

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

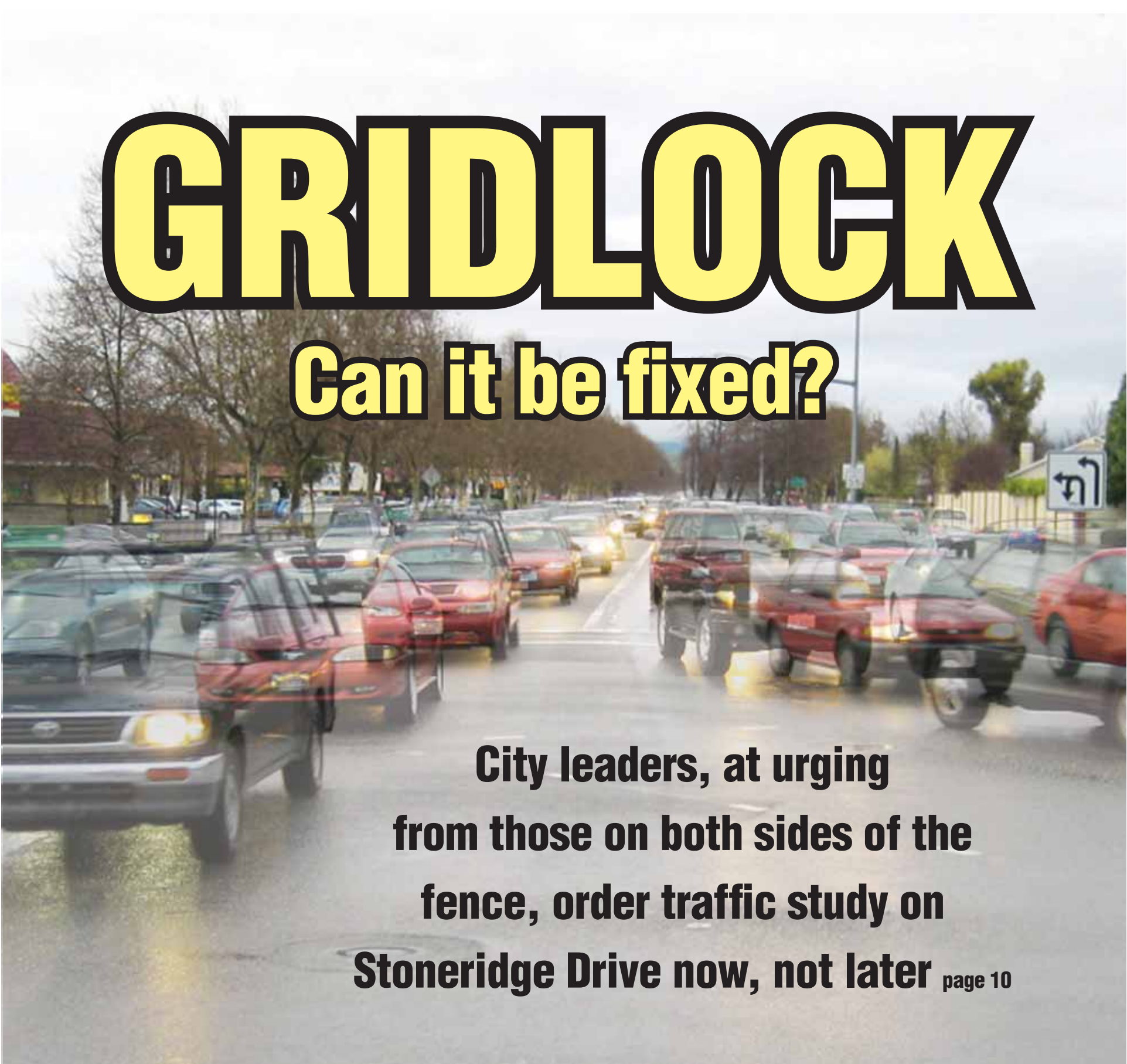
Vol. VIII, Number 4 • February 16, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

GRIDLOCK

Can it be fixed?



**City leaders, at urging
from those on both sides of the
fence, order traffic study on
Stoneridge Drive now, not later** page 10

**INSIDE
this week**

Hot button issues

Council discusses war debate,
Home Depot at meeting
page 5

Hart wins big

Girls cheer, basketball teams
have a winning weekend
page 17

Dumplings aplenty

Learn a delicious Chinese
New Year custom
Section 2

Out with the new?

Existing-home sales soar
over newer construction
page 27

Introducing New Workshops for Community leaders!

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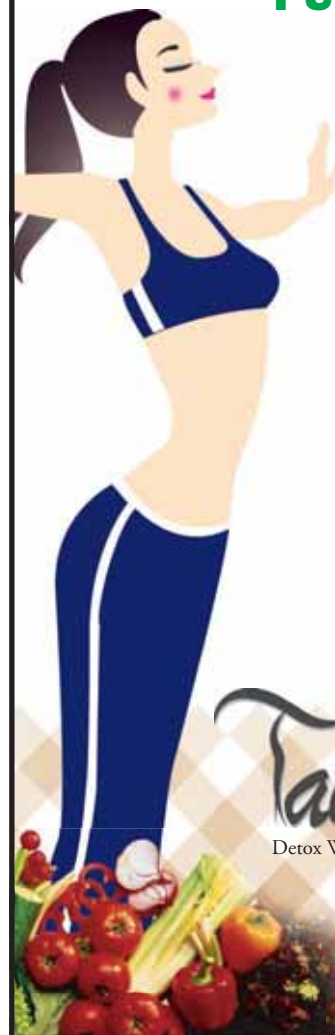
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Tough days ahead for Amador's civic champs

If you've ever wondered how America's 218-year-old Constitution affects freedom of the press or the rights of those accused of crimes today, come listen to the 30 seniors who make up this year's "We the People" competitive civics team at Amador Valley High School. This group, taught and coached by veteran social studies teacher Brian Ladd, who is Alameda County's 2006-07 Teacher of the Year, just won first place in the statewide "We the People" competition in Sacramento. They are now back home and gearing up for the national competition scheduled for April 28-30 in Washington, D.C.

It's a daunting task and I know from experience. My son Chris was in the Amador group that won the state title and went on to win in the nationals in 1995 when the class was taught by retired teacher Skip Mohatt, with assistance from Ladd. This year's team already has spent over 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation leading to Sacramento, and will spend at least that much time over the next 10 weeks before they face-off against the top schools from the other 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Last year, Ladd's team finished second, losing out in the final round of questions to a team from New Jersey. Ladd learned from that experience just how important outside experts are in working with the student team, and he's lined up a number of top local lawyers, judges and others to rehearse the presentations with the team, evaluate their performance and make suggestions. Sometimes, as I've heard in sitting through these rehearsals, their criticism can sting, but it leads to better and more rapid-fire responses the next time.

"We the People" is a competitive civics experience sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, a division of the U.S. Department of Education. Students' knowledge of the Constitution, the founding of our country and the evolution of

the American government is tested in simulated congressional hearings that foster critical thinking and creativity. We don't hear much in the daily reports on the war in Iraq about what our founding fathers might think about this war or the reasons for starting it, but Ladd's team will debate the answers themselves so that they'll have an answer if asked. Other questions they expect to field with regard to the application of the Constitution deal with electronic eavesdropping, the rights of journalists to withhold the names of their sources, the constitutionality of the Patriot Act, and much more. To be part of the "We the People" team requires extraordinary academic skills and personal commitment. I remember the 1995 team—or parts of it—meeting in my home's family room, going through their loud oratory debates night after night until 1 or 2 in the morning, with most heading back to school for 7 a.m. band practice or special Advanced Placement classes the next day.

Since Ladd's competition civics class only meets in the fall semester, by winning the state championship these seniors are now committed to practicing after school and on most Saturdays, including during spring break in April. Besides the lawyers and judges, Ladd will also have help from City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who teaches the "We the People" program at Irvington High in Fremont, which finished fifth in the Sacramento competition. Other teachers from around the state have called Ladd with offers to help, saying that although their teams lost, they want to make sure California wins. Besides improving their skills for the verbal exchange they'll face in Washington, the seniors will also get a taste of marketing their effort. The team needs at least \$40,000 in airfare, hotel and meal costs and for other fees. I'm sending in \$100; I hope you will, too. Send Brian Ladd an email at bladd@pleasanton.k12.ca.us for more information on how you can help. ■

About the Cover

It may be the most controversial topic around Pleasanton these days. Should the city extend Stoneridge Drive to connect with Livermore or leave it the way it is, ending in a barricade? While no decision has been made, the city has ordered a traffic study on a Stoneridge extension. Cover by Ben Ho.

Vol. VI, Number 4

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2007 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Streetwise

Q: Which film do you think should win the Academy Award for Best Picture?

Asked Downtown



Marlene Edeen
Financial Analyst

"Little Miss Sunshine" should win because, although it was bizarre, it was a great show. The whole theater was laughing five minutes into the movie. I loved how the family, dysfunctional as it was, rallied around the little daughter in the end. It was definitely a "feel good" kind of movie.

Suzanne Grissom

Retired

I am not a real moviegoer. The last film I saw was "Dreamgirls." What an outstanding movie! It should have been nominated for Best Picture. It is up for several other Oscars. I hope it wins!



