

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 46 • December 8, 2006

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton



*One year and counting*

Callippe Preserve Golf Course passes first anniversary  
and sees greener pastures in the future

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**this week**

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Newly-elected mayor and city council officially installed

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Save Mart will take over Albertsons stores in February

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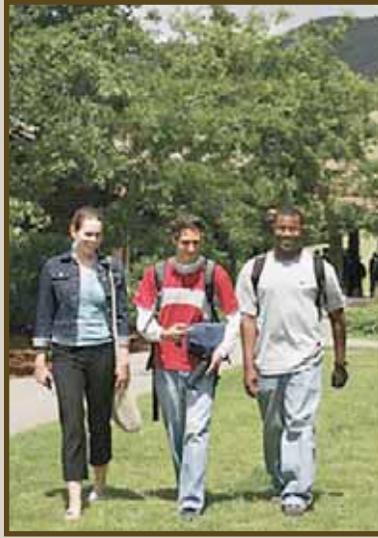
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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## 'Sarah's Site' is one to read

If it takes a village to raise a child, then Teri and John Banholzer are mighty glad they chose Pleasanton to raise their daughter Sarah, who is 4-1/2 years old. Sarah was born about the time they were restoring their home on Division Street and getting to know their neighbors and the nearby downtown stores and restaurants.

Then, just two months ago, Sarah, who was in her final year at nearby Sunshine Pre-School at Trinity Lutheran Church, complained of a cold, then pneumonia-like symptoms that caused her parents to seek medical help. The diagnosis: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), a fast-growing cancer of the white blood cells that the body uses to fight infections. At Children's Hospital in Oakland, the Banholzers learned from doctors all they needed to know about ALL—or didn't really want to know. There are about 4,000 new cases of ALL in the U.S. each year, most of them involving children under 10. Treatments are extensive, but for Sarah, the results are good, with a recent bone marrow test coming back with only 2 percent leukemic cells, down from 94 percent when Sarah was first admitted.

It's been a life-wrenching and life-changing experience for the family. Still, through the poking and prodding and hours of chemotherapy and blood work and transfusions, the three have found strengths they didn't know they had. Sarah, especially, a fun-loving, energetic preschooler, has become the bravest of all, recognizing, but not liking, the treatments she must go through to be well again, even waking up early to take her "yucky" medications to get on with her day. Because of the possibility of infections, she can't visit her many friends, but they call, send cards and come by to talk from the sidewalk. Even her frequent trips to High Tech Burrito on Main Street for her favorite Itty Bitty Beanie are not as simple as they used to be. She puts on her mask when they walk over and always find other customers offering to go inside and place the order.

One of her best days so far was

a few weeks ago when the family's friends and neighbors put on a street party for Sarah, across Division Street outside Jan Batcheller's house. That's when they really saw the spirit of Pleasanton. Scores of school and business friends came along with many from the family. Arranged by Kay Huff, the outpouring of volunteers, gifts and food for this special party for Sarah was extraordinary, even by Pleasanton standards. Cornerstone Church loaned a yard-full of special plywood outdoor activity games; Clancy the Clown showed up with his humor and balloons; an old-fashioned popcorn popper was brought over by a Livermore friend along with popcorn and volunteers from the Lions Club to operate the machine; a magician worked the crowd of children and their parents, including Sarah, who watched from a healthy distance but still laughed her heart out.

A highlight was Sarah's Uncle Richie, whose head was shaved by downtown beautician Bonnie Shamblin to show Sarah, who's lost most of hers, that being bald is kind of cool. It was a party Sarah still talks about with doctors and nurses at Children's Hospital, who believe her energy and determination to "get through this thing" will make her ready for kindergarten in August. She's already registered.

Along with Sarah's energy, her mother has created Sarah's Site, which includes photos and a blog she updates most days, often after 10 p.m. when Sarah's asleep. Along with progress reports, it also serves as a bulletin board of how the community is helping and what more can be done. Besides contributions to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which help raised money for research to find a cure for ALL, Teri's blog also now reports on a blood drive that has been scheduled for Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran's Fellowship Hall just off Del Valle Parkway and Hopyard Road. To join all of us rooting for Sarah, sign in on Sarah's site at [www.harrismith.org/sarah](http://www.harrismith.org/sarah) and learn more. ■

### About the Cover

One year has gone by and the Callippe Preserve Municipal Golf Course has already received national acclaim by both GolfWeek and Golf Digest magazines. Turn to page 16 for a recap on the course's inaugural year and a look toward its future. Cover by Jason Lind.

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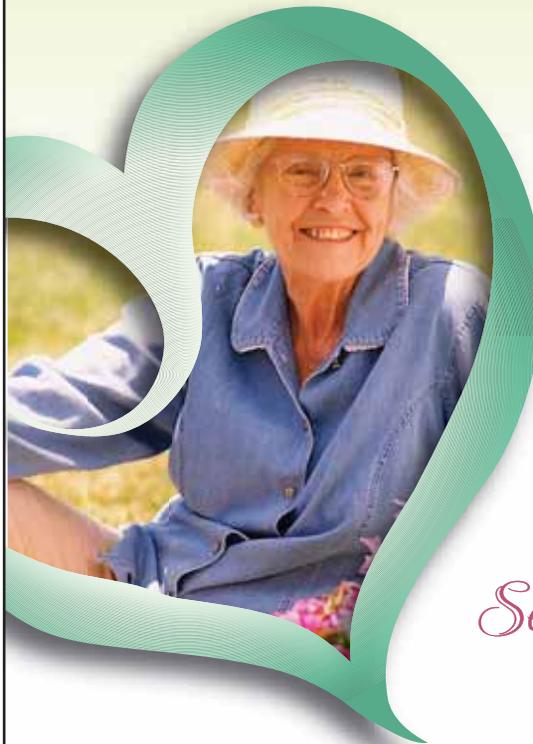
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# Streetwise

**Q:** Should parents allow their children to have computers in their bedrooms?

Asked Around Town



**Amy Yates**  
Accountant

I believe children should not be able to use computers in their bedrooms until their teenage years. Before then computers should be in a central location in the house and supervised by parents. In their teen years they should be able to have them, with appropriate blockings, in their rooms.

**Faith Fowler**

Stay at Home Mom

No, I don't think kids should have computers in their rooms, it's an unnecessary risk. There are too many inappropriate things and Internet predators. Computers should be in the nucleus of the home, like next to the kitchen or family room.



**Ruth Loewenhardt**  
Ergonomic Consultant

I think it is a must for kids that use laptops for school. They can bring it around the house to different areas, but need to be able to work in their bedrooms in order to get their homework done.



**Scott Steer**

Accountant

Yes, I feel kids should have computers in their bedrooms but certain restrictions should be applied. Some kids need to be supervised. In addition parents should be periodically reviewing what their kids are doing on the computer.



**Joshua Carter**

Student

The Internet can be a pretty scary place. With My Space and other chat rooms, kids can be exposed to all kinds of things way before they are ready. I think parents need to monitor computer use and allow teenagers to use them in their rooms. They can check up on what they're doing but teenagers need a certain amount of privacy and trust.



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# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Toys, canned ham needed

Tri-Valley families in need will receive holiday assistance from the Tri-Valley Haven's holiday program on Dec. 9. Parents who have registered for the program will be able to select gifts for each member of the family and receive a bag of groceries and a canned ham or frozen turkey. Tri-Valley Haven needs donations of toys, gifts for adults and teens, local department and grocery gift cards, and canned hams. To arrange a donation drop-off, call 449-5845.

### Mill Creek open house

To celebrate their grand opening, Mill Creek Academy is hosting an open house from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. Parents of fifth through 12th grade students are invited to tour the new classrooms, meet the directors and enter to win one of two free classes in a raffle. The family-owned after school enrichment and tutorial business is a sister campus of Fremont located at 4473 Willow Rd. Ste. 150 in Pleasanton. For information, visit [www.millcreekacademy.com](http://www.millcreekacademy.com).

### MADD honors police officer

Officer Michael Rossilion of the Pleasanton Police Department was honored by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Alameda County Dec. 5 for having 30 DUI arrests from July 2005 to June 2006. Many other officers in the county received the Deuce Award for having 25 to 99 DUI arrests in the 12-month period. The department also received a community recognition award for outstanding performance in their efforts to further MADD's mission through their professionalism and dedication. For more information about MADD Alameda County, visit [www.madd.org/ca/alameda](http://www.madd.org/ca/alameda).

### Eat breakfast with Santa

Santa is taking a break from the bustling North Pole to eat breakfast at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., from 9 to 10 a.m. Dec. 13. Ages 3 and up and their siblings are welcome. The cost is \$5 per person and seats are limited. Each guest will receive a simple breakfast, party favor, photo opportunity and some special time with Santa. Call 846-8826 to sign up.

## Pope John Paul II center project being appealed

*St. Elizabeth Seton Church project approved by Planning Commission, appealed at City Council meeting*

by Janet Pelletier

After church officials made their final pleas before the Planning Commission last week to make a decision on whether or not to approve their project, the commission answered their prayers with a 4-1 yes vote.

But one neighbor who's opposed to the project has decided to appeal the ruling.

Sonia Gupta, who lives across

from the proposed development of a parish hall and gymnasium by St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive at Rheem Drive, said at Tuesday's City Council meeting that she felt the location of the to-be-named Pope John Paul II Activity Center was not appropriate.

She also accused city planners and some members of the Planning Commission of being biased in

favor of the church, and asked the council to appoint an independent consultant to evaluate the commission's decision.

"Frankly, I have reservations about the way the evaluation process was done," Gupta said. "For one thing, city staff sent a letter on Sept. 28 to the commission supporting the expansion, which was a week before our community held a meeting to consider it. Basically,

they ignored the residents and never aired our concerns."

The appeal, which blocked the City Council from OKing the Planning Commission's approval, will be heard at a public hearing by the council in mid-January.

It's a setback for church officials who have been frustrated by repeated delays. In October, the pro-

(continued on page 11)



Tony Avelar

### Disappointing defeat

To learn Foothill's outcome, all people had to do was read the faces of the previously undefeated volleyball team's players. Foothill setter Christy Payne wipes away tears after losing in three straight sets to Los Alamitos in the CIF Division I State Volleyball Championship last Saturday in San Jose. The team, which previously went 38-0, was all the talk at Foothill High School this week. For more on the defeat, turn to the sports section on page 37.

## Police crack down on meth house

*Seven arrests on drug, child endangerment charges on Second Street*

by Emily Atwood

Pleasanton police made seven arrests last week after heightened drug activity at 4363 Second St., Sgt. Barry Mickleburgh said there was a significant amount of neighbors complaining about foot traffic during the day and late into the night.

On Nov. 22, while conducting a probation search at the home, police arrested 31-year-old Kelli Hitzfeld of Fremont for drug offenses. A week later, Jessie Lewis, 25, of Livermore, was seen leaving the house and was arrested for possessing methamphetamine for sale and a parole violation.

Police continued to monitor the house, and on Nov. 30 saw a hand-to-hand drug sale involving Alvaro Cazares, 32, who lives at the house. Cazares had also brought a teenager with him to the sale. He was arrested and the house was searched. The property itself will not be condemned; rather it will be ready for the tenants when they get out of jail, Mickleburgh said.

Inside the house, officers discovered a 3-year-old girl and an infant boy. The girl's parents, Joseph DeLarosa, 46, and Linda Carter, 36, were both under the influence of methamphetamine. Police said a glass pipe was found in an area easily accessible to a small child.

