

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 52 • January 19, 2007

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton



Pleasanton expects to begin operating free Internet service downtown in just over a month page 12

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this week**

Chief announced

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Foothill football player named All-NorCal First team
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Puppy love

Dog groomers are 1,000th couple to be married at a local inn
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OPEN HOUSE

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Mentor Training Program

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Have you thought of becoming a mentor to a high school student, offering motivation and assistance to promote their academic and social success?

The Pleasanton Unified School District is implementing a pilot mentoring program for the 2006/07 school year at our high schools. This exciting new program is designed for adult role models to provide an additional support system for high school students that is tailored to their needs and interests.

Amador Valley Adult and Community Education will offer the following training sessions required to become a mentor:

Part 1: Orientation
Tuesday, January 23, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Part 2: Mentoring Fundamentals
Tuesday, January 30, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

(Both sessions will be held in the Bernal Room at the PUSD District Offices, 4665 Bernal Avenue)

For general information or to register for the training sessions, contact Cleo Foster at cfoster@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or (925) 426-4321.



Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Lepley's mercy mission leaves many smiling

Assistant school superintendent Sandra Lepley recently returned from her Addis Ababa, her seventh mercy mission to help the poor and medically needy in other countries as a volunteer with Rotaplast International. Active in Pleasanton Rotary, Lepley coordinates the trips and surgical arrangements for the teams she serves with other Rotarians and as a part of Rotaplast's effort to provide free reconstructive surgeries in mostly Third World countries in its effort to eliminate the incidence of untreated cleft lips and palates. Her 15-day trip to the Ethiopian capital was one of the longest, most strenuous and left her with a mixture of joy for those her Rotaplast team of doctors and assistants were able to help, but sadness for the hundreds more who traveled to the Addis Ababa hospital too late for medical treatment this time around.

Lepley uses her vacation time to make these trips, which are funded by Rotary clubs and Rotaplast donors. For Ethiopia, the mission was financed by a group of Rotarians from British Columbia and former Rotarian District Governor Collin Pritchard, so most of the 35-member group was Canadian. Lepley and the other nine American doctors and medical aides left from San Francisco, met the others in Washington, D.C., and then traveled on to Rome and Addis Ababa for their surgical mission to Africa. Travel time, alone, took 37 hours, with another two hours upon landing in Ethiopia to clear customs. Lepley was responsible for taking along 42 large moving-size boxes, each weighing 65 pounds and filled with medical equipment, anesthesia monitoring machines, sanitized clothing, masks and disposable supplies, and even portable electric power supplies to ensure uninterrupted power during surgeries. Ethiopian customs proved to be unusually difficult since each box had to be opened and its contents described to bewildered agents. Fortunately, the Addis Ababa Rotary Club has members there to help speed the process with no

problems encountered when the team returned home, carrying only 19 boxes of reusable equipment for other missions.

Rotaplast booked the group into the Semien Hotel, which turned out to be one of the city's well-visited brothels. That may have saved the group money, since all are volunteers who cover their own costs, but the noise made sleeping difficult until the desk clerk moved the medical group to the back of the hotel near a less-traveled entrance. The nearby public hospital squeezed the mission by limiting operating hours to 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., when it closes to avoid paying government-mandated overtime, and also had only three operating rooms available. That meant Lepley could only schedule 97 patients during their time there, fewer than usual and especially disturbing because so many more who came for treatment had to be turned away. Unlike on her previous missions to Latin America and the Philippines, Lepley found few Ethiopians understand English. Their language—Amharic—has no words or sounds similar to English. "Coke" is not coke nor did anyone know where the Hilton Hotel was, which is where Lepley went to find Internet and regular telephone communications back home. Home is Livermore, where Sandra's husband Steven (they were married last April) stayed to operate his Danville dental radiology lab. Working 12 hours a day and always on call for any medical emergencies as patients recovered from their surgeries, Sandra said she and most of the other team members choose to go it alone on these missions.

Packing up for her long trip back to the U.S., Lepley said the smiles of some of the once-disfigured patients they treated—from a 4-month-old to a 24-year-old woman whose missing nose was rebuilt by plastic surgeons—are life-long memories to add to her growing list of happy faces she and her Rotaplast and Rotarian teams have helped create on their yearly mercy missions. ■



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About the Cover

In just five weeks, the city of Pleasanton is poised to bring free wireless Internet to residents, visitors and businesses to the downtown. It's an increasing trend of cities across the nation to employ municipal wireless networks, but how will Pleasanton's proposed system stack up to other cities?

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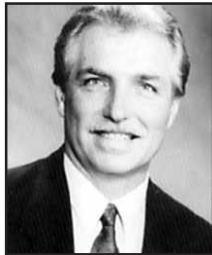
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Streetwise

Q: A judge has ruled that California's lethal injection method may be unconstitutional. Do you think the system needs revision?

Asked Downtown



Martina Harrison
Homemaker

I think the system needs to be revised in principle. We need to question, "Do we want the death penalty or not?" Even though we all have that righteousness of "an eye for an eye" and justice does need to be served, we as a society need to rise above it and deal with capital crimes in a different, more humane way.

Darren Luisi

GPS Test Engineer

I think there is too much time spent focusing on the rights of the criminal and not the rights of the victims who are no longer here to speak for themselves. The recent suspension disgusts me somewhat. The folks on death row are there for a reason and this is just another attempt by the criminals to delay the process.



Gloria Maceiko

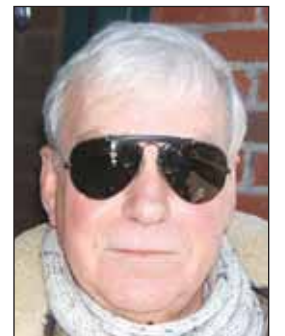
VP Business Development

I don't think the system needs to be revised. In fact, I don't believe in the death penalty at all. The suspension will stop the system for awhile and that could be a good thing. Perhaps the state will ban it all together.

Dave Carter

Retail Manager

I think we should revise it. I think we should go back to what was originally done—present the option of hanging or firing squad. It should be done as quickly and as humanely as possible. We are a society of laws and those that don't want to live within those parameters need to face the consequences.



Bob Bustamante

Electric Troublemaker

I don't think the system needs to be revised, primarily because those people receiving the death penalty certainly didn't give any consideration of "humane treatment" their victims. I see no problem with it and I don't believe it to be inhumane.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Protecting pipes

With overnight temperatures in the 20s and 30s, Dublin San Ramon Services District recommends protecting water pipes to avoid breakage. This involves insulating exposed outdoor piping (usually where a hose attaches). DSRSD says to check a local hardware store for kits or wrap an old blanket, towel, newspaper or even non-LED twinkle lights that give off a little heat around the pipe.

Mentor training

The Pleasanton Unified School District is looking for adult volunteers who would be willing to provide an additional support system for students for a pilot mentoring program. The next training sessions for potential mentors, provided by Amador Valley Adult and Community Education, are scheduled from 12 to 1 p.m. Jan. 23 and from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 30 in the Bernal Room at the PUSD District Offices, 4665 Bernal Avenue. For more information or to register for the training sessions, contact Cleo at 426-4321 or cfoster@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Color guard competition

Amador Valley High School will host its annual Winterguard Show at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the large gym, with Harvest Park Middle School's unit also performing. More than 20 winterguard units from high schools in Northern California are expected to attend. Units perform dynamic, choreographed routines done to music that combines precision dance movements and the twirling of flags, rifles, or sabers. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors, and children under 5 are free. For information, contact Ginnelle Dowdy at 462-0793 or Jon Grantham at 461-6196.

Special needs seminar

The Pleasanton Special Needs Group, a new gathering of parents of special needs children, is having a seminar from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Tennis Club at Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. The event will feature an attorney who will advise parents on their rights. Visit the group Web site at <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/pleasantonspecial>.

Pleasanton picks one of its own as new police chief

Michael Fraser takes over Monday as Chief Tim Neal retires

Police Captain Michael J. Fraser, a 26-year police veteran who started his career in Pleasanton in 1980, has been named Chief of the Pleasanton Police Department, succeeding Chief Tim Neal who will retire Jan. 31.

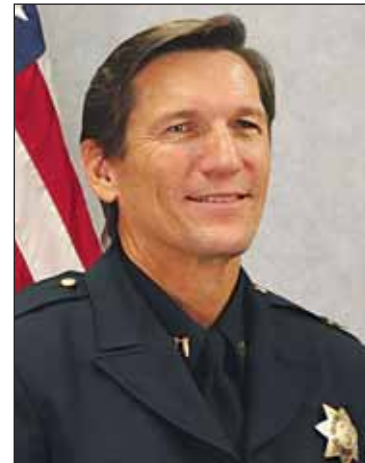
Fraser, 53, who holds a master's degree in Management from California State Polytechnic at Pomona and a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco, was promoted from officer to sergeant in 1987, to lieutenant in 1992 and

then to captain in 1995. He is also a graduate of the nationally recognized Senior Management Institute for Policing program at Harvard University.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said Fraser was selected out of more than 50 who applied for the chief's position once Neal announced his retirement last fall. The recruitment effort involved an extensive process that included pre-screening by an executive recruitment firm, rounds of interviews, and in-depth reference and background checks. As the selections narrowed, Fialho

assembled a number of community representatives for final interviews with seven finalists, including Fraser and two others from the Pleasanton Police Department.

"We were seeking a candidate that possesses leadership skills, a commanding presence, a high degree of professionalism, the respect of those with whom he works and unquestioned honesty and integrity," Fialho said. "Capt. Fraser exemplifies all those qualities as well as brining a wealth of talent and a passion for Pleasanton. As Police Chief, Fraser will con-



Michael J. Fraser

tinue our tradition of community oriented policing."

The appointment takes effect

(continued on page 8)

Council OKs gym, parish hall at Elizabeth Seton

Near-midnight vote favors year-long church bid

by Jeb Bing

The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday to allow the Catholic Community of Pleasanton to build its long-sought 22,296-square foot parish center and gymnasium next to St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church on Stoneridge and Rheem drives.

The Rev. Dan Danielson, who applauded the vote that came shortly before midnight, said the church fundraising campaign has successfully ended and he will now seek a construction loan from the Catholic Archdiocese of Oakland, which is expected to grant the request. Construction could start this summer.

The multi-million-dollar project has faced scrutiny from city planners and the Planning Commission for most of 2006, with Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox continuing a scheduled public hearing after Danielson and parishioners had already filled the council chamber for the meeting. Then the commission failed to have a quorum at another scheduled meet-

ing, with the city's principal planner canceling the session at the last minute.

The Planning Commission almost caused the church to face another delay Tuesday after Fox refused to approve the official minutes of the Nov. 29 meeting, where she voted against the project while the other four commissioners voted to approve it.

