

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 12 • April 13, 2007

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## A NEW BYPASS TO CALLIPPE?

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Spring break helps McNerney keep in touch

For Congressman Jerry McNerney, there's no place like home. He's been taking advantage of a two-week Congressional recess to spend time on the homefront in his 11th Congressional District, with breakfast and luncheon meetings and classroom visits from Morgan Hill to the south to Lodi out in the Valley and, of course, in Pleasanton where he has met with students at the library and older residents at the Senior Center. In between and for the two-day Easter weekend, he had a chance to relax with his wife Mary at their home in the Val Vista community. In fact I saw him the Sunday before driving with Mary on Payne Road while I was walking to Val Vista Park, a relaxed everyday couple with no hint that Jerry, as he likes to be called, will soon be in the forefront again starting next Monday in Washington deliberating on major legislation affecting our country and each of us.

Unlike most congressmen I've known in my years of covering government and politics, McNerney exudes that grassroots characteristic that voters like. It's what put him over the top last November in his race against entrenched seven-term Congressman Richard Pombo. It was that determination to greet everyone in sight at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market in 2004, where I first met McNerney, that made him a populist Democrat in a predominately Republican district that gave him votes from both parties, first for the Democratic nomination and then last year, for the 11th District Congressional seat.

As we talked on Payne Road and later by phone, I found that McNerney hasn't changed a bit from the down-to-earth local businessman that made him the citizens' choice for Congress. His neighbors still call him Jerry, although their children now ask for autographs. He makes it a point to come home every weekend despite the wear of a five-hour flight each

way, taking advantage of fellow Californian and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's decision to give Congress a day off on Fridays so that members can spend time with their families. For McNerney, it means more opportunities to keep his grassroots connections active, such as meeting last week with the Small Business Advisory Group that he's launched here, and speaking to veterans' groups. He also met with Amador Valley High School teacher Brian Ladd and his "We the People..." advanced civics team, the California state champions who will head to Washington for the national competition April 28-30. McNerney will have his office door open in the Capitol to greet them again, hopefully as the new national champions.

*"I found that McNerney hasn't changed a bit from the down-to-earth local businessman that made him the citizens' choice for Congress."*

McNerney says the first three months have been a learning experience for the freshman congressman. Coming up starting Monday will be a longer, tougher session dealing with key legislation under consideration from some of the prime committee assignments he has, including debates on renewable energy, transportation and the environment. If anyone has comments on these issues or other Congressional concerns, McNerney urges you to contact his Pleasanton office at 737-0727 or participate in his interactive blog at <http://weblog.jerrymcnerney.org>. ■

### About the Cover

These Summerhill Estates homes at the top of Sycamore Creek Way may soon see added traffic from golfers and residents of new homes to be built nearby as the City Council considers shifting golf course traffic off Alisal Street and onto this neighborhood street. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Ben Ho.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What do you think of the state's debate on legalizing physician-assisted suicide for the terminally ill?

Asked Around Town



**Isobel Thompson**

Retired

I think for someone who is in enormous pain and under stress both emotionally and financially, with no hope for a better future, that would be a kind thing to do. We do this for our beloved animals perhaps we should allow it for our beloved kin folk.

**Chuck Graham**

Maintenance Technician

I feel conflicted. Pros are if someone is terminal and they are on their last legs and they want to go they should have that choice. On the other hand, there would have to be strict regulation so that no mistakes are made. I know if it were me I would want that choice.



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**Anne Wallen**

Student

I think life is too valuable to just give up. I do feel conflicted about the issue though, people should not have to suffer through the last years of their lives. It's a tough question.

**Vanessa Wensing**

Veterinarian

Being a veterinarian, I am allowed to assist people's pets in what you might call "assisted suicide" with euthanasia and I feel it is a special gift to prevent suffering. I know that there are people that have had to go through suffering with their parents or other loved ones and I know they would have appreciated some sort of assistance in the end for that loved one.



**Jeannie Smith**

Nurse

I believe in physician-assisted suicide. The physician and family, with the advanced directive by the patient, should be able to use physician-assisted suicide.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Teen job, community service fair

The city of Pleasanton is sponsoring a job and community service fair for teens from 1 to 4 p.m. April 21 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, in San Ramon. At this free event teens can meet with employers, apply for jobs, explore career opportunities, identify personal strengths, participate in mock interviews and more. Representatives from non-profit and volunteer organizations will also be there. Call 931-3480 for more information.

### Making a difference on vacation

As a souvenir from your next vacation, imagine a framed photo of yourself in Russia with the children you helped: at the National Zoo in Washington D.C. in front of the trees you planted or in an Arizona reservation with people from the Native American community you assisted. AAA Travel has developed its new Ambassador Series to create opportunities for adventurous travelers to not only experience another culture, but to actually help make a difference in peoples' lives. For more information contact AAA Travel San Ramon at 830-9797, ext. 884.

### Foothill winter percussion wins big

Foothill High School's winter percussion, directed by Ed Cloyd, finished the season by winning the 2007 Northern California Band Association (NCBA) Championships in San Mateo. The 33-member group worked hard to master the challenging performance of "Eastern Winds." The hard work paid off with not only an undefeated season, but with a trophy-earning score of 93.75. Foothill band's two color guards, directed by Ron Frost and Jolie Hendricks, also scored big, with first and second place finishes. Student captains are Megan Dwyer and DeeDee Chin (color guard) and Tyler Cudo and Marko Cantero (percussion), with section leaders Evan Hirata, Grace Pak and Andrew Zamperan.

### Correction

In the April 6 "Streetwise" column, Andie Fanelli was incorrectly identified as an elementary school student. She is in middle school.

## Residents in uproar over noise from Fairgrounds music festival

*Police field more than 100 phone calls; fairgrounds staff apologetic*

by Janet Pelletier

**A** Persian music festival held at the fairgrounds Easter Sunday wasn't music to resident's ears. The blaring noise has caused an uproar among those living in the surrounding neighborhood.

"I was standing in my back yard and it was as loud as when the city has their Friday night concerts in the park," said Debbie Donald.

Donald said she was trying to take a nap before taking a long red-eye flight to Hawaii

when she heard the band start playing.

While she said she understands there will be noise, Sunday's event was unacceptable.

"In the opinion of most of us who live here, the best thing that could happen would be to simply shut you down," Donald said in an email sent to fairgrounds staff, the mayor and the Pleasanton Weekly.

In another email, Robert Retsch wrote: "Right now it is 5:45 pm. It is sunny, and winds are out of the west at 16 mph. I am located due north of the fairgrounds on Del Valle Pkwy. We just finished Easter Dinner with relatives. Throughout

our dinner and with the windows closed, we hear constant loud music emitting from the fairgrounds."

The Pleasanton Police Department reported that it has received more than 100 phone calls about the noise.

Sunday's event was a Nowroz Festival, a celebration of the Persian New Year, featuring Afghan, Persian, Indian and Arabic music.

The festival was scheduled from 11 a.m. to 8

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From left to right: Kevin McEntee, Marie McEntee and Laurey Davis show off Marie McEntee's memorabilia from participating in two past Boston Marathons. Kevin holds up his letter from the Boston Athletic Association announcing that he qualified, while Marie and Laurey hold up a T-shirt of Marie's that has the time she got when she participated in the Boston Marathon.