Homeowner Arnold Kruse, who was renting the property to at least four people, told investigators he knowingly permitted the drugs to be used in the house and knew

(continued on page 9)

## Hosterman starts 2nd term as mayor as Brozosky exits council

*Wins post by 188 votes out of 24,978 cast, closest ever*

by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was sworn in to a second two-year term of office Tuesday, along with Councilman Jerry Thorne, who was re-elected to a full four-year term,

and high school teacher Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who also was elected to serve four years on the City Council.

The ceremonies, held in the council chamber that was packed with supporters, families and the campaign teams of the winning candidates, capped a four-week period since the Nov. 7 municipal election as votes were counted for Hosterman and her opponent, Councilman Steve

Brozosky. The two were never more than 200 votes apart, with Brozosky taking an early lead on election night only to see his victory hopes dashed by mounting votes being recorded for Hosterman.

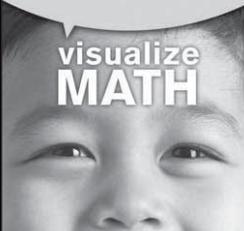
Tuesday night, only hours after Acting County Registrar David McDonald certified the results of the election, City Clerk Karen Diaz

(continued on page 6)

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**Mayor**

(continued from page 5)

announced that Hosterman has won by 188 votes.

The final tallies were:  
Hosterman, with 11,671 votes, or 50.15 percent of the votes cast in the mayoral contest; Brozosky, 11,483 votes, or 49.34 percent.

Thorne topped the four-person race for two council seats, winning 12,250 votes, or 33.51 percent of those cast in that race. Cook-Kallio finished second with 9,139 votes, or 25 percent. Trailing were Dan Faustina, with 8,319 votes, or 22.76 percent, and Brian Arkin with 6,781 votes, or 18.55 percent.

Diaz said that a total of 24,978 votes were cast in the Nov. 7 election, representing a 69 percent voter turnout in Pleasanton, well ahead of the 61 percent voter turnout in Alameda County.

After the election was certified, Hosterman awarded a plaque to Brozosky thanking him for his four years of service on the council.

"You have distinguished yourself on a number of City Council committees and also regionally as chair of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (which operates the WHEELS bus system) and as our representative to the League of California cities," Hosterman said. "The City Council recognizes and highly commends you for your service to Pleasanton."

Brozosky then talked for 12 minutes about the projects and measures he helped initiate and launch, including a bill that blocked additional housing on the 318-acre Bernal park site. He praised Pleasanton resident Marilyn Kane, who died last month, for her persistent lobbying efforts at public meetings to keep the Bernal open space as a park, not land filled with structures.

"This election could have gone



Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, center, joins in round of congratulations with City Council winners Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio.

either way, and in fact we saw that it did," Brozosky said in leaving the council. "The results show how important every vote is, and I'm pleased to learn that Pleasanton again had a high voter turnout, always much higher than the state average."

Once the new council was seated, it began deliberation on an agenda filled with financial, zoning, housing and condominium issues.

But first, those newly seated had their say about the election and their duties.

"It's been an absolute honor and pleasure to serve the people of Pleasanton over the last four years and especially for the last two as your mayor," Hosterman said.

"I have enjoyed especially in the opportunity to develop very strong working relationships with those in the Tri-Valley and with also with many in the region," she added. "With this very strong relationship and the support of my fellow council members, I will be able to take the city of Pleasanton on a very progressive track, which I think will keep Pleasanton on the map not only locally but beyond. I think that will be a good thing not only for attracting new families to live in Pleasanton but also new, vibrant businesses to come here and support the wonderful amenities we enjoy."

Newly re-elected Councilman Thorne reminded voters that this was his fourth campaign for the council, and that his victory in a special election last year was only for the one-year remaining of Hosterman's term after she was elected mayor.

"This is a very special day for me," Thorne said, in noting that he is now serving the start of a four-year term.

"Over next four years, I want to make sure that the dialogue started with the campaigning process continues with all of you in Pleasanton, including those of you who might not have voted for me," Thorne added. "I intend to make sure that all decisions are made with the community's best interests in mind, even if that requires significant political risk to do so. I think the time for risk-free political decision-making must come to an end."

State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico (D., 20th) administered the oath of office to his close friend and Fremont high school teacher Cook-Kallio, who was elected to a four-year term on the council, her first time to hold elective office.

"I cannot tell you what it means to me to be able to swear allegiance to the Constitution of the United States," Cook-Kallio, a history and civics teacher said. ■

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## Carden West School launches program for toddlers

Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce members joined Pleasanton Director Valerie Hand, Carden West Principal Craig Blackburn and preschool students to commemorate the opening of the newly-licensed, much-needed program for 2-year-olds Nov. 29. The preschool, located at 4576 Willow Rd., emphasizes balance between social, emotional, physical and academic education, and even includes stress-free potty training. Openings are still available. For availability, registration options and tuition rates, call 436-6060 or visit [www.cardenwest.org](http://www.cardenwest.org).

## PPIE announces grant recipients

*Money to support robotics, various student programs*

by Emily Atwood

In its seventh year, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) student grant program has named the grant recipients for the spring semester cycle. These grants are part of PPIE's mission to promote positive learning experiences inside and outside the classroom and support co-curricular and extra-curricular student activities and projects. Each application was written by the student, sponsored by a teacher and approved by the school's principal.

High school students are taking an interest in robotics. John Crussell from Amador Valley was given \$500 to construct a submarine that will be entered in robotics competitions. Foothill student Kevin Kim also received \$500 to start a Vex robotics team.

Two other high school students received funding for high school programs. Foothill students in the popular business club DECA will

have \$250 to help them go to the Western Regional Leadership Conference, thanks to Chris Gauthier. Ashlee Stevens from Amador, was given \$400 to put together the annual Black History Month assembly.

As for the middle and elementary schools, Amanda Tran received \$400 that will go towards materials and supplies for a talent show at Donlon Elementary School. And Kyle Javenes of Harvest Park was given \$82.41 to cover postage expenses for Operation LOVE (Letters of Valuable Encouragement), which sense letters and care packages to soldiers in Iraq and injured soldiers at Livermore Veteran's Hospital.

PPIE also offers education grants up to \$2,500 for Pleasanton Unified School District employees. Applications for these and student grants are available at [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). The deadline for students is Mar. 13, 2007 and for PUSD employees is Apr. 11, 2007. ■

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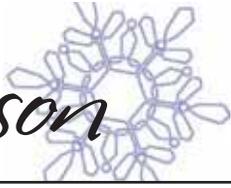
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Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team



**San Francisco Cigar Co. 3rd quarter recipient of the Pleasanton Downtown Association NEAT Award**  
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**Chic & Younique 4th quarter recipient of the Pleasanton Downtown Association NEAT Award**  
Kari Lasker and Carole Wigren, co-owners of Chic & Younique, located at 111 W. Neal bring their sense of style and flair for design to their eye catching window displays. Chic & Younique caters to women's individual styles and shapes by carrying a wide variety of haute fashions, shoes and accessories. That's why they spell younique the way they do, to emphasize the "y-o-u"!

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## Meth house

(continued from page 5)

the children were present when this has occurred. In addition to drug violations, Cazares, De La Rosa and Carter were charged with child endangerment. Kruse was not a user, but was also charged with child endangerment.

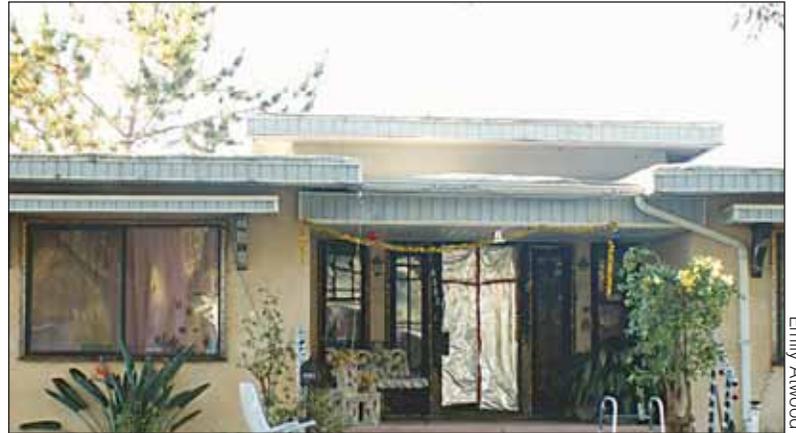
Officers also arrested 19-year-old Hayley Stanley of Livermore, who was under the influence of methamphetamine in the garage of the house.

The seven were booked at Santa Rita Jail. The children, including the infant's teen mother and De La Rosa's teenage son, were placed into protective custody and referred to the Alameda County Children's Protective Services.

Mickleburgh said that this isn't close to the biggest drug bust in Pleasanton. Several special investigations like this happen in Pleasanton, and this is not a rare incident for people living and traveling to the city. What is unusual for drug activity at the house on Second Street, he said, is the frequency of cases at the same location.

As recently as September, the Pleasanton Police Department joined with Alameda County Narcotics Task Force to arrest Jesus Gonzales who was bringing his young son with him when dealing crystal meth in Pleasanton. When he was arrested in Livermore, he had one pound of the drug stashed behind the toddler's car seat.

"We've done cases all over the city," Mickleburgh said. "The one thing that's common is that the people involved don't have a geographical boundary. They don't claim stake in a neighborhood." ■



Emily Atwood

Pleasanton police officers found meth dealing going on at this rented Second Street house, which was also home to young children.

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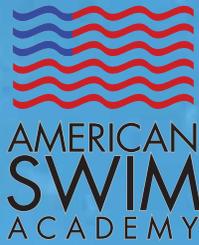
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Janet Pelletier

A shopper walks with his cart out of the Pleasanton Albertson's on West Las Positas Boulevard Tuesday. Save Mart of Modesto announced last week that it is expected to complete a sale of all the Northern California Albertson's stores by February.

## Albertsons stores to change hands

*Modesto-based Save Mart expected to take over locations in February*

by Janet Pelletier

Save Mart Superstores of Modesto has forged an agreement to buyout 132 Albertsons stores in Northern California, including the Pleasanton one on West Las Positas Boulevard.

Financial terms of the agreement are not being disclosed because both grocery companies are privately held, according to Alicia Rockwell, spokeswoman for Save Mart. The deal, which is expected to be finalized at the end of February, will mean Save Mart, which also owns Food Maxx, will take down the Albertsons name at area grocery stores about six months after that.