Haylie Digiusto

Events Director at Wente Vineyards

Out of the choices listed, I'd say "Little Miss Sunshine." I think it was fun to see this nutty, dysfunctional family actually functioning. It made us all feel better about our own crazy lives.



Richard Herz

Retired Lawyer

I would pick "The Queen" above all others. The story was fantastic and very well acted. It had a sympathetic note toward the Queen herself. We saw into her private world and feelings. It was very touching.



Mike Smead

Self-Employed

I can only comment based on the few I saw. "Letters From Iwo Jima," although difficult with the subtitles, was on the artsy side. It was beautifully filmed and historically very interesting.



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



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Newsfront

News Digest

Citizen's academy enrollment continues

Enrollment is continuing for the spring session of the Pleasanton Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy. This is the 15th program since the 2000 inception and runs Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 8 through June 14. The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the public, explain law enforcement procedures and discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. Applications are available at the department or by calling Sgt. Mike Tryphonas at 931-5169.

Character workshops sponsored by Adult Ed

Amador Valley Adult and Community Education and the Pleasanton Community of Character Committee announce free workshops for business and community leaders. The workshops, "It Takes Everybody to Build a Community of Character," will be offered 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 26 or April 23 at the Amador Valley High School library. The workshops are based on the community-agreed character traits of responsibility, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, respect and integrity. A highlight of the workshop is sharing successes. A panel including Pleasanton City Council member Jerry Thorne, ACCUSPLIT President Ron Sutton, Pleasanton Middle School Vice Principal Jon Vranesh and Tri-Valley YMCA Executive Director Kelly Dulka will be participating in the workshop to share their character experiences.

Tri-Valley Retired Educators scholarship

Tri-Valley Retired Educators are offering four scholarships worth \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors and Las Positas College and California State University East Bay students who are residents of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and Sunol and are planning a career in education. Applications for the scholarships are available at local high schools, LPC and CSUEB. The deadline to submit an application is March 2. Contact Olive Egan Greene at 443-6097 or greegns@pacbell.net for more information.

Corrections

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

Council meets Tuesday on Home Depot, Iraq war forum

Hot-button issues likely to fill Civic Center chamber

by Jeb Bing

The City Council will consider two thorny proposals Tuesday as it tries to wrap up long-standing plans for a new Home Depot at Bernal and Stanley and a public forum on the war in Iraq.

The meeting, with a discussion of council priorities to follow, is expected to draw several hundred to the council chamber.

First on the agenda will be a bid by Regency Centers, a commercial center development firm that wants to build a new Home Depot, Longs Drugs and other smaller retail stores, including a Starbucks coffee shop, on a 14.7-acre site at the

southeast corner of the intersection, across from McDonald's.

The Planning Commission approved the development plan in a 4-1 vote in December, with Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox casting the only negative vote. She said large retail stores such as Home Depot should be built closer to freeways. She also expressed concern that Home Depot might close its Johnson Drive store on the west edge of Pleasanton once the new one is opened.

But Don MacKenzie and Pete Knoedler of Regency Centers and Home Depot representatives said the home improvement center needs a second store in Pleasanton to serve a growing number of customers who live on the east and south sides of the city. The new store also would serve customers from Livermore, who otherwise

would travel across city streets to reach the Johnson Drive store.

Home Depot also said it wants to start construction on the store this spring so that it is open and available to customers by late summer. Its key competitor, Lowe's, has been given approval by Dublin to build a store near Tassajara Road just across Interstate 580 from Pleasanton.

Knoedler said his development firm also has an agreement from Longs to build a drug store at the Stanley Boulevard side of the property, which would also include a drive-through pharmacy. Other retail stores would be built adjacent to Home Depot and a stand-alone Starbucks is planned for the corner of the property, close to the Bernal-Stanley intersection.

(continued on page 8)



Amador teacher and team coach Mairi Wohlgemuth and team member Elizabeth Smutz jump for joy as judges announce that Amador won the California state championship in the "We the People" competition.

Amador tops in state's "We the People" competition

Team faces intense preparation for national contest April 28

Amador Valley High School's Competition Civics team has won the California state "We the People" championship, the second year in a row the Pleasanton school has topped all other high school competitors.

The team is now gearing up for the national competition, scheduled for April 28-30 in Washington, D.C. The top high school "We the People" teams from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are expected to take part in the three-day contest.

The annual "We the People: The citizen and the Constitution" is considered one of the country's most prestigious academic competitions for high schools. It focuses on the nation's Constitution with panels of judges fielding questions and listening to presentations from students on how current issues relate to the 218-year-old document.

With its state victory, Amador will again go to the nation's capital, where Amador has become one of the better known high schools on Capitol Hill. Amador finished second in the national contest last year and competed in the finals in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004. It won the national title in 1995.

"I'm really proud of this year's team,"

said Brian Ladd, the school's social studies teacher and a 16-year veteran on the teaching staff. "The students received some of the best comments and compliments I have ever heard and I've been involved in the program since 1992."

Two Kern County high schools placed in the top three statewide. Arvin High was second in the state. A team from Centennial High School was third. Irvington High School in Fremont, taught by career teacher Cheryl Cook-Kallio, finished fifth. Cook-Kallio serves on the Pleasanton City Council. Foothill High School's team, taught by teacher Cindy Juarez, made it to the state finals, but was not among the top five winners.

Ladd praised seven teachers who helped coach his team and critique its practice presentations. They are Mairi Wohlgemuth, Heidi Stepp, Sebastian Bull, Ellen Gray, Joan Thomas, Arick Little and Lary Aladeen.

Community volunteers who helped included Jim McKeenan, Brian Swift, Keldon Clegg and Alp Bayramoglu.

Ladd said the same group has offered to

(continued on page 9)

Crowds brave rainstorm to greet Rep. Jerry McNerney

Pleasanton congressman greets 200 as he opens local 11th District office

More than 200 well-wishers braved a driving rainstorm last Saturday to join Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) at an "open house," designed to celebrate the official opening of the 11th Congressional District office at 5776 Stoneridge Mal Drive, across from the Stoneridge Shopping Center. The afternoon celebration was the second that day, with McNerney, his wife Mary and Andy Stone, McNerney's communications direc-

(continued on page 8)



New school board trustee Grant takes oath

Kaiser Permanente executive Chris Grant takes the oath of office as a new Pleasanton school board member from Superior Court Judge Steven Pulido at the start of the school board meeting Tuesday night. Grant, who is vice president of corporate development and investments for Kaiser, was chosen from among seven applicants for an appointment to the board by the other members. He succeeds Pulido, last year's school board president, who resigned to accept an appointment to the Superior Court by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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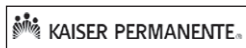
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The free 90-minute seminar will be held on two dates in two locations to accommodate most schedules:

Thursday, Feb. 22

5:30 to 7 p.m.

Danville Weekly office,
315 Diablo Road, Ste. 100, Danville

Saturday, March 3

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Pleasanton Weekly office,
5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton

Up to two representatives from the non-profit can attend. Register by calling 600-0840 and giving the representative’s name, daytime phone number, and which location is preferred. Seating is limited.

26 come forward to appeal Trinity Lutheran church approval

Appeal will be heard by City Council sometime next month

by Janet Pelletier

A day before the deadline passed to file an appeal for the Trinity Lutheran Church project, 26 residents who live in the surrounding neighborhood have put forward their request to do so.

Trinity, located at 1225 Hopyard Road near Del Valle Parkway, has plans to construct: an 8,110-square-foot ministry building that will replace a temporary structure that houses Sonshine Preschool, a 3,108-square-foot youth center, extra parking to accommodate 122 spaces and add landscaping improvements. The project was approved at the Jan. 24 Planning Commission meeting.

Heather Brillhart, a resident of Golden Road, which borders the church property, filed the appeal Feb. 7, listing 25 of her neighbors as fellow appellants.

They include: Kathleen and Ken Bedford, Barbara and Marvin Lee, Mork and Elizabeth Giovanetti, Becky and Rick Altman, Kris Moxley, Anders Gjekde, Kenneth Cook, Deb Updegraff, Michael and Angela Serrano, Karey Gunther,

Deb and Bob Cilk, Pat Merrigan, Mary Jane Medieros, Tracy and Robert Hare, Thomas Milus, Rick Lydon and Jackie and Fred Martin. They represent 16 residences on Golden Road, Harvest Road and Greentree Court—all neighboring the church.

In the appeal, residents say the church’s plans will increase traffic in the region and decrease safety for children and pedestrians.

“The church operation has not been compatible with the surrounding neighborhood and certainly a 100-car parking lot would not compliment the neighborhood,” the document states.

It also asserts that the church hasn’t been a good neighbor to the community and the traffic pattern and timing for church activities “are such that peak use periods occur on weekends, weekdays, mornings, mid-day and evenings, thereby maximizing adverse effects on local traffic.”

When it comes to safety, residents said their neighborhood, which contains three levels of schools and the swim complex, is in the line of danger. Traffic focused on Golden Road poses a risk to the many children who walk to school and the swim center, the appeal states.

“To mitigate the issue the church should use the feeder/collector

street of Del Valle [Parkway] for its access and egress.”

In addition, residents also questioned whether the newest version of the church’s master plan, which outlines what construction would be performed, was even approved by the city back in 1999. Planners at the meeting said they didn’t have a record of that plan being approved.

