

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 49 • December 29, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton



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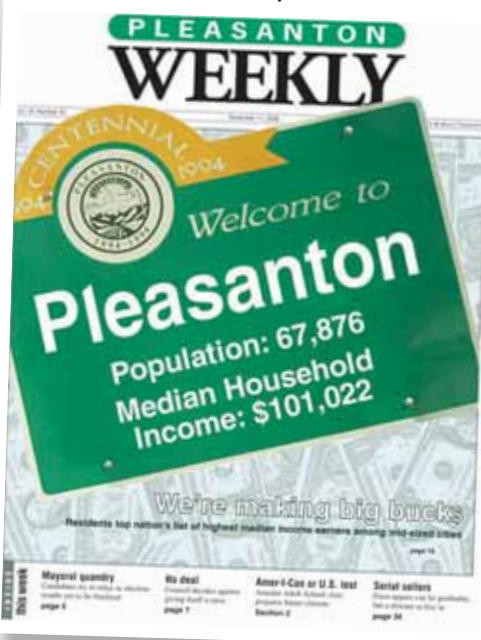
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2006 In Review

What happened in Pleasanton over the past year? Find out in this A to Z timeline

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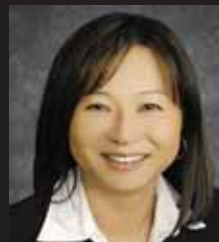
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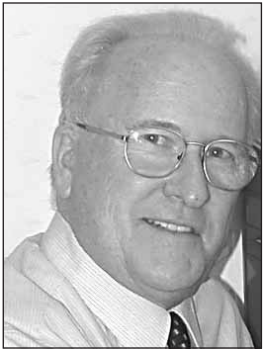
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Here's a couple we all appreciate

Kay and Charles Huff received well-deserved recognition at a recent Pleasanton Chamber Community Awards dinner for their "exceptional service to the community and their philanthropic efforts." The Huffs are among the city's most-recognized residents: Charles for his architectural expertise and Kay for her community outreach efforts, including "Kay's Ladies' Day at the Races," an annual event now in its 16th year that brings together women from all over Pleasanton to meet, socialize and plan more philanthropic work.

The Huffs moved here in 1980 from Cupertino, where Charles had started his architectural profession and Kay worked for Stanford Research Institute (SRI). They wanted a larger home and new horizons and found Pleasanton's history and historic downtown of major interest to Charles, who became a specialist in seamlessly designing and restoring older buildings.

Hooked on history, Huff has handled more than 2,000 architectural projects since setting up an office on the second floor of the old Train Building on First Street, which he restored. His architecture has a distinctive Pleasanton style that blends with the more conservative, historic architecture found in the city's downtown. Although his office buildings are more contemporary, he leaves the modern glass and aluminum office buildings found in Hacienda Business Park to others. An admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, some of Huff's homes look much like those found in Wright's hometown of Oak Park, Ill., where he once lived and where his museum is located. One example is a house at Neal and Second streets, which Huff restored. He also pitched in to restore and rebuild the old Police station for the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Museum, which now uses it for its Museum On Main. Along the way, he has become the city's expert on both

its history and historical buildings and other properties, including the 150-year-old Memorial Gardens Cemetery which the city just acquired on Sunol Boulevard. A history aficionado, his office is filled with albums, portfolios, binders and large photos of Pleasanton in its early years, including an assortment of old Thomas maps that show the city when it had only a few downtown streets, none of them paved.

Kay and Charles work together on their popular and usually sold-out historic tours on downtown streets. These include the Halloween Ghost Walk, where they regale the tour group with stories of ghost sightings at Kottinger Barn on Ray Street, the Pleasanton Hotel, stores on Main Street and at Gay 90s Pizza. Everyone leaves with a better appreciation for the folklore and history that is so unique to Pleasanton dating back to the days when the Ohlone Indians and others settled in this area.

Kay Huff, as the Chamber award noted, has become a community leader in her own right, working in the schools and on PTA councils when the couple's sons Ryan and Tyler were students. Borrowing from her husband's attention to old bricks, she led a buy-a-brick campaign to raise funds to help furnish the new Harvest Park gymnasium, marking the first time contributors could pay to have their names carved in bricks on school property. The group sold more than 400 bricks and similar efforts have since raise funds for other school projects. With Ryan, a graduate of Cal Poly where Kay and Charles first met and also received their degrees, now a reporter for the Contra Costa Times, and Tyler a recent graduate of Cal State Northridge, the Huffs are taking some time off from their nonprofit community work to restore the home they recently bought high on Pine Hill Lane, which looks across the city they've enjoyed for the last 26 years.

About the Cover

From traffic gridlock to global warming to Madden madness to an exciting election, the year 2006 in Pleasanton was filled with a laundry list of happenings, issues and milestones. The eight cover pages on this issue's cover are just a sampling of the 52 memorable weekly editions we put out this year. Check page 16 for our A to Z year end recap. Cover by Ben Ho.

Vol. VI, Number 49

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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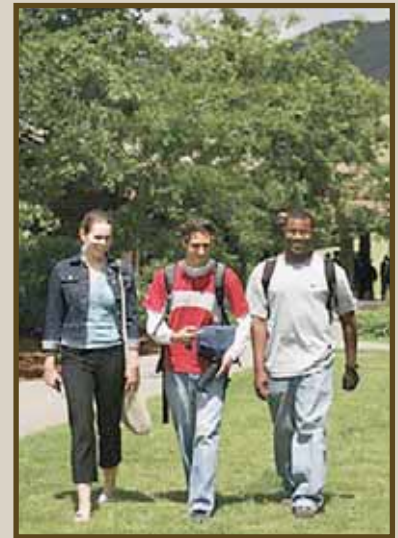
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Streetwise

Q: What is your New Year's resolution?

Asked Around Town



Laura Ditto
Teacher

My New Year's resolution is to read more and more. I've joined a reading club this year; we read one or two books a month and it is my goal to get that done each month and enjoy my group.

Chelsea Kern

Student

My resolution is to continue to get good grades so I can get into a good college and get a nice car. The better the grades, the better the car! I am a bit of a junk food junkie, so I'm going to work on that too.



Rob Villanger

Project Manager

My resolution for 2007 is to learn more about God's love and how to understand that in my life. I am going to spend time studying the topic.



Lorna Belluomini

Executive Assistant

To live a healthier lifestyle and slow down. I'd like to take more time to practice yoga or meditation, so I don't feel rushed all the time.



Donna Manning

Teacher

I am going to continue to exercise, eat healthily and take care of the ones that I love.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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Newsfront

News Digest

Connerly to speak in Tri-Valley

Ward Connerly, author of the autobiography "Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences," is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Jan. 11 dinner meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated. The dinner begins 6:30 p.m. at a Sheraton Hotel at 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road, which used to be the Wyndham Garden Hotel. Connerly is also the founder and chairman of the American Civil Rights Institute, a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public about the need to move beyond racial and gender preferences. New members and visitors are welcome. For reservations contact Marilyn at 485-9869.

Christmas tree pick-up

Boy Scout Troops 941 and 943 are picking up old Christmas trees Jan. 6. There is a minimum donation of \$5 for residential trees; \$10 for residential trees over 8 feet, businesses or flocked trees of any size. This service is only available for trees in the city of Pleasanton. Requests for tree pick-up must be received by Jan. 4. Call 417-5177 or register online at www.troop943.org or www.troop941.org.

Cancelled meetings

The City Council and Human Services Commission meetings scheduled for Jan. 2 and 3, respectively, have been cancelled. The council will meet Jan. 16 and the HSC will meet Feb. 7. City offices will also be closed Jan. 1.

Parent education

The following classes will be offered by Amador Valley Adult and Community Education in January: sharing ideas for parenthood, baby sign language and family court parenting orientation. For more information or to register, call the school at 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Jill Buck to apply for vacant school board seat

PUSD trustees to appoint replacement by Feb. 6

by Emily Atwood

Jill Buck, who recently ran for the 18th Assembly District, has announced her intent to apply for the vacancy on the school board. The board plans to fill the two-year seat ending December 2008 at either its Jan. 30 or Feb. 6 meeting.