Councilman Matt Sullivan, who voted Tuesday against the church project, objected to proceeding with the council proceeding with unapproved Planning Commission minutes that Fox said failed to include some comments. Sullivan also argued that not enough had been done by the church and opponents of the project from the nearby Pleasanton Village neighborhood to resolve their differences. He wanted council action to wait until that happened, and called for environmental and traffic studies for the church complex, which a previous council had waived in its 1989 approval of the master plan for the

(continued on page 7)



Tri-Valley residents march down M Street honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and his message of peace and non-violence. See story on page 8.

Nine apply for school board seat

Replacement to be installed at Feb. 13 meeting

by Emily Atwood

A screening for the nine school board applicants is scheduled for Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Unified School District office. The seat was made vacant when Trustee Steve Pulido resigned after being appointed to an Alameda County Superior Court judgeship.

The screening panel is comprised of two teachers, two classified staff, two parents with the PTA, two parents from schools without PTA and two people from the business community. Interviews by the board of trustees will take place Jan. 30 and, if needed, Feb. 6, with the appointment expected at the Feb. 13 regular meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

Nine candidates filed applications before the Jan. 12 deadline:

Chris Grant

Grant has lived in Pleasanton for

seven years and is senior vice president of corporate development and investments for Kaiser Permanente. Two of his three children attend Walnut Grove Elementary School and one is a sixth-grader at Harvest Park Middle School. He serves on the PUSD Excellence Committee, Walnut Grove's school site council, and as a board member for the Pleasanton Partners in Education Foundation.

Jennifer Carolan

A teacher at Livermore High School, Carolan has been a Pleasanton resident for six years. She has two children in Pleasanton schools, ages 12 and 10. In addition to being on the GATE committee at Hart Middle School, she is a Boy Scout leader, math tutor and GATE chair at LHS.

(continued on page 9)

The Parkview opens today after 10 years in the making

Assisted-living facility provides affordable homes for seniors

After 10 years of planning, The Parkview assisted living community, located at 100 Valley Ave. off Sunol Boulevard (formerly Junipero Street), opened its doors today, offering new housing units for seniors in the community. Of the 105 units in the facility, 31 are set aside for low-income seniors, making it the one of the

largest blocks of affordable assisted-living housing in the Alameda and Contra Costa county regions.

The \$25 million project is a public-private joint venture with the city of Pleasanton and non-profit developer Bridge Housing. Plans for the facility began in 1996

(continued on page 9)

Haggerty urges city to extend Stoneridge Drive to Livermore

Supervisor says roadway foes cause congestion for other parts of city

by Jeb Bing

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty urged Pleasanton officials last week to extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road in Livermore to improve traffic flow and relieve congestion in both Pleasanton and for motorists from other areas who use Pleasanton facilities.

Haggerty, who was chosen the day before by the board of supervisors as the board's president for 2007, acknowledged that residents along Stoneridge Drive in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood "probably won't vote for me," but said the completion of Stoneridge Road from Foothill Road, across I-680, through the Hacienda Business Park and to Livermore has always been a part of the master plan for the Tri-Valley's transportation network.

"Quite frankly, those who live in communities along Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue are taking the brunt of the traffic that should be part of the Stoneridge route," Haggerty told the Pleasanton Chamber's Economic Vitality Committee.

"It's not fair," he said. "People who bought homes along Stoneridge knew when they made their purchases in a full disclosure agreement that Stoneridge would one day become a thoroughfare to Livermore. We can help them through traffic lights and speed monitor and other traffic devices, but the road should be built."

The extension is part of the city's 1996 General Plan, which is now being updated. Three on the current City Council have said they will reject any bid to extend



Jeb Bing

Supervisor Scott Haggerty speaks during the 2007 State of the County last week, where he urged Pleasanton to extend Stoneridge Drive to Livermore.

Stoneridge, and at one time vowed to delete it from the updated General Plan. They are Council members Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern, and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. Two others are undecided. Councilman Jerry Thorne said he will look at the traffic data when it becomes available and listen to arguments for and against the extension. Newly-elected Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio also wants to hear arguments, but has not been opposed to the extension.

Haggerty and mayors Janet Lockhart of Dublin and Marshall Kamena of Livermore favor the extension.

Even though they are opposed

to extending Stoneridge, the three-member majority on the council that has resisted the move agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with Haggerty and other county officials to keep the planned corridor for the extension in county ownership. That agreement allowed the county to move forward on a broader plan to sell the rest of Staples Ranch, which the road extension would traverse, to developers, whose properties would then be annexed into Pleasanton.

Development of two large parcels has been held up as the city considers its General Plan update. These include a 45-acre lot that is proposed for a 600-plus unit Continuing Life Communities facility that would offer market rate apartments and assisted living units and a 37-acre site earmarked for an auto mall with Hendrick Auto planning to build a new dealership and service center as well as lease out adjoining properties to other dealers. Haggerty said owners of Hendrick had hoped to have construction under way now, but have agreed to wait "a while longer" for final approvals from the city which are expected soon.

Already, the Saturn dealership, needing more room for expansion than its facility on Rosewood Drive provides, said it will relocate to Dublin. Others could follow if the city doesn't push through its rezoning of the Staples Ranch site. Haggerty said Pleasanton now receives more than \$3 million annually in sales taxes from the dealers, and predicted that amount would increase with a new and larger auto mall. ■



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Father Dan Danielson of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church (front right, dressed in black) listens to testimony during the City Council meeting Tuesday night. The council approved the church's proposal for a new parish hall and gymnasium despite protests by a few.

Council

(continued from page 5)

church site.

But others said it was time to move on and let the parish center and gym be built before construction costs rise again.

"I think the church has done an outstanding job in planning this project," said Councilman Jerry Thorne. "I think there has been sufficient time to consider this application and I can't support delaying this any further."

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern won the council's approval and the church's agreement on several conditions:

- Form a church pastoral council to meet regularly with the Pleasanton Village Homeowners Association on any concerns the group has with church activities;
- Create a pedestrian crosswalk on Rheem Drive for overflow crowds that might park in lots between Rheem and Santa Rita Road;

- Conduct noise measurements once the gymnasium is built and in use;
- Lower the proposed 34-foot-high roof line of the gymnasium "as much as possible" to the city's 32-foot height limit, and,
- Deny on street parking along Stoneridge Drive in front of the church property as suggested by city planners.

The council's decision went against homeowners Rohit and Sonia Gupta, who live near St. Elizabeth Seton's, and the Pleasanton Village HOA, which joined them in appealing the Planning Commission's approval of the church project. The Guptas in an hour-long appeal to the council, said they were not opposed to the project, but want it built on the east side of the church, where it was originally planned. They said the west side plan will increase traffic.

They also asked that a full environmental study be undertaken, a process that Planning Director Jerry Iserson said would have delayed the project at least another six months to a year. ■

Organization gets crabby

"Claws for Paws" benefits Tri-Valley Animal Rescue

On Jan. 27, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will roll up its sleeves for the second annual Claws for Paws Crab Feed from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

The event, which includes a fresh cracked crab dinner, live entertainment, a raffle and a silent auction, will raise money to help with the rescue of dogs, cats, rabbits and other animals.

Jim Walker of Keller Williams Realty in Pleasanton said those interested in supporting the cause should purchase their tickets early because last year's event sold out.

"It can actually be a great family

event," Walker said. "We have a lot of fundraisers that are more formal. This is a much more casual, fun time."

"I actually gave out the winning raffle ticket last year and the person won over \$2,200," he added.

Aside from the possibility of winning a big prize, Walker said the dinner is a way for people to help the nonprofit all-volunteer organization.

Tickets are \$45 per person. For information or to purchase tickets, visit www.clawsforpaws.com, www.tvlar.org or call Walker at 397-4300.

—Janet Pelletier

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Some spend MLK holiday marching for peace

Group echoes King's message of non-violence

by Emily Atwood

Tri-Valley residents marched down M and First streets in Livermore Monday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and lessons. Many at the event chose to honor King's memory by supporting his principle of non-violence, applying it to the war in Iraq.

"Although we honor King's inspirational words, it is crucial to remember he was also a man of action," said Mary Perner, community organizer for Tri-Valley CAREs (communities against a radioactive environment). "In the practice of non-violence, he placed himself on the front lines of the struggle for justice, human rights and peace."

Art Tenbrink, a retired Las Positas College professor and Pleasanton resident, came to express his desire for peace in a world where he said many take freedom of speech for granted. Yet, he realizes these freedoms can be expressed in diverse ways, as his son Adam does so in the infantry division of the U.S. Army.

"[Adam is a] conscientious person who's interested in defending the principles of democracy and I respect his decisions about how he's choosing to use his opportunity for acting in defense of our nation," he said.

With the day off from school, Foothill



Foothill High School student Audrey Webb holds a sign during the peace march.

High School students Audrey Webb and Stewart Morrison participated in what they considered to be a good cause while fulfilling community service hours.

Pleasanton resident Daniel Kendrick also showed his support.

"It's appropriate today to do something to honor [King's] words and follow [his] advice," he said. "It's important to remember his contributions and the way he lived his life, the work he did and promoting non-violence."

As for King's message and the current sentiment about the war in Iraq, Kendrick said the two are very relatable.

"Actually, it's very similar to his time, with the war in Vietnam," he said, adding that he believes many of the problems King addressed--discrimination, equality and peace--are still serious issues today.

The event was organized by the Tri-Valley Peace Coalition, supported by the United Christian Church of Livermore, Tri-Valley CAREs and members of the Tri-Valley religious community. After a dedication to Coretta Scott King, who died last year, and a message from local author Prabha Duneja, children and young adults shared their dreams for peace, which including a world without discrimination and an end to nuclear weapons.

Tenbrink said President Bush's recent speech announcing his intent to send more troops to Iraq didn't give him a greater sense of urgency for participating in the march.

"I felt a sense of urgency when we initially invaded Iraq in 2003 and it hasn't let up and continues to bring us to exactly the opposite of what we need," he said.

But what may be more pressing, he said, is having events like the Livermore one in Pleasanton. ■

New Police Chief

(continued from page 5)

next Monday.

During his 12 years as captain, Fraser was responsible for managing all aspects of the police organization, where he is currently serving his second assignment as Operations Division commander. His responsibilities include the management of patrol, traffic, special events, the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, canine, range, animal services, reserve officers, parking enforcement, vehicle abatement and the Field Training Officer program.

Since 2003, Fraser has served as Pleasanton's Law Enforcement Liaison for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The city was extremely fortunate to have a number of highly qualified individuals seeking the police chief job," Fialho said. "Capt. Fraser's positive perspective, his depth of experience and sound judgment rose to the top. He is enthusiastic about public service, approachable and willing and able to make tough decisions. I believe Capt. Fraser will continue to build upon Pleasanton's reputation as an ideal city in which to live and work."

