they love supporting the little guy, er—local non-franchise favorite, Coffee Beans & Bistro, which has two locations on Main and Selvante streets. In business for about a year and a half, owner Charles Sutherland allows talented local artists to display their pieces within the coffee shop's walls.

Best Hamburger: Bob's Giant Burgers

If a hefty helping of beef is what's for dinner, Bob's Giant Burgers is your place, voted Best Hamburger in the non-franchise category. The no frills eatery on First Avenue has remained a popular mainstay in readers' books. When it comes to ordering a patty and bun and that's why it was voted best non-franchised take-out restaurant.



(continued on page 21)

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Best of Pleasanton

(continued from page 21)

Best Ice Cream: Coldstone Creamery

When you're a castaway on a deserted island or even just stuck in the Valley heat without air conditioning, the best-tasting relief is found inside Coldstone Creamery at 349 Main St. In addition to the infinite number of ice cream concoctions, they've recently added shakes and smoothies to their repertoire. Like a cherry on top—or mixed in!—the friendly and sometimes musical employees make for a great ice cream eating experience. Many readers also enjoy the local drive-through flavor of the historic Meadowlark Dairy, located at 57 W. Neal St.

STEPPING OUT

Best Place for an After Work Drink:

The Hop Yard Alehouse and Grill

A list of unchecked e-mails are as long as the Great Wall of China. Your boss hasn't given you that raise you were expecting and putting in 60-hour work weeks is starting to wear on you. Sounds like you need a drink—namely one at the Hop Yard Alehouse and Grill. Not just for bad days at the office, but good ones as well, readers say the Hop Yard is the local favorite for having a libation or two after work. The popular watering hole located on its namesake Hopyard Road, where hops used to be grown, never has a problem filling up the barstools with the after work crowd. Drinks aren't the only popular menu item. French fries also topped readers' list next to In-N-Out Burger in the non-franchise category.



Best Place for Dancing: Nightclub Aura

Deemed a bit of Las Vegas and Manhattan in the Tri-Valley, nightclub Aura has become one of Pleasanton's premiere hotspots. The club, which features luxurious interior designs by Pamela Pennington Studio, has spacious Red and Blue rooms, each with an extensive bar, VIP seating and dance area. Renowned DJs frequently stop by to mix everything from top 40 to funk. Private events, birthdays, VIP booths and dinner reservations can be reserved online at www.nightclubaura.com. For a taste of the chic city living without the hassle, Weekly readers say Aura is your best bet. Aura is located at 4825 Hopyard Rd. And for those who prefer dancing to live bands, readers said the Pleasanton Hotel on 855 Main Street. is hopping on Friday and Saturday nights.

Best Place for a Picnic and Live Music

Friday night Concerts in the Park at Lions Wayside Park won hands-down as the Best Place for a Picnic and the Best Place for Live Music. Readers said they enjoy picnics at many other parks in Pleasanton, but the joy of having a casual Friday night dinner with the family and listening to great music is a combination that most readers like. Unfortunately, the Friday night concerts are held only during the warm weather months, but then that's generally when our readers said they do their picnicking. ■

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4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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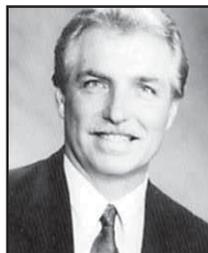
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Movie Times

Note: Screenings are for Friday through Tuesday only.

