

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 11 • April 6, 2007

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Buying in Phoenix, and you don't even have to go there

At age 39, Frank Richards is a 1986 Amador Valley High School graduate who has parlayed his expertise in marketing and finance into NorthPoint Real Estate Investment Services, one of the area's leading firms that specialize in equity growth through property ownership. His list of clients in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley is a virtual who's who in the Valley, ranging from the wealthy to bank managers to teachers, police and firefighters. One young golf pro heard about Richards and his Pleasanton firm and had them design an investment strategy. He bought a small home and then took \$50,000 in equity from that to buy a property Richards recommended just outside of Phoenix. The golf pro subsequently sold that and now has five different investment properties and, at age 28, has built up more than half-a-million-dollars in net worth.

Sound too good to be true? That's what Richards thought when he first got started in marketing after graduating from Amador and then UC Davis. Working with another entrepreneur here in Pleasanton, the two opened a direct marketing technology services company, which they later sold in a public offering. For 10 years, Richards worked with a leading global financial services company to learn the techniques and system of the "big guys," as he calls them, and then turned his passion for real estate investment into his own smaller business that could better tailor its advice directly to its customers.

Richards found that most people, even the bank manager, still don't know where to turn to invest a little of their money. They don't have the time to do the research and turn to larger, well known investment firms to manage their capital. With Pleasanton property too expensive to buy, they'd like to invest in distant, even out-of-state properties, but where should they go? Phoenix is one of Richards' favorite investment opportunities, but even there, he points out, there are 15 different cities around Phoenix that offer promise. Which one do you buy

in? What's the best neighborhood? What's the right strategy? How do you find a good, reliable Realtor that far away?

Talking to his friends and business associates in Pleasanton, Richards put together NorthPoint, which does all of the conventional work that other real estate firms do, but also specializes in serving wannabe property investors who don't have the time or expertise to travel to and handle purchases in more opportune locations.

The six markets Richards likes are Portland, Austin, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Raleigh, N.C., and Phoenix. He now has put many Pleasanton clients in properties in all six of these markets, with NorthPoint handling the negotiations, working with Realtors in these areas it has qualified, and then providing regular updates on the gains its clients make each year. These are high growth cities in terms of their population ranges, with good economic models that include job growth, rising housing prices and rentals and local individual income growth. Atlanta, for one, is growing at more than 3 percent a year, which Richards said is a significant number that attracts him and investments. Another must: Richards only invests in communities that are supportive of business and pro-development. Portland, as we know, is just the opposite. But its restraint on growth with still a very pro-business attitude makes for a tight housing market that is appreciating faster than it otherwise would. So quite a few investors from Pleasanton now own Portland properties.

Richards and his wife, Marsia (Marsia Gibbs when she attended Valley View and Amador), have two children: Adalyn, 6, and Benjamin, 3. Richards, himself, owns 40 properties in key growth markets, investments he'll keep to help pay the children's college, and then re-deploy his investments into more passive income for the retirement years ahead. For more information, you can check his company out at www.northpointgroup.com. ■

About the Cover

A runner from the American Little League White Sox AAA team is called safe at third base despite a close play on Monday night at the Sports Park. Little Leaguers as well as girls softball, PONY baseball and adult softball leagues have begun their seasons in Pleasanton for the spring and summer. Photo by Janet Pelletier. Cover by Ben Ho.

Vol. VIII, Number 11

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: What are you doing for spring break?

Asked Around Town



Andie Fanelli

Elementary School Student

I am going to Yosemite. Spring is the best time to visit because the waterfalls are really full. We're going to hike the Mist trail under the waterfall.

Neal McFarland

High School Student

I'll be going on college visits in a couple of places across the country. I was in L.A. this last weekend, Chicago next week. It's kind of a "junior" year thing to do. I am preparing for a big senior year.



Katie Crownover

High School Student

Mostly, we will be getting ready for our Easter celebration, which is a big deal if you are a Crownover! I'll also be visiting a friend in Washington.

Sierra Hutto

College Student

I am going to visit a friend in Reno for a few days. I also plan to hang out with my horse pals and hit the trails. It's been a long semester at college and I'm ready for a break.



Taylor Ryan

High School Student

I am going to catch up on some sleep, hang out with friends, maybe take BART into the city, go to the beach—generally just relax and take a break.

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



Dr. Robert F. Gray, MD, FACS, dual board-certified plastic surgeon, answers your questions concerning all types of facial rejuvenation.

Q: Dr. Gray, I have these dark circles under my eyes and nothing I do seems to work?

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Newsfront

News Digest

Mayor to host 'mobile' office hours

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will begin hosting "mobile" office hours this month. She will be setting up shop from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the farmers' market. Hosterman hopes to increase her accessibility as mayor to Pleasanton residents and make it more convenient for them to share their concerns, meet her and talk to her. She will also hold office hours at City Hall on Fridays this month, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Electronic waste collection

The city of Pleasanton is hosting its annual Electronic Waste Collection (e-waste) Weekend from noon to 8 p.m. April 20 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 21 and 22. The event is free and open to all residents, businesses, schools and nonprofit agencies in Pleasanton. Examples of e-waste include televisions, cell phones, computers, radios, fax machines, DVD players and VCRs.

Amador DECA to compete in Florida

Amador Valley High School DECA, a national organization for career-related marketing students, won the state competition and hopes to represent California in the international conference in Orlando, Fla. Students need to raise \$750 per student for travel and lodging fees. Those interested in making donations to the team can call 918-1126 or email schindler.a@gmail.com.

Sweet Tomatoes helps find a cure

Souplantation/Sweet Tomatoes restaurants are partnering with Alex's Lemonade Stand, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money for pediatric cancer research. Throughout the month of April, all 100 Souplantation and Sweet Tomatoes restaurants across the United States will donate a portion of beverage sales to Alex's Lemonade Stand to support the organization in its effort to find a cure for childhood cancer. The Pleasanton restaurant is located at 4501 Hopyard Road.

Correction

In the March 16 Home & Garden special section, the address for Wall Beds "n" More in "Now you see it, now you don't" was incorrect. Wall Beds "n" More is located at 6998 Sierra Ct., Ste. B, in Dublin.



Mural to depict old-time Pleasanton

Local artist Gary Winter to paint pastoral vista on north side of Strizzi's restaurant

by Janet Pelletier

An 18-foot by 54-foot pastoral vista depicting the agricultural landscape of Pleasanton's past will soon grace the north side of Strizzi's restaurant downtown for all to admire.

The work of art will be painted by well-known local artist Gary Winter. Winter, who is a fourth-generation Tri-Valley resident, plans to begin the project the last week in April.

He will recreate an image of rural Pleasanton in the early 1900s on a warm, sunny afternoon, with golden hills, eagles soaring and farmers at work in the fields of hop, which was sent from the Valley to many of the largest beer producers

in the United States and Europe.

It will embody an era when Pleasanton was the agricultural center of the Amador Valley and will include familiar landmarks such as the fairgrounds, which has the oldest 1-mile racetrack in the country. A grandstand and horses and jockeys on a practice run around the track where the champion racehorse Seabiscuit trained will be included. In the foothills, Winter will paint the Phoebe Apperson Hearst estate, the Old Adobe and the original Meadowlark Dairy, complete with grazing cows.

Winter said he hopes children will enjoy locating animals such as foxes, elk and rabbits, which he

will hide throughout the mural.

"Most of the people living here today have never seen the Valley this way," Winter said. "As our area becomes more congested, I want people to know what our town looked like when it was first settled by folks like my great-grandfather."

Winter is known for his miniature replicas of historic buildings in Pleasanton and Northern California. He has painted murals in the area, creates one-of-a-kind nail sculptures and co-designed the Zwiir spiral football which is in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The mural is part of the newly-formed Mural Program created by the Pleasanton Downtown

Association and will be the first of possibly many in the future.

"PDA's Mural Program will make downtown Pleasanton even more inviting to residents and visitors," said Executive Director Christine Saldivar.

A committee reviews artists' designs and works with local building owners to line up locations for a blank canvas.

Winter said he expects the work to take six weeks and encourages the public to stop by and watch him bring the art to life on weekday mornings and afternoons.

For information on the Mural Program, call the PDA at 484-2199. ■



Historic downtown fire station vandalized

Windows broken; \$500 in damage

by Janet Pelletier

Police are saying a juvenile is believed to be responsible for breaking 50 windows, a display case, light fixtures and setting off a fire extinguisher at the historic fire station downtown.

The fire station, located at 4444 Railroad Ave., was vandalized at approximately 5 p.m. last Friday. The damage is estimated at \$500, according to Det. Eric Fredgren.

Debbie Look, who is the coordinator for a campaign to turn the fire station into a cultural arts center, said the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, a nonprofit raising funds for the project, is saddened

by the news.

"We're absolutely devastated," Look said. "It's just so heartbreaking to see that, we're assuming kids, would create such damage for no purpose. It's just so disturbing."

Look said windows have been broken in the building over the last few years from people throwing rocks from outside.

"We thought that this (incident) was more of that, but we got inside and it was trashed," she said.

Inside the vacant building, lamp fixtures and a display case were shattered and residue from a fire extinguisher blanketed the garage.

(continued on page 9)

April Fool's fake email causes stir

Follow-up comments cause rift between mayor, Planning Commission chairwoman

by Jeb Bing

What started as an April Fool's joke sending a mock message from a Pleasanton official's email address turned ugly this week as follow-ups included unpleasant exchanges between Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Planning Commission Chairwoman Anne Fox.

The incident could cost Fox her job.

The first email was sent out at 7:40 a.m. Sunday, April 1, purportedly by Jacqui Diaz, assistant to City Manager Nelson Fialho, and used her correct city email address. It referred to a Pleasanton Weekly editorial critical of the

City Council's decision to support a neighborhood appeal against a plan by Trinity Lutheran Church to build a preschool and Sunday school classroom building to replace temporary modulars and to realign its parking lot. While not objecting to the school, neighbors along Golden Road and connecting streets persuaded the council to keep the current parking lot on Golden at its current size, with the additional parking to feed off Del Valle Parkway.

The council vote was 3-2 to support the neighborhood appeal.

Addressed to Heather Brillhart,

(continued on page 11)

Sex offender in custody by Morgan Hill police

Duran had been frequenting Pleasanton open houses

by Emily Atwood

Daniel Duran, a registered sex offender who recently posed as a potential homebuyer and frightened several women in Pleasanton, was taken into custody by Morgan Hill police last week after being

on a school campus, according to Pleasanton Det. Eric Fredgren. It was rumored to be an elementary school campus, though Fredgren couldn't confirm that detail

(continued on page 6)

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Offender

(continued from page 5)

Wednesday.

Duran was arrested for violating section 290, which is a lifetime requirement for sex offenders to register their address and inform police and school officials if on a school campus. Fredgren said it's a misdemeanor charge and Duran could be out on bail soon.

Since being seen in Pleasanton a couple weeks ago, Fredgren said he had exhibited similar suspicious behavior in Gilroy, Morgan Hill

and San Jose. He added that the Morgan Hill and San Jose police and their sexual assault task force have been actively looking for him.

Duran has not been seen in Pleasanton for about two weeks. His car was repossessed and he travels by way of bus and bike, but could get another car, Fredgren said. If he were to come back to Pleasanton, police will document his activity in case he exhibits criminal behavior.

Pleasanton police issued a notice March 23, alerting the community about Duran, a 41-year-old San

Jose resident who frequented various Pleasanton real estate offices, open homes and neighborhoods, posing as a potential homebuyer.

He is described as 5-foot, 10-inch tall Hispanic male, with brown hair and brown eyes and weighing 200 pounds. He has a scar on his left forearm and a tattoo on his chest. ■



Come Celebrate Easter With Us

Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton Holy Week Services

April 6 - Good Friday - 7:30 p.m.

Remembering the moment of our Lord's death

April 7 - Children's Easter Egg Party - 10:30 a.m.