“This plan was never made public to the neighborhood until 2006,” the appeal states.

With the filing, the project will now be heard before the City Council sometime next month, according to City Manager Nelson Fialho.

Council members will then decide to either accept or decline the church’s plans.

Officials with Trinity said they plan to begin construction in October. The project is the last of three Pleasanton church’s bids to build new facilities, following recent approvals for Pleasanton Presbyterian and St. Elizabeth Seton churches.

The construction is estimated to cost \$2.3 million but could cost more as construction prices continue to escalate.

A total of \$1.3 million has been raised by the church so far.

(continued on page 7)

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Jed Bitt

No worries of rain with wine

Nickie Hoppe, Pleasanton Downtown Association events coordinator, works with volunteers to distribute wine glasses. A stormy, wet weather forecast didn't manage to deter people from attending the "Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting" wine stroll downtown last Friday. A total of 31 stores opened their businesses for the popular event which featured wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, chocolates and other tasty treats.

Donate prom dresses for a good cause

Prom season will soon be here and as the cost of this perennial event continues to increase each year, it's harder for teens from low-income families to incur the cost. That's why The Princess Project formed. The nonprofit, volunteer organization provides high school girls with free, gently used or new prom dresses and accessories. All the dresses and accessories are donated and then given out during two dress giveaway events, this year on Mar. 17 and Mar. 24.

Locally, the ABWA Express to Success Network and Pure Girls are teaming up to collect donated dresses now through Feb. 23. Dresses can be dropped off at Pure Girls, 660 Main

St., during normal store hours.

New or nearly new prom dresses or party gowns appropriate for high school girls, dry cleaned, on hangers and in good condition will be accepted. Related accessories such as jewelry or hand bags are also welcome, but organizers request no donations of shoes or makeup.

This is the fourth year Pleasanton organizations have collected for The Princess Project, donating more than 600 dresses to date.

Call Pure Girls, 485-4380 for more information about the local collection drive and visit www.princessproject.org for more information about the organization.

—Rebecca Guyon

Trinity

(continued from page 6)

Those affiliated with the church have spoken highly of the project and say they've made numerous attempts to reach out to the neighborhood over several months.

"Trinity has been a good neighbor for 38 years," David Faustina, who is a youth leader at the church, said at the Planning Commission meeting. "We have listened to people's concerns."

Faustina said the youths he works with are in need of a new facility.

"The youth want a space of their own," he said.

Jennifer Berrigan said the church needs the new facilities if it wants to retain its staff and teachers, which are very important to the ministry.

"It would be real nice if we could get a real building," she said. "Everybody's been really nice calling it a temporary structure—it's a trailer.

"If it was in tornado alley, it wouldn't be here anymore," she deadpanned. ■

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Council

(continued from page 5)

The developers agreed to pay the cost of adding turning lanes and new traffic lights as part of the development.

A neighborhood organization called "Stop Pleasanton Gridlock" is urging its members to attend Tuesday's meeting to oppose the Home Depot project.

"This project will add to Valley Avenue about 100 more cars per hour on weekdays and about 166 cars per hour on quiet weekends," the group stated in a flier being

distributed to homes in the Valley-Santa Rita neighborhoods. "This doesn't include the semi-trucks that will speed down Valley at all hours with deliveries. To knowingly add this kind of traffic to the most dangerous intersection in Pleasanton (Valley and Santa Rita) is a bad idea."

On the Iraq war front, City Manager Nelson Fialho said he will suggest several formats for conducting a public forum on the war and other issues, a public discussion long sought by Councilman Matt Sullivan and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. Although Council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio agreed to look at the

proposal, they insisted that their favorable votes only allowed Fialho to suggest formats that could accommodate a public discussion, but said they would oppose the City Council from conducting the forum itself.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern has consistently opposed the idea, arguing that it could split the community among those who support the war and those who are against it without having any impact on the issue itself, which she believes should be handled by federal legislators.

Her comments were made in January after 14 speakers made their way to the lectern at the start of the council's meeting with all but one opposed to a proposal to hold a public meeting on the war.

"We're not sure how this will be done, but many in the community have asked us to address the war in Iraq and that's what we intend to do," said Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. "We might have historians from local colleges or someone from the local media serve as the moderator. We'll find out on Tuesday."

The nearly two hours of speaker comments followed an opening statement by Councilman Matt Sullivan that included a minute of silence to honor of those killed in Iraq. Previously, activist Fred Norman, who has long called for the council to "do something" about the war, has used one minute of his allotted five minutes of speaking time at the start of council meetings to silently remember those killed in

the war since the previous council meeting.

"Would we honor a Pleasanton police officer who was killed in the line of duty in service of our city?" he asked. "Of course we would. Why can't we apply this to every man and woman who dies in Iraq?"

Many of those who spoke were parents or spouses of soldiers now in Iraq, or recently returned from there.

Karen Wind read an emotional letter from Lee Bergeson, a Pleasanton resident and mother of four who couldn't attend the meeting because one of her children was sick. Bergeson's husband Steve, a Marine, served in Iraq in 2003 and expects to be redeployed there in August.

"My husband and I want you to know that it is crucial to have the support of the American people for us to win the war on terror," Bergeson wrote. "We are willing to make the sacrifice. Can we count on your support?"

Bergeson criticized the "constant bashing of our president," which she described as an assault on our military effort that is intended to cause us defeat.

Businessman Dan Faustina, who finished third in his bid for a City Council seat last November, losing to Councilman Jerry Thorne and newly-elected Cheryl Cook-Kallio, said the council has enough on its plate without delving into national and international issues, such as the war in Iraq.

"As a former candidate, I can say

that we never once discussed our views on the war," he said. "The council does not have the expertise to discuss this issue nor should the taxpayers have to pay for our city staff to research this issue. You have enough to do here without adding this to your plate."

Speakers also warned that a council-sponsored discussion of the war could "tear the community apart," requiring members of the council and others in the city to take a partisan stand on this controversial issue.

"Consider the ramifications of going down this road," Faustina said. "How many people will it affect? How divided will our community become?"

Army veteran Doug Miller said the council's plan to debate the war would play into the enemy's hand. While fighting in Vietnam, he recalled anti-war rally posters from San Francisco State University that the North Vietnamese placed on trees in the jungle.

They thought it would be effective," Miller said. "Since the end of the Vietnam war, the Vietnamese have written extensively about how important America's anti-war movement was in maintaining the morale of their troops. They just kept hanging on until we left."

He criticized both Hosterman for signing an anti-war poster last year and Councilman Sullivan for suggesting the public forum on the war would be typical of New England

(continued on page 9)

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McNerney

(continued from page 5)

tor in Washington, D.C., also opening another District field office in Stockton earlier.

"It's great to be here in Pleasanton and to see this wonderful group of supporters coming here to celebrate our victory," McNerney said. "This District office is here for all constituents in the 11th District."

A steady parade of supporters, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, filled the office, some meeting McNerney for the first time and others seizing the opportunity to congratulate him on his election last November. McNerney, who had never held public office, defeated

seven-term Congressman Richard Pombo in a district where Republican voters outnumber Democrats 46 percent to 39 percent.

"Effectively serving residents of our district is my highest priority," said McNerney, who already is working with staff and supporters to plan his strategy for the November 2008 election. "Now that our two district offices are open for business, I enjoyed showing them off and meeting with so many in our community."

Since his election, McNerney, 55, who has a PhD in mathematics and is considered the alternative fuels expert in Congress, has been given prime committee assignments by fellow Bay Area Congresswoman and Speaker of the Houses Nancy Pelosi. These

include the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Science and Technology, the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee and the Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

Besides his family and Stone, McNerney was joined at the Pleasanton office dedication by his 11th District Chief of Staff Erich Pfuehler, Office Manager Adrienne Brown and others on the Pleasanton office staff.

McNerney urged anyone in the 11th District to write him, read and respond to his new blog, or call or visit his district office in Pleasanton to discuss their concerns. His blog can be accessed at www.jerrymcnerney.org.

—Jeb Bing

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Sharing the Weekly through history

Who knew Roman soldiers not only still exist, but they also enjoy local news? Apparently the Argiros family did. Here Spiro, Stephanie, James, and Angela Argiros share their Weekly in front of the Coliseum in Rome.

Council

(continued from page 8)

town meetings.

"You infer that a discussion of the war is a free speech issue, but it's not," Miller told Sullivan. "No one is being marched off to jail for talking about the war. Instead, it's an issue of judgment, and very poor

judgment in the midst of a war."

Miller said that if the council proceeds with its plan to hold a public forum on the war, he won't attend and urged other in the community to do the same.

The Council meeting will start at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Civic Center at 200 Old Bernal Ave. The meeting also will be broadcast live on Channel 29, a TV30 community television station. ■

We the People

(continued from page 5)

help prepare the "We the People" team for Washington, along with Cook-Kallio and other California high school teachers whose teams didn't win but want California to get the trophy. Last year, Amador lost out to a team from New Jersey.

"As the eighth team from Amador to qualify for the national competition, we are proud to represent our school, our community and our state in this distinguished event" Ladd said.