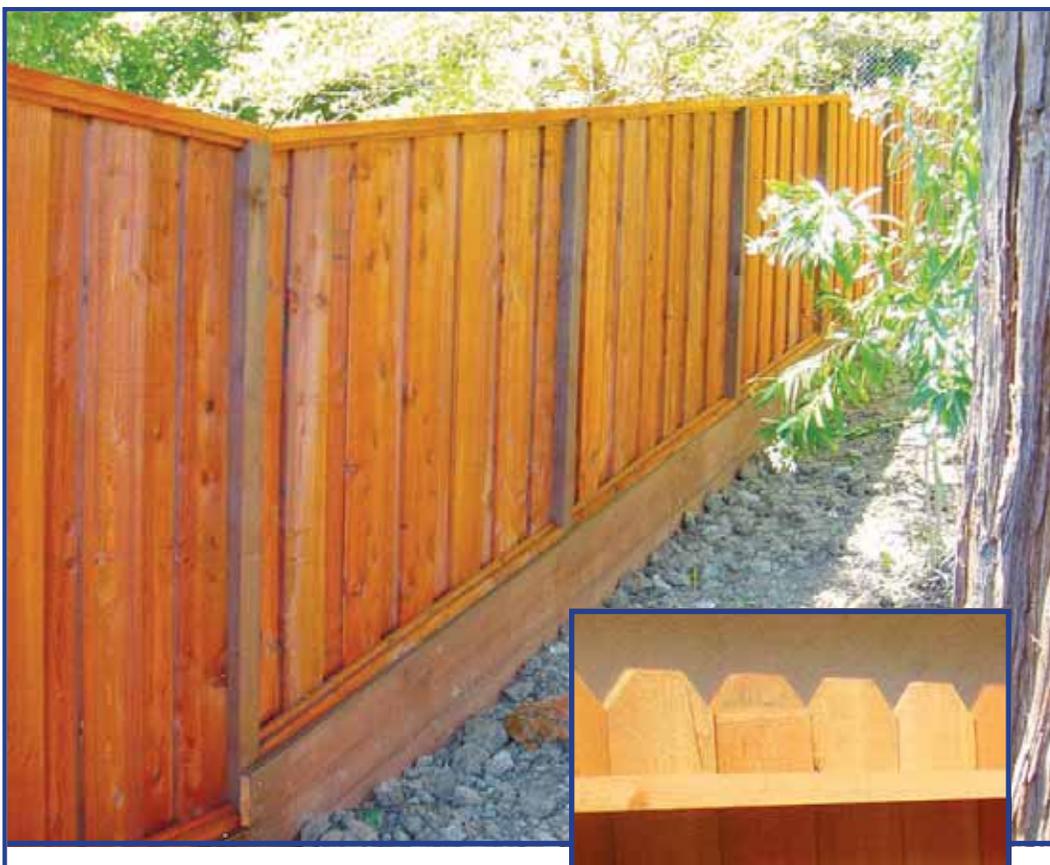
A call for comment from the Pleasanton Albertsons was referred to the grocery chain's corporate office in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas.

Jennifer Vroman, a spokeswoman for Albertsons, said things will be "business as usual" for customers.

Rockwell echoed Vroman's comments, saying customers won't notice any major changes to their neighborhood grocery store.

"Everything will operate as normal and we want to make sure that we don't have too much disruption during the holiday period—that's a big time for us in the grocery business," Rockwell said. "And in the meantime, we don't actually own them, so there really isn't anything we can do until we actually own the stores. It probably won't be until late fall next year when we're really ready to start doing something differently. We don't own the name or anything."

(continued on page 12)



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# Big swim meet this weekend

Five Seahawks already qualified for 2008 Olympic trials

by Emily Atwood

Thousands of swimmers will make the trek to Pleasanton and San Ramon pools this weekend. The swim meet is so big it must be held in both cities. This is the first home meet of the season for the Seahawks, Pleasanton's resident year-round club team for children through teens. In Pleasanton, it will be held at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave., which has a 25-yard by 50-meter outdoor, heated pool with 20 lanes.

There is much anticipation for the Seahawks as the season is already off

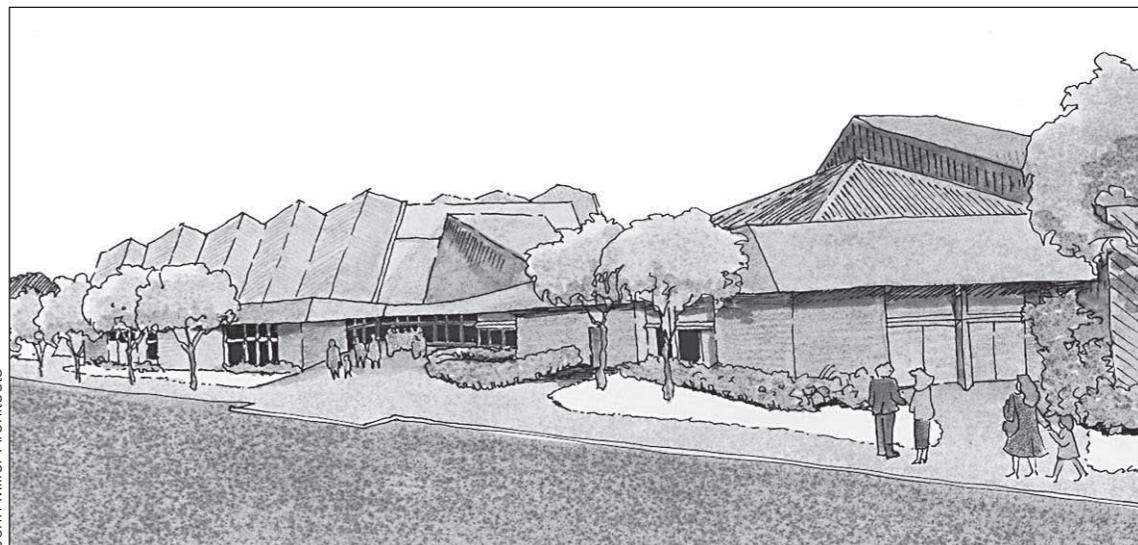
to a great start. Already, a swimmer broke a major record and five teens, including a relay team, have qualified for the 2008 Olympic trials, competing for a spot with the likes of Michael Phelps and other acclaimed swimmers. The Seahawks also placed third last weekend at the Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics Championships, which is quite a feat for a team with less than 200 members pitted against teams with more than 600 members.

Though Amador Park surrounding the aquatic center is fenced off, Seahawks spokeswoman Susan Miller said it shouldn't put a damp-

er on the event. While the fields are closed off for team tents, she said they have opened other areas for the teams to gather.

The Seahawks were asked to host an even bigger tournament again. During the last weekend in March 2007, the Far Westerns meet will draw swimmers from all over the West coast and even Arizona, Utah, Hawaii and Mexico.

The home meet also helps the team raise money for practice time at the pool. More information can be found at [www.pleasantonseahawks.org](http://www.pleasantonseahawks.org). ■



John Miller Architects

An artist's rendering depicts what a parish hall and gymnasium would look like on a site at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. The architecture of the building is meant to blend well with that of the rest of the church's facilities.

## Church center

(continued from page 5)

posal was continued by Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox and in early November, a quorum of at least three planning commissioners couldn't be reached and the meeting, which included a vote on the plan, had to be rescheduled.

St. Elizabeth Seton plans to construct the 22,296-square foot parish center and gymnasium because the congregation has outgrown the current facilities.

"The Catholic community has 5,000 families that would benefit from this center," said CYO athletic director Frank Spindler. "We're not talking about a card room or liquor store here."

Father Dan Danielson added that the CYO program is open to all children in the community, not just those in the Catholic community.

"We feel this is the next need we as a community has," he said.

A large majority of the packed Council Chambers consisted of parishioners, but a handful of people who opposed the project were also in attendance, including Gupta and her husband Rohit, who said they moved into their house eight months ago and were concerned about increased traffic and their children's safety.

Eric Souza, vice president of the Pleasanton Village homeowners association, said residents of their

community near the church were concerned about traffic, noise, safety and parking. After those involved with the Catholic Youth Organization, which is a part of St. Elizabeth Seton, said the gym wouldn't be used in the summertime, opponents said they weren't confident that could be guaranteed.

"Our concerns are not so much now, but what could be in the future," Souza said.

Another HOA board member said the parish hall and gymnasium would be like "a drive-thru Starbucks" with people constantly dropping off and picking up their kids.

Opponents of the project also questioned the building's proposed height of 34 feet. One businessman said it would block his office views. Architect John Miller explained the gym has to be at least 25 feet tall for sports regulation purposes and the extra 9 feet on top of that is needed for plumbing, piping, paneling and roofing.

Many church parishioners who spoke in support of the project said the new center would be a great

asset to the city and that church officials have worked with residents to be good neighbors.

The project stems from the church's master plan, which was approved in 1989. As part of the current proposal's plans, the original multi-purpose/gymnasium and classroom buildings were combined into one parish center building with a gymnasium and relocated to different part of the property. The new location is what concerned Gupta and prompted her to file an appeal. Chairwoman Fox gave the dissenting vote to the project also for that reason.

Parking issues were also a big concern. A business across the street from the church agreed to allow parishioners to park in its parking lot which has 95 spaces, but some, including planning commissioners, questioned whether they would actually use the lot, which is quite a distance away.

Before commissioners took their vote on the project, they added a condition to the approval that parking on Stoneridge Drive be allowed during church hours on Sundays to help the situation. ■

Your hometown newspaper away from home.



Eric Souza, vice president of the Pleasanton Village homeowners association, said residents of their



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**Beach reading**

Seth, 7, and Nadine, 5, Cobb read the Weekly while sunning on the beach of Oahu, Hawaii.



**Thailand adventure**

Mark and Anong Andrade read the Weekly on Jomtien Beach in Thailand.



**Grooving in Groveland**

Nicole Triplet (left) and Kelly Avon (right) read the Weekly while watching Kelly's guide puppy Drummer during a summer trip to Groveland, Calif.

**Albertsons**

(continued from page 10)

The sale, which was initiated by Save Mart, includes 132 stores that make up Albertson's LLC Northern California Division and also includes acquiring a division office in Dublin and distribution centers in Roseville and Vacaville. Albertsons currently has 13,000 employees in the Northern California Division, and 94 of them work at the Pleasanton store. None will face layoffs, Rockwell said.

"They become our employees at the close of the sale," she said. "We're planning to operate all 132 stores and so it takes that number of employees to operate them now so I don't know that much will change."

Rockwell said Save Mart wanted to purchase the stores to help better the company's presence in Northern California. Save Mart owns Food Maxx, which has locations across the East Bay Area. The closest Save Mart is in Milpitas.

"It will give us a broader base in those areas where now we only have one store," she said. "Obviously, when you have more stores in a geographical region, you create better efficiencies in distributing your product from store to store as well as the size of this acquisition will provide for us addition efficiencies in how we buy our products and the variety we're going

to be able to provide as well as the services we can provide—all of that will be enhanced."

Rockwell said a decision on whether the Pleasanton store will be renamed Food Maxx or Save Mart will be made after the sale closes in February.

Vroman said Albertsons agreed to sell to Save Mart because of their good reputation.

"Save Mart is a rapidly expanding regional grocery company," she said. "They're good operators and we just felt like it was a good fit."

The Albertsons supermarket chain's ownership was split into a consortium in June that included grocer SUPERVALU, drugstore chain CVS, private-equity firm Cerberus Capital Management and Kimco Realty for about \$9.7 billion. In the wake of that deal, 37 stores in Northern California were closed in June due to poor performance.

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. is one of the biggest grocery chains in the Bay Area. Albertsons also competes locally with Raley's, which also owns Nob Hill Foods, and Whole Foods

Save Mart Supermarkets is an independently-owned grocery chain was founded in 1952.

"Albertson's associates can look forward to joining this commitment to excellence and family pride, which began in 1952 with my father, Mike Piccinini and uncle, Nick Tocco," said Save Mart Chairman and CEO Bob Piccinini. ■

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*Dr. Gagnon did his undergraduate studies at St. Mary's College in Moraga and his Doctorate of Medicine degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at Wake Forest University, and then spent an additional year of subspecialty training in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the University of Utah, Moran Eye Center.*

In addition to his private practice at Valley EyeCare Center, Dr. Gagnon is on the Clinical Faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology at Stanford University School of Medicine.