The opening comes after outgoing board president Steve Pulido was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to a judgeship on the Alameda County Superior Court. Just as the board did in April when Gloria Fredette resigned, the school board will choose a replacement instead of having an election.

The provisional appointment process includes filling out an application and interviewing with the trustees.

Candidates must be registered voters living within school district boundaries, at least 18 years old, a state citizen and not disqualified by the Constitution or laws of the state from holding a civil office. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Jan. 12 and can be downloaded at www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us or picked up between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the school district office, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Buck has three children in Pleasanton schools and has founded and served as president of the Pleasanton PTA Council. While she may be best known for her

(continued on page 10)



Jill Buck (right), poses with former New Jersey Governor Christie Todd Whitman at a campaign fundraiser just before the Nov. 7 General Election where she ran unsuccessfully for the 18th Assembly District. Buck said she intends to apply for the open school board seat.

We're almost there!

This sign in front of the Pleasanton Weekly office at 5506 Sunol Blvd. shows contributions totaling \$94,960, just short of this year's \$100,000 goal for the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. To put us over the top, mail or drop off your donation, which will be matched dollar-for-dollar through our partnership with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. The campaign ends next Friday, Jan. 5. (Story on p. 22)



Alameda County Fair garners four international awards

Fair given top honors for best TV commercial, e-newsletter, Web site, use of theme

A commercial for last summer's county fair featuring a horse, pig, cow and rooster taking a cruise in a '57 Cadillac convertible and being spotted by a bewildered cop won the hearts of judges at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

In all, the 2006 Alameda County Fair took home four IAFE awards in the categories of Best Television Commercial, Best e-Newsletter, Best Web site and Best Use of Fair's Theme in Competitive Exhibits.

The IAFE Awards, which were held in Las Vegas from Dec. 4-7, is the largest convention and trade

show for the fair industry. Fair representatives were on hand to accept the awards.

"It's always a great feeling to be recognized with such honors amongst your peers," said April Mitchell, sales and marketing manager for the Fairgrounds.

Last fall, fair staff devised a slogan and theme for the fair, "Jump Start Your Summer." The idea came from the hit summer animated movie "Cars" which was released just before the fair began in June by Pixar Studios, which is based in Alameda County. The award-winning TV commercial featured common livestock in a reference to the



fair's 4-H offerings. It was produced in conjunction with San Francisco-based Pickett Advertising.

The fair won Best Use of Fair's Theme in Competitive Exhibits for featuring the "Cars" movie theme into artwork, booths, garden landscape plots and the more than 18,000 exhibit entries.

IAFE also gave the nod to the fair for two digital marketing mediums—e-Newsletter and Web site. All web media is produced in-house and tailored to reflect that year's theme, Mitchell said.

"Creating a fun and informational

(continued on page 6)

Condo conversion law under review

Measure could trim rental units, but add more affordable condos

by Jeb Bing

A new condominium conversion ordinance that will reduce profits for building owners but add more low-income housing in Pleasanton will be reviewed by the city's Housing Commission Jan. 11.

The proposed ordinance would require apartment building owners who want to convert their units to occupant-owned condominiums to

(continued on page 10)

New general manager chosen by Zone 7

Assistant GM Duerig lauded for technical, legal, managerial skills

Livermore-Amador Valley's Zone 7 Water Agency has chosen Assistant General Manager Jill Duerig to replace retiring General Manager Dale Myers.

Myers announced last month that he will retire at the end of February. The Zone 7 board voted unanimously in closed session Dec. 21 to name Duerig as his successor.

"We all felt that going through a formal recruitment process could not result in a better, more highly qualified candidate," said board President Jim Concannon. "We are really excited to have Jill take the helm. Her unique mix of technical, legal and managerial experience—coupled with her innate ability to relate and work with people—will greatly serve the interests of our



Jill Duerig
General Manager

community."

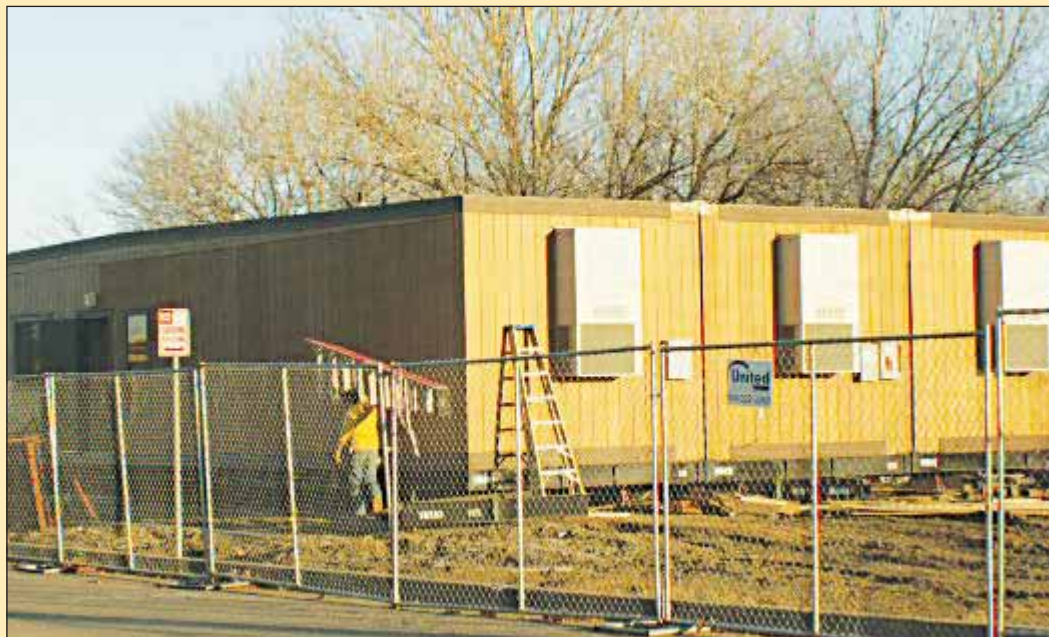
Duerig has educational degrees and professional experience as an engineer, chemist and a lawyer. She joined Zone 7 in June 2005 and was soon promoted to assistant general manager of engineering—overseeing capital projects, water quality, groundwater, water resources and advance planning.

Previously, she worked as general manager and chief engineer for the Scotts Valley Water District. Prior to that, she spent three years as an associate attorney in a private law firm specializing in construction, environmental and water law—almost exclusively for public agency clients. From 1986 to 1998, Duerig worked for the Alameda County Water District, serving the Fremont-Newark-Union City area in various capacities, including as production manager and division engineer in groundwater resources.

A contract and salary for her will be considered by the board at its January meeting.

Zone 7 provides wholesale water to Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin and flood protection to all of eastern Alameda County.

—Janet Pelletier



Almost Purrrfect

A worker lifts a ladder at a construction site on Nevada Street, off Bernal Avenue. While staffers at Valley Humane Society are looking way into the future at a permanent facility that will house the many cats and dogs without homes, it is temporarily setting up shop in some portables on some newly-purchased land on Nevada Street. The humane society was previously located on Spring Street, but closed the dated and small facility down in August and has been in limbo since, housing cats and dogs in foster care.

Fair

(continued from page 5)

Web site is an integral part of the fair marketing program which we strive to improve on each year," she said.

"Behind our television spots, Web marketing is one our largest avenues of customer outreach as well as one of the most cost effective mediums."

E-Newsletter sign-ups are free, and fairgoers get the first news of

upcoming events, shows and discounts. Next year's fair theme and new Web site will be announced after the New Year. The official dates for it are June 22 to July 8.

—Janet Pelletier

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Looking forward to 2007

Happy New Year
from the Pleasanton Weekly



Pleasanton resident helps newcomers get plugged in

He's Pleasanton's one-man welcome wagon. Several years ago, Don Shelton was inspired by his pastor at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church to greet Pleasanton newcomers, and since 2004 years he's visited about 2,000 homes in Pleasanton. Carrying a basket full of relocation packets from the Chamber of Commerce, a welcome letter from his church, unofficial area guides, the Weekly and a red balloon, he makes sure everyone feels right at home in their new home. He says he's always looking for someone else to join the wagon. To contact Don, call 846-4294.