"Our team of 30 seniors has spent over 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation," Ladd added. "During this time, we as a diverse group of students have come together as one team, supporting each other in the most difficult and rigorous experience of our lives. We have learned that each member is an integral part of the team as a whole, and have come to value the unique perspective of each individual."

Members of the 2006-07 team are David Anderson, Adam Bacal, Olga Beltsar, Mika Bhatia, Yvonne Chi, Tyler Creighton, Aaron Diggins, Robert Doxey, Alexene Farol, Wesley Garwood, Alex Hall, Emma Holmquist, Lauren Ivey, Garima Kalra, Catherine Kennedy, Taylor

Lane, Christopher Loncarich, Devin Maguire, Angelo Marcelino, Elena Moreno, Bianca Ponce de Leon, Prachi Priyam, Carl Schlachte, Carena Schmidt, Elizabeth Smutz, Darylen Terry, Linda Wan, Frederick Young, Allen Yu and Alex Zhu.

"We are so excited to go to Washington to compete against 1,500 of the brightest students from around the United States," he said. "Since only one team may represent each state, the competition will be incredibly tough."

After a 10-day break, Ladd and his team will reassemble for what he called "the tough work ahead." Since the "We the People" competition civics class meets only for the fall semester, teammates must now practice after school and on weekends, as well as during the school's spring break in April.

The group also must raise about \$40,000 in public contributions to help pay for the trip to Washington, as well as for meals and hotel expenses while there.

Contributions can be made to Amador Valley High School (AVHS) Competition Civics, Tax ID #: 94-3062524, and mailed or dropped off at the high school, which is located at 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For more information, questions can be addressed to Brian Ladd via email bladd@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or phone (925) 461-7520, ext. 40.

—Jeb Bing

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GRIDLOCK

Can it be fixed?

City leaders, at urging from those on both sides of the fence, order traffic study on Stoneridge Drive now, not later

by Janet Pelletier

It may be the most controversial topic around Pleasanton these days. Should the city extend Stoneridge Drive to connect with Livermore or leave it the way it is, ending in a barricade?

While the City Council has already expressed its views on the matter, most being against the extension, others have said they will wait to decide until a modeling study that would forecast how the road extension would affect traffic is completed.

And in late January, the City Council ordered just that.

The city has said it always intended to model a Stoneridge Drive extension to Livermore, it was just a question of when, said City Manager Nelson Fialho.

In the midst of wrapping up an update on its General Plan, which hasn't been updated since 1996, the city said the process has taken much longer than anticipated and an expected completion date last December has now been pushed back to the end of this year.

The issue of whether to extend the east to west roadway is far from being a new concept. The extension actually dates back to the 1960s when officials were thinking of ways to accommodate traffic when ValleyCare Health System made plans to relocate in Pleasanton. In the city's 1996 General Plan, Stoneridge Drive was included as a long-term traffic solution. Also included in the General Plan was a proposal to build a freeway interchange at West Las Positas Boulevard to relieve some traffic on city streets but it was killed after the city determined it too expensive of a venture. It was also opposed by many homeowners living near the site whose driveways face the street. The abandoning of the interchange left Stoneridge as the other traffic congestion solution.

The city conducted some preliminary traffic modeling without including a Stoneridge extension and shared results with the Planning Commission and City Council at a joint-body workshop Jan. 30 that was open to the public.

Data taken in the spring of 2006 show two intersections during the morning peak hours and seven intersections during the evening peak hours that are either an "E" or "F" failing grade when it comes to traffic congestion. The city's standard for level of service at intersections is a "D" rating or better. That excludes five intersections located downtown, according to principal planner Janice Stern. The downtown core operates at E and F ratings which is acceptable because in keeping the character along the Main Street region, the streets would need to remain pedestrian-friendly, and thus, not have wider streets or additional lanes, Stern said.

When asked by city staff to decide whether the city wants to re-run the model to include Stoneridge Drive, to incorporate proposed transit-oriented development (TOD) and dispersed growth land use options, the City Council, with the Planning Commission's approval, said they would like to do all of the above.

The workshop is the 20th the city has held between the commission and council since January 2004 over traffic circulation and land use issues as part of the update of the General Plan. The "working draft" circulation system consists of the existing roadway network and various possible future improvements.

As Stoneridge Drive was brought to the forefront after the West Las Positas interchange idea fizzled, a core group of those opposed to the extension made their feelings known to the city. Many of the residents who live along Stoneridge in newer homes have said it was never disclosed to them when they bought their homes that the currently quiet residential street could turn into a major thoroughfare. They worried that any alternative east to west route to Livermore would encourage those who often sit in a sea of red taillights along 580 during the morning and evening commutes would encourage cut-through traffic. City Councilmembers, except for newcomer Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who hasn't yet taken a stance on the issue, also expressed their opposition to the extension out of the same concern.

But this past fall, a new group emerged. Members of a newly-formed citizens group called Stop Pleasanton Gridlock, many who live near the most congestion-ridden intersection in Pleasanton, Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road, began countering the negative sentiments toward a Stoneridge Drive extension. They said having the road extension would improve the overall traffic circulation of the city, including at Santa Rita and Valley, where it is needed the most.

The divide has some city leaders concerned. "I think our community has become very polarized on Stoneridge Drive," said Councilman Jerry Thorne. "We need to do models as soon as

possible and make a decision as soon as possible so that we can stop the polarization."

Thorne's comments followed extensive public testimony.

"They're trying to push their problems on us and that's not fair," Naomi Jones, who lives near Valley Avenue, said in reference to residents opposed to extending Stoneridge who live along that street.

Mohr Elementary P.E. teacher Dan Maslana countered by saying "We don't really need to be accusing one neighborhood of one thing or another; I don't see how it's productive."

"My hope is that you'll model [Stoneridge] immediately and compare apples to apples," said Stop Pleasanton Gridlock member Nancy Allen, in reference to studying results if the extension were built and if it wasn't.

Former Fire Chief George Withers said whether or not to build the extension is in some situations a matter of life and death.

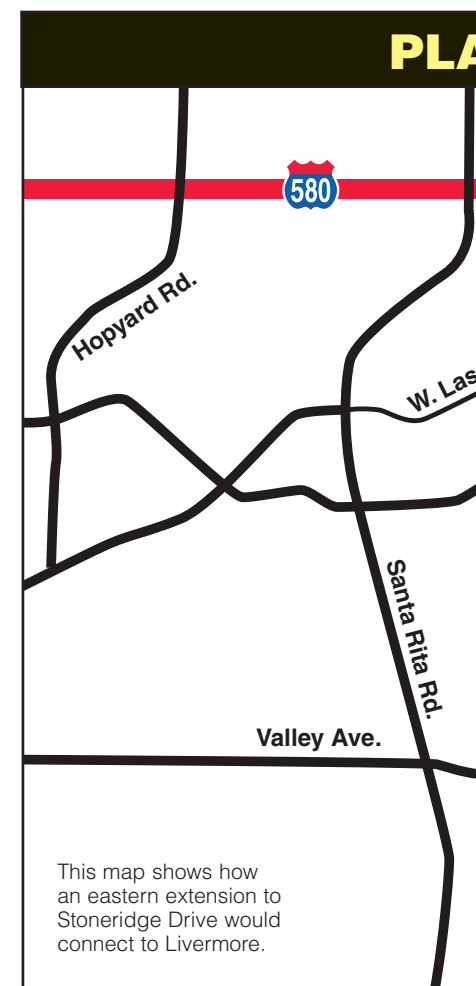
When Pleasanton fire stations are busy responding to other incidents and someone living in the Stoneridge area needs help, the next closest station is at the Livermore Airport—unable to quickly access Stoneridge without the connection, he said.

Opponents to the extension countered, saying their residential neighborhood would become a busy thoroughfare if the plan is enacted. Many who live in the newer homes along Stoneridge said it was never disclosed to them when they purchased their homes that a road extension was a future possibility.

The traffic study takes between 30 and 45 days to perform, according to Stern. She said she expects the results will be presented at a future joint workshop with the Planning Commission and City Council sometime next month. ■