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## PLEASANTON WEEKLY

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

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Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

### Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

#### Assistant Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

#### Staff Writer

Emily Atwood, Ext. 21

Rebecca Guyon, Ext. 31

### Contributors

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#### How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
Phone: (925) 600-0840  
Fax: (925) 600-9559

#### Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com  
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

#### Classifieds Sales e-mail:

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Record crowds at downtown events helping businesses

With record crowds downtown for the Concerts in the Park, the five First Wednesday street parties and a number of other special events this year, merchants and restaurants have been seeing more customers and diners than ever. Last Saturday's Christmas Parade set another record, with more than 25,000 lining the sidewalks along Main Street and another 2,300 scouts, 4-H clubs and other organizations walking in the parade. Many retail shops and restaurants stayed open late to accommodate the parade crowd, with sales reported strong at most of the stores and even booming at Towne Center Books.

All this is a tribute to the hard work of the Pleasanton Downtown Association and its president this year, Judy Wheeler, owner of the only bookstore located downtown. The PDA's board and its several committees that have focused on marketing and business vitality have helped steer new business to Pleasanton's Main Street, and have added prominent informational signs pointing to the grown number of shops off Main. More stores also are staying open later in the evenings to appeal to shoppers who come downtown for dinner or sidewalk strolls once they get home from work.

This is what makes Pleasanton a destination—the ambience of our historic downtown and an increasing number of diversified shops that are unique in the Tri-Valley. The challenge for the PDA and its incoming president Vic Malatesta will grow next year as Dublin and Livermore add more retail stores and restaurants. Dublin is desperately trying to create a downtown like Pleasanton's, with hopes that a new "Main Street" motif across from Hacienda Crossings will have the ambience that its overcrowded Hacienda Crossings center lacks. With the IKEA superstore canceling out of its plans to locate there, more stores in the new "Main Street" are planned, which will put more competitive pressure on Pleasanton. Livermore is in better shape in its race to grab retail and restaurant business that now comes to Pleasanton. Its new movie theater will open later this month and a performing arts center may open before Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center, which will add cultural arts to both downtowns. Without a movie theater, it will be important for downtown Pleasanton to add more of its already-popular outdoor events, with local stores also staging wine-tastings at the new art galleries and boutiques now here.

Although 2006 is expected to be a banner year for Pleasanton's downtown, an increasing concern for many retailers are shoppers who browse the stores and then order comparable merchandise, if they can find it, on the Internet. Last week, Towne Center Books included a notice from California Independent Book Stores, which it supports. The loss to these bookstores, alone, is alarming. The California Independents, including Towne Center, sponsored more than 4,000 in-store author appearances during the survey period. These stores' main competitor, Amazon.com, had none. The Independents donated more than \$100,000 to local community organizations last year; Amazon donated nothing. The Independents in California employ more than 3,000 from the local workforce; Amazon.com is an out-of-state company that hires no one locally. Sales taxes collected and paid to support local schools, social services and public agencies in California last year totaled well over \$10 million. Amazon.com pays no sales taxes to California, and often pays customers' shipping fees on their orders. This cheats California government out of needed sales tax revenue and puts the local stores at a competitive disadvantage. Besides all of the benefits of shopping in downtown Pleasanton, buyers also need to support these independent retailers over out-of-state firms that want to take business and businesses out of Pleasanton. ■

## Letters

### Old town resident had it right

Dear Editor,

Lifelong "Old Town" Pleasanton resident Kathleen Clark-Morrison had it right when she wrote "Lose contact with the people and become arrogant" (Letter to the Editor, Dec. 1). Ever since Old Town became desirable and valuable again, Old Town's influence over itself has declined until its future is now held firmly in the hands of a few who neither live, work or own property downtown.

The "Downtown Specific Plan" itself, the very document our leaders now use to control the Old Town community, was written by a committee where two of its members not only didn't live in Old Town, they didn't even live in Pleasanton...period. They lived in Danville and San Ramon and commuted to committee meetings by car. Both were appointed by the then Mayor of Pleasanton at the same time the mayor was rejecting formal requests for committee membership from respected, trusted and longtime Old Town residents and property and business owners. Arrogant? Disrespectful? You decide. "Building a community of character"...hardly.

Robert W. Byrd  
Pleasanton

### Poems to Iraq project inappropriate

Dear Editor,

Reading the articles in local papers about the "poems to Iraq" effort taking the form of a poetry gathering and, ultimately, a book of poems sent to the people of Iraq, I am struck by how horribly out of touch and insulated we are to think that this is an appropriate response to this situation. The Iraqi people are being blown to bits on a daily basis, tortured and their homes destroyed by our military. The horror is beyond our comprehension. So how are poems going to mitigate this travesty? I can see Americans gathering to read poems about Iraq to each other, but, sending them to the victims? Is that it? That's how we handle this crisis?

We, the monsters, are going to send them poems to absolve ourselves of our crimes against humanity in that country? A more appropriate response for Americans is to have the guts to demand that we leave Iraq immediately. But, then, we wouldn't want to offend our neighbors who religiously listen to O'Reilly and Rush.... Or, could it be that we are complicit and actually do want their oil? We're just more sorry about that than our hate radio neighbors. "Sorry, old chaps. We need your country strategically and for oil. Nothing personal. But, here are some poems. Maybe these will help you as you search for your child's missing limb." So, what next for us in Pleasanton? Will the Pleasanton "stampers" send the Iraqi people artsy holiday cards? How about "adopt an Iraqi child with no limbs" program, like you would adopt an endangered wolf in Yellowstone? That's cute.

Paulette Kenyon  
Pleasanton

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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION?

There has been a saying repeated for many decades: The three most important qualities to look for in a piece of real estate are "location, location, location." The saying is still relevant, of course, but we need to look at its precise meaning in twenty-first century America.

David Lereah, the estimable chief economist of the National Association of Realtors®, has said, "I believe that in the years to come historians will see the beginning of the twenty-first century as the 'golden age' of real estate."

However, he adds, "the buyer must beware. Today's real estate boom has not evenly spread its riches throughout America.... Some regions boom while others lag. Real estate is first and foremost local."

Good advice, to say the least. We read national statistics about the real estate market very nearly daily in our newspapers, but their relevance is only tangential. What matters is what is happening in the real estate markets where you live and invest. And for that information, local real estate professionals can be far more accurate and helpful than any article in The Wall Street Journal. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

**Planning Commission**

Wednesday, December 13, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- PCUP-165/PDR-529/PUD-81-25-7M, Regency Centers (Don MacKenzie and Pete Knoedler)/Home Depot

Application for a PUD major modification, conditional use permit, and design review approval to allow the construction of 193,481 square feet of commercial area, including a Home Depot building supply store and garden center, a Long's Drug's pharmacy with drive-through, and miscellaneous neighborhood retail stores including one drive-through, on an approximately 16-acre parcel located at the Valley Avenue/Bernal Avenue/Stanley Boulevard intersection, in the Stanley Business Park.

- Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map 7721, Ponderosa Homes, Mel & Carol Lehman, and William & Kathryn Selway

Application for a vesting tentative subdivision map to subdivide a 19.83-acre property into 27 lots for 25 new and two existing single-family homes, seven parcels to be transferred to adjoining properties, and miscellaneous public infrastructure improvements including the reconstruction of a portion of Cameron Avenue. The property is located at 3157 Trenergy Drive and 2313 Martin Avenue.

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

**Library Commission**

Thursday, December 14, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Library Meeting Room, 400 Old Bernal

- Discussion regarding City Council Priorities
- Discussion regarding Effective Governance
- Discussion regarding the Library Technical Study

**Trails Ad Hoc Committee****- Special Meeting**

Monday, December 11, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal

- Discussion regarding suggested Improvements to the Existing Callippe Preserve Golf Course Trail
- Update on Arroyo del Valle Trail (LFPD Headquarters to Shadow Cliffs)

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

The December 4 and January 1 Civic Arts Commission meetings have been cancelled. A Special meeting has been scheduled for January 8, 2007.

The December 6 and January 3 Human Services Commission meetings have been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2007.

The December 13 Youth Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2007.

The December 25 Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting has been cancelled. A special meeting has been scheduled for December 11.

**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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Intoxicated man injured at El Balazo

Jason Nelson, a 31-year-old Mountain House resident, was lying on a sidewalk in front of El Balazo Restaurant, 5331 Hopyard Rd., bleeding from his head at 10:50 p.m. Nov. 30. When Pleasanton police arrived at the scene, they found the Nelson in the back of a pickup truck, smelling of alcohol with a bleeding abrasion on the back of his head.

Officers said Nelson had entered the restaurant, refused to give his identification and was forcefully removed by security. In the process, he struggled and an altercation ensued in which blows were thrown. Nelson then grabbed a baseball bat from his truck. Holding the bat, he approached the two security officers, but was pushed or struck. Nelson hit his head as he fell to the ground, causing him to lose consciousness. Witnesses said one of the security officers then struck Nelson while he was lying on the ground.

Nelson was transported by ambulance to Eden Hospital ICU for an abrasion to the back of the

head, a fractured skull with a brain bleed, an abrasion to his chest, and abrasions to both knees.

### Armed robbery at Shell gas station

According to Pleasanton police, a man entered the Shell gasoline station at 5251 Hopyard Rd. at 12:50 a.m. Dec. 1 and approached the clerk requesting change for a dollar bill. When the clerk opened the cash register, the man removed a black semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and requested all the money in the register. The clerk removed the cash and handed it to the suspect. After receiving the cash, the man walked out of the store and was last seen on foot running on Owens Drive toward Chevy's Restaurant and the BART station. Officers checked the surrounding area, but were unable to find the suspect.

The suspect was described as a black male, 25 to 30 years old, 6 feet tall, 180 pounds with a medium build. He was wearing black pants, a black jacket and a tan beanie. He is considered to be armed and dangerous.