Increase temperatures, decrease crops

LLNL study predicts a negative impact on California's most popular crops

Increasing temperatures in California over the next 45 years could have a negative impact on the amount of almonds, walnuts, oranges, avocados and table grapes produced in the state, according to a recent study conducted by researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and funded in part by the Department of Energy's Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research Program. The study, published by the Journal of Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, predicts production losses as high as 40 percent by mid-century.

Researchers targeted almonds, walnuts, wine and table grapes, oranges and avocados because they are California's six major perennial

crops and each crop is generally planted once every 25-40 years, meaning considerable climate change can occur over the crops' lifetime. Using more than 20 climate models, the authors assessed the response of these crops to projected increases in temperature, ranging from two to four degrees Celsius, and precipitation.

The modeling showed that wine grapes would undergo small changes due to climate change, but the other crops could be significantly affected. Avocados were the hardest hit, predicted to yield 40 percent less than current harvests. The expected yield of almonds, table grapes, oranges and walnuts could decrease as much as 20 percent.

The research did not include the

effects of an increase in CO2 in the atmosphere or farming modifications due to increasing temperatures and less rainfall. The models did take into account for a variety of mechanisms that could yields in a changing climate, such as plant physiological processes, climate-related influence of pests, pathogens and air pollution.

—Rebecca Guyon

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Danville WEEKLY

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Buck

(continued from page 5)

2002 Go Green Initiative encouraging environmentally-sensitive programs in schools that has spread nationwide, she has also served on four Pleasanton Unified School District committees in addition to parent roles beyond. She hasn't run for school board previously, she said, because those who ran were good friends and mentors she supported.

If appointed to the board, she'd like to continue to follow the excellence committee's 22 recommendations, whose first priority was to add more counselors, as stated in the March 2006 excellence study.

"It's a really exciting vision," she said. "It's very inspiring and it's great plan for our kids and our community."

Buck recently lost to Democrat Mary Hayashi of Castro Valley in the Nov. 7 election for the 18th Assembly District, which covers a portion of Pleasanton. ■

Condo

(continued from page 5)

set aside 25 percent of those units for sale to buyers who qualify for low-income housing. In Pleasanton, a family of four with a total income of \$67,000 would qualify.

Steve Bocian, deputy city manager, said the ordinance is designed to add more housing for those in the workforce who earn lower wages than the average home buyer while also allowing building owners to exit the rental housing market with reasonable profits. There would be no limit on what owners could charge for those rental units not affected by the low-income requirement.

The ordinance also requires owners to notify their apartment tenants of their intention to convert the building to ownership condos and to keep them informed on the status of their applications. They must also be given the first right of refusal to buy the units they're occupying before the condo is advertised for sale, and they must be given a discount in making the purchase.

The City Council reviewed the ordinance early this month, but voted to send it back to the Housing Commission, which had earlier approved it, for further study. Several objected to the measure, including Realtors who said they had not been involved in drafting the ordinance.

For Realtors, the ordinance would trim by one-fourth the number of condos they could sell since the low income, affordable units would be sold through a city-administered process, which could include a lotto arrangement if demand is high. Previously, city officials have been swamped with prospective

buyers and rentals for units the city has handled.

The new ordinance, although under discussion for months, was moved to the council's agenda quickly after a building owner at Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue asked to convert his apartment building to condos. The current ordinance that allows these conversions does not require the owner to provide low-income units, although both the Planning Commission and City Council must approve those conversions.

The new ordinance will follow a similar approval process, with the Housing Commission added to the mix.

Bocian said the Housing Commission is expected to hold a public hearing on the new ordinance at its regular meeting Jan. 18. If approved, it would go directly to the council for re-consideration, with the likelihood that a favorable vote there would make the ordinance effective by late spring.

Bocian said he will also ask the Pleasanton Chamber's Economic Development committee to review the proposed ordinance in January.

Although only one building owner is seeking to turn his apartment house into condos at this time, Bocian expects more will follow.

As these units are converted, Pleasanton could see a gradual drop in more affordable rental housing, as many older apartment buildings offer, but an increase in workforce or affordable ownership condominiums. That could also reduce the pressure by affordable housing advocates to force Pleasanton to build more affordable housing to meet demands by the Association of Bay Area Governments and state housing authorities. ■

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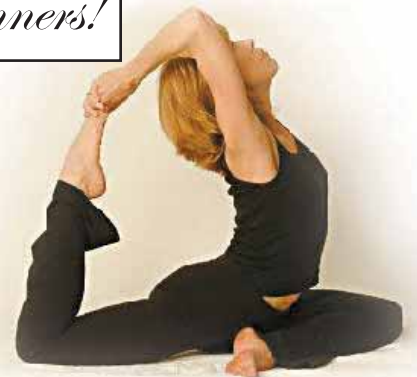
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Classifieds Sales e-mail:
ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:
circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100 Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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Opinion

City's budget surplus helps, but for how long?

The good news for the city of Pleasanton as 2006 comes to a close is that municipal revenues are exceeding expectations. Finance Director Dave Culver reported to the City Council this month that a final audit of the 2005-06 budget showed a \$5.3 million surplus. There's reason to believe that with sales and property tax revenue still increasing, the current 2006-07 fiscal year budget will be just as good. In fact Culver, who took the reins from long-time budget director Sue Rossi last June, expects taxes and fees to continue to provide healthy revenue for Pleasanton through the rest of the decade. Then, as the city reaches buildout and new home construction stops, other sources of revenue may be needed to maintain the city's financial strength.

Because of the surplus, the council this month authorized appropriating \$3.1 million as a reserve carryover to pay for projects and other work that would need to be funded in the coming year. This includes nearly \$2 million for purchase orders and contracts that have been initiated but not yet completed, \$250,000 for a cooperative solar energy project with Livermore, and \$1 million to be added to \$1 million in reserves that will be Pleasanton's share of a \$4 million telecommunications upgrade project also being funded equally with Livermore, which shares the 800 MHz radio communications tower and services.

This was especially good news for Culver, who has 28 years of experience, most recently as director of finance and treasurer for the city of Santa Cruz. He took control of the Pleasanton Finance Department just as the 2005-06 fiscal year budget was coming to a close, the first year of a two-year budget that he is now handling. Starting next month, Culver and his finance team will begin presenting a preliminary budget for the next two fiscal years, starting with July 1, 2007, which will include a number of multi-million-dollar capital improvement projects that he will have to start funding. He'll be helped by seasoned finance veterans in his own department as well as City Manager Nelson Fialho, who worked with Finance to put together fiscal year budgets when he was Deputy City manager, and newly-hired Emily Wagner, the city's economic development fiscal officer who also has extensive municipal finance experience.

Although pending capital improvement projects, including the \$10 million Firehouse Art Center and also costly Alviso Adobe Community Park, have been identified as top priority by the council, only a part of the funds have actually been appropriated and nothing has been spent. Even so, sales tax revenue is expected to increase significantly because of expansion plans at Stoneridge Shopping Center, which now has two new restaurants and is planning additional stores, including a new Nordstrom department store. The council has also approved rezoning a part of the unincorporated Staples Ranch next to I-580 for a new auto mall. Car sales are a major source of sales tax revenue and the auto mall will allow some dealers here already to expand and to sell their properties to other car dealers who want to locate here. Another projected source of sales tax revenue—at least \$1 million in the first year—will be Home Depot if the council follows the Planning Commission in allowing it to build a second and larger store at Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue, across from McDonald's.

Clearly, Culver can look for growing municipal revenue to handle these priorities, but he also must look to 2010 and beyond when new home construction comes to a halt as the city reaches buildout with a housing cap of 29,000 units. That's only about 1,500 housing units away which, when achieved, will end the city's rapid growth and the developers' tax revenue that comes with it. So while we welcome the good news that came this month from Finance Director Culver, we agree with him that it's time to start looking a few years ahead to a time when the lucrative fees that comes from ongoing development come to a close. ■

Letters

Election spending coverage a 'public service'

Dear Editor,

Excellent write-up in the Dec. 1 Pleasanton Weekly ("Focus on voter concerns, not money, won election") editorial! It was good to see the info on the local elections presented in terms of campaign contributions and spending. I have already had some people express surprise about the level of campaign contributions (especially from outsiders) and the spending on Spinnovation Strategies (www.spinnwins.com). It will be interesting to see the final 460 filings (since Oct. 31) which could show some large campaign contributions/expenditures after the filing date (so that voters do not know until well after the election).