Bring a basket of plastic eggs/candy and share in the Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Morning Services

April 8 - Resurrection Sunday - Easter Festival Worship

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship in Trinity Park

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April 7

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Easter Vigil 8:00PM

(No 5:00pm Mass this day)

• EASTER SUNDAY MASSES •

April 8

St. Augustine Church:

8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM,

10:05AM Outside Grotto Behind Church

St. Elizabeth Seton Church:

9:00AM, 11:00AM

4:00PM & 6:30PM (both youth-oriented)

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April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Easter Morning Services

Sunday, April 8

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.



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Sunday, April 8

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Good Friday and Easter

Good Friday, April 6

Noon Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Stations of the Cross

and Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day, April 8

8:00 & 10:00am

Holy Eucharist

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Officials keep an eye out for mountain lion

Two sightings reported last week following March 14 sighting

by Janet Pelletier

Police and Fish and Game officials say they will continue to keep a watchful eye out for mountain lions in residential areas after some sightings last week, but plan no further action otherwise.

"We will continue to respond if we get any more calls, but as far as doing anything special, we don't plan on it," said Animal Services Officer Roy Ficken.

Fish and Game will also monitor the region occasionally, he added.

"We don't expect any problems with (the wildcats)," Ficken said. "The cats have been in the area for a long time and it has never been a problem."

Two mountain lion sightings were reported March 28 and 29 by

(continued on page 9)



Emily Alwood

Lt. Tom Fenner fields questions from the media March 29 after confirming the mountain lion spotted in Vintage Hills was not found under a house on Chadbourne Court.

LifeStyleRx 5k/10K & Fitness Celebration

presented by
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All proceeds will directly benefit ValleyCare's Emergency Room Expansion Campaign.

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9:30am Award Presentation

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Oak Grove plans postponed until April 25

Planning Commission cites impending Brown Act violation as reason; residents allowed to voice opinions in public comment instead

by Janet Pelletier

Plans for 51 custom-built homes and the dedication of nearly 500 acres of rolling green hills above Kottinger Ranch and Vintage Hills in a new development to be called Oak Grove have been postponed by the Planning Commission. The project will instead be heard at its April 25 meeting.

The reason is because city staff didn't publicly submit all of the paperwork for the project within the 72-hour window before the Wednesday, March 28 meeting, a requirement of the Ralph M. Brown Act which contains rules regarding public access to government.

Two letters were submitted to the commission by residents asking that the hearing to approve the plans be continued for that reason. Chairwoman Anne Fox, with commissioners' approval, elected to continue the hearing to April 25 and instead hold a public comment session where residents, most of whom live in Kottinger Ranch, could voice their opinions of the project since they showed up at the meeting not knowing the item would be postponed.

"We like to make sure when we have a good project that you have enough time to look at the report," Fox told about 30 people who attended the meeting. "I know part of our packet didn't arrive until Monday evening."

It was clear from the dozen people who spoke about Oak Grove that most supported the project and recognized the hurdles both developers and concerned residents overcame to reach agreement. While they wanted the land to stay undeveloped, residents said they realized that a compromise was imminent.

"It's sad to see that development could come to this area, but this is a good plan and in general, I'm in support of it," said Vintage Hills resident James Van Dyke.

Some issues lingered, however, that residents wanted ironed out before any approval was granted.

Those included: making sure it's in writing that no further extension or construction than what the project entails be allowed on the property; a conservation easement be granted, the open space be open to the public for hiking and biking; and funding is appropriated by the developer for traffic mitigation and a traffic light be built at Kottinger Drive and Bernal Avenue.

Some residents have spoken of their disapproval to allow the public to have access to the open space, citing the potential for illicit and illegal activity, but those who spoke at the meeting disagreed.

"If we have an access area and the thought is that it will encourage arsonists and teens, it almost borders on the humorous," Van Dyke said. "Allowing good people such as hikers and bikers will deter the bad people from coming."

Van Dyke, who is a mountain biker, said if he or fellow cyclists noticed "people throwing around beer bottles, we're the people that would do something about it."

"I don't think anyone's 100 percent excited about the project but that's really hard to do when you have diverging ideas," said Bing Hadley, who is the president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association.

Hadley suggested a condition of approval that the city wouldn't exercise eminent domain, meaning they wouldn't be able to seize private property without consent of the owner.

On the subject of after-dark activity, Hadley reiterated other's concerns that the area could become a post-hiking and mountain biking party zone.

"I'm not a policeman, don't want to be or like to be," he said, adding that he sees teens go up Hearst Drive to enter the open space where there are "no trespassing" signs posted and finds drug and alcohol-related paraphernalia.

Commissioner Phil Blank recused himself on the Oak Grove item because he lives close to the project area. Blank spoke as a private citizen saying he felt overall it was a good plan, but said the developers need to improve the access route to Oak Grove,

which is on Hearst Drive, where he lives. Noise from Livermore Airport was also a concern of his as was the possibility that an airplane may need to make an emergency landing on the property.

Others issues raised included emergency access routes and the size limits of the custom homes. The homes are limited to 8,000 square feet for primary structures, an additional 2,000 square feet for accessory structures and 800 square feet for a garage that is exempt from the floor area.

Russell Schmidt, who lives on Grey Eagle Court, where an emergency vehicle access road is designated for in the project, said he and his Grey Eagle Estates neighbors are "adamantly opposed" to the Oak Grove project due to the access road plans.

"Our street is very narrow and because of that, I believe the risk is high that it would not be possible to evacuate both Oak Grove and Grey Eagle quickly enough in the event of a wildfire that threatened both developments," he said.

Schmidt called the plans reckless and irresponsible, adding that creating a road connection between a new Oak Grove street and Grey Eagle Court will result in more pedestrian, bicycle, scooter and skateboard access through the private street.



At the end of Hearst Drive in Kottinger Ranch there is currently a "no trespassing" sign regarding the rolling green hills in the distance. If the Oak Grove project is approved later this month, the public will be able to access the open space and trails for hiking and mountain biking.

Another concern, he said, is that since the court is privately owned and maintained, the homeowners association will have to pay for any road improvements.

"This appears to be plain and simple greed on (the developers') part," he said. "It is particularly offensive that the Oak Grove developers have merely assumed they can make use of our road to meet the evacuation route requirements mandated by the city, without any attempt at discussion with us property owners and without any contribution to the upkeep of our street."

He said he is prepared to take legal action either with the Grey Eagle Homeowners Association or on his own should the project be approved the way it stands now.

Since the action was taken to postpone the public hearing on Oak Grove to April 25 and only take public comment at the March 28 meeting, the Planning Commission could only ask questions of residents who spoke, but not give feedback to their comments. ■



Rebecca Guyon

What's with the flag?

Amid a mix of jeers and cheers from passing cars, Pleasanton resident Joe Onate, dubbing himself the "Lonestar Liberal," waves the French flag Monday at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. Onate said he was waving the flag to take a stance against the Iraq war, specifically to show his support for the bill Congress recently sent to President Bush setting a timetable for Iraq. Why the flag? "I'm not French, but France was against the war," Onate said. "They knew in the beginning that there were no weapons of mass destruction." He said he was out at that same intersection during the 2004 presidential elections and plans to be out again in 2008 showing his support for whoever becomes the Democratic candidate.

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Mountain lion

(continued from page 7)

residents in Vintage Hills and Ruby Hill.

On March 28, a resident on Grillo Court, which is adjacent to Vintage Hills Elementary School on Concord Street, reported seeing a mountain lion in a neighbor's back yard. The next morning, a resident who lives on Chadbourn Court, which is below a hillside backing up to Grillo Court, reported seeing what is believed to be the same animal. Each time, police and Fish and Game responded, but couldn't find the mountain lion. Just 15 minutes after the Chadbourn Court sighting, a Ruby Hill resident reported seeing a lion "trotting along a drainage ditch adjacent to the hillside behind the housing tract" on Valenza Way.

Officials, however, couldn't find the animal. As a result of the sightings, Vintage Hills Elementary was in lockdown for the two days last week. Vice Principal Gina Baumgartner said the children were under more strict supervision and

were escorted to the bathroom and to other classes.

The sightings follow another that occurred two weeks prior, when a city parks worker reported a mountain lion in Kottinger Park near the back fence of Valley View Elementary School.

Officials have said there could be a couple different reasons the animals are drifting inland. They could be either looking for food or water and if residents are leaving food out for deer, which mountain lions prey on, it could be leading them further into neighborhoods. This is also the time of year that mothers leave their yearlings to fend for themselves.

Police say these sightings should not hinder use of parks in the area since mountain lions try to avoid people and will often retreat. Yet they add that anyone in close proximity to a mountain lion should stand still and not run, and let the animal leave the area. If such an incident occurs, contact police immediately, 931-5100. ■

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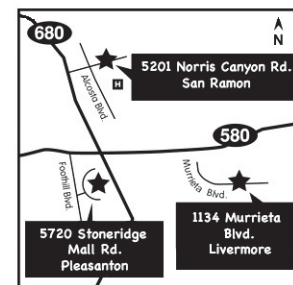
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Fire station

(continued from page 5)

"In the upstairs office area, all the lights are smashed, the windows were pulled off the walls, broken, and cigarette butts (were strewn around)," Look said.

There was also a report that the suspect had urinated in the building, which could possibly provide DNA evidence.

The \$10 million project to restore the fire station into a Firehouse Arts Center that will include art classrooms, a theater and galleries for the public, is currently going through a final design process.

"The city is boarding up all of the windows," she said. "We are disappointed about that because we've been taking people through tours of the facility to give them a

visual image of what the Firehouse Arts Center is going to be like. Part of that is standing upstairs and looking out of those windows and seeing Wayside Park, so we're talking about eventually replacing those plywood boards with plexiglass or something so that we can still see out of them."

A group from Leadership Pleasanton, which is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, was scheduled to tour the facility last Wednesday but had to cancel.

The suspect is described by police as a white male with reddish-colored hair. He was wearing a tan or light-colored T-shirt and was seen running away from the scene on First Street. Anyone with information is asked to call the police department at 931-5100. ■

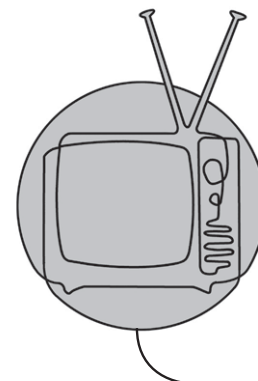
Staff reporter Emily Atwood
contributed to this report

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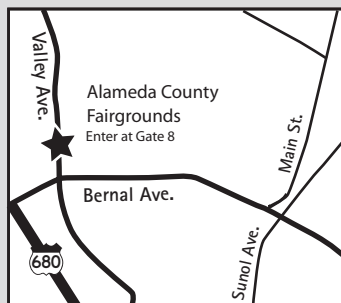


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New restaurant review system launches on PleasantonWeekly.com

Residents can now post their own reviews of local restaurants, make reservations and read reviews from across the Web

Visitors to PleasantonWeekly.com, the Pleasanton Weekly's community Web site, can now rate local restaurants and access reviews written by both professional and amateur reviewers from across the Internet.

The new feature, which can be found at www.PleasantonWeekly.com under the "Restaurants" section, has been developed by a Palo Alto start-up company called BooRah, which plans to eventually roll out the system nationally.

"Embarcadero Publishing Company's Web sites are the testing ground for BooRah's service," said Pleasanton Weekly President Gina Channell-Allen. "This cutting-edge technology will enhance the usefulness of our Web site and further our commitment to engage our readers in the content of the site."

The name says it all, according to Eric Moyer, co-founder and CEO of BooRah. Boo means thumbs down; Rah means thumbs up, he said.

But the simplicity stops there, he said, as the system behind BooRah is a highly sophisticated "natural language processing" (NLP) technology. NLP automatically compiles evaluations of res-

taurants (or about anything else, such as hotels, local shops, movies or professional services) from the Internet. NLP is a specific area of the artificial intelligence field of research and development.

The official launch of the system this week at PleasantonWeekly.com and DanvilleWeekly.com followed Embarcadero's Palo Alto Online and sister paper The Pacific Sun in Marin County. It will soon be rolled out in New York and Los Angeles, according to Moyer.

While many Web sites offer restaurant information, online reservations and reviews, the unique feature of the BooRah system is how it searches the Web and compiles all reviews that have been written about each restaurant, creates a summary review and rating, and allows users to easily access the reviews, according to Moyer.