Fraser said he is "very excited" about moving into the police chief role.

"The city and the Police Department have many valuable programs and initiatives already in place," he said. "I'll continue to support those while looking ahead to others that will establish Pleasanton as a model community. As importantly, I'm looking forward to continuing to build on my relationships, both within the police department and with other community representatives."

Fraser lives in Pleasanton with his wife Diane, a registered nurse in Kaiser Permanente's Women's Health Clinic in Pleasanton. They have two children: Valarie, 20, a sophomore at UC Davis and a 2005 graduate of Amador Valley High School, and Stacie, 17, a senior at Amador.

Fialho said a formal reception and swearing-in ceremony for Fraser will be held within the next several weeks.

—Jeb Bing

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Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl		Zantaz, Inc.

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School Board

(continued from page 5)

Jill Buck

Buck is a seven-year Pleasanton resident, with three children in Pleasanton schools, ages 15, 10 and 8. Her involvement spans from room parent to PTA president to PUSD budget committee to developing the Go Green initiative. Robert Gehl

Gehl's son Kevin graduated from Amador Valley High School in 2005 and his daughter Allison is now a sophomore there. He has lived in Pleasanton for 21 years. He is a member of AVHS Friends of Music Budget Committee, AVHS marching band logistic coordinator and a parent volunteer.

Marti Scalise

With two children in Pleasanton schools, ages 8 and 11, Scalise works in sales and marketing part-time. She's lived in Pleasanton for four and a half years and has been active at Donlon Elementary as PFC president for two years, PFC executive board member, auction co-chair and rededication co-chair, and is on the school site council. She is also a member of the PUSD Excellence Committee.

Joseph Russo

Russo is an engineer at Cisco Systems and an 18-year Pleasanton resident with two children, one at Foothill High and the other at Hart Elementary. Presently he is on the PUSD Budget, Audit and

Take Us Along



Mother-daughter bonding in London

Lesley and Rachel Buehler read the Weekly in Trafalgar Square on a beautiful afternoon in London.

Technology committees. He has also been involved with sports clubs and the Bernal Park Community Task Force.

Stephen Page

Page has lived in Pleasanton for 18 years and has two children at Hearst Elementary. He's the primary organizer of after-school instruction and development of high-level achievements for all children, a college level educator, network architect, service developer, sports coach and a neighborhood activist. He also plans to begin work with Pleasanton's Youth Commission.

Shirley Herrera

Herrera is the only applicant not

to have children in the PUSD and has lived in Pleasanton for one and a half years. She works as an educational administrator in Modesto and has experience as a public school educator.

Corine Fanene

Fanene's two children go to Foothill and Donlon--the same schools she's attended. The 25-year resident and San Lorenzo educator has volunteered in several capacities at the schools, from yard duty to dance chaperone. She is an AABC member, has participated in the Foothill Community Forum and has also volunteered in community sports and events. ■

Parkview

(continued from page 5)

when the city designated the 3.59 acre parcel of surplus land next to the Pleasanton Senior Center for the facility's development.

In an effort to provide more affordable housing to seniors in Pleasanton, 21 of the 31 affordable units will be targeted to senior households with incomes below 50 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or lower—labeled Low Income Units—and nine of the units will be targeted to households earning below 25 percent



Jennifer Hosterman joins many of those responsible for the The Parkview senior housing project, which was dedicated Wednesday.

of the AMI and lower—labeled very low income units. The initial affordable rents will be \$1,957 for the low income units and \$978 for the very low income units.

—Rebecca Guyon

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Opinion

Editorial

Dr. King's birthday: Better late than never

The Tri-Valley YMCA will host its 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fellowship breakfast Monday with State Assemblyman Guy Houston (R.-15th) as a longtime co-sponsor and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson as the keynote speaker. The observance comes a week later than the national holiday which this year actually fell on Dr. King's birthday, the day King would have turned 78. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968. His confessed killer, James Earl Ray, was arrested two months later in London.

The Tri-Valley Y always commemorates King's birthday on the Monday following the national holiday, and with good reason. With federal, state, regional and local government offices, schools and many large corporations closed last Monday, thousands took to the ski slopes or went to the malls, plus 50 or so who participated in a peace march in downtown Livermore. Experience early on showed the Y that breakfasts dedicated to the good works of the slain civil rights leader draw better attendance when they're not held on a three-day holiday weekend. The Y's not alone in adjusting its celebration of King's life to meet the schedules of interested participants. Since schools were also closed for the holiday, teachers made classroom presentations before or after. At Walnut Grove Elementary, kindergarten teachers Linda Bury and Stacy Homes showed pictures and talked to their students about King's good works on behalf of African-Americans and his historic "I have a Dream" speech in 1963. Village High School's Leadership class spent Monday at a community rally in Hayward. Valley View Elementary will hold a special school-wide meeting for its 700 students this morning to talk about King and his legacy. Many Tri-Valley school children have also spent part of their days leading up to last Monday's holiday preparing posters and writing essays for a contest the Tri-Valley YMCA is sponsoring for them to express how they see King's legacy influencing their schools and communities today.

The theme of this year's annual breakfast and fellowship—and Mayor Wilson's remarks—is taken from a Dr. King quote: "Everything that is done in the world is done by hope." Wilson believes that King's messages are relevant today in the Tri-Valley where as communities of character we are strongly focused on judging people by their good deeds and works, not by the color of their skin or ethnic background. To Wilson, he sees our communities going back to the basics in respecting and honoring each other as human beings.

In a recent survey of college students on U.S. civic literacy that was published Monday in the Washington Post, 81 percent knew that Dr. King was expressing hope for "racial justice and brotherhood" in his "I Have a Dream" speech. Most of the rest thought King was advocating the abolition of slavery. According to Post writer Valerie Strauss, the findings indicate that despite years of efforts by primary and secondary schools to educate young people on the civil rights leader's life, we still see a mixed bag of results. Even those who know what King stood for and have read his speech are not really clear on what he accomplished, or how his legacy affects Americans today. Mayor Wilson will help clarify that Monday with the posters, essays and the fellowship breakfast enhancing Wilson's message. To be a part of this event, which starts at 7:30 a.m. Monday at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Pleasanton, call the Tri-Valley Y at 475-6108.

Letters

Health care system is ailing

Dear Editor,

The Governor's solution to the health insurance problem may not be perfect, but something needs to be done. I am by no means a supporter of either a socialist agenda or increased taxes called fees, but the job of the government is to protect the people. If employers do not provide affordable health benefits to their employees and insurance companies won't sell affordable health insurance to individuals, I feel the government has no choice but to act.

My grandson works full time at a small company and unfortunately, like thousands of other Americans, he has no health benefits. He is too old to be covered by his father's insurance. They have looked into buying him individual insurance, but due to a brain injury he sustained when a drunk driver ran him down, he is now uninsurable. The stupidity of an individual has now cost him a lifetime without insurance, and she is again out on the street.

As least the Governor's plan is a starting point and with the support of the State Legislature a reform of the health insurance system in the state can be undertaken. Something must be done to help the people of California who work full time, pay their taxes and follow the rules obtain health insurance. Under the current system it is not always possible.

Herbert Marshall, Pleasanton

Where's presumption of innocence?

Dear Editor,

I represent William Trevor, whose name recently appeared in an article ("Seven arrested in 2nd meth house bust," News, Jan. 5). I, and others in my office, were deeply disturbed by the tenure of the article.

Have you not heard of the presumption of innocence? Not once in the article did you use the words "allegedly" or "supposedly" or at any time preface any statements with the caveat, "Police say..." We still have the presumption of innocence in this country, and you not only do our citizens a disservice when you ignore it, but cause potential bias against presumably innocent defendants.

From even a cursory reading of similar articles in the New York Times or the San Francisco Chronicle, you will see that reporters in those publications are careful to couch any criminal accusations in terms that show the accusations are just those—accusations only—and thus preserve the presumption of innocence.

Molly McClure, Alameda County Public Defender

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council 2006/07 Priorities Workshop

Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- **PCUP 186, Eunhee Yoo Im, Education Enrichment Center**
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a learning center for pre kindergarten Montessori classes and tutoring for kindergarteners and elementary school students Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in an existing building located at 1024 Serpentine Lane, Suite 7 B.
- **PDR 422, Duke Fuller**
Application for design review approval to construct an approximately 5,484 square foot single story custom home with an approximately 767 square foot attached garage at the property located at 4134 Foothill Road.
- **PCUP-155/PDR-513, Trinity Lutheran Church**
Application for a conditional use permit and for design review approval for the expansion of the existing Trinity Lutheran Church located at 1225 Hopyard Road as follows: (1) replacement of the existing temporary modular buildings with the construction of an approximately 8,110 square foot one story education building to the east of the existing church facility; (2) construction of an approximately 3,108 square-foot multipurpose room addition to be attached to the south of the existing church facility, fronting Hopyard Road; (3) expansion of the existing parking lot; and (4) on site landscaping removal and replanting.

Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, January 22, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room

TV30 At-Large Representative Recruitment

TV30 Board of Directors is now accepting applications for an at-large member. This is a non-paid position.

Tri-Valley Community Television is a California non-profit public benefit corporation under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)(3). The corporation is governed by a seven member Board of Directors comprised of four citizen volunteers appointed by the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon and three at-large representatives selected by the Board. Approximately 66% of the \$651,000 operating budget for fiscal year 2006-07 is appropriated by the four cities from revenue generated through cable television franchise fees. The balance of revenue is derived from production fees, grants, and sponsorships and underwriting.

Applicants must reside within the viewing area of Tri-Valley Community Television and be able to view Tri-Valley Channels 28, 29 and 30. An at-large member is appointed for a two year term. The Board of Directors meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are currently being held at Dublin City Hall.

Applications are available at the Pleasanton City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton, on the City's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us or at the TV30 website at <http://tv30.org/boardapp.asp>

For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk (925) 931-5027. Applications must be received no later than Friday, January 19, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.; postmarks are not accepted. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

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

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

Police Bulletin

Explosives set off in residential area

Pleasanton police say two explosive devices cased in plastic liter bottles were set off last Saturday around 4:25 p.m. in a residential area of north Pleasanton. Police believed the bottles housed materials which could create a chemical reaction, as one of the bottles still contained an unidentified liquid.

Residents told police they heard two explosions about two minutes apart, with a witness seeing a white male throw a bottle from a

moving vehicle on Olive Drive, near West Las Positas Boulevard and I-680. The driver and passenger were described as young, white males between 17 and 20 years old. They were seen in a late '80s or early '90s Honda Civic with a loud muffler and a chrome tail pipe.

According to police, two other similar explosions have occurred in residential areas recently.

Anyone with information about these crimes (case numbers 07-0259 and 07-0260) is asked to contact 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.