## Beantown, here they come

*Pleasanton runners lace up shoes for Boston Marathon this weekend*

by Janet Pelletier

**W**hen more than 20,000 runners hit the pavement next Monday in the Boston Marathon, 15 of them will be representing Pleasanton.

Kevin McEntee, 46, has been training with a 16-week program recommended by runner-world.com, running 35 to 40 miles a week with a long run on Sundays.

"I don't want to embarrass myself but I want to finish and get my medal," he said jokingly.

McEntee qualified for the Boston Marathon with the Silicon Valley Marathon with a time of 3 hours and 28 minutes. He remembers it well—he needed 3:30 to qualify.

The nerves are starting to kick in slightly. "What if I get sick or twist my ankle?" he said.

But he doesn't have to look far for some guidance. His wife Marie has run the Boston Marathon twice.

The McEntees are part of the Huffers and Puffers, a running group with members from Livermore, Danville, Dublin and Pleasanton.

Also in Huffers and Puffers is Laurey Davis, 45, owner of Fleet Feet Sports in downtown Pleasanton. This will be her fourth Boston Marathon.

"I still respect the distance," Davis, who is also following the same 16-week program as Kevin McEntee, said. "You never know what it's going to be like running it until the day of."

Pleasanton resident Kevin McCarthy, 45, will be running the Boston Marathon for the first time, qualifying with 3:12 at the Phoenix Rock & Roll Marathon. His training recently hit a snag with an aching Achilles tendon, so he had to take a break from running the past few weeks.

McCarthy runs in the Dagobah Intergalactic Track Club (a reference to the "Star Wars" movies).

"Even though we now live in every corner of the U.S., we pick a race each year and designate it the official 'Dagobah race' and we all show up," he said. "I intend to show up and run

(continued on page 9)

## Postal service warns public about pets

*Dog bites to mail carriers increases spring and summer*

**I**t all happened in a matter of seconds. Before Nanette Antonio knew it, she was on her way to Kaiser for treatment.

The attacker was a Labrador-pit bull mix.

Most people wouldn't consider being a mail carrier a dangerous occupation, but the United States Postal Service deals with more than 5,000 dog bite injuries to employees per year.

For Antonio, the attack on March 15 was disappointing because she had gone the past eight years on her route without one injury—something to be recognized in the Postal Service.

"It wasn't a really vicious dog. It was just protecting the house," Antonio said, adding that she received a bite to her left calf that has since healed.

What hasn't healed, she said, are the emotional wounds caused by such a traumatic experience.

Even the nicest, cutest and smaller dogs aren't to be ignored.

Pleasanton station manager Navrit Sandhu was bitten by a Chihuahua when she used to deliver mail.

Acting supervisor Jack Chang has marks to prove his incident, but wouldn't dare show anyone—they're on his backside.

A large German Shepherd broke through a

(continued on page 9)

## Peet's coffee on the way

*New outlet will replace long-empty bank drive-through*

by Jeb Bing

**C**offee lovers will soon have another place to enjoy their lattes and mocha mixes.

Peet's Coffee & Tea, a specialty coffee roaster and marketer, said it will build a new coffeehouse in Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village

(continued on page 9)

# LifeStyleRx 5k/10K & Fitness Celebration

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## Saturday April 14, 2007

7:00am Event Day Registration Opens

8:30am 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run

9:30am Award Presentation

Location: LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore



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## Ryan Deeds earns Eagle Scout honors

*Amador Valley junior helped  
Callippe Preserve Golf Course attain certification*

Ryan Deeds, a 16-year-old junior at Amador Valley High School, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Deeds started as a Cub Scout in 1996 in Pack 944 and advanced in ranks from Tiger Cub to Webelos Scout, where he also received the Arrow of Light award in 2001. That same year, he crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and joined Troop 941.

In order for Deeds to reach the rank of Eagle, he was required to earn at least 21 merit badges and held various leadership positions in his troop, including patrol leader, den chief, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

Deeds also organized and led a service project that helped Pleasanton's new Callippe Preserve Golf Course in efforts to be Audubon certified. He, along with fellow scouts from his troop built and installed four raptor perches, four Kestrel boxes, four double-chamber bat houses, four Barn Owl and 20 Western Bluebird houses around the new golf course putting in a total of 754 hours of labor. Deed's Eagle advisor was Calvin Masuda, Eagle Scout and former Scoutmaster of Troop 941.

An Eagle Court of Honor was held March 11 at the Valley Community Church in Pleasanton to recognize his achievement. The 11th-grader has received many letters of congratulations and recognition of his achievement including messages from the president, governor, Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Congressman Jerry McNemey and Mayor Jennifer



Eagle Scout Ryan Deeds

Hosterman. At his ceremony, he was presented with a certificate of recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298. The VFW has been the sponsoring organization for Troop 941 since the troop began in 1999. Members of the VFW performed the Color Guard duties led by Color Guard Commander, Jim Lyon, during the Court of Honor.

—Emily Atwood

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# Teens especially susceptible to alcohol abuse

Parents seek answers from community panel at a meeting aimed at adolescent drinking, drug use

by Emily Atwood

Concern for students was raised from parents, county and school board members after the California Healthy Kids Survey data showed a significant percentage of students participated binge drinking and rode in a car with a driver under the influence.

Local organizations responded by holding a town hall meeting to discuss the issue. Parents, students, teachers and community members gathered in Amador Valley High School's library the night of March 29 to discuss teen alcohol and drug use. Guest speaker Ralph Cantor, tobacco, drug, violence prevention coordinator with the county's office of education, showed the physiological and psychological affects of teenage alcohol use.

He argued that teen brains aren't developed enough to sustain even moderate drinking because of a reduced sensitivity to intoxication and an increased sensitivity to social disinhibitions. For example, he said 18 percent of females and 39 percent of males surveyed said it was acceptable for a boy to force sex if the girl is stoned or drunk. Cantor also showed that drinking when feeling bored or unhappy, could alter the

teen brain's "reward system" and lead to depression and alcoholism.

"The teacher is the listener in this game," Cantor said. Some of his suggestions were for parents to evaluate their own use of alcohol and to help students to choose activities and accomplishments they wouldn't want to sacrifice for drinking.

*Teen brains aren't developed enough to sustain even moderate drinking because of a reduced sensitivity to intoxication and an increased sensitivity to social disinhibitions.*

—Ralph Cantor

The second part of the night was a chance for the audience to ask questions of a panel comprised of Tri-Valley Youth Planning Board members, police officers, high school health teachers and counselors, as well as representatives from Axis Community Health, Amador Valley Adult and Community Education and R-Quest, a counsel-

ing agency.

A few parents wish they had heard the information before to have helped their son or daughter avoid the problems they currently face. These parents also suggested an online forum, similar to one for Berkeley parents, where they could connect and help each other deal with issues involved with raising teens.

Most questions were directed to the students on the youth planning board, who gave first-hand accounts of activity going on at school and advice to parents on how to reach out to their children.

"Talk to [your kids] right now," TVYPB member Julia Smekalina said. "Don't wait until they get caught."

Judy Robichaud and Teresa Pavlakis, who both have children in high school, found the event informative and encouraging, saying this community is in better shape than most.

