

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 43 • November 17, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton



Sticking together

**Pleasanton families talk about love, struggles
as city honors National Family Week**

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Adopted daughter gives kidney
to the father who raised her

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Foothill football 10th in state
heading into NCS playoffs

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

'Jeopardy' lightens election wait for Hosterman

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's Hollywood-style salute to community volunteers Monday night at the 35th annual Mayor's Award Dinner was especially spirited, and for two reasons: First, it was an expertly choreographed musical and game show production produced by City Hall staffers for the more than 200 dinner guests there for the annual "Who's Who" of city and civic leaders. Second, for Hosterman, emcee for her "Commission Jeopardy" show, the event came just hours after she learned she had taken a 115-vote lead over Councilman Steve Brozosky in the hotly-contested mayor's race. Brozosky was the only council member to miss the dinner, saying he had other commitments.

Actually, the awards dinner is not supposed to be political, although the tightness of the mayor's race that had Brozosky with a 163-vote lead Nov. 8 shortly after the polls closed was the talk of the Senior Center auditorium out of range of Hosterman's table. The awards dinner, started in 1971 by the late Mayor Bob Reid with the approval of the City Council at the time, originally was held in January. Later it was moved back to November after the election but before the new mayor and council would be sworn in to keep it out of politics. It's also set up to allow the current mayor at the time to make the award, which Reid and the council said should go to the outstanding citizens of the year. And that's been the case since William Herlihy won the Mayor's Award in 1971, followed by such well-known individuals as Roger McLain, Woody Periera, Ken Mercer, Dewitt Wilson and the late George Spiliotopolous.

In 1982, the award went to three former City Councilmen, and then in 1998 to another group that helped make the Hacienda Business Park a success, breaking from the tradition of giving the award to only one individual. In 2003, former Mayor Tom Pico broke tradition again by giving the award to an entire organization, that time to the Pleasanton

Cultural Arts Council. Hosterman continued that practice last year by honoring the entire 10-member Golf Committee for its years of planning and opening the city's Callippe Preserve public golf course and open space one year ago. On Monday, Hosterman gave the award to the Assisted Living Facilities Subcommittee and its five volunteers who have worked with little recognition for the last 11 years to bring a public-private partnership to Pleasanton—the Parkview Assisted Living facility. It will have 105 assisted living apartments and Alzheimer's units when it opens in January at Valley Avenue and Sunol Boulevard. The problem with these group awards is that they depart from Bob Reid and the council's objective to honor one individual. Organizational awards, although well-deserved, broaden the program to the extent that few of us remember the individuals who were honored, if we ever knew them.

Without doubt, though, those attending the awards dinners are the who's who of community activists in Pleasanton, ranging from those serving on city commissions and committees to the scores of others in such organizations as the Blairgowrie (Scotland) and Tulancingo (Mexico) Sister City groups, the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion. Former council members are also invited along with former award winners, former Planning, Park & Rec and Library commissioners, and even Barbara Strouzas, who has the curious title of Minor Offenses Advisor.

Hosterman's quick study of Alex Trebek as hostess of Pleasanton's version of Jeopardy brought much laughter and applause as she sparred with commissioners on their accomplishments this year. The best answer came from Dave Walden, chairman of the Economic Vitality Committee, who gave as the question for the figure "9.5" on the Jeopardy screen: The years it takes to count the votes in a Pleasanton mayor's election. ■

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About the Cover

Mason and Sierra Picone play patty-cake with each other in their Pleasanton home. The two love to spend time with their family, just like many other Pleasanton families. With National Family Week starting on Nov. 19, Pleasanton families reflect on what makes them close and what it means to be a family. Photo by Rebecca Guyon.

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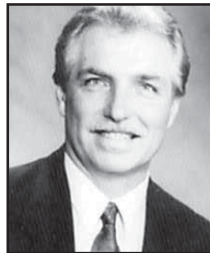
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Streetwise

Q: Now that gasoline prices are down, will you be traveling during the holidays?

Asked Downtown



Tim Howk
Communications

I am shopping for low flight prices and there certainly are more available these days. I got into the habit when prices were high and I am still trying to conserve.

Nes Albano
Mortgage Consultant

We will travel. Although prices are down it doesn't make much of a difference for us. We drive a hybrid. We can get from here to San Diego on one tank of gas. We believe in being environmentally conscious.



Kim Bowers
2nd Grade Teacher

I am not going to change my patterns of travel. If I want to travel I will, but I will do it in a conservative way. I always try to be mindful of how much gas I use and how that effects our environment.

Pauline Cameron
Paralegal

Yes, definitely. Before, we hesitated traveling—we didn't want to put more money in the pockets of major oil companies, they are rich enough. But now that prices are down, we will be traveling this holiday season.



Sane Donovan
Accountant

I am not traveling this holiday season. We usually stay home. Even though prices are down, I am still very aware of conserving and would hunt for the lowest price were I to take a trip.

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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Holiday home tour

Valley Children's Museum will hold its third annual Holiday Home Tour from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 10. The tour includes homes in and around the Ruby Hill community and features owners' special decorating and lifestyles. Guests will be treated to coffee, tea and treats from local restaurants; wine tasting; a children's choir; a specialty gift boutique; a silent auction; and raffle. Tickets are a \$35 per-person donation and can be purchased at www.valleychildrensmuseum.org. Call 461-6574, ext. 3 or e-mail Linda@valleychildrensmuseum.org for more information.

Free art events

Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., has several free events in November and December. See work from San Franciscan jewelry designer Josie Adele today from 7 to 9 p.m. Pleasanton photographer Sue Evans will be in the gallery to share her shots from 7 to 9 p.m. Dec. 1. Refreshments will be served. Visit www.worthingtongallery-west.com for more information.

Say hi to Santa

Get a picture with Santa now through Dec. 24 at the grand court in Stoneridge Shopping Center. Visiting hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, with current vaccinations, are welcome 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 19 and Dec. 3. Use D-Green entrance near Sweet River Saloon. Picture prices start at \$13.99.

Banks and bears

Adopt a teddy bear from Valley Community Bank (VCB), 465 Main St., Nov. 20 to Dec. 9 and support underprivileged children in the Tri-Valley Area. This is the 11th year VCB Senior Vice President Cindy Chase has spearheaded the event. Bears were donated by parishioners at Walnut Creek Unity Church's Teddy Bear Sundays. Adoptive "parents" are asked to make monetary donations of any amount as their adoption fee. Donors' names are attached to the bears and will be delivered during the holiday season. For more information, call Chase at 580-4661.

Corrections

In the Nov. 3 story titled "Church projects to go before Planning Commission," a comment about a workshop should specify that city staff requested closing the main parking lot off Golden Road.

Planning Commission's lack of quorum has some upset

Special meeting scheduled for Nov. 29 to make up for cancellation

by Janet Pelletier

Twice in less than a month, a proposal by St. Elizabeth Seton Church to the Planning Commission has been put off and those affiliated with the church are fuming.

The first time was Oct. 25 when the proposal, which was slated to be heard as a workshop to get public feedback, was continued by acting Chairwoman Anne Fox to the Nov. 8 meeting.

Fox said she continued the item because city staff hadn't finished the report on the church project, which is why it was planned to be only a workshop, not a public hearing.

The second time came Nov. 8 when only commissioners Greg O'Connor and Arne Olson attended the meeting. With three commissioners absent, there weren't enough members needed to form what's called a quorum (meaning they can conduct city business). Donna Decker, secretary to the

commission, announced to a full council chamber 10 minutes after the meeting was to have begun that it would have to be cancelled.

Many in the crowd of 150 or so threw their hands up in disbelief as they exited the room.

Michael Gallagher, a co-chair of St. Elizabeth Seton's fundraising drive for the church construction, said he thinks Fox may have had an ulterior motive in not attending

(continued on page 11)

Hosterman leading in vote still 'too close to call'

County hopes to declare winner this weekend

by Jeb Bing

In a mayoral race still too close to call, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman picked up more votes this week to achieve a 167-vote edge over challenger and Councilman Steve Brozosky, with her slim margin increasing steadily with each new vote count released by the Alameda County Registrar's office.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Hosterman had 11,277 votes, or 50.12 percent of the votes cast and counted so far, against Brozosky's 11,110, or 49.38 percent.

Acting County Registrar Dave McDonald said more than 23,000 uncounted ballots ended up at his office after polls closed Nov. 7. Many of those were absentee ballots that were dropped off at polling places throughout the county. Others are damaged ballots where voters crossed off their initial votes and marked new ones. These have to be read by voting analysts at the Registrar's office to see if the voter's intention is clear and can be counted.

McDonald said that because Pleasanton voters could take their absentee ballots to any polling place in the county, not just to their own precinct as used to be the rule, he cannot determine how many of those uncounted ballots are for Pleasanton candidates.

(continued on page 15)



Range Rover flips near Fairgrounds

Tara Ransfer, a 36-year-old woman from San Mateo, drove eastbound on Bernal Avenue Tuesday past the fire department and tried to make a U-turn by way of the Fairgrounds' Gate 5 driveway but was protruding from the inside lane and was rear-ended by a passing vehicle, according to Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department. Annette Brazil, a 44-year-old woman from Pleasanton driving an unidentified SUV, struck the late model Range Rover from behind, according to police. The impact caused the Range Rover to roll over. Ransfer was able to escape through the driver's side window and was taken to Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Walnut Creek with minor injuries.

Home Depot seeks city OK for new store

Starbucks, Longs Drugs sign up for complex at Bernal, Valley

by Jeb Bing

The Home Depot plans to build one of its newest, architecturally-friendly retail stores at Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard, anchoring new Starbucks and Longs Drugs stores among other retailers on the vacant 16-acre site.

The proposed store would offer more upscale merchandise, as well as the same merchandise found on Home Depot's Johnson Drive store, but would focus its marketing on the south and eastside communities of Pleasanton, downtown Pleasanton and the west side of

Livermore.