January 5

- Found property: 2
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 11:47 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; credit card fraud
 - 3:59 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forged checks
 - 4:52 p.m. in the 2700 block of Lylewood Drive; identity theft
 - 6:40 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 7:53 p.m. in the 4800 block of Saginaw Circle; worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 10:00 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
- Public drunkenness:
 - 11:02 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

January 6

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 12:22 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 2:49 a.m. in the 5500 block of Spring House Drive; stolen truck
 - 8:56 a.m. in the 2100 block of Rheem Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 3:33 p.m. in the 1400 block of Kolln Street; from vehicle, worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
 - 2:25 a.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue; school, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 10:56 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; public, worth over \$1,000
 - 11:25 a.m. at the intersection of Delucchi Drive and Alexander Court; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 11:45 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road, public, worth over \$1,000
 - 1:00 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; public, \$1,000 or less
 - 1:18 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; vehicle, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road; public, worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
 - 5:14 p.m. in the 5500 block of Spring House Drive

- Public drunkenness:
 - 11:40 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue
 - 11:47 p.m. at the intersection of St. John and Main streets

January 7

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 3:22 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 4:29 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; worth over \$400
- Open container in vehicle:
 - 6:24 p.m. in the 4500 block of Sandalwood Drive
- Assault:
 - 10:25 p.m. in the 5600 block of Spring House Rod

January 8

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
 - 7:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; worth over \$400
 - 9:51 a.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; embezzlement
 - 10:34 a.m. in the 800 block of Clara Lane; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
 - 2:23 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; from building, worth over \$400
 - 4:26 p.m. at the intersection of Hanifen and Sycamore Creek ways; stolen bicycle
 - 5:38 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; from building
- Vandalism:
 - 8:30 a.m. in the 3800 block of Picard Avenue; residence, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 11:12 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; graffiti

January 9

- Found property: 2
- Threatening phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 11:20 a.m. in the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth \$200-400
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 3500 block of Rocca Court; credit card fraud
 - 4:02 p.m. in the 4100 block of Cristobal Way; identity theft
- Possession amphetamines:
 - 1:24 a.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

- Assault:
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road

January 10

- Found property: 2
- Threatening phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 8:10 a.m. in the 50 block of Angela Street; worth over \$400
 - 10:17 a.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth over \$400
 - 1:26 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth \$50-199
 - 3:30 p.m. in the 4200 of First Street; stolen property, worth over \$400
 - 4:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; counterfeit check
 - 6:00 p.m. in the 8200 block of Moller Ranch Drive; credit card fraud
- Vandalism:
 - 7:26 a.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; school, worth over \$5,000
- Paraphernalia possession:
 - 3:49 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Sycamore Road

January 11

- Theft:
 - 12:01 p.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth \$200-400
 - 1:41 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; forged checks
 - 5:37 p.m. in the 400 block of Pine Hill Lane; stolen truck
 - 10:40 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Vandalism:
 - 12:45 p.m. in the 2400 block of Santa Rita Road; public, worth \$1,000 or less
- Burglary:
 - 12:38 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; residence
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:20 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
- Tampering with vehicle:
 - 6:10 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

ACCIDENTS

January 8

- 4:41 p.m. - Injury accident involving driving under the influence of drugs at the intersection of Bernal and Vineyard avenues.

Ready for Wi-Fi

Pleasanton expects to begin operating free Internet service downtown in just over a month

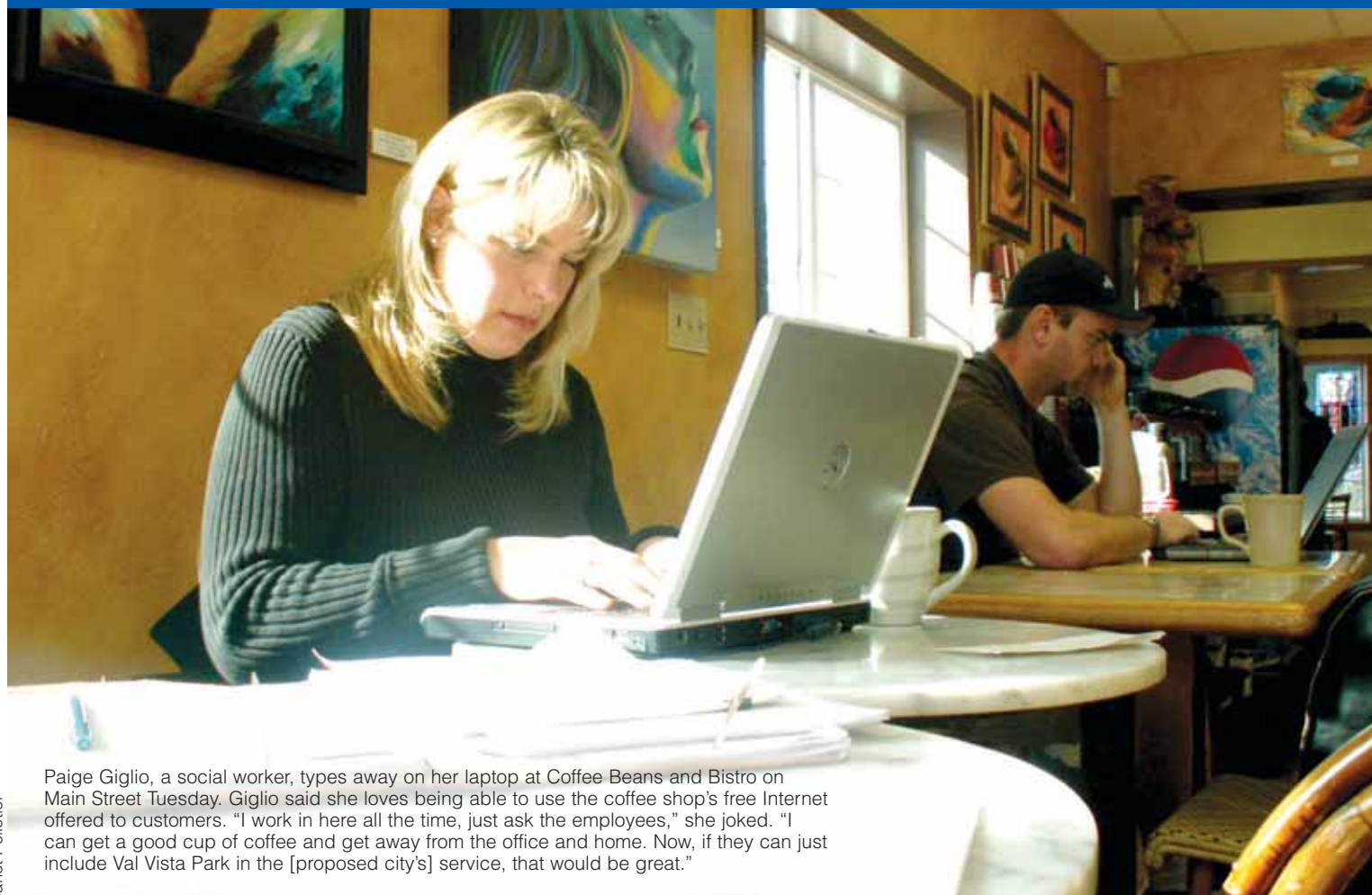
by Janet Pelletier

Downtown residents, restaurant diners, Tully's Plaza gatherers and others taking a stroll down Main Street will soon be able to access the Internet for free. The service, which will be offered by the city in the form of a municipal wireless network, is expected to begin operation across the downtown area in just over a month's time.

The signal will cover the core area from Arroyo Del Valle to the north, First Street to the east, the Pleasanton Senior Center

to the south and the ACE train station to the west. Some outlying areas of those boundaries may also be able to get a signal. The coverage will include such places as the city library, police station, six City Hall office buildings, the Veterans Memorial Hall, future Firehouse Arts Center and the Museum on Main.

All users will need to do is sign onto the web on their laptop, personal digital assistants or smartphones—no plugs or wires are needed.



Paige Giglio, a social worker, types away on her laptop at Coffee Beans and Bistro on Main Street Tuesday. Giglio said she loves being able to use the coffee shop's free Internet offered to customers. "I work in here all the time, just ask the employees," she joked. "I can get a good cup of coffee and get away from the office and home. Now, if they can just include Val Vista Park in the [proposed city's] service, that would be great."

Janet Pelletier

The wireless Internet service will operate on two radio frequency bandwidths—one for city employees, including public safety responders, and one for the public, according to Doug Linman, CEO of NetworkAnatomy, the company chosen by Pleasanton to create it and handle the logistics. A contract with NetworkAnatomy for \$45,000 was signed last week.

Aside from such projects as developing new wireless technology and communication strategies for soldiers in Iraq, the U.S. Border Patrol and SWAT teams, NetworkAnatomy has been devising Pleasanton's wireless system since it was awarded the contract in July. Most recently, Linman is staying busy with a new venture to bring wireless technology aboard ferries that go to and from Alcatraz Island in San Francisco.

It's a path more and more cities are taking—a journey to the forefront of the information superhighway—and it doesn't come without risks. But those affiliated with the highly anticipated project in Pleasanton say they've learned from others' mistakes.

A delicate balance

The advent of cities offering free municipal Wi-Fi to residents has been both a success and a failure. While some systems have operated mostly problem-free, others have generated headaches.

According to MuniWireless.com, it's estimated that more than 300 municipalities across the nation are looking into or have set up paid and free wireless networks for residents, businesses and visitors.

Nearly all have deployed Wi-Fi, short for wireless fidelity, to their city core. While some networks have gone off without a hitch, many others have had more than their share of technical glitches including the flooding of users on the network, causing it to crash, and slow connection speeds. Those experiencing the networks have complained about trouble connecting, advertising popping up on their screens and in cities that charge, having to pay for the service.

But Pleasanton is being vigilant and cautious to make sure those same mistakes don't happen here.

Over the next few weeks, crews will begin installing communications apparatuses to poles downtown and testing the network—something other municipalities failed to do, according to Linman.

"We've seen the earlier jumps into this and the failures and we don't want to be a part of that," he said.

The company will conduct a radio frequency study, which involves going through downtown and a couple miles outside the coverage perimeter to detect all the radio frequencies in operation. The study will pull up any businesses or residents who are using their own



Doug Linman, CEO and founder of NetworkAnatomy, has developed Pleasanton's wireless network that will begin operating in just over a month.

service and will allow them to be filtered out so they don't interrupt those signals, Linman said.

"If you don't do the RF study properly, then essentially you're flying blind—you're installing equipment for a wireless network not having a clue what you're affecting—and that is the mistake of a lot of these networks that you've probably seen," Linman said. "People saw an amount of money...and they bought wireless equipment to support that but the architecture and the RF study part of it and all those things that have to get done early on in the game, in many instances, were just not done very well."