Amador Valley Adult and Community Education taped the meeting; contact them at 426-4280. For additional information, contact Cantor at rcantor@acoe.org and (510) 670-4589, or call the Alameda County Health Care Services at (510) 667-7990. ■

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## Pleasanton school API scores in top 10 percent

*Mohr Elementary scores highest with 960 out of 1,000*

The Academic Performance Index (API) for schools in the Pleasanton Unified School District show students are in the top 10 percent in the state. The scores reflect the California Department of Education's accountability system, where on a 200-1000 point scale, a score of 800 is considered exemplary. Each school in the district, except Village High School with 590, exceeded that goal, with a district-wide score of 881. Mohr Elementary was just 40 points shy of perfection.

Scores for 2006 were gathered from the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR), which includes three other tests, as well as the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). New testing requirements imposed by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which went into effect last year, making it incompatible to compare the scores with previous years.

The 2006 API scores will be discussed at the April 24 school board meeting.

—Emily Atwood

### Pleasanton API scores

Mohr Elementary .....	960
Walnut Grove Elementary .....	932
Fairlands Elementary .....	930
Vintage Hills Elementary .....	918
Hearst Elementary .....	914
Pleasanton Middle .....	912
Donlon Elementary .....	910
Valley View Elementary .....	901
Lydiksen Elementary .....	894
Hart Middle School .....	894
Harvest Park Middle School .....	894
Alisal Elementary .....	884
Amador Valley High .....	850
Foothill High .....	832
Village High .....	590

## Noise

(continued from page 5)

p.m., with a performance to cap it off.

When the calls began pouring in, police responded to the fairgrounds.

"We did take a (decibel) reading and it was in the 90s. We asked them to turn the music down three times," said Sgt. Suzanne Soberanes said. "They did, but it just wasn't enough."

While the city does have a noise ordinance stating events must abide by decibel limits (which range from 60 to 75 dBA), the fairgrounds is exempt.

Ordinance 9.04.060, section D, reads: "Any community activity, sporting event or special event occurring at the Alameda County Fairgrounds upon any school grounds or at any city parks or streets is exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided that the event has been approved by the appropriate fair association official, school official or city department or City Council."

"We just try and work with them and ask them to cooperate and consider the other people in the area, but as far as shutting it down, we wouldn't be able to do that," Soberanes said.

Mitchell said the fairgrounds, which is on

county-owned land, is planning to hold a meeting with the promoter of the event and police to determine all the details of the incident.

"We are doing everything in our power to rectify the situation," she said. "I understand it's after the fact, but this exact same event has been held on previous Easter weekends and we have not had this problem before. My voicemail is full of (calls); I'm going through every single one."

Mitchell said fairgrounds staff also attempted several times to get the music turned down.

Staff decided to pull the plug on the performance at 8 p.m. While the event listing says the event was supposed to end at 8 p.m., Mitchell said it was supposed to go a little while longer.

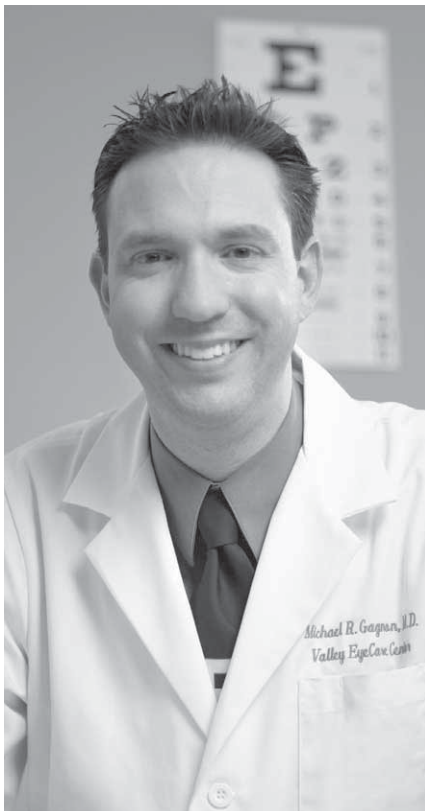
"This is the first time this has happened since I've been here, and I've been with the fairgrounds for five years," she said. "I wish it hadn't happened. I wish we would have pulled the plug earlier."

Mitchell said the fairgrounds works hard to be a good neighbor and is an asset to the city.

"We bring about \$200 million in economic impact to the area from sales tax to hotel beds that we fill up during our major events," she said. "The concerns of our community and our local residents weigh in on our actions and the future." ■

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## Marathon

(continued from page 5)

regardless of the shape I'm in. I'll pretty much have to brute force my way through this. I'm hoping there are Hash House Harrier stops in the last 10 miles of the race. These guys always have beer and I think I may need one"

Speaking of frothy beverages, Pleasanton resident Pat McCarthy, 55, (no relation to Kevin McCarthy) has utilized a unique training method.

"I switched to light beer," he joked.

"I pretty much have to run wherever I can," the pilot for Hawaiian Airlines said. "I also run with the Huffers and Puffers in town and then I run on my own. I cross train mainly—I ride, I swim and I run."

He said he's looking forward to the camaraderie and energy level.

"I'm not going to race it," he said. "I'm going to run it as a long run, see the town, see the sights, enjoy the event, enjoy the people," he said.

Other entrants from Pleasanton include: Lorin Benson, 36, Ryan Capes, 21, Shannon Estill, 48, Quincy Harker, 35, Samantha Harnett, 31, Joyce Kelly, 49, Brian Lee, 44, David Lowry, 52, Paul Matsusaka, 50, Bruce Neuschwander, 55, Brandon O'Sullivan, 39 and Robbie Stewart, 54. ■

## Pet warning

(continued from page 5)

screen door, knocked over a lounge chair in the front yard and bit Chang before he could even think about defending himself.

"Those two holes will never go away," he said.

They all have stories. A visit to the main Pleasanton Post Office on Black Avenue to hear about these encounters could take all day.

It gets worse in spring and summer, too. That's when the weather's warmer and many homeowners leave the front door open with a screen door intact or a side door to the house open, an invitation for a dog to get out or feel provoked by visitors, such as people making deliveries or dropping off mail.

Carriers tote satchels that they are



Janet Pelletier

Jack Chang, a supervisor at the Black Avenue Post Office, gives letter carriers a talk about how to protect against dog attacks when delivering mail door-to-door.

instructed to put in front of them to fend off an animal and dog spray (similar to pepper spray) to use if the

satchel doesn't work. But many times, the incident happens so fast that either method can't be used effectively.

## Peet's

(continued from page 5)

Shopping Center at the corner of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue. The coffeeshop will replace the old Community 1st National Bank building, which was built in 1973. Several banks have operated drive-through banking operations there, including U.S. Bank, which closed its facility there more than a year ago. The building has been vacant ever since.

Goble Properties, which owns the shopping center, purchased the bank property in 2004. It plans to demolish the small one-story structure and replace it with a 2,300-square-foot commercial building, leasing most of it to Peet's.

Similar to its chief competitor Starbucks, the new Peet's will not have a drive-up window, although carryouts will likely comprise the bulk of the new coffeeshop's business. It could be open this fall.