I believe that the Pleasanton Weekly has performed a valuable public service in presenting the analysis of the campaign contributions and spending (in the cause of informing the voters to help democracy function).

George Reid, Pleasanton

Expenses should be made public

Dear Editor,

I totally support the actions that Kay Ayala took at the recent City Council meeting concerning the raises. It is too bad she was not elected because she really cares about Pleasanton and what is right.

Our City Council and the recent actions by the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors are just examples of what happens to taxpayers' money. Being in the private sector, I have never been able to vote myself a raise.

You should print everything paid for by taxpayers for all elected officials. Print about the other compensations items that they may be receiving like health insurance or discounts, low interest loans, allowances for automobiles, etc.

J. Billings, Pleasanton

Free viewing of 'Hearts and Minds'

Dear Editor,

In 1974, a film called "Hearts and Minds" won an Academy Award for best documentary feature. Today, this film is even more relevant now than it was then. About three-quarters of the way through the film, a soldier who has returned from duty is asked in an interview, "Do you think we've learned anything from all of this?" He replies, "I think Americans have tried very hard to escape what we've learned in Vietnam. The military does the same thing. They don't realize that people fighting for their freedom are not going to be stopped by just changing tactics...." He also describes how his job as a pilot meant that he didn't have to see the carnage. But, he says now that he doesn't know what he would do if someone dropped napalm on his own children. Another soldier without legs in a wheelchair says he remembers that he was so proud when he became a Marine that he cried at an event where they played the anthems. He says that most of all, he misses that pride that he felt. That, he says, was his greatest loss.

If you want to see what a real war looks like, what it is that we do when we occupy a nation, what happens to us and to the human beings who live in the war zones, you really must see this film. It is so human, so real, and so hauntingly relevant today. It will be shown publicly for free on at 7 p.m. Jan. 23 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway in Dublin. Whether you get it at Netflix or come to the public viewing, tune up your consciousness and please take the time to learn the lessons of Vietnam.

Paulette Kenyon, Pleasanton

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

DOES REAL ESTATE LOSE VALUE?

This is a rather touchy issue for some of us. Many financial advisors have for years warned that real estate could be on the verge of drastic price decreases. You could wake up one morning soon, one such advisor has warned repeatedly, and discover that your home lost half of its value overnight.

This kind of Chicken Little declaration sells a lot of books and magazines and newsletters apparently. (Remember the dire warnings in a best-seller about another great depression theoretically approaching in the 1980s? Disaster never quite hit shore.) History proves such predictions wrong, though—not because we can do nothing but repeat the past, but because real estate is so much more than a commodity like silver or tulip bulbs.

Based on national data, there has never been a year in the past 100 years when real estate lost value. Factor in the ravages of inflation, and you will find value losses as high as 3.8% (in 1982) and add in the destructive effects of severe changes in our economic infrastructure like the deconstruction of our defense industries and you will find losses as high as 4.4% (in 1989). And if you look in specific communities, especially in Southern California, you will find rather severe losses of value in 1991-1996. These years were later termed a local real estate depression.

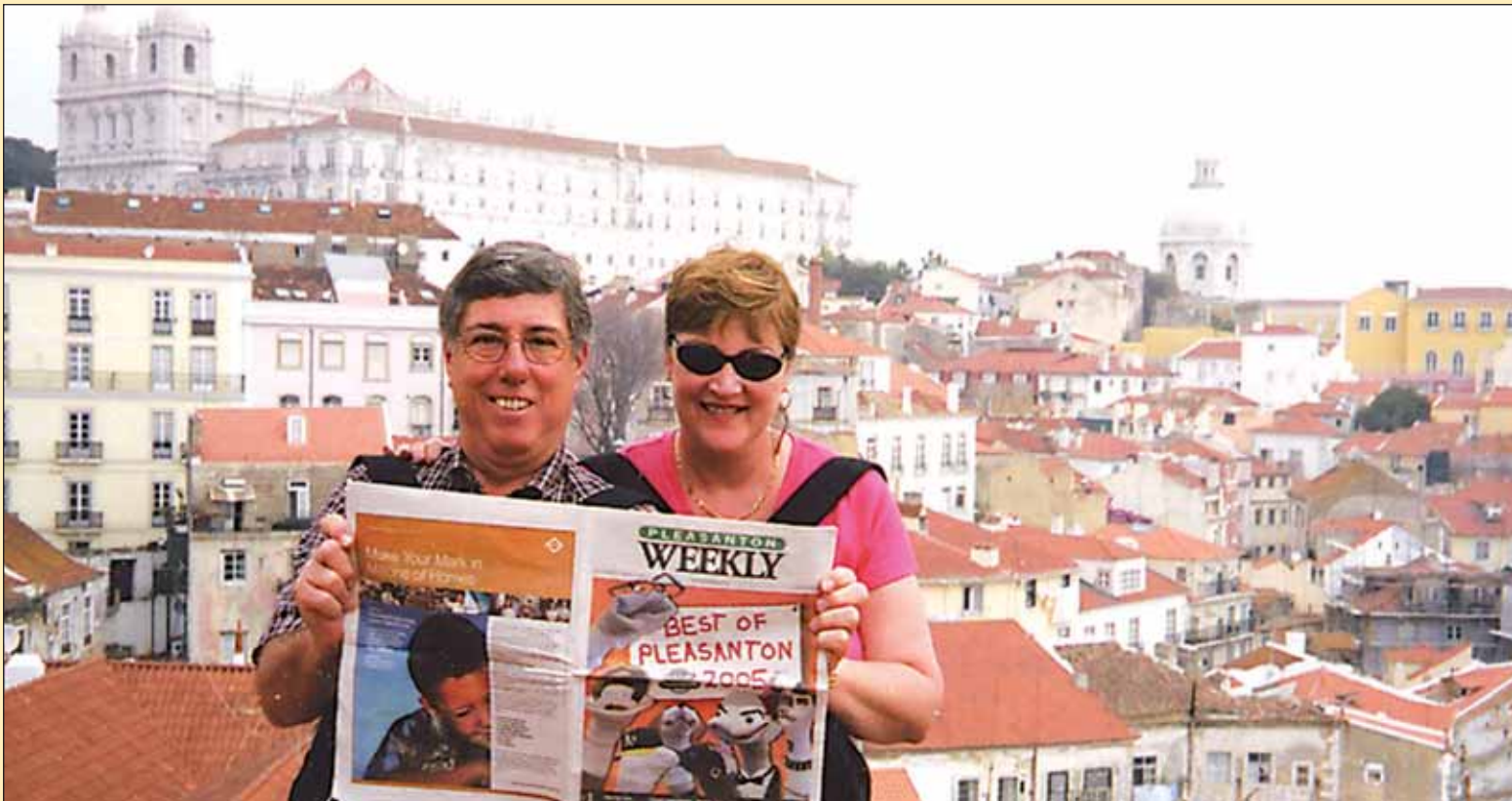
So it is true that real estate values in certain areas have even fallen below the balances on the loans used to purchase the homes. But look again. Those very homes were among the ones that have gained the most value in recent years, and real estate has again proven itself to be the strongest support for personal wealth during uncertain financial times. We—and our financial futures—are best served if we pay little heed to the ever-present Chicken Littles and base our financial planning on provable reality. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Oh, the you w

*A look back at
adventures as the*

Another year has gone by and we're so impressed us as they come from all over the globe, toting our newspaper with them to the exotic locales you've never thought to think there's any place like it.



Top of the world

Katherine and Ken Rabelle take time to read the Weekly while on top of Lisbon, Portugal.