The new store would be built at the rear of the site, with smaller stores, included a drive-through Starbucks at the corner and Longs Drugs located off Stanley at the back of the property.

The site, owned by Pleasanton developer Frank auf der Maur, has been vacant for years. It was considered earlier by both Albertson's and Safeway, which determined it was too small for the larger supermarkets both companies were building. The site is across from McDonald's and a row of new retail and take-out restaurants, including a new gas station, car wash and convenience store.

The Home Depot site would con-

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Hometown for the holidays

Downtown's magical evening launches the season

by Emily Atwood

Like holly and presents, stress often goes hand-in-hand with the holidays. As the countdown to the season gains momentum, the Downtown Association hopes to alleviate those anxious thoughts by bringing back the fun back into the festivities with Magical Holiday Evening from 5 to 9 p.m., today.

Stores downtown are already preparing, many with decorations, special deals and treats. Always a popular event, Robin Ehrman of Sincerely Yours Cards and Gifts on 711 Main St. says it highlights the epitome of what shopping should be.

"People really like the small-town appeal," she said. "The shop-

ping isn't rushed, you come down and have a good time and run into your neighbors."

Shoppers can munch on cookies and sip cider while browsing the vast holiday inventory. Known for a great selection of ornaments, Sincerely Yours has 11 trees full of them all around the store. Other popular items are Christmas flags, a variety of stocking stuffers and music compilations that aren't available at big box stores.

The celebration continues outside with carolers, jugglers, musicians and the man himself, Santa Claus. Parents are encouraged to bring a camera to the Enchanted Garden,

(continued on page 13)

Local candidates reflect on Nov. 7 General Election results

Regional races net McNerney, Hayashi and Bean as winners

by Janet Pelletier

While the city's mayoral race is still too close to call, other regional posts have been settled by the election last week affecting Pleasanton.

Republican candidate and Pleasanton resident Jill Buck said while she was disappointed at her loss, she is "ready to get back up in the saddle" and run for another public office sometime in the future.

"I just need to find the right horse," she said.

Buck, who ran against Democratic challenger Mary Hayashi of Castro Valley for the 18th Assembly District which covers a portion of Pleasanton, said she doesn't regret her run and would do it all over again if she had the choice.

"I don't recommend losing to anyone, but thanks to the support of so many great people in Pleasanton and around the Bay, my landing

has been softened with an outpouring of support," she said. "I feel like we ran a great race; it was just a tough year to be a Republican. When I saw the governor go down by nearly 20 points in Alameda County, when he was ahead by 20 points statewide, I knew we were in trouble."

The Pleasanton mother of three said people will definitely still see her around town as her children are active in school and sports and she

plans to help where help is needed.

The statewide numbers in the 18th District race with a few ballots left to count were 62,441 votes representing 67.5 percent for Hayashi and 30,115 representing 32.5 percent for Buck.

Pleasanton wind energy engineer Jerry McNerney said the past week has been an "incredible whirlwind" since he was elected to the 11th Congressional District which covers a portion of the city. In a blog on

his campaign Web site, McNerney said Monday that he's "spending his first full day in Washington, D.C., taking the first steps to being sworn in as a member of the House of Representatives in January."

"Winning a congressional seat is an incredible undertaking," he continued. "It certainly takes money and lots of it, but anyone who thinks it's all about money is sadly mistaken."

(continued on page 13)

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Florence Broadhurst

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Love from your grandson, Derek

Florence (Flo) Broadhurst

was born March 13, 1902, in Salford, England and lived for the past 33 years at Pleasanton Gardens, Pleasanton, California. She passed away peacefully on Friday, November 10, 2006, and was preceded in death by her husband Jack, daughter Joyce, and sons Albert and Allen.

Flo will be remembered as the beloved mother of daughter, Edith Caponigro and her husband Dennis. The loving grandma of grandchildren Steve, Derek, Kerry and Craig and their spouses Sharon, Tonja, Steve and Susanne, great-grandchildren Mark, Brittany, Giovanni, Sophie, Ben, Olivia, Zoe and Shyla, and many other family members.

She lived a very full life enduring World War I and II during which times she worked as a welder, parachute packer, and cotton winder. It was during World War II that she lost her home to bombings and her sons ages 8 and 11, were taken from her and evacuated for safety to the countryside. Flo sadly lost both boys at this time within 3 months of each other when they contracted tuberculosis from their caregiver.

She had a world of friends both in England and America who loved her dearly and will miss her greatly. She was well known not only from her longevity but also for her involvement in Daughters of the British Empire, Pleasanton Gardens, Pleasanton Presbyterian Community Church, Pleasanton VIP Senior Program and as a

Volunteer at the Livermore Veteran's Hospital. Flo will be remembered in the community for her years of babysitting for many young families (she was truly Pleasanton's own British Nanny).

Family and friends are invited to attend services celebrating her life at Pleasanton Presbyterian Community Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton on Sunday, November 19, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. immediately following the service a reception will be held at Pleasanton Gardens, 251 Kottinger Drive, Pleasanton.

The family requests no flowers. Memorial donations can be sent in Flo's name to the Daughters of the British Empire at 147 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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Janet Pelletier

Police Sgt. Brian Laurence serves a thirsty family some water at Strizzis restaurant downtown on a recent evening. Members of the Pleasanton Police Department, including Laurence, Capt. Dave Spiller, Officer Kenny Baxter and Officer Lisa Cavellini volunteered for the department's Tip-A-Cop fundraiser, serving restaurant patrons meals and assisting the wait staff. Cavellini said the tips that were received will help Tri-Valley Special Olympic athletes with training, equipment and transportation costs.

Music from the movies

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present its Family and Children's Concert: Music from the Movies 2 p.m. this Sunday at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd.

The band will perform music from the movies "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Jurassic Park" and "The Chronicles of Narnia," as well as selections from the "Star Wars" franchise. There will also be a large selection of music from the "Harry Potter" series including songs "Harry at Hogwarts," "Harry Potter

and the Prisoner of Azkaban" and "Harry Potter Symphonic Suite." Band Director Bob Williams plans to close the concert with a special musical surprise.

This is the band's second to last show before the end of the year. On Sunday, Dec. 10, it is performing its Holiday Concert again at the Amador Theater.

The concert is free to the public. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org for more information.

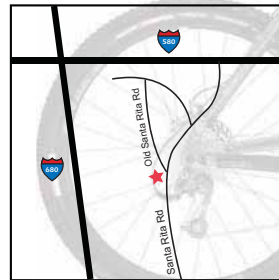
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Businesses go ga-ga for babies

Safeway gave a big boost to Valley Community Bank's benefit baby shower when they donated four pallets—about 6,730 shopping cart items—of surplus baby products. The items will help Axis Community Health, a Tri-Valley non-profit agency that delivers 25-28 babies per month to uninsured or underinsured mothers. The bank's small business customer Ecologically Sound Medical Services volunteered to store and distribute them to Axis as needed.

"We're delighted to have acted as the catalyst in bringing this about and we appreciate Safeway's initiative and our customer's can-do attitude," said Brent Chaney, Valley Community Bank senior vice president.

Pictured above (l-r) are Safeway Procurement Specialist Patricia Krohn-Pope, Chaney, Safeway Procurement Director Scott Kerley and Valley Community Bank Customer Service Representative Barbara Williams.

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Planning

(continued from page 5)

the latest meeting where the project was supposed to be either approved or denied.

"(She) is opposed to the project. It's very obvious, so I just hope there's no game-playing going on to slow us down on making some progress here," Gallagher said. "Possibly that person that didn't show up (Nov. 8) knew that a few people makes a quorum and she would have been positioned to have to make a vote."

Fox denied having any personal feelings toward the project as a reason for her absence.

Not attending, she said, "has nothing to do with whether I like a project or don't like a project."

"Sometimes, it's difficult to get (enough commissioners) there (to form a quorum); it's happened I think a couple times a year," she added. "It just happens. There can be issues that come up with various folks and that's sometimes what occurs."

"I've been both a planning commissioner and a city council member," said Sharrell Michelotti, who serves on St. Elizabeth Seton's steering committee for the church's construction project. "This is not the way to do business in Pleasanton. It was just very, very frustrating."

Michelotti said the church was notified that a quorum may not be reached earlier in the day the meeting was to be held. She said she was told by city staff that Commissioners Philip Blank and Jennifer Pearce already gave the city notice at least a week prior they wouldn't be able to attend and that Fox had just told staff she wouldn't be able to make it either.

Planning staffers told her to have everyone from the church group show up to the meeting anyway in case a third commissioner at the last minute would be able to attend, citing one incident where that happened and the people backing the project weren't at the meeting, Michelotti said.

"Having been involved in city government, caring about this community as much as I do, and about how the city operates, to have something like this happen twice in a row and not to be able to get

heard is, I feel that it just leaves a bad taste for all those 120 people that came out," she said, referring to an estimate of the number of people who came to hear the St. Elizabeth Seton item. "The staff people have been so diligent and everyone from the city manager on down made every effort."

Initially, church officials submitted their plans to the city last December and had hoped the proposal would be heard sometime in October.

Special Planning Commission meeting

When: 7 p.m. on Nov. 29

Where: City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Info: a proposal by St. Elizabeth Seton Church to build a parish hall and gymnasium will be heard. Commissioners will also be asked to approve design changes to the Vintage Hills Shopping Center and set commission priorities.

"Time is money when it comes to having the people that are the principal drivers of this: the architect, the project manager—people have to be present," Michelotti said.

St. Elizabeth Seton, part of the Catholic Communities of Pleasanton, has plans to construct a 22,296-square-foot parish center building with a gymnasium on an undeveloped site adjacent to the church facility on Stoneridge and Rheem drives.

The lack of quorum Nov. 8 was the second in a month's time. The first time a quorum couldn't be reached was at the Oct. 11 meeting. It was rescheduled a week later on Oct. 18.