Although the demolition of the long-empty bank building

and the new coffeeshop won the praise and approval of both the Planning Commission and City Council, officials stipulated that Goble Properties could not install a grill or fryer in the new building that could make it available for a fast-food restaurant. If Peet's gives up the location at some future date, the property owner would have to seek new permission from the city before converting it into a drive-through restaurant.

"I was on the Planning Commission when we approved

They are often as harmless as a small scratch or gentle bite, but Sandhu recalls one woman who was running away from a dog, fell backwards hitting her head on the pavement and suffered head injuries, a broken wrist and damaged shoulder. She's on permanent disability.

It's cases like those and even those less severe that require a few days off for injured carriers that cost the Postal Service.

"It affects our service a great deal," Sandhu said. "Most people don't think their dog will harm someone."

When situations like these happen, the Postal Service may make a pet owner rent a mailbox at the post office so another carrier never has to encounter that dog. The injured employee and the Postal Service have the right to sue the dog owner for reimbursement of lost wages and medical expenses. ■

—Janet Pelletier

the Shell Service Station at Bernal and Valley a few years ago," said Councilman Matt Sullivan. "We were told that a Starbucks would go there, and what we got was a Jack-in-the-Box. I want to make sure that kind of thing doesn't happen again."

Founded in Berkeley in 1966 and celebrating its 41st anniversary this year, Peet's Coffee & Tea is one of the country's fastest-growing coffeehouses. The company also sells its specialty coffee and hand-selected tea in grocery stores and by mail order. ■



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# A NEW BYPASS TO CALLIPPE?

Story and Photos by Jeb Bing

A citizens' committee has done what years of work by city officials and community leaders couldn't. It's developed a plan for building a bypass road for golfers to reach Pleasanton's Callippe Preserve Golf Course without driving through a rural neighborhood—a plan almost everyone agrees will work.

Now it's up to the City Council, which next Tuesday will hear the plan developed by the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee that it established a year ago to find a solution to the nine-year-old vexing problem: how to keep golf course traffic off Alisal Street and Happy Valley Road.

The committee's recommendation would close Westbridge Road, a temporary street that leads from the golf course to the L-shaped junction of Alisal and Happy Valley Road. Under the new plan, the estimated 1,000 cars a day now using those streets to reach the golf course would be shifted to a new road that would connect the golf course and drivers from the custom homes being built along the way to Sycamore Creek Way, a route long marked as a golf course bypass but also before the construction of homes in the upscale neighborhoods of Bridle Creek and Summerhill Estates.

If there are protests to the Blue Ribbon committee's plan, it's likely to come from residents in those newer communities.

The committee's plan would also allow Greenbriar Homes to build a new custom home development between Alisal Street and the new bypass road to the east. Greenbriar has proposed building as many as 79 homes on the site in return for building the missing link of the bypass road that would con-

nect Sycamore Way and Westbridge and Clubhouse Drive on the city's golf course property. At one time, the Blue Ribbon committee suggested reducing that number to 63, but no specific development proposal will be part of Tuesday night's presentation.

Housing developments, which the city hopes will pay for constructing the bypass road, have been part of the controversy over the alternative roadway to Alisal Street since the Happy Valley Specific Plan was approved June 16, 1998. The golf course opened in November 2005. Although that plan committed Pleasanton to providing a bypass to keep golf course traffic off Alisal and Happy Valley Road, the two main thoroughfares for those who live in the unincorporated part of Happy Valley, the Blue Ribbon committee's recommendation marks the first time opposing groups have come together to support a bypass plan.

In 1998, when the specific plan was adopted, Summerhill Homes had planned to build 109 homes on the hillsides high above Alisal Street and pay for the bypass road. But that plan was rejected by the City Council in the face of protests from the community that the homes would be a visual eyesore in an otherwise pristine hillside view which could be seen from as far away as downtown.

Later, as the city mulled other plans for building the roadway, geological reports showed that parts of the hillside route would cross through unstable, shifting soil that could also add to the costs, if the road could be built at all. Preliminary estimates ranged up to \$15 million, a cost that turned away other developers interested in building on the property, which is owned by rancher Al Spotorno.

Spotorno, a fourth-generation Pleasanton rancher, had city approvals to build 102 homes

on his property, which down the hillside to Street. Greenbriar's plan for 79 homes would reduce that number by 23, and Al Spotorno would retain the right to build an additional five homes somewhere on his ranchland.

Developer Pat Costanza, executive vice president of Greenbriar who also serves as a member of the Blue Ribbon committee, said the number of homes Greenbriar would build has yet to be decided. If the City Council accepts the bypass plan, Costanza's recommendation that the city then that plan, along with Greenbriar's development plan, would go to the Planning Department and the Planning Commission at a public hearing before any case, Costanza said, would have to "penalize" any plan can commit to build.

Greenbriar's plan calls for homes to be built on the site to serve the subdivision and a new bypass road. The site is 30,000-square-foot and Alisal, the only home on the way onto that street.

Added to traffic from the 34 homes under construction built along the fairway, the development would add the 1,800 cars a day that would go onto Sycamore Creek Way.

The development plan is a city Traffic Engineer's recommendation can't provide a reason to say it would be factually traffic volume now us.

The successful completion of the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon is seen as a tribute to Tinfow, who was Pleasanton's assistant city manager a year ago when she was City Manager Nelson's new committee. Tinfow was named city manager in Walnut Creek last October and had worked previously as chair the Blue Ribbon committee and will make her last presentation to the council Tuesday, coordinated by both cities that are working on the work.

Tinfow knew the Blue Ribbon assignment would be a challenging one, meetings pitted long-time residents against development in Happy Valley, against city representatives on the one hand and the golf course and city officials on the other, as well as rancher Spotorno and Costanza, who wanted to build a new development.

Some who attended the meetings considered it to be the most important group ever established.

The council's action



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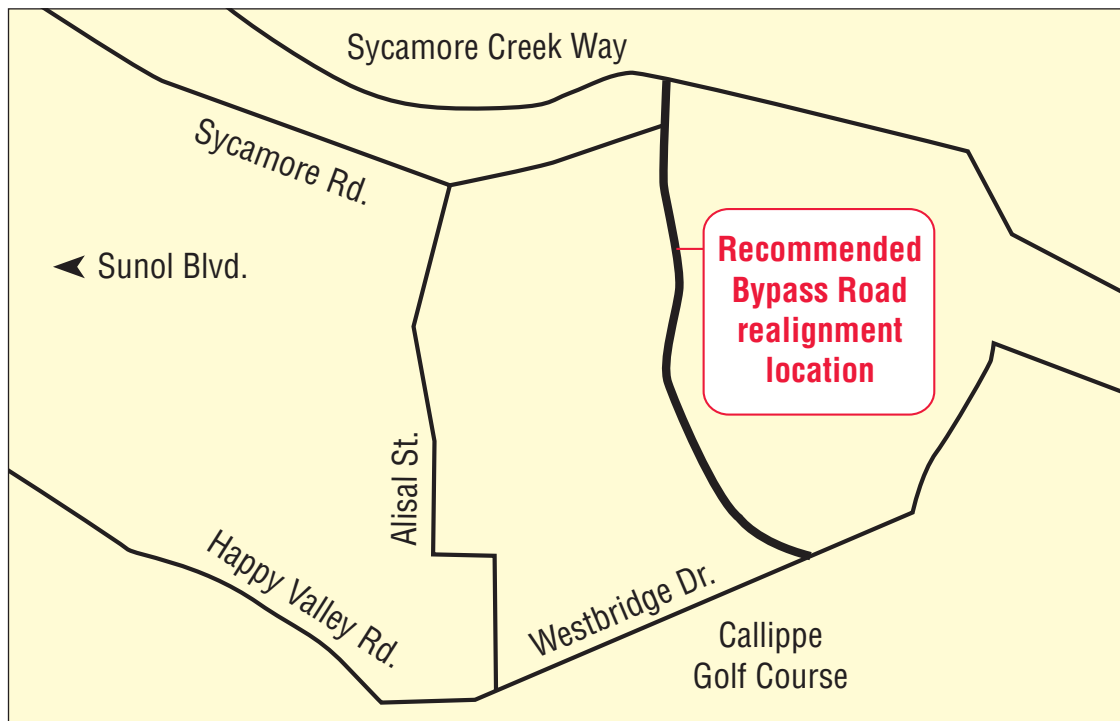
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Lorie Tinfow, now assistant city manager in Walnut Creek, reviews golf course bypass road options with members of the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee, which she directed while Administrative Services Director in Pleasanton last year. She has continued to lead the group, with her final report to be given Tuesday to the Pleasanton City Council.