It also encourages users to write their own review, rate restaurants and submit updated information about local restaurants. In this way, local restaurant patrons help to keep the information current and can post their opinions about their dining experiences.

Moyer said the idea for the startup emanated from conversations with a longtime associate,

Nagaraju Bandaru, who is now BooRah's chief technology officer. Bandaru formerly was vice president of engineering at MetroFi and has 16 years of experience in management, technology and new-market development, including holding management positions at Covad Communications, Lockheed Martin and Exodus Communications. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a master's degree in computer science from the University of Hyderabad, India.

Moyer handles overall strategy, marketing and business development. He formerly was vice president of marketing for MetroFi, where he led the service launch of residential broadband wireless service. He has 18 years of experience in the field and met Bandaru when he was with Covad Communications. He has an MBA from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Johns Hopkins University.

What users can find

Those using the new restaurant review feature get instant access to

(continued on page 11)

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Restaurant

(continued from page 10)

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- An easy way for users to post their own reviews of local restaurants
- A search feature allowing users to search by name, cuisine or location
- Online reservations ■

April Fool's

(continued from page 5)

a Golden Road homeowner who led the appeal, the purported memo from Diaz read:

"The editorial in the Pleasanton Weekly on Friday served as a bit of a trigger for us to acknowledge sentiments that the City Manager's office has been feeling for the last week over the settlement forged with respect to the Trinity Lutheran Church expansion project. Mr. Fialho fears that, in retrospect, the city has not acted in the best interest of the Golden Rd. neighborhood or the Trinity Church. We have petitioned Mayor Hosterman, pursuant to Article XIV, Section 7, of the City of Pleasanton by-laws, to overturn the City Council vote of March 20."

As it turned out, the fake email was sent by one of the neighbors, Rick Altman, who spoke against the church plan at the March 20 meeting. It included a link that, when highlighted, opened to a Web page showing a cartoon person sticking out their tongue. However, as the email was forwarded on to others, the link disappeared.

It was intended as a joke and he never thought anyone would take it seriously, Altman said, in apologizing to City Manager Nelson Fialho. "I also plan to send letters of apology to all those involved, including the Rev. David Beard, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, and City Council and Planning Commission members."

But Altman's bogus email took on legs of its own. Planning Commission Chairwoman Fox received a copy and responded at 3:15 that same day, sending the email to City Attorney Michael Roush with copies to Fialho, the Pleasanton Weekly and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern.

Following her subject line, "Messages purported to be from the City Manager's office," Fox asked whether others were aware that the neighborhood adjacent to Trinity appeared to be sending the

email out.

She wrote in her email: "I would like to remind city staff that in an already bad situation, it does not look very good if indeed either the City Manager's office spent Friday cooking up April Fool's emails (which I'm hoping it didn't) or alternatively if the neighborhood has falsified emails that appear to be originating from the City Manager's office. Falsification of government correspondence is as I recall outlined in the Government Code and is punishable by a year in jail and a hefty fine. I don't even know how the originator received Jacqui Diaz's email address and phone number unless Ms. Diaz has been sending the appellants emails all along for some reason and they simply copied one of her emails and modified it."

On Monday, when Fialho was back on the job and read the email, he quickly sent a response to Fox and Roush, with copies to the City Council "list." He told Fox that "in no way do I or anyone else associated with the city of Pleasanton organization, condone such antics."

"Like you," he wrote, "we take our mission of serving the community very seriously. And while that sometimes means we make decisions that all our citizens don't agree with, we are committed to working with integrity and respect. We all want the Trinity Lutheran expansion to have positive results—for the church, for the neighborhood and for the community."

Fox's comments also angered Mayor Hosterman. In a brief response, she emailed Fox:

"I find your continued negative admonitions to Pleasanton city staff, regarding your wild assertions made on baseless assumptions, unconscionable and, quite frankly, not in the best interests of the city," Hosterman wrote.

She added: "I have asked staff to schedule a meeting between you and me to discuss your continued role on the Planning Commission. I look forward to sitting down with you, sometime in the next two weeks." ■

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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

Votes against Pleasanton add to city's traffic woes

Pleasanton's obsession with traffic—especially traffic cutting through our streets from other cities—has its pitfalls as Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern saw firsthand last week. That's when the leaders of Livermore, Dublin and Alameda County voted against their bid to fund major improvements to State Hwy. 84 so that more commuters would find it faster to use that roadway over city streets. What seems to have particularly aggravated the other delegates at this final wrap-up meeting of the Tri-Valley Triangle Traffic Study coalition was the continued stonewalling by Hosterman and McGovern to seriously studying extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore's Jack London Road on the other side. The Pleasanton leaders, along with Councilman Matt Sullivan, are adamantly opposed to extending Stoneridge, which they believe would invite rush hour commuters stuck in traffic on the 580 and 680 freeways, to cut through Pleasanton in even greater numbers than they do now. Stoneridge was the first topic for discussion when the coalition started more than two years ago, and that's the way the Triangle group ended. County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena and Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart insisted again last week that Pleasanton was not a team player in providing good traffic movement opportunities by its rejection of the Stoneridge extension plan, long a part of regional, county and even Pleasanton's master plan. Haggerty has argued that Pleasanton is part of the region's highway network plan and should complete the Stoneridge road connection. Lockhart said Dublin has steadily extended Dublin Boulevard and other major thoroughfares to the east, paralleling 580, which offers commuters a chance to bypass gridlocked traffic situations. Kamena has long lobbied to extend Stoneridge, saying it's vital to those who live in his city and commute to jobs here as well as those who need to reach ValleyCare Medical Center in a hurry.

As a result, the Triangle coalition voted 5-2 in favor of a recommendation it will send to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency that millions of dollars in regional, county and state bonds and gas tax revenue be spent on new carpool and toll lanes on both the 580 and 680 freeways, on new overcrossings and also more ramp metering. Money already has been appropriated to build truck-passing lanes on Hwy. 84 (Isabel Road) north of Ruby Hill and work will soon get under way. As for the rest of Hwy. 84, it's likely to be years before the agencies that control project expenditures put it on a priority list.

Last Tuesday, council members talked about what to do next. The shutdown of the Triangle coalition marks the end of a much-touted effort by Hosterman to bring the county and Tri-Valley cities together to help resolve traffic problems, including Pleasanton's. But unable to bend or compromise on Stoneridge, she lost the votes of the others whose support she needed. The council authorized her to send a letter to the Congestion Management Agency reiterating Pleasanton's position on Hwy. 84 and to complain about the vote that was stacked against Pleasanton over a single issue: the Stoneridge Drive extension. It's worth a shot, although the CMA is dominated by the Bayside cities of Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward and San Leandro which probably have little interest in Hwy. 84.

Of course, it's still possible that Stoneridge Drive will be extended. The City Council has not held a public hearing on that plan, or on the effort by Hosterman, Sullivan and McGovern to take the extension out of the new General Plan that is now being written. A traffic study that will show the possible traffic volumes on Stoneridge and other city streets if Stoneridge is extended, as well as those impacts if it's not, is scheduled to be heard by the council later this month. After that, it's possible that a citywide vote will be called to let the public make the decision, which would delay the outcome of the argument and the General Plan Update for months and long after the CMA and other funding agencies have made their final allocations.



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Letters

Check the box to support democracy

Dear Editor,

As you complete and file your federal income tax return before the April 17 deadline, the League of Women Voters urges you to check the box to designate \$3.00 of your tax payment to the Presidential Election Fund.

If you are concerned about "big money" and special interests unduly influencing elections, this is your opportunity to ensure that the election system is healthy and that public campaign financing is an essential element of a fair election.

The League of Women Voters believes that democracy is better served if every candidate is on the level playing field provided by the Presidential Election Fund. The national League has worked in recent years to fix the presidential public financing system. In addition to asking candidates to commit to using the presidential public financing system for the general election, the League and other national groups recently urged lawmakers to co-sponsor or publicly endorse legislation to reform the system.

Checking the box simply puts three dollars of the tax you've already paid into the Presidential Election Fund. The size of the Fund and the strength of our democracy depends entirely on the number of people who choose to check the box.

The Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters is the place where citizens are making democracy work in our community. To get involved in the hands-on work of improving our community, send us an e-mail at lavlww@comcast.net, call 443-VOTE, or go to our Website <http://lav.ca.lwvnet.org>.

*Barbara Hempill, President
Livermore-Amador Valley League
of Women Voters*

Houston doesn't respond to interview request

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a League of Women Voters (LWV) meeting and was surprised and disappointed to hear Assembly member Guy Houston of District 15 has chosen to not respond to a request from the local LWV to participate in an interview. A member of the LWV contacted Guy Houston's office not once but five times between Feb. 8 and March 27—by telephone, by email and by letter—to his local office and to his Sacramento office. He has not responded.

Each year CA LWV interview their state representatives giving the league and legislators a chance to exchange ideas before the league focuses on specific legislation. The interviews also give legislators an opportunity to learn about league positions and to share their priorities. Questions are submitted

to the legislators ahead of time so meetings are efficient and productive. However, our league will not be providing feedback to the state from our assembly district as Assemblyman Houston has chosen to ignore the league's request.

The league takes government seriously and works hard to promote good government. It is discouraging to know our representative is simply not interested or too busy to provide input that would have been helpful in directing the league in the future. It is even more discouraging that he did not provide a response to the request either in the positive or the negative. Assemblyman Houston's failure to respond to the request and failure to participate in a reasonable interview makes me question his commitment to public service.

*Dolores Bengtson
Member, LWV*

Landon's family responds

Dear Editor,

Your article about the Melsons ("The search for the missing," Cover Story, March 9) is spot on. I am Landon's twin brother and it was truly awesome to see people like Tim Miller and Michael Melson go out of their way to help a family like mine, without the means/resources to conduct mass searches, and truly attack each one with such determination and fervor while still having the kindness and sensitivity to be able to truly connect with the families they are helping. Mike is an awesome guy; I respect him a lot. He was a source of strength for me and I know if I called him today to help my family and me with something, he would do every thing in his power possible to do just that, just like you wrote in your article.

Michael K. Orcutt

Your Turn

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at 600-0840.

Guest Opinion

Trinity church 'compromise' ill-conceived, costly

by Michael Hamilton

On March 20, the City Council voted 3-2 to approve a building plan conceived and authored by city staff for Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity never supported this plan. The issue that was supposed to be before the City Council was to render a judgment on an appeal filed by the neighbors of Trinity in regards to the building plan. The Planning Commission had voted by a margin of 4-0 to allow Trinity to complete a master plan that had originally been presented to the Planning Commission in 1999. With over 80 members of Trinity Lutheran in attendance, we deserved to have the appeal get an up or down vote. Instead the council chose to approve a plan that was conceived and authored by the city. Any private property owner should be aghast by that. It is a disgraceful use of power. Councilman Matt Sullivan felt that this approach should be a model for future projects. I prefer to call it the "Soviet Model."

The City Council and city staff created an unfair process. At no time during the meeting were the merits of Trinity's approved plan discussed. Instead, the city presented four plans to the council and advocated one of them (Option No. 3). There had never been a public hearing on any of these plans. So, in the end, Trinity developed its plan for over a year with Planning Commission supervision. In contrast, city staff put four competing plans together in a matter of days or weeks.

The city plan No. 3 is poorly conceived. The rationale is that by reducing the parking spaces within

Trinity, there will be less cars parking on Golden Road. The logic to that dumbfounds me. In addition, the city plan moves many existing spots to such an inconvenient location that many people will opt to park on Golden Road. This only exacerbates the existing traffic and parking problems.

There was a conflict of interest. The city had no business developing plans and then becoming an advocate for one plan. The city staff had not conducted any traffic or construction engineering studies. It is unknown how much more Option No. 3 will cost Trinity Lutheran. One thing is clear, if you redesign the project, use much more asphalt in paving an access road and incur construction delays, the price tag goes way up. This jeopardizes the entire project.