Another mistake cities have made is allowing too many access points to the network resulting in a flood of users.

Located in the historic 19th century Gale Building across from the Meadowlark Dairy on West Neal Street, NetworkAnatomy's offices will not only be in range of the wireless network, but its close proximity will allow Linman to be hands-on in operation of the service.

"We're real close to the action—just footsteps away," Linman said. "If anything happens or there are any kinds of needs, we're right here. Our reputation obviously relies on everyone's acceptance of this network and how it works and functions so we'll certainly take care of that."

Some municipalities have offered levels of service—the lowest level with the slowest connection being free and various paid levels with faster connection speeds.

Linman said while it's unknown if Pleasanton will ever charge people to use the connection, its current plan is to offer it for free to all.

Other cities who have offered free service have also utilized advertisement in the form of pop-ups to make up for operating costs. Linman said there will be no advertisements, just a splash page that will appear on the screen when someone connects to the network welcoming the person to Pleasanton.

Cutting edge technology

Network Anatomy will be deploying an innovative system that is widely speculated to be the next generation of municipal wireless networks.

It will be a blend of Wi-Fi technology and WiMAX, which works by transmitting signals to and from nearby cellular towers. WiMAX operates on an FCC-licensed frequency so there is less potential for interference. As mentioned previously, Pleasanton will operate a city employee network on one radio frequency and the community-based network on another.

WiMAX also is able to penetrate interior buildings and is highly scaleable.

The security will be stiffer with WiMAX and users can feel safe logging on, Linman said.

"We have multi-level security on these networks," he said. "In blending Wi-Fi and WiMAX in this fashion, we've been able to raise the security levels to a point people should be reasonably comfortable that they're not going to be compromised."

The network is also planned to block users from searching pornographic sites, he added.

While WiMAX is considered to be cutting edge, some industry bloggers say don't count out Wi-Fi.

"Based on the massive investments by Intel and others, mobile WiMAX will likely become a reality, but it's not clear yet to what extent and when. Municipalities, though, should make room for mobile WiMAX with anticipation that it will be worthwhile to deploy in the future," Jim Greier, founder of Wireless-Nets, writes on a blog at MuniWireless.com. Geier's company has worked with the cities of San Francisco and Denver; San Francisco, Miami and Heathrow international airports and big

corporations such as Intel, Lockheed Martin and Broadcom in wireless endeavors.

Another city that is already beginning to offer what Pleasanton will in just a few short weeks is Grand Rapids, Mich. The network, which will span the 45-square-mile Midwest city, was approved in December and is similar to Pleasanton in offering a Wi-Fi/WiMAX hybrid that involves placing Wi-Fi hotspots across the city. On the city's Web site, it says the mobile system will be privately funded, built, owned and operated and at no cost to the community—just like Pleasanton's.

"We feel we're deploying technology that won't be obsolete once we put it up," said Allen Hammond, information services manager for the city of Pleasanton.

City workers benefit too

Aside from the public benefit, the network will also improve daily city operations, which was the real impetus for setting up the service, Hammond said.

The wireless capabilities that will be offered to city workers will eliminate a lot of the paperwork, he said. Building code officials will be able to fill out forms after inspecting buildings online, putting the information out on the network instead of having to write notes on paper, come back to the office and transfer it to a computer. Public works crews will also benefit for the same type of work including the advantage of accessing city inventory while out on assignment.

Police will be able to send e-mails and download such things as plans for command posts during major police events, such as the recent Laura Bush visit, while they're out in the field. Police currently have Internet use, but it's limited with less of a bandwidth, Hammond said.

Police will be able to see how well the system works when they are present at various events held downtown, such as the Farmers' Market, antique and street fairs, First Wednesday and others.

Economic prospects

The city also forecasts an economic bonus from free Internet service. Vendors at the Farmers' Market and other downtown events will be able process credit card transactions and other services that require an Internet connection.

The service is also expected to help restaurants boost business from visiting patrons who also want to use the Internet.

"That business person who is working at lunch, traveling through the area will stop into Pleasanton and maybe eat here because they know there's free Internet," Hammond said.

"There will be 95 percent continuous coverage in that area and 100 percent in coverage areas that we know people are going to congregate, such as in front of Tully's," Hammond said.

"We definitely support it and we just hooked up so we are currently Wi-Fi compatible," said Strizzi's restaurant manager Kent Rocca.

"Wi-Fi has definitely brought us a lot of customers, especially college students," said Steven Turiano, a manager at Tully's, which began offering free wireless Internet last August after initially charging customers either \$3.95 a day or \$19.95 a month.

Coffee Beans and Bistro, just a stone's throw from Tully's also used to charge, but now offers it free to customers.

Vahid Safiari, who owns Fontina Ristorante, just next to Tully's Plaza, said his restaurant has had wireless Internet for some time and said it has been really helpful in processing computer transactions. He said he believes the city's network will be a great selling point to visitors for the downtown area.

While the prospect of free Internet is attractive to residents and businesses located down-

town, Hammond said the municipal network is not meant to be a catch-all service.

"The object is to reach people for incidental use, not be the Internet provider," he said. "If someone thinks they can drop their Comcast account, that's not our intention."

Neither Tully's nor Coffee Beans is expected to lose business from the city service—those who congregate inside or outside the neighboring stores will have more wireless options.

"I don't think the impact is going to be dramatic," Linman said. "People are still going to go in and have coffee and do their work and they're still going to connect. They'll essentially have two or three networks that are being presented to them."

He said the city network should only be viewed as a support or enhancement to other wireless networks in place, not a replacement.

Should the service be expanded citywide, it's questionable how it will affect businesses such as Starbucks, Borders, McDonald's and various hotels who currently charge for Internet service.

Initially, the wireless network will only be deployed downtown so the city can assess how well it's working and discuss what changes if any need to be made and how the system will be expanded. The goal is to eventually provide access to schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District and at major hubs such as Stoneridge Shopping Center.

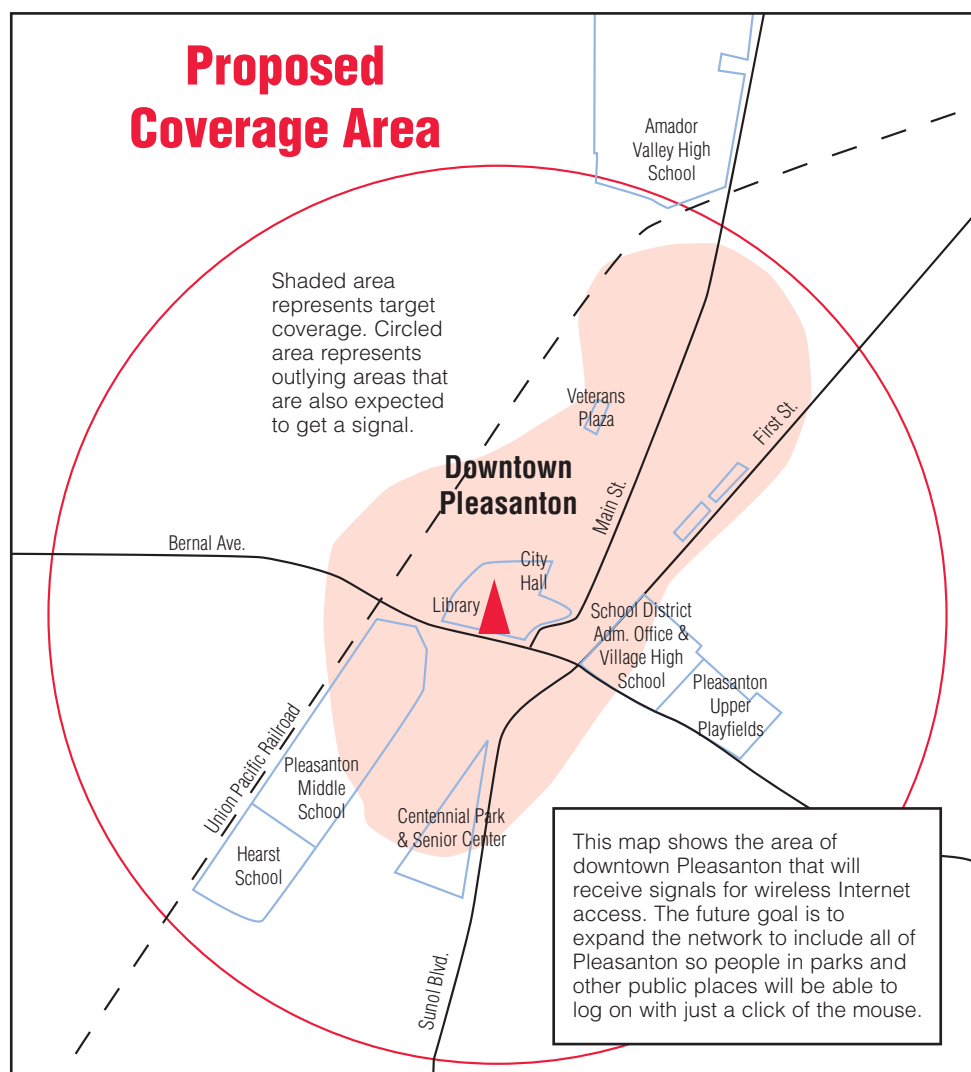


Allen Hammond, information services manager for the city of Pleasanton, said the city believes the free wireless network it plans to offer will be good for business downtown.

Janet Pelletier

Did You Know?

The city of Livermore has been operating a wireless network since March 2005 provided by WeCare Wireless Networks, in partnership with Livermore Downtown, Belkin Corporation and Lok Technology, that currently covers 50 percent of its downtown. The goal is to expand it to cover a three-by-seven-block area, meaning 85 percent of downtown, according to Dave Curtis of WeCare. For information, visit http://wecare.net/wifi_business.html.



This map shows the area of downtown Pleasanton that will receive signals for wireless Internet access. The future goal is to expand the network to include all of Pleasanton so people in parks and other public places will be able to log on with just a click of the mouse.

City of Pleasanton

Sports

Attention sports fans!

Coaches, parents and Pleasanton sports enthusiasts—the Weekly wants to know what's going on with Pleasanton sports teams. Send schedules, press releases and jpeg images to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com and see your team in the paper.



Foothill's Johnson named to NorCal First Team

Lineman Stash McGuinness earns Second Team honors

Foothill High senior and varsity football defensive back Jordan Johnson was named to the All-NorCal First Team, with defensive lineman Stash McGuinness earning Second Team All-NorCal honors.

The 5-foot-10-inch Johnson was the leader of a secondary that allowed under 100 passing yards a game during the regular season. He had eight interceptions and 50 tackles as he helped the Falcons to a 12-1 season and a spot in the NCS 4A final.