Those who witnessed the crime or have information regarding the suspect, call the Pleasanton Police Department at 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 25

\*Annoying phone calls: 1

\*Theft:

- 12:35 a.m. in the 600 block of Peters Avenue
- 12:34 p.m. in the 2900 block of Chardonnay Drive; vehicle parts, worth less than \$50
- 7:37 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; from building, worth over \$400

\*Vandalism:

- 5:34 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street; worth \$1,000 or less

\*Public drunkenness:

- 3:00 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- 11:43 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

\*Possession of cocaine:

- 4:31 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street

### November 26

\*DUI: 2

\*Theft:

- 12:21 p.m. in the 4200 block of Muirwood Drive
- 8:30 p.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot; car stolen

### November 27

\*Theft:

- 8:19 a.m. in the 400 block of Boulder Court; truck stolen
- 11:50 a.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; from building, worth \$50-199
- 4:09 p.m. in the 300 block of Oaks Bridge Place; identity theft
- 5:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

\*Vandalism:

- 10:32 a.m. at the intersection of Arthur Drive and Hopyard Road; public worth over \$1,000
- 1:51 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; graffiti

\*Residential burglary:

- 8:23 p.m. in the 7200 block of Valley Trails Drive

### November 28

\*Found property: 2

\*Annoying phone calls: 1

\*Theft:

- 10:03 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; license plates, worth less than \$50
- 11:41 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway
- 1:52 p.m. in the 4000 block of Rennellwood Way
- 5:12 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifter in custody

\*Vandalism:

- 2:55 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue

\*Assault:

- 6:26 a.m. at the intersection of Fairlands Drive and W. Las Positas Boulevard
- 8:34 a.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Santiago

### November 29

\*Theft:

- 9:48 a.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive; embezzlement
- 11:16 a.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma; from vehicle, worth over \$400
- 1:09 p.m. in the 3100 block of Zuni Way; from building, worth less than \$50
- 5:38 p.m. in the 8100 block of Mountain View Drive; identity theft
- 6:00 p.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma; from vehicle

\*Vandalism:

- 7:00 a.m. in the 500 block of Bonita Avenue; vehicle, worth \$1,000 or less
- 6:51 p.m. in the 6700 block of Hansen Drive; public, worth over \$1,000

\*Vehicular burglary:

- 9:00 a.m. in the 4800 block of Treewood Court; worth over \$400

\*Sale of synthetic drugs:

- 12:37 a.m. at the intersection of Reflections Drive and Stanley Boulevard

\*Possession of paraphernalia:

- 8:40 p.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot

### November 30

\*Theft:

- 12:13 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; credit card fraud
- 10:45 a.m. in the 4700 block of Del Valle Parkway; from vehicle, worth less than \$50
- 10:03 p.m. in the 3000 block of Brockton Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400

\*Residential vandalism:

- 8:18 p.m. in the 3200 block of W. Las Positas; worth \$1,000 or less

\*Child abuse:

- 12:00 a.m. in the 1400 block of Valley Avenue
- 12:00 a.m. in the 5900 block of Sterling Greens Circle

\*Assault:

- 4:41 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

\*Possession of marijuana:

- 11:45 p.m. at the intersection of Segundo Court and Ensenada Drive

### December 1

\*DUI: 1

\*Found property: 1

\*Theft:

- 9:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; from vehicle
- 10:51 a.m. in the 2800 block of Longspur Way; identity theft
- 11:40 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; from building, worth over \$400
- 4:45 p.m. in the 7900 block of Spyglass Court; from building, worth over \$400

\*Public vandalism:

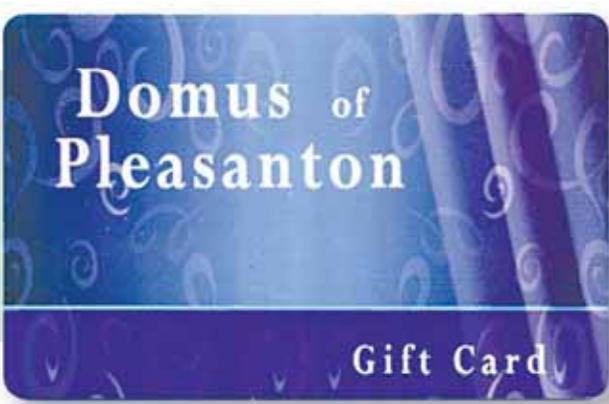
- 10:05 a.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less

\*Vehicular burglary:

- 7:18 a.m. in the 1000 block of Hopkins Way; worth over \$400
- 8:08 a.m. in the 5800 block of San Juan Way; worth over \$400
- 8:32 a.m. in the 1000 block of Crellin Road; worth over \$400
- 9:45 a.m. in the 1100 block of Mataro Court; worth \$200-400
- 11:11 a.m. in the 800 block of Bonde Court; worth over \$400
- 12:25 p.m. in the 900 block of Hopkins Way; worth \$50-199

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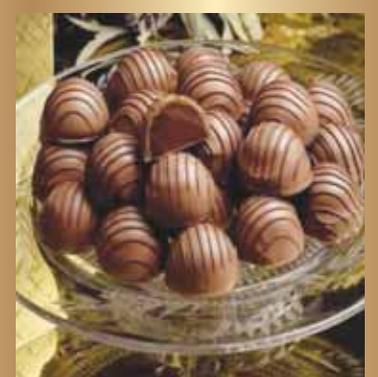
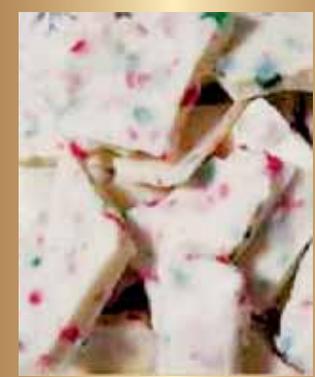


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HOLE

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OUT

# One year and counting

Callippe Preserve Golf Course passes first anniversary and sees greener pastures in the future

By Janet Pelletier

**T**he phrase "I played lousy, but I love your course" is music to Ted Anderson's ears.

The golf professional at Callippe Preserve Golf Course said he hears the sentiment often, and it's a sign that the championship course, which celebrated its first anniversary last month, will have a bright future for many years to come.

Whether it was a good or bad day for golfers, no one is complaining. Many, in fact, rave about the course's picturesque setting in Happy Valley, nestled between rolling hillsides in southwestern Pleasanton, Anderson said.

Another asset Callippe has over some other courses is how it holds up to weather conditions, according to Jim Wolfe, director of parks and community services for the city.

"The golf course drains very well even after it rains, so that's good for business," Wolfe said.

"It's definitely got all the bells and whistles," Anderson said. "People love paying municipal greens fees to play on a resort-style course."

## BY THE NUMBERS

Greens fees at Callippe are intentionally set lower than a competitive market might allow because of competition from other public and private courses in the Tri-Valley area.

Pleasanton residents get a 15 percent discount: \$36 on weekdays and \$51 on weekends. Resident senior rates for 60 and above are just \$26 on weekdays. Non-residents pay \$42 on weekdays and \$60 on weekends and holidays and \$30 for seniors. Cart fees are \$13 across the board.

It's for that reason that the golf course is having no trouble booking tee times and has plans to host championship tournaments in the near future. A number of groups already play tournaments at the course and that list is ever-expanding. Anderson said part of the reason the course gets booked so fast is due to the convenience for players to schedule a tee time online up to 15 days in advance at [www.playcallippe.com](http://www.playcallippe.com).

A total of 73,000 rounds of golf were played from November 2005 to this past November, Anderson said. That's much more than what city officials had initially anticipated. Their estimate was between 55,000 and 58,000 rounds, according to Dave Iremonger, city revenue services manager.

"That's a lot of rounds in this market at this time," Wolfe said.

But Iremonger cautioned that the above par numbers could be due to interest in the new course.

"That could have been the effect of opening a brand new course and people wanting to play it for the first time," he said. "Some people, with

a new course, want to come out just one time to see what it's like, so we need at least a year or two of 12-month operations to (assess the course's viability)."

The \$34.5 million facility has generated \$4.4 million in revenue in the first year, Iremonger said. From the total cost of the course, \$22-23 million is being financed through bonds.

"We have to pay \$1.6 million a year for the next 25 years to pay off those bonds," he said.

With operating costs this past year pinned at \$3.2 million, the net income so far is \$1.2 million. Despite coming about \$400,000 short of the first year's bond payment, Iremonger said the city only anticipated earning between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in profit to pay toward the bond.

"We told the City Council that it would take us probably between 12 to 14 years we would project before we would break even, meaning paying for all of the golf operating expenses and pay for the \$1.6 million debt service per year," Iremonger said.

## RECOGNITION

This past year, Callippe not only received praise from area golfers from Tri-Valley and cities as far as Fremont and San Jose, but also from GolfWeek magazine, which included Callippe on its list of America's Best Courses. In a rating of top 10 public-access courses across California, Callippe ranked sixth, behind Pebble Beach Golf Links and Spyglass Hill in Pebble Beach, Pasatiempo in Santa Cruz, Rustic Canyon in Moorpark and Barona Creek in Lakeside.

Callippe General Manager John Renslow just found out that another trade magazine, Golf Digest, ranked Callippe ninth on its list of best new courses in the country. Renslow said he received a call from the magazine Tuesday and was told the list would be published in its January issue.

"It's great," he said. "Golf Digest is a well-known national publication that is read by average players and advanced players alike and it's great to get the word out, just one more source. We know we've got a great golf course, but it's nice to see that other people recognize it as well."

Perhaps a lot of credit for Callippe coming to fruition goes to Randy Lum, the city's public works director who lobbied for the course over the years and was instrumental in convincing the city to fund and construct it.

Lum never got to see Callippe in all its glory when it opened. He died in July 2002 after having a seizure on one of the greens at Willow Park Golf Course. A room in the clubhouse is now dedicated to him.

(continued on page 18)

City officials received for the Callippe Preserve some unusual one staff and golf course p

- ABOUT TIME GOL
- BROKEN ARROW
- BURNING TREE
- CALLE DEL POLLO
- CHICKEN RUN
- CHOO CHOO GOR
- DAIRYLAND HILL
- FOUR STICKS GOL
- GREEN ACRES
- GULLEY JUMPERS
- HAPPY HOLES
- JOE DIMAGGIO YA
- LEND-A-HAND
- LITTLE WING
- MASHIE MEADOW
- MUSTARD RIDGE
- OLD DEVIL MOON
- RED TIGER
- SLEEPY HOLLOW
- THE TURNING WH

Scorer: JANET PELLETIER

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287 name suggestions  
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HEEL



Callippe Preserve golf pro Ted Anderson (sitting in golf cart) and General Manager John Renslow take a stroll on one of many pathways at the golf course. That morning, they were notified by Golf Digest magazine that Callippe was ranked ninth on a list of best new courses in the country.

Jeb Bing



Janet Pelleiter

A golf cart crossing sign greets golfers and visitors to Callippe Preserve and breathtaking views of the 18-hole municipal course to the northwest.

Attest: *Jason Lind*

Date: *12/8/06*

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Janet Pelletier

A golfer writes on his scorecard as he prepares for the next hole at Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

**VANDALISM**

The first year hasn't come without its obstacles. Just two weeks after the golf course opened, a driver did doughnuts with his car on the course, carving circles into the 16th green and causing \$30,000 in damage. And even before the course construction got under way, a fire that officials believe was intentionally set caused \$15,000 in damage to the clubhouse, which was being built, in July 2004.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

Callippe Preserve got its name from the Callippe Silverspot Butterfly, a species that is seen across the Bay Area. After an open call for name suggestions, city officials received 287 monikers—some of the more commonplace including Alisal, Amador Valley, Bernal, Happy Valley and Hopyard—and some more outlandish names that still elicit chuckles from city staff: About Time, Chicken Run, Choo Choo Gorge, Four Sticks, Lend-A-Hand Landing and Joe DiMaggio Yankee Clipper Golf Course.

**WIDE OPEN SPACES**

The "preserve" in the Callippe Preserve Golf Course name refers to a vast 280 acres of land that is preserved as permanent open space surrounding the golf course.

It includes 173 acres that is city-owned and 107 acres of the Koopmann Ranch that is permanently protected by a conservation easement. A public trail system, which is under construction, will provide hikers and equestrians a place to go to take in the scenic surroundings. Work crews are currently building a retaining wall along the west side of the 15th hole, Wolfe said. The trail goes along the 15th green to the intersection of Alisal and Happy Valley Road and travels up Westbridge Lane to the water tank that overlooks the golf course. About 3 miles of trail has been completed so far, Wolfe said. The remaining portion of the trail will be completed by Don Babbitt as part of a home building project around the course, and will make the trail a full loop. That work is expected to be done sometime next spring or summer.