# Sycamore Creek Way could be new route for golf course traffic



extends to Alisal... propos-... should trim... although... gain the... additional... ere else

ostanza, dent of erved as Ribbon e actual eenbriar t to be Council s road 'uesday, ng with opment the city and the

n and, eventually, aired before being finalized. In did the development plan 'il out" before his com- mending the bypass.

alls for all its proposed local streets that would and connect only to the ree larger homes on up lots would be built on es planned with drive-

om the golf course and construction or already ys, the new Greenbriar account for more than to be shifted off Alisal Creek Way. Until a final approved for Greenbriar, Mike Tassano said he able estimate other than r more than the current ing Alisal.

mpletion of the work of ue Ribbon Committee to Lorie Tinfow, who administrative services when she was asked by n Fialho to manage the fow, who left her City er to become assistant nut Creek, where she usly, has continued to on committee meetings ast presentation to the mpleting an agreement lowed her to complete

Blue Ribbon committee formidable. Its first few time opponents of any y Valley, including the ty and Alameda County committee who favored l related development, potorno and developer d even more.

d those early meetings, the most dysfunctional d by the City Council. on to try again to find

a suitable route for a bypass road also followed:

- A vote by property owners in Happy Valley in 2002 that rejected a bid to annex to Pleasanton by an 88-83-vote margin.
- Law suits and court appeals by the Alisal Improvement Club, the Happy Valley homeowners' association, against Pleasanton to block the golf course from opening until the bypass road was built.
- Protests by Happy Valley residents at public hearings of the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission, which decided to allow Pleasanton to annex a 526-acre parcel southeast of Alisal (out of the 810 acres that comprise Happy Valley) to build the golf course. The annexed land included Spotorno's ranch, where Greenbriar now intends to build new homes.

Still, Tinfow forged ahead, parlaying those three-hour-long meetings where as many as nine bypass route proposals were suggested into a manageable plan that eventually eight of the 11 Blue Ribbon committee members voted to accept.

"We never drew a line or told people to sit down," Tinfow said. "Everyone had as many chances to speak their minds as they needed, including many from the community who attended these meetings as onlookers. I think this committee has accomplished its charge and, hopefully, we have a project that works for everyone." ■



Sign at top is posted on a temporary barricade on Sycamore Creek Way, advising motorists and the Summerhill Estates neighborhood that the road will be extended, although there's no wording about it becoming the Callippe Preserve Golf Course bypass road.

At left, sign posted at L-shaped junction of Alisal Street and Happy Valley Road advises golfers and others that an access there to Westbridge Drive and the golf course is only temporary.

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, April 17, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Public Hearing: Status report regarding community needs for medical marijuana, Alameda County's Identification Card Program, dispensaries within the County, and effects of dispensaries operating in other jurisdictions, and consider introduction of an Ordinance to add a new Chapter 6.18 to the Municipal Code to prohibit the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries
- Consider recommendation of the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee (HVBRC) for the By-Pass Road realignment and adopt a resolution disbanding the HVBRC
- Approval of funding for the City Down Payment Assistance Program
- Public Hearing: Consider a resolution approving the issuance of revenue bonds by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority to benefit the ValleyCare Health System

### Housing Commission

Thursday, April 19, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Update regarding the status of the City's Below-Market Home Ownership Programs

### Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

- Approval of Annual Operating Budget for Kottinger Place for Fiscal Year 2007-08
- Approval of Annual Agency Plan update for the Pleasanton Housing Authority

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Please visit our website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) to view the agenda.

### Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, April 16, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road.

- Please visit our website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://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](http://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  
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Jewelry stolen from store, home

Over \$15,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from Whitewall Jewelers in Stoneridge Shopping Center, 1024 Stoneridge Mall Road, according to police. A loss prevention manager was told that over 60 items, including watches, rings, earrings, pendants and chains, were missing from the inventory as of Jan. 21. These items were missing since the last inventory on Aug. 21. The manager didn't think the inventory company was

responsible for the loss.

A woman in the 500 block of Gerard Court realized her wedding ring was missing from her unlocked, wooden jewelry box March 30. Thinking it was misplaced, she and her husband tried unsuccessfully to find it in the house and reported it as stolen. The couple also mentioned that they had been trying to sell their home and estimated hundreds of people had been through the house since December. The loss is estimated at \$6,000.

## Police Report

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

### March 30

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:22 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$50
  - 11:24 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; credit card fraud
  - 12:30 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400
  - 10:24 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
- Public vandalism:
  - 3:54 p.m. in the 4400 block of Railroad Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less
- Public drunkenness:
  - 11:07 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Denker drives

### March 31

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
  - 5:20 a.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; stolen truck
  - 2:21 p.m. in the 3600 block of Nevada Street; from building, worth over \$400
- Public drunkenness:
  - 2:35 p.m. in the 5100 block of Genovesio Drive
- Assault:
  - 11:58 p.m. in the 8000 block of Mountain View Drive

### April 1

- Found property: 1
- Shoplifting:
  - 12:12 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
  - 2:55 p.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth \$200-400
  - 5:05 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
- Prescription violation:

- 8:56 a.m. at the intersection of First Street and Vineyard Avenue
- Assault:
  - 1:48 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

### April 2

- Found property: 2
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
  - 7:52 a.m. in the 400 block of St. Mary Street; forged bills/notes
  - 4:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400
- Public vandalism:
  - 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway; worth \$1,000 or less
  - 10:14 a.m. at the intersection of Busch Road and Valley Avenue

### April 3

- Theft:
  - 3:44 p.m. in the 4400 block of Oracle Lane; from building, worth over \$400
- Public vandalism:
  - 1:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street; worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 7:30 a.m. in the 4500 block of Willow Road; worth \$200-400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:39 a.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and Division Street; public drunkenness
  - 4:28 a.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; cocaine possession
  - 2:15 p.m. at the intersection of First and Neal streets; marijuana possession
- Assault:
  - 9:57 p.m. in the 6000 block of Sycamore Terrace

### April 4

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 10:08 a.m. in the 500 block of Gerard Court; from building, worth over \$400
  - 9:00 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; selling stolen goods, worth over \$400
- Unauthorized residential entry:
  - 11:12 p.m. in the 4300 block of

Addison Way

### April 5

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 9:50 a.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way; stolen vehicle
  - 2:55 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; from building, worth over \$400
  - 2:26 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
  - 10:39 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; public, worth \$1,000 or less
  - 6:00 p.m. in the 4600 block of Mirador Drive; residential, worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
  - 12:50 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness:
  - 1:00 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
  - 2:41 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive
- Unauthorized entry:
  - 8:57 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

## ACCIDENTS

### March 30

- 3:50 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard Road and I-580
- 4:37 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Ave.