The cancellations come at a time when the city is working to streamline its services to make city business more efficient. At a recent Economic Vitality Committee meeting, the committee talked about delays of projects going through the Planning Commission and City Council having a detrimental effect on people wanting to do business in Pleasanton.

"This sort of thing gives the pro-

cess a bad name in the city," said Commissioner Olson. "I think we need to put our heads together and figure out a way to tighten this up a bit so it doesn't happen because it's not fair to the citizens that come out and it's not fair to the applicants who, as it is, go through a lengthy process to get their projects approved and under way."

"We're going to do whatever we can to work with the Planning Commission and the City Council to ensure that these projects are given an opportunity to be heard," said City Manager Nelson Fialho.

The city has decided to schedule a meeting to makeup for the cancelled one on Nov. 29, where the St. Elizabeth Seton proposal will be heard, according to Planning Director Jerry Iserson.

Fialho said part of the reason there's been two missed meetings has been because the commission has had a vacant seat. Former Chairman Brian Arkin announced his resignation in early October. Commissioner O'Conner has been the alternate, serving when a commissioner can't attend, but has now been serving regularly.

The city is currently looking into recruiting someone to fill the vacancy, Fialho said.

"One of the things I've got is for the new mayor to make those appointments hopefully by the end of the calendar year," he said.

"I know that all the commissioners are committed to the effort and we want to make sure we're able to go forward from this point," he said.

According to Decker, the commission will choose a chair and vice chair at its Dec. 13 meeting.

A proposal by Trinity Lutheran Church to construct new facilities was also scheduled to be heard at last week's commission meeting, however Pastor David Beard said the church is okay with the delay.

They plan to meet with some residents in the neighboring community who have had concerns with the project and it hasn't been rescheduled yet to come before the commission.

Another proposal, by the Nagy family to turn a Ruby Hill sales office into a restaurant also has not been rescheduled, and the Nagys have asked for more time to work on their project, Iserson said. ■



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Home Depot

(continued from page 5)

nect on its southern end across Nevada Court with the Beth Emek Congregation.

Pete Knoedler of Regency Development, which has been hired by Home Depot to obtain city permits and develop the site, said he will ask the city Planning Commission at its Dec. 13 meeting to approve the project.

He told the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee that Home Depot would pay for traffic improvements, turn lanes and another traffic signal to reduce traffic congestion at the corner. The company will pay another \$2 million into a traffic fund so that the city can make other street and traffic control improvements related to the Home Depot project.

"With the changes we will make at this intersection, we expect considerable decrease in congestion," Knoedler said.

Knoedler also pointed out that hundreds of Home Depot shoppers who now go to the company's other store on Johnson Drive won't have to drive cross-town to reach that store, reducing traffic on those city streets. Since both stores will sell much of the same merchandise, the Johnson Drive store should retain customers from that side of Pleasanton,

with the new store also attracting Livermore shoppers who may now turn at Stanley and Valley to drive over Pleasanton's west side.

He also said that Home Depot needs a second store in Pleasanton. Although smaller, the Home Depot on Johnson Drive will continue serving customers from the fast-growing communities in west and north Pleasanton and Dublin. It is also a convenient store for contractors because of its close proximity to Hopyard Road, I-580 and I-680.

"With the changes we will make at this intersection, we expect considerable decrease in congestion."

—Pete Knoedler

Knoedler showed sketches of the proposed new store that features softer cream colors and what he called "neighborhood-friendly" architecture that do away with the big box look of other Home Depot stores.

"Now that these plans have been disclosed, I have city managers from other Bay Area cities calling me to see how they can get new stores in their communities," Knoedler said.

Longs and Starbucks will have

drive-through windows with ample parking for shoppers going inside. Another building on the north side of the new Home Depot store would accommodate other retailers in 10,000 square feet of space.

The Home Depot site would have driveways on Stanley and Bernal but not on Nevada Court, which serves the Beth Emek Congregation. Current plans call for 772 parking spaces with buildings occupying 159,000 square feet.

The corner at Stanley and Bernal will be landscaped with a monument sign reading "Pleasanton Gateway."

Although Knoedler asked the Pleasanton Chamber for support at its Planning Commission hearing, Chamber President Dave Bouchard said the organization only actively supports its members. Home Depot as a company and its store on Johnson Drive have declined to join the Chamber.

"As individuals, many business people in Pleasanton no doubt see a new Home Depot as a good enterprise, one that will create more jobs and also pay substantial sales taxes," Bouchard said. "We hope the firm will join the Chamber to become part of the Pleasanton business team."

The public hearing on the entire project will go before the Planning Commission on Dec. 13, with the meeting starting at 7 p.m. ■

Election

(continued from page 6)

He credited building support over the past six weeks leading up to the election for his win.

"We saw the tide coming in, day by day," he said. "More people every day working, walking, phoning, filing, delivering signs, mailing, recording data and doing everything that needed to be done."

Statewide, McNerney has collected 92,571 votes representing 53.7 percent, while Incumbent

Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, has received 80,112 votes representing 46.3 percent.

In the nonpartisan race for an open judge's seat on the Alameda County Superior Court, Pleasanton candidate Sandra Bean said she is elated at her win over challenger Dennis Hayashi, a civil rights attorney from Castro Valley.

Bean, a deputy county counsel representing Adult Protective Services and the Public Guardian, said while she isn't exactly sure of the reasons voters chose her, she said her varied experience practicing law is what resonated with

many county court judges who endorsed her.

She expects to be sworn in to the seat in January, when outgoing Judge Donald B. Squires leaves his post.

"My understanding is that I can get sworn in on Jan. 8," she said. "I suspect that I will be doing criminal misdemeanors, but the presiding judge has the decision as to what everybody will be doing next year."

Bean received 136,179 votes representing 50.88 percent while Hayashi received 129,685 votes representing 48.45 percent. ■

Holidays

(continued from page 5)

252 Main St., at 8 p.m. to get a shot of their children with Santa and his elves. Along with lists and letters,

children can turn in special coloring projects, available at participating merchants through Nov. 16, to Santa's elves. Following the event, the pictures will be displayed in shop windows.

Nickie Hoppe, events coordinator for the PDA, said Magical

Holiday Evening is a personification of what residents love about Pleasanton.

"[The event] is part of what makes Pleasanton unique and distinct," she said. "It's that warm, homey, hometown kind of feel." ■

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Going south

Silvina and Lance Smith and their children read the Weekly while passing Perito Moreno Glacier near Calafate, Argentina. The family also spent time in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southern most city in the world.

Hosterman

(continued from page 5)

Even so, he expects the count to be far enough along by this weekend to provide a clear winner.

Brozosky said Wednesday that he expected the race to be tight, so he's not surprised by the lack of a clear winner more than a week after the election

"I made a very hard effort to win the mayor's race, and it's not over yet," he said. "For anyone who thinks that their vote doesn't count in an election, they should look at this one."

"I ran against an incumbent, which presents a very big hurdle for any candidate," he added. "I don't know of any first-time incumbent who has ever been knocked out of a race anywhere around here. But to get this close, is healthy for all of us."

Hosterman also was taking the uncertainty in stride.

"Even though I am now ahead, and gaining, this vote is still too

close to call," she said Wednesday. "I think it's absolutely imperative that every single vote is counted before either one of us claims victory, even if it takes much longer."

As to the possibility of a recount should the vote spread remain close, Hosterman said it would be a very costly procedure.

"Because so many absentee votes were cast in this contest, with many of them delivered to different polling places, anyone asking for a recount would have to pay to have those votes checked first by ZIP code, and then to have the Pleasanton votes recounted."

Hosterman said she didn't have a price tag on a recount, but said the cost would have to be paid by the loser in accordance with an estimate made by the Registrar.

She said she doesn't expect that to be her problem.

For an update on the vote count for the Pleasanton mayor's race, sign in at the Registrar of Voters' Web site: www.acgov.org/rov/current.htm. Find the city of Pleasanton and "Mayor" for the current counts. ■

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Sticking together

Pleasanton families talk about love, struggles as city honors National Family Week

story and photos by Rebecca Guyon



Left, Don and Jenetha Partridge keep photos of them and their seven children all over their Pleasanton house.

Above, Mike Dutra spends time with his daughter Madeline, 4, who almost died at birth when she was born with a hole in her heart.

The Partridge Family

When Don and Jenetha Partridge married in 1986, it was the second marriage for both and each had children from their first unions. Don came in with two children, Beth and Dustin, and Jenetha had three, Joy, Matt and Devon. They also have two children with each other, Crissa and Christopher. All of the children are older and live across the country with the exception of Crissa and Christopher who both live at home.

Living with what they call a “blending family” was not easy at first and it meant a lot of adjusting to a new way of life.

“You have to be pliable and go with the flow of allowing things, knowing things will change because kids grow up, they change, living situations change,” said Jenetha. “It’s letting go of how we dreamed things would be and seeing what is reality.”

It was difficult bringing two families together—families with separate rules, traditions and other parents who aren’t living in the household—to form one cohesive unit, Don said. But, through trial and error and being open to different situations, the Partridges have made it work. Don said part of this success comes from looking at the idea of family from a different perspective.

“It’s us not only looking through our own eyes, but through our children’s eyes and us asking the hard question: ‘What constitutes my child’s family?’” he said. This means accepting their children’s other household, including their own ex-wife or ex-husband and the child’s half-siblings, and welcoming them as part of their lives. Openness and flexibility—which Don and Jenetha said took years to develop—are important in their family and helps to make them a close-knit bunch.

“The exciting thing is all seven of the kids are extremely close and adore each other,” Jenetha said. “We’d rather be gathered with each other than anyone else.” And despite the long distances between them with children in Virginia, New Jersey and Hawaii, they make a point of seeing each other as often as possible, she added.