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3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

**\*Equity Lines to \$750,000\***

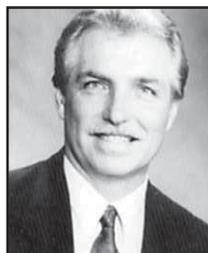
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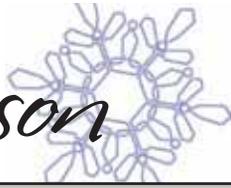
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# Transitions

## Obituaries

### George Robert Boring

George Robert Boring died Nov. 8 at the age of 42.

Mr. Boring was born in Richmond on July 9, 1964. He lived in Pleasanton for 28 years before moving to Antioch nine years ago. He was in the Foothill High School marching band and was an avid Giants fan. He also liked bowling and golf. Boring worked at Piedmont Lumber as an assistant manager.

He is survived by parents Wilberta and Robert Boring of Pleasanton; and sisters Linda Ann McLaurin and Laura Diane Loeffler.

Services were held Nov. 16 at St. Phillip Lutheran Church in Dublin. Arrangements were made by Graham-Hitch Mortuary of Pleasanton.

### Mary La Rocca

Mary La Rocca died Nov. 9 in Pleasanton at the age of 83.

Mrs. La Rocca lived in New Jersey for 80 years before moving to Pleasanton three years ago. She worked as a financial aid officer for 13 years at Montclair State University. She enjoyed sewing and tinsel painting.

She was survived by Eugene, her husband of 60 years; son Frank; daughters Carin and Christine; brother Steve; and grandchildren Gen and Christian.

A memorial mass was held Nov. 18 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Pleasanton. Donations can be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 150 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94612. Arrangements were handled by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

### Marilyn Murphy Kane

Marilyn Murphy Kane died Nov. 11 at the age of 80.

Mrs. Kane was born in Fort Collins, Colo., the first daughter of Derris Edward Murphy and Anna

Knemeyer Murphy. She graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1944 and attended Loretto Heights College in Denver before moving with her family to Richland, Wash., where she worked for General Electric as a personnel receptionist. In 1951 she moved to San Francisco where she worked for the Atomic Energy Commission screening potential employees for what would become the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. She met her husband Jim through mutual friends and was married June 19, 1954. She moved to Livermore where Jim took a position at the lab. After the birth of their children, the family moved to Pleasanton in 1963. The family spent 11 years in the Washington, D.C. area and returned to their Pleasanton home in 1985.

Marilyn was deeply involved with St. Augustine Catholic Church, where she served in the hospital Eucharistic ministry. She and Jim were avid gardeners and were active in the Livermore Amador Garden Club. Throughout her life, she enjoyed playing bridge and tennis. She was also a volunteer docent for the Filoli Estate gardens in the Woodside and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Marilyn cared about current events and community affairs, and advocated a plan for Bernal Park that could be enjoyed by all ages.

She will be remembered as a loving and generous wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Jim Kane; children Tom of Menlo Park (Diann Lewis), Lisa Walsh of Orinda (Richard), Brucy of Chevy Chase, Md. (Erica); sister Helen Koppe (Bruce) of Kirkland, Wash.; brother Dick Murphey (Shirley) of Troy, Mich.; seven granddaughters: Allison, Amy, Lindsay, Dana, Cameron, Laurel and Holly; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Derris, who died in childhood and Robert of Idaho Falls, Idaho; two sisters, Bonnie Fawcett (Bob) of Lookout Mountain, Ga. and Jan Justin (Jim) of Vancouver, Wash.

A memorial service and recep-

tion were scheduled for Nov. 16 at St. Augustine Catholic Church at 3999 Bernal Ave. In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to Hope Hospice.

### Terence C. Selna

Terence C. Selna died Nov. 14.

Mr. Selna was a loving husband to Joan Selna; brother to James V. Selna (Harriet); father to Brian Selna (Rebecca), Jennifer Leftcroff (Tracy), and Suzanne DeStefano (Robert); grandfather to nine grandchildren; son-in-law to Mel and Virginia Gianola; and uncle to Christina Selna.

A mass celebrating his life was held Nov. 17 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Pleasanton and a reception followed.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

### George Willis

George Willis died Nov. 14 at the age of 73.

Mr. Willis was born in Sacramento, lived in Fremont for more than 20 years and moved to Pleasanton two years ago. He also enjoyed NASCAR.

He is survived by sons Richard Willis (Debbie) of Union City and Robert Willis (Terry) of Pleasanton; brother Loren Willis; and grandchildren Michelle Bice of Florida and Richard and Kristi Willis of Union City.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kathy Willis.

### Gail Borden McPeak

Gail Borden McPeak died Nov. 18 in Walnut Creek at the age of 84.

Mr. McPeak was born in Springfield, Mo. and lived in Castro Valley before moving to Dublin 27 years ago. He served in the U.S. Army and retired from Pacific Bell after working there for 36 years.

McPeak was an elder at the Church of Christ in Pleasanton, was a member of the Pac Bell Pioneers, and enjoyed woodworking and writing.

He is survived by Betty, his wife of 62 years; son David Gail McPeak of Lodi, Calif.; daughters Lora Lee Blaylock of Alameda and Susan Kay Kruse of Brentwood; brothers Woodrow McPeak of Concord and Kester McPeak of Pleasanton; sisters Wilhelmina Phillips of Napa,

Ernestine Woodruff of Redlands, Calif., and Josephine Wheatley of Pinole; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled to be held at 11 a.m. Dec. 9 at Pleasant View Church of Christ, 11300 Dublin Canyon Rd. Donations can be made to the same church. Arrangements handled by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

### Stephen Edward Roberts

Stephen Edward Roberts died Nov. 21 at the age of 83.

A native of Harrisonville, Mo., Mr. Roberts has been a resident of Ridgeview Commons for many years. Roberts was a WWII Navy veteran, serving the USS Relief. He was a super salesman, avid golfer, sports fan, sports car enthusiast, frog collector, a parishioner of St. Augustine's and a genuine, nice guy. Roberts was a sincere friend to many and loved by all who knew him.



Roberts was married to Virginia for 49 years; father to Stephen Jr, Gordon, Joan, Faith, Laura, Christopher, David, Therese and Barbara; grandfather to 23; and great-grandfather to 9.

At his request, only a private family service will be held.

### Karen A. Ghidossi

Karen Ghidossi died Nov. 22 in Pleasanton at the age of 71.

Mrs. Ghidossi, known by her family as GiGi, was born in Berkeley in September 1935 and she served Tri-Valley Orthopedics for over 25 years. She will be remembered for her dedication and her unwavering commitment.

She is survived by her brother Chris; children Paula, Jeff, Marcia, Jim and David; grandchildren Holly Kayla, Chelsie, Anthony, Austin, Mason, Isabella, Justin, Jacob, Tyler, Genna and William; great-grandchild Caleb; sister-in-law Norma; nephews Kelly, Patrick and their families.

A memorial service was held Dec. 1 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ghidossi's name to the charity of your choice.

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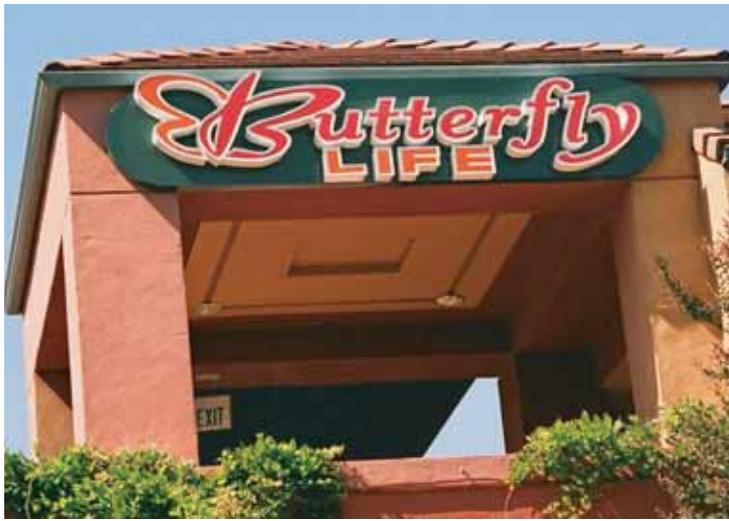
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# Finally!

## "A Full Service" Fitness Center Designed for Women

All 18,000 Sq. Feet Dedicated to Women's Fitness  
San Ramon - Pleasanton



**San Ramon, CA.**  
The new fitness craze sweeping the San Ramon Valley is the latest women's fitness facility, Butterfly Life. Butterfly Life is owned by Kathy Barney, a long time Danville resident. Kathy opened her two new fitness centers in San Ramon and Pleasanton during the summer of 2004.

This fitness center is like no other "designed for women" fitness center in the country. At this fitness center the motto is "healthy living solutions for women". "We not only believe in exercise, but we wanted to provide an educational environment that deals with issues such as health, nutrition, and fitness. Combine all that with a first class facility that reaches out to women of all ages and all fitness levels and you have Butterfly Life" says Kathy.

"We have been so pleased with the response to our new fitness clubs, the women in our community have really supported us in a big way. Our membership numbers have exceeded our expectations, growing over 40% over the same period when the facilities were under different ownership." Kathy adds.

That stands to reason since both San Ramon and Pleasanton facilities have been renovated from top to bottom, "we truly did a complete makeover". says Kathy. "With over 18,000 sq. feet I like to think of us as the Super Gym's Designed for Women".

Butterfly Life is unique from any other women's fitness center in that they are the "real deal" a full service fitness facility offering a state of the art 30-minute Circuit, extensive cardio area complete with treadmills, elliptical trainers, stairclimbers etc., a large aerobic area for the over 80+ classes weekly, free weight area, personal training area, childcare, executive locker rooms, complete with towel service and a host of amenities. The price of this high end women's fitness and health facility is the same or lower than most other women designed fitness clubs which feature primarily a 30-minute circuit.

Our target market is women of all ages and fitness levels. "Most women facilities are limited in what they offer and limit your progress. At Butterfly Life there is no reason to go anywhere else, we offer equipment, training and programs that allow you to progress, regardless of your fitness level or age." says Kathy.

At Butterfly Life you really find that the club is the "perfect size". The environment is extremely comfortable and non-intimidating for women. At Butterfly Life, you really get the feeling of a local club for women, a place where you can get fit, socialize and make new friends.

One of the most popular activities at Butterfly Life are the group exercise classes, and oh my, do they have group exercise classes. Butterfly Life has over 80 classes a week including Pilates, Yoga, Step, Dance, Body Sculpting and a whole lot more. The best part is that these classes are included in the cost of the membership. "There are studios all over charging a lot of money to offer their clients yoga or pilates, you even find other health clubs doing the same. We are very proud of our Group Exercise Program and we are pleased that we can offer this as part of our total package. The best part is our outstanding instructors, we truly feel we have the finest instructors in the area" Kathy proudly explains.