Soaking up the Weekly

From (l-r) Jeff Camp, his mother Lettie Camp, Scott Nobriga and his mother Judy Nobriga immerse themselves—literally—in the pages of the Weekly as a majestic waterfall flows behind them on Maui. Both moms were on vacation visiting their sons, who live in Lahaina.



Staying busy in Iowa

Padraig, Denise and Liam Fournier read the Weekly while visiting Polk City, Iowa.



Maui wowie

When they weren't catching a gnarly wave or enjoying a break in Maui, the Emirich family and friends gathered for a taste of home. Pictured from (l-r) Jennifer Emirich, Sommerhauser, Jackson Katz, Kyle Emirich and Delaney Sommerhauser.



Shaka me Hawaii

Members of the Foothill color guard and marching band took some time out of their rigorous practicing schedule to travel to the white sand beaches and crystal waters of Hawaii and one lucky issue of the Weekly got to tag along.



Weekly cheers

The Girls Pleasanton Lacrosse Waves team celebrates their win in Marin and undefeated streak by reading the Weekly.



Weekly birthday party

Stacey Knight (center, wearing hat) got a big surprise for her 50th birthday: her friends took her to New York City and read the Weekly there. Apparently (l-r) Lori Raun, Amy Mouch, Lysa Siamas, Lisa Maund, Gina McCormick, Andrea Martoglio and Carol Bruno are great friends to have.



Weekly party

Pleasanton resident Kathleen O'Leary (left) and friend Cindy Wilts manage to spare some time to read the Weekly during the all the hoopla of the 2005 Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans.



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ey 'took us along'

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Have a Hart for the Weekly

The Hart Middle School choir, strings and band took the Weekly along to the Happiest Place on Earth—Disneyland—and during the amusement park's 50th year of operation. It must have taken all day to pass around the paper to the large group!



ave or sampling some poi over spring
riends turned to the Weekly to remem-
are Scott Emrich, Wesley Katz, Colin
erich, Matt Kirby, Ryan Kirby and



Sisterly love

Pat and Art Wilen forgot their Weekly at home when they left to visit Blairgowrie, Scotland, Pleasanton's sister city. Fortunately, they picked up the Blairgowrie Advertiser—we like to think of it as the Weekly's sister paper—and caught up on local events in the main square of Blairgowrie. The couple was in town visiting Pat's family for a Doyle Family Reunion.



Sporting the Weekly

While checking out legendary soccer players at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, N.Y., father and son Ward and Derek Kanowsky saved some time to catch up on the latest Pleasanton news with the Weekly in hand.



Warren Moon reads the Weekly

Bruce McElhinney shares his copy of the Weekly with former NFL quarterback and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Warren Moon during a Super Bowl party in Detroit.



Tropical reading

Valerie and Tim McGuire read the Weekly with their children Madeline and Nicholas at the Dreams Hotel in Cabo San Lucas, where the family vacations every year.



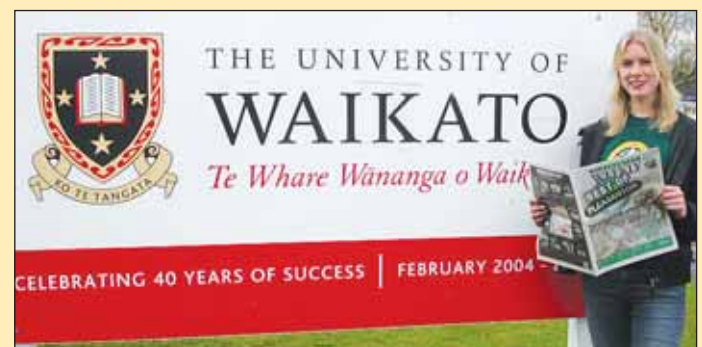
The Weekly uniting all nations

Reading the Weekly at Memorial Plaza in Vienna, Austria is where you could find brothers Steve and Matt Seitz recently. Steve traveled abroad to visit his brother, who works at the United Nations there.



DC united

Tyler Moxley (right) and his pal Luke Peterson (left) took the Weekly on a cross country drive from Washington, D.C., where they visited the U.S. Capitol Building. They then stopped off at the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in Virginia, Graceland and the Grand Ole Opry in Tennessee and the Cherokee Capitol Building in Oklahoma on their way back to California.



Learning in New Zealand

Amador graduate Alyssa Williamson takes a break from her studies at University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand to catch up with the local news. Williamson graduated from Amador in 2004 and is currently working on her bachelor's degree in computer graphic design.

A royal affair with the Weekly

The Pai family, including Prasad and Anu with sons Rahul and Vivek, took the Weekly along during a sightseeing trip to London where they snapped a photo at the HM Tower of London Tower Gardens.

2006 In Review

What happened in Pleasanton over the past year? Find out in this A to Z timeline



Pete Wilza

Nearly 100 tons of limbs, branches and the trunk of an 80-foot-tall oak tree fell behind homes on Muirwood and Hillview courts in January, causing damage to at least one home. The tree was estimated to be 450 years old.

Austin family sells land

Charles Austin and his family agreed in March to offer 30 acres of grazing land to be dedicated for public use in expanding the approved Alviso Adobe Park. The offer was bundled with a plan to build eight homes on a portion of the property west of Foothill Road and adjacent to Jorgensen Lane. The park will include the adobe and a replica of the Meadowlark Dairy barn and an interpretive center for children.

Blue Ribbon Committee begins work

A Blue Ribbon Committee was organized by the City Council to determine the best route for a bypass road to Callippe Preserve Golf Course to keep golfers off Alisal Street.

A decision is expected early next year.

Crime

Police arrested 13 men and women from around the Bay Area on charges of prostitution or facilitating acts of prostitution after the Alameda County Sheriff's Office of Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) and the Pleasanton Police Department's Special Investigations Unit conducted an Internet sting operation. Then earlier this month several people were arrested for methamphetamine offenses and endangering children in a home on Second Street.

City inherits a cemetery

The city inherited the Pleasanton Memorial

Gardens Cemetery in the fall for \$1 from the International Order of Odd Fellows and made preliminary plans to preserve it with minimum maintenance.

Church boom

A large number of churches embarked or made plans for new construction in the city as congregations continue to grow.

Callippe Golf Course

The city owned and maintained Callippe Preserve Golf Course, which opened in November 2005, celebrated its first year in business this past November, with accolades to boot. The \$35 million course was in GolfWeek magazine's list of America's Best Courses and ranked ninth on Golf Digest's list of Best New Courses, which publishes in January.

Doors close on Hope Hospice in Pleasanton

Hope Hospice Shoppe, located at Main and West Angela streets, closed its doors in July when funds and helping hands were hard to come by. For 18 years, the shop sold various used goods—including clothing, books and knick-knacks—as a way to raise funds for Hope Hospice, an organization that provides end-of-life care and grief support for families. The closing made way for Studio 7's expansion to become the largest art gallery in the Bay Area.

Election

Elections this year were costly for candidates and troubling for voters who were bombarded with mailings and phone calls that some thought were inflammatory. Voters chose incumbent Mayor Jennifer Hosterman over challenger Councilman Steve Brozosky by a 188-vote margin, re-elected Councilman Jerry Thorne and elected high school teacher Cheryl Cook-Kallio to the City Council. Pleasanton Democrat and businessman Jerry McNerney defeated seven-term Republican Congressman Richard Pombo in a hotly-con-

tested race in the 11th District. Incumbents Guy Houston (R-15th) and Alberto Torrico (D-20th) were re-elected to the State Assembly with newcomer Mary Hayashi, a Democrat, winning in the 20th District. Former Assemblywoman Ellen Corbett, also a Democrat, easily won elected to the 10th State Senate District.

Measure P passed with 82 percent to approve conceptual plans for eventually developing the 318-acres of public lands known as the Bernal property into a smaller but similar Golden Gate Park.

E-mails cause a stir at City Hall

E-mails sent by Mayor Jennifer Hosterman on city-owned equipment apparently violated a state regulation that prohibits the use of government services and equipment for election purposes. Hers did, as disclosed by a member of her opponent Councilman Steve Brozosky's campaign team, and the Alameda County State's Attorney's office is investigating.