The Shuman-Butler Family

For Carla Shuman-Butler and her daughter Keri Butler, 11, family took on a whole new meaning when husband and father Eric passed away in 2003 from an unknown primary cancer. He was diagnosed with stage four cancer in April of that year and passed away two months later. Needless to say, this turned Carla and Keri’s world upside down.

With her husband gone, Carla said she reevaluated what was important in life and Keri came out at the top of the list.

“My husband was really the family-oriented one,” she said. “I was career, career, career ... When he died it seemed like it wasn’t even worth it. It took the need, the greed, away from me.”

Carla left her career at Clorox and the two moved to Maryland to live with Eric’s mother before moving to Pleasanton last year. Now,



Carla Shuman-Butler, her daughter Keri and their dog Jenna are settling into their new life after father and husband Eric passed away in 2003.

Ask a Pleasanton resident why they moved to town and most will tell you it was because they wanted to raise their family here. Pleasanton is, after all, known as a family-focused city. So, when the city’s Community of Character Coalition heard of National Family Week, which starts Nov. 19, it seemed like the perfect activity to honor families.

For the past four years, the school district and City Council have supported Family Week and the coalition has organized activities where families can spend time together. This year, the coalition created a list of family-oriented classroom activities for teachers.

The most important part is for families to spend time together, since the goal of the week is honor families, said Becki Adams, who is heading the coalition’s Family Week activities.

But what is family? With the many different households and personal struggles, it’s certainly more than a group of people living together.

Cover Story

Carla works as a real estate agent with RE/MAX and her main focus is supporting Kerri.

"It's critical that this time, because our relationship has gotten so close now, I need her to be on my side all the time, and she needs to know I'm on her side all the time. We've got each other's back and we work really hard at that," she said.

The twosome keep busy with many activities, but they always spend Fridays at home and every day they keep connected by eating breakfast and dinner together.

Even as the pair have come to see each other as the sole members of their family unit, that doesn't mean they have forgotten Eric.

"We won't forget him, but as time passes it gets better," Carla said. "You don't forget, but it heals a little more."

The Picone Family

"When I think of my family, I think of fun," said Mason Picone, 9. That fun he is referring to is in the form of family trips and traditions they share.

Samantha and Michael Picone and their children Mason and Sierra, 6, moved to Pleasanton five years ago from Redwood City where Samantha and Michael both grew up. Even though the rest of their extended family is on the Peninsula, they still see grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins on a regular basis, whether it's Thanksgiving or a regular week.

"Family makes me think of a lot of food, a dirty kitchen I have to clean later, but it's all worth it," said Samantha. "I look forward to Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everybody all the time. Family to me is support, love and honesty—I get all that from my family."

The Picones are big on spending time together and go on lots of trips, be it to the lake for wakeboarding or the mountains for skiing. One family tradition that has been passed down through four generations is the annual mushroom picking trip. Michael's great-grandparents started the tradition inadvertently during the Depression when they'd go and pick mushrooms around Mount Shasta for food. As the years went on, they took their children (Michael's grandparents) and the annual trips turned into a fun pastime.

Since moving to Pleasanton, the Picones have extended their family even further to include a whole new group of friends and neighbors.

"We have a lot of friends here and they really are a second family," Samantha said. "Moving out here was hard for me at first, but not so much anymore. It's like we've lived here all our lives. I definitely think that family is someone you love and what you can count on."

The Melchionne-Ott Family

Laura Melchionne and David Ott were busy raising their two sons Jordan and Joshua, now 10 and 8, when Laura's father Tony Melchionne, 82, joined the household in 2000. Tony was recuperating from cancer but wasn't healing well, so Laura and David decided that it would be best for him to move in with them. Things were going well, but after a year and half Tony seemed disoriented. Laura and David took him to the doctor and the diagnosis was Alzheimer's.

This meant a lot of changes in the household, from putting a padlock on the refrigerator to simply making sure Tony is never alone for more than an hour at a time. But despite these changes and the struggles they face, Laura said she is more than happy to be there for her father.

"It's the least I could do for my dad," she said. "He took care of us—brought up four girls and a boy on a farm all by himself."

For Jordan and Joshua, having their grandpa living at home is all they know and being a family of five is very normal to them.

"When they are at school and asked to draw their family it's always the five of us," Laura said of her sons. "Papa is part of the family. He's in all the drawings."



Jordan, David and Joshua Ott and Laura and Tony Melchionne make a family of five. Tony, Laura's father, moved in with the family to recover from cancer and developed Alzheimer's disease a year and a half later.

For David, having Tony come and live with them seemed like the natural thing to do. When David was a child his grandpa lived with his family for seven years and after he moved out of his parents' home, they again opened their doors to his great aunt.

"They were a great example to me of taking care of seniors in the family," David said.

As time goes on and Tony's mental state declines, the family is aware that one day he may not be able to live with them anymore. But for the time being, the situation is working out well for everyone, Tony especially.

"I do think with the situation we have with my dad, we've all grown in lots of different ways, the boys in particular," Laura said. "It's been a great thing for my father because I don't think he'd be as mobile or coherent as he is today if he was in a facility."

The Dutra Family

For Suzanne and Mike Dutra, their children—Ethan, 6, and Madeline, 4, and Mike's children from his first marriage, Brian, 22, and Nicolas, 21—are the center of their world. While this may be true for most parents, the Dutralas are especially grateful for every moment with their children since they came so close to losing it all.

Madeline was born with a hole in her heart and it wasn't until she was born that a nurse in the delivery room realized something was wrong. In addition to the heart problems, Madeline's intestines were turned upside down and she had three spleens.

"My entire world came crashing down," Suzanne said. "It was so unexpected."

Madeline was scheduled to go in for open heart surgery when she was 6 months old, but it was pushed up to 3 months because she wasn't growing at all.

During that first stay, Madeline was in the hospital for four weeks, the first two of which were filled with three surgeries. After the initial blitz, she was scheduled to return for six-month and annual visits, but before she reached the one-year mark, she went into heart failure and almost died after unexpectedly developing a fast heart rhythm. She was immediately taken to the hospital where she stayed for three weeks, Suzanne never leaving her side while Mike made visits and returned home to take care of their other children.

But, after the months of hardship, the family came out stronger than ever.

"After we got her out of the hospital, we realized the most important thing is the kids," Mike said. "Nothing else matters. We would have sold the house to pay the doctor's bills if we had to."

Now, Madeline is just like any child, eager to play and explore the world. The family is able to go out on day trips or longer, so long as there is a refrigerator or cooler to keep Madeline's medicine.

"We have our moments where we're ready to tear each other apart, but it's the kids—they're first and foremost," Mike said. "When things get stressful, we just drop what we're doing and we'll fly paper airplanes or play pinball with the kids." ■

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Opinion

Editorial

City Council needs to examine Planning Commission

Among the first priorities for the new mayor and City Council when they are sworn in Dec. 5 should be a look at the city's Planning Commission and what can be done to serve the public better. The commission, one of the most criticized public boards in the city, has cancelled two of its publicly-scheduled and noticed meetings in as many months because not enough commissioners have been able to attend. The commission has five seats, including one alternate, and needs three commissioners attending each meeting to make a quorum. That's been enough for as long as anyone can remember to hold meetings as scheduled. Meetings for the planners and for the City Council have been cancelled or postponed in the past, but only with ample notice to the public and to those whose projects were to be presented and heard.

The first time the Planning Commission failed to have enough members to conduct a meeting was on Oct. 11, when projects under consideration and those advancing them were switched that night to a special meeting called for Oct. 18. That wasn't announced until after the meeting was to begin on Oct. 11. Then last week, on Nov. 8, it happened again with only two commissioners showing up and acting commission Chairwoman Anne Fox deciding earlier in the day not to attend. Two other commissioners previously had told Fox that they had out-of-town business commitments and could not be at the meeting.

Unfortunately, the Planning Department told some church officials the morning of the meeting that there was a possibility there wouldn't be a quorum, but to have all their constituents and supporters show up anyway in case a third commissioner could somehow attend at the last minute. Nearly 200 showed up to the Civic Center Nov. 8 to hear construction plans for St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran Church and, hopefully, to get the Planning Commission's approval. Those there, many of them parishioners who had left work early, left their children's sports games and had arranged for babysitters, were noticeably and rightfully disappointed. After all, the Nov. 8 meeting was the only scheduled one of the month since the Nov. 22 meeting was cancelled due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Architects from Stockton and the Peninsula packed up their drawings and PowerPoint presentations and went home. A special meeting has been called for Wednesday, Nov. 29, when we hope all commissioners will be there and the twice-delayed public hearing on the St. Elizabeth Seton project—nearly a year in the planning stage—can move forward.

This is surprising considering the city is making every effort to streamline its city services for efficiency. A plan is supposed to be brought to the City Council next March outlining ways the city can improve its bottleneck. If projects keep getting postponed, what's there to keep developers or other interested parties from seeking opportunities elsewhere?

Frankly, we're amazed and disturbed by the cavalier attitude of some on the commission and others at City Hall over these meeting cancellations. When the mayor appoints volunteers to commissions, whether it's Planning or Parks & Rec or Housing or others, they agree to attend meetings and also to take on much more work in their important advisory roles to the City Council. This is what makes the city work. To do otherwise, as we have seen these past two months with planners, breeds a lack of confidence in the system of appointed volunteers that has always been a hallmark of Pleasanton. We urge the new council to take a look, to review the problems, to appoint more alternates if that's needed, even to consider more members on the Planning Commission, just so the public doesn't have to wait again.

Letters

Thanks from Thorne

Dear Editor,

Over the last five years as I have campaigned for a seat on the Pleasanton City Council, I have had the opportunity to talk with hundreds, even thousands of our residents. I have to say that this has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to give something back to the community.

I would like to thank all of the voters who voted to allow me the opportunity to serve this community as a city councilmember. I would like to extend a special thanks to those who worked so hard on my campaigns and those who have supported me in a variety of ways through all of our campaigns. Sandi and I want you to know that you have a special place in our hearts.