Johnson was named the most valuable

player of the East Bay Athletic League and earned first-team All-Metro honors on defense by the San Francisco Chronicle.

McGuinness, a 6-foot, 230-pound defensive tackle, was a top player for one of the better defenses in the area. He was named second-team All-Metro by the Chronicle after recording 73 tackles and leading the EBAL with 14 sacks. He led a defense that allowed just 80 yards rushing per game during the regular season and held eight of its opponents to single digits.

Wipfli wins wrestling championship

Foothill senior Tommy Wipfli started the second day of last weekend's regional wrestling tournament with three wins from Friday under his belt. He wrestled Dennis Elliot of La Costa Canyon getting the first take down early and controlling the match all three rounds with a final score of 7-2.

He saw Johnny Rios of Madeira next which proved to be a much tougher match. Again, Wipfli scored an early take down in the first round which ended up being very important, as it was the only one scored the entire match. The only other point during the match was an escape by Wipfli in the second round. Going into the third round leading 3-0, Wipfli was able to keep the lead by riding out his opponent the entire

period. This win sealed his place into the Championship Finals.

In a ceremony prior to the finals, the entire gym was in darkness and with a laser light show above everyone, as the championship finalist wrestlers came out of a tunnel surrounded with fog blowing out across the gym floor. Wipfli went up against Garrett Drucker of Edison in a match that was tough from the start. In the second round, with Wipfli down 10-4, he reversed his opponent and quickly put him on his back getting three near fall. The crowd went wild with this sudden change in events and began what turned out to be Wipfli's run for the title. By the end of the third round, Wipfli had scored another reversal, a two near fall and a three near fall ending the match with a winning score of 17-12 and the Championship title.

Lady Dons lose nail-biter to Monte Vista 57-50

The Amador Valley Lady Dons got off to a strong start in their game against the Monte Vista Mustangs last Friday with high scorer Mikayla Lyles sinking two buckets for four of her 11 points before Monte Vista got a bucket. The Mustangs drew even at six about half way into the first period as the teams continued on, basket for basket.

Laura Heisser managed to put Amador

ahead as she racked up three of her nine points when she made the bucket and one after a Monte Vista foul. After one period of play Amador was ahead 17-15.

In the second period Amanda Nespor got the scoring going by making two of her eight points. Amador stretched the lead to six, but Monte Vista whittled away to knock the lead to two. At the half Amador led 28-26.

Amador came out strong in the third period and managed to stretch the lead to six (32-26) after Quinn Thompson dropped in two of her 10 points just a minute in. Monte Vista kept working on the lead and brought the score even at 34 as the period was coming to a close. Monte Vista's momentum carried them to a third period lead, Amador 35 to Monte Vista 39.

The Monte Vista momentum continued on until Monte Vista racked up a nine-point lead. With only 4:28 left to play, Amador was trailing 38-47. Thompson drained a couple of 3-pointers and Laura Heisser put back one of her three rebounds to bring the score to 46-49. More baskets left the two opponents still three points apart with 23 seconds left. Amador had a chance to tie the game, but Lyles' three did not go. Heisser could not get her shot off cleanly. Amador had to foul to control the clock and Monte Vista was able to add four more points.

Final score: Monte Vista, 57; Amador, 50. ■

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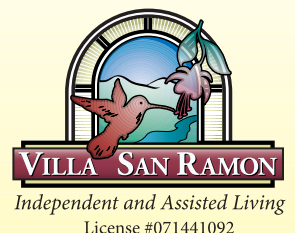
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Obituaries

Richard "Rick" Taylor

Richard "Rick" Taylor died Jan. 9 at the age of 54.

Mr. Taylor was born and raised in Pleasanton and worked as an engineer for the Oakland Police Department for 24 years. He was an avid NASCAR and drag racing fan, loved people and was a great family man with a good sense of humor. He touched the hearts of all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 20 years, Mary; sons Dennis and Tommy; grandsons Evan and Peyton.

Memorial services were held at Graham-Hitch Mortuary Jan. 15.

Warren Louis Wolff

Warren Louis Wolff died Jan. 10 at the age of 82.

Mr. Wolff was born June 4, 1924 in Everst, Kan. He graduated high school and was in the U.S. Army. A diesel technician and instructor, Mr. Wolff belonged to the Livermore Elks Club. He loved to work with his hands and help anyone. Prior to his 22 years living in Pleasanton, he lived in Ceres, Calif.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mary; sons Darrell Wolff of Manteca and Rick Wolff of Pleasanton; sisters Ruth Jensen of Overland Park, Kan. and Delores Kinkenberg of Shawnee, Kan.; grandchildren Doug, Darrin, Janelle, Brittany and Aubry.

Services were scheduled to be held Jan. 13 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary and Jan. 14 at Valley Community Church in Dublin.

Ernest "Ernie" William Tomlin

Ernest William Tomlin died Jan. 12 at the age of 84.

A native of Athens, Ill. and 25-year resident of Newark, he spent the last 15 years in Pleasanton. Mr. Tomlin proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy and Air Force. He was affiliated with the VFW, St. Vincent de Paul, NARFE, and USS Northampton (survivor) and USS Mobile. He enjoyed gardening, painting, cooking, baseball, football and was a devoted prayer warrior.

Mr. Tomlin is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Betty Jean Tomlin of Pleasanton; daughters Judy Dlugosh of San Leandro and Patricia Bell of Tracy; brother Herman Tomlin of Idaho; sister Velma Copanic of Ohio; grandchildren Christine Douglas and John Dlugosh, both of Pleasanton; great-grandchildren David Bell; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 20 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., 846-5624. A private burial will be held at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Gustine.

Donations can be made to St. Augustine Catholic Church, St. Vincent de Paul, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Love Lines

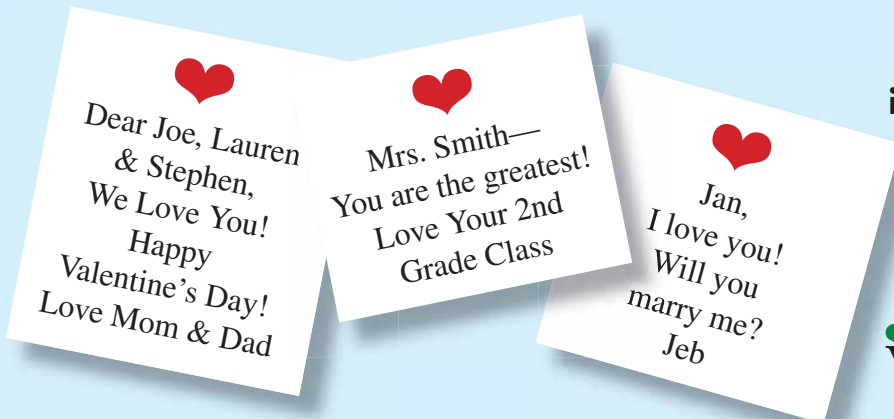
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Calendar

Auditions

Playhouse West Academy Winter Session

The Playhouse West Academy is holding interviews for winter quarter acting classes beginning the week of Jan. 24. The Academy will be offering professional in-depth training for beginning, intermediate and advanced students in stage and film acting for adults ages 15 and older. Playhouse West Kids, ages 7-13 will also be holding its winter session. Tuition for an 8-week session is \$235 for adults, \$295 for children. Classes are held at Playhouse West Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Call 943-6464.

'Survivor' Casting Call

CBS 5 is holding an open casting call for the reality TV show "Survivor" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at Metro PCS, 900 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. Call (415) 765-8788 or visit www.cbs5.com for more information.

Valley Concert Chorale

Valley Concert Chorale will hold auditions by appointment for experienced singers Jan. 15 and Jan. 29. The Chorale is looking for singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to contemporary, folk to jazz. Call 426-4205 to schedule an appointment.

Youth Music Festival

Auditions for the Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival are scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m., Jan. 25 and 30 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal

and instrumental ensembles age 18 or younger may audition. Rock bands are not included in the festival. Auditions are by appointment only. Contact Mark Duncanson at 931-3481 or e-mail at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us for more information.

Author Visits

Author Talk on WWI Mutiny

Robert Allen, author of "The Port Chicago Mutiny: The Story of the Largest Mass Mutiny Trial in U.S. Naval History," will discuss the topic of his book 2 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 846-8826 for book pre-sale information. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more event information.

East Bay Poets Read at Century House

The Century House Poetry Reading series brings East Bay poets Susan Browne and Kim Addonizio from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Contact Michelle Russo, 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us for more information.

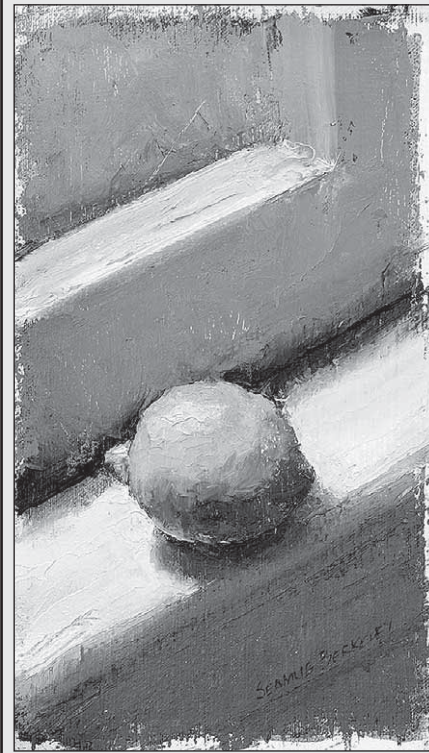
Founder of Salon.com Speaks

Scott Rosenberg, founder of Salon.com, will present his new book "Dreaming in Code: Two Dozen Programmers, 4732 Bugs, and One Quest for Transcendent Software" 2 p.m. Jan. 21 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Friends Read 'One Poem at a Time'

Friends of former Pleasanton Poet

Weekend Preview



'Up Close and Far Away' opens at Worthington Gallery West

"Lemon Still" by Seamus Berkeley is just one of the many paintings that will be on display starting Jan. 27 at Worthington Gallery West for the "Up Close and Far Away" exhibit. The exhibit features landscape and still life paintings by local and regional artists Uwe Bangert, Klaus Fussman, Tricia Leonard, Marc Velten and more. It begins with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at the gallery, 739 J, Main St. All works will be on display until Mar. 3. Call 485-1183 for more information.

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Laureate Charlene Villella will read from her book "One Poem at a Time" 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. The book is a collection of poems published posthumously and chronicles Villella's battle with cancer. Call Cynthia Bryant, 398-8846 for more information.

Local Writers Read at Borders

Pleasanton Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant and local poet, essayist, and food and wine journalist Deborah Grossman will read from their current publications from 3 to 5 p.m. Jan. 28 at Borders, 4574 Rosewood Drive. The reading kicks off Borders' Local Author Series. Call 227-1412 for more information.