Another area that makes this fitness experience unique, is the education opportunity it provides to it's members. Through an innovative approach, Butterfly Life brings to its members seminars

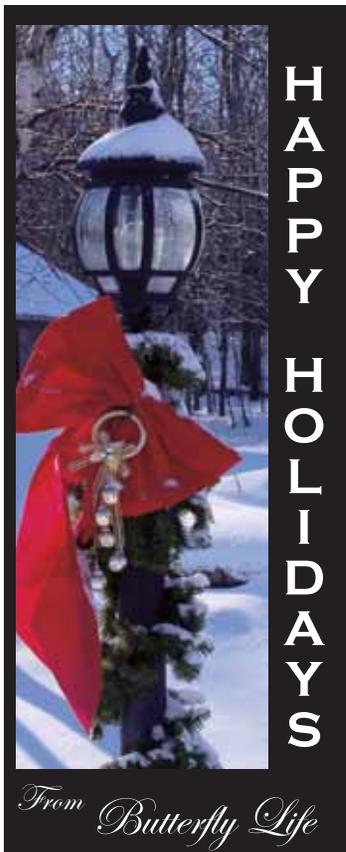
on Nutrition, Health, and Fitness. They bring this information to its members through Life Vision. Life Vision is a presentation tool that allows the members to educate themselves about the various topics important to women. The other way members can get educated and motivated at the same time is through the extensive team of certified personal trainers and a certified nutritional consultant. The trainers at Butterfly Life are trained specifically to deal with fitness as it relates to women. The best way to put it is, "its women helping women".

Exercising is not a chore at Butterfly Life its fun. "It is amazing how time flies while I'm here" says member Heidi Scott, "whether I'm taking a class or just working out, there are plenty of things that will make the time go by" In the cardio area you will find TV's with a variety of program as well as the Butterfly Life seminars playing around the clock, you can even check out a book on tape to help you pass the time.

"We want our members to have a high quality workout experience. We want to help pass on valuable information but most of all we want them to feel comfortable and enjoy their experience so that they want to come back." says Kathy

Looking for a place to get away from the hustle and bustle, a place where other women share the same issues that you do, a place where you can take care of yourself while having fun. Looking for the absolute best value in women's fitness, then go to Butterfly Life Fitness Club in San Ramon, located at 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd. or 3170 Santa Rita Rd. in Pleasanton. It is truly the place to be.

A membership to Butterfly Life is a perfect gift for the Holidays. Call the following locations for more information:  
San Ramon 925-855-3855  
Pleasanton 925-426-0105



From Butterfly Life



Kathy Barney - Owner  
"I want to provide a place where women can come to work-out, make friends, have fun and be in a non-intimidating healthy atmosphere"

Pleasanton  
426-0105

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The Holiday Fund helps people in our community

# It's time to give

## Open Heart Kitchen serves food, hope in Tri-Valley

*The organization can use donations of all kinds; meals cost nonprofit average of \$1.50 each*

by Emily Atwood

**M**iracles are part of the regular routine at Open Heart Kitchen. It's relief for many with growling stomachs when money is tight. Each week the nonprofit organization feeds hundreds of people in the Tri-Valley, all with only eight volunteers.

As it is, seven of those volunteers work part time. Executive Director Carol Beddome said for the job to run smoothly, they need

about 100-140 volunteers each week to help prepare and serve the hot meals made from scratch.

Each year, the demand for OHK grows as the cost of living in the Tri-Valley increases. In Pleasanton specifically, median single family homes are just shy of the million dollar mark, while almost half of household incomes are under \$50,000. Those who benefit from OHK services are typically multi-generational homes earning less than

\$18,000 a year. The nonprofit also serves meals weekly to seniors, and provides weekend box lunches for school children on the free lunch program in area schools.

"It costs a lot of money to live here," Beddome said. "For individuals who are working at minimum wage jobs, having a free, nutritious meal is really nice for these families to enjoy."

When donating to OHK, Beddome said families and businesses are making an investment in the community. The organization depends on donations of money, but also time and food. For those with a green thumb, OHK will gladly accept vegetables to be prepared for meals. They also take perishable and non-perishable food.

**"For individuals who are working at minimum wage jobs, having a free, nutritious meal is really nice for these families to enjoy."**

— Executive Director Carol Beddome

After much trouble with their 30-year-old van, the Holtz family of Pleasanton donated their 1994 Suburban. Instead of carrying a family, the Suburban now transports box lunches to children in Livermore and families in Dublin. Other recent donations, to name a few, have been refrigerators from model homes, 1,200 hams, and legal services.

Several local corporate sponsors—including Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Chevron Corporation, SBC and Wells Fargo—have been financial supporters, but also have encouraged employees to volunteer.

Yet, with a small budget and a growing need, OHK still needs much help. ■

### Free hot meal locations

Guests are welcome to dine in or take out.

**East Livermore:** Tues. through Wed., 12 to 6 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave.

**North Livermore:** Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m. at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 460 N. Livermore Ave.

**Livermore:** Fridays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., 460 N. Livermore Ave. and 811 Marilyn Ave.

**Dublin:** Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 6700 Dougherty Rd.

**Pleasanton:** Fridays, 4:30-6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Ave.

### OHK Programs

Weekend box lunches: Children who receive free lunches during the week are left without on the weekends. To supplement school lunches, OHK distributes a box with two healthy lunches to these children on Friday afternoons.

Senior meal program: Guests 62 and older can come to the Ridgeview Commons Café, 5200 Case Ave. in Pleasanton, 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For menu and reservations call 484-5131.



Emily Atwood

Two of Open Heart Kitchen's eight-member volunteer staff serve lunch to a man at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore on Wednesday.

## The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of local nonprofit organizations to help alleviate the needs that exist, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the fourth year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides an opportunity to aid local groups at a time when the numbers of those without jobs or with low-paying jobs and few if any health benefits have increased.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. This will enable us to double your donation and allow your gift of \$1 to total \$2 to the nonprofits. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund. One hundred percent of donations go to the intended grantees. We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy nonprofits.



# Calendar

## 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. 19.

### 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 Jan. 3.

### 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 Dec. 14 meeting has been cancelled.

### Planning Commission

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

Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit [www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com](http://www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com).

### Genealogical Society

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

### Hacienda Park Toastmasters

Hacienda Park Toastmasters meets from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday at Tyco, 4280 Hacienda Dr. Call Brett, 737-1000.

## Clubs

### Fly Fishers

Fly Fishers Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at Livermore Rod and Gun Club, 4000 Dagnino Rd., Livermore. Call Bob, 989-2358 or visit [www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org](http://www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org).

### Foothill Kiwanis Key Club

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club meets from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at

## Fundraisers

### Bingo

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

### Dictionary Project

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

### Hyphy 4 HIV Benefit Concert

The Hyphy 4 HIV Benefit Concert is an event put on by Bay Area High School Leadership students to raise money for the Keep a Child Alive organization, a nonprofit that delivers anti-retroviral drugs to HIV positive children and their families in Africa. The event features Bay Area hip-hop artists and proponents of the hyphy movement and will take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds 1 p.m., Dec. 16. Tickets are sold at [www.inticketing.com](http://www.inticketing.com), keyword hyphy. Call Michelle Sastri, 963-8990 or e-mail [msastri07@hotmail.com](mailto:msastri07@hotmail.com) for more information.

### Operation: S.A.M.

The Museum On Main, 603 Main St., is an ongoing drop-off place for donations for Operation: S.A.M., a non-profit organization that sends packages to American troops deployed all over the

## Weekend Preview



### Will Durst returns for New Year's show

Tickets are on sale for Will Durst and friends' "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIV," happening 8 p.m. Dec. 29 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The Amador Theatre is one stop on Durst's annual holiday tour through the Bay Area. Advance tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25 and may be purchased online at [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org) or by phone at 931-3444.

world. Visit [www.operationsam.org](http://www.operationsam.org) for list of needed items. Call 462-2766.

### Recycle for Breast Cancer

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

### Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game

The fourth annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game will be Dec. 30 at the Amador Valley High School soccer field. Foothill and Amador soccer players from the '70s, '80s, '90s and '00s will face off. Women play at 4 p.m. and men at

6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students. Proceeds benefit the soccer programs at both schools. Call Curt Gordon, 426-1540 for more information.

### 'Wigged Out'

Victoria's Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in Danville, is hosting "Wigged Out," a comedy event benefiting nonprofit organization Hats Off America 8 p.m., Dec. 16. Hats Off America benefits the families of American soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. Tickets are \$40 and the evening includes a champagne reception at 7 p.m. Contact Sparky George, 855-1950 or [thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com](mailto:thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com) for tickets and information.

(continued on page 25)

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925.855.1177

6891 Village Parkway  
(Next to Post Office)  
Dublin  
925.829.1177

## Health

### Blood Drive

The Livermore Asbury United Methodist Church is holding a blood drive from 1 to 7 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Call Tom, 447-1950 or e-mail blood-drive@asburylive.org to schedule an appointment.

### Exercise Class

The Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services offers a month-to-month fitness class 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.

### Holistic Feet Care

The World School of Massage and Holistic Healing Arts are hosting a free public seminar titled "My Feet Feel Great" from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Dec. 11. Attendees will learn daily self-care and specialized self-foot massage techniques. The school is located at 699 Peters Ave., Ste. A. Call 461-2533 for more information.

### Yoga Workshop

The Art of Living center is hosting two hours of yoga, breathing and meditation 7 p.m., Dec. 18 at the Pleasanton Public Library. The event is open to all 18 years old or older. No prior experience required. The Art of Living Foundation is a nonprofit educational humanitarian organization in over 142 countries worldwide. Bring a yoga mat, a blanket for warmth in meditation and dress in loose comfortable clothing.

Admission is free and no registration is required. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information.

## Holiday

### Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show

Civic Arts Presents will host political satirist Will Durst and friends in "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show XIV" 8 p.m. Dec. 29 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. This show is appropriate for adult audiences. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Visit [www.civictartickets.org](http://www.civictartickets.org) or call 931-3444 for tickets.

### Blackhawk Chorus

The 130-voiced Blackhawk Chorus will perform its annual holiday concert, "Rejoice Greatly!" 5 p.m., Dec. 17 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd. in Dublin. Tickets are \$15. Call 828-1580 or visit [www.resluthdublin.org](http://www.resluthdublin.org) for more information.

### Breakfast with Santa

Reserve a space to have breakfast with Santa from 8:30 to 10 a.m., Dec. 9 at the Dublin Senior Center. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, milk and coffee. Tickets are \$6 for Dublin residents, \$7 for non-residents. Reservations are necessary. Proceeds benefit the Dublin High School Marching Band. Call 833-6645.

### Cantabella Children's Chorus Concert

The Cantabella Children's Chorus will hold its annual winter concert "What Sweeter Music" from 2 to 4 p.m., Dec. 9 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. The choir, comprised of children ages 5-17, will sing seasonal songs and lead a sing-along. Tickets are available at the door. A donation of \$5 is suggested. Visit [www.cantabella.org](http://www.cantabella.org) or call 292-2663.

### Christmas Carol

Traveling Lantern Theatre Company will perform a children's version of "A Christmas Carol" 2 p.m., Dec. 9 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The show is free for students in first grade or older. Parents and younger children will only be admitted if space permits. Call the children's desk, 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

### Christmas Scripture and Song

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church is hosting an evening of candlelight and traditional Christmas music interwoven with scriptures and stories about the birth of Christ 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at 4300 Mirador Dr. Call 846-4436 for more information.

### Christmas Story

The California Independent Film Festival Association is hosting a special screening of "A Christmas Story" 11 a.m., Dec. 9 at the Vine Cinema in downtown Livermore. The event includes a Q&A with actors Ian Petrella and Scott Schwartz from the movie. Unwrapped toys will also be collected for the Livermore Children's Charity from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Call 552-REEL or visit [www.caindie.com](http://www.caindie.com).

### Fred McCarty Holiday Showcase

Composer Fred McCarty and his

(continued on page 26)

## We need a graphic designer

The Pleasanton Weekly and the Danville Weekly is currently seeking a **Full-Time Graphic Designer** to help produce our Tri-Valley community newspapers.