Alex Rider: Operation Stormbreaker (PG)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10 p.m.
Employee of the Month (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15 p.m. Sun-Tues No 10:15 p.m. Showing Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1, 4, 6:50, 9:10 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:10 Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m. 12:10, 1:35, 2:40, 4:10, 5:20, 6:50, 8, 9:35, 10:35 p.m. Mon No 11:05 a.m. 1:35, 4:10 p.m. Showing
Jackass: Number Two (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:10, 9:25 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:25 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:05 a.m. 1:15, 4, 6:10, 8:35, 10:55 p.m.
Jet Li's Fearless (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:55 a.m. 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30 p.m.
Man of the Year (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30 p.m. Sun-Tues No 10:30 p.m. Showing Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:45, 3:45, 7, 9:40 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:40 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11, 11:35 a.m. 1:45, 2:15, 4:35, 5:05, 7:25, 7:55, 10:05, 10:40 p.m.
One Night with the King (PG)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:30 a.m. 2:25, 5:20, 8:05, 10:50 p.m.
Open Season (PG)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 7:15, 9:20 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:20 p.m. Showing Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:20 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Mon 12:20, 2:20, 3:10, 4:45, 5:30, 7:30, 9:50 p.m.; Sun No 9:50 p.m. Showing; Mon No 7:30 p.m. Showing; Tues Noon, 12:20, 2:20, 3:10, 4:45, 5:30, 7:30, 9:50 p.m. Regal Imax Theaters: Fri-Tues 11 a.m. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10:55 p.m. Vine Cinema: Fri 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:05 p.m. Sat-Sun 11:20 a.m. 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:05 p.m. Mon-Tues 3:30, 5:20, 7:20 pm
School For Scoundrels (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:25, 3:05, 5:35, 8:15, 10:35 p.m.
The Departed (R)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:40, 3:50, 7, 10:10 p.m. Sun-Tues No 10:10 p.m. Showing Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:50 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:05, 1:50, 3:35, 5:10, 7, 8:45, 10:25 p.m.
The Grudge 2 (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:55 p.m. Showing Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10 p.m. Sun-Tues No 10 p.m. Showing Hacienda 20: Fri-Tues 11:20 a.m. 12:20, 2, 3, 4:40, 5:40, 7:10, 8:10, 9:55, 10:50 p.m.
The Guardian (PG-13)	Blackhawk Movies 7: Fri-Tues 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05 p.m. Sun-Tues No 10:05 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 12:15, 3:45, 6:35, 7:35, 9:45, 10:30 p.m. Tues No 3:45, 9:45 p.m. Showing Vine Cinema: Fri 2:15, 5:05, 8 pm Sat-Sun 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 5:05, 8 pm Mon-Tues 2:20, 5, 7:45 p.m.
The Illusionist (PG-13)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:15 a.m. 1:35, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40 p.m.
The Marine (PG-13)	Crow Canyon 6: Fri-Tues 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 9:45 p.m. Sun-Tues No 9:45 p.m. Showing Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:10 a.m. 1:30, 3:50, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 p.m.
The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R)	Hacienda Crossing 20: Fri-Tues 11:25, 11:50 a.m. 1:40, 2:10, 3:55, 4:30, 6:10, 6:45, 8:25, 9:10, 10:45 p.m.

Blackhawk Movie 7: 4175 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville (736-0368)
Crow Canyon 6: 2525 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon (820-4831)
Hacienda Crossings 20/ Regal Imax Theater: 5000 Dublin Blvd., Dublin (560-9600)
Vine Cinema: Corner of First and South O streets, Livermore (447-2545)
Internet address: For show times, visit the Pleasanton Weekly Online Edition at <http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com/>

CLIENT OF THE WEEK

Brian, a friend of a friend, gave me a call for help with his current mortgage on his rental property.



His now ex-mortgage lender recommended a loan program that Brian didn't fully understand. Now, a year later, he owes \$8K more than his original loan balance and his variable interest rate is 1% higher than a fixed rate option.

In order for his wife to not become an ex (like his old lender), he gave me a call to help recommend a better loan option for their situation. Brian now has a loan with a fixed rate for 10 years with an interest only payment option. There isn't the potential for negative amortization and he has the peace of mind of a fixed rate for the next 10 years.

If you or someone you know shares a similar situation then please give me a call at (925) 227-8514 or visit my web site at www.sallykraft.com

Mortgage Professionals is a Cal Corp, CA R.E. mortgage broker, DRE License #01275820

"2006 Republican Candidate Forum"

Presented by the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated

Thursday, October 19

A reception with Republican candidates begins at 6:30 p.m.
Presentations by candidates begin at 7 p.m.
Doors open at 6 p.m.

Kassabian Motors, 6080 Dublin Blvd., Dublin.

Open to the public. No charge. Refreshments.

Drawing for a week's stay in a Molokai beach home.

CONFIRMED CANDIDATES

Congressman Richard Pombo, 11th Congressional District
John Dendulk, 9th Congressional District; George Bruno, 13th Congressional District; Darcy Linn, 19th Congressional District; Lou Filipovich, State Senate District 10;
Assemblyman Guy Houston, State Assembly District 15; and Jill Buck, State Assembly District 18.

INVITED CANDIDATES

Richard Mountjoy, U.S. Senate, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Senator Tom McClintock, Lt. Governor; Bruce McPherson, Secretary of State; Tony Strickland, Controller; Claude Parrish, Treasurer; Chuck Poochigian, Attorney General; Steve Poizner, Insurance Commissioner; Leigh Wolf, Assembly District 14; Ken Nimishura, Assembly District 20; David Neighbors, Board of Equalization, District 1.

Local candidates and dignitaries have been invited.

Forum venue generously donated by Kassabian Motors

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 17, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- Consideration of Guidelines for Future Senior Housing Developments
- **Public Hearing:** PGPA-11/PUD-58, Charles Austin and Scott Austin, consideration of a General Plan Amendment to change the land use designation on a 30-acre hillside property located at 3459 Old Foothill Road from Rural Density Residential (1 du/5 ac) to Low Density Residential (<2 du/ac) on eight acres, with a maximum density of eight dwelling units and Open Space land uses on the remaining 22 acres; rezoning the property from Agriculture to Planned Unit Development - Low Density Residential/Open Space; Planned Unit Development approval to subdivide the property into eight custom home sites and designate the remaining 22 acres for permanent open space
- **Public Hearing:** PAP-101 (PADR-1338/PV-131), Dustin and Robin Boyce, consideration of an appeal of a Planning Commission decision denying (1) administrative design review to demolish approximately 470 square feet of the existing home and to construct an approximately 2,222-square-foot two-story addition, an approximately 833-square-foot non-habitable basement, and a 950 sq. ft. detached garage; and (2) variances of Municipal Code to (a) increase the floor area ratio (FAR) from 40 percent to 45 percent; (b) reduce the right (south) side yard setback from 5 feet to the existing 3.85 feet; and (c) increase the height of the garage from 15 feet to 20.5 feet. The property is located at 4546 Second Street
- Review and Discuss Resolution Amending Compensation for City of Pleasanton Management and Confidential Employees
- Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 2.04 the of the Municipal Code setting the Salaries for Mayor and Council