Sullivan said we would save \$400,000 to \$500,000 by not having to move our portable trailers (which house our community preschool) during construction. Therefore, he could not anticipate much difference in construction costs to Trinity Lutheran. That comparison is with Option No. 2 from the city, so the comparison is bogus. Please don't justify cost savings to Trinity Lutheran by comparing a poorly designed and high priced plan from the city. In addition, even the city did not support that option. In conclusion, the approved plan by the city is being marketed as a compromise. Even in these cynical times, that is an impressive piece of spin. ■

Michael Hamilton is Vice President of Corporate Sales for Mach 1 Air Services in Burlingame, a domestic and international freight forwarder. He and his family have lived in Pleasanton for 10 years and are members of Trinity Lutheran Church.



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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

RECONSIDERING SELLER FINANCING

Two people make an offer on your investment home that includes taking out a sizable new first mortgage and they also ask that you, the seller, carry back enough financing to help them eliminate the requirement for mortgage insurance. In return for the favor, the buyers are offering a very attractive purchase price. Why might you consider providing seller financing?

There are more potential benefits to the seller than there used to be, since property prices have generally appreciated by mighty leaps over the past several years. Specifically, a seller should be aware that she or he pays capital gains taxes only on the gains received in any year. If, for example, the buyer is making interest-only payments to the seller for a period of time, no capital gains taxes will be due on those payments.

A seller, therefore, can carefully negotiate the terms of the seller financing to both spread the gains tax liability over several years and, if need be, avoid taxable gains in certain years. Obviously, you will benefit greatly by creating a payment program with the help of your trusted tax advisor.

This strategy can also be used with a personal residence which you have converted to a rental property. Indeed, it may be time now to sit down with your tax advisor and real estate professional and formulate a long-term plan to defer and, in some cases avoid, heavy gains taxes. Please call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Season opens to record crowds by Jeb Bing

by the Pleasanton Weekly staff

Record numbers of players, more teams than ever and an increasing demand for more fields dedicated to baseball marked the spring opening of Pleasanton's Little League, PONY baseball, girls softball and the adult softball leagues.

The lighted adult fields at the entrance to the 105-acre Sports Park, the largest in the area, are filled to capacity with company, organization, church and group teams. PONY baseball cut off new registrations weeks ago, and the three Little League organizations—American, National and Foothill—are also filled. Pleasanton Girls Softball, which is celebrating its 30th year, has nearly 1,000 players this season, a new record.

All teams have found field space this year, although PONY will play several games in nearby cities and make more extensive use of fields at Amador Valley High School. Practice fields also have been added at most elementary and middle schools and in some public parks.

"While other sports don't have a major impact on baseball yet, we are a city with mostly multi-use fields," said Recreation Supervisor Daniel Villaseñor. "Besides steady increases in player registrations for baseball, we're also seeing more demand for field space for other types of sports."

He said lacrosse has been attracting more players every year since it became popular in Pleasanton about five years ago, Pleasanton Junior Football also has gained in popularity, particularly the tag, non-contact version. With a growing Indian population, there is also some demand for cricket fields, which San Ramon is already building.

City crews have worked from early December until mid-March to reseed, fertilize and prepare the fields in Sports Park.

Besides Sports Park, Villaseñor also schedules play on the upper Bernal fields just east of First Street, the only lighted fields for youth sports. Work is scheduled to begin later this year on adding three new baseball fields on the Bernal property, including one practice field and two that will be lighted.

Foothill Little League

The Pleasanton Foothill Little League threw out the first pitch during a festive opening day ceremony March 24, marking the start of the season, which runs through June.

"We had Congressman McNerney and two dynamic-looking staff sergeants in full dress blues from the Marine



The Pleasanton Girls Softball League includes nearly 1,000 players this year.

Jenny Williams

Corps," said PFLC president Terry Abbey.

A total of 400 little leaguers are playing on 35 teams in the league this year, he said.

Something new that hasn't been offered in the past is a Hit-A-Thon fundraiser. Similar to the Homerun Derby that Major League Baseball puts on every year, the hit-a-thon will be an essential tool to raise funds for such things as equipment, Abbey said.

"It's a fun contest for kids to come out and they are sponsored by family members and friends and they get to hit however many balls they're sponsored for and they get awards based on the distance that they hit them," he said. "On the little guys, it's how far it rolls and on the big guys, it's on how far it lands."

The hit-a-thon will be held April 28, featuring all levels of the league including T-ball, farm club, AA, AAA and Majors. For each \$6 in donations, a player earns an additional ball to hit up to a maximum of six balls per player. Each player will get the first ball for free.

American Little League

Also licensed by the national Little League organization based in Williamsport, Pa., the Pleasanton American Little League season is underway.

Nearly 50 teams comprising 480 players are participating this year, according to PALL president Toni Eslick.

The league opened the season March 17 with a small ceremony. The league will have a bigger ceremony at the end of the season.

The leagues will be playing the second year of two newly-imposed rules.

Last year, residential boundaries were redrawn to decide which players fit in which league in the city and the age limits were adjusted by three months,

according to Eslick.

"Up until last year, the age limit was July 31, so (Little League) moved it up three months to April 30," she said. "Anyone who had a birthday between May 1 and July 31 got to be in the same age level two years in a row."

A new pitching rule goes into effect for all of the little league teams that was made voluntary last year and permanent this year.

"They've incorporated a pitch count rule for the kids to prevent arm injuries," Eslick said. "The Little League organization made the change because studies showed kids were overexerting themselves in pitching."

Previously, Eslick said, pitcher's limitations were in how many innings they could pitch, not how many pitches they could throw.

National Little League

The Pleasanton National Little League (PNLL) started in 1969 and was the city's first league, according to Kevin Wrenn, president of the league. From mid-March to mid-June, about 450 players (ages 5 through 18) pack the sports park diamonds to play against other teams from the league.

The league boundaries are the same for those in Alisal, Valley View and Walnut Grove elementary schools. PNLL is comprised of different divisions based on age: T-ball for ages 5 to 6, farm for 6 to 7 year olds, minor A/AA/AAA for ages 8 to 10, majors for 11 and 12 year olds, junior 80s for 13 year olds, junior 90s for 14 year olds, seniors for ages 15 and 16, and big league for ages 17 and 18.

At the season opener March 17 the group held an opening ceremony on each field for every game that day.

When the season nears its end, players ages 9 to 12 participate in All Star tournaments which can often extend the season to allow for competition beyond the league.

Pony baseball

PONY, an acronym for Protect Our Nation's Youth, was organized in Pleasanton 10 years ago as an alternative to Little League's more structured organization. Offering play for specific age brackets starting in at 5 years old, PONY has traveling teams for players as young as 13, with teenage teams playing 45-48 games a season, twice as many as Little League.

Steve Dukleth, president of Pleasanton/Livermore PONY baseball, said PONY teams play on progressively larger fields, with the 5- to 6-year-old group bases 50 feet apart and a pitching mound 38 feet from the batter. For teams whose players are at least



Congressman Jerry McNerney, Jordan Ott in Foothill Little League uniform, and staff sergeants Dante Trujillo and Director Jim Wolfe are on a baseball field.

15 years old, the field has regressed from the batter.

"We feel there's a benefit to having the kids play on standard base fields so that every two years they can move farther," Dukleth said. "By the time they're 15, they know how to play on standard base fields."

PONY also has co-ed teams. "We're finding that some of the all boys and really wallop the

Girls

If it's baseball season, it's softball season. The Pleasanton Softball League is already in its 30th year. The league was celebrated March 10 with a game—something it hasn't done before.

Over the past 30 years, the league has grown from 960 girls in grades one through six to 1,200 girls in grades one through six.

With 75 teams, the girls play on the same fields as the boys at Sports Park and Upper Bernal. The league has a variety of local elementary schools.

Board president Jenny Williams said she has seen changes in the way softball is played in the community.

"The bar has been raised as to what a good pitcher is," she said. "You used to have a lot of sons, but now there are girls."

That's not to say, however, that the girls don't come out and have fun. Laura Williams, 15, has been playing for years. She was a soccer player in middle school, but the nature of soccer in Pleasanton was not for her.

"It seemed a little less forceful than soccer, and I could get out and meet a lot of people."

Adult

The fun isn't reserved just for the kids. The adult softball game in Pleasanton is also popular. Over 2,500 people make up the 20 teams in the league. It has been going on "forever."

Teams are divided into men's and women's. Some players opt for 35 and some for 45. Jack Maready manages a team. He and his wife have been together for about 10 years.

"It's gotten more competitive over the years, but it's a good job of recreation."

The league draws groups from all over the area. Pleasanton has about 825 employees, Pleasanton has a team. In their third year, said it's about having a team.

"We do it mostly for after school and it allows us to come together for a team."

While registration for spring starts in August and finishes up in the fall, registration for fall starts in August and finishes up in the fall.

For those interested in participating, contact the league.

Play Ball!



Jeb Bing

(left) prepares to toss out the first pitch to the league's opening ceremonies. Others who threw the first pitch were Councilman Jerry Thorne (right), Marine Corps Sgt. Michael Meeks, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Bill Cody.

regular 90-foot bases and 48 feet separating the

to gradually increasing the field measurements a player has to run a little faster, a little longer the time they finish high school, they know they can play softball fields."

ns, allowing girls to play if they qualify. If these girls can come onto a team that's been playing for a while, it's a changing sport."

Softball League

softball season, too and the Pleasanton Girls Softball League is in full swing. The league's 30th anniversary, which includes an Opening Day ceremony and scrimmage game, has been celebrated for the past three years.

The league has continued to grow. This season, girls 12 and older will take to the fields.

They play games on the softball fields at Pleasanton City Park and practice at those locations, as well as at school fields.

Williams, who plays softball herself, said she's never seen a girl who isn't treated as a sport, both by players and coaches.

As much as some of these kids go to hitting and throwing, when I played, we didn't have that many lessons going at 8, 9 and 10 years old to lessons."

But, that girls of varying skill levels can't still play, Bennett, 12, joined the softball league four years ago, but got tired of the intense competitive nature of the game.

And, a little less pressure, but a way to stay active and meet new people while still having fun," she said.

Adult Softball League

for youth. The young at heart are a big part of the city's adult softball league. More than 100 teams in the league, which Villaseñor said

men's and co-ed. Anyone over 18 can play, with age groups from 18 and older, and 50 and older groups.

"legends" team called New Kids. They've been playing for years, with a roster of 15.

They play every year," he said. "It's forced us to recruit. It's just as fun, if not more fun."

From churches to corporations. With approximately 100 teams in the league, the possibility to play is everywhere. Phil Cary, a loan consultant, has been playing for his third year of playing.

work fun," he said. "It relieves stress and provides something other than work."

When the season is booked, the fall season begins in late September and ends in late October.

For more information, call 931-3438.

—Jeb Bing, Janet Pelletier, Emily Atwood and Rebecca Guyon contributed to this report.



Janet Pelletier



Janet Pelletier



Jeb Bing

Top: Businesses, organizations and churches are among the 200 teams registered in the city's Adult Softball League this spring and summer.

Middle: Players on the Foothill Little League Chicago Cubs AAA team get a pep talk from their coach in between innings on Monday at the Sports Park.

Bottom: City Recreation Supervisor Daniel Villaseñor has a massive whiteboard that he writes on to keep track of where all the various baseball and softball teams play for that day across the city.



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- **PCUP-189, Gorman Roofing, Manito Construction, and So Unique Parking**

Application for conditional use permits to allow the operation of three construction and/or construction-related business offices at 1040 Serpentine Lane, Unit 203; 1043 Serpentine Lane, Unit I; and 1177 Quarry Lane, Unit F, respectively, within Valley Business Park

- **Scoping Session on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Staples Ranch Development, PUD 57/PSP 11, Alameda County Surplus Property Authority**

Proposal to amend the 1989 Specific Plan to revise planned land use designations for: (1) an approximately 37 acre auto mall with up to 331,000 square feet of buildings and up to 3,270 parking stalls (Hendrick Automotive Group); (2) an approximately 45-acre senior continuing care community with about 1,400,000 square feet of buildings housing approximately 800 assisted living units, nursing beds and common facilities (Continuing Life Communities); (3) future commercial development of up to 175,000 square feet of retail or up to 280,000 square feet of non-retail office and services uses on approximately 16 acres; (4) future development of an approximately 17-acre community park by the City, which may include lighted sports fields, lighted tennis courts, a dog park, trails, a trail staging area, a pedestrian bridge connecting the north and south sides of the arroyo, a four-rink ice-skating facility on up to eight acres, and similar park-related activities; (5) preservation of the Stoneridge Drive extension right-of-way through the project site and connecting to an improved El Charro Road, as envisioned in the Specific Plan; (6) a new two-lane bridge that would extend Stoneridge Drive over the Arroyo Mocho and provide access to the proposed senior continuing care community and community park; and (7) access to the auto mall and future commercial development from a new road off El Charro Road, with no through connection to Stoneridge Drive except for emergency vehicles and (potentially) buses. The project site is located at the southwest corner of I 580 and El Charro Road intersection, in Unincorporated Alameda County.