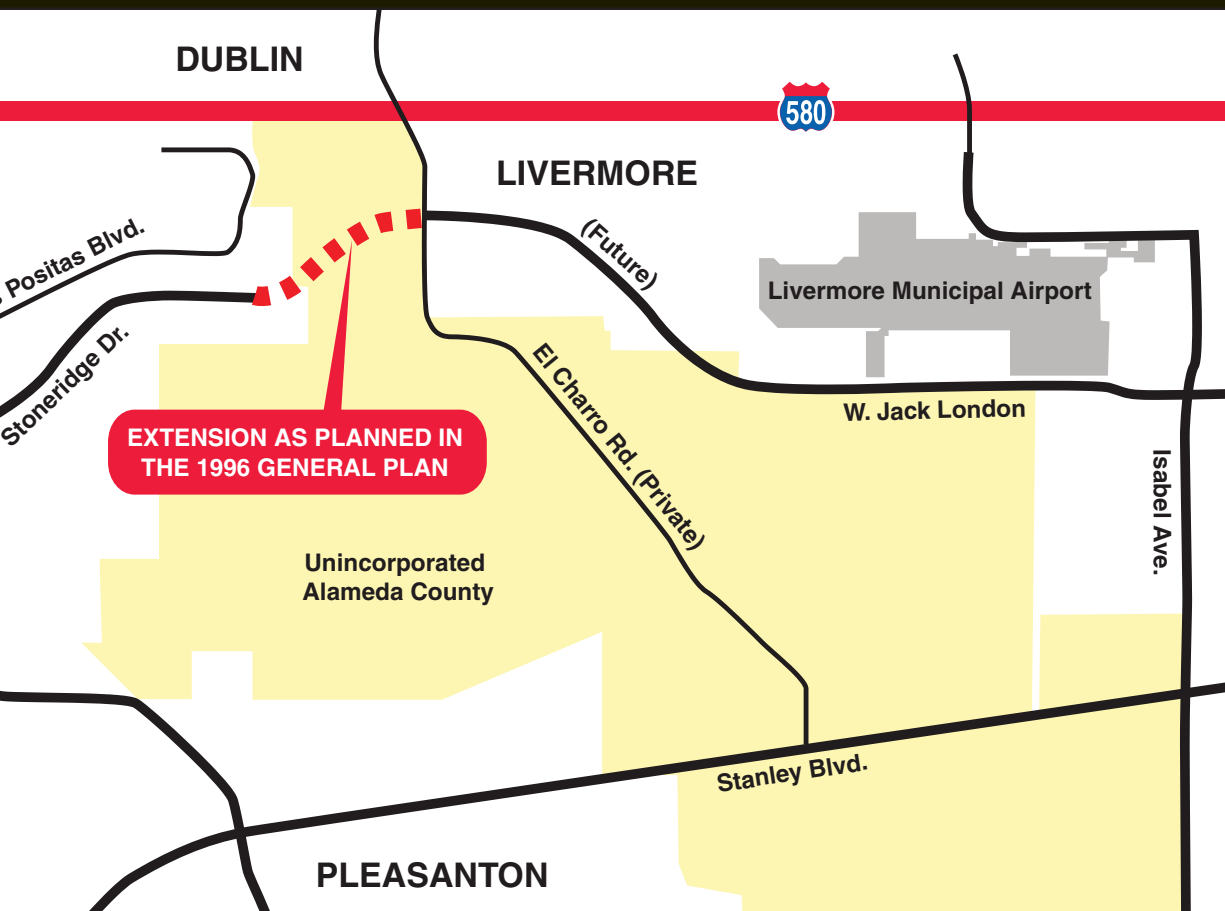
A couple walk their dogs beyond the barricade that marks the end of Stoneridge Drive. Residents who live along Stoneridge say they don't want their quiet neighborhood to become a bustling thoroughfare while residents who live near Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road say the extension is needed to lessen traffic in their neighborhood.



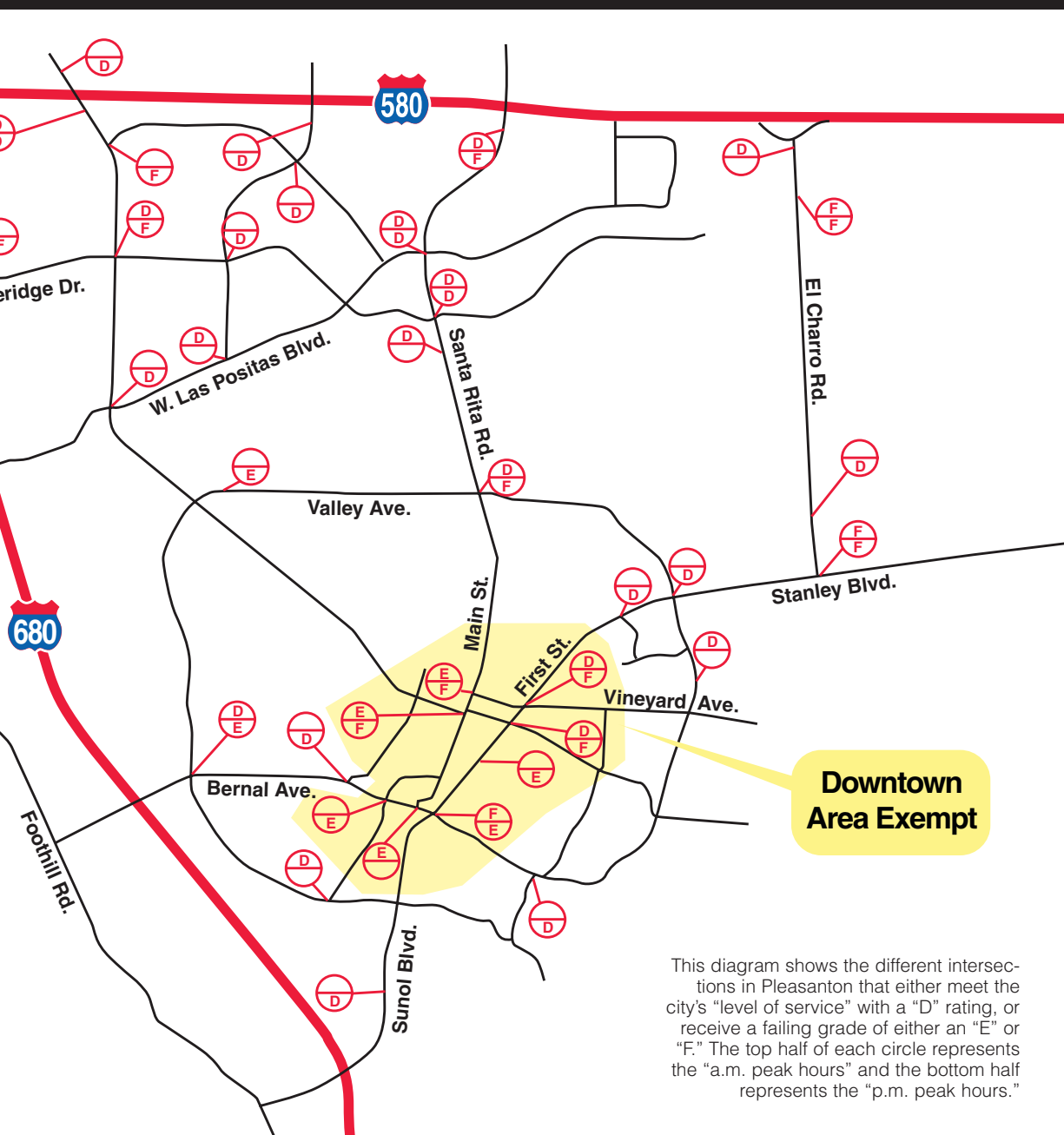
This map shows how an eastern extension to Stoneridge Drive would connect to Livermore.



ANNED STONERIDGE EXTENSION



ANTON INTERSECTIONS MAKE THE GRADE?



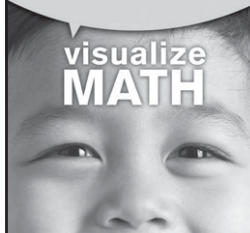
This diagram shows the different intersections in Pleasanton that either meet the city's "level of service" with a "D" rating, or receive a failing grade of either an "E" or "F." The top half of each circle represents the "a.m. peak hours" and the bottom half represents the "p.m. peak hours."

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, February 20, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Public Hearing: PCUP-165/PDR-529/PUD-81-25-7M, Regency Centers (Don MacKenzie and Pete Knoedler)/ Home Depot: Consider an application for a PUD major modification, conditional use permit, and design review approval to allow the construction of 193,481 square feet of commercial area, including a Home Depot building supply store and garden center, a Longs Drugs pharmacy with drive-through, and miscellaneous neighborhood retail stores including one drive-through, on an approximately 16 acre parcel located at 3450 Stanley Boulevard, at the Valley Avenue/Bernal Avenue/Stanley Boulevard intersection, in the Stanley Business Park
- Review and consider City Council Annual Work Plan for 2007/08
- Review and discuss options for the Iraq War forum

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 21, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Avenue

- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports
- Discussion Regarding the Book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," by Sean Covey

General Information

The Pleasanton Police Department will be holding its Spring 2007 Citizens Academy starting Thursday, March 8th through June 14th. The Academy is presented in 14 segments and will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30pm – 9:30pm with no class being held on April 12th to coincide with the School Districts spring break week.

The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the public, explain law enforcement procedures, and discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. Classes are primarily taught by Department personnel and cover a wide variety of topics including Community Policing, Patrol Procedures, Radio Communications, SWAT, Narcotics Investigations, Crime Prevention, Traffic Enforcement, K-9's, Evidence Collection, Use of Force Issues, Animal Services and the DARE program.

The program is open to adults only and attendees must live or work in the City to be eligible. Applicants are screened and must be free of any felony convictions, have no misdemeanor arrests within one year of application, successfully complete a background investigation check, sign waiver forms and be approved by the Chief of Police.

For anyone who might be interested in attending, applications are available at the front counter of the Police Department, by calling Sgt. Mike Tryphonas at (925) 931-5169, or by emailing me for a request at: mtryphonas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

**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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Computers stolen from car in Chevy's lot

A four door 2007 Chevy HHR was burglarized sometime between 7 and 7:55 p.m. Feb. 8, accord-

ing to police reports. The rear driver-side door window was broken in order to gain entry to steal computers and backpacks that were inside. The car was parked in the lot of a Chevy's restaurant located at 5877 Owens Drive. The damage had an estimated cost of \$80, while the stolen items were valued at \$8,245. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

Obituaries

John Anthony Bell

John Anthony Bell, or Jack as he was known by some, died Jan. 23 at the age of 68.