Housing Commission

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

- Discussion regarding Potential City Council Priorities
- Information regarding the Countywide Homeless and Special Needs Housing Plan

GENERAL INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 7, 2006 ELECTION - EARLY VOTING

- The City Clerk's Office will participate in early voting. This will allow citizens to cast their ballots at City Hall beginning October 23 through Election Day from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On Election Day City Hall will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., to vote and assist residents in locating their designated polling places. Voters can look up polling locations and view their sample ballots at the following Website <http://www.smartvoter.org/ca/alm/>

POLL WORKERS NEEDED

- The Alameda County Registrar of Voters are recruiting poll workers for the upcoming November 7, 2006 Election. Workers are paid \$95 to \$170 for working at polling places. Poll workers are needed for the entire day from 6:00 a.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. (Half day shifts are available for some positions) A pre-Election day training class is required for some of the positions. Poll workers must be at least 18 years old and registered to vote in California. Information and Applications are available at the City Clerks office at 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or at www.acgov.org/rov/workers.htm

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

Pleasanton unveils new traffic safety program

The Pleasanton Police Department announced a new, all-encompassing education and enforcement campaign designed to significantly reduce driving under the influence (DUI). The program is paid for by an \$87,500 grant from the state Office of Traffic Safety.

"This is great news for the City of Pleasanton because the grant gives us the tools to fight DUI and promote traffic safety," Special Operations Unit Lt. Tom Fenner said.

The yearlong grant—which began Oct. 1—calls for the popular "Every 15 Minutes" anti-DUI presentation to be held in local high schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District. In addition, the increased enforcement component of the campaign includes DUI sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, a courthouse sting and a warrant service patrol.

"Using evidence-based DUI countermeasures such as sobriety checkpoints and increasing awareness on the effects of driving under the influence translates into lives saved," said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the Office of Traffic Safety, which funded the grant through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "We also want to make certain that every high school that wants an 'Every 15 Minutes' program can get one."

As part of the program, the department will partner with Mothers Against Drunk Driving to convey

a series of messages and themes about changing behavior and driver attitudes through various forms of messaging.

Residential burglary suspect

Pleasanton police have released a sketch that resembles the suspect believed to be involved in the recent rash of burglaries in residential areas. In most cases, entry into the residence was forced and through the backyard. The majority of losses experienced have been small electronics, laptop computers, jewelry and cash.



A bright blue, full-sized American-made truck with a standard cab and bed was seen in the area of some of these burglaries and is believed to be involved. The suspect is believed to be a white male and described as being 16-20 years old, with short brown hair and approximately 5 feet, 10 inches to 6 feet tall, with a thin build and youthful appearance.

Residents are urged to secure their doors and windows when not at home. They are also encouraged to report any suspicious persons or vehicles seen in residential neighborhoods.

Anyone with information regarding these burglaries is urged to contact the Pleasanton Police Department and/or Detective Aaron Fountain at 931-5142.

Police Report

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

October 1

- Theft: 3
- Vandalism: 2
- DUI: 1
- Public drunkenness:
 - 3:18 a.m. at the intersection of Harrison and West Angela streets
- Assault:
 - 3:40 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue

October 2

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 2
- Found property: 1
- Assault:
 - 7:26 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 10:45 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

October 3

- Theft: 6
- Found property: 2
- Possession of cocaine:
 - 2:09 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Court and Owens Drive

- Possession of paraphernalia:
 - 10:35 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 1:00 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- Assault:
 - 1:44 p.m. in the 3500 block of Ballantyne Drive
- Public drunkenness:
 - 1:50 in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

October 4

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 4
- Burglary: 1
- Found property: 2
- Assault:
 - 4:28 a.m. in the 600 block of St. John Street

October 5

- Theft: 4
- Vandalism: 1
- Found property: 1
- Assault:
 - 12:15 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court
- Public drunkenness:
 - 1:38 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

- 1:51 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 6:48 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive
- 8:20 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Underage possession of tobacco:
 - 8:00 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- Possession of marijuana while driving:
 - 5:10 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

ACCIDENTS

October 2

- 1:00 p.m. - Non-injury accident involving private property in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

October 3

- 5:12 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Windmill Way and Bernal Avenue
- 5:28 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of California Avenue and Washington Street

October 4

- 11:31 a.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Black Avenue and Hopyard Road

Calendar

Author Visits

Emily Wu and Joseph Engelmänn
Feather in the Storm: A Childhood Lost in Chaos. Authors Emily Wu and Joseph Engelmänn will speak at the Pleasanton Public Library Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. The book is told from a child's and young girl's point of view. Wu's account spans 19 years of growing up during the chaos of China's Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution. For information, call 931-3405.