Youth Commission

- The April 11, 2007 meeting of the Youth Commission has been rescheduled to Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Library Commission

- The April 12, 2007 meeting of the Library Commission has cancelled. The next regularly scheduled commission meeting will be held on May 10, 2007.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, April 12, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda.

NOTICE OF COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees:

City of Pleasanton Commissions/Committee (Four-Year Term)

- Human Services Commission, 2 Members, 1 Alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission, 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission, 4 Members, 2 Alternates

- Economic Vitality Committee

(1) Biomedical Representative

(1) Financial Institution Representative

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (One-Year Term)

- At-Large Parent Representatives

(1) Pre-School Representative; (1) Elementary School Representative

- 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- 1 Youth and 1 Alternate Representative from Village High School
- 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2007. Postmarks are not accepted.

**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

Tax papers swiped, car window smashed

While staying the night at a friend's home in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive March 20, a woman was awakened around 4 a.m. to sounds of a car alarm similar to hers. She didn't notice anything from afar, but found the rear passenger-side window was smashed and a pink Hawaiian duffle bag and jumper cables were stolen, according to police reports. The bag contained some receipts, tax documents, invoices and bank statements for last year's taxes. Other boxes in the 2001 four-door Mazda Tribute were untouched. The victim searched nearby Dumpsters, but couldn't find the stolen items, which were valued at \$35. Damage was estimated at \$200.

Police said the woman wasn't especially upset with the stolen tax documents since her banking accounts had been compromised the previous week and she had recently changed her accounts. While she claimed the other documents wouldn't compromise her identity, the officer advised her to watch her accounts for activity.

Computer stolen from local business

An employee of a printing business located in the 3800 block of Hopyard Road turned off the lights and left work around 11:15 a.m. March 17. Upon returning at 6:30 a.m. March 19, the employee noticed pry marks and a broken lock on the front door and a section of lights inside were on. A computer, valued at \$1,500 was missing, with the broken lock repair valued at \$500.

Police Report

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

March 23

- DUI: 1
- Credit card fraud:
 - 4:26 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 10:20 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; vehicular, worth over \$1,000
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue; residential, worth less than \$1,000
- Assault:
 - 8:38 a.m. in the 6200 block of Corte Altamira
 - 8:57 a.m. in the 5400 block of Montalvo Court
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 8:20 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive; marijuana possession
 - 8:46 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; cocaine possession
 - 9:27 p.m. in the 100 block of Main Street; public drunkenness

March 24

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:40 a.m. in the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue; credit card fraud
 - 2:23 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 5:02 p.m. in the 6100 block of Corte Trancas; from building, worth \$200-400
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 1:51 a.m. in the 4600 block of Ithaca Way; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 2:17 p.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$1,000
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:20 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Rose Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 4:11 p.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; marijuana possession
 - 6:00 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; public drunkenness

- Residential trespassing:
 - 2:31 p.m. in the 5200 block of Springdale Avenue
- Assault:
 - 3:30 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- **March 25**
- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:58 a.m. in the 3600 block of Kamp Drive; identity theft
 - 3:45 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 7:42 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 11:42 a.m. in the 4400 block of Bacon Court; worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
 - 9:59 a.m. in the 5100 block of Genovesio Drive
 - 10:02 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue
 - 9:14 p.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court

March 26

- Theft:
 - 9:12 a.m. in the 3200 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth less than \$50
 - 1:14 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; from building, worth over \$400
 - 7:12 p.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive; from building, worth over \$400
- Residential vandalism:
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vine Street; worth less than \$1,000
- Assault:
 - 1:05 p.m. at the intersection of Neal and First streets
- Marijuana possession:
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

March 27

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 2
- Theft:
 - 3:17 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; false pretenses
 - 7:40 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; worth less than \$50
- Vehicular burglary:

- 9:25 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; worth over \$400
- Assault:
 - 11:30 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Cocaine possession:
 - 8:47 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

March 28

- Found property: 1
- Threatening phone calls: 2
- Theft:
 - 10:34 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-199
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 8:26 a.m. in the 3300 block of Stanley Boulevard; worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
 - 5:04 a.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road
- Animal nuisance:
 - 7:25 a.m. in the 3700 block of Grillo Court
- Public drunkenness:
 - 7:36 p.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle
 - 8:41 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

March 29

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
 - 8:31 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; worth \$50-199
 - 11:10 a.m. in the 3600 block of Pimlico Drive; identity theft
 - 11:14 a.m. in the 3300 block of Muscat Court; identity theft
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth \$50-199
 - 12:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth \$50-199
 - 12:40 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth \$200-400
 - 3:52 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; worth \$200-400
- Unauthorized commercial entry:
 - 10:26 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- Synthetic drug possession:
 - 5:40 p.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets
- Assault:
 - 10:17 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

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½ tsp smoked paprika (available at Pans on Fire)
¼ tsp cinnamon
⅛ tsp nutmeg (try our measuring spoons that fit into spice jars)
Juice of one-half lemon

Preheat oven to 450°F. Toss mushrooms in olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Arrange in a single layer in a low-sided baking dish or cookie sheet (use Anolon Suregrip Bakeware!). Roast until juices have been released, about 12-15 minutes. Remove mushrooms and place in a bowl (have you tried a Spoonula?). Toss in spices and garlic. Return to the oven to roast another 5 minutes. Toss with lemon juice and serve warm or at room temperature. (There's so much "tossing")



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Parent photographers

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Keith Peters

Tony McCan of Foothill High finished third in the boys' high jump with a leap of 6-4 during the 33rd annual Stanford Invitational track and field meet last Saturday at Cobb Track & Angell Field.

Local gymnast has sensational season

Nine-year-old Lacy Dagen wins age division at state meet

Lacy Dagen, a 9-year-old gymnast from Pleasanton, just completed her level 7 season. She was one of only 25 9-year-olds in the country to qualify for Bella's Camp in Texas. Shortly after that she scored the highest all-around of 118 competitors ages 8 to 18 at the Judges Cup in San Jose.

This qualified her and five other girls to go to a national competition in Indianapolis and represent Northern California, where only one girl from Louisiana scored higher than her. She went on to win all of the all-around titles in every meet she entered this season, except one meet at UCLA where she took second.

Her season concluded March 24 and 25 with her winning her age division at the state meet in Stockton.

Seahawks host 1,400 swimmers last weekend

The Pleasanton Seahawks hosted the Far Westerns Championships at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center this past weekend, which meant hosting 1,400 swimmers from the western part of the United States, Canada and Mexico. Despite the stiff competition, several Seahawk swimmers excelled.

Pat Darrow placed fourth in the 17-18 boys 200 Free; Andrew Seitz took second in the 200 IM, eighth in the 200 Free, eighth in the 100 Free and eighth in the 500 Free (13-14 boys); Rachel Knowles took third in the 100 Fly, fourth in the 500 Free, and sixth in the 200 Free (10-Under girls); Josh Meints placed second in the 100 Free, third in the

100 Breast, fifth in the 100 Back, sixth in the 200 Breast, and seventh in the 200 Back (15-16 boys); Tory Houston took third in the 200 Breast, fourth in the 500 Free, and sixth in the 100 Breast and 200 IM (13-14 girls); Nick Silverthorn placed fifth in the 100 Free, sixth in the 200 Back, and seventh in the 500 Free (11-12 boys).

As for the relay teams, the 13-14 boys' relay team of Kyle Lindsay, Brandon Chandler, Edward Zhang, and Andrew Seitz placed sixth in the 400 Medley, fifth in the 200 Free Relay, sixth in the 200 Medley Relay, and sixth in the 400 Medley Relay; Lillian Sun, Rachel Knowles, Stephanie Aronson, and Kayla Lindsay placed seventh in the 10-U girls 200 Medley Relay.

Amador lacrosse wins league opener

The Amador Valley Varsity girl's lacrosse team was all business from the outset on last Tuesday evening, as they battled Monte Vista. From the balanced scoring attack to the stellar defense, the Lady Dons came ready to play. They walked away with the 15-10 win, hold-

ing off a hard-driving Monte Vista team and handing them their second EBAL loss. Amador's record stands at 7-0-1 overall, and 1-0 in the EBAL.

Amador's balanced scoring attack was on display from the start, as five different Lady Dons found the net in the opening 10 minutes. Sophomore Kara Bijesse scored at the 21:55 mark to put Amador on the board. Moments later, Melissa Sheehan fired one into the net, and Kerry McCulloch's goal, on a feed from Bijesse, gave the Lady Dons a 3-0 advantage after less than seven minutes of play. The remaining 18 minutes featured non-stop back-and-forth action. Monte Vista got on the board at the 18:21 mark, but Amador responded 30 seconds later when Kristyn Hayashi, on an assist from Ashley Royer, put one past the goalie. Then it was Royer's turn, when she scored on a feed from Robyn Clark to give Amador a 5-1 advantage.

The defense played with intensity the entire game. Alex Martin displayed her trademark high pressure D around the crease, while Melissa

(continued on page 19)



Courtesy Susan Miller

The Pleasanton Seahawks swim team excelled in the water as they hosted over 1,400 swimmers from the western part of the United States, Canada and Mexico at the Far Westerns Championships last weekend.

Sports

(continued from page 18)

Sheehan and Brittany Schoen controlled Monte Vista's drives to the goal. Freshman Colee Evangelista exhibited her raw speed, snagging ground balls and passing them off to the middies. Allie Zachariades cleared several balls to waiting attackers. This allowed Amador to score three more goals before the half. Amanda Nespor scored her first goal at the 6:27 mark. Bijesse rolled around the cage and scored less than three minutes later, and found the net again with 1:48 left in the half. Amador led 8-5 at the intermission.

It only took 44 seconds into the second half for the Lady Dons to go up 9-5 on a Nespor quickstick. Monte Vista began their comeback attempt when they scored three unanswered goals to come within one goal of knotting the score. However, Amador responded with three goals—one by Hayashi, on an assist from Nespor, and two more goals by Nespor—maintaining the Lady Don's four-goal lead (12-8) at the 11:25 mark. The Lady Dons outscored Monte Vista 3-2 in the remaining minutes—Bijesse scored her fourth goal of the game at the 4:05 mark, and Royer scored on a feed from Helen Cai two minutes later. With 31 seconds left in the game, Royer put one past the goalie to seal the 15-10 win.

Junior goalie Ana Martinez was spectacular between the pipes, stopping 20 shots in this high-scoring game.

Foothill softball shuts out Monte Vista, Granada

On March 27, the Foothill High School JV softball offense overpowered guests Monte Vista by crushing their defense by 15 hits and eight runs in six innings. Haley Piona went three for four in the game. Allie Straub and Lauren Ayers each had two RBIs. Our defense held strong by Mariah Worley and her excellent team behind her, through eight strikeouts and only one hit made by the Mustangs ending the game with an 8-0 shut-out.

On March 29, Foothill's J.V. traveled to Granada High. Both teams battled until the fourth inning to put up the first two runs when back to back singles by Jennifer Flammig, Lauren Ayers, and Haley Piona drove across the runs. Foothill added another run in the fifth inning when Jennica Holt singled, then reached second on an overthrow. Holt went to third on a wild pitch, and scored when Morgan McKinnon hit a ball to the pitcher. Foothill had eight hits on the day. Defensively, Foothill made the plays that they needed, and Mariah Worley gave up only two hits and struck out 11 Granada batters, with 3-0 shutout.