A native Californian, Mr. Bell was born in Fresno on June 24, 1938 to Frances and George R. Bell. His family settled in Kensington following World War II, where he graduated from El Cerrito High School. After starting college at UC Berkeley, Mr. Bell joined the U.S. Army and served three years in the third Armored Division. He was in Berlin at the time of the building of the Berlin Wall. Following his Army tour, Mr. Bell graduated from UC Berkeley (1964) and Hastings College of the Law (1968).

In 1969, Mr. Bell started his career as a prosecutor with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. Over the years he worked in the county's Hayward, San Leandro, Oakland and Pleasanton offices. He was a career criminal prosecutor prior to his final 10 years of service and retirement in 2000 as the assistant district attorney in charge of the Pleasanton office.

In 1971, John married his wife of 35 years, Phoebe, and in 1973 they moved to Pleasanton.

Because of his heritage he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Scottish Games held annually in Pleasanton. Mr. Bell had a lifelong interest in and extensive knowledge of politics, geography and military

history. He was a voracious reader and loved to travel. His favorite trip was to Africa.

Mr. Bell will be remembered for his love of family, friends and distinguished career. Thoughtful and articulate, he shared his own unique perspective of life with intelligence and humor.

He is survived by his wife Phoebe; his daughter Katherine (Kate) Damiani, son-in-law Brian Damiani, and two granddaughters Julia and Emily; his son John Charles (Chas) Hamilton Bell and daughter-in-law Molly Bell, all of Pleasanton; and a sister Carol A. Bell, of Marina del Rey.

The family would like to thank Hope Hospice for their generous care and support.

At Mr. Bell's request, arrangements are private. Family and friends were invited to celebrate his life at the family home on Feb. 3.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Bell's honor to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin CA 9456-3151.

Julia Louise Rathbone

Julia Louise Rathbone died Feb. 7 at Oak Creek Alzheimer and Dementia Care Facility in Castro Valley at the age of 93.

Born in St. Helena, Calif. in 1913, she was a Pleasanton resident for more than 73 years. Mrs. Rathbone was a member of Pleasanton Heritage Families and a 53-year member of the Grand Circle of California. She loved bingo and attending the Friendship Center of Livermore.

She is survived by daughters Linda Hoffman of Los Alamos, N.M., Susan Fitzpatrick of Cottonwood, Ariz., Patricia Rathbone of Albuquerque, N.M., and Judy Burt of Pleasanton; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Rathbone was preceded in death by her husband Stanley.

A celebration of life service was scheduled at her home in Pleasanton on Feb. 14.

Frank Russ Dunn

Frank Russ Dunn died in Livermore on Feb. 11 at the age of 76.

A native of Oakland, Mr. Dunn graduated from Castlemont High School and was a lifelong resident of Alameda County. For 20 years he was a dedicated construction superintendent for Safeway. He enjoyed baseball, his vegetable garden and "puttering." He was also affiliated with the Elks Club.

Frank is survived by his children Rick (Sandy) Dunn of Pleasanton, Michelle (Jay) Hertogs of Pleasanton and Dawyn (Trevor) Kanno of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.; brother Robert Dunn of Orinda; grandchildren Daniel, Jeffery, Jeremy, Kristen and Ron-Erik of Pleasanton, and Kalyna and Kai of Rancho Santa Margarita.

He was preceded in death by his son William and sisters Dorothy and Idris.

Services were scheduled for Feb. 15 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, and a burial service Feb. 16 at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

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

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

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

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

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Opinion

Editorial

Strategic plan focuses on keeping Pleasanton economically strong

A new survey of economic trends shows Pleasanton as a stable, affluent residential community characterized by high household incomes, low unemployment, strong educational attainment and a concentration of middle-aged residents. Even so, nothing is forever, so the city's Economic Vitality Committee has developed a long-range strategic plan which the City Council approved last week that recognizes changes coming in the community and what these mean for all of us.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan was commissioned to meet several ends: to maintain and continue to foster Pleasanton's competitive advantages, to mitigate weaknesses and to link ongoing economic development to the General Plan that is now being updated. It's a much needed and welcome look at the advantages the city has today as well as at concerns for continued economic growth and sustainability as the city reaches residential buildout. In 1996, voters approved a housing cap of 29,000 units (apartments and homes). Today there are less than 3,000 units left to be built. Another concern is that the city's population is gradually maturing, with fewer school-age children coming from existing homes and more couples staying in those homes after their children have left for college and careers in other cities. In 2005, for example, 29 percent of our population was between the ages of 45 and 64, compared to 26 percent in the Bay Area. That same year, we still had substantial proportions of children: 27 percent were age 17 or under, compared to 22 percent for the Bay Area. At the other end of the spectrum, the senior population (65 years and older) in Pleasanton was substantially less concentrated than for the Bay Area overall; Pleasanton's seniors represented 9 percent of the total population, compared to 12 percent for the Bay Area. But that's changing as more baby boomers with comfortable retirement incomes choose to stay put, riding the home appreciation wave while younger families and those who are replacing them in the workplace find Pleasanton too expensive. The strategic plan takes note of this dilemma and sets in place a process for monitoring and dealing with these trends.

In recent years, shifting patterns of corporate ownership, changing demographics and competing commercial and retail development in Dublin and a new and revitalized downtown Livermore are influencing Pleasanton's economic development. The new strategic plan serves as a guiding document for the community, elected officials and the business community to seek ways to balance growth and vitality to keep the city competitive and sustainable. With median income at an estimated \$107,219 in 2005, Pleasanton is among the most affluent communities in the Bay Area. Another distinctive characteristic of our adult population is the high level of education. Over 56 percent of Pleasanton residents hold at least an associate degree or higher, compared to just fewer than 42 percent for the Bay Area and less than 25 percent nationally. Almost 16 percent hold graduate or professional degrees. This gives the city a competitive advantage both because many employers seek highly skilled, educated managers and because these individuals hold elected, appointed and volunteer positions in our government and local organizations where they can identify changes ahead and develop strategic plans, as the members of the Economic Vitality Committee with their expertly researched Strategic Plan for a sustainable Pleasanton.

Letters

Meeting to discuss format of possible war debate

Dear Editor,

The Pleasanton City Council has decided to discuss its role, if any, in dealing with the War in Iraq. The question is: what kind of discussion? Will it be the opinions of a panel of experts, and who will these experts be? Will it be a town hall-style meeting with the citizens of Pleasanton giving advice to the council? Will it be a free-for-all with verbal thugs shouting insults at the mayor?

These questions will be addressed at the next City Council meeting Feb. 20. The subject of the Iraq War will be on the agenda, and as an agenda item, the public may give its input. I hope the people of Pleasanton find this subject important enough to attend the meeting to offer their opinions.

Note that the agenda item deals with the format for a discussion of the Iraq War and not with whether or not there should be a discussion of the Iraq War. I know from experience, however, that people will show up to try to force the council not to have a discussion of the war. I implore the people who do want such a discussion to also show up to offer their advice.

I don't understand why so many people in Pleasanton support this war. I don't understand why so many people in Pleasanton don't want to honor the American troops in Iraq who have been killed. Please come to the meeting. Help us all understand.

*Fred Norman
Pleasanton*

CA health care better off now

Dear Editor,

Herbert Marshall's brain injured brother ("Health care system is ailing," Letters, Jan. 19), although denied insurance, can get better care in California now, than by proposed state dictates. In England, breast or prostate cancer is twice as likely to kill as here. In Quebec, access to a year-long hip-replacement waiting list was declared not access to care, by its Supreme Court.

Consumer-managed care in the United States is doubling every year, and is now at 6 million. Health Savings Accounts (see ehealthinsurance.com) provide the most individualized, thrifty and available primary care. Milton Friedman sent me this surprising experience of G R Insurance Co. Hospital costs were 30 percent less, the year after 95 percent of its 1,200 employees chose to manage the first \$2,000, like HSAs. As an epidemiologist as well as family doctor, I believe that suggests greater safety and better prevention with Bush-promoted HSAs.

*Howard Long, M.D.
Pleasanton*

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

PROPERTY WITH MANY LIVES

What is the life of a real estate property? Actually, it depends on what we're focusing on. There is....

1. The Chronological Life. This is simply the total number of years and months that a building has existed. At some point—and it will differ from building to building—the structure will no longer be usable and must be torn down and replaced.

2. The Economic Life. This is the length of time that a building can produce income (through rents). Obviously, if the building reaches the point where it is unusable, its economic life may be over, unless it can be repaired and brought up to current standards. Economic life may cease, too, when the location of a building and the structures around it fall into extreme disrepair and represent dangers to potential renters.

3. The Loan Life. This is the length of time to complete repayment of all loans against the property. The ultimate Chronological Life and Economic Life should be longer than the Loan Life, of course, so that the investor doesn't end up paying off a loan secured by a property that produces no further income.

4. The Depreciable Life. This is the length of time over which the property's cost must be depreciated (for tax purposes). Generally, this is—as it should be—the shortest of a building's life spans.

Let's talk about how an investment property can improve your life as well. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Calendar

But wait, there's more
To read more community calendar listings visit our new Web site at www.pleasantonweekly.com. Listings can also be submitted online through a form by clicking "Calendar Event" on the left column of the Web site.