### April 1

- 3:58 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue

## Obituaries

### Inez Elizabeth "Iny" Griffith

Inez Elizabeth "Iny" Griffith died March 24 in Livermore at the age of 90.

Born in Mendocino, Calif. Sept. 25, 1916, Mrs. Griffith lived in

Pleasanton for 57 years. She was an elementary school teacher who enjoyed art, reading, writing poetry, gardening, bowling and bridge. She received many awards for her photography and she also enjoyed traveling to visit her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Griffith is survived by daughter and son-in-law Jani and Vic Buron; son and daughter-in-law John and Bernadette Griffith;

and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband in 1974; parents John and Inez Philbrick; brother Donald Philbrick; sister Marjorie Russell; and grandson Michael Griffith.

A celebration of life ceremony was scheduled for today at the Pleasanton Hotel. Arrangements made by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### AMT creep hits Pleasanton taxpayers

The IRS has granted us two extra days—until midnight Tuesday, April 17—to file our 2006 income taxes. Unfortunately, that won't be enough time for Congress to cancel the onerous, costly alternative minimum tax (AMT) that this year will affect many in Pleasanton. The AMT applies to people up and down the salary scale, with the largest number affected having incomes of \$100,000 and above. A recent update from the Census Bureau showed that the median household income for Pleasanton is \$101,000, which means many are facing the AMT. This tax, enacted by Congress in 1970 after it was revealed that some high-income households had avoided paying income taxes in prior years. While only 19,000 people owed the AMT in 1970, over 4 million are subject to the tax this year, a punitive tax that limits a taxpayer's ability to take deductions for dependents, state and local taxes and other common items.

A recent report in the Boston Globe states that Congress so far has avoided a mass outcry with a series of one-year patches to the AMT, which

will soften the blow for many in Pleasanton whose household incomes are under \$200,000. But the patch for 2007 is yet to come. Since the AMT is not indexed for inflation, the tax will afflict more and more middle-income families who earn far less than \$100,000 without addressing the problem is was supposed to fix. Besides higher wage earners, the tax also penalized families by prohibiting deductions for dependents. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that couples will be more than 20 times as likely as single taxpayers to face the AMT in 2010, just three years away.

Concerned? We are, which is why we urge you to pay attention to the impact of AMT in filing your taxes this year and question the potential impact for the 2007 tax year. You might even want to send a note to our congressman: U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-11th) at his local office, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Suite 175, Pleasanton, CA 94588. McNerney also welcomes comments on his blog site: <http://weblog.jerrymcnerney.org/>

## Guest Opinion

### Council's action on church explained

by Matt Sullivan

I would like to respond to recent articles in the Pleasanton Weekly about the Trinity Lutheran Church project. I feel that it's important to clarify the intent of the City Council majority so that the community understands what happened.

The city tried to facilitate a compromise that could best meet the desires of the church to expand its operations while mitigating the very real impacts of the expansion on the neighborhood. Shortly after the appeal of the original Planning Commission approval, I met with the appellant, church neighbor Heather Brillhart. I asked her if she would consider working with the church and the city to try and achieve a compromise for the project. Heather's goal was not to stop the project, but simply to ensure that the neighborhood issues were dealt with fairly. To their credit, she and her neighbors agreed that if common ground could be reached it would provide a better long term relationship between the neighbors and the church. David Beard, the pastor at Trinity Lutheran, was approached by both City Manager Nelson Fialho and me with this concept, but unfortunately he was not amenable to continue working with either the neighbors or the city on these issues.

The plan ultimately approved by the Council was a derivative of the original 1967 church Master Plan, and evolved over several weeks by city staff working with the neighbors while still trying to engage the church. The goal was to best balance the needs of both parties: Allow the church to build the new preschool building and youth center in the desired configuration while continuing to allow operation of the existing school, and equally sharing the parking and traffic impacts on the Golden Road and Del Valle Parkway neighborhoods. I believe that we

achieved these goals. However, the church was unhappy with the outcome. Contrary to reports, the city is not "forcing" the church to build this project. They can submit a new plan or they can even approach the neighbors to see if compromise can still be reached. What is truly unfortunate is the lost opportunity for cooperation and a consensus plan by the church refusing to engage in this process.

I am a veteran of the land-use battles Pleasanton experienced in the 1990s. Many projects were punctuated with acrimonious City Council hearings, voter referendums, and general bad feelings in the community. This Council has tried a different approach to that winner-take-all process: Empowering stakeholders to work through issues, gain consensus, and achieve common ground. This represents an evolution of local self-government and is an avenue to balance the needs of our community in a way that is empowering, fair, and just. Sometimes it has worked with startling success--the St. Clare's church expansion and the Oak Grove housing and open space project are fantastic examples of this approach. But it can't work unless all parties can come together in good faith, with respect for each others concerns, and with the good of the community at heart.

*Matt Sullivan was elected to the Pleasanton City Council in 2004. He first became active in city government issues 12 years ago when he joined a neighborhood organization opposed to building a West Las Positas interchange at I-680. He was appointed to the city Planning Commission in 1998, where he served until his election to the council. He and his wife Wendi, a teacher at Pleasanton Middle School, have two children.*



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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### HANDLING AN INHERITED PROPERTY

Question: My grandmother recently died and her home passed to my mother, a single woman. My mother was advised to simply pass it on to me, her daughter (also single), in order to avoid capital gains taxes. Is there a problem here?

Answer: Watch out! Let's take this step-by-step.

Your mother receives a property whose "basis" is stepped up to its fair market value either at the time of your grandmother's death or six months thereafter. In plain English, this means that if your mother were to sell the home immediately, the taxes would be figured on the difference between the value at the time of death or six months afterward. In short, she would most likely face no gains taxation.

If she passes the house to you, the daughter, however, there is the simple likelihood of gift taxes, since our tax code allows a parent to pass no more than \$12,000 in assets to a child in any single tax year. She could, however, create an agreement that passes a \$12,000 interest in the home every year until you own it outright.