Flu is widespread

In early January, ValleyCare's urgent care unit was swamped with patients complaining of flu symptoms. Alameda County then led the Bay Area in the number of confirmed cases of the flu.

Global vs. Local

In a contentious election year, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who was recently elected to another two years, took a lot of heat for her support of discussing worldly topics such as global warming on a local scale.

Home Depot shopping center approved

A shopping center that will include a Home Depot, Longs Drugs 24-hour drive-thru for prescriptions and other small retail shops southeast of Stanley Boulevard and Bernal Avenue, won the Planning Commission's approval Dec. 13. Residents who spoke against the project said it would exacerbate an already bad traffic problem.



Brian Ladd

Amador Valley High School's civics team poses with Republican Congressman Richard Pombo (far right) in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. in May. The team garnered second place in the prestigious "We the People..." national civics competition.



Janet Pelletier

A makeshift memorial of flowers, candles, signs and chalk writing is set up in front of a Vintage Hills home where nine-year-old Shawn Niethammer was struck and killed by a passing car as he rode out of a friend's driveway.

would become a major cut-through street for I-580 to I-680 traffic. Four members of the City Council also oppose the extension although formal public hearings on the proposal have yet to be heard.

Staples Ranch

In April, the City Council agreed unanimously to sign an agreement with Alameda County to purchase and annex the 124-acre Staples Ranch site at 580 and El Charro Road. Plans call for an auto mall, senior care facility, retail businesses and offices, and a public park or sports fields. In October, the council agreed to consider a proposal for a San Jose Sharks public ice rink on the site. If it's approved by the Parks and Recreation and Planning commissions, the final plan would be considered again by the council as early as next year.

Schools

Construction of Neal Elementary is still on cue as of March, but dates and details have yet to be finalized. Alisal, Hearst, Valley View and Vintage Hills elementaries were chosen as California Distinguished Schools. Also receiving honors in 2006 were Amador Valley and Foothill with No Child Left Behind (NCLB)-Blue Ribbon awards. Just in time for classes to begin, the district added eight new counselors with help state-budgeted money, making significant ground with the Excellence Committee's priority recommendations list. Continuing the trend of academic excellence, each school in the district went beyond the state's API target of 800, with seven schools scoring over 900.

School Board

Opposing teachers, students and parents were heard loud and clear as trustees nixed the senior project plan in February. Trustee Gloria Fredette's resignation in April led to Jim Ott's appointment in May after a unanimous vote by the trustees. Nearing the end of their terms, Ott and trustee Pat Kernan easily won back their seats in August when no one else applied to run. Fearing community misconceptions, the board decided to "push the pause button" on the parcel tax idea. Earlier this month, board President Steve Pulido was appointed to a county judgeship and the hunt for a replacement began. Trustee Juanita Haugen was also named board president for 2007.

Sports

Hometown sports fans had a lot to brag about this year, especially fans of blue and gold. Foothill football powered through EBAL and NCS teams only to be stopped by De La Salle in the final round. De La Salle



Jeb Bing

A meandering waterway can now be seen after work began by the city on Kottinger Creek this summer. The restoration cost \$1.2 million and is expected to be completed early next year.

Iron Horse Trail to get missing link

City officials gathered in March to break ground on the first segment of the Iron Horse Trail in Pleasanton. The mile-long link will stretch from Santa Rita Road to the intersection of Valley Avenue and Busch Road.

John Madden entered into Hall of Fame

It was a year of Madden madness as hometown hero John Madden was inducted into the pro football hall of fame in August. After a successful stint as head coach of the Oakland Raiders in 1967, he channeled his passion of the game into the announcer's booth and is regularly seen on TV's Sunday Night Football.

Kolln Hardware being restored

The historic landmark that is Kolln Hardware on Main Street began a \$2 million restoration this past summer that will bring back the original Old West elegance to the 19th century building. The building consists of three structures, including what was once a hardware store dating back to the 1870s.

Kottinger Creek

A \$1.2 million restoration of Kottinger Creek to turn it into a meandering creek and ecology park was underway as the year came to a close, with completion scheduled for early 2007.

Lawsuit looms on affordable housing

A lawsuit filed by affordable housing advocates against the city of Pleasanton was dropped on the city's doorstep Oct. 17. Representatives from San Francisco-based Urban Habitat claim the city isn't providing enough affordable housing and seek to lift the city's housing cap of 29,000 units which it is fast approaching. The city asked a Supreme Court judge to dismiss the lawsuit in November claiming the suit exceeds the statute of limitations and that the plaintiffs don't have standing to file it. The case will be heard Jan. 8.

Money a factor in Pleasanton

The average Pleasanton household has an income of \$101,000 a year, according to statistics revealed by the U.S. Census Bureau Aug. 29. It is the highest among medium-sized cities across the country. Some cited a highly-educated workforce, low crime rate, excellent school system and central location in the Bay Area as some of the reasons the city attracts such high-income earners.

Niethammer boy killed in bicycle accident

In an incident that saddened the entire community, nine-year-old Vintage Hills fourth-grader Shawn Niethammer was struck and killed by a car while riding his bicycle out of a friend's driveway Oct. 6. Vintage Hills Elementary, where he attended school, and other members of the community took efforts to raise money for his family and perform goodwill in his honor.

Oak Grove

Developers submitted preliminary plans for a 51-custom home and open space project called Oak Grove atop Kottinger Ranch.

P.F. Chang's, The Cheesecake Factory come to Stoneridge

A new Cheesecake Factory restaurant at Stoneridge Shopping Center was opened to the public Nov. 2 as part of a mall expansion that also included the opening of P.F. Chang's China Bistro Dec. 18. The center, owned by The Mills Corporation, also plans to construct a new Nordstrom and possibly a movie theater, although the corporation, which is enduring financial woes, is being mysteriously quiet about those plans.

Quorums

Quorums are what the Pleasanton Planning Commission lacked at two major meetings this fall, causing delays in advertised public hearings on expansions at St. Elizabeth Seton and Trinity Lutheran churches. Several commissioners said they advised the city's planning staff they would miss those meetings, but apparently word didn't reach the several hundred in the public that crowded City Council chambers in vain to speak on the proposals.

Real estate slows a little

Real estate sales slowed during the year, but prices kept rising, with the average price of a Pleasanton home hitting \$1.4 million in mid-year.

Road extension controversy continues

Stoneridge Drive continued as a focus of ongoing debate in 2006 with a citizens' group holding public meetings and arguing in its Web site, www.stoppleasantongridlock.com, that the four-lane roadway should be extended east to El Charro Road and Livermore. Property owners in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood where the long-planned arterial street is now barricaded, object to the extension in belief the completed roadway

proved beatable in golf, as Foothill boy's golf team clinched first in NCS. Foothill girl's volleyball's impeccable season ended with their only loss in a state championship game. Also making their way to state was Foothill girl's tennis, who beat out Monte Vista for the NCS title. Amador Valley boy's baseball beat Foothill and advanced to NCS, but lost to Irvington in the first round. For youth sports, Pleasanton athletes still excel in soccer, swimming, softball and gymnastics, to name a few.

Transportation station gets under way

An \$80 million BART station to be located in the median off Interstate 580 between Golden Gate Road in Dublin and Stoneridge Mall Road in Pleasanton broke ground Sept. 29. It will be the second station in Pleasanton and is slated to be opened in 2009. The project also includes the construction of apart-

(continued on page 18)



Janet Pelletier

A construction worker paves the foundation of a new P.F. Chang's China Bistro restaurant in September at Stoneridge Shopping Center. The Cheesecake Factory also opened for business this fall as part of new developments at the mall.

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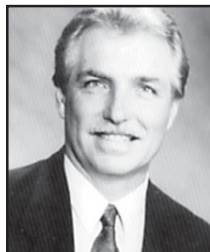
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Jeb Bing

Glenn Kierstead, who built the first Pleasanton waterslides at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in 1981, points to a newly-graded site on Stanley Boulevard where the \$6 million California Splash waterpark is planned. Plans for the park have been stalled at least until May 2007.

Year end

(continued from page 17)

ments, a hotel, offices and retail shops—with most development scheduled on the Dublin side.