\$ Mortgage Matters \$

Subprime Mortgage Crisis

You have probably seen or heard the news concerning subprime lenders. A subprime mortgage is just as the name implies. It is a loan made to a borrower with less than good credit, usually a credit score under 620. Subprime loans have a shorter fixed period, generally 2 years, and, in most cases, usually have a two year prepayment penalty. This is generally a charge of 6 months interest on 80% percent of the unpaid balance.

Recently, we have seen numerous sub prime lenders closing their doors. At the printing of this article we have seen at least 40 lenders go out of business with many other lenders in trouble. There are many reasons for this situation including a slowing in home sales, a drop in values and potentially escalating mortgage payments, which occurs after the initial fixed period, causing huge increases in foreclosures and "early default loans". Most sub prime loans are sold to Wall Street investors shortly after the loan closes escrow. These loans contain a stipulation that if the borrower fails to make the 1st payment or fails to make any payment within 30 days of the due date in the 1st year, can cause the investor to make the original lender repurchase that loan. This is called an early default. It has occurred at an alarming rate, putting many subprime lenders in a very precarious position. One such major lender has been asked to repurchase over seven billion dollars in loans, putting them on the brink of bankruptcy.

Sub prime lenders have accounted for over 10% of the loans originated in U.S. As these lenders close or greatly restrict their underwriting criteria, the amount of borrowers able to purchase a home will be greatly reduced. The "trickle down affect" has already caused wild fluctuations in the stock market as investors worry about the severity and longevity of this crisis.

The big picture? Time will tell whether this is a short term or long term situation. We have already seen some loan programs disappear including the 100% stated income low credit score loan and we will probably see additional changes. The good news: The real estate and lending community is very resilient and will find ways to deal with these issues and move forward towards the next real estate boom.

If you have a concern about your subprime or adjustable loan, please contact me for a no obligation consultation about your options.

Rick Kuhle is a mortgage broker with Diversified Capital of Pleasanton, with 27 years of experience in the real estate industry. If you have any mortgage questions or are interested in a refinance or purchase loan, please call him at:

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Transitions

Obituaries

Ernest De Coite

Ernest De Coite died March 18 at the age of 89.

A resident of Pleasanton, he was a real estate broker in San Leandro for 45 years. A beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, his passions were dancing, fishing, tennis and golf. He was also a former member of the Sequoyah and Castlewood country clubs.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Pauline; three children Steven, Linda and Edward; brother Roy; sister Helen; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank Linda DuBois and Hope Hospice for their loving care.

A memorial service was scheduled for March 31 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hope Hospice, 500 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568; or The Parkinson's Institute, 1170 Morse Ave., Sunnyvale, CA, 94089.

Arthur W. Prince

Arthur W. Prince died March 21 at the age of 65.

Mr. Prince loved his family more than life itself. A resident of Pleasanton, he enjoyed playing dice and cards with his friends and family. In Vietnam he was injured and spent 18 months in the Walter Reed V.A. Hospital. He received a purple heart among many other awards and medals. He was a hero who was best known for "telling it like it is" but with a heart of pure gold.

Mr. Prince was the best husband and he cherished and adored his wife Lupe. He was the best father to his children and would give the shirt off his back if his kids needed it. His family and friends will miss him greatly and will cherish him in their hearts.

He is survived by his wife Lupe Prince; sons Tim and Joe; daughters Barbi and Cynthia Rosalie; grandchildren; daughter-in-law Sandy of Livermore; and numerous more family and friends.

Services were scheduled for March 30 at Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore.

Clara Zukerman

Clara Zukerman died March 16 at the age of 88.

Born in Dallas, Texas, Mrs. Zukerman graduated as the valedictorian of Dallas Technical High School and attended Southern Methodist University on a scholarship, where she graduated with honors at the age of 20.

During World War II, she met her husband Samuel Zukerman from Saskatoon, Canada, while serving in the American Army and

stationed near Dallas. After the war they moved to a log cabin in Montclair, Calif. and later to San Leandro, Oakland and Vallejo.

Mrs. Zukerman was a leader in a number of organizations and joined her husband as a real estate broker. Through her involvement in these groups and business, she made life-long friends. In her later years, she especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Zukerman is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Judi and Ron Basket of Pleasanton; grandchildren Lawrence and Marissa Baskett; son Alan Zukerman; and brother David Herman.

She was preceded in death by husband Samuel in 2000.

Services took place March 20. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Chai Lifeline, an organization that sponsors Camp Simcha, an oncology camp for Jewish children: Chai Lifeline, 151 West 30th St., New York, NY 10001.

Births



Ashley Anjali Mantha

Ashley Anjali Mantha was born at 12:54 a.m. March 22 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton to Srikanth and Christina Mantha, who are graduates of Walnut Grove Elementary, Harvest Park Middle and Amador Valley High.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

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

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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's Web site: www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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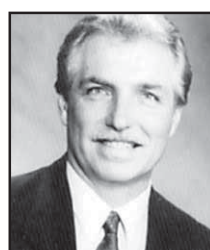
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Calendar

Author Visits

Sam Perone

Sam Perone, author and previous Pleasanton Resident, will present his mystery books "Judgment Day" and "Murder Almighty" from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 18 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenterbooks.com for details.

This Is Not the Life I Ordered

"This Is Not the Life I Ordered" is for anyone who has ever felt overworked, overwhelmed, or just plain unlucky. Deborah Collins Stephens, Michealene Cristini Risley, Jackie Speier, Jan Yanehiro will be speak about their lives and their book from noon to 1 p.m. April 18 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenterbooks.com for details.

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 at 846-1658.

Civic Meetings

City Council

The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Housing Commission

The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Human Services Commission

The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

School Board

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Youth Commission

The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Classes

Acting Training

Professional, in-depth training in acting for adults ages 15 and up will be offered by The Playhouse West Academy, 1345 Locust St. in Walnut Creek, Saturdays from 10 to 1 p.m.

April 7 through May 26. Classes are for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. There will also be an on camera commercial class offered this quarter. Classes taught by artistic director Lois Grandi. The cost is \$235. Email playhousewest@sbc-global.net, call 943-6464 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

Learn How to Play Bocce

Eat pizza and play bocce ball amongst the vineyards of beautiful Livermore Valley's Wine Country from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 7 at Campo di Bocce, 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore. Bocce (pronounced baw-chee) is a fun indoor/outdoor game a little like bowling with an Italian flair. It's perfect for any skill level, even if you've never played before. The cost is \$35 per person. Email bocce@bayareacritic.com, call 249-9800 or visit www.BayAreaCritic.com.

Wine Basics Class

This class is taught by wine experts of The Wine Steward in Pleasanton and is designed to help you understand the basics of wine appreciation and become more comfortable buying wine or ordering wine from a list in a restaurant. It meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 2 at The Wine Steward, 641 Main St. Cost is \$50 per person. Email wineclass@bayareacritic.com or call 600-9463. Visit www.BayAreaCritic.com for details.

Women and Money--Reach Your Potential

From 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday from April 17 to May 1 this class meets at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave., Room 701. This course is designed to give women the skills to achieve financial well-being. Presented by Christina

Weekend Preview



Stephen Sanfilippo show opens this weekend

Works such as "Private Reserve" (above) by local artist Stephen Sanfilippo will be on display at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St., starting Saturday and running through April 30. To kick off the exhibit, a reception will be held tomorrow from 4 to 7 p.m. at the gallery. Admission is free. Call Rosalinda Vela-Herrera, 846-6015 or e-mail alexandersgallery@sbcglobal.net for more information. Visit www.alexandersmainstgallery.com.

Ahlstrand, CFP® and Guest Speaker: A. Mari Miller, Estate Planning Attorney. The cost is \$45 and pre-registration is required. Call 426-4280 or visit <http://pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com> for details.

Clubs

Boutique Textile Art

Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of

unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday of the month to critique poetry and the third Saturday for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem.

Gnome Science: & Societal Effects

The Tri-Valley Democratic Club is meeting at 7 p.m. April 16 at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Dr. Elbert Branscomb will be

(continued on page 22)

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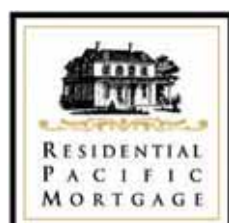
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Dyslexia / Learning Disorders

Albert Einstein Was A Genius- And A Dyslexic!

As many as 15% of school children are affected by dyslexia or other learning disorders. Many parents and teachers associate dyslexia with the most commonly known symptom of reversing "Ps and Qs" and "6s and 9s," yet this is present in less than

20% of those who have the disorder. Dyslexic kids can be smart but struggle with reading and other school-related tasks, such as writing, comprehension and even math. They can confuse

directions (right/left) or misread small words (the, he, is). Because these tasks are difficult for them, they tire easily while performing them and can develop avoidant techniques. This often causes people to assume that the child is lazy or has ADD/ADHD. Tutoring

can provide temporary relief and advance the child to the next grade; but, in the long run, it does more harm than good by giving parents a false sense of security. It delays him or her from receiving the right kind of help, which is desperately needed, and does nothing to fix the core cause of the problem, which will continue into adulthood if left untreated.



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Calendar

speaking about synthetically creating and engineering life. The ability to synthetically create and engineer life is a facet of the new, post-genome biology whose societal implications are in Branscomb's mind far greater, and far more problematic than, even, global warming. Visit www.TriValleyDems.com for details.

Good News Bears

Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Join us on the third Thursday of the month to see how you can provide "stuffed love" in our community. Club dues are \$30 per year. Contact Jeanie Haigh at jhaigh@webbears.com or 373-7982.

Hearing Loss Association of America

Would you like to get help from people with similar problems? Come to the meeting of HLLA, the Hearing Loss Association of America, Tri-Valley chapter, at 7 p.m. April 19 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Christopher Ash will demonstrate the free telephones and other assistive listening devices available to the hard of hearing. Attendance is free and refreshments are served. Contact Hiram Van Blarigan at 455-6591 or hvanblarigan@hotmail.com.

New Tri-Valley Homebrewing Club

Want to meet other brewers and advance your brewing techniques? Mad Zymurgists of the Tri-Valley meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. We welcome brewers of all levels of expertise, and have sponsorship from Hoptech in Dublin. See www.madzymurgists.org for more info and location of the next meeting.

Concerts

The Farallon Recorder Quartet

On April 21 Las Positas College presents hauntingly austere works from the Middle Ages share the stage with the rich harmonies and sparkling rhythms of the Renaissance and the graceful counterpoint of the Baroque. With works by Bach, Frescobaldi, Blaker, Isaac, Lacerda, Leenhouts and others. Pre-concert talk begins at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. in the Las Positas College Library, building 2000, 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. Tickets available at the door, \$5 for students, \$15 for general admission. The venue is wheelchair

accessible. For tickets and information call Marilyn Marquis at 424-1209 or visit www.lpclearlymusic.org.

Events

50,000 Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for Valley Christian's 50,000 Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 7 at 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. This event, free for the community, is fun for children and families of all ages and will also include pony rides, petting zoos, a variety of inflatables, bungee runs, face painting, hot dogs, cotton candy and more! Call 560-6202 or visit www.dublinvcc.org for info.

Annual CFA Allbreed Cat Show

Approximately 250 cats and kittens of 41 breeds will be on exhibit and competing for best in show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 7 and 8 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Rescue organizations will also be present with loving cats for adoption. Come for arts and crafts, gifts and gadgets for sale for both cats and cat lovers, door prizes and raffles. Proceeds to animal disaster relief. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children 10 and under, or \$16 per family. Call 827-2722 or visit www.alamedacountyfair.com for details.

Art and Wine Design

BayAreaCritic.com and Worthington Gallery West present: Everything You Wanted to Know About Buying, Hanging and Lighting Art, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 20 at the gallery on 739 Main St. Hear from an art historian and collector, get lighting and hanging tips from an interior redeigner, taste wine and try gourmet appetizers. The cost is \$10 in advance or \$20 at the door. Call 485-1183 or visit www.bayareacritic.com/artappreciationevent.html for info.