As always, the best advice is to seek the guidance of a savvy tax advisor. For all your real estate needs, just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

*Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.*

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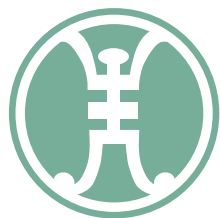
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# Calendar

## 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](http://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](http://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 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

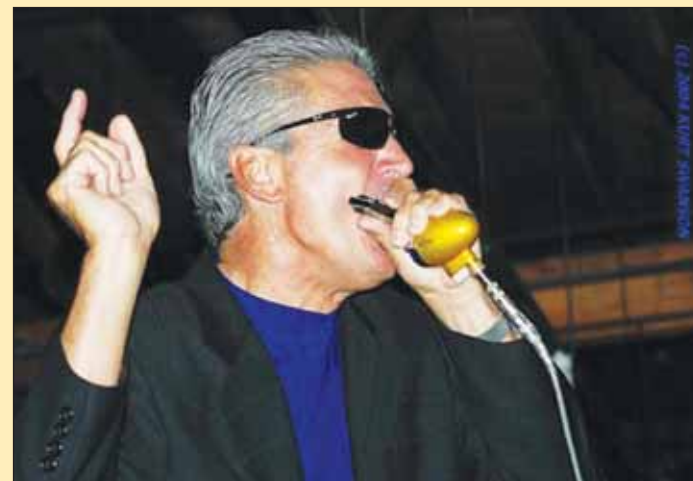
### Acting Training

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. 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:playhousewest@sbcglobal.net), call 943-6464 or visit [www.playhousewest.org](http://www.playhousewest.org).

### Women and Money--Reach Your Potential

From 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday from

## Weekend Preview



### Rod Piazza ‘flies’ into town

Rod Piazza (above) and the Mighty Flyers perform 8 p.m. tonight at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The band plays a new style of blues, combining “low-down Chicago grit,” West Coast swing, jazz, R&B and rock ‘n’ roll. Visit [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org) or call 931-3444 to purchase tickets.

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 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 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.madzymurgists.org) for more info and location of the next meeting.

## Concerts

### Pleasanton Chamber Players Premiere

Pleasanton Chamber Players perform Memories of Music: Mozart, Holy, Tournier, Menotti and Golijov and world premiere of Fremont composer Helena Michelson’s “... softly through the night...memories of music...”, with strings, flute, clarinet, harp and percussion. The event is at 3 p.m. April 29 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hopyard Road and Del Valle Parkway. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, children 18 and under free. A pre-concert talk by a composer begins at 2:30. Call 600-1331.

### The Farallon Recorder Quartet

On April 21 Las Positas College presents 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. Pre-concert talk begins at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. in the library, building 2000, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, 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.lpclearmusic.org](http://www.lpclearmusic.org).

## Events

### 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 designer, 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](http://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 noon. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$10. Call 846-8826 or visit [www.townecenterbooks.com](http://www.townecenterbooks.com) for details.

### E-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 at the fairgrounds. 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. Large appliances, white goods, kitchen appliances and packaging or batteries will not be collected at this event. Visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

### 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 col-

lecting 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidbahr@sbcglobal.net) or call 998-6513 for other collection locations and details.

### First Wednesday Street Party

Enjoy this family Cinco de Mayo event from 6 to 9 p.m. May 2 in downtown Pleasanton with vendor and nonprofit booths, shops, businesses, restaurants, and wine and beer garden. Visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

### 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](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill) and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

### Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Head to the Wine Country for Gare Winery's Mother's Day Champagne Brunch May 13 at 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Their chefs make your omelettes to order, the buffet is filled with all your brunch favorites and the champagne is free flowing. A professional photographer will be on site and live violin rounds out the day. Tickets are \$35.95 per person, \$14.95 for children 4-10, \$29.95 for seniors 65+, and under 3 free. Call 925-371-8200 or visit [www.garrewinery.com](http://www.garrewinery.com).

### 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](mailto:operationsam@comcast.net), call 989-3990 or visit [www.operationsam.org](http://www.operationsam.org) for details.

### OSH How-To Fair Home and Garden Show

The OSH How-To Fair Home and Garden Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6 features product booths, how-to and gourmet cooking demonstrations, celebrity appearances, and "Land of Fun" for kids. This event has free admission and parking and is located at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Visit [www.osh.com](http://www.osh.com).

### 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](http://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

(continued on page 16)

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Grade 2-8

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**Week 2 - Creative Writing** - concentrates on a variety of forms (e.g., stories, poems, plays) with emphases on point of view, character, setting, action or plot, and writing mechanics as well as authentic self expression.

**Week 3 - Presentation Techniques** - will develop students' public speaking and analytical skills for a variety of purposes (e.g., class presentations, debates) using of age-appropriate supporting tools (e.g., handouts, posters, overhead projections, props, PowerPoint).

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Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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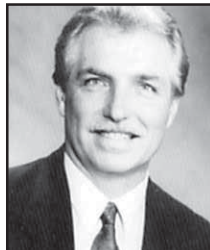
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for sale. Weekly hours are 12 to 5 p.m. Tues. through Sat. Call 838-1959 or visit [www.adas4art.org](http://www.adas4art.org) for details.

### Emerging Young Artist Exhibit

This is an art show of very talented Fremont/Newark area high school students of Dee Murphy and Keith Lark. Originals as well as prints, will be on sale and display for this show. The reception will be from 2 to 4 p.m. April 14, and the show runs April 14 through April 28 at Fremont Art Association Gallery, 37659 Niles Blvd., Fremont. Contact Dee Murphy at (510) 494-1515 for info.

### Fremont Art Association Showcase Reception

Seventeen years ago, Rose Sexton was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but she found a way to make the tremors work for her art, and is our featured artist for the Second Quarter Showcase from May 4 to 20 at the Fremont Art Association, 37659 Niles Blvd., Fremont. The reception is from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. May 6. Call (510) 792-0905.

### 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. The works are on display 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.stephensanfilippo.com](http://www.stephensanfilippo.com). Call 846-6015 or visit [www.alexanders-mainstgalleries.com](http://www.alexanders-mainstgalleries.com).

## Film

### CA Independent Film Festival

The CA Independent Film Festival is coming to Livermore April 14 through 22. Enjoy more than a week of fantastic films from around the world, filmmaker parties, celebrity appearances, Q&A sessions, VIP receptions, a celebrity poker tournament and more. For complete event details or to purchase tickets, visit [www.caindiefest.com](http://www.caindiefest.com).

## Fundraisers

### East Bay Crop Walk

Walk for hunger and make a difference from 2 to 5 p.m. April 22 at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. Gather your friends, family and sponsors for this scenic 3.2 mile walk around Lake Merritt to raise awareness of the need for food around the world and raise funds to help stop hunger at home and abroad. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Contact Pam Gidwani at [pgidwani@accfb.org](mailto:pgidwani@accfb.org) or (510) 635-3663 ext. 328. Visit [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org).

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:brian@cirrusfinancial.com) for details.

### Tommy T's Comedy Fundraiser

Join Tri-Valley Animal Rescue for a night of comedy for felines, canines and other animal friends April 22 at Tommy T's Comedy Club, 5104 Hopyard Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., come early for the best seats. The night's performer, Huck Flynn, will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20, plus a two item minimum (food and/or drink). Call 397-4300 or visit [www.tvr.org](http://www.tvr.org).