Classes

Belly Dancing Classes

The city of Dublin is offering women's belly dancing classes with 4-week sessions beginning Feb. 23 and Mar. 3. Level 1 class meets 10 to 11 a.m. and level 2 class meets 11 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$46 for a 4-week session. Call 556-4500 or visit www.dublinrecguide.com to register.

Celebrate Renoir's Birthday

The Bothwell Studio celebrates Renoir's birthday with a lesson on Impressionism from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Bothwell Arts Center studio, 2468 8th St., Livermore. Admission is free, but bring your own painting supplies.

Handling Sibling Rivalry

Parent Educator Janet Shurtleff presents "Handling Sibling Rivalry" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at Harvest Park Middle School, Room A2. Attendance is free. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/ adulted for more information.

Planning For Career Success After High School Graduation

Julia Jones, career education specialist at Dublin High School, presents this class for parents looking for alternatives to the traditional 4-year college track for their high school student. Class meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Amador Valley High School Library computer room. Attendance is free. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/ adulted for more information.

The Parent Project

The Pleasanton Police Department and the Pleasanton Adult School are holding two classes of "The Parent Project: Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior." One class meets on Mondays starting Feb. 26 and the other meets on Tuesdays starting Feb. 27. Both sections meet for 11 sessions once a week from 6 to 9 p.m. Class fee is \$95. A 10 percent discount for couples is available. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/ adulted for more information.

Clubs

British Women's Club

The local chapter of Daughters of the British Empire hosts meetings the third Tuesday of the month where British women can meet and chat. Call 875-0828 or 484-1273 for meeting time and location. Visit www.dbesociety.org for more information.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly

Weekend Preview



Four hands, two pianos, one concert

Tickets are currently on sale for The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council two-piano concert by Mark Anderson and Tamriko Siprashvili happening 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The concert benefits PCAC's Arts in the Schools program. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25 and may be purchased online at www.civcartstickets.org or phone at 931-3444 and at the Amador Theater Box Office. The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and for two hours prior to the performance.

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.

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club

Foothill Kiwanis Key Club meets from noon to 12:30 p.m. every Thursday at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Call Irv, 556-1177 or visit www.kiwanis-pleasanton-sunrise.com.

Habitat for Humanity Speaker

The Tri-Valley Democratic Club invites the public to hear Janice Jensen

Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity East Bay. Jensen will be discussing the organizations work in Livermore where a 22 home "green" building development nears completion. Refreshments served. Free. 7-9 p.m. No Charge. IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy, Dublin. 925-451-4303. www.trivalleydems.com.

Concerts

Classical Piano Concert

Mark Anderson and Tamriko Siprashvili will perform their annual two-piano benefit concert for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's school program 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Visit www.civcartstickets.org or call 931-3444 to purchase tickets.

Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival

The Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival will be 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Young artists ages 18 or younger will perform. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit www.civcartstickets.org or call 931-3444 for tickets.

Life is Grand!

Signature Properties presents "Life is Grand," a free concert from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway Ave., Oakland. The event will include performances by Ben's Shaolin Kung Fu, Los Campos, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Ensemble and more.

Spyro Gyra

Jazz group Spyro Gyra will perform at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, 8 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civcartstickets.org or by phone, 931-3444.

Sunday Afternoon Musical

Clarinetist Joe Bonfiglio will play works of von Weber, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Gershwin 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the

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Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Rd., Livermore. No tickets, but there is a suggested donation of \$12 to \$20 per person, youth free. Call 447-6454 for more information.

Events

Black History Month on the USS Hornet

The USS Hornet will present special exhibits and participatory activities highlighting the role of African-Americans in the military to commemorate Black History Month 1 p.m. Feb. 17. Veterans of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen will speak as part of the ceremony. Visitors can also participate in pilot mission briefings, witness aircrafts being lifted from the flight deck and sit in the cockpit of a fighter jet. Aircraft simulations will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5 to 17. A special price of \$20 for families of up to four people will be offered that day. The museum is located at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Call (510) 521-8848 or visit www.uss-hornet.org for more information.

Foothill Grad Night Tickets Available

Foothill Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale every Tuesday and Thursday on campus during lunchtime. Tickets are currently selling at \$135 per student but hurry before the prices go up! Also see website <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill> and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

Purple and Gold Gala

The 21st annual Purple and Gold Gala will be from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Palm Event Center. The event features dinner, raffles, live and silent auctions and dancing. All funds go toward Amador Valley High School sports. Contact Sandy Cleland, slceland@comcast.net or visit www.amadorsports.com for tickets.

Red Cross Gala

The American Red Cross Bay Area invites you to Paint the Town Red—Big Time, an annual red tie gala benefiting local disaster preparedness and emergency response efforts. Includes dinner, award presentation, silent & live auction, entertainment & dancing. March 10, 6 p.m. Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell Street, San Francisco. 415-427-8170. www.redcrossbayarea.org.

Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House

Thomas Coyne Winery is hosting its winter open house from noon to 5 p.m., Feb. 17, 18 and 19 at the winery tasting room, 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascynewinery.com> for more information.

Tri-Valley Chinese Culture Day

The Fourth Tri-Valley Chinese Cultural Day will take place from 3 to 10 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Amador Theater and Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. There will be a spring carnival, student shows, karaoke, vendor booths, art exhibits, games, raffles potluck and dumpling making demonstration. Tickets are \$15 per person and include free childcare from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 485-1880 for more information.

U.S. Photo Group

The monthly meeting of U.S. Photo Group will focus on "Top Ten Tips to Improve Your Photography" and "Cool Tricks and Advanced Ways to Work with Photoshop" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in the main meeting room of the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. No reservations are required. Call Jack Ligon, 931-0290 for more information.

Exhibits

Luminescent Watercolors

Studio 7 Fine Arts opens its latest exhibit of 30 original watercolors and never-before-seen oil paintings by the late artist Hal Booth Jan. 27. The exhibit will run through Feb. 18. Studio 7 is located on the corner of West

Angela and Main streets. Call 846-4322 for more information.

Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s

"Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s" is on display at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St., now through mid-April. The exhibit highlights the history of music in the three eras that produced important musical styles and artist songs and includes sheet music, clothing and instruments. Admission to the museum is a \$2 requested donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumon-main.org for more information.

Up Close and Far Away

Worthington Gallery West is hosting "Up Close and Far Away," a group show featuring landscapes and still lifes by artists Uwe Bangert, Seamus Berkeley, Klaus Fussman, Tricia Leonard, Marc Velten and more. The show closes Mar. 3. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com for more information.

Film

Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival

The Jewish Community Federation and Foundation presents the Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival with two shows at the Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., Livermore. "The First Time I Was Twenty" will air 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and "Live and Become" will air 7:30 p.m. Mar. 1. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door. Youth ages 13 to 18 are free Mar. 1. Call 943-5238 or visit www.jfed.org for tickets.

Hotel Rwanda

The Pleasanton Public Library is hosting an after hours program featuring the film "Hotel Rwanda" 5:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in the large meeting room. The program is suitable for ages 13 or older and is free. Dr. Jurgen Braungardt, professor of philosophy at California State University, East Bay, will introduce the film. A photo exhibit will be displayed in the Teen Area of the library one week before the showing. Refreshments will be served before the show at 4:30 p.m. Call Teresa Parham, 931-3404 for more information.

The Ware Tapes

"The War Tapes," a film on what it's like to be a soldier in Iraq, will air for free or a \$2 donation 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m. After the showing, there will be a short discussion about the movie. Call 462-3459 for more information.

Fundraisers

Pure Girls, ABWA Collect Donations for The Princess Project

ABWA Express to Success Network and Pure Girls are collecting new and nearly new prom gowns and fancy dresses for The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit that provides prom gowns and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them. The project's goal is to outfit 2,700 underserved girls for prom 2007. Donations can be dropped off at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Feb. 10 through 23 during regular store hours. Dresses must be dry cleaned, on hangers and in good condition. Related accessories are also welcome, but no make-up or shoes will be accepted. Call 485-4380 or visit www.princessproject.org for more information.

Health

Blood Drive

Livermore Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m., Feb. 16 at 444 East Ave., Livermore. Contact Tom Petty, 447-1950 or blooddrive@asburylive.org to schedule an appointment.

Seminar on Advanced Treatment of Diabetes

Endocrinologist Mahmood Kazemi,

M.D., and Chief Clinical Dietitian, Pam Wilson, M.S., R.D., will discuss Advanced Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. What are some of the new oral medications, and which drugs can improve glycemic control? What are the risk factors and symptoms? Please register. March 8 7-8:30 p.m. No charge. San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. 925.275.8230. www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Kids & Teens

Carden West Open House

Carden West School is hosting an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Feb. 20 at the school, 4576 Willow Rd. Parents of prospective students may also tour the school any Tuesday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Advance noticed is required. Call 463-6060 for more information.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference

Registration is open for the Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons Career Conference in Math and Science for Middle and High School Girls happening Feb. 24 at the AT&T Administrative Center in San Ramon. The annual conference for girls in grades 6-12 from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon school districts features hands-on workshops and career fair to encourage girls' interest in math and science and provide positive female career role models. Fee is \$20 and includes lunch. Call 422-2453 or visit www.lnl.gov/eyh/tv_eyh.html for registration information.