Persian Author Visits Library

Dr. Persis Karim will present her anthology "Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora" 2 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Pleasanton Public Library. She will be joined by authors Tara Fatemi, Esther Kamkar and Sanaz Nikaein. Admission is free. Visit www.persiskarim.com to learn more about the author. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405, for more information.

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton

The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie, 846-1658.

Mother/Daughter 5-7 Grade Book Club

The Mother/Daughter 5-7 Grade Book Club will meet 4 p.m. Feb. 9 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

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 Feb. 6.

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 Feb. 15.

Human Services Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on

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the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 7.

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 Feb. 8.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 8.

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 Jan. 24.

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 Jan. 31.

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 Feb. 14.

Classes

International Folk Dancers

The Del Valle International Folk Dancers welcome beginning and experienced dancers for Balkan, Israeli and other world dances. Weekly classes meet from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the upstairs studio at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Avenue. Cost is \$4. Call George Pavel, 447-8020.

Widow/Widowers Grief Recovery Class

This 10-week class for widows and widowers focuses on finding hope and providing support for successful ways to process this significant life event. The course is open to all widows and widowers. Winter enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Classes are held at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call Linda Husted, 833-9013. Call Merrilee Harter Mitchell, (510) 482-5296 for a complete list of meetings in the East Bay Area.

Women and Money

Pleasanton USD Adult Ed presents "Women and Money ... Reach your Potential" with Christina Ahlstrand, CFP at Village High School, Rm. 701, 4645 Bernal Ave. The class meets three times from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$45. Pre-registration is required. Call 426-4280 or visit <http://pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com>.

Clubs

American Association of University Women

Membership in the American Association of University Women is open to both men and women with associate's or bachelor's degrees and higher. The organization promotes equity for all women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change. For information about membership, contact Membership Chair Roz Wright, 484-0614 or dawright@sbcglobal.net.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly to critique poetry and the third Saturday monthly for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Express to Success Network

Women's Express to Success Network meets from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday monthly at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Visit www.expresstosuccess.org or e-mail info@expresstosuccess.org.

Concerts

Red Priest Performs

Red Priest, a baroque quartet, will perform 8 p.m. Jan. 27 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Fifth St., Livermore. The event is sponsored by Del Valle Fine Arts. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for seniors 62 and older or full-time students. Tickets are free for children and students through high school. Call 447-2752 or 443-5470 for ticket information. Visit www.delvallefinearts.org.

Events

Art in the Heart of Pleasanton Submissions

Alexander's Main Street Gallery is asking for submissions to its "Art in the Heart of Pleasanton" public art project. The project involves a collage of 20 to 30 canvas pieces consisting of 5-inch by 5-inch canvases that will be mounted and framed in an acrylic showcase in an effort to promote visual arts in the community. Artists may paint more than one piece, but each one must be different. Paintings must be of a red heart, should portray a positive outlook (e.g., no broken hearts), and cannot include any glitter or pastels. Deadline is Jan. 31. Call Rosalinda Herrera, 846-6015 or e-mail alexandersgallery@sbcglobal.net for more information.

"Claws for Paws" Crab Feed

The Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) hosts the second annual fundraiser "Claws for Paws" Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The event, which includes dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, will raise funds to help with the rescue of countless animals. Tickets are \$45 per person. For tickets go to www.clawsforpaws.com or send a check to TVAR P.O. Box 11143, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Call Jim Walker, 397-4300.

Towne Center Celebrates Anniversary

Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., celebrates its ninth anniversary from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 20 with refreshments, prizes, special author visits and a 10 percent discount on all merchandise.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting

The Pleasanton Downtown Association is hosting its annual "Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting" wine stroll from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 8 at participating downtown businesses. The event begins at the Rose Hotel, 807 Main St. Tickets can be purchased in advance at The Rose Hotel, Studio 7, Clover Creek and the Pleasanton Downtown Association office for \$25. Tickets on the day of the event will cost \$30. All tickets must be redeemed for glasses by 7:30 p.m. the night of the event. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net or call 484-2199, ext. 4 for more information.

Exhibits

Dee Haag at WaMu


Local artist Dee Haag's work is on display now through the end of January at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main Street. Haag's work is a variety of original landscape watercolor paintings. The public is invited to view her work during regular bank business hours.

Film

Hearts and Minds

"Hearts and Minds," a film about the Vietnam War, will be shown 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A reception will start at 6:30 p.m. and a discussion will follow the screening. Admission is free, but a \$2 donation will be accepted. Call 462-3459 for more information.

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Tastings will be complemented by a variety of sweets, desserts & hors d'oeuvres

Pick up your wine glass and event map between 5:45-7:30pm at the Rose Hotel, 807 Main St.

<u>PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES</u>	<u>WINERIES</u>	<u>PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES</u>	<u>WINERIES</u>
A Touch of Elegance	Westover Winery & Event Center	Leslie Marie Body & Skin Care ...	Bodegas Aguirre Winery
Acc'sentials	el Sol Winery	Lily Ann's Lingerie	Little Valley Winery at Ellison Mansion
Alexander's Main Street Gallery ...	Murrieta's Well	MD Spa	Tenuta Vineyards
All About Me	Mitchell Katz Winery at Ruby Hill	Mesa Trading Co.	Non-alcoholic Beverages
Aloha Island Trading Company ...	La Rochelle Winery	Pans on Fire Productions.	Westover Winery & Event Center
Apparel & Co.	Little Valley Winery at Ellison Mansion	Savvy Seconds.	White Crane Winery
Bay Mortgage.	Palomares Winery	Sincerely Yours Cards & Gifts ...	White Crane Winery
Bibiane Bakery	Chouinard Vineyards	Studio 7 Fine Arts	Retzlaff Winery
Bicycles!Pleasanton.	Elliston Vineyards	The Berry Patch	Eckert Estate Winery
Clover Creek.	Wood Family Vineyards	The Treehouse	Big White House
Day Art Studio	Tamas Estates	Three Dog Bakery	Stony Ridge Winery
Gift Baskets of Pleasanton.	Fenestra Winery	Towne Center Books	Bent Creek Winery
Gourmet Works	Crooked Vine Winery	Valley Plumbing Home Center.	Livermore Valley Cellars
Gregory Frame Shoppe	Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery	Worthington Gallery West	John Christopher Cellars
It's Only Natural	Wente Vineyards		
Jewelers Gallery.	Non-alcoholic Beverages		

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For more information, contact Nickie Hoppe at events@pleasantondowntown.net or (925) 484-2199

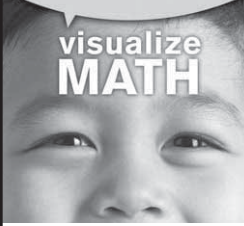
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(continued on page 18)

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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.

Donate Life Tennis Tournament

The California Transplant Donor Network is hosting the first Donate Life Tennis Tournament from noon to 8 p.m. Jan. 24 at ClubSport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive. Funds raised will help spread information about the importance of being an organ donor. Entry fee is \$75. Contact Cathy Olmo, (510) 251-7001 or colmo@ctdn.org for more information.

Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run

The sixth Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk will start 10 am. Feb. 10 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville., rain or shine. Entry fee is \$35. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers. HOA raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Contact Sparky George, 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com to register of volunteer. Visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

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.

The Princess Project Needs Donations

The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit that provides prom gowns and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them, is

kicking off its 2007 fundraising campaign. The project's goal is to outfit 2,700 underserved girls for prom 2007. The dresses will be distributed free of charge to high school girls March 17 and 24 during the giveaway events. To make a monetary or dress donation visit www.princessproject.org. Businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities can contact Yvette Nichols, (415) 846-2784 or yvette.nichols@kornferry.com.

Health

Dublin Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 20 at St. Raymond's Church, 11557 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Call the Parish office, 828-2460 or Bob Rawlings, 828-7727 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 Excitement 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 Excitement Fitness.

Laughter Yoga

Laughter Yoga classes are held from 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. All ages welcome. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors. Call (510) 390-4105 or visit www.laughinglydia.com for more information.

Kids & Teens

Chickens and Books at the Library
Children's author, illustrator and pho-

tographer Jane Wattenberg will bring her art, humor and live chickens to the Pleasanton Public Library at 4 p.m. Jan. 26 as part of the library's monthly Meet the Author series. The show is appropriate for all ages. Call 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

Flamenco Dance at the Library

Award-winning artistic director Carolina Lugo and students from Brisas de Espana Dance Company launch the Pleasanton Public Library's 2007 series, "Dance and Sing Around the World!" 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. It is a free series of dance and music programs for children that celebrates Pleasanton's international heritage. The program is open to all ages. Call 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

Free Beauty Workshops

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting free beauty workshops from 4 to 5 p.m. Jan. 17, 24 and 31 for girls ages 10 and older. The series, called "Beauty Resolution Workshops for Tweens," will feature a different topic each week, including hair, style, skin and nails. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space or for more information.

Mad Science of Mt. Diablo

The Pleasanton Public Library presents "Mad Science of Mt. Diablo" 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. During the 50-minute program, students will learn the principals of air and pressure as the Mad Scientist makes a hot air balloon, creates giant smoke rings and demonstrates a hovercraft. The show is appropriate for students in grades 1-6. Admission is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

Art Collecting 101

Claudia Hess, owner of Worthington Gallery West, will teach "Art Collecting 101," a workshop for those trying to get into art collecting, from 3-4 p.m., Jan. 20. Topics covered include where to start, art as an investment, getting children to start collecting and how to sell your old collection. Admission is free. Worthington Gallery West is located at 739-J Main St. Call 485-1183.

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.

Dream Crafting

The California Writers Club is hosting a two-hour intensive workshop led by author Maureen Biro entitled, "Dream Crafting: A Writer's Guide to Understanding and Utilizing the Power of Dreams" from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$18 for CWC members, \$30 for non-members. Reservations necessary. Contact Fred Norman, fnorman300@aol.com for more information or visit www.tri-valleywriters.com.

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.

Homebuyer Seminar

The Bay Area HomeBuyer Agency is providing a free public homebuyer seminar from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at Alameda High School, 2200 Central Ave., Alameda. Call (888) 572-1222, ext. 110 or visit www.myhomegateway.com for more information or to make reservations.

Japanese Maple Pruning Classes

Western Garden Nursery is offering free Japanese Maple pruning workshops 10 a.m., Jan. 27 and 1 p.m., Jan. 28. Classes are held at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760.

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(continued on page 19)

Loss and Healing Cycle Workshop

Women who have or have had cancer are invited to attend Loss and Healing Cycle, a free workshop beginning 7 p.m. Jan. 30. The workshop meets every Tuesday through Mar. 13 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. The workshop is non-denominational and asks for a commitment to attend all sessions. Call Mary Merucci, 846-8436 or Helen Wirtenson, 462-3798 to sign up or to receive more information.