Over the next four years I want to make sure that the dialogue continues with all of the residents of Pleasanton. I will strive to make sure that I deserve the trust the voters of Pleasanton have placed in me. I want to make sure that all input is heard and decisions are made that represent the best interest of the entire community.

Again, thank you to the voters of Pleasanton for this opportunity to serve you.

*Jerry Thorne, Councilmember
Pleasanton City Council*

City needs more dog parks

Dear Editor,

As the owner of a German Shepherd, I applaud the city for developing a small dog park at the Muirwood facility. I use the dog park facility on a daily basis and find that the smaller dogs are often more aggressive than the larger dogs.

I have contacted the City Parks Commission about adding an agility course for dogs. There are currently no plans to do so. I was referred to the police department to see about using their course when it is not in use, but was told that I could not because of liability issues. The watch commander suggested building a small course in my back yard and referred me to Roy Ficken, the animal control officer who suggested that I search online for agility courses.

I am currently retired and cannot afford to join a club or build a facility in my yard. As a makeshift course, I use park benches and picnic tables for jumping and the place command. I also purchased a child's play tunnel. Unfortunately, as a conscientious pet owner, I don't allow her off-leash outside the dog park so she is not able to take advantage of multiple obstacles (two or three hurdles, the tunnel and a platform for place).

My dog enjoys agility training very much, especially jumping (I think she would rather jump than have a treat). The agility course

would give her much needed mental and physical exercise.

*James J. Sievers Jr.
Pleasanton*

Fences crucial for park safety

Dear Editor,

A few years ago, our family moved here with our then-toddler boy. I noticed how few children's parks had fences, even though many are near busy roads. As a mother of one very active child, I found it difficult to constantly dart around with him and keep him safe at playgrounds, and I wondered how parents of more than one child were able to manage this. My call to the city was forwarded all over the place until finally I got someone who confided to me that "They probably wouldn't put fences up in neighborhood parks because it's not so aesthetic."

I was furious, and I meant to follow this up, pointing out that no child's life can be worth a design problem that could be solved with

attractive and creative fencing, but I never did, and it's something I regret. To think that we put huge fences around ball fields to prevent a car or spectator from getting harmed by an errant ball, but we can't put a 3-foot fence around toddler areas in local playgrounds, to prevent a child from getting injured or killed by a car. What's more important here?

Recently, a little 2-year-old who darted onto Las Positas Boulevard from Creekside Park was hit by a car. I am heartbroken about it. This is something we need to fix, now. Little children dart. Fences can make a huge difference to their safety.

*Carolyn Weissberg
Pleasanton*

Thanks for support

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the beautiful article on student service which included my daughter Karen Loperena ("Going Global," Living, Oct. 27). It was so well written and the photos you used were fabulous. I have had a lot of response from

people who loved reading about students going out into the world to make it a better place.

Again, thanks for your support of these students.

*Gail Loperena
Pleasanton*

Finding Pleasanton in Southern France

Dear Editor,

In February, my wife and I, owners of the Pleasanton Hotel, were traveling for two weeks in Southern France. As members of Pleasanton's famous Balloon Platoon comic marching group, the group was invited to march in Nice's Carnival parades. During the stay, we were led to a Southern Rhone Winery, because in our guidebook it was noted, "one of the owners is an Oakland Raiders fan, and speaks English." There we met co-owner, Jon Larum. When we inquired about his impeccable English, he said he was raised in California, a small town in the East Bay. Pleasanton! And he's

a 1985 graduate of Foothill High with classmate and good friend, Joe Madden!

Now living in France with his French wife and her family, Jon imports their wines into the United States through his brother Gordon, who lives in Napa. We have just stocked one of Jon's Cotes du Rhone Villages wines, and recommend it for your enjoyment. Imagine, enjoying the fruits of France made by our own "home town" boy! A soft red wine, made up of mostly Grenache, Cinsault and Syrah, it goes with most any appetizer or entrée on our menu.

Some impressions and observations from France: restaurant food was good, creative and reasonably priced; the South of France is a beautiful and compact area to tour; only small autos can manage their narrow streets; no drivers were talking on their cell phones; driving through towns is much easier and faster than here, with all of our traffic lights.

*Bill and Vernie Laube
Pleasanton*

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Transitions

Weddings

Sara Schieferstein & Adam Powers



Sara Schieferstein and Adam Powers, both of Pleasanton, were married Nov. 12, 2005 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Pleasanton. A candlelight reception followed at the Palm Event Center in the vineyards located at the Mitchell Katz Winery.

Sara is the daughter of Brad and Gina Schieferstein and Adam is the son of Ken and Marcia Powers. Both families are from Pleasanton. The bride's sister, Heather, was the maid of honor and the groom's brother, Luke, was the best man.

The newlyweds honeymooned

in Aruba and currently reside in Dublin.

The bride and groom met while attending Harvest Park Middle School and went on to attend Amador Valley High School, class of 1995. Both attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Both returned to the Bay Area to pursue careers. Adam is currently working on a Silicon Valley start-up, while Sara has returned to school to pursue a culinary career.

Obituaries

Florence Broadhurst

Florence (Flo) Broadhurst died Nov. 10 at the age of 104.

Born March 13, 1902 in Salford, England, Mrs. Broadhurst lived at the Pleasanton Gardens for the past 33 years. During World War I and II, she worked as a welder, parachute packer and cotton winder. It was during World War II that she lost her home to bombings and her sons, ages 8 and 11, were taken from her and evacuated for safety to the countryside. Broadhurst sadly lost both boys at this time within three months of each other, when they contracted tuberculosis from their caregiver.

She was well known for her longevity, but also for her involvement in Daughters of the British Empire, Pleasanton Gardens, Pleasanton Presbyterian Community Church, Pleasanton VIP Senior Program and as a volunteer at the Livermore Veteran's Hospital. She will also

be remembered for her years of babysitting many young families in the community. She had a world of friends in both England and America who loved her dearly and will miss her greatly.

Broadhurst is survived by daughter Edith Caponigro and her husband Dennis, grandchildren Steve, Derek, Kerry and Craig, and their spouses Sharon, Tonja, Steve and Susanne; great-grandchildren Mark, Brittany, Giovanni, Sophie, Ben, Olivia, Zoe and Shyla; and many other family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jack; daughter Joyce; and sons Albert and Allen.

Family and friends are invited to attend services celebrating her life. The first is at Pleasanton Presbyterian Community Church, 4300 Mirador Dr., at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 19. A reception will follow at Pleasanton Gardens, 251 Kottinger Dr.

The family requests no flowers. Memorial donations can be sent in her name to the Daughters of the British Empire at 147 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.



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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

The November 21 City Council meeting has been cancelled

The November 22 Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, City Hall will be closed November 23 and November 24.

The November 27 and December 25 Trails Ad Hoc Committee meetings have been cancelled. A special meeting has been scheduled for December 11.

The December 14 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held on January 11, 2007.

Planning Commission - Special Meeting

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- PDR-571, Peter Shutts/Sang and Yoon Sim

Application for design review approval to allow the modification of the existing façade of the buildings, the replacement of existing landscaping, and related site improvements at the Vintage Hills Shopping Center located at 3550 Bernal Avenue.

- PDR-561/PV-158, John Miller Architects/Saint Elizabeth Seton Church

Applications for: (1) design review approval to modify the Saint Elizabeth Seton Church Master Plan to construct an approximately 22,296-square-foot parish center building with gymnasium and related site improvements on the existing church site located at 4001 Stoneridge Drive; and (2) a variance from the Municipal Code to allow the proposed parish center building with gymnasium to be approximately 34 feet tall, where 30 feet is the maximum height limit.

- Consideration of the City Council Annual Work Plan/Priorities for 2007-2008

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, November 20, 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- The agenda for this meeting is currently unavailable.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parkview Assisted Living Facility in Pleasanton Accepting Pre-Applications through November 17 for 31 Below-Market Rate Assisted Living Units

The new 105-unit Parkview assisted living facility will open in January 2007. The facility will offer housing with a range of services for seniors who desire assistance with "activities of daily living." Pre-applications are now available for all levels of service including 19 dedicated dementia units. A total of 31-units below market units with reduced rents and service fees are reserved for individuals with limited incomes based on a pre-application and application process. Pre-applications for the below-market rate units must be submitted by no later than Friday, November 17, 2006, 5:00 p.m., to the Parkview marketing office located at 100 Valley Avenue (corner of Sunol Blvd. and Valley Ave., formerly Junipero St., immediately south of the Pleasanton Senior Center). Pre-application packets are available at the Parkview marketing office (100 Valley Ave.), the Pleasanton Senior Center (5353 Sunol Blvd.), the Pleasanton Library (400 Old Bernal Ave.), Pleasanton City Hall (157 Main St.), and on the Web at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/housing/index.html. Additional information, including applications for market-rate and dementia units, can be obtained by calling the Parkview marketing office at 925-461-3042.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

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

Police Bulletin

Laptops looted from business

An employee of a business in Koll Center Parkway was working by himself Nov. 9 when a man he didn't recognize entered the building. The employee asked what the man was doing, and didn't understand the man's response. Then the man suddenly ran from the building and was out of sight of the employee. When

the employee returned to the business the next day, he noticed two laptop computers were missing from the area where he first saw the man the day before. The man is described as black, in his early 20s, 5-feet 10-inches tall, 180 pounds with short hair and a thin mustache. He was also wearing a heavy blue jacket. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call 931-5100.