Holly Cleeland
The Pleasanton Library welcomes Holly Cleeland, author of *Glue & Go Costumes for kids: Super-Duper Designs with Everyday Materials* at 4 p.m. on Oct. 19 in the library meeting room. She will demonstrate simple methods of turning kids into unforgettable disguises with costumes made from easy to find materials. For information, call the Children's Desk 931-3400, ext. 8.

Lunch with Lolly Winston
Lolly Winston is the guest Oct. 18 at noon for the monthly Read it and Eat Luncheon at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Lolly's latest book *Happiness Sold Separately* will be featured. Cost is \$25 for book and \$10 for lunch. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is served at noon. For reservations, call 846-8826.

Meet the Author: Judy Sierra
Award-winning children's author Judy Sierra will visit the Pleasanton Library at 4 p.m. on Oct. 20. She has written numerous titles such as *Monster Goose*, *Wild about Books*, and *There's a Zoo in Room 22*. For information, call the Children's Desk at 931-3400, ext. 8.

Civic Meetings

City Council
The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Oct. 17.

Housing Commission
The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Oct. 19.

Human Services Commission
The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Nov. 1.

Library Commission
The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Nov. 9.

Parks & Recreation Commission
The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Nov. 9.

Planning Commission
The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. **School Board**

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Oct. 17.

Youth Commission
The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is Nov. 8.

Class Reunions

Granada High 1966
The Granada High School Class of

Weekend Preview



Halloween puppet show

Puppeteers Art Grueneberger (above) and Rachel Malin bring their show, "Winnie the Witch" to the Pleasanton Public Library Saturday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. Winnie loves Halloween, and candy, so when she finds out Willard the Wizard is plotting to make all candy taste like Brussels sprouts, she has to save the day. The show is free to children ages 5 and older. Due to the popularity of the program, parents and younger children will not be admitted. Tickets may be picked up at the children's desk 30 minutes prior to the show. Late arrivals will not be admitted into the show. Call the children's desk at 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

1966 reunion will be held Oct. 13 and 14. Tickets are \$40. Call Paul, 736-0976 or email plhirsch30@aol.com.

Classes

Class & Book Signing
Amador Valley Adult and Community Education presents "Work Passion - Finding Work You Love." Speaker and Author Kennette Reed will be appearing 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 26 at 4665 Bernal Avenue. Course fee \$25, materials fee \$20. Call 426-4280.

Columbia College—Coast Guard Island
Columbia College—Coast Guard Island begins its October session Oct. 23, and registration is now open. The eight-week on-campus and online classes meet one night a week and offers several bachelor's degrees. Call (510) 437-1280 or go to www.ccis.edu/nationwide/coastguard.

Epicurean Exchange
Learn practical ways to prepare meals with maximum nutritional quality, while reducing shopping and prep time. At 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17 Chef Charles Vollmar will conduct informative sessions at ClubSport, 79910 Johnson Dr. Cost is \$35/session. Call 463-2822.

German School of Fremont
Learn a new language in a fun, comfortable environment. The classes will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays, at Kennedy High School in Fremont. Call 510-247-8701 or visit www.dsifremont.org.

International Folk Dancers
The Del Valle International Folk Dancers welcome beginning and experienced dancers for Balkan,

Israeli and other world dances. Weekly classes meet from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the upstairs studio at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Avenue. Cost is \$4. Call George Pavel, 447-8020.

Las Positas Community College
Las Positas College presents Organizing your Office: Home, Workroom and Small Business Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3303 Collier Canyon Rd. in Livermore. Cost and registration: College Class fee \$79 (plus \$25 for class text "How to do space age work with a stone age brain" which will be distributed in class. For more information, call 510-528-4950 or visit <http://www.Organizer-Extraordinaire.com/PubWorks.html>

Laughter Yoga
Laughter Yoga classes are held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. All ages welcome, bring a friend get a prize! Cost \$5, drop-ins OK. To register, call 556-4511.

Parent Education Class
The first Parent Education class of the fall semester runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays from now through Dec. 20 at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church. The class is designed for parents of young children 2-12 and is ongoing. Parents may join anytime during the semester.

Square Dance
Learn to square dance from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday through October. Families, couples and singles are welcome. No cost for this class. Call Clay, 454-0791, or Judi, 828-2535.