Organizing Your Office

Las Positas College is hosting "Organizing Your Office: Home, Work and Small Business," a one-day workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 3 at Las Positas Community College, 3301 Collier Canyon Road., Livermore. Cost is \$79 plus \$20 class text. Visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed to register. Call (510) 528-4950 or e-mail Eve@Organizer-Extraordinaire.com for more information.

Spring Legal and Legislative Conference

The Northern California Human Resources Association is hosting its 2007 Spring Legal and Legislative Conference from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is \$225 for NCHRA members, \$295 for non-members. Call (415) 291-1992 or e-mail nchra@nchra.org to register. Visit www.nchra.org for more information.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band will perform from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at The Pleasanton Hotel. Visit www.pleasantonhotel.com for more information.

On Stage

Fourth Street Storytellers

The Fourth Street Storytellers, a group comprising of actors and writers, pays tribute to Cask and Mask with a performance of "A Unique Unusual Evening in Our Town" 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Bothwell Art Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. The show will introduce the community to the center as a performance space for intimate productions. Call 456-3100 for more information.

Long Day's Journey Into Night

The San Jose Repertory Theatre will perform Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical play, "Long Day's Journey Into Night," Jan. 27 through Feb. 25 at the San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. For a complete list of times and ticket prices, visit www.sjrep.com.

Once Upon A Mattress

The Pleasanton Playhouse presents the musical "Once Upon A Mattress" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays through Jan. 28 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors age 60 and older, and \$20 for juniors 18 and younger. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasantonplayhouse.com for more information.

Recreation

Enrichment Classes

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

Scholarships

Cash for College Workshops

Bay Area Cash for College workshops are being held until March 2 in various locations across the Bay Area. Workshops aid families in successfully completing the financial aid process for college. Visit www.calgrants.org for a complete list of workshop locations. Call Jessica Johnston, (213) 996-3784 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,

(continued on page 20)



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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

EXISTING HOME SALES

One indicator of the real estate market's health is the monthly report of existing home sales published by the National Association of Realtors®. It is important, though, to be aware of precisely what this report can and cannot tell us.

What we get—what makes its way into the headlines in the newspaper's financial section—is a couple of percentages, telling us that more or fewer homes sold in the prior month than in the month before that and more or fewer sold than in the same month a year before. The difference is expressed as a percentage, as in, "Sales increased 2.1% last month on a month-over-month basis."

The first thing we need to recognize is that we're talking here about COMPLETED sales, and the purchase contracts for closed sales are generally signed one to three months before the sales actually close. This is, therefore, rather old news. It tells us about market conditions roughly ninety days before the closed sales are reported—given that the report involves sales completed in the prior month.

The second thing to notice is that these are NATIONAL figures, and they may only have tangential relevance to what's actually happening in our local market. For better and more accurate views of our local market, consult your own real estate advisor. And for a better idea of where the market is going, as opposed to where it's been, check the weekly Mortgage Bankers Association Mortgage Applications Survey and the National Association of Realtors' Pending Home Sales Index, which we'll discuss at another time. For help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Calendar

\$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

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

12 Steps Through Psalm 23

This 12 Step group discusses how Psalm 23 can help with codependency, addiction and other problem behaviors. This on-going women's group meets Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at R-Quest, 40 California Ave., Ste. B. Visit www.rquest.org or call 426-0501, ext. 21 for more information.

Eckankar Worship Service

Eckankar worship services are held 11 a.m. the third Sunday monthly at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Call 994-0118 for more information.

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.

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

Pet of the Week

Chubby puppy

Tyra, a.k.a. Miss Piggy, looks to have a tear in her eye after being placed on a diet plan at the Tri-Valley SPCA. Tyra loves to eat and at 70 pounds she's looking a little "square" these days. Tyra's resolution to lose weight shouldn't be too difficult because she is playful, outgoing and loves to take walks. Tyra is a 3-and-a-half-year-old spayed female Pit Bull mix. She is friendly and has previously lived in foster care with another dog. Tyra's dog trainers at the SPCA say she is a good student in her obedience classes.

Tyra's adoption application will require a home check to ensure she finds just the right home. For more information about Tyra, visit the Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call, 479-9670 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.



Catherine Rush

will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Marathon/Half-Marathon Training Program

East Bay FIT will hold its first meeting 8 a.m. Jan. 27 at the Iron Horse Trail on the corner of Railroad and Prospect avenues, Danville. The club is part of the larger national program called USA FIT, which was developed to prepare people of all fitness levels to run or walk a marathon or half marathon using a 6-month training plan. East Bay FIT's target marathon is scheduled for July 29. Call (866) 333-9828 or visit www.eastbayfit.net for more information.

Sea Devils

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

TV30

Community News

Community News focusing on the Tri-Valley airs live at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and repeat broad-

casts at 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on channel 30.

Growing Old in a New Age

Award-winning documentary "Growing Old in a New Age" explores what it's like to grow older in today's world. The show airs on channel 30 at 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Tri-Valley Sports Final

This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. It airs at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday on channel 30.

Volunteering

Bookleggers Volunteer Training Session

Pleasanton Bookleggers, a literacy program organized by the Pleasanton Public Library, is holding a volunteer training session 9:30 a.m. Feb. 8 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Volunteers present book programs to children in the schools. Call Booklegger Director Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information.

Community Service for Teens

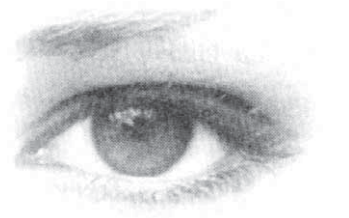
Open Heart Kitchen's Ridgeview Commons Senior Meal Program needs 10 to 12 teens (at least 16 years of age) from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Job includes serving seniors from the buffet line, helping seniors get to their tables, bussing tables, cleaning, etc. Adults also welcome to apply.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

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mane.org.

Hats Off America Needs Volunteers

Hats Off America, a nonprofit organization that raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, is in need of volunteers to help at fundraising events held throughout the year. Events include a Casino Night in April; Muscle Car, Hot Rod & Art Fair in May; and the Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk in February, September and November. Call Sparky George, 855-1950 for more information.

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.

Saturday Food Sorting

The Alameda County Community Food Bank needs volunteers to screen, sort, box and shelve donated food from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 6 and 10, Feb. 3 and 24 and March 10 and 24. Call (510) 635-3663, ext. 308 to sign up.

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.

The Princess Project

The Princess Project, a Bay Area nonprofit that provides prom gowns and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them, is looking for volunteers. The nonprofit organization is run entirely by volunteers and aims to have 300 volunteers this year. Visit www.princessproject.org for details.

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. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Call Melissa, 449-5845, ext. 111 or e-mail melissa@trivalleyhaven.org.

TVAR Volunteer Orientation

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue offers volunteer orientations on the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of every month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. For more information, contact Cathy Bergren at calicocathy@yahoo.com or 426-2472.

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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The Pleasanton Weekly is looking for a Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Summary of the Position

We are looking for someone with a pleasant disposition to join our fabulous team. If you are interested and have proven clerical skills, a strong command of the English language, proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry experience, contact us to learn more about the position.

Job Duties

The Receptionist/Administrative Assistant is the face and voice of the paper serving as the initial contact with our customers both in person and over the phone; assists in referring customers for assistance and scheduling appointments as needed; and ensures that all supplies and equipment for the office are available and in working order.

Job Requirements:

- Previous clerical experience including interaction with customers.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry.
- Pleasant disposition
- Strong command of the English language.
- Ability to work calmly under deadlines and changing priorities.
- Ability to multi-task completing assignments simultaneously.
- High energy with a desire to do a great job as part of a team.
- Understanding and love of the product – the Pleasanton Weekly.

Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com by Jan. 15. No calls. EOE.



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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: scorey@pleasantonweekly.com




Information Meetings

Jan. 17 - Wed.
Feb. 15 - Thu.
Mar. 21 - Wed.
4:45PM; RSVP


Feb. 1 - Thu.
[Kindergarten only, 925-463-2885]

Jo Anne Camara
Director
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jcamara@headsup.org

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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

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.

Chinese Szechuan



Szechuan Mandarin
—No MSG—

LUNCH SPECIALS
DINE IN
FOOD TO GO

Banquet Room
Available

Closed Mondays

We also serve 'Brown Rice'

3059 Hopyard Road #G
Hopyard Village @ Valley
Pleasanton

(925)846-5251

"Open Since 1987"

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.

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

(continued on page 23)



Savory Delights of Northern China

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

DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30
Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00
Closed Sunday

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425 MAIN STREET
PLEASANTON, CA 94566
(925) 462-2800
OpenTable.com for reservations

Dining Out

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

Pastas Trattoria

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

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

Little Caesars

2889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 417-8880. Feeling hungry on a low budget? Original round large Pepperoni Pizza only \$5 every day, eight pieces of our famous crazy bread w/sauce

(continued on page 24)

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Capellini with Prawns & Scallops - Swordfish with Red Bell Pepper & Caper Salsa - New Zealand Lamb Chops
Poached Salmon with Sauteed Spinach and Herb Risotto

405 MAIN STREET

PLEASANTON, CA 94566

(925) 417-2222

OpenTable.com for reservations

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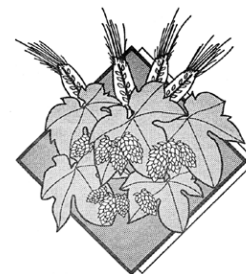
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Vinny's 2 Go!
4001-5 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 463-0280. Vinny's 2 Go! is the Rose Pavilion's newest authentic Italian pizzeria. Lunchtime favorites include New York pizza slices, meatball sandwiches and the popular Mona Lisa panini. Savory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

Sandwiches/Deli

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

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

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- Full Bar - Featuring Premium Cocktails
- Weekend Champagne Brunch
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- Kid's eat free Mon. & Tue.

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Milk-fed veal scaloppini rolls stuffed with mozzarella cheese, ground beef, and fresh herbs in a delicious white sauce. Served with Israeli Couscous and vegetables in a creamy artichoke sauce.

Deviled Pork
Spaghetti with pork, hot chili peppers, garlic, sundried tomatoes, anchovies, fresh herbs and kalamata olives.

Chicken Breast Casserole
Sautéed breast of chicken with onions, mushrooms and bell peppers in a creamy basil sauce with saffron risotto.



FONTINA
Ristorante



Pleasanton Weekly's
BEST OF PLEASANTON
2006

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349 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton • www.fontinas.com

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HOURS: Mon - Thurs 11am-2:30pm & 4:30-9:30pm
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