Police Report

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

November 4

- DUI: 3
- Theft:
 - 5:25 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; truck stolen
 - 7:00 a.m. in the 5420 block of Sunol Boulevard; truck stolen
 - 2:50 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting worth \$50-200
- Public vandalism:
 - 8:00 a.m. at the intersection of Haleakala Road and Valley Trails Drive; worth less than \$1,000
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 1:25 a.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 11:37 a.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot
- Marijuana given to minor:
 - 10:30 a.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:08 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Court and Harrison Street
 - 11:55 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Assault:
 - 2:08 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive
 - 10:02 p.m. in the 4600 block of Third Street
- Lewd acts in public:
 - 5:00 p.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue

November 5

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 4
- Theft:
 - 1:19 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue; worth over \$400
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 7:08 p.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; worth \$1,000 or less

November 6

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 8:03 a.m. in the 2700 block of Camino Segura; vehicle parts
 - 10:30 a.m. in the 5900 block of Inglewood Drive; worth over \$400
 - 4:15 p.m. in the 700 block of Neal Place; identity theft
 - 4:30 p.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive; counterfeit checks
- Burglary:
 - 8:20 a.m. in the 3700 block of Boulder Street; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
 - 8:12 p.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive; from residence
- Assault:
 - 5:09 p.m. in the 3500 block of Glacier Court

- Sex crime:
 - 8:25 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive

November 7

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 2:28 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; vehicle parts, worth \$200-400
 - 4:06 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
 - 7:24 p.m. at the intersection Division and Main streets; from vehicle
 - 8:41 p.m. at the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building
- Vandalism:
 - 6:19 p.m. in the 500 block of Case Avenue; worth less than \$1,000
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 3:45 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

November 8

- Found property: 3
- Theft:
 - 10:00 a.m. in the 4500 block of Second Street; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 3200 block of Bernal Avenue; worth over \$400
 - 8:47 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
 - 6:27 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- Vandalism:
 - 7:19 a.m. in the 1800 block of Crestline Road; from vehicle, worth over \$1,000
 - 6:50 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive; worth less than \$1,000
- Burglary:
 - 9:09 a.m. in the 5900 block of Las Positas Boulevard
 - 3:38 p.m. in the 7500 block of Trotter Way; residential

November 9

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; credit card fraud
 - 7:41 p.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot; stolen license plates
 - 9:20 p.m. in the 2800 block of Garden Creek Circle; credit card fraud
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:24 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; worth over \$400
 - 8:30 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; worth over \$400
- Possession of amphetamines:
 - 5:56 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

November 10

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:31 a.m. in the 1000 block of Kolln Street; vehicle parts, worth over \$400
 - 10:45 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; from building; worth over \$400
 - 6:15 p.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles; identity theft
 - 8:46 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road, shoplifting
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 3:38 a.m. in the 5800 block of Las Positas Boulevard; worth \$200-400
- Egging:
 - 5:56 a.m. in the 3700 block of Gettysburg Court
- Family fight:
 - 8:38 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bolero Court

ACCIDENTS

November 5

- 6:07 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Ruby Hill Drive

November 7

- 3:36 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Foothill Road and Muirwood Drive

November 8

- 2:15 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Trails Drive

November 9

- 7:06 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Owens and Hacidenda drives

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Author Visits

Camille Minichino of The Oxygen Murder

Camille Minichino will speak at the California Writers Club of the Tri-Valley Branch meeting from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 18 at Girsole Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Rd. Cost is \$18 members/\$25 non-members. For reservations e-mail Fred Norman at Fnorman300@aol.com.

"Pirate Mom" Deborah Underwood

Children's author Deborah Underwood will visit the Pleasanton Library at 4 p.m., Nov. 17. "Pirate Mom" is her first fiction book for children after researching and writing non-fiction titles from orangutans to the northern lights. For info call the children's desk at 931-3400, ext. 8.

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton
The Great Books of Pleasanton Book

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

Political Book Club

The Political Book Club meets at 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1000 S. Livermore Ave. Call 462-7495. The Nov. 28 meeting will discuss the book, "Whose Freedom? The Battle Over America's Most Important Idea," by George Lakoff. For info, call 462-7495 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

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 Dec. 5.

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 Dec. 21.

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 Dec. 6.

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 Dec. 14.

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. 22.

Planning Commission

The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting will be Dec. 13.

School Board

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting is Dec. 12.

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 Dec. 13.

Classes

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.dsremont.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.

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 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.

Clubs

Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group

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

Tri-Valley Rotary

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

V.F.W. Auxilliary

V.F.W. Post 6298 Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. Call Dan, 846-7320.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298

VFW Post 6298 meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia.

Concerts

A Cappella Quartet

A Cappella quartet, The Edlos, will perform at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 at The Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Tickets available at www.civcartstickets.org or call 931-3444.

Classical Concert

The Del Valle Fine Arts concert series

(continued on page 26)



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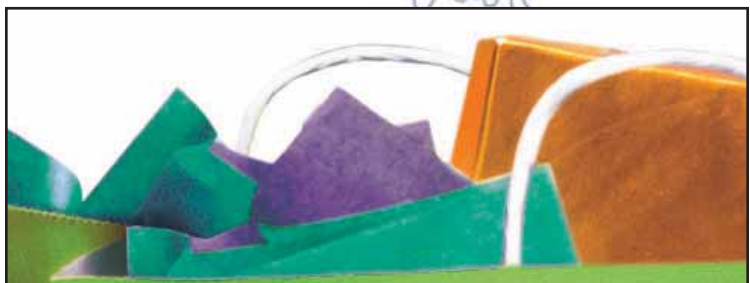
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(continued from page 24)

presents organist Paul Jacobs at 8 p.m. Nov. 25 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 5th St. (at L St.) Livermore. For tickets call 447-2752 or visit www.delvallefinearts.org.

Family and Children's Concert Music from the Movies

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present the free Family and Children's Concert: Music from the Movies at 2 p.m. Nov. 19, in the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The band will play music from the "Pirates of the Caribbean," "Harry Potter," "Jurassic Park," "The Chronicles of Narnia," and "Star Wars." Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Gloria and Christmas Triptych
Hear the sounds of John Rutter's Gloria, Donald McCullough's new

Christmas Triptych, and carol singing presented by the Valley Concert Chorale. The concerts are at 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton; and 3 p.m. Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Advance tickets are \$17/adults, \$14/seniors; or at the door \$20/adults and \$17/seniors. Students 18 and under are free with adult. Call 866-4003.

Music from the Movies

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will present the Family and Children's Concert, "Music from the Movies," at 2 p.m. Nov. 19 at The Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd.

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah

Sing along to Handel's popular work at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Admission is \$10.

Calendar

Events

Community Service Awards

The Chamber of Commerce will host the Community Service Awards and Installation of Officers and Directors Dinner at 6 p.m. Nov. 30 at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir. The cost is \$75. Register at www.pleasanton.org or call 846-5858.

Shoe Preview and Tea

Come to Towne Center Books for tea and shoe talk with "Shoe-ology" author Karn Knutson at noon Nov. 21 at 555 Main St. Blondies shoe store, 560 Main St., will also be there to highlight some of their latest shoes.

Thomas Coyne Winery

Thomas Coyne Winery Fall Open House is from noon to 5 p.m. Nov.

24-26, 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. For a list of new wines to be released, call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascoynewinery.com>.

Exhibits

African-American Sculptor

Richard Hunt is exhibiting his smaller, quietly majestic works from through Nov. 30 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 J Main St. Call 485-1183. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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.

Local artist Barbara Spanskie

Barbara Spanskie's work, a variety of both original and giclees (reproductions) of landscape oil paintings, is currently being shown at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main St., now through the end of November. Contact Pleasanton Art League, pal_press@yahoo.com

Local Artists Display Work

The Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit has made its fall rotation. New pieces by local artists can be viewed at the Pleasanton branch of Bank of America, Keller Williams Realty, and Towne Center Books, all on Main Street; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on Peters Avenue; and R.E. Realty Experts on Hopyard Road. For additional locations call Lisa Davis, 518-4436.

Poetry & Art Exhibition

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

Surface Explorations

"Surface Explorations" art exhibit by local artist Denise Oyama Miller will be on display through Nov. 19 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St. For information, call 846-6015.

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.

Native American Heritage Month

Documentary, Homeland will be shown at 7 p.m. Nov. 18 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Event is free (\$2.00 donation accepted). Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m. Call 462-3459.