Unveiling of Hacienda Business Park plans

Plans were unveiled envisioning affordable townhomes and apartments, retail shops and offices connected by tree-lined streets and additional transit opportunities at the Hacienda Business Park.

Vineyard roundabouts taken out

Cement roundabouts installed on Vineyard Avenue near Ruby Hill were uprooted in July and August. The \$600,000 project was approved by the City Council after studies showed increased accident rates, but the removal was opposed by many residents who felt the roundabouts prevented drivers from speeding.

Veterans Memorial Hall undergoes renovation

In August, the city kicked off its restoration efforts on the historic Veterans Memorial Hall along Main Street with the removal of the structure's cornerstone. VFWs and American Legion groups have relocated in the interim to the Regalia House. The work is expected to be completed in August 2007.

'We the People' goes far

Amador Valley High School's civics team won second place in the prestigious "We the People..." national civics competition May 1 in Washington, D.C. The high school team endured intense questioning by judges, including several state Supreme Court judges. It was the seventh time the Amador Valley team has represented the state of California.

Ruby Hill winery gets OK

Plans for a multi-million-dol-

lar winery and event center were approved by the City Council in December at the corner of Isabel Road and Vineyard Avenue. The new Gateway to Pleasanton will be adjacent to Ruby Hill and larger than the Mitchell Katz Winery and Palm Event Center nearby.

Waterpark delayed

Plans to build a \$6 million waterpark named California Splash got waterlogged in 2006 and a timeline for construction on the expansion and rebuild to the current waterslides on Stanley Boulevard is undetermined. Many residents have protested the plans saying it would bring too much traffic and noise.

X-rated dancing at Foothill High?

In early January, the talk around the halls of Foothill High School centered on what had become national news—freak dancing. Behavior at a high school dance held just a couple weeks earlier sent shockwaves to parents and news of Pleasanton teens' dancing was broadcast on the television news across the nation. The so-called dirty dancing was curbed by Principal Kevin Johnson, who banned it anywhere on campus.

Youth baseball fans get lighted fields

Youth baseball enthusiasts won their bid for the start of lighted fields on the Bernal property. Construction on this first phase of a multi-million-dollar project, which will eventually include up to 10 baseball, soccer and youth football fields, is scheduled to start this summer.

Zoning prevalent at City Hall

Zoning issues topped the list of workshops held during the year as the Planning Commission and City Council worked to update the 1996 General Plan, a process expected to be completed by mid-2007.

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Birth



Travis Kaniela Barros

Dan, Miya and Trevor Barros welcomed Travis Kaniela into the world on Nov. 27 at 1:36 p.m. He weighed 7lbs 1oz and was 20 inches long. Both baby and mom are doing well. Big brother Trevor is so happy that Santa decided to come early and bring him a baby brother!



Engagement

Shannon Helton & Thomas Durbala

Carley & Laura Helton of Middletown, Calif. are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Shannon Helton (only daughter of the late Patricia Helton of Pleasanton) to Thomas Durbala, son of George and Sarah Durbala of Rio Vista, Calif. Shannon and Tom reside in with

their beautiful cherished dogs, 12-year-old Chelsea, a whippet mix, and 4-year-old Hazel, a terrier mix. They share a love for the outdoors and traveling in their motor home. She works as a loan processor in Pleasanton and he works as a general contractor in Concord.

After dating for two years, Tom proposed to Shannon while on a flight to Las Vegas. Her tears from fear of flying quickly turned to tears of joy. The wedding will take place Sept. 9, 2007 in Livermore Valley.

Obituaries

Lawrence Luke Hahn

Lawrence Luke Hahn died Dec. 19 at the age of 68 in his home in Pleasanton.

Mr. Hahn was born March 11, 1938 in Grand Island, Neb. In addition to being in the U.S. Navy, he attended Cal Poly Pomona and was a trained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). He was retired after being a sales engineer for 30 years.

Mr. Hahn enjoyed volunteering at the ValleyCare Health System emergency room, photography, golf, playing piano and guitar, bowling and bench target shooting. He also enjoyed sign and Japanese languages.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Diane Hahn; daughters Dr. Laura Hahn, an associate professor of Eureka, Calif. and Tricia Hahn Attorney at Law of Seattle; sister Patricia McKnight of Show Low, Ariz.

He is preceded in death by Michael Luke Hahn, Ann Kathryn Hahn, Virginia Hahn and Betty Brunk.

Services were held Dec. 28 at the Pleasanton Hotel Fireside Room. Donations can be made to the National Kidney Foundation, American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association.

Doris "Bernie" Williams

Doris "Bernie" Williams died Dec. 24 at the age of 67.

Mrs. Williams was born Aug. 28, 1939 in Harrisburg, Pa. and grew up in Steelton. Educated in sociology and social work a Gettysburg College and the University of Chicago, she is known for her work at the Veterans Administration unit in Livermore.

Additionally trained in music at Cal State Hayward and Vienna, Austria, she was a very active horn player performing with Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Livermore-Amador Symphony Orchestra, Vineyard Quartet, Vintage Brass, Pleasanton

Playhouse and many other groups during her 30-year residence in the Tri-Valley.

She was a tireless worker for fundraising activities for the Livermore Symphony Guild. Her hobbies of hiking and traveling took her to a wide range of places across four continents.

She is survived by her husband Horace Robert; son Paul Eric Rose and his wife Rachele of Salt Lake City; daughter Karen Rosenkilde Bayne, her husband David and their two daughters of Woodland, Calif.; stepson Rob Williams and his wife Janelle; and sister Wanda Roth of Pennsylvania.

Services have been arranged by Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Donations to Hope Hospice (6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568), Pleasanton Community Band (P.O. Box 135, Pleasanton, CA 94566), Livermore-Amador Symphony Orchestra (P.O. Box 1049, Livermore, CA 94551-1049) and the American Cancer Society (Tri-Valley Unit, 7000 Village Parkway, Ste. E, Dublin CA 9458) in her memory are suggested.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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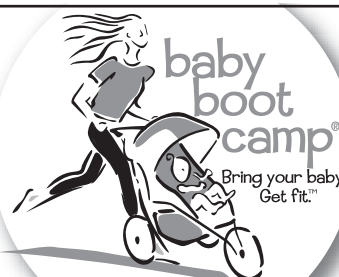
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Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund will be increased by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$2 will be donated to these local organizations. All contributions will go directly to programs that benefit Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents. Contributions will be distributed by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation



to the six agencies listed below. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

This year, due to the tremendous need of all nonprofits, donations will be shared equally among the six recipient agencies.

For more information call us at 600-0840 or e-mail editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

The following agencies will be supported by the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund:

- **Axis Community Health:** Provides medical, mental health, addiction counseling and health education services to more than 20,000 patients and clients each year, regardless of their ability to pay. An estimated 70 percent have no medical insurance or are underinsured, including some that have recently lost their jobs and health benefits. Call 201-6017 or visit www.axishealth.org.
- **Firehouse Arts Center:** The Cultural Arts Foundation is seeking public contributions of \$4 million to complete its funding effort for the downtown Firehouse Arts Center. The facility, which will renovate and expand the historic old firehouse on Railroad Avenue, will include a 240-seat theater and art classrooms with emphasis on school-age students and younger children. For more information on the center, call Greg Reznick at 417-2074 or Debbie Look at 846-1007.
- **Open Heart Kitchen:** As the only nonprofit free soup kitchen in the Tri-Valley area, this service provides nutritious meals for low-income people in the Pleasanton-Livermore area at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasanton and Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore. Visit www.openheartkitchen.org or call 580-1616.
- **Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center:** Located inside the ValleyCare Health Library, it offers personalized reference assistance and access to medical databases, some in other languages, including Web sites and articles, plus books, videos and models. The library has both a librarian and nurse on staff to help with research. Call 734-3315.
- **Tri-Valley Haven:** Runs a domestic violence shelter as well as a homeless shelter for families and a rape crisis center. Its mission is to aid those who have experienced abuse and offers counseling, a legal clinic and other practical advice. Call 449-5845; 24-hour hotline: (800) 884-8119 or visit www.trivalleyhaven.org.
- **Valley Humane Society:** This nonprofit group is all volunteers, with the mission to educate on responsible pet ownership. It assists in rescuing and placing abandoned or injured animals and operates an adoption center in downtown Pleasanton. It does not euthanize unless health problems dictate. Call 426-8656.