Island of the Blue Dolphin

Biologists Wayne and Karen Brown from The Ocean Adventure will showcase the marine life described in the children's classic, "Island of the Blue Dolphin," 2 p.m., Feb. 17 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free tickets limited to children 6 years old and older will be available at the children's desk 30 minutes prior to the show. Call the children's desk, 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

Paws to Read

Winter sessions of Paws to Read will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 20 and 27 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. During the hour, children in grades first through fifth read to a therapy dog. Call 931-3400, ext. 23 for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

Before the Nukes

Charles Meier presents information from his book "Before the Nukes: The Remarkable History of the Area of the Nevada Test Site" 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Meier worked at the Nevada Test Site in the 1960s before working for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Visit www.lansingpublications.com for more information on the book. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information about the lecture.

Branding Lecture

ABWA Express to Success Network presents Liz Pabon, president and principal consultant of Head2Toe Consulting, who will discuss branding as an effective way to market your business and self from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 20 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Reservations are not required. Admission is \$5 for non-members, free for members. E-mail info@expresstosuccess.org or visit www.expresstosuccess.org for more information.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare, a divorce recovery seminar and support group, will meet 7 p.m. every Thursday through May 17 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Child care is provided through fifth grade. Call 846-6622 for more information.

Melanie Lacki

Watercolors With Timeless Appeal

Exhibition: February 24th - March 18th



A Day At The Park by Melanie Lacki

Artist Reception:
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Memoir Writing

Susan Bono, author of "Tiny Lights: A Journal of Personal Essay" will present an interactive workshop on memoir writing from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 17 at Girasole Grille, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The event is presented by the Tri-Valley Writers Club. Cost is \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members. Reservations are necessary. E-mail Fred Norman, Fnorman300@aol.com for more information. Visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Taxes, Bookkeeping and Asset Protection Seminar

The National Wealth Network presents "Taxes, Bookkeeping and Asset Protection" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Contact Mami, 855-3202 or

mami@nwnwgroup.com to register. Visit www.nationalwealthweeknetwork.com.

The Power of Networking

Dr. Clara Rouse, regional vice president and general manager of Edison Charter Schools, will speak about the power of networking during the Livermore Valley Business and Professional Women's meeting Feb. 22 at Cafe Nordstrom in the Stoneridge Shopping Center. Dinner at the cafe will precede the event. Cost is \$18 for dinner and program. Call Mona Dunlop, 829-3505 for more information.

The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews presents "The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism" by Rifke Feinstein, executive director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, 7 p.m., Feb. 23, 1817

Sinclair Dr., Pleasanton. Shabbat potluck dinner will precede the presentation. Each person should bring a dish for eight people. Reservations are required. Call 485-1049 or e-mail CulturalJew@aol.com.

Miscellaneous

Free CPR Training

The American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter will hold its annual free CPR Preparedness March 3, during Red Cross Month. Learn Adult CPR, care for choking victims, rescue breathing and disaster preparedness. There are two sessions taking place at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Acts Full Gospel Church, 1034 66th Ave, Oakland, CA. 1-800-520-5433. www.redcrossbayarea.org.

On Stage

Diablo Ballet Presents "Cinderella"
Diablo Ballet will present Nikolai Kabaniaev's "The Tale of Cinderella" 8 p.m., Feb. 18 at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Tickets can be purchased by calling (510) 642-9988 or online at http://tickets.berkeley.edu.

Long Day's Journey Into Night
The San Jose Repertory Theatre will perform Eugene O'Neill's autobio-

graphical 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.

SUDS: A Rocking 60s Musical Soap Opera

The Walnut Creek Crossroads Theatre kicks off its sixth season with "SUDS: A Rocking 60s Musical Soap Opera" running Feb. 21 through Mar. 31. The show is about a lonely Laundromat lass and the guardian angels who help her find true love with more than 50 well known chart-topping songs from the 1960s. Shows are 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays at the CTA Crossroads Theatre, 1277 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$24 to \$29. Call 944-0587 to purchase tickets or for more information.

The Comedy of Errors

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will present "The Comedy of Errors" at the Pleasanton Public Library 2 p.m. Feb. 18. A Q&A session with the cast will follow the performance. Admission is free. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information.

Scholarships

ARTSFUND Grants program

The Alameda County Arts Commission deadline for its ARTSFUND grants is Feb. 28. Organizations may be eligible for grants of \$1,000 each. Visit www.acgov.org/arts for application details and requirements.

Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship

Tri-Valley Retired Educators is offering four scholarships worth \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors and Las Positas College and California State University, East Bay students who are residents of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and Sunol and are planning a career in education. Applications for the scholarships are available at local high schools, LPC and CSUEB. Deadline is Mar. 2. Contact Olive Egan Greene, 443-6097 or greegns@pacbell.net for more information.

Seniors

Bingo

Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Monday monthly

and 1 to 3 p.m. every Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

Emotional Wellness Group

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

Friday Night Dance

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

Internet Access Workstation

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

Luncheons

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

Movie Madness

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

Paratransit Service

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

Personal Computers Group

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

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Sports

Hart Middle cheer team wins grand national honors

The Hart Middle School cheer squad was crowned grand champions at the United Spirit Association Championships in Sacramento this weekend. That means they earned the highest score of all 32 teams in nine divisions—including Amador Valley and San Ramon Valley and other high school squads. To make that victory even sweeter, the 20 seventh and eighth grade cheerleaders also won first place in the junior high school show cheer division.



The Hart Middle School cheer team won first in their division and is comprised of 20 seventh- and eighth-graders.

Hart's girls basketball triumph over 16 Bay Area teams



The Hart Middle School eighth grade girls basketball team emerged as the champions of the 12th Annual SANCRA Basketball tournament sponsored by the city of Palo Alto. The tournament is held annually and represents 16 teams from all over the Bay Area.

The Huskies swept four-straight games en route to the tournament title. On Saturday, they opened with a 49-5 victory over Selby Land Middle School of Atherton and then beat James Madison of Oakland 38-16. In Sunday's semi-finals the Huskies, after falling behind early 8-6, rallied and defeated Campbell Middle School 27-12.

In the finals, Hart faced Cunha Middle School from Half Moon Bay, which was the runner-up team in the competitive Palo Alto Middle School Basketball League and had averaged 45 points a game in the tournament.

"We had seen them play their semi-final game and were impressed with their offensive sets and their size, so we wanted to create some turnovers early and then convert those turnovers into points," Hart Coach O.C. Schott said, "Fortunately, we were able to do that and everything else fell into place the rest of the game. I give the players all the credit, they picked the right time to play a perfect game." Hart went to record a 38-12 victory to take home the championship.

Anissa Mendez was awarded the tournament MVP and Andrea Tanada picked up a first team all tournament award. The Huskies defense was led by Annie Amos, Maddie Biehl, Vivian Climent, Kristen DesPrez, Marianna Irby, Courtney Kyer, Alex Matsu-Buen, Kara Schott, and Alex Villanueva.

Hart now resumes play in the local Tri-Valley Athletic League where they will play out the remaining seven games of the regular season and then participate in playoffs.

CCOP wins tough match-up

CCOP (#7009) played one of their best games of the season against a tough opponent and brought home a well earned victory. CCOP was down by one point at the half, then took the lead in the third quarter—and battled to the end, with both teams fighting for the win. The high scorer was Marisa Victor with 10 points, playing a very physical game. CCOP's record now stands at 6-4, which will the team hopes will earn them a spot in the CYO championships. Final score: CCOP: 32, St. Isadores (#7006): 30.

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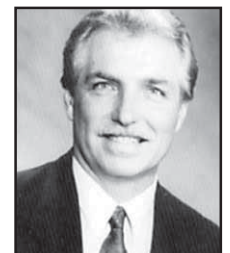
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10 Pleasanton Rage Girls sign letters of intent

The following Rage soccer players signed letters of intent: Kylee Blatz with Sacramento State, Piersten Gainse with Columbia University, Maxine Goynes with Santa Clara University, Nicky Kit with University of Florida, Kirstie Kuhns with University of Oregon, Nicole Patrizi with Washington State, Kendra Perry with Santa Clara University, Alex Quesada with St. Mary's College, Corey Shreve with Sacramento State, and Allison Ventura with Fresno State.

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THE PANDA

Dining Out

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

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen
201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

Bridges

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/ Alehouse

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

(continued on page 19)

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Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since

1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials from only \$5.25.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

6512 Regional St, Dublin, 828-9111. Since 1978 Willow Tree has offered authentic Dim-Sum and banquet buffet cuisine. We prepare each dish with the freshest ingredients and are dedicated to hospitality. View our complete menu at www.willowtreerestaurant.com

Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kababs, rice and vegetar-

ian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

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of garlic fill this warm and friendly, cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-Valley pizza Mecca. It's perfect for romantic couples and the entire family. Authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini, Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

Garlic di Pasta

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. Garlic di Pasta was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu.

(continued on page 20)

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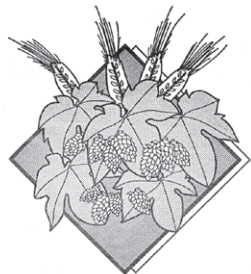
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