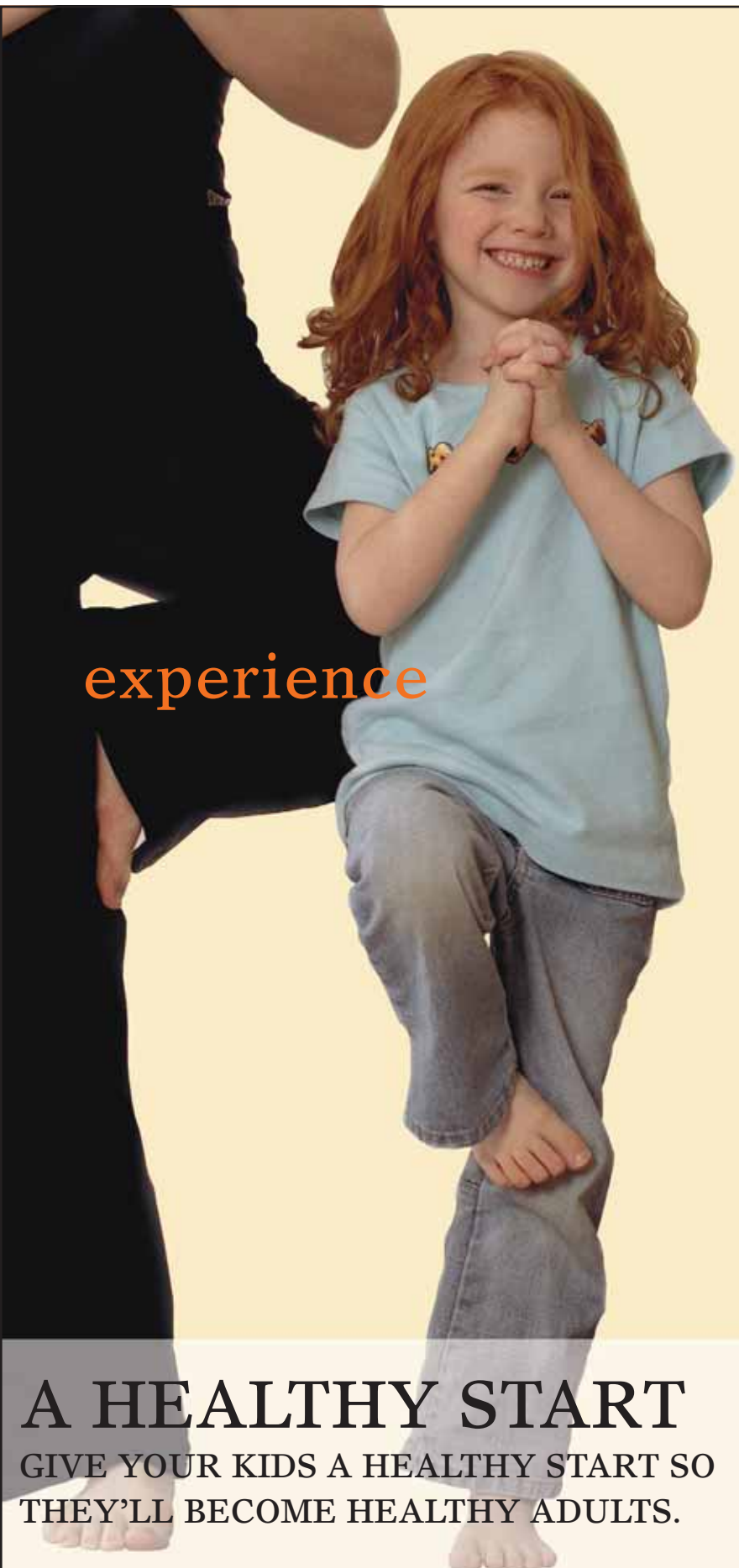
Fundraisers

Chuckles for Charity

The Pleasanton Mother's Club presents Chuckles for Charity, a comedy show to benefit the Taylor Family Foundation at 8 p.m. Nov. 30 at Tommy T's Comedy Club, 5104 Hopyard Rd. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling 484-2990 or visiting www.pleasantonmothersclub.org.

'Happy Feet'

Buy tickets for the Vine Theater's showings of the animated movie "Happy Feet" from Nov. 20 to 26 to benefit PUSD's Barton Reading program. Tickets are \$15 and include matinee admission, popcorn and soda. For tickets, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, your phone number and a check made to Pleasanton Unified School District with the words Barton Reading on it to Valley View School, 480 Adams Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566 Attn: Barton Reading. Tickets are also on sale at Towne Center Books. For showtimes, go to www.vinecinema.com or call 447-2545.



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Weekend Preview



Tickets on sale for holiday concert

Valley Concert Chorale will perform its holiday concert 8 p.m., Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. and 3 p.m., Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, on the corner of 4th and L streets in Livermore. The show will feature music from John Rutter's "Gloria" and Donald McCullough's new "Christmas Triptych." There will also be a traditional audience carol sing-a-long. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for seniors 62 and older in advance; \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors at the door. Students 18 and younger are free when accompanied by an adult. Call 866-4003 or e-mail info@valleyconcertchorale.org to purchase tickets. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org for more information.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week is Nov. 15 through Nov. 22 at Crosswinds Church, 644 Sierra Ct. in Dublin. We will be accepting shoebox gifts with toys, hard candies, school supplies and hygiene items, and will be collected and distributed to needy children in more than 95 countries. Visit www.samaritanspurse.com or call Marilyn 829-7733.

Main St. During the event, Blondie's will be offering a 10 percent discount on regular-priced shoes. The event is free. Call 426-1317.

Christmas Tree Lane

The Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Way in Livermore, will transform into ValleyCare's annual Christmas Tree Lane fundraiser. The family stroll is from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 30, the tinsel tea is from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 1 and a gourmet luncheon is on Dec. 2. Raffle tickets for trees and Christmas china will be sold at all events. Go to www.valleycare.com/ee_events.html.

Holiday Concerts

Experience the joyous sounds of voices, brass, percussion and organ as featured in "Gloria" and the new "Christmas Triptych." Audience can sing carols along with the Las Positas College Concert Choir. Concerts are 8 p.m., Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd.; and 3 p.m., Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Advance tickets: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors 62 and older. At the door tickets: \$20 adults, \$17 seniors. Students 18 and under free with an adult. Call 866-4003 or mail P.O. Box 286, Livermore.

Holiday Home Tour

Valley Children's Museum will hold its third annual Holiday Home Tour from noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 10. The tour features unique and decorated homes in and around Ruby Hill, holiday enter-

tainment, treats and more. Tickets are a \$35 donation. Call 461-6574 or e-mail info@valleychildrensmuseum.org.

Holiday Tea and Fashion Show

The Holiday Tea and Fashion Show will be held at noon and 3 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Museum On Main. Tickets are \$35, and \$30 for members and children under age 16. Reservations are requested. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Holidays in the Vineyards

Garre Winery will feature arts and crafts booths with wine- and holiday-themed gifts, noon to 5 p.m. Dec. 1-2 at 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Holiday carolers from Harmony Crossroads Chorus at 2 p.m. Sat. only. Toys for Tots Gift Drive, food and special wine tastings. For wine releases and information call 371-8200.

Italian Wines for Thanksgiving

Taste Italian wines selected to compliment an American Thanksgiving dinner from 2 to 5 p.m. Nov. 18 at Gene Fine Foods, 2803 Hopyard Rd. Cristina Rinaldi, Italian wine specialist, will be pouring wines from all regions of Italy. Also enjoy a selection of Italian cheeses and Tuscan olive oil. There is a \$1 tasting fee. Call John 846-8220.

Lights of the Valley

Hope Hospice invites you to light a bulb on a Tree of Life in memory or honor of a loved one at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 29 at Diablo Valley Bank, 300 Main St. A tax-deductible donation of \$20 lights a bulb on the tree to burn throughout the holiday season. Donate online at www.hopehospice.com. Call 829-8770.

Magical Holiday Evening

Downtown Pleasanton and its shops will be filled with the sights and sounds of the holidays from 5 to 9 p.m., Nov. 17. Santa will be collecting lists and will pose for photos in the Enchanted Garden (252 Main St.) at 8 p.m. Kids can pick up and turn in special coloring projects at participating through Nov. 16 to be on displayed Nov. 17. Call 484-2199.

Santa and Pet Photos

The Valley Humane Society's annual Santa and Pet Photos is for all pets, big and small. Photos will be taken with Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dec. 2-3 at Alden Lane Nursery & Garden Center, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. No appointment necessary, the fee for two 4x6 inch photos and two holiday-framed cards to hold them is \$20. All pets must be leashed or in carriers. Contact the Valley Humane Society, 426-8656

Shoe Box Gifts

Drop off gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child until Nov. 20. For information contact Iliana Salazar 714-432-7030 or isalazar@samartin.org.

Tree Lighting

A tree lighting ceremony will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nov. 30 at 611 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Call 543-0100.

Variety Show and Silent Auction

A musical variety show and silent

auction benefiting the Young Actors' Theatre Camp featuring Pleasanton native and TV's America's Got Talent Semi-Finalist, Shawn Ryan will start at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 at the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. For tickets and information call 943-7469.

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, 249-3923.

Christian/Jewish Workshop

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

Express to Success Workshop

ABWA Express to Success Network presents a workshop for women on how to make a lasting impact during the first few minutes of meeting a potential customer from 6-8:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. The cost is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Reservations are not required. Visit www.expressstosuccess.org.

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.

Kids & Teens

Kids Cookie Cooking Class

Join The Pleasanton Hotel's Executive Chef Neil Marquis and his mom, Pat Marquis, to make Christmas Cookies from 5 to 7 p.m. Nov. 27 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Call 846-8106.

Pure Girls 2nd Annual Pleasanton Jr. Idol

Drop off your daughter, age six and up, at Pure Girls (660 Main St.) for the Second Annual Pleasanton Jr. Idol. Winners get at free Mini Glam-Up. The event is from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 16 at Pure Girls, 660 Main St. Cost is \$35, which includes dinner, or \$30 with a BFF discount, bring a friend and you both get \$5 off. Call 485-4380 to reserve a spot.

Lectures/ Workshops

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

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.

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band

Chris Bradley's traditional jazz band will play from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 14 and 28 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Dance, listen, enjoy the

(continued on page 28)

Health

Exercise Class

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

Holiday

Blondie's Hosts Holiday Trunk Show

Blondie's kicks off the holiday shopping season with a special jewelry trunk show from Carmela Rose Designs 5 to 8 p.m., Nov. 17 at 560

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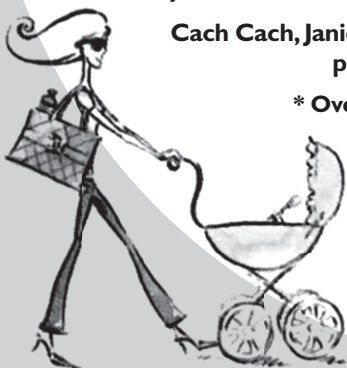
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(continued from page 27)

bar and great food. The hotel's calendar is at www.pleasantonhotel.com.

'Straight Ahead' Jazz
 Trumpeter Dave Rocha will play "straight ahead" jazz at the Pleasanton Library from 2 to 3 p.m. Nov. 19. This is a free event.

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.

Family Read Night
 Read stories and do crafts 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.

John Christopher Cellars
 John Christopher Cellars will be open Thanksgiving weekend from noon to 5 p.m., Nov. 24-26. Flights Wine Club is also available to join at the tasting room. Call 456-9463.

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.

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.