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The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its Web site: www.tvcfund.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2006, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.



The Holiday Fund helps
people in our community



Families such as the one pictured often turn to a place like Tri-Valley Haven, which offers a multitude of services for victims of abuse and the homeless.

A safe haven

Tri-Valley Haven shelters offer a new life for victims of violence, homeless

by Janet Pelletier

Sometimes they come from miles away, toting children and fearing for their safety. They are women who have left abusive marriages and relationships and the first place they turn to for the chance of a new, better life is Tri-Valley Haven.

The battered women's shelter has become a staple in Livermore since it opened its doors in 1977. It provides not only a place for mothers and their children to sleep, but counseling for survivors of sexual assault, molestation and domestic abuse. A 24-hour crisis hotline for victims of domestic violence and the region's only rape crisis center are also offered. Housing assistance and long-term support services are available through a case manager as well as CalWORKS assistance with job searching and legal assistance with restraining orders.



Sojourner House, operated by Tri-Valley Haven, is the only homeless shelter in the area offering a temporary home for two-parent families, single fathers with children or families with teenage boys.

In 2002, Tri-Valley Haven opened Sojourner House in Livermore, the only home-

(continued on page 24)

Holiday Fund Donors

As of December 26, 2006, 285 donors have contributed \$47,479 to the fund. With the 100% match, a total of \$94,958 has been raised for the six 2006 beneficiaries.

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Tri-Valley Haven

(continued from page 22)

less shelter around that offers a temporary home for two-parent families, single fathers with children or families with teenage boys.

The money from the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund will help the nonprofit pay for the myriad of services it provides free of cost to those who need them. For example, a night with one bed for an adult or child at the domestic violence shelter or Sojourner House costs \$45. One week of around-the-clock pager response for domestic violence or sexual assault costs \$200. And \$5,000 is the cost of one full day of operation for all of Tri-Valley Haven's programs.

"(The Holiday Fund) helps all of our programs. This is really important because money from local folks and local foundations that we can use for general opera-

tions makes a huge difference for us," said Vicki Thompson, associate director for Tri-Valley Haven. "We have very high expenses for things like phone bills because we have a 24-hour, round-the-clock crisis line. The Web site, Internet access—things like that—it's very difficult to get grants that will pay those operating costs. Our PG&E bills at the shelters are \$1,000 or more a month."

The nonprofit also serves thousands of people meals with its Food Pantry distribution program.

"The need is there and growing and something that's not obvious here in the Tri-Valley as you walk through the community, but our Food Pantry food distribution has jumped this year," Thompson said. "We're serving over 3,000 people per month through our Food Pantry, who need the extra groceries to get through the month. And holiday gift distribution—we just provided over 2,000 gifts for people." ■

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.



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Dining Out

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THE PANDA

American

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.

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

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, (925) 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant. Innovative pasta, seafood and meat

entrees. Outdoor dining. Open for dinner seven nights, lunch Monday-Friday. Live music Friday and Saturday evenings. Full bar. Banquet facilities, rehearsal dinners, special events.

India

Chef India Cuisine

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

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Italian

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

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

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


Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Pastas Trattoria
405 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 417-2222. Join us at Pleasanton's most loved downtown Italian Restaurant. Our elegant atmosphere complemented by our one-of-a-kind menu items will offer a little something for everyone. We feature great steaks, seafood and our famous pasta dishes. Our full-service bar offers a superb selection of spirits and fine wines, and the sounds of live music will jazz up your 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!

Japanese

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

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Mediterranean

Athens West Restaurant
6999 Dublin Blvd., (925) 803-9601. Truly authentic Mediterranean cuisine featuring Greek specialties including delicious steaks and seafood. Large upscale dining facility with full bar located adjacent to the original Athens Burger Restaurant. Opens Tuesday-Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Pizza

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

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With Our Great New (And HEALTHY) Specials Menu for the Month of January!

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- Fresh Seafood Chowder
- Grilled Yellow Fin Tuna Filet with Sautéed Spinach & Roasted Pepper-Caper Salsa
- Capellini with Prawns & Scallops with Asparagus, Shiitake Mushrooms, Roasted Garlic & Basil Oil
- Oven Poached Salmon Filet with Bay Shrimp, Lemon Butter & Toasted Almonds
- Garlic Crusted Lamb Chops with Mint Bordellaise
- Smoked Chicken and Andouille Sausage Risotto with Mushrooms, Snowpeas & Roasted Tomatoes
- Fresh Sorbet Trio with Seasonal Berries

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Dining Out

Little Caesars

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

Vinny's 2 Go!

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

Sandwiches/Deli

Togo's

3120-D Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 846-8646; 5556-A Springdale Ave., Pleasanton, (925) 463-3090. Togo's has been voted "Pleasanton's Best Sandwich" for five consecutive years. Conveniently open seven days a week, Togo's features its popular "Endless Combo" (1/2 sandwich, 1/2 salad or small soup) ... choose any two

Chinese Szechuan



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Wine Bars

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Women Helping Other Women

Personal Training

What makes us unique is that we understand a women's body and the needs of women. Our training is specifically targeted towards the needs of women. "Our staff of trainers are truly passionate about women's health" says Marianne, long time trainer at Butterfly's San Ramon location. "It is knowing that we can make a difference in a clients life that gives us our greatest satisfaction." she adds.

Women have specific needs, they face issues specific to women. The training programs at Butterfly Life are targeted with these very issues in mind. Whether you just had a baby, dealing with menopause or osteoporosis, our certified trainers will design a program that is specific to your needs.

"My clients all have different needs, from training for a triathlon to just wanting to lose a few pounds and tone their body for that next special event such as a wedding or vacation. We are there to help them meet their needs in fitness and make them feel better about themselves." says Tina a long time trainer.

"One of the great benefits for us as trainers is that we are helping women lead healthier lives, and that many of our clients become great friends," says Marianne.

All of the trainers at Butterfly Life are nationally certified and have a significant amount of experience in training women.



Marianne, Personal Trainer in San Ramon works with client on form

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.

These fitness centers are like no other "designed for women" fitness centers in the country. At Butterfly Life, the motto is "Healthy Living Solutions for Women". "We not only believe in exercise, but we want 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 worked extremely hard to provide a high quality product that our members can be proud of. 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." Kathy adds

That stands to reason since both Butterfly Life is the "perfect size". Once you are inside, you will find a very comfortable environment that is warm, a complete makeover". says Kathy. "With over 18,000 sq. feet 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.

Butterfly Life is unique from any other women's fitness center in that they are a full service fitness facility offering a state of the art 30-minute circuit, plus an extensive cardio area complete with treadmills, elliptical trainers, stairclimbers etc., a large aerobic Step, Dance, Body Sculpting and area for the over 80+ classes a whole lot more. The best part is weekly, free weights 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 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. There is no reason to join anywhere else, we offer equipment, training and programs that allow you to progress, regardless of your fitness level or age." says Kathy.

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 programs 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 a friend. Call the following locations for more information.:

San Ramon 925-855-3855
Pleasanton 925-426-0105



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"

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Come In
&
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Club Tour
by 1/15



Pleasanton
426-0105

San Ramon
855-3855

Two Great Locations

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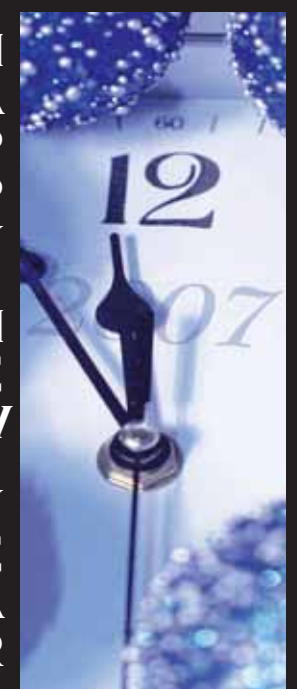
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