Responsibilities will include both editorial and advertising design. Must have Mac experience, basic production skills and a good design portfolio. InDesign, Photoshop knowledge is required, Web/Flash experience a bonus. Candidate should be able to work under tight deadlines in a busy environment with attention to detail. Guaranteed to work hard—but also have fun in a small office with a dedicated staff.

This full-time position offers health and dental benefits and a 401(k) plan—plus the distinction of working for an award-winning and ever-growing hometown newspaper.

Please e-mail your resume to Shannon Corey, Art Director, at: [scorey@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:scorey@pleasantonweekly.com)

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**WEEKLY**

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band will perform a Holiday Showcase as part of the Dublin Winter Concert Series 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way in Dublin. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 or younger. Call 833-6645 for more information.

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

**Jim Gamble's 'The Nutcracker'**

Puppeteer Jim Gamble and his host of puppets will perform "The Nutcracker" 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Tickets are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children. Call

931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.com to purchase tickets. Group discounts are available.

**Joy to the World**

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band and the 91st Division Army Band are holding its annual holiday concert, "Joy to the World," 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is free. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasanton-band.org for more information.

**Lights Tour**

The Pleasanton Senior Center is hosting a Holiday Lights Tour of the festively decorated homes in Pleasanton from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 14. Sing-a-longs, cookies and hot cocoa will be provided. Cost is \$6 for Pleasanton residents, \$7 for non-residents. The bus leaves from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are also available

at that location. Call 931-5372 for more information.

**Live Nativity Scene**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is hosting a live nativity scene with music 6:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at the church, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Refreshments will be served. Call 846-0431 for more information.

**NY New Year's Eve Bash**

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting its second annual NY New Year's Eve Bash for girls ages 6 and older from 6 to 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve. This is a "parent-free" event and girls will get glammed-up, dance, win prizes, dine and drink as they count down to the ball drop in New York City. Cost is \$35 and girls who bring a friend get \$5 off. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space.

**Outdoor Ice Rink**

Downtown Walnut Creek opened its annual outdoor ice skating rink,

scheduled to run through Jan. 15, 2007. The rink is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mon.-Thu.; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun. Cost is \$11, including skate rental, Mon.-Thu. and Fri. until 5:30 p.m.; weekends are \$10, plus \$5 skate rental. Call 935-SNOW or visit www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com for more information.

**Santa at Towne Center Books**

Have Breakfast with Santa at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., two different dates: 9 a.m., Thurs., Dec. 7 and Wed., Dec. 13. Breakfast, party favor, photo and time with Santa are included in the \$5 per person admission. Event is for children ages 3 and older. Call 846-8826.

**Sing-It-Yourself Messiah**

The Valley Concert Chorale is hosting a Sing-It-Yourself Messiah 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the First Presbyterian

Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Admission is \$10. Participants will sing Handel's popular "Messiah" and soloist will be highlighted. Participants should bring a score, if possible. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org for more information.

**Teddy Bear Tea Service**

The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting a Teddy Bear Tea Service during the month of December. Bring your child to enjoy a festive tea in the holiday decorated Victorian dining rooms. Each child will receive a teddy

bear to take home. The teas are Mon. through Sat. from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$18.95 for adults, \$15.95 for children. Reservations required. Call 846-8106.

**Toys for Tots**

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices will serve as official collection centers for Toys for Tots from now until Dec. 15. The location in Pleasanton is 5980 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 122. Call 847-2200 for more information.

**USS Hornet New Year's Eve Party**

The USS Hornet Museum is hosting a New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. featuring music by David Martin's House Party. Tickets are \$48 for general admission, \$65 for reserved seating and \$95 for premium reserved seating. All tickets include party favors. Food and beverages are separate. Proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of this national and state historic landmark. For ticket information, call (510) 521-8448, ext. 282 or visit www.hornetevents.com.

**Valley Chorale Holiday Concert**

The Valley Concert Chorale performs its annual Holiday Concert 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. and 2 p.m. Dec. 10 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$14 for seniors 62 and older if purchased 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. Visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org for more information.

**Valley Dance Theatre Nutcracker**

Valley Dance Theatre will perform "The Nutcracker" 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 17, and 7 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Livermore High School Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors for ground floor reserved seats; \$15 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors for open balcony seating. Call 243-0927 for information and tickets. Group rates available.

**Winter Concerts**

Amador Valley High School will present two winter concerts at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Director Mark Aubel will lead the AVHS orchestra, choir and jazz A ensemble with special guest, the Foothill High School Chamber Choir at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18. Director Jon Grantham leads the AVHS wind ensemble, wind symphony, symphonic band and jazz

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B enemble at 7 p.m. Dec. 19. Both shows are general seating.

**Youth and Bell Choirs Perform**  
The annual Christmas Youth Choir and Bell Choir holiday concert will be held 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. The choirs will perform Christmas favorites and traditional music numbers. Call 846-0431 for more information.

## Kids & Teens

**Mill Creek Academy Open House**  
Mill Creek Academy Pleasanton is hosting an open house 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. Parents of fifth through 12th grade students are invited to tour the new classrooms, meet the directors and enter to win one of two free classes being raffled off. The open house will be held at 4473 Willow Rd., Ste. 150. Directions and contact information can be found at [www.mill-creekacademy.com](http://www.mill-creekacademy.com).

**Young Actors' Theatre Camp**  
The Young Actors' Theatre Camp is accepting students for the upcoming "Wicked!" Winter Holiday Break Camp featuring a Master Class with Broadway's Kristy Cates who plays Elphaba in the musical "Wicked." The camp is from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 at YMCA Camp Arroyo in Livermore and is open to students ages 8-18. Call 858-3548 or visit [www.youngactorstheatre.com](http://www.youngactorstheatre.com) to register or for more information.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Attracting Equity Investors**  
Technology Ventures Corporation presents "Attracting Equity Investors and Lessons Learned" from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 13 with registration and continental breakfast at 8 a.m. This session discusses the developing relationships with investors, intellectual property, securities issues, term sheets, and the art and techniques of negotiation. The event is at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St. in Dublin. Admission is free. Visit [www.techadventures.org](http://www.techadventures.org) for registration information or call 960-1600.

**Child Care Initiative Project**  
Licensed and license-exempt child care providers are encouraged to participate in the CCIP project to receive technical assistance and support, free training and support materials, and more. No cost for this workshop. Call Donnamarie, 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. Dec. 6 and 13 at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct. To register, contact Mary Schneider at [mary0531@comcast.net](mailto:mary0531@comcast.net).

**eBIG Seminar**  
Norma Watenpaugh, a former Association of Strategic Alliances

President and founder of Phoenix Consulting Group, will speak at eBIG seminar, "Start-Ups/VCS SIG - Early Stage Alliances" Dec. 11 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd. The event is free for eBIG members. For all others, admission is \$10 pre-registration, \$20 at the door. Call Nancy Tubbs, (650) 704-7844 or visit [www.ebig.org](http://www.ebig.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.

## Live Music

**Jazz at The Pleasanton Hotel**  
Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band is performing Dec. 12 at The Pleasanton Hotel. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.pleasantonhotel.com](http://www.pleasantonhotel.com) for more information.

**Swing Band at Library**  
The Pleasanton Public Library presents the JB Smooth Sounds Band from 1 to 3 p.m., Dec. 19. Admission is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 37 for more information.

## Seniors

**Bingo**  
Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Monday monthly and 1 to 3 p.m. every Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

**Emotional Wellness Group**  
Learn more about depression, anxiety, and how medications and alcohol may affect emotional well-being at 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Charlene or Jode, 931-5382.

**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](http://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 [please-nior@yahoo.com](mailto:please-nior@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](mailto: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.momsintouch.org](http://www.momsintouch.org).

**The Importance of True Fellowship**

Compassionate Christian is hosting an 8-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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.pleasantonlacrosse.com).

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

**Women Golfers Needed**  
The Tuesday Morning Callippe Niners, a women's golf club, is looking for new members. Call Sandi Snyder, 462-0288 if interested.

## Support Groups

**Breast Cancer Prayer & Support**  
The Breast Cancer and Support Group of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., room B. Call

461-8411. All are welcome.

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

**Cancer Support**  
Anyone facing cancer and care persons may join the Living Beyond Limits group that meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Thursday monthly at ValleyCare Health Center, 5575 Las Positas Blvd. No fee. Call Ken Smith, 846-8594.

## TV30

**City Council Meeting**  
The City Council meeting from Dec. 5 will air on channel 29 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10.

**Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel**  
Eckankar, a nonprofit organization and church based in Minnesota, is hosting a show on TV 26 every Friday at 4 p.m. titled, "Past Lives, Dreams, Soul Travel." Visit [www.eckankar.org](http://www.eckankar.org) for more information.

## Volunteering

**Alameda County Community Food Bank**  
Volunteers are needed to staff the Emergency Food Hotline from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call (510) 834-3663 or visit [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org).

**American Red Cross Orientation**  
The American Red Cross Blood Services is holding an orientation for new volunteers from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

(continued on page 28)

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## Calendar

Dec. 8, and 10 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 12 at the Contra Costa Blood Center in Pleasant Hill. Advance sign-up is required. Call Mandy, (510) 594-5211 or e-mail lewis@usa.redcross.org.

**Community Service for Teens**  
Open Heart Kitchen's Ridgeview Commons Senior Meal Program needs 10 to 12 teens (at least 16 years of age) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Job includes serving seniors from the buffet line, helping seniors get to their tables, bussing tables, cleaning, etc. Adults also welcome to apply. Call 580-1619.

**Foster Homes Needed**  
Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St., is urgently seeking temporary homes for rescued kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Food and medical expenses are provided. Also needed are Adoption Volunteer Coordinators and counselors. Call 426-8656 or visit [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

**GourMade Cook for a Cause**  
GourMade Cookery is hosting two "GourMade Cook for a Cause" sessions 6 p.m. Dec. 12 and 10 a.m. Dec. 13 run solely by volunteers. Session volunteers will assist with food preparation, assemble ingredients into meals and help with session clean up. Meals assembled during these sessions will be donated to and served by Open Heart Kitchen and Crisis in Caring to needy individuals and families. Those interested in volunteering should e-mail [info@](mailto:info@)

[gourmadecookery.com](http://gourmadecookery.com) or call 846-4774 with their preferred session date. Each session will be limited to 20 volunteers.

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

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

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

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

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

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# Dining Out

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

## 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!"

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

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

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

## What's for dinner?



## 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.

## Catering

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

## Chinese

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

## Continental

**Barone's**  
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### Italian

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#### Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, (925) 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic are the first things you notice in this warm and friendly classically "Italian" restaurant, complete with red checked tablecloths. It has an open kitchen where patrons can watch the cooks "hand toss" the dough for this pizza mecca of the Tri-Valley. It is perfect for romantic couples as well as the entire family, and the authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini and Lasagna as well as Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

#### Garlic di Pasta

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 485-4500. Rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic. Voted the best Italian restau-

rant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

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

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### Mediterranean

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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

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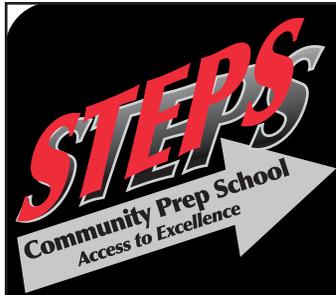


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