Booktalk Lunch

Ron Shoup, a representative from Random House, will discuss his favorite books for the spring season at the Read It and Eat Luncheon April 17 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Social time begins at 11:30, presentation and lunch at 12:00. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$10. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenterbooks.com for details.

Everything Poetry

Poets Martha Meltzer, Peggy Messerschmidt, Carol Marshall, Scott Giorgianni, Alice Kight, Tamara Grippi and Pleasanton's Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant will read their own

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Calendar

poetry and poems of favorite poets for national poetry month. This free event is at 7:30 p.m. April 25 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Light refreshments will be served.

Fifth Annual Tri-Valley Youth Food Drive

The Food Drive will begin at 10 a.m. April 21, rain or shine. All donations will go to local food pantries. More than 80 youth service groups with up to 1,200 volunteers will be collecting non-perishable items from single-family residences in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville and Alamo. The Pleasanton collection will be at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Email davidbahr@sbc-global.net or call 998-6513 for other collection locations and details.

Foothill Grad Night Tickets

Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale every Tuesday and Thursday on campus during lunchtime. Tickets are currently selling at \$135 per student. Visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

Operation S.A.M. Donation Drive

The Spring Donation Drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 21 at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive. Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" collects items for comfort packages to be shipped to troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Email operationsam@comcast.net, call 989-3990 or visit www.operationsam.org for details.

Spring Sidewalk Sale

The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents the Spring Sidewalk sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 7 in Downtown Pleasanton. Visit shops and businesses for what's hot in fashion, home decor and more. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.org for details.

Tesla Vintners Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for our third annual Easter Egg Hunt from 1 to 4 p.m. April 7 at 5143 Tesla Road, Livermore. Children 12 and under are invited for crafts, music and prizes. For the parents, wines are from Fenestra, Hidden Creek, Red Skye and The Singing Winemaker. Email patty@teslavintners.com or call 606-9463 for details.

Wildflower Train and Wine Tasting with Christy

Join us for wildflowers and wine while riding the rails from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 22 at Niles Canyon Railway, 6 Kilcare, Sunol. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$30 for non-members (includes membership). Call (408)849-4749 or visit www.ace-club.com for details. 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Exhibits

ADAS Spring Gala Art Show

The 30th annual show of local 2-D art runs through April 20 at the Danville Fine Art Gallery, 233 Front St., Danville. Sales go to grants for art teachers in the San Ramon Valley School District. All art juried-in and for sale. Weekly hours are 12 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 838-1959 or visit www.adas4art.org for details.

Landscapes and Mindscapes

Nova Starling, a Livermore artist, photographer and graphics artist, will present a one-woman show at the SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin. The show, "Landscapes & Mindscapes," features both photography and paintings by this talented and witty artist. The show runs through April 19. The facility is open to the public Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 to 8 p.m., and Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The show is sponsored by the Las Positas College Art Club, of which Starling is a member.

Vineyards, Hills and Pathways of Stephen Sanfilippo

This showcase of Stephen Sanfilippo's vineyards, hills and pathways will include about 20 of his oils ranging from 8-by-10 inches to 24-by-36 inches. Don't miss this award-winning artist from Alamo. Meet Stephen at the opening reception from 4 to 7 p.m. April 7, and see his work from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April 30 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St. His work also at www.stephansanfilippo.com. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexandersmainstgalleries.com for info.

Fundraisers

Empty Bowls

Join us for an evening of nourishment as we help fill empty bowls in our community from 5 to 8 June 5 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. This fundraising event is held in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Day. Enjoy delicious soup, take home a hand-decorated ceramic bowl and bid in the silent auction. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$40 for families up to two adults and two children under 18. Contact Pam Gidwani at pgidwani@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 328. Visit www.accfb.org.

Good Medicine 7 Piece Band @ Westover Winery

At 4:30 June 3, Good Medicine, a 7-piece band, is playing at Westover Vineyards, 34329 Palomares Road, Castro Valley. Tickets are \$50 per car load (10 people max). Armadillo Willy's BBQ dinner is available for \$20 per person and three ribs, 1/4 chicken, BBQ beans, green salad, muffin and 1 non-alcoholic drink. Taste any five ports with glass for \$10. Call 426-0929 for more info.

Hats Off America 3rd Annual Casino Night

It will be an evening of superb jazz from 8 to 12 April 21 with the fun of casino gaming by Vegas Magic, warm-up exercises by a dance troupe, delicious hors d'oeuvres by Ruggie's Restaurant, live and silent auctions, a drawing and a no-host bar. The event is \$40 per person and is at the Sycamore Clubhouse, 635 Old Orchard Drive, Danville. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us for info.

Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour
From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6, join us on a tour featuring 10 beautiful Pleasanton homes. Tickets are \$35 per person and are available at Feline Medical Center, Western Garden Nursery, Towne Center Books, Pleasanton; Armstrong Garden Center, Wild Birds Unlimited, Dublin; Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore. The tour benefits the Valley Humane Society. Email wendymcnelley@comcast.net for info.

Paint Our Town Purple

Pleasanton's Main Street will be "painted purple" for the first time May 1 as a part of the annual Relay for Life. Volunteers are needed April 30 and May 4 to tie/untie the purple ribbons. Email brian@cirrusfinancial.com for details.

Relay for Life Committee Meeting

A Relay For Life Committee Meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. April 16 at 4309 Hacienda Drive, Suite 150. Email brian@cirrusfinancial.com for details.

Relay for Life Informational Gathering

Learn more about Relay For Life at an informational meeting at 6 p.m. May 14 at 4309 Hacienda Drive, Suite 150. (Located in the Windermere Real Estate, Properties of the East Bay Office.) Email brian@cirrusfinancial.com for details.

Ship of Hope Gala

Join us for "A Night in Rio de Janeiro," with emcee KPIX 5's Roberta Gonzales from 6:30 to 11 p.m. May 4 at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. Be a part of "Carnaval," the world's most famous party! Cuisine by Scott's. The night features a floor show with Samba do Coracao, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the CoolTones. Tickets are \$85. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospace.com for details.

Health

Intimacy After Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer survivors and their partners are invited to a free edu-

cational program to discuss erectile dysfunction and impotence following surgery or radiation treatment from 7:30 to 9 p.m. April 10 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Learn about medical and surgical treatments and how they work. Charles Wen, M.D., urologist, will speak. Call (800) 284-2878 or email asksrmmc@tenethealth.com for information.

Spring Immunization Clinics For Children

Axis Community Health free immunization clinics are open to Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care from 9 to 11:30 a.m. May 5 at 4361 Railroad Ave. Bring immunization records, insurance and income information. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755 for details.

World School Free Seminar

From 4:30 to 6 p.m. April 26, the World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar for the general public called "Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy." Patricia Cramer, the owner and founder of World School, teaches the seminar. This free class offers a chance for participants to give well-deserved attention to their feet. Contact Nick Tangney at world-schoolpl@yahoo.com or 461-2533. Visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Kids & Teens

Educulture International Foreign Exchange Fun

Host a foreign exchange student from July 8 to 30 and enjoy the cultural exchange without leaving your home. It's a fun filled educational activity based program that keeps everyone busy during the week. Coordinators needed. Call (415) 290-4028 or visit www.educulture.org for details.

(continued on page 24)

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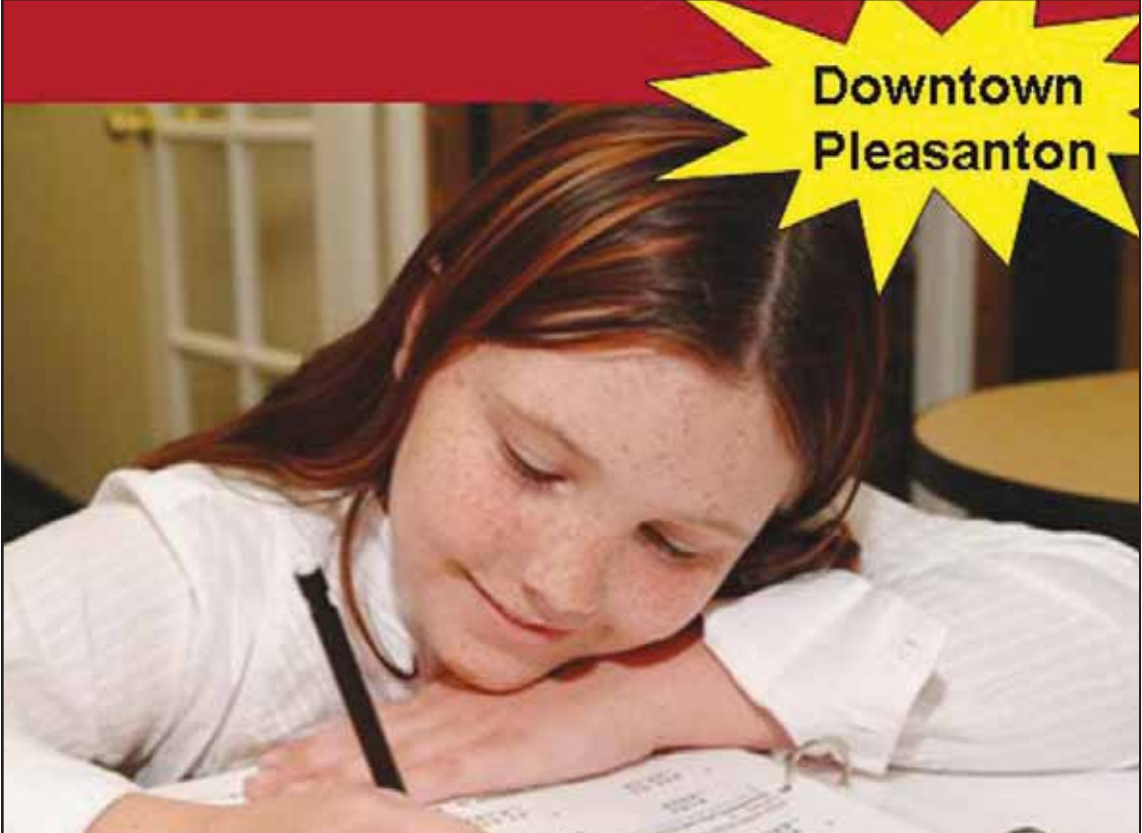
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Girl of the Month Nominations
Pure Girls--a boutique providing fashion, party packages, and salon beauty services for girls of all ages--seeks nominations for Pure Girl of the Month, one of the ways the business recognizes the achievements of girls. To nominate please include the girl's name, age, phone number and accomplishment. Call 485-4380, email info@puregirlsclub.com or visit www.puregirlsclub.com.

Mother/Daughter Spa Event
Bond & enjoy the Pure Girls Mother/Daughter Spa event from 2 to 4 p.m. April 15 at 660 Main St. Teens get a spa etiquette overview, then both of you get a free skin care analysis while you receive a manicure or a pedicure. Go home with free gifts and enter drawing for fab prizes. The cost is \$49 per pair. Call 485-4380 or visit www.puregirlsclub.com for details.

Russian Dance at the Library
Members of Barynya's Russian Collection Dance Ensemble will thrill audiences with a dynamic program of music and dance at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., as part of the library's series Dance and Sing Around the World from 2 to 3 p.m. April 14. Call the children's desk at 931-3400 ext. 8 for info.

Lectures/Workshops

Amador Valley Quilters
Becky Goldsmith--quilt artist, author and fabric designer--is the guest speaker at Amador Valley Quilter's April 14 meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School. Becky, who is a master of applique, will conduct a workshop the following day. Guests and new members are always welcome. Email publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org or visit amadorvalleyquilters.org for details.

Dealing with Dementia

The Families Dealing with Dementia Workshop will be presented by Eileen Zagelow, BA, CMC, Geriatric Care Manager with Eldercare Services of Walnut Creek and will include an overview of types of Dementia, how to communicate effectively, dealing with behavioral challenges, how to hire help and more. This free workshop is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 21 at Mercy Retirement and Care Center, 3431 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. Call (510) 534-8547 or visit www.mercyretirementcenter.org for info.

Food Stamp Workshop
Free food stamp enrollment workshops are offered monthly at the food bank office, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 30, bilingual food bank staff are available to help participants complete the food stamp application and will submit it to the food stamp office for them. Contact Liz Gomez at outreach@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663. Visit www.accfb.org for information.