(continued on page 26)

Essence Medespa

Pleasanton's Premiere Medical Spa

October & November Promotion
Essence Medespa will match Local*
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YOUTH MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications for 11 members to serve on the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC). The 11 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: Ptown411 web page, Youth-related workshops, events and special projects. 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 YMPIC is comprised of 30 members. Applications are being accepted for the following representatives:

- o 3 At-Large Parent Representatives - one representative from a pre-school, one representative from an elementary 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

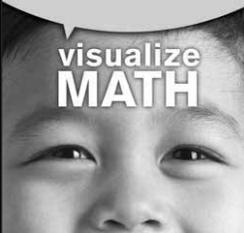
It is anticipated that the YMPIC will meet at least monthly for the purpose of implementing these projects. Committee members will be appointed for a one-year term initially.

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, OCTOBER 20, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

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(continued from page 25)

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 at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. 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 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. every Friday at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Call Bill, 469-1111.

Hearing Loss Association of America
Have trouble hearing? The Tri-Valley chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America is meeting at 7 p.m., Oct. 19 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Kenneth D. Billheimer, Au.D., will talk about "getting looped." Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Contact Julie Nygaard at 461-9057 or jehn1513@aol.com.

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

Concerts

Chris Bradley's Dixieland Jazz Band
Chris Bradley's Dixieland Jazz Band will perform from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 in the lounge of the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. No cover charge. Call 846-8106

The Justin Hellman Trio
Jazz musicians, The Justin Hellman Trio will perform from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Program is free. No registration required. Call 931-3405.

The Magic Flute, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Livermore Valley Opera celebrates the opening of its 15th season and Mozart's 250th anniversary by presenting The Magic Flute Oct. 14 and 21 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. at the Livermore Performing Arts Theatre, which is on the campus of Livermore High School, 600 Maple St. Admission \$25-\$40. For tickets call 960-9210.

Events

B2B Power Exchange
Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers will be held Oct. 19 from 7:45 to 10 a.m., at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive in Dublin. Non-Members pay \$40 which includes cost of breakfast. Prepay by the Tuesday prior to the event and price is \$35. Members attend free. For information on membership fees and benefits go to www.b2bpowerexchange.com or 201-3410.

Big Money Give Away Benefit
Pleasanton Amador Valley Lions Club hosts the "Big Money Give Away Benefit" Silent Auction plus other raffles on Oct. 14. With each \$100 contribution, ticket holder will receive a big barbecue steak dinner (chicken available), two hour free bar. Twenty-eight cash prizes will be awarded totaling \$9,400. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. and barbecue dinner at 7:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center. For tickets call Tom 689-1881.

Blood Drive
The Asbury United Methodist Church is sponsoring a blood drive from 1 to 7 p.m., Oct. 13 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Call Tom, 447-1950 or email blooddrive@asburylive.org.

Got Science?
The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's popular community event returns to showcase science and technology on Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 444 East Ave. in Livermore. This free event will feature a wide array of unique displays, demos and hands-on activities for all ages and scientific tastes. For more info call 422-4599 or visit www.llnl.gov/pao.

Harvest Home Tour
Assistance League of Amador Valley presents its Harvest Home Tour with

five unique homes in Pleasanton. This driving tour benefits Operation School Bell by providing new clothes, shoes, backpacks, etc to children in need in our communities. The tour begins Oct. 14 from 11:30 to 4 p.m. at the Rose Hotel, 807 Main St. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For tickets call 461-6401 or 828-3272, more info is available on the web www.AmadorValley.AssistanceLeague.org

Haunted Manor Tour
Civic Arts Youth hosts its annual Haunted House from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 19 and 20 at Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Ave. Tickets are \$5 in advance, and \$10 at the door. Tours are every 30 minutes. The three earliest times are recommended for children under nine. Call: 931-5353

The Independent Institute
The Independent Policy Forum, The Reality and Legacy of the Iraq War. An evening with Ivan Eland, Senior Fellow at the Institute and author of "The Empire has no Clothes." and Mark Danner, author of "The Secret Way to War." At 6:30 to 9 p.m., Oct 17, at the Independent Institute Conference Center, 100 Swan Way, Oakland. Admission \$15 (\$10 for members). Call 510-632-1366.

Top Tips for Digital Photography!
"Storytelling with your digital camera." Author, photographer Jim Miotke to speak at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Rd. Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. Jim will help photographers better understand the world of digital photography with his practical, easy to follow advice on improving technique. Check out his website www.better-photo.com. Program is free.

Exhibits

Art Show
Krista Sheldon will display her work from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays now through Oct. 21 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Ste. J. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

Bay Area Artist David Smith-Harrison
See new artwork by David Smith-Harrison at a special reception hosted by Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Best known for his intaglio etchings, David uses a printing process that dates back to the 16th century. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artist and view his work from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 14. This is a free event. Call 846-432 or visit www.studio7finearts.com.

Chinese Experience in the Valley
"The Chinese Experience in the Valley" will be on display until Dec. 3 at Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Admission is \$2. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Poetry & Art Exhibition
The Poetry & Art Exhibition will be open weekends at Big White House Winery

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Calendar

and El Sol Winery at 6800 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Call Linda, 243-0424 for schedule of events.

Film

Heroes and Villains

Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Library present "Heroes and Villains: A Classic Film Series," at 7 p.m., every first Thursday monthly until June 2007 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call Penny, 931-3405.