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 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.

presents "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat. and 2 p.m. Sun. through Nov. 19 at 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested. Visit www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

Recreation

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

Scholarships

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

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- ★ In Store Promotions
- ★ Entertainment
- ★ Holiday Goodies
- ★ Dining

Bring your Letters and Wish Lists for Santa, and...

- From 11/1-11/16, pick up a picture of our "Elf" for your child to color
- Bring the completed picture to our Magical Holiday Evening.
- Santa and his elves will collect the pictures, letters and holiday wish lists.
- Come downtown through the holidays to find your child's picture hanging in a downtown business window. (11/22-12/31)

MAGICAL HOLIDAY EVENING PARTICIPANTS

Alexander's Main Street Gallery	Fresh Squeeze Gallery M	Savvy Seconds
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Aloha Island Trading Company	Gourmet Works	Spray Soleil
American Harvest	J'aime Bridal	Studio 7 Fine Arts
Apparel & Co.	Jenny's Skincare	The Berry Patch
Bibiane Bakery	Jewelers Gallery	The Tree House
Bicycles!Pleasanton	Leslie Marie Body & Skin Care	Three Dog Bakery
Blondie's Shoes & Accessories	Mesa Trading Co.	Towne Center Books
Casa Madrid	Oasis Grille	Tutoring Club
Christesen's Tack Room	Passionate Athlete	Valley Community Bank
Clover Creek	Pleasanton Antiques & Collectables	Valley Plumbing
Day Art Studio	Primrose Bakery	Washington Mutual Bank
Domus of Pleasanton	Pure Girls	Worthington Gallery West
Emilio's El Portal Restaurant		

For more information go to www.pleasantondowntown.net or call 925-484-2199.

Seniors

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.

Friday Night Dance

Join the crowd for ballroom dancing once a month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 non-residents, and \$8 for residents, \$9 non-residents at the door. Singles welcome. Reservations recommended. Call 931-5365.

Internet Access Workstation

The Internet workstation is available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays at the library section of the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Luncheons

The Dublin Senior Center hosts special themed luncheons on the second Thursday monthly at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The luncheon fee is \$6.50 for residents and \$7.50 for non-residents and includes special entertainment. Call 556-4511 or visit www.ci.dublin.ca.us. Reservations needed by the Friday prior to the luncheon.

Movie Madness

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

Paratransit Service

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

Personal Computers Group

Meets 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365 or e-mail pleaseni@yahoo.com.

Senior Dinner

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

Senior Lunch

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

V.I.P. Senior Club

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

Spiritual

Compassionate Christian

Compassionate Christian is a confidential self-help group for Christians, using theology and love for the Lord to guide individuals through struggles. The group meets every Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Space is limited. Call Kathy for reservations, 462-2777 or e-mail ChristianKindness@sbcglobal.net.

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. Singles & Young Married Home Bible Study meets at 7:30 p.m., Mondays. Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., Wednesday evening programs; Choir Practice, Boys and Girls Mission Crusade Club (grades K-5th grade) 7 p.m. Call the church office, 846-8650 for information on any ministry.

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.mom-sintouch.org.

The Importance of True Fellowship

Compassionate Christian is hosting an eight-week series for Christians called "The Importance of True Fellowship." The group will cover the biblical blueprint for relationships to flourish and creating a safe environment for true fellowship. Space is limited. Call Kathy for reservations, 462-2777 or e-mail ChristianKindness@sbcglobal.net

Tri-Valley Unity Church

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Pleasanton Lacrosse Club Spring Registration

Pleasanton Lacrosse Club's spring 2007 season registration is now open. Programs are available for girls and boys entering grades 3-8. The season runs from February through mid May. Register early, as spots are limited and additional fees for late registration will apply. Call 998-5550 or visit www.pleasantonlacrosse.com.

Sea Devils

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

Women's Golf

Attention lady golfers: the Tuesday Morning Callippe Niners are looking for new members. If you are interested please call Sandi Snyder at 462-0288 or Sandra Hirst at 846-6831.

Support Groups

Narconon Arrowhead

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

Newcomers to Al-Anon

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

Operation SAM

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

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Volunteering

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.

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@open-heartkitchen.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.

ValleyCare Medical Center

The ValleyCare Medical Center's Volunteer Membership Drive is looking for people to work in the gift shops. For more information call Diane, director Gift Shop, VCMC at 734-3368. ValleyCare is located at 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton.

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.

CLIENT OF THE WEEK

I gave Jim, a previous client of mine, a call to let him know it was time to re-evaluate his mortgage. One lender recently changed their guidelines and Jim came to mind because I knew he could benefit.



Jim was 2 years into his 5 year fixed rate mortgage we placed for him when he purchased his home. At the time, there were just a handful of lenders that would approve the low down payment with a high loan amount.

Now, another lender came forward with a lower rate available for the same high loan amount. And, the rate is fixed for 7 years...just enough time for how long Jim anticipates staying in the home. The best part of it is he's now saving over \$400 per month!

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

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If your boxes are labeled with the name of the room they belong in, the movers can easily place everything in the appropriate part of the house. Start unpacking according to your family's most basic needs. As soon as you arrive, open the boxes marked "Kitchen" and "bathroom". Make sure towels and toiletries are unpacked and put away, and that the bathroom fixtures are functioning. A refreshing bath or shower can wash away the tension of the trip.

Ask your real estate agent to make sure the refrigerator is plugged in and the stove and oven working on

moving day. Unpacking your dishes, utensil, pots and pans will make the kitchen operational. It can then serve as a gathering place for the family while the rest of the unpacking takes place. One last tip: don't bother making beds the first night! Consider it a family camp-out, and everyone will be more relaxed.

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

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

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Benefits include:

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American

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

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

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

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

Brewpub/ Alehouse

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill
 3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, the Hop Yard offers 30 beers on tap and a variety of great food, everything from finger food to full blown meals. Ask about new banquet menu.

California Cuisine

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

Catering

Fontina's Catering
 349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, (925) 462-9299. The seasonal tastes of Fontina's award-winning menu can now be custom delivered to you—direct to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a newly expanded vegetarian menu. Let Fontina's Ristorante bring "the taste of Italy" home to you soon. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert, or we'll take 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

-This Weeks Fresh Fall Specials-

Roasted Garlic & Gorgonzola Stuffed Flatbread
 Fresh Spinach

Bacon, Boiled Egg, Tomatoes, Bermuda Onions,
 Gorgonzola, Poppyseed Dressing

Twin Filet Medallions

One Topped with Herb-Bordellaise, the Other with a rich
 Shiitake Mushroom Cream, Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Salmon Portofino

Rock Shrimp, Capers, Chopped Tomatoes, Dill, Saffron Cream

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Bay Shrimp, Dungeness Crabmeat, Ricotta Cheese

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Dining Out

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, (925) 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant. Innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees. Outdoor dining. Open for dinner seven nights, lunch Monday-Friday. Live music Friday and Saturday evenings. Full bar. Banquet

facilities, rehearsal dinners, special events.

India

Chef India Cuisine

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, (925) 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic are the first things you notice in this warm and friendly classically "Italian" restaurant, complete with red checked tablecloths. It has an open

(continued on page 32)

Savory Delights of Northern China

LUNCH SPECIALS: Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00

DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30

Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00

Closed Sunday

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
**Gerarda
Stocking**

WHAT IS AN EXCHANGE?

Understandably, there is a great deal of confusion about tax-deferred exchanges of investment real estate. To the uninitiated, it sounds like you have to find someone with exactly the property you want who wants exactly the property you wish to unload. But no.

The word exchange almost never refers to a case of one person trading his or her office building to someone else for his or her apartment building. It's actually a carefully-arranged way of selling a property (or properties) and buying replacement properties of what amounts to similar value (after mortgages are taken into consideration) without paying gains taxes.

In short, I sell my property and find a replacement property or two. The money involved in this transaction never touches my hands; it is handled by a mediator or accommodator or brokerage. The proceeds from the sale of my property go into the replacement property within a certain time limit, and the end result is that I own properties that are more suited to my financial plans and wishes.

With properties having appreciated greatly in recent years, more people are looking at exchanges as a way of building strong investment portfolios—and a way of deferring gains taxation. Speak with your real estate professional and tax advisor about this. So call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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off Santa Rita Road behind
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kitchen where patrons can watch the cooks "hand toss" the dough for this pizza mecca of the Tri-Valley. It is perfect for romantic couples as well as the entire family, and the authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini and Lasagna as well as Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

Come Taste Our New Lunch & Dinner Entrees



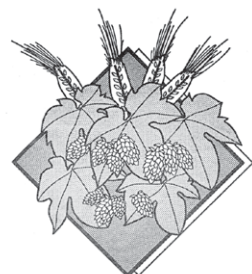
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Dining Out

Garlic di Pasta

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 485-4500. Rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic. Voted the best Italian restaurant in the year 2000 by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Pastas Trattoria

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

Japanese

Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, (925) 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! Daily Fresh Fish Delivery. Teriyaki & Tempura. Open Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Lunch: 11:30-2:30; dinner 4:30-9:30, Sat until 10 p.m. Party platters available. Visit our website: www.umesushi.com.

Mediterranean

Athens West Restaurant

6999 Dublin Blvd., (925) 803-9601. Truly authentic Mediterranean cuisine featuring Greek specialties including delicious steaks and seafood. Large upscale dining facility with full bar

Chinese Szechuan



*Szechuan Mandarin
—No MSG—*

LUNCH SPECIALS

DINE IN
FOOD TO GO

Banquet Room
Available

Closed Mondays

We also serve 'Brown Rice

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Hopyard Village @ Valley
Pleasanton

(925)846-5251

"Open Since 1987"

located adjacent to the original Athens Burger Restaurant. Opens Tuesday-Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

Little Caesars

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

Vinny's 2 Go!

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

Sandwiches/Deli

Togo's

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

Wine Bars

The Wine Steward

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

**Elegant banquet room and wine bar
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