Free Genealogy Seminar
Come hear informative and lively presentations by Dr. Stephen P. Morse of "OneStep" web pages fame, and local genealogy instructor Susan Goss Johnston to help you "Find It" and "Cite It" from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. April 21 at LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore. Seating is limited so pre-register by April 19. Call 447-3898 or visit www.L-AGS.org/seminar07.html for details.

Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers
The B2B Power Exchange is a leads group for people who sell to corporate decision makers. Email or call to reserve a space at the next meeting, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. April 19 at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive in Dublin, as attendance is limited to 25. Non-members pay \$40 which includes the cost of breakfast. Prepay by the Tuesday prior to the event. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm for info.

Stress Reduction Through Guided Imagery
This workshop, from 6 to 8 p.m. April 19 at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd, Suites A & B, will help those with cancer and their caregivers focus and relax the mind and body to experience relief from negative emotional states. These techniques have been shown to help stimulate the immune system and reduce the impact that physical and emotional stress can have on your body. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org for details.

You Did What?
"You Did What?" a lively talk by Amador Valley High School teachers of the 50s to the 70s, will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 19 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Teachers in the panel include Neil Sweeney, Barbara Norton and George Jacobson. The talk will be moderated by Bob Lane, a retired teacher. Tickets are \$5 and \$10. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org for info.

Live Music

Rod Piazza and The Mighty Flyers
Rod Piazza and The Mighty Flyers will perform at 8 p.m. April 13 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. They are known for their new style of blues that combines low-down Chicago grit, West Coast swing, jazz and the rhythmic drive of early R & B and rock and roll. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.com for info.

Miscellaneous

Kittens Seek Foster Homes
The East Bay SPCA's Foster Care Program seeks foster homes for the upcoming kitten season. For more information, contact the East Bay SPCA at (510) 563-4632 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/foster.

Letter Carriers Food Drive
Help stamp out hunger with the National Association of Letter Carriers'

15th annual food drive. Leave non-perishable food donations near your home or business mailbox for pickup on May 12 when your mail is delivered. Call (510) 635-3663 ext. 318 or visit www.accfb.org for information.

Solar Presentations
Grid Alternatives is hosting two presentations about the how solar energy is produced, how their program works and the benefits to being environmentally and economically conscious. The first will be at the Tri-Valley Senior Support Center on April 9 at the VIP luncheon. A longer presentation will be from 12 to 4 p.m. April 11 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. For more information call Utuma Belfrey at (415) 839-8437.

On Stage

City of Angels
Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents the Tony Award-winning musical "City of Angels" April 6 and 7 at 8:00 p.m. and April 7 at 2:00 p.m. The jazzy, sophisticated musical comedy is about an author creating a film noir movie in 1940s Hollywood. Tickets are \$14; \$10 students and seniors. For reservations call 424-1812, for info call 424-1166.

Company C Contemporary Ballet
Company C dancers will demonstrate high voltage athleticism in their performance of innovative, contemporary ballet dances at 2 and 8 p.m. April 7 at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15, \$20, or \$25 for adults; \$10, \$15, \$20 for students. For details, call 931-3444 or visit www.civictickets.com.

Grease
It's 1959 and Rydell High is filled with rebellious, thrill-loving students. Sandy Dumbrowski enters as the new girl in school, and it turns out that she and the leader of the Burger Palace Boys gang, Danny Zuko have had a brief love affair the over the summer. Will they find love? Presented by Pleasanton Playhouse, shows are at 8 p.m. April 20 through May 6 at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$20 for under 18. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasanton-playhouse.com for details.

Sondheim's "Putting It Together"
Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Putting It Together," 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays from April 20 through May 12, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18-24, \$15 for groups more than 10; purchase tickets at www.village theatreshows.com, or call 314-3400. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com for more info.

Political Notes

Hunger Action Day Training
From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 17 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, learn basic advocacy tips and what bills are on Capitol Hill that will help eradicate hunger. Members of the food bank's advocacy committee will give you all the tools you need to become a successful advocate. Contact Betsy Edwards at advocate@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 307. Visit www.accfb.org.

Seniors

Coffee & Conversation
The Pleasanton Senior Center hosts Dr. Ken Howayek from 10:30 a.m. to noon April 10 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., for "What You Thought You Knew about Your Health," a lecture on how to empower yourself by taking an active role in your own health and wellness.†The lecture is part of the Pleasanton Senior Center's community lecture series, "Coffee and Conversation with the Experts." The fee is \$1.25 for Pleasanton residents and \$1.75 others. Call 931-5369 for info.

Calendar

Computer Classes for Seniors 55+
The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers computer classes from 9 to 10 a.m. for mature adults. Join us to learn to surf the Internet and send email. Absolute beginners welcome. The second Tuesday of month is Beginning Internet, the third Tuesday of month is Beginning Email, and the fourth Tuesday of month is Advanced Email. Email mcorpor@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or call 931-3400 ext. 21 for details.

Pleasanton PC Users Group

The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply, \$1.25 for Pleasanton Residents, \$1.75 for all others. Call 931-5365 or email please-nior@yahoo.com for details.

Transitions Support Group

Are you or someone you know: 60 or older and living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore or Sunol? Looking for a warm and supportive environment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group meeting 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

Spiritual

Easter Sunday Service

Tri-Valley Unity Church celebrates Easter Sunday 10 a.m. April 8 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. The Tri-Valley Unity choir will perform, and the age-old mystery of that first Easter morning will be explored in the message "As It Began to Dawn." All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Easter Sunrise Service

On Easter, April 8, Pleasanton Presbyterian Church sponsors an Easter Sunrise Service at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park located on Stanley Boulevard.†The entrance will be open at 5:30 a.m. and the service begins at 6 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served and flashlights are recommended. In case of rain, the service will be held at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church at 4300 Mirador Drive. Contact Pastor Mike Barris at 846-4436 for info.

Tri-Valley Unity Church

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets for Sunday service and children's school 10 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. There are ongoing classes and groups with Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call (925) 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Tri-Valley Cheer Sign-Ups

Tri-Valley Cheer Xtreme is a competitive cheer program based in Dublin. If you are between the ages of 10 to 15, sign-ups for the upcoming 2007 season are at Fredericksen Elementary School, 7243 Tamarack Drive, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the following days: April 18 and 25; and May 2, 9 and 16. Registration fee is \$50.00. Contact Carol at Mosescheer4you@aol.com or 216-6742. Visit http://trivalleycheer.tripod.com.

Windermere Real Estate Rowing Classic

Drawing nearly 1,000 athletes and countless spectators each year, this

fifth annual regatta is one of the most anticipated rowing events on the West Coast. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 14 and 15 at Redwood Shores Lagoon in Redwood City, the regatta features more than 100 crew races between the nation's top universities as well as more than 400 club and high school rowers. Call (206) 527-3801 or visit www.windermere.com/events for info.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group

A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org. 2-4 p.m.

ClutterLess Self Help Group

Is clutter stressing you out? Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. ClutterLess meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 for info.

Domestic Violence

A Domestic Violence support group is held 5 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Tri-Valley Haven, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore, for Women in Livermore every Wednesday evening. Survivors will be able to address issues of abuse in relationships. The cost is \$40 for every eight weeks, or based on a sliding scale. Call 449-5845 ext. 202 for details.

Manspeak

This weekly men's group meets 8 to 9:30 p.m. Monday nights at Kiva Counseling Group, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 202 in Dublin, and is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, form friendships, and understand and improve relationships. It provides a source of support for personal growth and change in a safe environment so we can become aware of our own emotional habits and attitudes. The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per month. Call 485-9370 or visit www.kivaspirit.org for details.

TwinValley Mothers of Twins Club

This support group meets the second Tuesday of each month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin, and its goal is to provide support, information and friendship for Mothers of Multiples (MOMs). A roundtable Q&A forum dealing with

the challenges of parenting multiples begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to new and prospective members. The general meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Babies to eight months welcome. Call 948-0004 or visit www.tvnotc.com for details.

Volunteering

Saturday Salon

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 at Saturday Salon at 4th St. Studio, 2235 Fourth St., Livermore. Email karenwrites@pacbell.net or call 456-3100.

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 anytime Monday through Friday. Call 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 for details.

TV30

Ask the Doctor

Watch "Ask the Doctor" live the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. on Channel 30 and thereafter the show will repeat every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Viewers can phone in medical questions to the doctors by calling TV30 at 925-462-3030. It's also Web cast on www.tv30.org. Sponsored by San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

Community News

Community news focusing on the Tri-Valley will air live at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday with repeat broadcasts airing at 7, 9 and 11 p.m. Visit www.TV30.org.

Tri-Valley Sports Final

This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. TVSF airs on Channel 30 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Hosts: Ian Bartholomew, Dr. B., and Dennis Miller. Visit www.TV30.org for details.

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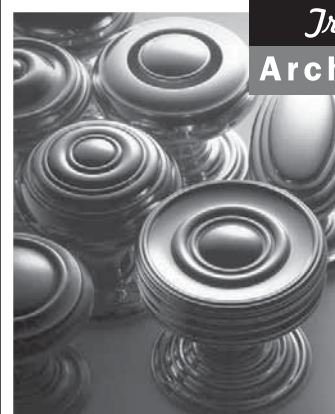
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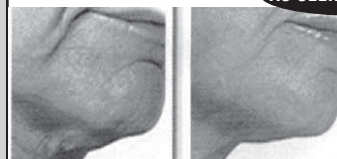
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Best of Pleasanton 2006

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.

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.

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.

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

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Our Fabulous Brunch Menu Includes:

PASTAS EGG BENEDICTS WITH HOMEMADE HOLLANDAISE:

Traditional with Thick Sliced Canadian Bacon, Florentine with Sautéed Mushroom & Spinach, Bacon, Fresh Tomato & Fisherman's Wharf, with our Homemade Dungeness Crab Cakes

PASTAS 3 EGG OMELETTES:

NORTHERN ITALIAN with Prosciutto, Sauté Mushroom, Fresh Tomatoes, Mozzarella & Basil, CALIFORNIAN with Bacon, Green Onions, Swiss Cheese & Avocado, CLASSIC with Ham & Swiss

THICK SLICED CINNAMON FRENCH TOAST topped with Fresh Fruit Medley & Mascarpone Whipped Cream, GRILLED NEW YORK STEAK & EGGS

PASTAS GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD & CRAB AND SHRIMP LOUIE PLUS SELECTED PASTAS FAVORITE ENTRÉES & MIMOSAS, KIR ROYALE, BLOODY MARYS & SPECIALTY COFFEES!

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PASTAS
Trattoria

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(925) 417-2222



Dining Out

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.

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 vegetarian 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--



Best of Pleasanton 2006



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Open daily from 11am
www.redsmokegrill.com

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Family Meals To Go
Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

Rotisserie Chicken	\$16.99
Tri-Tip	
1 1/2 pound	\$24.99
2 pound	\$29.99
Slab-and-a-Half of Ribs	\$25.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Chicken	\$31.99
Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken	\$31.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab	\$36.99

Sides

Small Side Salad, French Fries, Roasted Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Creamy Cole Slaw, Santa Maria Style Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup



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- Southwestern Seared New York Strip, Indian Corn, Cilantro Rice
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- Every Friday and Saturday Evening Traditional Slow Roasted Prime Rib Au Jus

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- Appetizers
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- Mongolian Beef
- Sweet & Sour Chicken
- Fresh Mango Shrimp
- Won Ton Soup
- Sautéed Garden Vegetables
- Kung Pao Calamari
- Dim Sum
- Chinese Chicken Salad

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Dining Out

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.

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, classically "Italian" restaurant. Watch 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.

La Vite Ristorante

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. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

Japanese

Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! We have a daily fresh fish delivery, teriyaki and tempura. We are open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 4:30-9:30,

Saturday until 10 p.m. Party platters are available. Visit our website: www.umesushi.com.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



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

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10 Year Anniversary Party
Sat, April 7th
Celebrate with La Ventana Band
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Proceeds go to Multiple Sclerosis Society

Also Serving Easter Sunday Buffet Brunch
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Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00
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