"Iraq for Sale" Film

This new film will be shown Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m., in the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin. Meet and greet starts at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public. There is a \$2 optional donation. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Call, 462-3459 or www.iraqforsale.com

Fundraisers

AIDS Benefit

Amador Valley High School's 10th annual AIDS Benefit will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Multi-Purpose room, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. All proceeds will benefit UCSF AIDS Health Project. Admission is free and donations will be taken at the door.

Bingo

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

Breast Cancer Awareness

A "Shop to Support" fundraiser will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 26 and 27 at The Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Rd. All proceeds will benefit the local chapter of The Wellness Community. Call 426-8255.

Dictionary Project

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

"Drink For Pink" at Sweet Tomatoes

Every Friday during October, all Sweet Tomatoes restaurants across the U.S. will donate 5 percent of beverage sales to the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Open Heart Kitchen Tri Valley CROP Hunger Walk

The Tri Valley CROP Hunger walk is part of the national "communities responding to overcome poverty" (CROP) organization, which focuses on raising awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as hunger issues.

The 5-mile walk will be on Oct. 15 and starts at 1 p.m. at 4444 Black Ave. and winds its way through Pleasanton. For more info call Pattie Tanner, CROP coordinator at 485-5454. To sponsor a walker please go to www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?event=180204

Operation: S.A.M.

The Museum On Main, 603 Main St., is an ongoing drop-off place for donations for Operation: S.A.M., a non-profit organization that sends packages to American troops deployed all over the world. Visit www.operation-sam.org for list of needed items. Call 462-2766.

Operation S.A.M. to support our troops

The community is invited to participate in the Annual Holiday Drive to be held at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Dr., and Livermore Wal-Mart, 2700 Las Positas Rd, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 14. Volunteers will be collecting goodies for the holiday packages our military men and women who will be unable to be with their families this holiday. For list of items needed call 443-7620 or visit www.operationsam.org.

Raffle items needed for fundraiser

On Oct. 21, a fundraiser BBQ and raffle will benefit two friends who were injured in two separate motorcycle accidents. The victims have three small children and are out of work. Donations are greatly appreciated. Call Michelle, 980-8078 or send to 3573 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Recycle for Breast Cancer

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

Sisters in Service "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"

This is a mini fundraiser for Sisters in Service. It will be held Oct. 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Inventory your shoe closet, then pledge to donate 50 cents per pair toward SIS projects supported by our Tri-Valley Chapter. Enjoy an evening of fondue, fun, and fellowship. Bring shoe specimens for a chance to win the Cinderella Award, Stella Stiletto Award, Shabby Chic Award, etc. Call 998-3785.

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

Celebrate the 7th annual "That's Amore, Paw Prints on our Hearts," fundraising dinner and auction, from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 14 at Robert Livermore Community Center. Call 803-7043 for tickets.

Valley Community Bank to Throw Benefit Baby Shower

The event will benefit Axis Community Health's Prenatal Program. The bank has purchased new playpens, which will be set up at 465 Main St. in Pleasanton and 1986 Second St. in Livermore. The general public, as well

as Valley Community Bank customers, are invited to deposit new items for infants such as diapers, clothing blankets, toys, etc. during bank hours Oct. 2-31.

Health

African Drumming Circle

Drumming has been shown to boost immune system functions and metabolism. Join Patricia Frame from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. No rhythmic or musical ability is required. Event is free for cancer patients and their families and friends. Reservations required. For information call 933-0107.

(continued on page 28)

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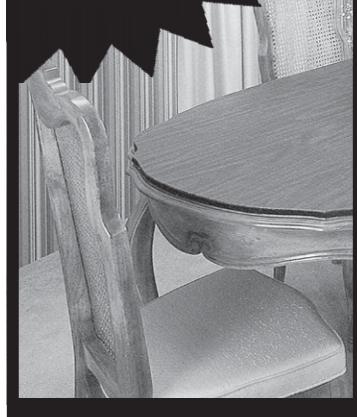
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Pleasanton

(continued from page 27)

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.

Frankly Speaking About Cancer Treatment
Take Control of Side Effects with Medicine, Mind and Body. Receive the latest information on managing treatment side effects, and learn how to cope with emotional distress and optimize your quality of life, during and after cancer treatment. The seminar will be held Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave, Walnut Creek. Event is free for cancer patients and their families and friends. Reservations required. For information call 933-0107.

Frankly Speaking About Lung Cancer
Join Michaela Strisnicka, MD and Lynn Rodegard, RM, BSN and learn the most current info about the diagnosis, staging and treatment of lung cancer including novel therapies, and side effect management. Event will be held Nov. 7 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave, Walnut Creek. Free for cancer patients and their families and friends. Reservations required. For information call 933-0107

Kids & Teens

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Oct. 29 at Pure Girls, 660 Main St. Cost is \$35 or \$30 with BFF discount. Call 485-4380.