## Health

### Breast Health: Lymph Loving!

World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar for the general public from 4:30 to 6 p.m. April 17 called "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" This stand-alone seminar will teach self-massage. Participants will leave with self-care techniques to use at home. Contact Nick Tangney at [worldschoolpl@yahoo.com](mailto:worldschoolpl@yahoo.com) or 461-2533. Visit [www.worldschoolmassage.com](http://www.worldschoolmassage.com).

### Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy

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 this seminar. This class offers a chance for participants to give well-deserved attention to their feet. Call 461-2533 or visit [www.worldschoolmassage.com](http://www.worldschoolmassage.com).

### 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.

## Kids & Teens

### "Passport to Pleasanton" Multicultural Festival

Pleasanton PTA Council's third annual multicultural festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Apr. 28 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Families are encouraged to attend to experience live performances, taste food and play games representing cultures from around the world. Free admission and parking at Gate 8. Call 846-3257 or visit [www.pleasantonpta.org](http://www.pleasantonpta.org).

### 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](http://www.educulture.org) for details.

### 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](mailto:info@puregirlsclub.com) or visit [www.puregirlsclub.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:publicity@amadorvalleyquilters.org) or visit [www.amadorvalleyquilters.org](http://www.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](http://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](mailto:outreach@accfb.org) or (510) 635-3663. Visit [www.accfb.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm) for info.

**Music Appreciation Class at Las Positas**  
From 7 to 9 p.m. April 19, Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore, will host a music appreciation class which will provide a musical and historical context for the concert at Las Positas College on April 21. Learn about the many voices of the recorder family of instruments and discover the rich and haunting music of the renaissance and baroque periods. The cost is \$16 for the class and \$3 for parking. Call 424-1209 or visit [www.laspositas-college.edu/communityed](http://www.laspositas-college.edu/communityed).

**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](http://www.twc-bayarea.org) for details.

**You Did What?**  
"You Did What?" is a lively talk by Amador Valley High School teachers during the 50s to the 70s, and 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](http://www.museumonmain.org) 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](http://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](http://www.accfb.org) for information.

## On Stage

**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](http://www.pleasanton-playhouse.com) for details.

**Raising The Barre**  
Valley Dance Theatre presents a mixed repertory at 7 p.m. May 26 and 2 p.m. May 27 at Livermore HS Performing Arts Center, 600 Maple St., Livermore. It's sure to delight audiences of all ages featuring two full-length ballets, The Firebird, a magical creature captured by a prince; and La Boutique Fantasque, a magical toyshop that comes to life. Also featuring scenes from Romeo & Juliet. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and ages 13 and over, free for children under 12. Call 243-0927 or visit [www.valleydancetheatre.com](http://www.valleydancetheatre.com).

**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.villagetheatre-shows.com](http://www.villagetheatre-shows.com), or call 314-3400. Visit [www.danvilletheatre.com](http://www.danvilletheatre.com) for more info.

**The Vagina Monologues**  
The Tri-Valley Haven will present Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" as a benefit for the Haven, which provides shelter, counseling, advocacy and other support services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. There will be a drawing for a free iPod and a question and answer session with the cast and Tri-Valley Haven staff after the show. Doors open at 7 p.m. 8 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door Various Venues in Dublin, Pleasanton &

Livermore, Will depend on the event, Pleasanton. 449-5845. Visit [www.trivalleyhaven.org](http://www.trivalleyhaven.org).

## 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 in Oakland, 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](mailto:advocate@accfb.org) or (510) 635-3663 ext. 307. Visit [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org).

## Recreation

**One Year Anniversary Party at John Christopher Cellars**  
John Christopher Cellars in Blacksmith Square is celebrating its first anniversary from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 5 and 6 at 25 So. Livermore Ave., Suite 103 in Livermore. Come enjoy wine tasting, grilled sandwiches by Blue Sage Catering, live music and local artists work on display, and more during the Wine Country Festival weekend in downtown Livermore. Email [chris@johnchristophercellars.com](mailto:chris@johnchristophercellars.com), call 456-WINE (9463) or visit [www.johnchristophercellars.com](http://www.johnchristophercellars.com) for details.

## Seniors

**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 [mcorpore@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:mcorpore@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 [pleaseniore@yahoo.com](mailto:pleaseniore@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

(continued on page 18)

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**SAN RAMON REGIONAL  
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Group meeting 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

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](http://www.kivaspirit.org) for details.

**Spiritual**

**Emilio Castroman Speaks**

Emilio Castroman has witnessed God's solutions to ill health, unemployment, estranged relationships and other common problems. Hear him speak April 22 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hacienda Room, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road. The first session is in English from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., while the second is in Spanish from 3 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by First Churches of Christ, Scientist, Hayward and Livermore, and Tracy Christian Science Society. Admission is free; call 447-2946 for details.

**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 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://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 Frederiksen 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](mailto: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](http://www.windermere.com/events) for info.

**Support Groups**

**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

**Volunteering**

**Alameda County Community Food Bank**

Volunteers are needed to sort food, answer the food helpline and general office work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Groups and individuals are welcome. Contact Charles Beyer at [cbeyer@accfb.org](mailto:cbeyer@accfb.org) or (510) 635-3663 ext. 308. Visit [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org).

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.TV30.org).

**Let's Talk Sports with Dr. B**

George "Dr. B" Baljevich focuses on March Madness with college hoop stars, coaches, and game action featuring Ryan Anderson (Cal), Omar Sanham (SMC) and more. The show airs on TV30 April 4 through 17: Mon.-Sun. at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. at 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Visit [www.tv30.org](http://www.tv30.org).

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# Dining Out

## 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](http://www.bridgesdanville.com) for event and private party details.

## Asian-Pacific

### Mahalo Grille

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

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft

beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://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](http://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.

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One coupon per customer.  
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**Fax 925.734.8714**

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Weekend Dinner Specials Include:

Randy's Chicken, Cashew & Feta Flatbread with Spicy Marinara Dipping Sauce

Baby Spinach with Bay Shrimp, Bacon, Maytag Bleu Cheese, Bermuda Onions & Dijon Vinaigrette

Cavatappi with Andouille Sausage, Prawns & Grilled Chicken in a Cajun Cream Sauce

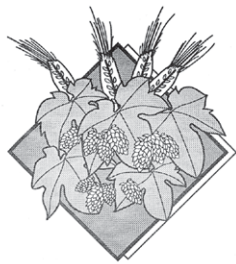
Dijon Crusted Pork Tenderloin with Homemade Apple Chutney, Mashed Potatoes & Sautéed Green Beans

Salmon ala Snyder over Wild Mushroom Risotto, Topped with Tomato & Artichoke Heart Tapenade

Herb Crusted Pacific Swordfish topped with Corn, Avocado & Roasted Pepper Salsa

Grilled USDA Prime "Baseball Cut" Top Sirloin with Portobello Mushroom Cap & Gilroy Roasted Garlic

Housemade Almond Shortcake Fresh Strawberries, Whipped Cream & Grand Marnier



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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](http://www.pandapleasanton.com)

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**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](http://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](http://www.OasisGrille.com).

## Italian

**Fontina Ristorante**  
349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a

comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

**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](http://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.



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FLAT IRON STEAK AND 12 OZ. LOBSTER TAIL, WITH GORGONZOLA MASHED POTATOES AND GRILLED ASPARAGUS

BLUE NOSE SNAPPER

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