Hearst Elementary School Carnival
Hearst Elementary School families are invited to school's Fall Festival and Carnival from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 20. The Pirates of the Caribbean The themed event is the biggest ever and features carnival games, a cakewalk, a haunted house, food, amazing decor and more. Tickets and a \$10 unlimited game band can be purchased through the school. Funds raised go to computers and/or computer lab and library assistants.

Teen Fusion Party
Pleasanton teens, ages 13-19, are invited to attend a "Teen Fusion" program and after-hours party from 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Author Mitali Perkins will be leading a discussion about what it means to be "bi-cultural." Program is free. Call Teresa, 931-3404 or email tparham@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Lectures/ Workshops

Angel Island and the Chinese Immigrant Experience
Kay Speaks, a first generation Chinese-American, will lecture on

"Angel Island and the Chinese Immigrant Experience," at 7 p.m., Oct. 19 at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Cost is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-museum members. Reservations requested. Call 462-2766.

Being a South Asian Woman in America
Fusion Pleasanton presents a panel discussion on the triumphs and challenges of being a South Asian woman living in America from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3405.

Bereavement Workshop
The Bereavement Ministry Team of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton will provide a Fall Bereavement Workshop from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Thursdays until Nov. 9 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Advanced registration required. Call Kim, 735-3741.

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

Child Care Initiative Project
Licensed and license-exempt child care providers are encouraged to participate in the CCIP project to receive

technical assistance and support, free training and support materials, and more. No cost for this workshop. Call Donnamarie at 249-3923.

Christian/Jewish Workshop
A series of six workshops sponsored by the Jewish and Catholic communities of Pleasanton will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1, 29, Dec. 6, 13, at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. To register, contact Mary Schneider at mary0531@comcast.net.

Communication Workshop
Learn how to turn conflict into intimacy from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m., Oct. 19 and 26 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Ct., Dublin. Cost is \$45 single, \$80 couple. Call 560-3826, or register at www.crosswindschurch.org/workshops.

Conflict Resolution
Stephen Pulido will discuss the different options available to resolve conflict from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the ABWA Express to Success Network meeting, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Cost is free for members. Reservations are not required. E-mail info@expressstosuccess.org.

Facing Divorce?
The Catholic Community of Pleasanton is sponsoring a workshop for individuals facing divorce every Monday for 10 weeks from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 9. For registration and meeting location, call

Janine at 872-8310 or Mary Ann at 426-3861.

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

"Glue & Go" Kids Costume Author
Holly Cleeland, author of "Glue and Go Costumes for Kids: Super-Duper Designs with Everyday Materials," will demonstrate simple methods of costume design at 4 p.m., Oct. 19 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The 60-minute program is free. Registration is not required. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Memoir Writing Workshop
Write your memoir and still get invited for the Holidays. Linda Joy Myers, Ph.D. and award winning author will facili-

tate a three part workshop 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 15, 22, and 29 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. You will learn how to begin, structure, and keep writing your memoir whether its for family, friends, or publication. Cost \$55 includes free articles, tip sheets and free online consultation. Register at Towne Center books 846-8826

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

Preparing a Business Plan
TVC presents "Preparing and Presenting the Business Plan" from 8:30a.m. to 12:30p.m., Oct. 18 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400

(continued on page 30)

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- Ensure economic vitality—especially in our downtown

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Partial List of Endorsements

- Mayor Tom Pico
- Alameda County Central Labor Council
- Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974
- Alameda County League of Conservation Voters
- Pleasanton Police Officers Association
- Bay East Realtors Association
- League of Conservation Voters
- National Women's Political Caucus
- Pleasanton Weekly
- Tri-Valley Chapter, National Organization for Women
- Sierra Club

Paid for by Jennifer Hosterman for Mayor- FPPC 1265560

(continued from page 29)

Rosewood Dr. Event is free. To register visit www.caconference.com/location.htm. Call 960-1600.

Why are children of privilege having a difficult time?

Therapist and researcher Madeline Levine will discuss cutting, drugs, violence and withdrawal among our children at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 20 at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. This event is free to the public.

Writing Workshop

Join Tri-Valley Writers for an interactive writing workshop from 9 to 11:15 a.m. with lunch following from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 21 at Girsole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Workshop \$25 members/\$30 non-members; luncheon \$18 members/\$25 non-members. For reservations, email Fnorman300@aol.com.

Live Music

Barbeque and Blues on the Patio

Enjoy barbeque and the blues on the patio from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Call 846-8106.

Miscellaneous

Donate to Help Fight Cancer

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

Fall Boutique

Tri Valley Unity Church is sponsoring a fall boutique on Oct. 14 from

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For sale are hand-made items and holiday gifts. The event will be held at 767 North P St. in Livermore. Call Mary or Bob for details 455-5017.

Family Read Night

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

Farmers' Market

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

LifeStyle Rx

Work on swim stroke, endurance and confidence year-round. Call Hope, 454-6342, ext. 5174.

Open Heart Kitchen

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

Pleasanton VFW seeking Korean War veterans

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 is seeking Korean War veterans to participate in the Tri-Valley Veterans Day Parade which will be held Nov. 5 along Main Street in downtown. If you are a Korean veteran or know someone who is and would like to be an honored participant, contact Gloria Stahnecker of the VFW Auxiliary at 846-5453.

Poetry Open Mic

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

Ski Swap

Amador Valley Athletic Boosters is hosting a ski swap from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 14 in the small gym, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$1 for high school students; children are free. First choice admission is from 9 to 10 a.m., \$10 and \$5.

Sunol Regional Wilderness Hike

Sponsored by East Bay Regional Park District, a hike from Flag Hill to Indian Joe Loop, a distance of about 4.5 miles, will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at Sunol Regional Park. Cost is \$21. Arrive by 8:50 a.m., wear comfortable shoes, bring sweatshirt or rain jacket, water, lunch, hat and sunscreen. Call Sue, 484-0239 or visit www.fitness-to-photos.com.

TVAR Cat and Dog Adoptions

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts dog and cat adoptions from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays at Pleasanton's Farmers' Market, First and W. Angela sts. and from noon to 4 p.m. at Dublin PetsMart. Cats are available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Livermore Pet Extreme. Cats are also available from 1 to 4 p.m., Sundays at Dublin PetsMart and Pet Food Express. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvvar.org.

On Stage

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 two drink minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.laughalotproductions.com.

'Winnie the Witch'

The Puppet Art Theater Company performs a special black-light production of 'Winnie the Witch' at 2 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Tickets are free. This show is limited to children ages 5 and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Political Notes

Republican Candidate Forum

A Republican candidate forum sponsored by the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at Kassabian Motors, 6080 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. A reception with the candidates will begin at 6:30 p.m. Call Janet-Marie Persico, 600-0609.

Seniors

Bingo

Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Monday monthly and 1 to 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 at 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Charlene or Jode, 931-5382.

Spiritual

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.

Moms In Touch

Become a part of the worldwide community of mothers praying for their children and their schools. Call Mary, 484-4348 or visit www.momsintouch.org.

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Calendar

a.m. every Sunday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Sea Devils

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

Support Groups

Al-Anon and Al-a-teen

Al-Anon is a Tri-Valley support group for family and friends of alcoholics that meets from 6:30 to 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 to 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 to 8:45 p.m. every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call 560-0842, e-mail trivalleybipolar@hotmail.com, or visit www.namitrivalley.org.

Breast Cancer Prayer & Support

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

Breast Cancer Support

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

needs 10 to 12 teens (at least 16 years of age) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Job includes serving seniors from the buffet line, helping seniors get to their tables, bussing tables, cleaning, etc. Adults also welcome to apply. Call 580-1619.

Foothill Junior and Senior Parents

Please volunteer your time and talent to make Grad Night an unforgettable and safe celebration. Call Jaylene at 426-5680 or JayGroeniger@aol.com.

Foster Homes Needed

Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St., is urgently seeking temporary homes for rescued kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Food and medical expenses are provided. Also needed are Adoption Volunteer Coordinators and counselors. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Jewish Community Federation

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

Open Heart Kitchen

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

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 Monday through Friday. Call Lyn, 443-4283, ext. 217.

The American Cancer Discovery Shop

The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Call 462-7374.

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.

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Volunteering

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Volunteers are needed to staff the Emergency Food Hotline from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call (510) 834-3663 or visit www.accfb.org.

Community Service for Teens

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It's time to focus on local, not global issues:

- ★ **Traffic Congestion**
- ★ **Public Safety**
- ★ **Quality of Life**

Cindy McGovern - Pleasanton City Council Member Scott Haggerty - Alameda County Supervisor
Marshall Kamena - Livermore Mayor H. Abram Wilson - San Ramon Mayor Karen Stepper - Danville Mayor
Steve Pulido - Pleasanton School Board President Kris Weaver, Juanita Haugen, Pat Kernan - Pleasanton School Board Trustees
Gloria Fredette - Retired Pleasanton School Board Trustee Kay Ayala - Former Pleasanton City Council Member
Phil Blank - Pleasanton Planning Commissioner Tony Rivera - Pleasanton Civic Arts Commissioner
Jo Molz - Pleasanton Civic Arts Commissioner Joe Jones - Pleasanton Housing Commissioner and Trails Ad Hoc Committee Member
Julie Testa - Pleasanton Human Services Commissioner Laura Danielson - Vice-Chair, Pleasanton Library Commissioner
Kurt Kummer, Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Trails Ad Hoc Committee Chair
Scott Tucker - Chair, Pleasanton Youth Commission Rudy Johnson - Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council Bob Butler - Former Pleasanton Mayor
Bob Philcox - Former Pleasanton Mayor Frank Brandes - Former Pleasanton Mayor DeWitt Wilson - Former Pleasanton Mayor
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Adrian Cukar - Pleasanton Teacher & Soccer Coach Sarah Jane Hollister - Retired Pleasanton Teacher Dave Young - Retired Pleasanton Teacher
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